

# **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

## **LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD**

### **SECTION III**

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# REPORT OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Grace to you in peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

While the title of this is technically "Report of..." I consider it much more a reflection upon the last three years as I have served as District President, and I want to begin with a spirit of repentance. It would be easy and perhaps "normal" for me to list out in this report all the successes we have had and share aspirations for the future, which I shall still do, but I want to start on a note of humility.

The words of my predecessor, Pastor Schlechte have echoed in my ears time and time again: "Nothing can prepare you for the District Presidency." The learning curve has been extremely steep. I had grand visions of spending lots of time one on one with pastors and other workers for their support and I have been humbled by the geography of this district.

I had grand aspirations of vigorous visitation, and while I made it to a little over 90 congregations, I do feel badly that I could not visit the remaining 75. Similarly, in hopes of strengthening connections with our farther flung congregations, less attention was given to those within and immediately surrounding the Denver Metro area. There are always reasons for this, most of which are understandable as there are only so many hours in a day, yet I have continued to be cognizant of the remaining work still to be done.

When you see Rev. Paul Albers and Ms. Monique Hjalmsquist, please thank them profusely! They have in many ways been the backbone of the district for over two decades, but in the last triennium this patience was extended to a new District President, a new Board of Directors (only three members had previously served), and several staffing changes which remain ongoing. Thank you, Paul and Monique! Thank you for your endurance! It is my sincerest hope to add to the District Office staff in different capacities in the next Triennium so that your work can be eased, and that more emphasis can be given to mission and revitalization work and that regular, consistent communication about these efforts can be made!

Much of the time of the Board of Directors this past triennium has been spent discussing how best to further Word and Sacrament ministry within the District. Going forward, we feel it is very important to not neglect the mission field in our own backyard and we pray that as the harvest is plentiful and the workers few, our congregations will generously support this work! And thank you to those congregations who go above and beyond in their support!

In the fourth volume of the Rocky Mountain District History, "Faith to Move Mountains," Rev. Al Schroeder gave what I think is a very fine spirit for us to go forth in as we seek to encourage our congregations and other ministries to reach out in our day and age:

"What drove these bold adventurous men to face frontier hazards, stubborn opposition from unfriendly and sometimes lawless frontiersmen, and physically and mentally strenuous labors? How did they maintain their spirits and their faith? We can be confident that the Spirit of the Church, the Spirit of Christ, filled their hearts with a vision of the power of the Gospel that would turn hearts to Jesus. They were men of hope! They knew that their ministries would shape the frontier. And so their labors did!" – Rev. Al Schroeder

May the Spirit of our Lord Jesus bless the Rocky Mountain District with a "Faith to Move Mountains" and so carry the Gospel of Jesus, the repentance and forgiveness of sins, to the ends of the earth!

In His service,  
Rev. James Maxwell

# PRESIDENT'S STATISTICAL REPORT ORDAINED MINISTERS

Last	Title	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022- 4/22/2025	
Aarsvold	Rev.	Paul	2022-06-12	Concordia Seminary, St Louis MO; St John's, Denver CO	Entered the District
Abram	Rev.	Mark	2024-06-14	Emeritus RM; Emeritus EN	Transferred out of District
Ahlman	Rev.	David	2023-03-19	Emeritus; Mt Hope, Boulder CO	Changes w/in District
Ahlman	Rev.	David	2022-07-25	Sr Pastor, Peace, Arvada CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Albertson	Rev.	Thomas	2023-01-08	Emeritus; Ascension, El Paso TX	Changes w/in District
Albertson	Rev.	Thomas	2022-05-16	Emeritus CNH; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Albertson	Rev.	Thomas	2024-08-01	IIM Ascension, El Paso TX; Emeritus	Change of status
Anderson	Rev.	Darren	2022-04-27	Candidate TX; Candidate RM	Entered the District
Atkinson	Rev.	Dustin	2023-09-24	Star o/t North, Kenai AK; Our Savior, Pagosa Springs CO	Entered the District
Baker	Rev.	David	2022-07-17	Emeritus; Our Savior, Commerce City CO	Changes w/in District
Beck	SMP Rev.	William	2024-07-07	Concordia Seminary, St Louis MO; Rock of Ages, Colo Springs CO	Entered the District
Below	Rev.	Mark	2024-09-15	Lord of Life, Chesterfield MO; Redeemer, SLC UT	Entered the District
Belter	Rev.,	Kevin	2022-06-15	Redeemer, SLC UT; Messiah, Danville CA	Transferred out of District
Bennett	Rev.	Robert	2025-03-30	SMP Rev., Holy Trinity, Riverton UT; SMP Rev. Good Shepherd, Richfield UT	Changes w/in District
Bestian	Rev.	Brian	2022-08-27	Ascension, El Paso TX; St. Mark, Conroe TX	Transferred out of District
Beyer	Rev.	Jay	2024-01-02	Emeritus RM; Emeritus TX	Transferred out of District
Biberdorf	Rev.	Nathanael	2024-06-16	Zion/Zion, Browns Valley MN/Claire City SD; Zion, Farmington NM	Entered the District
Blair	Rev.	David	2023-12-14	Emeritus RM; Emeritus NOW	Transferred out of District
Blair	Rev.	David	2023-12-01	Holy Cross, Colo. Springs CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Bolland	Rev.	Richard	2023-03-08	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Bolt	Rev.	Randy	2023-08-01	Trinity, Pueblo CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Boos	Rev.	Werner	2024-07-01	Assoc. Pastor, Our Father, Centennial CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Brondos	Rev.	Joel	2022-07-29	Emeritus RM; Emeritus CI	Transferred out of District
Brown	Rev.	Kyle	2024-06-01	Grace/Our Savior, Hobbs/Lovington NM; Martini, New Haven IN	Transferred out of District
Chuol	Rev.	Paul	2023-12-04	Candidate RM; Candidate IW	Transferred out of District
Chuol	Rev.	Paul	2023-10-08	Assoc. Pastor St. John's, SLC UT; Candidate	Change of status
Coerber	Rev.	Scott	2024-12-10	Redeemer Ft Collins, Assoc. Pastor; St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL, Assoc. Pastor	Transferred out of District
Cohen	Rev.	Marc	2023-05-21	Candidate, IN; Concordia, Lakewood CO	Entered the District
Cohen	Rev.	Mark	2024-05-21	Candidate RM; Candidate IN	Transferred out of District
Cohen	Rev.	Mark	2024-05-20	IIM Concordia, Lakewood CO; Candidate	Change of status

# PRESIDENT'S STATISTICAL REPORT ORDAINED MINISTERS

Last	Title	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022- 4/22/2025	
Crabbe	Rev.	Kelly	2022-11-05	Candidate; Emeritus	Change of status
Cramm	Rev.	Kevin	2025-01-05	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Critchley	Rev.	Dale	2024-08-17	Candidate, MNS; Summit Mission Alliance, Breckenridge CO	Entered the District
Curtis	SMP Rev.	Michael	2022-08-14	Trinity, Isle IL; Redeemer, Ft Collins CO	Entered the District
Dieterichs	Rev.	Joel	2024-02-14	Candidate EA; Candidate RM	Entered the District
Dubke	Rev.	Dallas	2024-08-25	Faith, Monmouth OR; Emmanuel, Rifle CO	Entered the District
Dugall	Dr.	Robin	2024-03-20	Emeritus; Immanuel, Loveland CO	Changes w/in District
Earl	Chap.	Brian	2019-07-17	VA Hosp., New Haven CT; New Mexico VA Hosp., Abq. NM	Entered the District
Easterling	Rev.	John	2022-10-28	Emeritus MDS; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Erickson	Rev.	Bror	2023-02-12	Zion, Farmington NM; Trinity, Ft Morgan CO	Changes w/in District
Fiene	Rev.	John	2023-01-04	Emeritus RM; Emeritus PSW	Transferred out of District
Fiene	Rev. Dr.	John	2022-05-16	University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Flamme	Rev.	John	2023-12-01	Emeritus FL-GA; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Furry	Rev.	Craig	2024-08-26	Our Savior, Albuquerque NM; Emeritus	Change of status
Graff	Rev.	Warren	2022-11-01	Grace, Albuquerque NM; Emeritus	Change of status
Graham	Rev.	John	2024-09-29	LCMS Colloquy Committee; Shepherd o/t Rockies, Bailey CO	Colloquized; Entered the District
Hauter	Rev.	Robert	2023-10-22	IIM St. Peter's, Monte Vista CO; IIM Trinity, Pueblo CO	Changes w/in District
Heimer	Rev.	Stephen	2024-06-01	Sr. Pastor, Zion, El Paso TX; LCMS Office National Missions, St Louis MO	Transferred out of District
Heimer	Rev.	Karl	2023-06-01	San Pablo, El Paso TX; Candidate	Change of status
Henningfield	Rev.	Craig	2022-11-01	Concordia, Steamboat Springs CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Hetlinger	Rev.	John	2023-05-14	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Huntley	Rev.	Michael	2023-07-16	LCMS Colloquy Committee; Epiphany, Castle Rock CO	Colloquized; Entered the District
Jarvis	Rev.	Robert	2022-11-20	Bethlehem, Annandale MN; University	Entered the District
Johnson	Rev.	Richard	2022-12-11	Emeritus NOW; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Kachelmeier	Rev.	Brian	2022-08-22	Redeemer, Los Alamos NM; Mt Calvary, San Antonio TX	Transferred out of District
Kasten Sr.	Rev.	Albert	2023-08-23	Emeritus RM; Emeritus WY	Transferred out of District
Keller	Rev.	William	2022-12-12	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Kellogg	Rev.	Christopher	2024-10-25	Trinity, Gallup NM; Emeritus KS	Transferred out of District
Kellogg	Rev.	Christopher	2024-07-29	Trinity, Gallup NM; Emeritus	Change of status
Kent	Rev.	Thonmas	2023-12-11	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Kister	Rev.	Thaine	2024-09-08	Christ the King/Hope, Los Lunas/Socorro NM; Grace/Our Savior, Hobbs/Lovington NM	Changes w/in District

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Last	Title	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022- 4/22/2025	
Koch	Rev. Dr.	Mark	2022-10-02	Grace, Denison TX; Risen Savior, Broomfield CO	Entered the District
Koch	Rev.	Mark	2025-01-31	IIM Risen Savior, Broomfield CO; IIM Good Shepherd, Turlock CA	Transferred out of District
Koontz	Rev. Dr.	Adam	2022-06-03	CTSFW, Ft Wayne IN; Trinity, Denver CO Assoc Pastor	Entered the District
Koontz	Rev. Dr.	Adam	2024-05-31	Assoc Pastor, Trinity, Denver CO; Redeemer, Oakmont PA	Transferred out of District
Kraft Sr.	Rev.	Glenn	2024-05-20	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Lamont	Rev.	Jeremy	2024-02-18	Concordia Seminary, St Louis MO; Grace Evang., Sandy UT	Entered the District
Loose	Rev.	Rodney	2024-05-08	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Masinelli	Rev.	Anthony	2024-06-01	Sr Pastor, Grace, Sandy UT; St. Paul's, Cheney KS	Transferred out of District
Maxwell	Rev.	James	2022-06-15	Rock of Ages, Colo Springs CO Sr. Pastor;	Changes w/in District
McCaslin	Rev.	Gregg	2024-08-11	Candidate; King of Kings, Arvada CO	Changes w/in District
McCaslin	Rev.	Gregg	2022-08-20	Concordia, Lakewood CO; Candidate	Change of status
Mertens	Rev.	Melvin	2024-06-26	Voluntarily, Resigned from Roster	Off Roster
Moon	Rev.	Aidan	2023-07-09	Concordia Seminary, St Louis MO; Family of Christ, Colo Springs CO	Entered the District
Muecke	Rev.	Dan	2023-10-05	Emeritus RM, Emeritus New England	Transferred out of District
Mueller	Chaplain	Robert	2020-07-23	Candidate; New Mexico VA Hospital, Abq. NM	Changes w/in District
Muhly	Rev.	Jonathan	2023-03-26	Christ the King, Coeur d Alene ID; Concordia, Steamboat Springs CO	Entered the District
Nash	Rev.	James	2024-12-31	Trinity, Sterling CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Neidigk	Rev.	Donald	2024-07-08	Immanuel, Las Vegas NM; Emeritus	Change of status
Nieminen	Rev.	Johannes	2023-06-25	Lutheran Church Canada, East Region; Redeemer, Los Alamos NM	Entered the District
Oakes	Rev.	Ryan	2023-08-07	Gethsemane, Northglenn CO; Immanuel, Danbury CT	Transferred out of District
Odom	Rev.	Weslie	2023-06-15	Assoc Pastor, Our Savior, Pagosa Springs; Bethlehem, Morrison MN	Transferred out of District
Onnen	Rev.	Timothy	2025-01-19	Concordia Seminary, St Louis MO; Christ, Montrose CO	Entered the District
Packer	Rev.	Andrew	2023-05-31	Sr. Pastor, Our Savior, Pagosa Springs CO; Assoc. Pastor, Good Shepherd, Collinsville IL	Transferred out of District
Patten	Rev.	Howard	2024-04-02	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Perry	Rev.	Andrew	2023-07-24	Candidate RM; Candidate TX	Transferred out of District
Perry	Rev.	Andrew	2022-05-16	Assoc. Pastor, Mission, Las Cruces NM; Candidate	Change of status
Quarles	Rev.	Phillip	2024-01-25	Emeritus RM; Emeritus SO	Transferred out of District
Reiner	Rev.	Mark	2023-09-07	Emeritus RM; Emeritus SD	Transferred out of District
Rhode	Rev.	Paul	2024-11-17	Emeritus; Mt Calvary, Estes Park CO	Changes w/in District
Richert	Rev.	Aaron	2023-06-18	Lutheran S. Academy, Houston TX; Grace, Abq. NM	Entered the District
Rippe	Rev.	Bruce	2021-08-08	Chaplain, RM District; Emeritus	Change of status
Roberts	Rev.	Guy	2024-02-02	Sr. Pastor, Zion, Detroit Lakes MN; Sr. Pastor, Peace, Arvada CO	Entered the District
Rusnak	Rev.	Joshua	2023-09-05	Assoc Pastor, Rock of Ages, Colorado Springs CO; Assoc. Pastor, St. Mark's, Eureka MO	Transferred out of District

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Last	Title	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022- 4/22/2025	
Sattelmeier	Rev.	Daniel	2022-08-24	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Schaller	Rev.	Jordan	2024-08-18	Faith in Christ/Redeemer, Abq./Abq. NM; Redeemer, Delta CO	Changes w/in District
Scheele	Rev.,	Pete	2024-08-02	Shepherd o/t Rockies, Bailey CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Schilling	Rev.	David	2024-07-01	Sr. Pastor, Zion, Brighton CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Schlak	Rev.	Richard	2024-07-20	Missionary, LHMI, El Paso TX; Ascension, El Paso TX	Changes w/in District
Schlamann	Rev.	Mark	2024-09-16	First, Tooele UT; Christ, Elkhart KS	Transferred out of District
Schlechte	Rev.	Roger	2022-08-01	RM District President; Emeritus	Change of status
Schuetzler	Rev.	Michael	2022-09-01	Assoc. Pastor, Crosspoint, El Paso TX; Candidate	Change of status
Schultz	Rev.	Gary	2022-06-05	Beautiful Savior, Milwaukee WI; Eternal Savior, Lafayette CO	Entered the District
Schultz	Rev.	Gary	2023-08-21	IIM Eternal Savior, Lafayette CO; IIM St, John's, Good Thunder MN	Transferred out of District
Schulz	Rev.	Donald	2025-10-01	Trinity, Genoa CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Schuschke	Rev.	Gary	2024-10-13	Missionary, Frankfurt Germany; Faith, Woodland Park CO	Entered the District
Sessa	Rev.	Samuel	2024-07-07	Assoc Pr, Redeemer, Ft Collins CO; Sr. Pastor, Resurrection, Cairo NY	Transferred out of District
Shamburger	Rev.	Douglas	2022-11-11	Emeritus PSW; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Shamburger	SMP Rev.	William	2023-03-16	Grace, Albuquerque NM; Holy Cross, Rocklin CA	Transferred out of District
Shearier	Rev. Dr.	Jeffrey	2023-10-31	Emeritus NOW; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Sherrill	Rev.	North	2022-10-30	Assoc. Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids MI; Trinity, Denver CO	Entered the District
Skurla	Rev.	Dale	2023-06-10	Emeritus, PSW; IIM, Redeemer, Salt Lake City UT	Entered the District
Skurla	Rev.	Dale	2024-04-01	Emeritus RM; Emeritus PSW	Transferred out of District
Skurla	Rev.	Dale	2024-04-01	Redeemer, SLC UT; Emeritus	Change of status
Snider	Rev.	Merelyn	2022-11-29	Emeritus MI; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Sorensen	Rev.	James	2022-07-31	Holy Trinity/Immanuel, Blackduck/Cass Lake MN; Faith/First, Buena Vista/Salida CO	Entered the District
Spomer	Rev.	Philip	2025-01-01	Good Shepherd, Edgewood NM; Emeritus	Change of status
Stevens	Rev.	Robert	2020-06-05	Crosspoint, Sahuarita, AZ; Mt Calvary, Estes Park CO	Entered the District
Stevens	Rev.	Robert	2023-08-01	Mt. Calvary, Estes Park CO; Immanuel, Conover NC	Transferred out of District
Stolp	Rev.	Armin	2023-03-14	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Teske	Rev.	Thomas	2023-02-11	Voluntarily, Resigned from Roster	Off Roster
Thorson	Rev.	Clint	2023-11-12	Our Savior/St John, Madison/Howard SD; Eternal Savior, Lafayette CO	Entered the District
Triplett	Rev.	Kirk	2024-11-24	Faith, Pocatello ID; Zion, El Paso TX	Entered the District

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Last	Title	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022- 4/22/2025	
Van Fossan	Rev.	Kurt	2024-04-07	Redeemer, Delta CO; Immanuel, Paonia CO	Changes w/in District
Vanderhyde	Rev.	Benjamin	2024-11-10	Concordia Seminary, St Louis MO; Calvary, Wray CO	Entered the District
Vanderhyde	Rev.	Charles	2025-04-17	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Vanderhyde	Rev.	Joshua	2023-10-22	Faith, Carbondale CO; Trinity, Greeley CO	Changes w/in District
Warner	Rev.	Daniel	2022-08-07	Shepherd o/t Mountain, Pinetop AZ; Rock of Ages, Colo. Springs CO	Entered the District
Westby	Rev. Dr.	Charles	2024-10-27	Candidate; Assoc. Pastor, Trinity, Denver CO	Changes w/in District
Westby	Rev. Dr.	Charles	2022-10-05	Emmanuel, Rifle CO; Candidate	Change of status
Wilder	Rev.	W. Bruce	2025-01-05	Emeritus; Christ Our Redeemer, Abq. NM	Changes w/in District
With	Rev.	Jacob	2022-06-26	Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft Wayne IN; Mt Calvary, Gunnison CO	Entered the District
Wurdeman	Rev.	David	2022-06-14	OIM Ministry Armed Forces, St. Louis MO; OIM Chaplain, Colorado Springs CO	Entered the District
Young	Rev.	Victor	2025-03-02	Emeritus; Asst. Pastor, Faith Evang., Johnstown CO	Changes w/in District
Zehnder	Rev.	Michael	2022-12-31	Candidate; Emeritus	Change of status
Zillinger	Rev.	Greg	2024-03-03	Assoc. Pastor, Shepherd o/t Hills, Centennial CO; Senior Pastor, Holy Cross, Colo. Spring CO	Changes w/in District

# PRESIDENT'S STATISTICAL REPORT COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Last	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022- 4/22/2025	
Aadsen	Lori	2022-08-05	Emeritus TX; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Amereller	Rebekah	2024-01-01	Trinity, Franktown CO; Candidate	Change of status
Bamesberger	Joann	2022-11-21	Emeritus NE; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Bartels	Walter	2022-07-13	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Battu Rao	Grace	2022-12-28	Immanuel, Roswell NM; A Place of Refuge Min, Milwaukee WI	Transferred out of District
Beran	Madison	2022-08-11	Concordia University, Seward NE; CLHSA, Parker CO	Entered the District
Boerrigter	Mary	2024-01-17	Emeritus PSW; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Bossow	Gina	2024-06-28	Candidate; Candidate NE	Transferred out of District
Brandon	Catherine	2022-07-05	Immanuel, Albuquerque NM: Salem, Tomball TX	Transferred out of District
Brandon	Michael	2022-07-05	Immanuel, Albuquerque NM: Salem, Tomball TX	Transferred out of District
Brondos	Marilyn	2022-07-29	Emeritus RM; Emeritus CI	Transferred out of District
Brose	Mary	2022-12-14	Emeritus NOW; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Burke	Kimberly	2022-07-14	Candidate RM; Linn Lutheran Assoc., Linn, KS	Transferred out of District
Carlson	Jenny	2024-06-18	Candidate RM; Concordia Academy, Omaha NE	Transferred out of District
Cholak	Stephanie	2022-08-01	Immanuel, Roswell NM; Our Savior, Houston TX	Transferred out of District
Cleveland	Kadie	2024-12-25	St. John's, Denver CO; Candidate	Change of status
Coerber	Teckla	2024-12-20	Redeemer, Ft Collins CO; Candidate	Change of status
Cromley	Joshua	2023-12-01	Peace, Arvada CO; Candidate	Change of status
Cromley	Joshua	2024-02-04	Candidate RM; Candidate MO	Transferred out of District
Davis	Joan	2024-07-03	Redeemer, Salt Lake City UT; Immanuel, Brandon FL	Transferred out of District
Devenport	Maria	2022-09-18	Redeemer, Spokane WA; Redeemer, Ft Collins CO	Entered the District
Dillon	Lori	2024-06-30	CLHSA, Parker CO; Lincoln Luth. Middle High School Assoc	Transferred out of District
Dobbelaire	Elizabeth	2024-08-18	Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft Wayne IN; Christ, Abq. NM	Entered the District
Driller	Cathy	2023-06-04	Emeritus RM; Emeritus FLGA	Transferred out of District
Duensing	Paul	2022-02-28	Emeritus RM; Emeritus NE	Transferred out of District
Duitsman	Mark	2022-07-01	CLHSA, Parker CO; Candidate	Change of status
Dyslin	Elaine	2023-03-25	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Eberhard	Susan	2024-08-11	Woodburn, Woodburn, IN; Messiah, Grand Junction CO	Entered the District
Erickson	Bradley	2023-07-01	Trinity, Greeley CO; Good Shepherd, Marysville KS	Transferred out of District
Evans	David	2024-08-14	Candidate MO; Candidate RM	Entered the District



