
June 7-9, 2022
Fifty-Second Biennial Convention
of the Minnesota District

President's Report

6For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 7But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ~ 2 Corinthians 4:6-9 (NIV 2011)

It has been four years since we were able to gather for a district convention. Those intervening years brought unprecedented challenges and opportunities to us personally and collectively as God's people. Shelter at home orders, transitioning to virtual worship and back to in-person worship, distance learning in our schools, masking, civil unrest, unprecedented called worker vacancy rates, all these things challenged us. Seeking to be faithful to God's word and our callings, we strove to thread the needle of trusting in but not tempting God, of respecting civil authority without compromising the mission and message of the church, and we sought to honor Christian freedom with sacrificial consideration for our neighbor.

We were far from perfect in this struggle. The sinful flesh clings to us all. It inclines us to sinful judgementalism, selfish agendas, and loveless thoughts. In many cases the power of our baptism prevented us from acting out our sinful attitudes, but not always. With our words and deeds, we added sin on top of sin. Thankfully God doesn't give us mulligans in life. Even our do-overs would be flawed. Instead, he gave us his Son that we might cling to him in faith for righteousness and peace. He who did everything right has made us right with God. It is this peace we have with God that daily empowers us to take up the struggle against the devil, the world, and our flesh in service to him who first loved and served us.

While pressured on every side, our gracious Savior has kept and will keep us from being crushed like grapes in a press. We have and continue to wrestle with potentially divisive issues, but the Spirit of truth has guided and still guides us through them with our unity intact. The SARS-CoV 2 virus is becoming endemic and the high number of called worker vacancies continue, yet we do not despair. Jesus continues to be our provider and protector. What is more, in him our heavenly inheritance remains intact. The message of Christ-crucified and Christian values are the stench of death to growing numbers of people inside and outside of America, but we are not abandoned by the One who matters most. Jesus remains enthroned at the Father's right hand. He has preserved his word among us. He causes its light to shine in us and through us to those still walking in darkness. As he opened doors for us to proclaim Christ

through these past four years, he will continue to open doors for us to proclaim Christ individually and collectively in our congregations and our synod for the years to come.

May the Lord bless our time at this convention so that we become better informed of the kingdom work we do together as a synod and district, give and receive encouragement from God's word, and become better equipped to serve and proclaim Christ.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

Your district presidium has worked on a specific plan during these last four years. I am grateful for having such good men to work with: Pastor Wayne Schoch (1st VP), Pastor Mathew Pfeifer (2nd VP), and Pastor Eugene DeVries (Secretary). (We usually meet monthly by video conference call and occasionally face to face. I also wish to thank former presidium members who served: Jonathan Bitter, Jonathan Brohn, and especially Mike Hatzung who served as district secretary for 25 years.

Our vision statement is as follows:

Values: *(What we value ...)*

- Evangelical doctrine and practice.
- Vibrant churches planning gospel ministry and outreach.