# PRESIDENT'S STATISTICAL REPORT COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Last	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022– 4/22/2025	
Faga	Carla	2023-08-13	St. John's, Elgin IL; Immanuel, Loveland CO	Entered the District
Fangmann	Dennis	2023-03-03	LCMS ONM, St Louis MO; Emeritus RM	Change of status
Gallert	Frederick	2022-12-10	Candidate MI; Candidate RM	Entered the District
Graff-Emerling	Genevieve	2021-08-01	Candidate; Emeritus	Change of status
Habeck	Jennifer	2022-07-01	Peace With Christ, Aurora CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Habegger	Susan	2023-08-10	Concordia University, Mequon WI; CLHSA, Parker CO	Entered the District
Hainey	Jordan	2023-07-01	Peace With Christ, Aurora CO; Candidate	Change of status
Hampton	Daniel	2023-05-24	Holy Cross, Colo Springs CO; Candidate	Change of status
Handrock	Sarah	2023-07-19	Emeritus RM; Emeritus NI	Transferred out of District
Harkins	Martha	2024-06-23	Immanuel, Loveland CO; Mt Olive, Anoka MN	Transferred out of District
Henderson	Julie	2024-08-18	Concordia University, Irvine CA; Christ, Albuquerque NM	Entered the District
Hetzel	Jeremy	2023-08-21	Family of Christ, Colo Spgs CO; Pathfinder, Ellisville MO	Transferred out of District
Hewitt	Susan	2024-12-16	Emeritus MNS; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Highley	Kristin	2024-03-03	Epiphany, Castle Rock CO; Risen Savior, Broomfield CO	Changes w/in District
Hischke	Martha	2024-06-04	Bethlehem, Lakewood CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Hoener	Janet	2022-07-01	CLHSA, Parker CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Hornbuckle	Rebekah	2022-06-01	Trinity, St. George UT; Candidate	Change of status
Hornbuckle	Rebekah	2023-01-25	Trinity, St. George UT; Candidate, IW	Transferred out of District
Howard	Marcus	2024-07-02	Immanuel, Loveland CO; Candidate	Change of status
Janetzke	Bruce	2025-03-15	Emeritus RM; Emeritus OK	Transferred out of District
Janzen	Gayle	2024-07-08	Candidate; Emeritus	Change of status
Johnson	Noel	2022-12-23	Candidate NOW; Candidate RM	Entered the District
Johnson	Steven	2023-05-10	Lutheran Valley Retreat, Woodland Pk CO; Resigned Roster	Off Roster
Johnson	Connie	2024-11-10	Candidate; Peace With Christ,, Aurora CO	Changes w/in District
Kline	Margaret	2022-10-15	Candidate RM; Holy Cross, Indianapolis IN	Transferred out of District
Kuster	Lorien	2022-08-21	Our Savior, Aiea HI; Redeemer, Salt Lake City UT	Entered the District
Lambeth	Robert	2023-07-16	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Lato	Jenae	2020-07-25	St. John's, Denver CO; Candidate	Change of status
Lipke	Kristen	2022-08-21	Candidate; Trinity, Alamosa CO	Changes w/in District
Longmire	Aaron	2022-08-28	St. John's, Bakersville CA; Our Savior, Pagosa Springs CO	Entered the District
Maas	Allana	2023-08-10	Concordia University, Seward NE; CLHSA, Parker CO	Entered the District
Massey	Elizabeth	2022-06-01	Candidate MI; Candidate RM	Entered the District
Massey	Elizabeth	2022-06-19	Concordia University, Austin, TX; Holy Cross, Colo Springs CO	Entered the District

# PRESIDENT'S STATISTICAL REPORT COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Last	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022-4/22/2025	
Matthis	Lisa	2024-08-18	Candidate; Epiphany, Castle Rock CO	Changes within District
Maxson	Janice	2022-07-14	Candidate RM; Holy Cross, Wichita KS	Transferred out of District
Meissner	Karin	2024-08-25	Candidate; Our Father, Centennial CO	Changes within District
Meyer	Paula	2023-02-27	Candidate; Resigned from Roster	Off Roster
Moll	Marion	2023-01-20	Immanuel, Bristol CT; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Moll	Patricia	2023-01-20	Immanuel, Bristol CT; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Moore	Patrick	2023-02-13	Concordia, Lakewood CO; Resigned from Roster	Off Roster
Morrison	Darren	2022-06-30	Redeemer, Salt Lake City UT; Resigned from Roster	Off Roster
Northcutt	Bryan	2024-09-01	Hope, Idaho Falls ID; Our Savior, Pagosa Springs CO	Entered the District
Nyen	Duane	2024-09-01	Trinity, St George UT; Emeritus	Change of status
Oberdieck	Timothy	2022-08-11	Concordia University, Seward NE; CLHSA, Parker CO	Entered the District
Olsen	Brenda	2023-07-01	Redeemer, Salt Lake City UT; Candidate	Change of status
Ortado	Renae	2022-08-27	Christ, Denver CO; Candidate	Change of status
Ortado	Renee	2023-08-13	Candidate; Trinity, Greeley CO	Changes within District
Otte	Carolyn	2022-07-01	St. John's, Denver CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Pankow	Ethan	2022-08-11	Concordia University, Seward NE; CLHSA, Parker CO	Entered the District
Pankow	Ethan	2024-05-24	CLHSA, Parker CO; Lincoln Luth. Middle High School Assoc	Transferred out of District
Parrott	Craig	2024-01-24	Candidate; CO Lutheran High School Assoc., Parker CO	Changes within District
Paulus	John	2022-05-01	Peace With Christ, Aurora CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Peterson	Jonathan	2023-08-06	Concordia University, Irvine CA; Messiah, Grand Junction CO	Entered the District
Pflieger Jr	P Charles	2024-07-31	Immanuel, Albuquerque NM; Emeritus	Change of status
Postenrieder	Gene	2022-10-24	Emeritus OH; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Reisler	Bennett	2022-08-11	Concordia University, Mequon WI; CLHSA, Parker CO	Entered the District
Reisler	Bennett	2023-05-27	CLHSA, Parker CO; LHSA, Greendale, WI	Transferred out of District
Rhode	Kevin	2022-07-27	Candidate; Resigned from Roster	Off Roster
Rich	Monica	2023-06-01	St. John's, Denver CO; Candidate	Change of status
Ripke	Judith	2024-06-01	St. John's, Denver CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Ristow	Carolyn	2024-01-24	Candidate; CO Lutheran High School Assoc., Parker CO	Changes within District
Rodgers	Matthia	2023-03-01	Redeemer, Ft Collins CO; Candidate	Change of status
Roettjer	Stephanie	2022-06-26	Candidate TX; Candidate RM	Entered the District

# PRESIDENT'S STATISTICAL REPORT COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Last	First	Date	OFFICIAL ACTS 6/10/2022-4/22/2025	
Roettjer	Stephanie	2022-06-26	Candidate TX; Candidate RM	Entered the District
Schamp	Barbara	2024-06-01	Bethlehem, Lakewood CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Scherbarth	Carly	2020-06-01	St. John's, Denver CO; Resigned from Roster	Off Roster
Schild	Daniel	2024-07-01	Messiah, Gr. Junction CO; Trinity Lone Oak, Eagan MN	Transferred out of District
Schlecht	Katherine	2024-03-20	Concordia University, St Paul MN; Immanuel, Loveland CO	Entered the District
Schroll	George	2024-08-01	Peace With Christ, Aurora CO; Rochester LHS, Rochester MN	Transferred out of District
Schwartz	Paula	2022-07-01	Bethlehem, Lakewood CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Schwartz	Paula	2023-01-26	Emeritus RM; Emeritus NE	Transferred out of District
Shearier	Anne	2024-12-18	Emeritus NOW; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Shull	Joshua	2023-08-10	Concordia University, Mequon WI; CLHSA, Parker CO	Entered the District
Siebarth	Pamela	2023-07-12	Emeritus MI; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Skoog	Letha	2022-09-11	Trinity, Fremont NE; Messiah, Grand Junction NE	Entered the District
Spurgeon	David	2022-10-16	Candidate; Immanuel, Albuquerque NM	Entered the District
Standerfer	Malinda	2024-08-11	St. John's, Decatur IL; Family of Christ, Colo Springs, CO	Entered the District
Standerfer	Malinda	2025-02-06	Family of Christ, Colo Spgs CO; Candidate	Change of status
Steffens	Pamela	2024-03-20	Emeritus RM; Emeritus MO	Transferred out of District
Steiner	Pamela	2022-07-19	Grace, Lancaster CA; Emeritus RM	Entered the District
Stephens	Kent	2024-02-04	Emeritus RM; Emeritus KS	Transferred out of District
Stults	Sheryl	2022-10-30	St. John's, Denver CO; Christ, Denver CO	Changes within District
Taylor	Lisa	2024-07-01	Bethlehem, Lakewood CO; Emeritus	Change of status
Thiessen	Mariah	2023-02-19	Candidate; Bethlehem, Lakewood CO	Changes within District
Timmerman	Bernice	2024-10-25	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Vega	Aaron	2023-06-04	Acts, Leander TX; St. John's, Denver CO	Entered the District
Wallschlaeger	Martha	2024-08-01	Immanuel, Albuquerque NM; Emeritus	Change of status
Wegner	Paulette	2024-06-30	Emeritus RM; Emeritus	Transferred out of District
Wenzlick	Angela	2023-03-08	Candidate RM; Community, St. Louis MO	Transferred out of District
Williams	Sina	2023-08-20	St. Mark, Santa Rosa CA; Shepherd o/t Hills, Centennial CO	Entered the District
Witte	Dennis	2023-05-26	Emeritus RM; Emeritus MI	Transferred out of District
Yox	Alison	2022-09-19	Trinity, Boone IA; Candidate RM	Entered the District
Yox	Alison	2023-06-11	Candidate; Bethlehem, Lakewood CO	Changes within District
Zehnder Van-Laningham	Dolores	2024-10-29	Called to Glory	Deceased notes, Off Roster
Zillinger	Sara	2024-09-09	Lutheran Assoc Special Ed., St. Louis MO; Candidate RM	Entered the District

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear delegates to the 2025 Convention of the Rocky Mountain District LCMS:

Martin Luther was convinced that the devil was especially active in his day. The church was pressed on every side by heretics and fanatics. In spite of this, Luther emphasized that the hope of the Church is never found in us. It is our Lord Jesus Christ who sustains His church. In 1539 Luther wrote:

*God help us as He has helped our ancestors and will also help our descendants to the praise and honor of His divine name throughout eternity! For we are, after all, not the sort of people who could sustain the church. Nor were our forefathers; nor will our descendants be such. But the Lord has done it, is doing it now, and will do it. He says: I am with you until the end of the world (Matt. 28:20), as is written Heb 13:8: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever," and Rev. 1:4: He was, He is, He will be. Yes, that is His name and it is the name of no other Man; nor should it be. (What Luther Says, 833)*

We should recognize that the Devil is fiercely active in our day as well. And even though the Church is pressed on every side, is it still our Lord Jesus Christ who sustains His church. He does this in the congregation, through His Means of Grace. God's people gathered around His Word and Sacraments is where God is actively at work to sustain His Church.

As the Board of Directors, we have a responsibility to each other, to the staff in the District Office, to the professional church workers and to member congregations. The focus of our work is always to encourage and enable the congregations in our district in Word and Sacrament ministry around which God's people gather, and through which our Lord sustains His Church.

During the past triennium, the Board of Directors has examined the Gospel Gap Paradigm to determine whether or not it is still serving the needs of the Rocky Mountain District as initially intended. The Gospel Gap Paradigm (GGP) was adopted by the Rocky Mountain District in convention in 2012. It is a circuit based mission model that encourages the congregations within a circuit to identify opportunities for missions and apply for grants. The Board of Directors has regularly approved numerous GGP grants since its beginning. In many ways, the Gospel Gap Paradigm has been a blessing to our District, giving financial support to many important ministries and projects. However, the board recognized that in many ways the program has drifted from its original intent, and there are numerous challenges to having mission work done at a circuit level. It is the board's opinion that the Gospel Gap Paradigm should be retired and that a new model to assist the planting of congregations in the district be implemented. Since the GGP was adopted by the Rocky Mountain District in convention, any change to this model would also need to be approved by us in convention.

At the 2022 convention, the Rocky Mountain District pledged to support the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia with a goal of raising \$150,000 or more. I am pleased to report that contributions to support this mission exceeded our goal with \$156,652.05 collected. Thank you for your generous giving toward pastoral formation in this challenging mission field. We pray that the Lord would prosper the work of this seminary and the students there who prepare for ministry. I would especially like to thank Polly Wegner who worked diligently to promote this project.

One of the important missions in the Rocky Mountain District is the University Lutheran Chapel located on the campus of Colorado University in Boulder. In recent years, the maintenance of the chapel grounds, which is owned by the district, has been very challenging. During the previous quadrennium (2018-2024) the chapel was renovated, and the important work of ministering to students continues. This chapel is a valuable outreach to the campus community. A special thanks the Pastor Robert Jarvis for his faithful work at ULC. The board recognizes how important it is to support this ministry in the future. In August of 2024, the Board of Directors, in conjunction with the congregation at ULC, approved the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to explore plans to develop the site. I want to emphasize that this is only an exploration. No official plans are

Cont.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cont.

yet in place. The purpose of this exploration is to find ways to improve the property in ways that will sustain the ministry at ULC in the future. A special thank you to Bart Day for his support, and to Chuck Morse, our LCEF DVP, for his work on this project.

I want to thank our entire district staff for their hard work. President Maxwell has been very intentional and diligent in serving the pastors and congregations of the RMD. Pastor Paul Albers work for our schools and teachers in the district is a tremendous blessing. Monique Hjalmquist, the administrative assistant, does an incredible job coordinating all the organizational details of the office. We have a very small staff, especially when we consider the geographical size of our district, and these servants often go above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you!

I want to acknowledge the members of our board who have served in this past triennium: Pastor Jared Melius (First Vice President), Pastor Jason Rust (Third Vice President – Southern), Pastor Michael Redeker (Fourth Vice President – Western), Pastor Eli Lietzau (Secretary), Melissa DeGroot (Commissioned Minister – Southern), Christian Kopff (Lay – Eastern), Damon Tobias (Lay – Southern), Marcia Hogan (Lay – Central), Gary Brookshire (Lay – Eastern), Darrell Wagner (Lay – Western), Russ Winterstein (Lay – Western), Polly Wegner (Commissioned Minister – Central), who moved to Nebraska in 2024 and Sina Williams (Commissioned Minister – Central) who has filled her position. Thank you for your faithful service on the board. It has been a joy to serve with you.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who alone sustains His Church, continue to bless the work He has given us to do in the Rocky Mountain District.

In Christ,  
Pastor Mark Nierman, Chairman  
The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors, LCMS

# CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES



Grace, mercy, and peace are yours in Jesus!

Our District is richly blessed through the ministries of faithful DCE's who nurture the faith of children, youth, and families. It's a remarkable privilege to serve alongside this creative, passionate, and supportive group. Providing critical ministry leadership within our congregations and jointly for the District's efforts are those serving in capacities of Directors of Youth, Christian education, Family Ministry, Child Ministry, Music Ministry, Adult Ministries, and Camp ministry. In all, more than 40 men and women faithfully serve the church in both general and specialized roles! Many of these people serve the District as well, including leadership roles in monthly Affinity Group gatherings.

Many thanks to Ms. Katie Morgan, DCE at Family of Christ, Colorado Springs for serving our District as the Coordinator for the National Youth Gathering. She also makes all arrangements for the District "booth" at the Convention Center and for the District Event during the Gathering.

Lutheran education is a significant part of our heritage. As an example, Zion Lutheran School in Brighton, Colorado celebrated its 125th Anniversary during the 2024-2025 school year! By God's grace many of our congregations continue operating Early Childhood centers and elementary schools and still others support the ministry of our Lutheran High in Parker, CO. A quick review of enrollment and other statistics reveals the great challenges and opportunities. Increasing cost of operations and in many cases declining enrollment are calling for new financial models and innovative forms of funding. Nationwide trending shows a decrease in the number of elementary and early childhood schools (see the following page for an LCMS report). Additionally, we have a minimal number of graduates from our Concordia's with an undergraduate degree in Lutheran Education. Please see the following pages for a report from our Concordia universities' Undergraduate Placement Directors.

To the glory of God, our nearly 500 educators maintain a servant-hearted focus as they proclaim the Gospel message in a clear manner to students and families. We rejoice that God's name is proclaimed in 27 Early Childhood Centers, 21 elementary schools (most of which have ECC programs) and two high schools spread throughout the District.

By God's grace none of our preschools or elementary schools closed during the triennium. In fact, thanks be to God, we have two "new" schools. Redeemer Lutheran preschool in Delta, CO expanded their program to include elementary grades and a new building! Check it out at <https://www.redeemerlutheralschool.org/>. Immanuel Lutheran School in Loveland, CO expanded their ministry to include a high school model that is "education reimaged." (<https://school.immanuelloveland.org/high-school/>).

During this triennium I've served on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Association of Private Schools (<https://www.coloradopriveschools.org/>). We've worked earnestly to rebuild a formerly inactive effort in the state. The number of enrolled schools doubled and nearly \$200,000 of grant-based funding was secured. We seek to be the voice of PK-12 private education in Colorado and we're a member of the Council for American Private Education. We engage as we're able on state policy issues, most predominately the last few years we've helped our schools navigate Universal Preschool (UPK) and attempted to influence procedures and policies at the state level. I am thankful to President Maxwell and the District's Board of Directors for allowing me to serve in this capacity and for their support of CAPS efforts on behalf of our schools.

I'm grateful to God for a strong partner in ministry, Ms. Monique Hjalmsquist. Her heart for Jesus, strong administrative skills, an eye for details and love for church workers are blessings to the Rocky Mountain District.

In Christ,  
Rev. Paul Albers  
Executive for Congregational Services



# CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES



## Lutheran School Statistics 2023 - 2024

This report is a summary of data submitted for the 2023-2024 school year by early childhood centers, elementary schools and high schools operated by The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) along with information obtained from the LCMS School Ministry Office, LCMS Districts and the LCMS Office of Rosters and Statistics.

“When schools flourish, matters stand well, and the church is saved. Let them call us doctors and masters if they please, but youth is the seed and the fount of the church. Where would other doctors and masters come from after we are dead if there were no schools. We are compelled to have schools in the church. God preserves the church through schools.”

— Martin Luther  
On Youth and Education

### **Total Number of Schools- 1,784**

- Early Childhood Centers – 1,641\*
- Elementary Schools – 732\*
- Middle Schools – 623\*
- High Schools – 109\*

### **Total Number of Students- 172,565**

- Early Childhood – 65,245\*
- Grades k-8 – 88,443\*
- Grades 9-12 – 18,877

### **Total Number of Teachers- 21,500**

- Rostered Teachers – 10,152
  - Active – 4,997
  - Candidate – 1,314
  - Emeritus – 3,841
- Non-Rostered Teachers – 11,348

### **National Lutheran School**

#### **Accreditation – 659**

- Early Childhood Centers – 497\*\*
- Elementary Schools- 507\*\*
- High Schools – 79\*\*

### **LCMS Operated International Schools**

- Hong Kong International – 2,917
- Concordia International Shanghai – 1,157
- Concordia International Hanoi- 500

### **Total Number of Schools by District 1,784**

Atlantic	29
California/Nevada/Hawaii	57
Central Illinois	50
Eastern	37
English	41
Florida-Georgia	59
Indiana	91
Iowa East	27
Iowa West	39
Kansas	47
Michigan	140
Mid-South	22
Minnesota North	25
Minnesota South	79
Missouri	102
Montana	17
Nebraska	62
New England	19
New Jersey	18
North Dakota	3
North Wisconsin	51
Northern Illinois	77
Northwest	96
Ohio	54
Oklahoma	18
Pacific Southwest	108
Rocky Mountain	50
SEL	13
South Dakota	19
South Wisconsin	86
Southeastern	63
Southern	23
Southern Illinois	34
Texas	114
Wyoming	14

\*The number of schools listed in each section represents schools that have indicated that they contain grade levels in the indicated area and as such may be counted in multiple sections.  
\*\*This data includes schools that may have been accredited separately at each level, or together as a single school location with multiple programs and grade levels.

# CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

Projected 2024-25 Graduating Synodical Candidates from all CUS Institutions:

11/1/2024 Updated

Key: CUAA - Ann Arbor, MI; CUJ - Irvine, CA; CUW - Mequon, WI;  
CUC - River Forest, IL; CSP - St. Paul, MN; CUNE - Seward, NE

Ministers of Religion-Commissioned 2024-25 Current Graduates Seeking Placement

	CUAA	CUJ	CUW	CUC	CSP	CUNE	totals
Early Childhood Education	2		4		4	4	14
Elementary Education	1	5	12	2	4	7	31
Middle Level Education						1	1
Secondary Education			11	2	2	5	24
Special Education						2	2
K-12 Art						2	2
K-12 Biology						0	0
K-12 Chemistry						0	0
K-12 English		1				1	2
K-12 English as a Second Language						0	0
K-12 History						0	0
K-12 Mathematics						0	0
K-12 Music	2		1		3	6	6
K-12 Physical Education						0	0
K-12 Political Science						0	0
K-12 Spanish						0	0
Medical Educator			2	2		4	4
College and Universities						0	0
Deaconess				3		3	3
Director of Christian Education				1	12	4	27
Director of Christian Outreach		10			2		12
Director of Family Life Ministry	1						1
Director of Parish Music	2	2		1	3	9	11
Director of Church Ministries			12				12
Lay Minister							0
Totals for campus	6	20	42	11	27	35	144

Percentages of Synodical Candidates

POTENTIAL SYNODICAL TEACHER CANDIDATES AVAILABLE FROM EACH CUS 2024-25

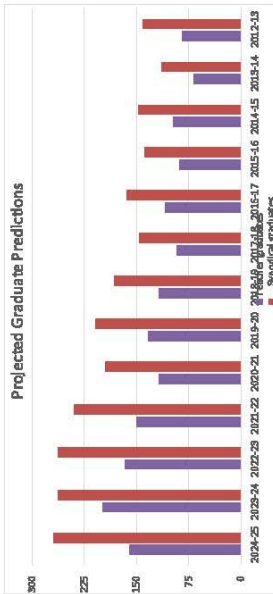
	CUAA	CUJ	CUW	CUC	CSP	CUNE	totals
Early Childhood Education	2		4		4	4	14
Elementary Education	1	5	12	2	4	7	31
Middle Level Education						1	1
Secondary Education			11	2	2	9	24
Special Education						2	2
K-12 Art						2	2
K-12 Biology						0	0
K-12 Chemistry						0	0
K-12 English		1				1	2
K-12 English as a Second Language						0	0
K-12 History						0	0
K-12 Mathematics			2	1		3	6
K-12 Music						0	0
K-12 Physical Education						0	0
K-12 Political Science						0	0
K-12 Spanish			2	2			4
Medical Educator							0
College and Universities	3	8	30	6	10	28	85
Totals for campus	3	8	30	6	10	28	85

Percentages of Teacher Candidates

Past year projections of Synodical graduates

2024-25	141
2023-24	115
2022-23	148
2021-22	139
2020-21	164
2019-20	147
2018-19	182
2017-18	210
2016-17	195
2015-16	240
2014-15	263
2013-14	263
2012-13	270

Academic Year	Synodical graduates	Teacher Graduates
2024-25	141	85
2023-24	115	68
2022-23	148	98
2021-22	139	88
2020-21	164	109
2019-20	147	92
2018-19	182	118
2017-18	210	134
2016-17	195	118
2015-16	240	150
2014-15	263	167
2013-14	263	199
2012-13	270	161



Past year projections of Teacher graduates

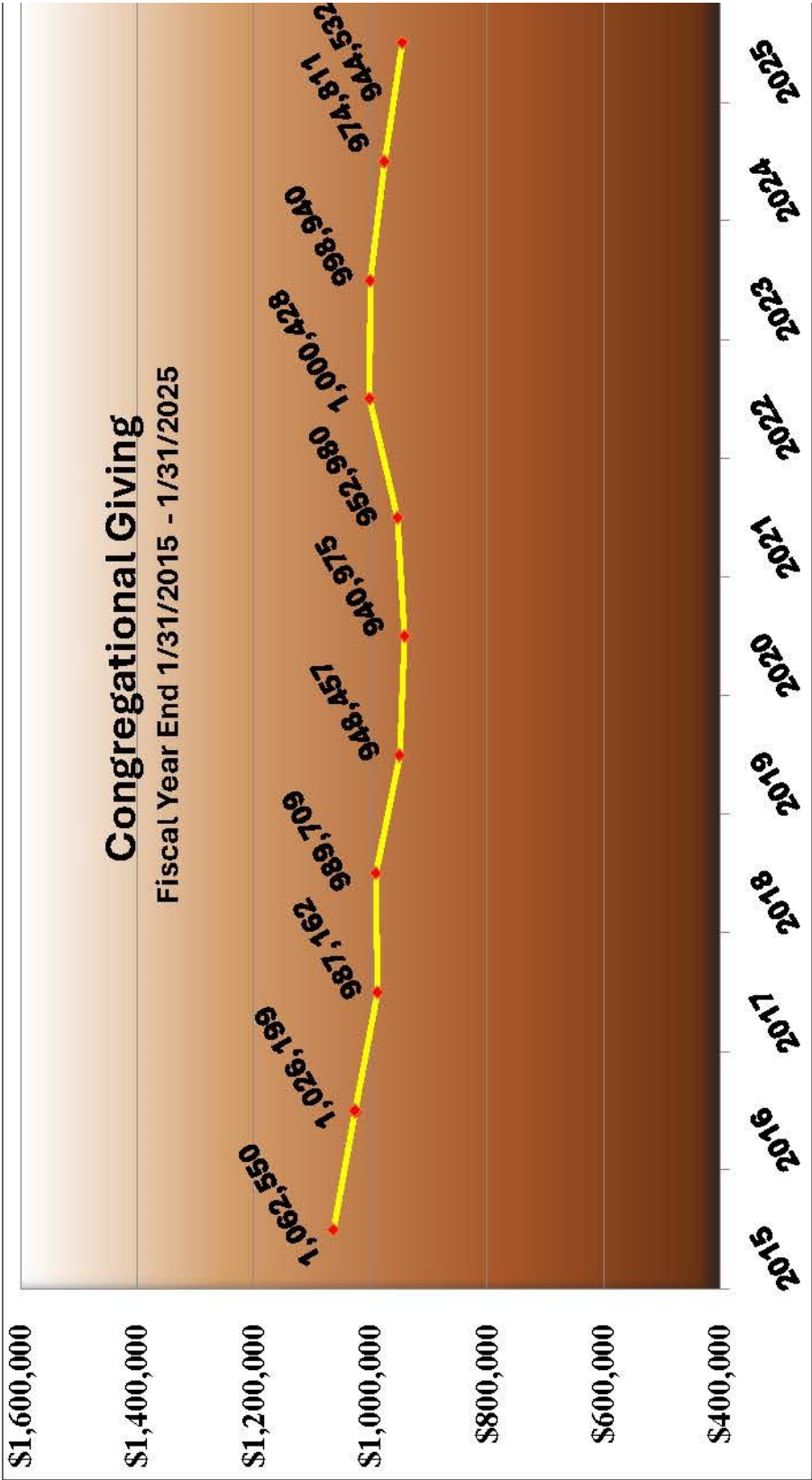
2024-25	85
2023-24	68
2022-23	98
2021-22	88
2020-21	109
2019-20	92
2018-19	118
2017-18	134
2016-17	118
2015-16	150
2014-15	167
2013-14	199
2012-13	161

average %

64%



# FINANCIAL REPORT



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Rocky Mountain District Congregational Giving by Circuit Fiscal Year End January 31 for 2023 - 2025 Triennium

<b>Denver Northeast Circuit</b>				<b>Denver Northwest Circuit</b>			
<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>		<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>	
Gethsemane - Northglenn	0	0	2,100	King of Kings - Arvada	0	0	0
Zion - Brighton	48,135	53,001	49,061	Peace - Arvada	76,258	66,529	62,361
Our Savior - Commerce City	0	0	0	Risen Christ - Arvada	2,000	1,000	0
Cordero de Dios - Denver	0	0	0	Shepherd of the Rockies - Bailey	4,000	3,745	5,400
Faith Lutheran - Denver	500	1,000	1,000	Christ - Breckenridge	2,800	3,200	3,440
Resurrection in the City - Denver	5,000	5,000	5,000	Mt Hope - Evergreen	0	0	0
Mt Zion - Denver	2,750	3,600	4,200	St Luke's - Golden	2,600	2,600	2,600
St Andrew - Denver *	0	0	0	New Hope - Golden	0	0	0
Grace - Hudson	0	0	1,000	Bethlehem - Lakewood	0	0	0
Summit of Peace - Thornton	0	0	0	Concordia - Lakewood	0	0	0
Christ Our Redeemer - Bennett	2,000	0	0	Wheat Ridge - Wheat Ridge	12,700	13,300	13,200
<b>Denver Northeast Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$58,385</b>	<b>\$62,601</b>	<b>\$62,361</b>	<b>Denver Northwest Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$100,358</b>	<b>\$90,374</b>	<b>\$87,001</b>
<b>Denver Southeast Circuit</b>				<b>Denver Southwest Circuit</b>			
<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>		<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>	
Hope - Aurora	12,250	3,000	2,933	Shepherd of the Hills - Centennial	11,083	12,000	12,000
Mt Olive - Aurora	8,654	11,323	11,323	St John's - Denver	1,100	1,200	1,100
Peace With Christ - Aurora	5,566	5,639	8,774	Trinity - Denver	0	0	0
Epiphany - Castle Rock	9,000	9,000	9,200	Immanuel - Englewood	6,000	6,000	6,000
Mt Zion - Castle Rock	1,500	1,000	1,000	Holy Cross - Highlands Ranch	3,221	2,869	5,057
Our Father - Centennial	38,000	47,500	19,500	Ascension - Littleton	22,438	26,043	26,527
Christ - Denver	16,748	16,410	16,500	Hosanna - Littleton	0	0	0
University Hills - Denver	500	500	500	<b>Denver Southwest Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$43,842</b>	<b>\$48,112</b>	<b>\$50,684</b>
Christ Our Savior - Elizabeth	0	0	0				
Trinity - Franktown	12,000	15,000	10,000				
Grace - Parker	0	0	0				
India Pakistan - Aurora	0	0	0				
<b>Denver Southeast Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$104,218</b>	<b>\$109,372</b>	<b>\$79,730</b>				
<b>Eastern High Plains Circuit</b>				<b>Four Corners Circuit</b>			
<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>		<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>	
Immanuel - Arriba	0	500	500	Trinity - Cortez	3,600	3,300	5,400
Trinity - Burlington	0	3,000	0	St Paul - Durango	6,000	6,000	6,000
Grace - Cheyenne Wells	2,000	2,000	2,000	Zion - Farmington	0	0	0
Zion - Flagler	1,435	645	500	Trinity - Gallup	3,850	5,500	2,880
Trinity - Genoa	600	0	0	Shepherd of the Valley - Navajo	0	0	100
Trinity - Kit Carson	0	0	0	Shepherd of the Desert - Page	0	0	0
Grace - Lamar	0	100	300	Our Savior - Pagosa Springs	600	0	1,975
<b>Eastern High Plains Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$4,035</b>	<b>\$6,245</b>	<b>\$3,300</b>	<b>Four Corners Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$14,050</b>	<b>\$14,800</b>	<b>\$16,355</b>
<b>Long's Peak Circuit</b>				<b>Long's Peak Circuit</b>			
<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>		<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>	
Mt Calvary - Estes Park	12,764	783	11,853	Mt Calvary - Estes Park	12,764	783	11,853
Peace With Christ - Ft. Collins	23,366	20,855	20,805	Peace With Christ - Ft. Collins	23,366	20,855	20,805
Redeemer - Ft. Collins	15,000	15,000	15,000	Redeemer - Ft. Collins	15,000	15,000	15,000
St John's - Ft. Collins	6,000	3,500	6,000	St John's - Ft. Collins	6,000	3,500	6,000
Gloria Christi - Greeley	0	0	0	Gloria Christi - Greeley	0	0	0
Trinity - Greeley	10,077	13,877	9,342	Trinity - Greeley	10,077	13,877	9,342
Faith - Johnstown	3,500	3,500	3,500	Faith - Johnstown	3,500	3,500	3,500
Immanuel - Loveland	0	0	0	Immanuel - Loveland	0	0	0
Mt Olive - Loveland	14,952	13,706	14,952	Mt Olive - Loveland	14,952	13,706	14,952
<b>Long's Peak Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$85,659</b>	<b>\$71,221</b>	<b>\$81,452</b>	<b>Long's Peak Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$85,659</b>	<b>\$71,221</b>	<b>\$81,452</b>
<b>Pecos Circuit</b>				<b>Pecos Circuit</b>			
<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>		<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>	
Immanuel - Carlsbad	2,500	2,500	2,650	Immanuel - Carlsbad	2,500	2,500	2,650
Immanuel - Clovis	6,376	8,276	7,770	Immanuel - Clovis	6,376	8,276	7,770
Immanuel - Artesia *	0	0	0	Immanuel - Artesia *	0	0	0
Grace - Hobbs	3,000	2,500	2,500	Grace - Hobbs	3,000	2,500	2,500
Our Savior - Lovington	1,200	1,100	1,300	Our Savior - Lovington	1,200	1,100	1,300
Faith in Christ - Portales	0	0	0	Faith in Christ - Portales	0	0	0
Immanuel - Roswell	6,000	5,500	6,000	Immanuel - Roswell	6,000	5,500	6,000
Shepherd of the Hills - Ruidoso	2,500	2,500	0	Shepherd of the Hills - Ruidoso	2,500	2,500	0
<b>Pecos Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$21,576</b>	<b>\$22,376</b>	<b>\$20,220</b>	<b>Pecos Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$21,576</b>	<b>\$22,376</b>	<b>\$20,220</b>
<b>Rio Grande Circuit</b>				<b>Rio Grande Circuit</b>			
<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>		<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>	
Trinity - Alamoqordo	19,020	17,409	17,500	Trinity - Alamoqordo	19,020	17,409	17,500
Redeemer - Deming	0	0	0	Redeemer - Deming	0	0	0
Ascension - El Paso	12,031	13,217	13,343	Ascension - El Paso	12,031	13,217	13,343
Cross Point - El Paso	8,414	6,116	7,138	Cross Point - El Paso	8,414	6,116	7,138
Grace - El Paso	0	0	0	Grace - El Paso	0	0	0
San Pablo - El Paso	0	0	0	San Pablo - El Paso	0	0	0
Zion - El Paso	1,375	0	375	Zion - El Paso	1,375	0	375
Mission - Las Cruces	14,400	14,400	14,400	Mission - Las Cruces	14,400	14,400	14,400
Messiah - Silver City	0	0	0	Messiah - Silver City	0	0	0
St. John - Truth or Consequences *	0	0	0	St. John - Truth or Consequences *	0	0	0
<b>Rio Grande Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$55,240</b>	<b>\$51,142</b>	<b>\$52,756</b>	<b>Rio Grande Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$55,240</b>	<b>\$51,142</b>	<b>\$52,756</b>
<b>Rocky Flats Circuit</b>				<b>Rocky Flats Circuit</b>			
<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>		<b>FYE 2023</b>	<b>FYE 2024</b>	<b>FYE 2025</b>	
Mt Hope - Boulder	10,000	10,000	10,000	Mt Hope - Boulder	10,000	10,000	10,000
Mt Zion - Boulder	0	0	0	Mt Zion - Boulder	0	0	0
University Lutheran Chapel - Boulder	0	0	0	University Lutheran Chapel - Boulder	0	0	0
Beautiful Savior - Broomfield	1,304	1,235	1,828	Beautiful Savior - Broomfield	1,304	1,235	1,828
Risen Savior - Broomfield	7,550	7,550	7,588	Risen Savior - Broomfield	7,550	7,550	7,588
Mt Calvary - Ft. Lupton	13,905	18,362	12,387	Mt Calvary - Ft. Lupton	13,905	18,362	12,387
Eternal Savior - Lafayette	17,000	16,424	9,989	Eternal Savior - Lafayette	17,000	16,424	9,989
Christ Our Savior - Longmont	5,000	5,000	6,000	Christ Our Savior - Longmont	5,000	5,000	6,000
Messiah - Longmont	0	0	0	Messiah - Longmont	0	0	0
<b>Rocky Flats Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$54,759</b>	<b>\$58,571</b>	<b>\$47,792</b>	<b>Rocky Flats Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$54,759</b>	<b>\$58,571</b>	<b>\$47,792</b>

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Rocky Mountain District Congregational Giving by Circuit Fiscal Year End January 31 for 2023 - 2025 Triennium

<u>Sandia South Circuit</u>	<u>FYE 2023</u>	<u>FYE 2024</u>	<u>FYE 2025</u>	<u>Sandia North Circuit</u>	<u>FYE 2023</u>	<u>FYE 2024</u>	<u>FYE 2025</u>
Immanuel - Albuquerque	42,000	36,000	27,000	Christ - Albuquerque	10,310	8,838	8,838
Our Savior - Albuquerque	0	0	0	Faith in Christ - Albuquerque **	3,600	3,600	5,000
Redeemer - Albuquerque **	4,130	672	0	Grace - Albuquerque	11,000	12,000	12,000
St Andrew - Albuquerque	0	0	0	Christ Our Savior - Angel Fire	0	0	0
Christ the King - Los Lunas	0	0	0	Prince of Peace - Cedar Crest	1,000	0	0
Calvary - Rio Rancho	393	0	0	Good Shepherd - Edgewood	19,133	20,549	19,298
Hope - Socorro	500	500	500	Immanuel - Las Vegas	0	0	0
<b>Sandia South Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$47,023</b>	<b>\$37,172</b>	<b>\$27,500</b>	Immanuel - Santa Fe	7,645	7,565	8,023
				Immanuel - Springer	0	0	0
				Sangre de Cristo - Taos	0	1,000	0
				Redeemer - Los Alamos	1,320	2,640	2,640
				<b>Sandia North Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$54,008</b>	<b>\$56,192</b>	<b>\$55,799</b>
<u>Utah Circuit</u>	<u>FYE 2023</u>	<u>FYE 2024</u>	<u>FYE 2025</u>	<u>Sangre de Cristo Circuit</u>	<u>FYE 2023</u>	<u>FYE 2024</u>	<u>FYE 2025</u>
Cross of Christ - Bountiful	1,000	917	500	Trinity - Alamosa	4,576	0	0
Trinity - Cedar City	0	0	0	St John - Canon City	11,340	9,446	10,200
Trinity - Layton	0	0	0	Trinity - La Junta	0	0	0
Holy Trinity - Loqan	8,800	8,800	8,800	St Peter - Monte Vista	1,825	2,655	2,920
Christ - Murray	0	0	0	Bethany - Pueblo	1,175	825	900
St Paul - Odgen	10,083	10,483	11,000	Trinity - Pueblo	5,000	5,000	0
Good Shepherd - Richfield	0	0	0	Our Savior's - Pueblo West	5,000	3,750	3,750
Redeemer - Salt Lake City	245	0	0	St Peter - Rocky Ford	0	0	0
St John - Salt Lake City	0	0	0	Hope - Westcliffe	0	0	0
Grace - Sandy	1,200	2,250	3,000	<b>Sangre de Cristo Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$28,916</b>	<b>\$21,676</b>	<b>\$17,770</b>
Trinity - St. George	8,520	8,520	8,520				
First - Tooele	0	0	0				
Grace - Moab	0	0	0				
Holy Trinity - Riverton	12,859	13,417	4,990				
<b>Utah Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$42,707</b>	<b>\$44,387</b>	<b>\$36,810</b>				
				<u>Western Circuit</u>	<u>FYE 2023</u>	<u>FYE 2024</u>	<u>FYE 2025</u>
				Faith - Carbondale	0	0	0
				Faith - Craig	1,992	2,194	2,324
				Redeemer - Delta	15,400	8,400	2,000
				Gracious Savior - Edwards	0	0	0
				Messiah - Grand Junction	13,740	20,578	21,708
				Mt Calvary - Gunnison	0	0	0
				Christ - Montrose	2,000	3,000	0
				Hope - Montrose	0	0	0
				Immanuel - Paonia	0	0	0
				Emmanuel - Rifle	9,172	4,350	4,350
				Concordia - Steamboat Springs	5,500	4,375	5,688
				Our Saviour - Vernal	0	0	0
				Grace Fellowship - Gypsum	500	500	1,000
				<b>Western Circuit Totals</b>	<b>\$48,304</b>	<b>\$43,397</b>	<b>\$37,070</b>

\* - Congregations disbanded/closed within last triennium (fiscal years).

\*\* - Redeemer - ALBQ and Faith in Christ - ALBQ merged in January 2025 and renamed: Christ Our Redeemer (Sandia North Circuit).

# DEBT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## Debt Assistance Program (DAP)

Educational debt continues to impact on our pastors and other church workers. Pastors can accrue significant debt from undergraduate and seminary studies. This can add financial stress to a pastor's ministry and impact the length of his stay at a particular congregation.

The potential for significant debt may also deter otherwise qualified men from studying for the pastoral ministry. Although both seminaries of the LCMS announced in 2018 that they will now cover 100% of the tuition for church-work students, there are still non-tuition expenses such as housing and food, insurance, books, supplies, and miscellaneous fees.

Since 1998, the Rocky Mountain District's Debt Assistance Program (DAP) has assisted District pastors with their educational debt. In the last 3 years since our last District Convention reporting, a total of \$26,796 has been distributed to District pastors who've applied for this assistance. \$5,953 was distributed to 6 pastors in 2022 (FY2023), \$9,184 was distributed to 6 pastors in 2023 (FY2024), and \$11,659 to 3 pastors in 2024 (FY2025).

The average educational debt of the program changes from year to year. Previous applicants that re-apply to the program see their debts decrease, while the addition of new pastors to the program can increase the overall program average. The average educational debt per applicant over the past 3 years was \$20,909.

Due to various factors from year to year, including economic conditions, financial gifts received and fund interest rates, the fiscal year-end endowment fund balances are as follows.....

\$436,837 - 1/31/2022

\$434,096 - 1/31/2023

\$441,908 - 1/31/2024

\$462,561 - 1/31/2025

As we do each and every year, we thank God for His blessings through the faithful donations of our congregations, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, congregational women's groups and those dedicated individual donors, all who help the Rocky Mountain District assist the pastors of today and tomorrow.

# SCHOLARSHIP GRANT REPORT



## **Rocky Mountain District Scholarship Grant Report**

The Rocky Mountain District is blessed to provide tuition assistance in the form of grants to students who are members of the district attending any Concordia Seminary or University. Tuition assistance is primarily made through endowment funding from generous families and individuals who name the Rocky Mountain District Scholarship Fund as benefactor. This tuition assistance is provided for those applicants whose academic studies are primarily focused on the goal to become future church workers, such as pastors, educators, DCE's and similar professions. Grants are typically awarded by late Summer or early Fall of that academic year that assistance has been applied for.

### **Academic Year 2022 - 2023**

Grants Sent to Both Seminaries: \$36,298

Grants Sent to Various Concordia Universities: \$9,484

### **Academic Year 2023 - 2024**

Grants Sent to Both Seminaries: \$35,042

Grants Sent to Various Concordia Universities: \$9,373

### **Academic Year 2024 - 2025**

Grants Sent to Both Seminaries: \$35,816

Grants Sent to Various Concordia Universities: \$11,443

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 1—PECOS

The past triennium has been filled with the Lord's blessings amid the cross for the saints in southeastern New Mexico. God be praised that our congregations are nourished with Christ, the Bread of Life (John 6:51), through both faithful preaching and right administration of the sacraments. By his Holy Spirit we have been given the strength to endure in hope. Amid the trials and tribulations of life, including two major natural disasters in Ruidoso and Roswell, the saints have sought refuge in prayer. Those petitions have been answered by the Lord who has filled Christian hearts with generosity, either within our own congregations or from far away, to give selflessly to the needs of our members who have lost their homes and possessions. We have also shared the sorrow of the saints of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Artesia at the closing of their congregation. Nevertheless, we have every confidence that "for those who love God all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28). Even now, Pastor Wright and the saints of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Carlsbad are working hard to reach souls in need of the comfort of the Gospel. We ask the district to pray that the Lord uses their efforts to plant a church in this community.

We continue to enjoy a cordial and strong brotherhood among the pastors and communion between the saints. Without a doubt this is due to our tradition of mutual study of the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions. Remaining faithful while bearing up under the devil's temptation and the world's distractions is difficult. Isolated and alone we would fall as prey to the wolves. God be praised that our ears and hearts are open to correction and instruction. Our discussions are lively and full of good humor. Instead of fleeing each other's company, we seek it out.

**Shepherd of the Hills, Ruidoso:** Over the last three years SHLC has faithfully managed challenges presented to the community. The church continues to deal with the fallout from the major transitions of various families that resulted from the upheaval that covid restrictions presented. A number of key leaders took that time to move for various reasons. In 2022 the community was affected by the McBride fire and then again this last summer with the Southfork and Salt fires. While there has been a change in leadership, the Lord has faithfully raised up couples and families that have moved into the area and have taken up the responsibilities necessary to continue to function for the sake of Word and Sacrament ministry. The church was able to raise \$180,000 to help with families impacted by the fire. SHLC has stood up a Lutheran Early Response Team. With generous donations and a grant from the Synod the church has bought and equipped a trailer to respond to local and regional emergencies. The saints at SHLC look forward to continued outreach and mercy work opportunities in and around Lincoln County, NM.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Clovis:** This past triennium, Immanuel in Clovis has seen few changes, numerically speaking. Officers of the congregation have generally remained the same. We've had a few visitors, an infant and adult baptism and confirmation (2023), and three (2 adult) confirmations (2022). Two members died in the Lord. As the congregational members are aging, we are reflecting on ways for providing needed care, first, being aware of the various needs. The elders have been studying a helpful book by Rev. Tim Mech, *Pastors and Elders: Caring for the Church and One Another*. In addition to this study for the elders, a number of study opportunities for members are offered weekly, including a study of the Lutheran Confessions, Wed morning Bible study, and Evening Catechesis. Topics of studies have included "Christians in a Woke World," "The Liturgy of the Divine Service" Thessalonians, Peter, "Christianity: The First Three Centuries", and Acts of the Apostles. The Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) is quite active. Pastor Reeder serves as the Zone Pastoral counselor. The women of Immanuel, Clovis and Faith in Christ, Portales, meet once a month for a meal, Bible study, and meeting. Financially, the congregation seems to be doing quite well. The budget has increased and is increasing. Giving seems strong.

**Faith in Christ Lutheran Church, Portales:** Faith In Christ continues as a small congregation with its emphasis on Word and Sacrament, with both Sunday and mid-week Divine Services. A couple of critical families have moved and left us a bit smaller with fewer leaders. Since we have five ENMU instructors in our congregation, outreach continues strongly to the college students.

**Grace Lutheran Church and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hobbs and Lovington:** Pastor Kyle Brown received and accepted a call to Indiana in April - May 2024. He was our Pastor since June 2019. We miss him and his family. Both congregations voted to call Pastor Thaine Kister in July 2024. He accepted and was installed on September 8, 2024. Pastor Kister and his wife, Val moved to Hobbs from Los Lunas, NM. Their move to SE New Mexico was well received as they have lived in our state since 2019. Divine Service with Holy Communion & Bible study is appreciated every Sunday at each congregation and Wednesday night at Grace led



# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 1—PECOS—cont.

### **Grace Lutheran Church and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hobbs and Lovington: cont.**

by Pastor Kister. Val leads a women's Bible study on Saturday morning which is also appreciated. Grace has had some faithful members move to new locations out of our area over the last year which has been difficult. We hope and pray that our churches continue to be fed with Gods' Word and Holy Sacrament as well as those who need a loving church home.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Carlsbad:** Immanuel Lutheran Church of Carlsbad, NM, strives to build up Christ's people through hearing the Word and living as brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Mission Statement is: "We are a Christian family, growing on God's Word and sharing the love of Jesus Christ." We carry this mission through by recognizing our familial attributes in a positive way, continuously and faithfully hearing God's Word read, proclaimed and referred to at every worship, Bible study or business meeting. Through public relations efforts, employing a new website and also use of a Facebook page, we offer, publicly, such worship and study meetings so that all attendees may partake in God's grace, received through His Word and Spirit. The Sacraments as always are also being rightly administered at Immanuel. Our Children's Sunday School continues to thrive with kids between three and thirteen years old using standardized lessons provided by CPH. Although there are challenges for our small but thriving family of faith, membership and worship attendance has been stable, and we have also been blessed to receive a few new members. We repent of our tendencies to seek individual preferences, and we ask the Lord to guide us to seek what is for the common good (I Cor. 12:7). Though our sister congregation with whom we previously formed a dual parish, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Artesia, NM, has closed, we still minister to the former members at Artesia. We pursue evangelism outreach efforts there and our current program, HOPES (Helping Our Students Excel in School) is mercy work for helping elementary aged children. This work leads to some introspection about how the Lord may lead us beyond just a tutoring and mentorship program into how we might be able to catechize un-churched people so that they, too, are part of Christ's family of faith, the church. Strategies are being developed for evangelism outreach to be sustained. Christ's people and pastors of our Pecos Circuit, as well as RMD leadership, have been prayerfully supportive in advancing these strategies.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Roswell:** Over the past three years we have experienced a decline in active membership. Many of our families and individual members have moved away either for reasons of employment or retirement. Other beloved members have been laid to rest and taken to their heavenly home. New members have joined, but not enough to make up for past years' attendance numbers. Nevertheless, our congregation strives to bring the Gospel to the members of our community. We pray the Lord again fills our pews with saints eager to be comforted by Christ's gifts and to grow in love. God be praised that Pastor Tyler Holt has served our congregation well as the school's headmaster and our associate pastor. His leadership in the school and unwavering confession has introduced many children and whole families to the saving truth of the Gospel. We give thanks for his service and for our teachers' hard work. Also of note was the flooding that struck our city this past autumn. Thankfully most of our members' homes and possessions were spared. The church building and premises were also undamaged. However, one family lost everything. Through help coming from unlikely places, the Lord has given them the ability to rebuild. Pastor A. Brian Flamme continues to serve as Senior Pastor and Circuit Visitor.

**Pecos Circuit Forum 2025:** Pastor A. Brain Flamme was elected as Circuit Visitor. Pastor Jason Rust led a brief study on the nature and work of a circuit of congregations. Four overtures were discussed and three submitted to the district.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Rev. A. Brian Flamme  
Pecos Circuit Visitor

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Roswell, New Mexico

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 2—DENVER NORTHWEST

### Pastoral Changes

- **Concordia, Lakewood** – currently vacant and in the Call process.
- **King of Kings, Arvada** – Pastor Kirk Miller stepped down from ministry in 2023. Pastor Gregg McCaslin was installed as sole pastor in August of 2024.
- **Peace, Arvada** – Pastor Dave Ahlman retired in July of 2022. Pastor Guy Roberts was installed as senior pastor in February of 2024. Pastor Tom Kent (emeritus) was received into the church triumphant in late 2023.
- **Shepherd of the Rockies, Bailey** – Pastor Pete Scheele retired in July of 2024. Pastor John Graham was installed as sole pastor in September of 2024.

**Circuit Pastor Gatherings (Winkels)** – We meet 9 months of the year on the first Wednesday of the month from 12-3pm. We have about 10 pastors at our gatherings. Our gatherings typically include a mealtime during which we share and pray for one another, Bible/topical studies, worship, and circuit business.

**Missions** – Our circuit has been working closely with Summit Mission Alliance ([www.SummitMissionAlliance.org](http://www.SummitMissionAlliance.org)) to address some of the opportunities for mission in our circuit. Summit Mission Alliance prepares, plants, and provides for missionaries in the central Colorado mountains. Its goal is to plant ten missionaries in a ten-year period.

**Leadville, CO** – Summit Mission Alliance (SMA) has been in covenant relationship with Good Shepherd, Leadville for several years. SMA has provided Good Shepherd with pastors for Word and Sacrament ministry and pastoral care during that time. Our district has contributed financial support for the mission work in Leadville via Gospel Gaps grants. That work includes recent renovations to Good Shepherd's parsonage. In August of 2024, Pastor Dale Critchley accepted a Call from SMA to serve as Missionary to Leadville. He and his family live in Good Shepherd's parsonage.

**Granby, CO** – The Lord has been bringing people together for a potential new church plant in Granby. Currently, the LCMS has no official presence in the entirety of Grand County. SMA has been working to coordinate the gathering of people in Granby and hopes to call a pastor to serve there in 2025.

Pastor Larry McGurer  
Denver Northwest Circuit Visitor  
Christ – Breckenridge, CO



# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 3—DENVER SOUTHWEST

Denver Southwest Circuit Report  
Rocky Mountain District Convention May 29-30, 2025  
Prepared by Pastor John Larson

Since 2022 there have been some changes and many gifts of grace in the congregations of the Denver Southwest Circuit:

**Ascension in Littleton** has been blessed by a strong laity desiring to serve their Lord and community. The congregation of 500 baptized have been led by Pastor John Larson since 2005. Michael Zehnder, though partially retired, still oversees the music ministry in the congregation. DCE Stephanie Roettger celebrates three years in service at Ascension in 2025.

**Holy Cross in Highlands Ranch** has been led by Pastor Bruce Skelton for the past 21 years. Holy Cross and Pastor Skelton have been instrumental in guiding 5 men into the Holy Ministry, and 2 Deaconesses into service in the church. The congregation also is greatly invested in providing ministry to Windcrest, a large retirement community in Highlands Ranch. Pastor Skelton and the church have ministered there for about 15 years.

**Shepherd of the Hills in Centennial** has seen a number of changes in these past three years. Pastor Greg Zillinger who served as Associate Pastor for many years, accepted the call to be the Pastor at Holy Cross in Colorado Springs. He concluded ministry at Shepherd in late February of 2024 and was installed at Holy Cross on March 3, 2024. The congregation is seeking to call an Associate Pastor. Pastor Brad Stoltenow, who has been at Shepherd for the past 18 years is thrilled to have DCE Sina Williams on staff for the past 2 years.

**Renewal in Denver**, a satellite church plant of St. John's Denver, has been blessed by its first resident Pastor, Rev. PJ Aarsvold, over these last three years. PJ was installed on June 12 in 2022. Renewal, which worships in the former Emmaus Lutheran Church building, are seeking to reach the ever-changing neighborhood in the Highlands area of Denver. They seek to engage the neighborhood through a variety of community events. They emphasize a strong program of assimilation for their new members.

**Immanuel in Englewood**, the second oldest congregation in the circuit, will celebrate their 100th anniversary on Sunday, August 24, 2025. Pastor Jim Tuell, will celebrate 8 of those years, first serving as the vicar beginning in April of 2017 and then as their sole pastor beginning in October of 2019. The congregation has been instrumental in serving the needs of the homeless population in the Englewood area, serving as an overnight host congregation for up to 40 folks more than 100 nights during the winters in 2023 and 2024.

**St. John's in Denver**, established in 1879, the mother church of many of the congregations in Denver, continues a dynamic ministry with their active congregation and their large day school. Andrew Farhat is the lead pastor, following the call of AJ Mastic in January of 2022 to Pathfinder in Ellisville, Missouri.

**Trinity in Denver** is a leader in the circuit in their ministry to home schooled children and their parents. They have formed a co-op that supplements academic lessons taught at home and provides a solid formation of Lutheran teaching. Pastor Adrian Sherrill serves as Senior Pastor. From 2022 until 2024 Pastor Sherrill was assisted by Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz. Pastor Koontz now serves at Redeemer in Oakmont, Pennsylvania.

**Hosanna in Littleton** is led by Pastor Greg Peters and has been led by him for a number of decades. The congregation serves the western side of Littleton with great love and compassion.

**Redeemer in Denver**, though closed some years ago, was bought by the city of Denver to be part of the Denver Public Library System. The name of that branch is **Westwood Redeemer Library**.

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 4—LONG'S PEAK

The Longs Peak circuit consists of nine congregations in the northern front range of Colorado.

- Faith, Johnstown (Pr. Brandon Ross, Pr. Victor Young)
- Gloria Christi, Greeley (Pr. Steve Weiss)
- Immanuel, Loveland (Pr. Glen Schlecht)
- Mt. Calvary, Estes Park (Pr. Paul Rhode)
- Mt. Olive, Loveland (Pr. Mark Nierman)
- Peace With Christ, Fort Collins (Pr. David Magruder)
- Redeemer, Fort Collins and Greeley (Prs. Tim Runtsch, Caleb Cox, Mike Curtis)
- St. John's, Fort Collins (Pr. Shawn Nettleton)
- Trinity, Greeley (Joshua Vanderhyde)

The Longs Peak Circuit regularly meets for Winkel on the third Tuesday of the month from 8:30am until 12:30pm. We gather for worship, an exegetical study and Lutheran Confessions study, and often another topical study. We are blessed with a significant number of retired pastors who regularly attend our Winkel and add their wisdom and insight to our meetings. We also gather with six other circuits every spring for a regional conference. The conference is hosted within the geographic boundary of the Longs Peak Circuit. Lecturers since the last convention were, Dr. Joel Elowsky, Dr Harold Senkbeil and Dr. Andrew Steinmann. The proximity of our congregations has often allowed many opportunities for members to participate and engage in theological discussions at hosted events. Peace With Christ Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran Church provide campus ministry support for Colorado State University and Front Range Community College. The recognized student organization is titled "ChristLife" and is sponsored by faculty who are members of Peace With Christ and St. John's. During the academic year, a weekly Bible study is led by Pastors Nettleton and Magruder. Regular campus ministry social events are held and directed by the students. Two vacancies were filled with the arrival of Pastor Joshua Vanderhyde to Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Greeley, and Pastor Paul Rhode to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Estes Park. We bid farewell and godspeed to Pastors Sam Sessa and Scott Coerber from Redeemer, Ft. Collins. We celebrated the installation of Rev. Mike Curtis at Redeemer, Ft. Collins and Rev. Victor Young as assistant pastor for Faith, Johnstown. God be praised for His goodness and mercy toward the saints of the Longs Peak Circuit.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Rev. David B Magruder

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 5—SANDIA NORTH

Circuit Visitors Report  
Circuit 5 - Sandia North  
Rev. Douglas K. Escue, Circuit Visitor  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Fe, NM

The Sandia North Circuit consists of 11 congregations located in north central and north-eastern New Mexico cities and rural towns (metropolitan Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Los Alamos and smaller towns).

The congregations (year established and current pastor) in northeast metropolitan Albuquerque area include: *Christ Lutheran Church & School* (1960, Rev. Eric Robinson); *Christ our Redeemer Lutheran Church* (2025; Rev. Bruce Wilder; *Grace Lutheran Church* (1985, Rev. Aaron Richert). In the East Mountain area east of Albuquerque are *Prince of Peace Lutheran Church/Cedar Crest* (1984, Rev. Michael Feuer; associate Pastor, Rev. Doyle Boykin); *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church/Edgewood* (1988, Vacant). Farther north (*del Norte*) are *Immanuel Lutheran Church/Santa Fe* (1938, Rev. Douglas K. Escue); *Redeemer Lutheran Church/Los Alamos* (2008, Rev. Johannes Nieminen); *Immanuel Lutheran Church/Las Vegas* (1921, Vacant); three congregations: *Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church/Angel Fire* (1982), *Sangre de Cristo Lutheran Church/Taos* (1993) and *Immanuel Lutheran Church/Springer* (1950) are served by SMP Vicar, Ben Davis.

Six of these congregations are served by full-time Pastors; two congregations are vacant; three congregations are served by an SMP Vicar. In addition to several Commissioned Ministers serving at three parochial schools, two congregations have Directors of Christian Education, each.

Sandia North congregations consist of a combined communicant membership of approximately 600 souls. Christ/Albuquerque operates a parochial school (pre-K through 8th grade); Grace/Albuquerque and Immanuel/Santa Fe both sponsor Pre-kindergarten schools, respectively. Christ/Albuquerque continues to operate its God Cares about You human care ministry.

Notable events during the past 2022-2025 triennium include:

- Redeemer/Alb., formed in 1951, decided to close and join with Faith in Christ/Alb. to become Christ the Redeemer/Alb (Jan. 2025). Redeemer/Alb. held a concluding service in December 2024, with current and former members and former Pastors in attendance. Prayers of thanksgiving for 74 years of faithful ministry, were offered by sister congregations.
- the service of SMP Vicar Ben Davis for Sangre de Cristo/Taos, Christ our Savior/ Angel Fire and Immanuel/Springer congregations began in August 2022 (Pr. Doug Escue, Immanuel/Santa Fe, serves as the SMP Vicar's Mentor; Vicar Davis' Ordination is scheduled for August 2025).
- the installation of Rev. Aaron Richert, Grace/Albuquerque (June 2023).
- the installation of Rev. Johannes Nieminen, Redeemer/Los Alamos (June 2023).
- the installation of Rev. Dr. Bruce Wilder, Christ the Redeemer/Alb, Jan. 2025 (NB: Christ the Redeemer was created out of two congregations—Redeemer/Alb. (1951-2025) & Faith in Christ/Alb. (1978-2025)—choosing to form one congregation).
- Other noteworthy activities: - pastoral retirements of Rev. Phil Spomer, Good Shepherd/Edgewood (Dec. 2025), and the Rev. Donald Neidigk as part-time Pastor Immanuel/Las Vegas (July 2025).
- Commissioned Minister Melissa DeGroot (Calvary/Rio Rancho) and layman Damon Tobias (Immanuel/Alb.) were elected to serve as members of the Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors for the 2022-2025 triennium.

Cont.

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 5—SANDIA NORTH— cont.

While existing as two separate circuits, Pastors in the Sandia North and Sandia South circuits continue to meet jointly for substantive monthly Winkels (Pastors' meetings) during the months of September through May for study, worship, discussion and sharing, as well as for circuit forums and joint ministry endeavors. Grace/Albuquerque sponsors summer continuing education Seminary classes from Con. Theo. Seminary, Ft. Wayne. Immanuel/Santa Fe sponsors summer continuing education Seminary classes from Con. Seminary/St. Louis.

Both circuits (Sandia North—11 congregations, and Sandia South—6 congregations), after careful consideration to combine to form one circuit, concluded to remain as two circuits but request the realignment of congregations in the new triennium.

May the Lord Jesus continue to bless the proclamation and administration of the Holy Gospel among his people in the Sandia North circuit.

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 6—SANGRE DE CRISTO

### **Trinity Alamosa – Rev. Jason Cody**

Rev. Jason Cody is in his 9<sup>th</sup> year at Trinity. The congregation continues to grow receiving new members and continuing in the growing school ministry of Trinity Lutheran School. Recently Dr. Gabe Jardon, a member of Trinity, has applied for colloquy with the LCMS.

### **St. Peter Monte Vista – Vicar Joshua Cody**

After two years of service, intentional interim Pastor Rev. Robert Hauter completed his work at St. Peter's. In the summer of 2023, the congregation chose to pursue the raising up of a pastor from within itself. Joshua Cody was elected from among the congregation to become the SMP Vicar and enrolled in Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, IN. He was installed as Vicar on August 30, 2023, under the supervision of Rev. Ben Delin. St. Peter's has continued to maintain summer preaching station in Creede, CO.

### **Hope Westcliffe – Rev. Dan Kletke**

Rev. Dan Kletke has been filling the vacancy at Hope since November 2021. 2022 marked the congregation's sesquicentennial (150 year) milestone; and the congregation celebrated with a celebratory service on August 21<sup>st</sup> that saw beloved pastor Wayne Riddering return to preach, followed by a German themed dinner. The congregation has recently begun the call process with a lot of hope and expectation.

### **St. John Cañon City – Rev. Dan Kletke (Circuit Visitor)**

Rev. Kletke has now been at St. John for 13 years. The congregation recently purchased and installed new pews which finished upgrades to the facility. The congregation continues to reach out to the community and beyond Cañon City; and they are currently preparing for Rev. Kletke to take a 3-month sabbatical the fall of 2025.

### **Bethany Pueblo & Our Savior Pueblo West – Rev. Nicholas Shults**

The dual parish of Bethany & Our Savior's continues to be served faithfully in many capacities by dedicated lay leaders. Both congregations are eager to work collaboratively to bring the Gospel to those in Pueblo and Pueblo West. Rev. Shults has served as pastor of the dual parish since his installation in October 2021.

### **Trinity Pueblo – Rev. Robert Hauter**

In 2023 Rev. Randy Bolt retired after 40 years of ministry (27 at Trinity Pueblo), and Rev. Bob Hauter was installed as the Intentional Interim Pastor in October. In 2024 our new principal, Dr Derion Ibarra, was hired and our Early Learning Academy Director, JoAnn Collins was awarded the ELA Director of the year by the RMD. Trinity will begin the call process to call their next pastor in 2025.

### **St. Peter Rocky Ford – Rev. Kelly Leary**

St. Peter has been vacant for several years. The vacancy is now served by Rev. Kelly Leary.

### **Trinity La Junta – Rev. Rick Miller**

Besides all the typical aspects of ministry (with help from the Ruth Guild and Youth Group), the Congregational Family shared our chapter-a-day Bible Journey through the Old Testament's Writings, New Testament and Torah, as well as reached out to the community in a variety of ways (including support of the local Food Bank and Pregnancy Center; having a Float in two Parades; hosting Concerts by "New Legacy Project," "Jubilate" and "Luke Yates;" sharing Presentations about Bulgaria and Japan; holding Advent Services at the local Theater with free Christmas movies; offering a free Theater-showing of "The Easter Experience" and having an "M&Ms Gospel" booth at the Otero College "Frost-Fest"), all culminating in the celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Rev. Dan Kletke  
Circuit Visitor

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 7—NORTHEAST

Brothers and sisters in Christ, attendees of the 2025 Rocky Mountain District Convention, greetings to you in the name of our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Northeast Circuit is comprised of twelve congregations, two of which are located in Nebraska. One of the Circuit congregations is non-calling and served by a Rev. Richard von Steinmann of 1st English Lutheran in Sterling, CO. There are two dual-parish congregations in the Circuit: St. Pauls, Julesburg, CO and Zion, Big Springs, NE; also St. Pauls, Amherst, CO and St. Pauls, Venango, NE.

At the 48<sup>th</sup> RMD Convention in 2009 with the introduction of the first graduates from the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, El Paso, Texas by Executive Director Rev. Richard Schlak, the Holy Spirit planted a seed. The planting of that seed grew into what was to become the Northeast Circuit Hispanic Outreach (NECHO). NECHO had its official beginning with the call to and the installation of Rev. Armenio Pineros as its first missionary on February 12, 2012. Pastor Pineros was called to the Circuit through Trinity, Sterling, CO and first established a Hispanic worshipping community there. In 2016 Pastor Pineros began outreach activities in the largely Hispanic populated community of Holyoke, CO. We in the Northeast Circuit are so thankful and blessed to have had Rev. Armenio Pineros as part of our Circuit until his retirement in January of 2017.

Again, by the blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Northeast Circuit extended a Call to and installed Rev. Pedro Jofre on March 12, 2017 as the NECHO missionary to continue the work begun by Pastor Pineros. On March 25, 2018 Pastor Jofre's wife Erica Jofre was commissioned and installed as Deaconess serving alongside her husband in NECHO. On a given Sunday roughly 30 souls are worshipping at Trinity, Sterling and 30 are worshipping at Zion, Holyoke. Pastor and Deaconess Jofre also lead catechesis, Bible Studies, ESL and Spanish as a Second Language classes at Sterling and Holyoke. Pastor Jofre has established himself well within the Hispanic community at both locations. Praise to the Lord!

As of March 24, 2025, the Northeast Circuit is as follows:

Trinity, Fort Morgan began being served by Rev. Bror Erickson in early 2023. They are currently in the midst of a building project for a new sanctuary on the ground next to their school on the west side of Ft. Morgan.

Trinity, Sterling, CO Rev. James Nash retired at the end of 2024. They are currently being served in vacancy by Rev. Pat Riley.

First English, Sterling, CO is served by Rev. Richard von Steinman.

NECHO is served by Rev. Pedro and Deaconess Erica Jofre who submitted: My name is Pedro, we come with my family from Argentina and 5 years ago I was called to serve in northeast Colorado, and for me it has been an incredible experience, seeing how God is raising up his chosen ones showing his saving power in small towns but where it is also necessary to do the task of evangelism. Working with this circuit has taught me how God blesses the unity of the Church even if we speak in another language and I give thanks for being able to be part of the history of what God is doing in this town. The power of the gospel bringing life through the cross and the act of love that Jesus had with us is a beautiful thing.

St. Pauls and Zion, Julesburg, CO and Big Springs, NE are served by Rev. Trenton D. Christensen. Julesburg is the site of an Orphan Grain Train warehouse where the members of St. Paul, and volunteers from surrounding communities are active in the receiving, sorting, and shipping of clothing and materials to the needy around the world. Since the 1980's St. Pauls has had a midweek program for 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> grades. In the fall of 2017 Zion began its own midweek program. Thanks to a grant from LCEF, St. Pauls was able to purchase and install hi-def video equipment in January for recording and posting of services on YouTube.

Immanuel, Haxtun, CO is served by Rev. Timothy Hahn who was installed as pastor on October 3, 2021.

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 7—NORTHEAST— cont.

Zion, Holyoke, CO is served by Rev. Gary Rahe who submitted: Zion, like all congregations with the circuit and district, found the pandemic a very challenging time. Prior to the beginning of the shutdown, we were in the midst of a renovation project. Our committee had been meeting about a year and a half and were about to make a report to the congregation about a recommended project. That all was suspended. The project has begun again following COVID and is moving forward. We are back to full activity and are now preparing for a renovation and maybe even a building of new facilities. Time will tell just where God wants us to go.

St. Pauls and St. Pauls, Amherst, CO and Venango, NE are served by Rev. Kurt Hatteberg.

Trinity, Akron, CO (non-calling) is served by Rev. Richard von Steinmann of 1st English Lutheran Church, Sterling, CO.

St. Johns, Yuma, CO is served by Rev. Dennis FitzPatrick who has submitted: Word and Sacrament ministry continues faithfully in Yuma this past year. Worship has returned to closer than pandemic levels of 2020. Wednesday night supper and Bible study, alongside Confirmation and Youth Night have begun again and are doing well. We are again, working to bring Hispanic Ministry to our area as this becomes an ever-increasing need to our diverse area. This is our 3rd year calling for a Vicar to service St. John's and our Yuma community.

Calvary, Wray, CO was served by Rev. Timothy Davis whose last Sunday was January 23, 2022. After an almost 3 year vacancy, served by Rev. Dennis FitzPatrick of St. John's Lutheran, Yuma, Rev. Ben Vanderhyde began serving as their new Pastor on November 10, 2024.

Also among the Circuit Pastors are the retired Rev. Lawrence J. Dye, Rev. Kraig Gilkey. To God be the glory as the pastors and congregants of the Northeast Circuit of the Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod receive His blessings of the forgiveness, of sins, life and salvation purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ and dispensed through Word and Sacrament! By His grace alone we will continue to proclaim Christ crucified and risen to ALL people in our area of God's Kingdom.

Rev. Dennis G. FitzPatrick  
Northeast Circuit Visitor  
St. John's Lutheran Yuma Colorado



# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 8—UTAH

Holy Trinity – Logan

Specific Ministry Pastor Vicar Joe Pierson, under the supervising of Rev. Mark Christ, is leading the congregation in caring for one another and continuing their outreach to the community, including the Utah State University.

St. Paul – Ogden

Rev. Mark Christ is leading the congregation as they grow in number and faith. They host the annual Reformation Service and attend Worship, Bible Studies, and meetings with zeal. They are considering opening a new CDC program and reaching out to help other Utah congregations.

Cross of Christ, Wood's Cross / Bountiful

After a long vacancy, new vacancy pastor, Robert Bennett (SMP) is building up the congregation so they can once again become a thriving church.

First – Tooele

Rev. Robert Bennett (SMP), vacancy pastor, is leading the congregation in somewhat of a resurgence of activity. There is excitement at the prospect of calling a new pastor. The church is trying to be more visible in the community.

St. John's – Salt Lake City

Rev. Hank Malone works diligently to keep the ministry alive as the demographics cause challenging issues. They are currently, with district and circuit help, determining what they can do to not only grow in number but to serve the community. They have for 125 years been a leading force in circuit and have housed ministry for children and ethnic ministry.

Redeemer – Salt Lake City

Their new pastor, Rev. Mark Below, serves this long-time congregation. Regular ministry continues to produce faithful members and the challenge is to restore the school to its former standing in the community.

Grace – Sandy

Pastor Jeremy Lamont (SMP) is leading the congregation in worship and Bible Study as they begin the process of calling a new pastor and determining how to move their school into a successful future. They have a word and sacrament ministry on the south end of the metro area that is bringing Christ to a growing number of souls.

Holy Trinity - Riverton

With their new sanctuary built and serving the congregation, Rev. Al Borchert continues to work with his people to bring in worshippers and also to form plans at growing their school and CDC.

Good Shepherd – Richfield

Things are moving forward in wonderful ways under the leadership of Rev. Rob Bennett. The congregation hosts an annual golf tournament to introduce people to the church and are happy to host a growing number of LDS students hungry for the truth of God's Word.

Trinity – Cedar City

With their pastor, Rev. Bob Sharp, retiring, they look forward to preparing for a new pastor while continuing the ministries that currently serve the congregation and community. With their mortgage paid off, they are hoping growth and stewardship will allow them to flourish in the coming years.

Trinity – St. George

With their long-time principal, Duane Nyen retiring, a lot of attention has been turned to the school staff and possibilities for sustaining another 35 years of excellence. Rev. John Manweiler continues to inspire the congregation in their walk of faith.

LDS Ministry

The circuit supports Rev. Rob Bennett (SMP) as he teaches the members of each circuit congregations how to use Scripture along with effective tools and concepts in approaching people in, or who have left the LDS organization. He is also serving three vacant congregations.



# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 9—WESTERN

At the last Rocky Mountain District Convention in June 2022, the Western Circuit's nomination of Rev. Charles Westby as the Circuit Visitor was ratified. When Rev. Westby resigned his call as the pastor of Emmanuel, Rifle (September 2022) and moved out of the circuit, Rev. Kurt VanFossan was appointed by DP Maxwell to serve as the Circuit Visitor of the Western Circuit for the remainder of the triennium.

God's blessings in the Western Circuit (which includes both our ups and downs):

**Concordia, Steamboat Springs** - After Rev. Craig Henningfield's retirement in October 2022, Rev. Jon Muhly was called and installed in March 2023. In January 2024, Concordia became an alliance congregation with Summit Mission Alliance, an LCMS RSO seeking to plant 10 congregations within the mountains of Colorado within 10 years. In August 2024, Concordia celebrated the installation of Rev. Dale Critchley, called as a missionary to Leadville, CO, through Summit Mission Alliance.

**Gracious Savior, Edwards** - continues to be faithfully served by Rev. Jason Haynes. "In the past three years Gracious Savior Lutheran Church continues to work to fulfill its Mission of Loving Jesus, Each Other, and All People. Partnering with youth and service organizations within the mountain community, we have reached outside of our facility to share the love and Good News of Jesus Christ. In addition to weekly Word and Sacrament ministry, we have reached approximately: 604 people with Discipleship events; 299 people with Service Project events; 1,506 people with Outreach events."

**Grace Fellowship, Gypsum** - continues to be faithfully served by Rev. Austin Kraft. Over the past three years they have added their first full-time admin/children's ministry position; have been blessed with 63% attendance increase; and plan to break ground on a new church building this spring (they are currently meeting in part of a furniture store which they rent).

**Faith, Craig** - continues to be faithfully served by Rev. John Turner. One of their members is in his first year of the SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) program.

**Emmanuel, Rifle** - After Rev. Charles Westby resigned his call to Rifle, and the congregation worked through a reconciliation process, Rev. Dallas Dubke was called and installed in August 2024. Currently their school has grown to include Kindergarten - 2nd grade, with the hope adding more grades in the future, God willing.

**Messiah, Grand Junction** - continues to be faithfully served by Rev. Michael Redeker.

"2022 - Messiah School is still working to recover from school enrollment decline due to the pandemic [by God's grace and power]...Strategic planning will be on recruitment; looking to outside funding sources; [setting] up a specific endowment for the school using Jason Jones from Lutheran Church Foundation for long-term goal to fund the school...Messiah Church continues to keep the District as one of its important partners. Messiah's goal is to get back to 10% of Messiah's budget to support the district. One of our faculty took a call to the Nebraska district.

"2023 - Messiah's history included two pastors. However, with a huge shortage of pastors, the congregation agreed that good stewardship of church workers would be to go the DCE route in order to 'free up' another pastor to be used in the field. God provided us with a DCE, Jonathan Peterson..."

"2024 - After many years of prayer and searching, God provided us with a Principal/Teacher. Sue Eberhard began at Messiah July 1, 2024. We are moving toward classical education. Transitioned to policy-based governance in summer of 2024."

**Our Savior, Vernal, Utah** - continues to be faithfully served by Rev. Derrick Brown, "providing Word and Sacrament ministry to LCMS Lutherans in Mormon-land."

**Immanuel, Paonia** - After Rev. Duane Daeke's death in October 2021, Rev. Kurt VanFossan was called and installed in August 2024.

**Faith, Carbondale** - After accepting a call to Trinity, Greeley, Rev. Joshua Vanderhyde's last service at Faith was in October 2023. During their vacancy, Faith has been faithfully served mainly by Rev. Jacob With (Mt. Calvary, Gunnison), with Rev. Dallas Dubke (Emmanuel, Rifle), and Rev. Kurt VanFossan (Immanuel, Paonia) leading services on alternating Sundays.

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 9—WESTERN—cont...

**Mt. Calvary, Gunnison** - Since 2020 continues Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Gunnison continue to be faithfully served by Rev. Robert Carabotta. "Rev. Jacob With, who completed his seminary studies through the SMP Program, was ordained and installed as assistant pastor in 2022. Mount Calvary began its after-school Christian education program for elementary-age children in January 2023 where eleven children have been learning the Word of the Lord. From this program, one child was baptized in the Easter morning Divine Service in March of 2024! We were blessed in these four years to have four people receive the new birth in holy baptism and eight people confirmed into communicant membership by the rite of confirmation. Several Western Colorado University students have been coming to worship and participating in various Bible studies, receiving the Word and Sacraments and the fellowship of Christ and His people, all due to the working of the Holy Spirit!"

**Christ, Montrose** - Through the SMP program, Vicar Tim Onnen was certified for ordination by the faculty of our Seminary at St. Louis, and ordained in January 2025. He continues to serve now as the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Montrose, where their outreach into the community through VBS over the past two years is producing fruit.

**Hope, Montrose** - After 30 years of faithful service, Rev. Darryl Hannenberg retired in February of this year. As of this writing, the members of Hope are in discussions on how best to carry on their ministry.

**Redeemer, Delta** - After a groundbreaking ceremony for their new K-8 school building in February 2024, the completed building is due to be dedicated to the glory of God in February of this year. In the meantime, after Rev. Kurt VanFossan accepted the Call to Immanuel, Paonia, and Rev. Jordan Schaller was called and installed in August, 2024.

**Emeritus pastors** in the Western Circuit include Rev. Marion Hofman - Delta, CO, Rev. Ronald Pederson - Vernal, UT, Rev. Lowell Kindschy - Montrose, CO.

In 2024, Rev. Melvin Mertens of our Circuit resigned from the ordained roster of the LC-MS.

Submitted by  
Rev. Kurt Van Fossan

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 10—RIO GRANDE

Crosspoint Church – El Paso, TX: Pastor Kerry Boone

Grace Lutheran Church – El Paso, TX: Vacant, being served in vacancy by Pastor Karl Heimer

Ascension Lutheran Church – El Paso, TX: Pastor Richard Schlak

San Pablo Lutheran Church – El Paso, TX: Vacant, being served by Vicar Alex Excarciga

Zion Lutheran Church – El Paso, TX: Pastor Kirk Triplett

Trinity Lutheran Church – Alamogordo, NM: Pastor Bill Heithold

Mission Lutheran Church and School – Las Cruces, NM: Pastor Andrew Cave

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church – Silver City, NM: Pastor Joseph Pellegrino

Redeemer Lutheran Church – Deming, NM: Vacant, being served part-time by Pastor Joseph Pellegrino

Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute – El Paso, TX: Searching for director

Ysleta Lutheran Mission and Human Care – El Paso, TX: Being served by interim director Karla Gonzales

Pastor Warren Graff (Emeritus) attends circuit meetings regularly

Pastor Howard Patton (Emeritus) and Pastor Glenn Weber (Emeritus) attend circuit meetings as able

Cristo Luz del Mundo preaching station – El Paso, TX: Closed

St. Johns Lutheran Church – Truth or Consequences, NM: Closed

Pastor Richard Schlak was installed as pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in July 2024

Pastor Kirk Triplett was installed as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in November 2024

At Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamogordo, Pastor Kevin Cramm fell asleep in Jesus in January of 2025

At Crosspoint Church in El Paso, Pastor Daniel Sattelmeier fell asleep in Jesus in September of 2022.

Pastor Andrew Cave was appointed as Circuit Visitor in October of 2022.

The Rio Grande Circuit continues to reach out to our border communities as well as our neighbors south of the border through San Pablo Lutheran Church, Ysleta Lutheran Mission and Human Care, and the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute. In the spring of 2024, the circuit hosted a workshop with representatives of the Texas District sharing strategies for planting Spanish-speaking congregations.

Rev. Andrew Cave, Rio Grande Circuit Visitor

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 11—EASTERN HIGH PLAINS

The pastors of the Eastern High Plains meet monthly, even as our numbers are small. There are three pastors serving and living within the circuit: Pastor Tom Barton, Pastor Bill Viergutz, and Pastor Steve Zandstra. Also serving in the circuit are: Pastor Victor Young, Pastor Dennis Lucero, and Pastor Wayne Woolery.

### **Trinity Lutheran – Genoa, Colorado**

Pastor Don Schultz recently retired at the age of 91. He is to be thanked for his service. At the present time, things are being figured out as to how they can move forward. They are having lay led services at present.

### **Immanuel Lutheran – Arriba, Colorado**

Pastors Dennis Lucero and Bill Viergutz are coming in 2-3 times each month. There is a very faithful attendance among the membership at 3pm each Sunday. They have been vacant for three plus years.

### **Zion Lutheran – Flagler, Colorado**

Served by Pastors Victor Young and Wayne Woolery along with one lay led service each month. They are blessed in that their meeting time continues to be 9am. They have been vacant for three plus years.

### **Trinity Lutheran – Burlington, Colorado**

Pastor Bill Viergutz continues to serve. During the last three years, Trinity celebrated 100 years. One of their own came back and preached for the celebration – Pastor Clint Thorsen.

### **Grace Lutheran – Cheyenne Wells, Colorado**

Served by Pastor Steve Zandstra, a SMP student who was ordained during the last three years. He worked very hard to finish this program and is to be commended.

### **Trinity Lutheran – Kit Carson, Colorado and Grace Lutheran – Lamar, Colorado**

Served by Pastor Tom Barton. Grace in Lamar has experienced a tremendous increase in Sunday attendance during the last three years. Thank-you Jesus!

We are truly blessed and know it and hope the same for you and yours. Blessings for the next three years and on into the future.

**Respectfully submitted by Bill Viergutz, Circuit Visitor**

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 12 —FOUR CORNERS

### **Our Savior Pagosa Springs, CO**

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Pagosa Springs has experienced much change. Rev. Packer took a call and finished his ministry at Our Savior in May of 2023. The school's headmaster, Rev. Odom, took a call around the same time. Rev. Atkinson accepted the call to be pastor of Our Savior and was installed on September 24th, 2023. After a year without a headmaster, Mr. Aaron Longmire took over the position while continuing to teach at the school. Mr. Byran Northcutt was installed this year to teach Grades 5-8. Grades K-8 has 57 students. There have been two preschool directors in the last triennium. The current director, Miss Molly Sprowle, has been doing a wonderful job with an enrollment of 36 students. The congregation also celebrated its 50th anniversary with a service and meal. President Rev. Maxwell preached during the service as an honored guest. Finally, the organist and exceptional volunteer, Leah Hellerich, has decided to retire and move closer to family.

### **Lutheran Mercy Care Ministries (LMCM)**

LMCM, as part of our Mercy ministries at OSLC in Pagosa Springs, continues to grow. We have served 270 individuals since the start of the ministry in 2014; we are in regular contact with 50 to 60 individuals either in county jails, prisons or on the outside. The congregation baked more than 30 dozen cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry and as part of the Angel Tree program purchased 32 Christmas gifts for children of the incarcerated.

### **St. Paul's Durango, CO**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Durango, Colorado is in the middle of a ministry expansion campaign. The project seeks to refurbish an aging property with a focus on accessibility and safety as well as making it useful for future ministry opportunities. All of these improvements are being carefully considered to enhance the preaching of the Word and administering of the holy Sacraments.

### **Trinity Cortez, CO**

Trinity Lutheran Church in Cortez, Colorado, has experienced growth and outreach over the past three years. Worship attendance has steadily, but slowly, rebounded post-pandemic, nearing pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023 and stabilizing in 2024 with an average of 70 in-person and ~10 online attendees weekly. Seasonal services like Christmas and Easter have maintained consistent participation. Since 2022, 40 people have joined our congregation, including 8 in the past year. However, we have lost 20 members due to death and other reasons. Our membership stands at 156 communicants and 182 baptized members. While we grieve the loss of those who passed away, several have served God's kingdom after their death by leaving behind memorial gifts supporting evangelism and campus improvements.

Our confirmation program, now a weekly model, has fostered strong engagement, leading to 3 youth confirmations in 2023, 4 youth confirmations in 2024, and 3 youth currently enrolled. Our preschool, stabilized under consistent leadership, continues to receive weekly chapel lessons and has received grants and gifts to upgrade its facilities. While enrollment remains challenging in a competitive market, the preschool's efforts are bearing fruit. In January 2024, we started an annual celebration by participating in National Lutheran Schools Week.

Outreach and community engagement remain a key focus of our mission. Collaborations with the Montezuma Ministerial Alliance and events like the Night of Praise in the Park and a Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway (distributing 749 backpacks) have strengthened ties with our community. Monthly nursing home services average 48 attendees, and our annual Church Picnic and seasonal worship services continue to draw visitors.

Facility and technology improvements, including a new sound system and PTZ video camera, enhance our worship and outreach capabilities. Despite inflation's impact on operational costs, God's provision and faithful stewardship have kept us financially stable. Through worship, education, outreach, and fellowship, Trinity Lutheran Church continues to see God's blessings. We look forward to another year Preaching the Cross in the Four Corners.

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 12 —FOUR CORNERS— cont.

### **Zion Farmington, NM**

Zion Lutheran Church in Farmington serves our members and the community with two worship services each week. The primary service is on Sunday morning and a Thursday afternoon service which is shortened from the Divine service that takes place on Sunday. We have recently formed a partnership with the local Grace Place and we look forward to seeing that develop and grow in helping young families and possibly helping them to become disciples of Christ. We continue to assist Birthright with baby clothing and defending the right to life in this world of our Heavenly Father.

### **Shepherd of the Valley Navajo, NM**

By God's grace the congregation grew in the last triennium receiving 16 new members through Holy Baptism. The youth participated in a servant event at our sister congregation Christ Our Savior in Angel Fire, NM in June, 2023. Many volunteer groups have come and served from our own District (Concordia, Steamboat Springs, Grace Sandy, UT, Grace Albuquerque, NM St. Paul's, Durango) at the mission as well as others in our Synod from different parts of the country. God's Word continues to be preached and taught with weekly Divine Services and Bible studies.

### **Trinity Gallup, NM**

Pastor Chris Kellogg served Trinity from September 2017 to July 2024. The congregation is now served by Rev. Gary Bickner (emeritus) as vacancy pastor.

### **Grace Moab, UT**

Our attendance has gone up slightly due to births and more visitors. We now have eight children in Sunday school. 2022, we entered into an agreement with the Moab Community Childcare to use the church building rent-free during the week. In turn, they have paid for necessary renovations in the church. It has been a mutually beneficial relationship. We continue to rely on financial support from the district as well as the circuit churches, without that the Word and Sacrament Ministry in Moab would stop.

### **Shepherd of the Desert Page, AZ**

Is served by Rev. Tom Henkes.

**Submitted by**  
**Rev. Tim Norton**



# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 12 —PIKES PEAK

### **Faith Woodland Park** - Rev. Gary Schuschke

After spending much of the last triennium in the call process and receiving vacancy coverage from Rev. Ron Baker, Faith rejoiced greatly as Rev. Gary Schuschke accepted the call to leave the mission field in Germany and become their next pastor in February of 2024. Pastor Schuschke was subsequently delayed in his arrival due to a serious illness. After months of healing and rehab, Pastor Schuschke was installed in September with great thanksgiving!

### **Family of Christ Monument** - Rev. Mark Moreno, Rev. Aidan Moon

Family of Christ completed their process of calling an associate pastor with the installation of seminarian candidate, Rev. Aidan Moon, in the summer of 2023. Soon after, DCE Jeremy Hetzel accepted a call to Pathfinder in St. Louis. In August of 2024, DCE Malinda Standerfer was installed. Senior Pastor Mark Moreno continues his faithful service as a Navy reserve chaplain. The congregation celebrated its 30th anniversary on Reformation Sunday in 2024.

### **Family of Faith Falcon** - Rev. Merelyn Snyder

Since Rev. Josh Rusnak's departure in September of 2023, the congregation's vacancy has been served by Rev. Merelyn Snyder. The congregation continues to go through the call process with a dedicated call committee.

### **First Salida and Faith Buena Vista** - Rev. James Sorensen

First and Faith continue to grow together as a dual parish. Shortly after the convention in 2022, they had the joy of installing their new pastor, Rev. James Sorensen. Recently, Pastor Sorensen has been active as a chaplain for local law enforcement. Our circuit also said farewell to retired pastor, Rev. Dan Muecke, who moved to New Hampshire in 2023.

### **Holy Cross Colorado Springs** - Rev. Greg Zillinger

Holy Cross went through a number of changes in these last few years. After an extended call process under the shepherding of interim pastor, Rev. David Blair, the congregation was blessed to install Rev. Greg Zillinger as senior pastor in March of 2024. In 2022, the congregation installed Elizabeth Massey as a DCE. And in 2023, the congregation bid farewell to long-time DCE, Dan Hampton, who was accepted into the M.Div. program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

### **Immanuel Colorado Springs** - Rev. Jonathan Kern

Immanuel continues to be served by Rev. Jonathan Kern, who greatly appreciates the assistance of retired pastors Rev. Timothy Grassinger and Rev. Dwight Hellmers. Our Mercy Meals ministry continues with the help of many of our sister congregations in the circuit. Immanuel is looking forward to celebrating its 125th anniversary in the coming year!

### **Redeemer Colorado Springs** - Rev. Don Widger

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs is a stable congregation. The excitement around the congregation is the celebration of its 75th anniversary, this year. We are currently planning the celebration that will culminate on the July 4th weekend, with a banquet and dinner on Saturday evening, and a 75th Anniversary worship service on Sunday morning, followed by breakfast. The congregation continues to host Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry on Saturday mornings from 10:00-noon. The average number of families served each week is approximately 80. We continue to engage our community with a Easter Egg hunt in Bohn Park the Saturday before Easter, Trunk or Treat event around All Saints Day, and opening our building to various community groups.

### **Resurrection Colorado Springs** - Rev. Dennis Lucero, Vicar David Evans (SMP)

Resurrection continues to be served by Rev. Dennis Lucero. This last fall, the congregation started down the SMP track with Vicar David Evans. Since the last convention, the congregation rejoices in the payoff of its mortgage, as well as the completion of many major renovations following significant flood damage.

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 12 —PIKES PEAK—cont.

**Rock of Ages Colorado Springs** - Rev. Daniel Warner, Rev. James Maxwell, Rev. Bill Beck  
Following the election of President Maxwell in 2022, Rock of Ages was blessed to install Rev. Daniel Warner as pastor, with Rev. Maxwell continuing to serve as associate pastor. In September of 2024, Rev. Bill Beck was installed as pastor after completing the SMP program. The congregation's preschool continues to grow!

**Shepherd of the Springs Colorado Springs** - Rev. Jeff Patterson  
Shepherd of the Springs continues to be served by Rev. Jeff Patterson. The congregation gives thanks for the families who have been added to their numbers in recent years!

The Pikes Peak Circuit is blessed with great collegiality and support for one another!

Rev. Jonathan Kern  
Pikes Peak Circuit Visitor  
Immanuel - Colorado Springs

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 14—DENVER SOUTHEAST

In the past three years the congregations of the Denver Southeast Circuit have been blessed by the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments according to the Book of Concord, 1580. Our eleven congregations are located in the cities of Denver (2), Aurora (3), Centennial (1), Parker (1), Franktown (1), Castle Rock (2), and Elizabeth (1).

University Hills, Denver completed construction of a new church building after demolishing the old facility, which had been a school.

Rev. Michael Huntley was installed as an Assistant Pastor at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Castle Rock in July 2023.

We continue to foster cooperation and encouragement among the pastors and congregations. The Circuit pastors continue to meet for monthly Winkels, with worship, fellowship, casuistry and study. We desire to reach the lost, reclaim the lapsed to the Church, and seek new opportunities to proclaim the Gospel. The Circuit held a Forum in November 2024, at which Rev. Roger Wohletz of Christ, Denver was reelected Circuit Visitor.

### Congregational Reports Submitted:

Epiphany Ev. Lutheran Church of Castle Rock, CO, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the past triennium, during which it called Rev. Michael Huntley to be Assistant Pastor and Mrs. Lisa Matthis to be Director of Christian Education. Senior Pastor, Chris Matthis, continues to lead the congregation in carrying out its mission: "Shining the light of Christ in Castle Rock," based on Matthew 5:16. By God's grace, we hope and pray to continue in Word and Sacrament ministry for at *least* another 25 years.

Christ Lutheran Church in Denver continues to be blessed by God as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. During the last three years, the congregation bade farewell to Renee Ortado, who had faithfully served as our preschool director for many years. Renee accepted a call to teach kindergarten at Trinity Lutheran School in Greeley, CO. Sheri Stults accepted the call to be our new preschool director. The preschool changed its name to the Little Lambs Learning Academy and underwent significant physical renovations to improve the facility and open a new toddler room.

Submitted by:  
Rev. Roger Wohletz

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS



## CIRCUIT 15—DENVER NORTHEAST

No report received

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 16—ROCKY FLATS

The Rocky Flats circuit consists of nine congregations north of Denver along the Front Range. The last three years has been a significant time of transition with numerous pastors retiring or taking calls. They have continued to host Elders' Workshops and Introduced a Congregational Leaders' Workshop for the seven circuits in Denver and the northern Front Range.

University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) in Boulder, the only full-time campus ministry in the RMD remains our circuit's primary "Gospel Gap" supported mission, receiving significant financial and ministry support from the ULC Mission Society. In November of 2022 Past. Rob Jarvis was welcomed and installed full-time pastor. A major emphasis of the congregation is that they are seeking to be a bridge between many of the CU organizations. In November of 2023 they celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their congregation and Campus Ministry to the community of CU Boulder. They continue to work on forming a capital campaign for future long-term funding of the ministry and potential changes to their building in the difficult context of Boulder, CO.

Beautiful Savior, Broomfield saw Past. Rick Langness transition from serving as vacancy pastor to serving as their called, full-time pastor. Both the school and congregation have experienced a time of growth, both in number and strength of their ministries.

Mt. Hope, Boulder called and installed Past. David Ahlman as their "permanent part-time" pastor; hiring also an experienced lay member to handle the administrative leadership responsibilities for the congregation. They are now remembering the third anniversary of the Marshall Fire, in which a number of families lost their homes to fire. They have increased their outreach efforts, hosting a number of support and Grief Share groups and have been blessed recently with an increase in Sunday attendance.

Eternal Savior, Lafayette installed Past. Clint Thorson as their new pastor in November of 2023. They have been growing in number and increasing as a healthy congregation.

Mt. Calvary, Ft. Lupton spent the last couple years reworking their visioning and goal-setting process with a special focus on serving and reaching out into their community as well as a number of building renovations.

Risen Savior, Broomfield benefitted from an 18 month Intentional Interim Pastor (Mark Koch) in which they rewrote their governing documents and refocused on spiritual matters and are currently in the pastoral calling process. They called and installed a new DCE in March of 2024.

Our Lord continues to bless the congregations and schools of the Rocky Flats Circuit with His many gifts of grace.

Submitted by:

Rev. Keith Besel

# CIRCUIT VISITOR REPORTS

## CIRCUIT 17—SANDIA SOUTH

**To: Rocky Mountain District Convention – 2025**  
**Re: Sandia South Circuit Visitor's Congregational Report**  
**From: Pastor Donald Neidigk, Circuit Visitor**  
**Date: February 3, 2025**

**Hope Lutheran Church, Socorro, NM** – After Rev. Thaine Kister accepted a call to Hobbs-Lovington, NM the congregation ended its dual parish relationship with Christ the King Lutheran Church, Los Lunas, NM. Hope is currently being served by guest pastor Rev. Dustin Kear of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Albuquerque. Services are held in the Episcopal Church building directly east of New Mexico Tech University. Estimated statistics are: Baptized, 17. Confirmed, 15. Av'g attendance, 6. The congregation is officially vacant.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church, Los Lunas, NM** – Rev. Thaine Kister accepted a call to Hobbs-Lovington, NM. Since then, Rev. Donald Neidigk, EM, Circuit Visitor as been serving as guest pastor three Sundays per month. Deacons conduct midweek Advent and Lenten services, as well as services on fourth and fifth Sundays. There is an active LWML group and men's and women's Bible studies. The congregation recently subscribed to the on-line Lutheran Service Builder program from CPH with the LSB organ accompaniment. The congregation supports local charitable organizations. Estimated statistics are: Baptized, 36. Confirmed, 35. Av'g attendance, 28. The congregation is officially vacant.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM** – After Pastor Craig Furry retired, Our Savior has been served by guest pastor Rev. Doyle Boykin twice per month. On alternate Sundays, Albuquerque Public School teacher and SMP student Previn Hudetz preaches, conducts services and provides piano accompaniment. His mentor and assistant is Rev. John Heffelfinger, EM. The congregation organized and later disbanded its call committee and is considering its options. Estimated average is attendance, 27. Updated statistics were unavailable. The congregation is officially vacant.

**St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM** – Nearly ten years ago St. Andrews began as an Hispanic outreach in Albuquerque's south valley. The Sandia Circuits Forum and Faith in Christ Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, supported the project. Currently, Rev. Aaron Rickert of Grace Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, is the primary guest pastor. The congregation has moved from its strip mall on Gun Club and Coors Rds. to its new meeting place, the Church of Our Lord, ANC, on Isleta Blvd. The Divine Service is at 3 pm Sunday afternoons. Catechism study follows. In January, 2025, St. Andrews hosted the Sandia Circuits Forum. Estimated statistics are: Baptized, 17. Confirmed, 15. Av'g attendance, 12. The congregation is officially vacant.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM** – Immanuel is the mother church for several LCMS congregations in New Mexico. The church meets in a beautiful traditional New Mexico pueblo style building. Its people are warm and welcoming with a heart for missions and Christian education. Immanuel Lutheran School has a reputation of providing an excellent Christian education. Following COVID 19, enrollment at the school declined and continuation has been difficult. Members have rallied to support the school and Immanuel Lutheran School remains open. Aply served by Rev. Dustin Kear, Immanuel has the largest communicant membership in the Albuquerque area. Estimated statistics are: Baptized, 493. Confirmed, 404. Av'g attendance, 140.

**Redeemer Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM** – Organized in 1951, Redeemer Lutheran Church had its closing service December 29, 2024. Rev. Donald Neidigk, Sandia South, Circuit Visitor was the preacher assisted by former pastors Rev. Lyle Stuehnenberg and Rev. John Heffelfinger. Changing demographics in the neighborhood, declining membership and concern for the safety of worshipers led the congregation approve merger with Faith in Christ Lutheran Church. Members are deliberating the future of Redeemer's building and pipe organ. The merged congregation chose as its new name Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and is served by Rev. Bruce Wilder. Christ Our Redeemer is a congregation of the Sandia North Circuit. Located at Chelwood and Indian School, attendance at the merged church is about 85 per Sunday.

**Calvary Lutheran Church, Rio Rancho, NM** – Calvary Lutheran Church is served by Rev. Adam DeGroot. Estimated statistics are: Baptized, 493. Confirmed, 404. Av'g attendance, 140. A congregational report had not been received as of this writing.



# CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

## Members:

James "Stormy" Greer, Chair, Peace, Arvada  
Rev. Dwight Hellmers, Immanuel, Colorado Springs  
Arvin Michel, Secretary, Ascension, Littleton  
Conner Woodburn, Past Member, Beautiful Savior, Broomfield

The District Constitution Committee (DCC) RMD has examined thirty-four (34) congregational constitutions and bylaws from Spring, 2022 through Spring, 2025. They are studied and compared to the "LCMS Guidelines For The Constitution And Bylaws Of A Lutheran Congregation". The Office of Secretary LCMS and CTCR were also consulted on various questions. Seventeen (17) were submitted to the District Board of Directors for their approval. Twenty-two (22) are pending action by the DCC and congregations for further consideration to meet Synodical Guidelines and/or to resolve some noted issues. Most of the reviews have been focused on changes and updates for existing constitutions and bylaws.

It is interesting to note, multiple congregations have requested adding statements of belief (such as sanctity of marriage, right to life, sexual identification, etc.) to their constitution or bylaws which we have encouraged them to reconsider as these are valued but as they are LCMS beliefs, singling out one doctrinal understanding tends to diminish other doctrinal positions of the LCMS.

## Repeating Synod's Statements on Issues:

All the issues for which our Synod has taken a stand are covered by simply stating that we are a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It is not necessary, and possibly improper, to repeat them in a congregation's constitution or bylaws. If one of Synod's stances on an issue is repeated in a congregation's constitution or bylaws, what is to be interpreted for Synod's other stances on issues? Are they agreed to or disagreed to by the congregation? Can taking a position on one issue but not other issues possibly result in some sort of legal action? It is also unnecessary to repeat scriptural positions, such as stating that marriage is between a man and a woman, in a congregation's constitution or bylaws. These scriptural positions are all covered in the required Confessional Standard Article (usually Article III) of the constitution. If a congregation feels it is necessary to make a statement on an issue, a proper place for it would be in a handbook, policy manual, operating procedures, etc. which can be referenced in a bylaws article but which does not have any constitutional or bylaws authority or standing. Congregations don't have to purposely avoid the issues but just speak to them and take positions on them in the proper environment whereas the constitution and bylaws are not that proper environment.

Respectfully Submitted,  
James "Stormy" Greer  
Chair, District Constitution Committee

# DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Affirming Life  
Report to the Rocky Mountain District LCMS  
January 29, 2025

The Rocky Mountain District Life Coordinator serves to support our churches and schools in speaking for life, proclaiming the Gospel and bringing Christ to those who are suffering and to those who are experiencing the life issues of today. The DLC serves to provide resources that can assist in developing life-affirming outreach and ministry.

An exhibitors table was hosted at the Rocky Mountain District Church Workers' Conference in October 2022, 2023 and 2024. LCMS Life Ministry provided resources. The Denver Chapter Lutherans For Life joined me at the table each year with LFL materials. Through August 2023, Affirming Life, our district life ministry newsletter was regularly sent to over 500 recipients, including pastors, church offices, schools, directors of Christian education, deaconesses, and others who requested to be on the mailing list. This has been suspended for now.

I attended the LCMS District Life Coordinator meeting at the LCMS International Center November 9-11, 2022.

Presentations on Sanctity of Life were given at the following: LWML South Central Zone Spring Rally, April 2023; LWML North Central Zone Fall Rally, October 2023; LWML Meeting at Risen Savior Broomfield, January 2025.

The first Colorado March For Life was April 12, 2024. I attended planning meetings, promoted the event to our Colorado churches and pastors, coordinated LCMS participation including the LCMS Prayer Service prior, arranged for bus transportation from north of Denver, and hosted an exhibitors table along with the Denver Chapter Lutherans For Life. Planning is currently underway for the 2025 Colorado March For Life, which will be on April 11.

Submitted by  
Deaconess Sara Smith  
District Life Coordinator  
Rocky Mountain District, LCMS

# LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND



## Chuck Morse

Rocky Mountain District Vice President

## Mission

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is to support The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) by ensuring that financial resources and related services are available now and, in the future, empowering ministry and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Organization Overview

Since 1847, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has steadfastly pursued its mission to "make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world."

Established in 1978, LCEF plays a crucial role in this mission.

- Purpose: To empower ministry by providing loans, investments and support services designed to serve the financial needs of congregations, schools and other ministry organizations within the LCMS.
- Growth: From humble beginnings with \$100 million in assets to a current portfolio exceeding \$2.0 billion—demonstrating our commitment to financial stability, trustworthiness and advancing Christ's kingdom.

## Historical Context

LCEF's primary function has been to provide loans funded by investments and gifts from dedicated church members and supporters. Over the years, our services have broadened to include strategic advisory services, such as:

- Ministry Solutions: Offering mission clarity and guidance through ministry clarity processes and capital campaigns.
- Real Estate Solutions: Providing expert consultation and execution in property development, repurposing and expansion.

## Financial Strength

LCEF's strong financial foundation plays a crucial role in supporting the LCMS today and securing its future. Our investment programs empower LCMS individuals and organizations, funding projects such as home loans, sanctuary renovations, senior living communities and Lutheran schools.

## Leadership

Our leadership is committed to guiding the organization with vision, expertise and a dedication to our mission. Here's a snapshot of our leadership team and workforce:

- President and CEO: Bart Day, MBA MDiv., reports to a 12-member Board of Directors.
- Workforce: LCEF employs over 150 people across the United States, including our headquarters in St. Louis and representatives in 31 LCMS districts.

## Connection to Ministries

LCMS ministries connect with LCEF through their district vice presidents (DVPs), who act as vital links to ensure our services meet each district's unique needs.

For over 45 years, LCEF has been committed to providing the financial resources and services that support the church's mission. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to serving the LCMS and strengthening ministries through trusted financial and strategic partnerships.

## Economic Overview

A period of complex and evolving economic challenges:

### 2022:

- Continued recovery from the initial shock of the pandemic.
- Significant inflation, with the Consumer Price Index peaking at 9.1% in June.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 2.1%.
- Unemployment was around 3.6% by year's end.
- Federal Reserve initiated a series of interest rate hikes to control inflation.

### 2023:

- Ongoing efforts by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation.
- Interest rates reached levels not seen since before the Great Recession.
- Inflation cooled to 3% by December.
- Tepid GDP growth of 1.8%.
- The housing market experienced a significant slowdown due to higher borrowing costs.
- Unemployment remained low at 3.5%.

### 2024:

- Continued economic challenges but signs of stabilization.
- Inflation moderated to 2.5% year-over-year.
- GDP growth is projected to remain sluggish at 1.5%.
- Unemployment slightly increased to 3.8%.
- The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) paused rate hikes to monitor economic data closely.

## LCEF's Response

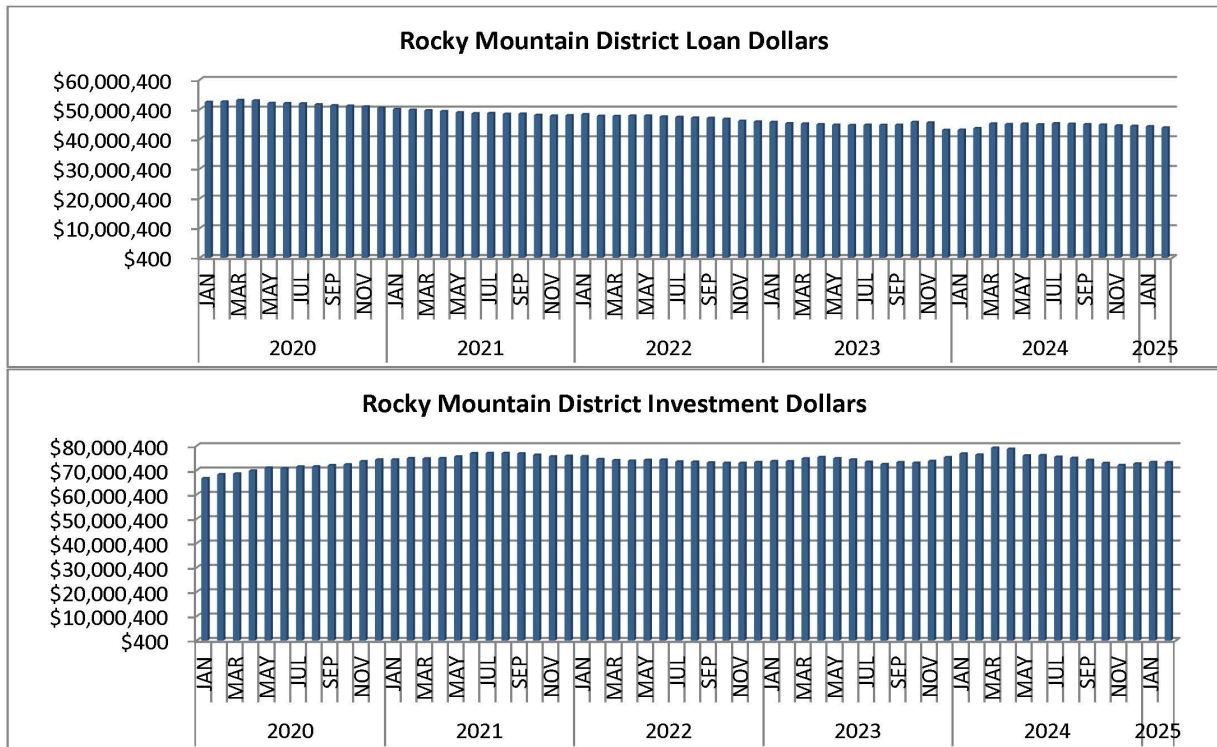
LCEF navigated volatile markets with prudence, strengthening our capital and positioning for sustained growth. Despite economic challenges, we ended FY 2024 with over \$17.5M in gains, reinforcing our commitment to financial stability and ministry support.

## LCEF Impact in the Rocky Mountain District

Through February 2025, excluding Colorado Lutheran High School, RSOs, and RCW mortgages, LCEF in the Rocky Mountain District currently has:

- **72** LCEF loans with a balance of **\$43,771,892**.
- Total Amount invested is **\$73,186,758**.

# LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND



## Activity Since 2022 Convention:

### New lending

- Since June of 2022, LCEF has provided 20 new loans to churches and schools valued at \$8.09M.

### Loans paid off

- Since June of 2022, 29 church and school loans worth \$14.3M have been paid off or refinanced.

### Earning Distribution

- For the three years since the last convention, LCEF has provided to the Rocky Mountain District \$348,900 in the form of earnings distribution.

# LWML REPORT

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

### The LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. 2021-2023 Primary Focus

Proclaiming Christ

Supporting Missions

Equipping Women

Serving Others

The LWML from its inception has encouraged and promoted Bible study, fellowship, and mentoring in organizational and leadership skills. Missions are supported through prayer and monetary contributions, collected as coins or dollars in mite boxes, checks, or electronic giving. Patterned after the story of the poor widow that gave her "mites" as an offering to God, LWML "mites" are also offered with prayer.

A new mission goal is established each biennium. The Mission Goal for the 2023-2025 Biennium is \$2,350,000.00. Thirty-one mission grants were selected.

The LWML Rocky Mt. District consists of Colorado, New Mexico, Vernal, UT, Page, AZ, and El Paso, TX. The district consists of 10 Zones with 80 active groups a membership of 1270. Groups have gathered in person and virtually. Virtual workshops and Bible studies as well as in-person Bible studies, retreats, and zone events have encouraged women within the district to support and encourage each other across the miles. Mites are collected at the group, zone, and district level. 25% of mites collected in the district are designated to fund LWML Mission Grants on the national level. The remaining 75% remain in the district to fund LWML RMD Mission Grants and Scholarships. The 2024 Mission Goal was \$118,000.00.

Blessings!

Shelley Stewart

2022-2026

LWML Rocky Mountain District President



# MISSION RETHINKING COMMITTEE



## Rocky Mountain District Mission Planting Reconfiguration

### Introduction

Prior to His ascension, our Lord commissioned His followers to make disciples throughout the world. (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:45-47, John 20:21, Acts 1:8) Ever since, the church has been involved in mission planting. However, since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, our district – The Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (RMD) – has seen the number of congregation closures far exceed the number of new church plants and mission starts. There are multiple reasons for this, but we are confident that we should not accept this reality lying down. It is from this conviction that a new mission structure is being proposed.

This is not the first attempt at reconfiguring missions in the RMD. At the 2012 RMD convention, the district voted to adopt the Gospel Gaps Paradigm (GGP), a circuit-based mission model. There were good things that came from the GGP, namely the highly relational nature of missions that required networking between congregations. However, there were also some weaknesses of this model that were exposed. For one, circuits are not legal or official ecclesial entities and therefore have no financial or calling power. Second, the small number of congregations in each circuit means that most circuits don't have the capacity to undergo a full-blown mission planting effort. Finally, most of the pastors within circuit congregations are consumed with the day-to-day affairs of congregational ministry and therefore don't have the capacity to give the time and energy necessary to mission efforts.

The newly proposed mission model presented before the RMD convention for approval attempts to combine the things we've learned from previous mission models while also being good and faithful stewards of the resources that we have at the RMD so that we can maximize the impact of the Gospel of Christ in our district. We believe it is crucial to maintain the relational emphasis of the GGP but also provide stronger support and clearer parameters from the district level. We also hope to minimize the amount of bureaucracy required to receive RMD support. With the Lord's help, we desire to mitigate the roadblocks and help identify the opportunities for mission planting in our district.

### The Regional Strategic Teams Mission Planting Model

In this newly proposed mission model, Regional Strategic Teams, will be facilitated with the help of the area Vice Presidents (VPs), to encourage and assist mission planting in the four areas of RMD. It is the hope that by having the VPs actively encouraging the Circuits in their areas, these Regional Strategic Teams will provide stronger ties between the RMD and its local missions than the GGP sometimes did, while still maintaining its relational and networking emphasis.

It is also important to note in the flexibility of this model that when the future Mission Executive begins serving, they would also be an active participant in these Regional Strategic Teams for guidance and synodical resource networking.

### Conclusion

It is our hope and prayer of the that our district becomes a place where the kingdom of God is tangibly and intentionally being expanded through the planting of new Word and Sacrament missions. We seek to strategically use the resources God has given to us while also trusting in His Spirit's guidance and provision to accomplish this. To this end, please join us in fervent prayer to the Lord of the Harvest for the success of His mission amongst us. To God alone be the glory!

Rev. Jason Rust, Chairman  
Ad Hoc Mission Rethinking Committee

# SCHOOL MINISTRY

The School Ministry Committee works with Paul Albers, District Executive for Congregational Services, to provide support, resources, and encouragement to the schools and staff members of schools and early childhood centers throughout the district. Current members of the committee are:

Mark Angel, Albuquerque, NM  
William Busacker, Loveland, CO  
Shelly Davis, Salt Lake City, UT  
Gwen Marshall, Greeley, CO

The Rocky Mountain District is blessed with many dedicated and talented teachers, administrators, and pastors who serve Jesus by serving students and families in a variety of educational settings throughout the district. The School Ministry Committee annually solicits nominations from schools and congregations in order to recognize staff members who exemplify excellence in their ministry settings. This triennium an additional award category was added. The School Shepherd Award recognizes pastors who are making an outstanding contribution on behalf of a Lutheran school or early childhood center. Those who have been recognized over the past triennium are:

2022

Sara Ipatenco -Educator- Bethlehem, Lakewood  
Sonya Acker- Early Childhood Director -Beautiful Savior, Broomfield  
Kyle Erickson- Administrator- Trinity, Greeley  
Pastor David Langewisch- School Shepherd- Bethlehem, Lakewood

2023

Mari Koester -Educator - St Johns, Denver  
Gwen Marshall -Early Childhood Director - Trinity, Greeley  
Yvette Kampschnieder -Administrator - Bethlehem, Lakewood  
Pastor Alan Borchert -School Shepherd - Holy Trinity, Riverton (Concordia Elementary & Learning Center)

2024

Emily Saucerman- Educator- Peace With Christ, Aurora  
Joann Collins Early -Childhood Director - Trinity, Pueblo  
David Ness -Administrator -Lutheran High School, Parker  
Pastor Dustin Kear- School Shepherd-Immanuel, Albuquerque

The School Ministry Committee is also responsible for planning the annual Nurturing the Faith workshop. This is a one-day workshop that is repeated four times throughout the district. Attendees are primarily teachers, but some DCEs and pastors also attend. The workshop is intended to encourage and challenge those in attendance in their walk with Christ.

The School Ministry Committee plans and coordinates the annual School Administrators' Conference which is held in coordination with the Professional Church Workers' Conference each October. This is an opportunity for school leaders to meet together for a time of spiritual and professional growth as well as an opportunity for networking and mutual encouragement. Topics which have been explored recently include:

- The critical role of leaders in school ministry.
- Acquainting school leaders in the new National Lutheran School Accreditation model.
- The use of artificial intelligence.
- The use of data to enhance parent satisfaction, enrollment, and student retention.
- The role of schools and staff members in discipling students and families.
- Restorative discipline.
- Exploring current cultural issues such as gender issues and Critical Race Theory and how these impact school ministries.

An ongoing focus for the committee is trying to find ways to raise up a new generation of school leaders as well as ways to provide support for those currently serving in leadership roles in schools and early childhood centers. The committee is always seeking additional ways to assist district schools in their vital ministry to students and families.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Busacker

Mission Statement – The mission of SOAR is sharing Jesus Christ, promoting service opportunities, and enhancing Christian lives through seminar events.

We conducted one day seminars in the spring and in the fall for each of the years 2022-2024. All the events were held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Lakewood.

Fall – 2022 Theme: “Speaking to the Heart” *Whoever believes in me, as the scriptures has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water – John 7:38*

Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger – “Speaking To The Hearts That Long For Rest”

Rev. Dr. Werner Boos – “Stress Management For The People Of God”

Rev. Andrew Farhat – “Why Should You Trust The Bible”

Rev. Robert Tasler – “Think You’d Like To Live In First Century Rome?”

Spring – 2023 Theme: “Enhancing One’s Quality Of Life”

Rev. James Maxwell – “Dreaming In Colour”

Dr. Becky Grossman – “We want More”

Dr. Krystal Tamura – “Knock Them Out – Addressing Addiction And The Opioid Epidemic”

Rev. Larry McGurer – “Tell It On The Mountain” – Planting Missionaries Among The People Of Summit, Lake, Grand, Clear Creek, and Park Counties”

Entertainment – We Are 4Given

Fall – 2023 Theme: “A Mighty Fortress”

Rev. Dr. Lawrance Rast Jr. – “A Mighty Fortress”

Rev. Robert Jarvis – “A Fortress At 1202 Folsom”

Mr. Robert Hayes – “Understanding Adult ADHD”

Entertainment – We Are 4Given

Spring – 2024 Theme: “Enhancing One’s Quality Of Life”

Lt. Col. (Ret) Joseph Murphy – “LCMS Military Chaplaincy – They Shall Not March Alone”

Dan Gehrke, Executive Director, Parker Lutheran High School: “Failure, Faith, and Fruit”

Marlena R. Romero, LCSW, Director Of Integrated Behavioral Health – “Helping Trauma Survivors Cope”

Kristina Wilburn, Assoc. Manager Of Training And Education, LCHT: “Why It Is Important For Community Members To Be Aware Of Human Trafficking”

Entertainment – We Are 4Given

Fall – 2024 Theme: “Here We Stand” *As For Me And My House We Will Serve The Lord – Joshua 24:15b*

Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich – “Christian Education Part 1”, “Christian Education Round Table Discussion Part 2” - Round Table Participants Dr. Brian Friedrich, Rev. Robert Jarvis, Rev. Richard Langness

Dr. Elizabeth Boscoe – “Advanced Treatment Of Sleep Apnea”

Executive Director Pam Behler: My Choice Resource Center – “Pregnant You Are Never Alone”

Carol Thompson, Lutherans For Life, Denver Chapter

Entertainment – “The Lutheran Chorale”

In 2021 the SOAR Committee approved a 5-year alliance with Lutheran Bible Translators to encourage donations from our RMD members to translate the Old Testament for the Bandi community in Liberia. To date \$467,804 have been given or pledged of the \$540,000 goal.

Submitted by:

Owen Frey - President SOAR

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit



December 23, 2024

Board of Directors and Management of  
The Rocky Mountain District, LCMS

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Rocky Mountain District as of and for the year ended January 31, 2024, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Rocky Mountain District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, and others within the Organization, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide audit services to the Rocky Mountain District and would like to thank Rev. James Maxwell, Rev. Paul Albers, and Mr. Jim Kuehnert for the cooperation and courtesy extended to us during the audit process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter or the audited financial statements, or if we can be of further assistance in the current fiscal year, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Christopher Wood, CPA, CFE  
Executive Director, LCMS Internal Audit

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

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# 2024 RM District Financial Audit



## INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors  
Rocky Mountain District of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Englewood, Colorado

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Rocky Mountain District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Rocky Mountain District as of January 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Rocky Mountain District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Rocky Mountain District's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

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# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Rocky Mountain District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Rocky Mountain District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
Internal Audit Department



St. Louis, Missouri  
December 23, 2024

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JANUARY 31, 2024 and 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,178,178	\$ 1,310,646
Prepaid Expenses	4,296	4,535
Property and Equipment - Net (Note E)	1,181,259	1,234,257
Long-Term Investments (Note D)	831,690	513,803
Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts (Note D)	<u>1,593,348</u>	<u>1,546,702</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,788,771</b>	<b>\$ 4,609,943</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 35,018	\$ 24,091
Grants Payable (Note F)	<u>-</u>	<u>22,112</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>35,018</u></b>	<b><u>46,203</u></b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions (Note H)	2,230,039	2,182,749
With Donor Restrictions (Note I)	<u>2,523,714</u>	<u>2,380,991</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>4,753,753</u></b>	<b><u>4,563,740</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,788,771</b>	<b>\$ 4,609,943</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2024

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
<b><u>SUPPORT REVENUES &amp; OTHER ADDITIONS:</u></b>			
Support -			
District Congregations ( <i>Note A</i> )	\$ 951,581	\$	\$ 951,581
Partners in Mission	15,005		15,005
LCEF ( <i>Note K</i> )		115,989	115,989
Other	857	89,096	89,953
Revenues -			
Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops	188,572		188,572
Net Investment Return	9,640	16,889	26,529
Other	12,499		12,499
Distributions from and Change in Value of Perpetual Trusts		110,622	110,622
Net Assets Released from Restrictions ( <i>Note J</i> )	189,873	(189,873)	-
Total Support, Revenues, & Other Additions	1,368,027	142,723	1,510,750
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>			
Program Services -			
World and National Missions	231,577		231,577
Preparing Church Workers	60,196		60,196
Congregational Services	292,203		292,203
Support Services -			
Synodical Budget	93,122		93,122
Mission and Ministry Support	333,753		333,753
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	309,886		309,886
Total Expenses	1,320,737	-	1,320,737
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	47,290	142,723	190,013
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	2,182,749	2,380,991	4,563,740
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$ 2,230,039	\$ 2,523,714	\$ 4,753,753

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023

	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
<b><u>SUPPORT, REVENUES, &amp; OTHER ADDITIONS:</u></b>			
Support -			
District Congregations (Note 4)	\$ 962,257	\$	\$ 962,257
Partners in Mission	33,310		33,310
LCEF (Note 4)		233,940	233,940
Disbanded Congregations	198,029		198,029
Other	604	117,582	118,186
Revenues -			
Conventions, Conferences, and Workshops	176,685		176,685
Net Investment Return	58	1,280	1,338
Other	21,531		21,531
Distributions from and Change in Value of Perpetual Trusts		(134,576)	(134,576)
Net Gain on Sale/Transfer of Properties			-
Net Assets Released from Restrictions (Note 1)	362,524	(362,524)	-
Total Support, Revenues, & Other Additions	1,754,998	(144,298)	1,610,700
<b><u>EXPENSES AND LOSSES:</u></b>			
Program Services -			
World and National Missions	343,054		343,054
Preparing Church Workers	52,279		52,279
Congregational Services	336,797		336,797
Support Services -			
Synodical Budget	195,598		195,598
Mission and Ministry Support	289,831		289,831
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	254,029		254,029
	1,471,588	-	1,471,588
Loss on Sale of Property	40,259	-	40,259
Total Expenses and Losses	1,511,847	-	1,511,847
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	243,151	(144,298)	98,853
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	1,939,598	2,525,289	4,464,887
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$ 2,182,749	\$ 2,380,991	\$ 4,563,740

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD  
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2024

	PROGRAM SERVICES			SUPPORT SERVICES			TOTAL
	World and National Missions	Preparing Church Workers	Congregational Services	Synodical Budget	Mission and Ministry Support	Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	
Personnel Costs	\$ 8,651	\$	\$ 136,445	\$	\$ 112,541	\$ 238,784	\$ 496,421
Subsidies, Grants, and Other Assistance	191,036	44,415	41,841	93,122	689	3,074	374,177
Building and Office Expenses					29,743		29,743
Conventions, Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings		15,781	97,016		92,029	25,214	230,040
Depreciation	31,663				14,275	7,060	52,998
Equipment Purchases (non-capital) and Maintenance					3,147		3,147
Insurance					29,055		29,055
Professional Services					51,101		51,101
Staff Training and Development					300	35	335
Travel	227		16,901		873	35,719	53,720
Total Expenses by Function	\$ 231,577	\$ 60,196	\$ 292,203	\$ 93,122	\$ 333,753	\$ 309,886	\$ 1,320,737

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023

	PROGRAM SERVICES			SUPPORT SERVICES			TOTAL
	World and National Missions	Preparing Church Workers	Congregational Services	Synodical Budget	Mission and Ministry Support	Ecclasiastical and Program Administration	
Personnel Costs	\$ 8,612	\$	\$ 119,351	\$	\$ 87,737	\$ 203,568	\$ 419,268
Subsidies, Grants, and Other Assistance	302,779	45,782	113,855	195,598		2,900	660,914
Building and Office Expenses					38,454		38,454
Conventions, Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings		6,497	80,587		75,472	14,470	177,026
Depreciation	31,663				14,276	7,060	52,999
Equipment Purchases (non-capital) and Maintenance					9,854		9,854
Insurance					26,285		26,285
Professional Services					35,385		35,385
Staff Training and Development			270			867	1,137
Travel			22,734		2,368	25,164	50,266
Total Expenses by Function	\$ 343,054	\$ 52,279	\$ 336,797	\$ 195,598	\$ 289,831	\$ 254,029	\$ 1,471,588

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

### STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2023 and 2022

	2024	2023
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>		
Change in Net Assets	\$ 190,013	\$ 98,853
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation Expense	52,998	52,999
Property from Disbanded Congregation	-	(172,900)
Change in Value of Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts	(46,646)	197,678
Net (Gain) Loss on Investments	(2,757)	9,622
Net (Gain) Loss on Sale of Properties	-	40,867
Contributions Restricted for Long-Term Investment	(542)	(1,966)
(Increase) Decrease in Operating Assets:		
Prepaid Expenses	239	8,312
Increase (Decrease) in Operating Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	10,927	(7,645)
Grants Payable	(22,112)	(1,163)
Deferred Revenue	-	(19,268)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>182,120</u>	<u>205,389</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>		
Proceeds from Sale of Property	-	132,033
Purchases of Fixed Assets	-	(50,831)
Proceeds from Sale of Investments	9,184	5,203
Purchases of Investments	(324,314)	(25,076)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	<u>(315,130)</u>	<u>61,329</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>		
Contributions Restricted for Investment in Perpetual Endowment	542	1,966
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Financing Activities	<u>542</u>	<u>1,966</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(132,468)	268,684
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	1,310,646	1,041,962
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	<u>\$ 1,178,178</u>	<u>\$ 1,310,646</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE A – NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

The Rocky Mountain District (the District), a religious not-for-profit organization, is one of 35 districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (the Synod), encompassing 168 congregations in the states of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and the cities of El Paso, Texas; Page, Arizona; Big Spring and Venango, Nebraska. The Synod established its district offices to more effectively achieve its objectives and assist its congregations and their members in conserving and promoting the unity of the faith and in carrying out their mission and ministry.

The District relies on donations from its member congregations for a significant portion of its support. As shown in the Statement of Activities, support from District congregations totaled \$951,581 and \$962,257 for the years ended January 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. These donations are subject to fluctuations in the economic status of the areas in which the congregations are located. No provisions have been made for changes in the economic environment. Any significant reduction in the level of this support, however, could have an effect on the District's program and supporting activities.

The costs of providing various program and other supporting services have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Activities as follows:

- *World and National Missions* – World missions includes the District's personalized world ministry support remitted to the Synod. National missions includes but is not limited to North American new mission work, campus ministries, deaf ministries, ethnic ministries, urban ministries, congregational subsidy, evangelism efforts, human care ministries, and related conferences and events.
- *Preparing Church Workers* – Includes financial aid provided to students normally attending one of the six universities or two seminaries of the Synod.
- *Congregational Services* – Supports District congregational service efforts and includes but is not limited to activities such as Sunday School, confirmation, family life, day care, adult education, outdoor ministry, singles ministry, elementary and secondary education, youth services, worship, stewardship education, and related conferences and events.
- *Synodical Budget* – Includes remittances to the Synod for synodical budget support.
- *Mission and Ministry Support* – Includes the District's communication efforts, financial and general service activities, the operation/maintenance of District office facilities, District/Synodical convention expenses.
- *Ecclesiastical and Program Administration* – Includes activities of the president's office, vice-presidents, circuit visitors, reconcilers, and related conferences and events, as well as support of the District Board of Directors and its related committees.

All of these program and support services include the related program and administration expense associated with that particular function.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE A – NATURE OF ORGANIZATION (Continued)

The Rocky Mountain District of the Synod is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and, by virtue of a group tax-exempt ruling to the Synod and its component parts, is exempt from federal income taxes. However, any unrelated business income may be subject to taxation. In addition, the District qualifies for the charitable contribution deduction under IRC Section 170(b)(1)(A) and has been classified by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization other than a private foundation.

### NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies followed by the District are described below:

#### Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

#### Use of Estimates

We use estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates, and those differences could be material.

#### Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying financial statements include all administrative and program offices or departments of the Rocky Mountain District. They do not include the assets, liabilities, and operations of the congregations, schools, and other separately administered operations of the Synod within the District's geographic area.

#### Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash

For financial statement purposes, we consider all cash and highly liquid financial instruments with original maturities of three months or less, which are not held for or restricted by donors for long-term purposes (e.g., for building projects, perpetual endowments), to be cash and cash equivalents. Cash restricted by donors for long-term purposes is shown separately in the Statement of Financial Position.

#### Investments and Net Investment Return/(Loss)

We record investment purchases at cost, or if donated, at fair value on the date of receipt. Thereafter, investments are reported at their fair values in the Statement of Financial Position. Net investment return/(loss) consists of interest and dividend income, realized and unrealized capital gains and losses, less external investment expenses; it is reported in the Statement of Activities based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### Contributions Receivable

Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give expected to be collected after one year are initially recorded at fair value using present value techniques, incorporating risk-adjusted discount rates designed to reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset. In subsequent years, amortization of the discounts is included in contributions/support in the Statement of Activities. We determine the allowance for uncollectible promises to give based on historical experience, an assessment of current economic conditions, and a review of subsequent collections. Contributions receivable are written off when deemed uncollectible.

#### Property and Equipment

Property and equipment purchases of \$5,000 or more with an estimated useful life greater than one year are capitalized and recorded at cost, or if donated, at fair value on the date of receipt. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets ranging from 3 to 50 years, or in the case of capitalized leased assets or leasehold improvements, the lesser of the useful life of the asset or the lease term. When assets are sold or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is included in the Statement of Activities. Costs of maintenance and repairs that do not improve or extend the useful lives of the respective assets are expensed when incurred. Property held for sale is recorded at the lower of cost or estimated fair value.

We review the carrying values of property and equipment for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable from its use and eventual disposition. When considered impaired, an impairment loss is recognized in the Statement of Activities to the extent carrying value exceeds the fair value of the asset.

#### Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts

We have been named as an irrevocable beneficiary of several perpetual trusts held and administered by the LCMS Foundation. Perpetual trusts provide for the distribution of the net income of the trusts to the District; however, we will never receive the assets of the trusts. At the date we receive notice of a beneficial interest, a contribution with donor restrictions of a perpetual nature is recorded in the Statement of Activities and a beneficial interest in perpetual trust is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at the fair value of the underlying trust assets, as determined/calculated by the LCMS Foundation. Thereafter, beneficial interests in the trusts are reported at the fair value of the trusts' assets in the Statement of Financial Position, with trust distributions and changes in fair value recognized in the Statement of Activities.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### Grants Payable

Unconditional promises to give which have been authorized and communicated to the recipient are reported as liabilities and expenses in the period in which the notification to the recipient occurs. If at the time the promise is made, the District expects to make payment in one year or less, the payable is recorded at net settlement value. Unconditional promises that the District expects to pay in more than one year are reported at fair value, which is measured as the present value of the amounts to be paid.

#### Net Assets

Net assets, revenues, gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

*Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions* – Net assets available for use in general operations and not subject to donor restrictions. These net assets may be subject to self-imposed limits by action of the governing board. These board-designated net assets may be earmarked for future programs, contingencies, purchase/construction of fixed assets, or for other uses.

*Net Assets With Donor Restrictions* – Net assets subject to donor-imposed restrictions. Some donor-imposed restrictions are temporary in nature, such as those that will be met by the passage of time or other events specified by the donor. Other donor-imposed restrictions are perpetual in nature, where the donor stipulates that resources be maintained in perpetuity. Donor-imposed restrictions that are temporary in nature are released when a restriction expires, that is, when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

#### Contributions and Revenue Recognition

Contributions are recognized as support in the Statement of Activities when cash, securities or other assets, an unconditional promise to give, or notification of a beneficial interest is received. Gifts of long-lived assets with explicit restrictions that specify how the assets are to be used and gifts of cash that must be used to acquire long-lived assets are reported as support in net assets with donor restrictions. Absent explicit donor restrictions about how long those long-lived assets must be maintained, we report expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired long-lived assets are placed in service. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions on which they depend have been substantially met and the promises become unconditional. Donated services are reported as support in the Statement of Activities at fair value when those services (1) create or enhance nonfinancial assets or (2) require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation.

Revenue is recognized when earned. Program and supporting activity fees and payments received in advance are deferred to the applicable period in which the related services are performed or expenditures are incurred.



# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of program and supporting service activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Activities. The Statement of Functional Expenses presents the natural classification detail of expenses by function. The financial statements include certain categories of expenses that are attributable to more than one program and supporting function. Therefore, these expenses require allocation to the programs and supporting services benefited on a basis that is reasonable and consistently applied. The expenses that are allocated include compensation and benefits, which are allocated based on estimates of time and effort.

#### Taxes

We follow the accounting standards for contingencies in evaluating uncertain tax positions. This guidance requires financial statement recognition of the impact of a tax position if a position is more likely than not of being sustained on audit by the applicable regulatory authority, based on the technical merits of the position. These rules also provide guidance on measurement, recognition, classification, interest and penalties, transition, and disclosure requirements for uncertain tax positions. No liability has been recognized by the District for uncertain tax positions as of January 31, 2024 and 2023.

#### Financial Instruments and Credit Risk

We manage deposit concentration risk by placing cash and financial instruments with financial institutions believed by us to be creditworthy. At times, amounts on deposit may exceed insured limits or include uninsured investments in LCEF notes, money market mutual funds, etc. To date, we have not experienced losses in any of these accounts. Credit risk associated with accounts and contributions receivable is limited due to high historical collection rates and because substantial portions of the outstanding amounts are due from our member congregations or other agencies of the Synod who are supportive of our mission. Investment performance is monitored by the Board of Directors and management. Although the fair values of investments are subject to fluctuation from year-to-year, we believe the investment policies and guidelines are prudent for the long-term welfare of the organization.

#### Reclassifications

Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified for comparative purposes to conform to the 2024 financial statement presentation. These reclassifications, however, had no effect on the previously reported total net assets or total change in net assets.

#### Subsequent Events

The District has evaluated subsequent events through December 23, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE C – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

The following represents the District's financial assets at January 31, 2024 and 2023, that are available for general expenditure, that is, without donor or other restrictions limiting their use, within one year of the Statement of Financial Position date:

	January 31	
	2024	2023
Financial Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,178,178	\$ 1,310,646
Long-Term Investments	831,690	513,803
Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts	1,593,348	1,546,702
Total Financial Assets at Year-End	3,603,216	3,371,151
Less Those Unavailable for General Expenditures Within One Year Due to:		
Donor-Imposed or Contractual Restrictions	(2,523,714)	(2,380,991)
Financial Assets Available to Meet Cash Needs for General Expenditures Within One Year	\$ 1,079,502	\$ 990,160

As part of its liquidity plan, excess cash is invested in short-term investments, including LCEF certificates. As disclosed in Note G, the District also has an unsecured line of credit with LCEF which is available to meet cash flow needs.

### NOTE D – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

We report certain assets and liabilities at fair value in the accompanying financial statements. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Inputs used to determine fair value refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk. Inputs may be observable or unobservable. We consider observable data to be market data that is readily available, regularly distributed or updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market.

A fair value hierarchy is used to disclose the measurement of fair value based on the levels of observable or unobservable inputs as follows:

Level 1 Inputs – Quoted prices are available in active markets for identical assets or liabilities as of the measurement date. A quoted price for an identical asset or liability in an active market provides the most reliable fair value measurement because it is directly observable to the market.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE D – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

Level 2 Inputs – Pricing inputs are other than quoted prices in active markets, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the report date. Level 2 inputs include assets or liabilities for which quoted prices are available but traded less frequently and assets or liabilities that are fair valued using similar assets or liabilities, the parameters of which can be directly observed.

Level 3 Inputs – Assets or liabilities have little to no pricing observability as of the measurement date. These items are measured using management's best estimate of fair value, where the inputs into the determination of fair value are not observable and require significant management judgment or estimation.

In some cases, the inputs used to measure the fair value of an asset or liability might be categorized within different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In those cases, the fair value measurement is categorized in its entirety in the same level of the fair value hierarchy as the lowest level input that is significant to the entire measurement. Assessing the significance of a particular input to entire measurement requires judgment, taking into account factors specific to the asset or liability. The categorization of a financial instrument within the hierarchy is based upon the pricing transparency of the instrument and does not necessarily correspond to our assessment of the quality, perceived risk, or liquidity profile of the asset or liability.

The following table presents financial instruments that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall, as well as the non-leveled instruments at January 31, 2024:

	Total	Fair Value Measurements Using			Investments Measured at Cost
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Long-Term Investments -					
Cash	\$ 9,977	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,977
LCEF Notes	732,824				732,824
Mutual Funds	88,889	88,889			
	<u>\$ 831,690</u>	<u>\$ 88,889</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 742,801</u>
Beneficial Interests in					
Perpetual Trusts	\$ 1,593,348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,593,348	\$ -

The following is a reconciliation of beginning and ending balances of assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the year ended January 31, 2024:

	Balance 1/31/2023	Net New or (Matured) Gifts	Change in Value	Balance 1/31/2024
Perpetual Trusts	\$ 1,546,702	\$ -	\$ 46,646	\$ 1,593,348



# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE D – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

The following table presents financial instruments that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall, as well as the non-leveled instruments at January 31, 2023:

	Total	Fair Value Measurements Using			Investments Measured at Cost
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
Long-Term Investments -					
Cash	\$ 8,137	\$	\$	\$	\$ 8,137
LCEF Notes	421,904				421,904
Mutual Funds	83,762	83,762			
	<u>\$ 513,803</u>	<u>\$ 83,762</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 430,041</u>
Beneficial Interests in					
Perpetual Trusts	<u>\$ 1,546,702</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,546,702</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The following is a reconciliation of beginning and ending balances of assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the year ended January 31, 2023:

	Balance 1/31/2022	Net New or (Matured) Gifts	Change in Value	Balance 1/31/2023
Perpetual Trusts	<u>\$ 1,744,380</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (197,678)</u>	<u>\$ 1,546,702</u>

A portion of our long-term investments is classified within Level 1 because they comprise mutual funds with readily determinable fair values based on daily redemption values. The fair values of beneficial interests in perpetual trusts are based on the fair values of the trust investments as reported by the trustee, the LCMS Foundation. These are considered to be Level 3 measurements.

At January 31, 2024 and 2023, the fair value of donor-restricted endowment investments managed by the District, included in long-term investments in the above tables, totaled \$495,758 and \$487,511, respectively.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE E – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consists of:

	January 31	
	2024	2023
Land	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
Office Building	514,562	514,562
Campus Center	981,779	981,779
Office Furnishings and Equipment	13,000	13,000
Vehicles	72,420	72,420
	<u>1,595,761</u>	<u>1,595,761</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(414,502)</u>	<u>(361,504)</u>
Net Property and Equipment	<u>\$ 1,181,259</u>	<u>\$ 1,234,257</u>

### NOTE F – GRANTS PAYABLE

The District has unconditionally promised to give to the Synod \$22,112 at January 31, 2023. This amount was paid within one month after the fiscal year-end.

### NOTE G – LINE OF CREDIT

LCEF establishes a line of credit for each participating district based on the district's program performance; this line of credit is evaluated and adjusted by LCEF annually in July. As of and for the years ended January 31, 2024 and 2023, we had an unsecured line of credit with LCEF in the amount of \$420,440 and \$419,616, respectively. Borrowings under the line would bear interest at the current rate of 3.875%. As of and during the years ended January 31, 2024 and 2023, there were no borrowings against this line of credit.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE H – NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets without donor restrictions consist of the following:

	January 31	
	2024	2023
Undesignated	\$ 2,068,036	\$ 2,020,746
Designated by Board for:		
Quasi-Endowment - General Use	132,003	132,003
Quasi-Endowment - Congregational Services	30,000	30,000
	<u>\$ 2,230,039</u>	<u>\$ 2,182,749</u>

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE I – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions are restricted for the following purposes or periods:

	January 31	
	2024	2023
Purpose Restrictions:		
World and National Missions	\$ 321,280	\$ 236,003
Preparing Church Workers	5,185	3,081
Congregational Services	95,236	90,868
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	8,207	7,150
	<u>429,908</u>	<u>337,102</u>
Endowments:		
Corpus (Perpetual) -		
World and National Missions	11,080	11,080
Preparing Church Workers	37,651	37,651
Congregational Services	447,960	447,418
Underwater Endowments	(6,051)	(13,321)
	<u>490,640</u>	<u>482,828</u>
Net Investment Return Subject to Appropriation and Expenditure; Restricted by Donors for:		
World and National Missions	2,885	2,450
Congregational Services	6,933	11,909
	<u>9,818</u>	<u>14,359</u>
Total Endowment	<u>500,458</u>	<u>497,187</u>
Beneficial Interests in Perpetual Trusts	<u>1,593,348</u>	<u>1,546,702</u>
	<u>\$ 2,523,714</u>	<u>\$ 2,380,991</u>

Net assets were released from donor restrictions when expenses were incurred to satisfy the restricted purpose, or by occurrence of the passage of time or other events specified by the donors as follows:

	January 31	
	2024	2023
Satisfaction of Purpose Restrictions:		
World and National Missions	\$ 113,536	\$ 308,892
Preparing Church Workers	44,415	45,782
Congregational Services	31,300	6,850
Ecclesiastical and Program Administration	622	1,000
	<u>\$ 189,873</u>	<u>\$ 362,524</u>

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH–MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE J – ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Our endowment (the Endowment) consists of three individual funds established by donors to provide annual funding for specific activities, including world and national missions, preparing church workers, and congregational services. The Endowment also includes certain net assets without donor restrictions that have been designated for endowment by the Board of Directors.

The District classifies amounts in its donor-restricted endowment fund as net assets with donor restrictions until the Board of Directors appropriates amounts for expenditure and any purpose restrictions have been met. Our Board has interpreted the Colorado enacted version of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift of the donor-restricted endowment funds, as of the gift date, unless there are explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, we retain in perpetuity (a) the original value of initial and subsequent gifts donated to the endowment and (b) any accumulations to the endowment that are required to be maintained in perpetuity in accordance with the applicable donor gift instrument. Donor-restricted amounts not retained in perpetuity are subject to appropriation and expenditure by us in a manner consistent with the standard of prudence prescribed by UPMIFA. We consider the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

- The duration and preservation of the endowment fund
- The purposes of the organization and the donor-restricted endowment fund
- General economic conditions
- The possible effect of inflation and deflation
- The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
- Other resources of the District
- The investment policies of the District

We have interpreted UPMIFA to not permit spending from underwater endowments in accordance with prudent measures required under law. One donor-restricted endowment fund was underwater by \$6,051 and \$13,321, at January 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

*Investment and Spending Policies* – The District Board of Directors has delegated the responsibility for managing and investing its endowment assets to the respective committees appointed by the Board; all committee actions are subject to oversight by the Board of Directors. The District has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to subject the fund to low investment risk and provide programs supported by its endowments with current income. Endowment assets are invested in LCEF certificates and a mutual fund. The various endowment fund committees are responsible for determining investment objectives, goals, and risk tolerances in relation to the funds purpose and stated mission of the District and in concert with spending objectives. It is the intention of the District to increase the revenue stream when possible and the total endowment investment portfolio every year by an amount equal to or greater than the rate of inflation. The amount of investment return expended for current operations or reinvested will be balanced to provide equitably for both current and future needs of the District and/or its endowment.

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE J – ENDOWMENT FUNDS (Continued)

No more than 3% of the principal may be invaded each calendar year, and expenditure of such principal requires a two-thirds majority vote from the respective committee and the Board of Directors. Additionally, any unspent investment return should remain in the endowment fund for future growth.

As of January 31, 2024 and 2023, we had the following endowment net asset composition by fund type:

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<u>January 31, 2024</u>			
Board-Designated Endowment Funds	\$ 162,003	\$	\$ 162,003
Donor-Restricted Endowment Funds:			
Amounts Required to be Maintained in Perpetuity		496,691	496,691
Accumulated Investment Return		3,766	3,766
Total Endowment	<u>\$ 162,003</u>	<u>\$ 500,457</u>	<u>\$ 662,460</u>
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<u>January 31, 2023</u>			
Board-Designated Endowment Funds	\$ 162,003	\$	\$ 162,003
Donor-Restricted Endowment Funds:			
Amounts Required to be Maintained in Perpetuity		496,149	496,149
Accumulated Investment Return		1,038	1,038
Total Endowment	<u>\$ 162,003</u>	<u>\$ 497,187</u>	<u>\$ 659,190</u>

(Continued)

# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE J – ENDOWMENT FUNDS (Continued)

Changes in the endowment net assets for the years ended January 31, 2024 and 2023, are as follows:

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<u>Year Ended January 31, 2024</u>			
Endowment Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$ 162,003	\$ 497,187	\$ 659,190
Net Investment Return (Loss)		16,889	16,889
Contributions/Additions to Quasi-Endowment		542	542
Appropriation of Endowment Assets for Expenditure		(14,161)	(14,161)
Endowment Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$ 162,003</u>	<u>\$ 500,457</u>	<u>\$ 662,460</u>
<u>Year Ended January 31, 2023</u>			
Endowment Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$ 30,000	\$ 493,942	\$ 523,942
Net Investment Return (Loss)		1,279	1,279
Contributions	132,003	1,966	133,969
Appropriation of Endowment Assets for Expenditure			-
Endowment Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$ 162,003</u>	<u>\$ 497,187</u>	<u>\$ 659,190</u>

### NOTE K – SUPPORT AND REVENUE FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

*Distribution of LCEF Operating Results* – Based on LCEF's annual operating performance, earnings distributions are made available to its partner districts. LCEF operating results are restricted for specific mission and ministry programs of the respective district and are distributed upon request. During the years ended January 31, 2024 and 2023, the District requested and received a distribution of LCEF operating results in the amount of \$115,989 and \$233,940, respectively. This distribution is reflected in the Statement of Activities as support from LCEF in net assets with donor restrictions.



# 2024 RM District Financial Audit

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE L – DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN

The District participates in the worker benefit plans of the Synod, including the Concordia Retirement Plan (CRP). The CRP provides individuals with post-retirement benefits. Substantially all full-time employees (those employed more than 20 hours per week and at least five months per year) are covered by the CRP. Employees are vested after five years of creditable service. We contribute a fixed percentage of each participant's salary to the CRP. Retirement plan expenses for the years ended January 31, 2024 and 2023, totaled \$28,794 and \$23,243, respectively.

There were no significant changes in the District's relationship to the CRP during fiscal 2024 or 2023. There were also no contingent liabilities associated with the CRP at January 31, 2024 or 2023. Currently, the District has no intention to withdraw from the CRP.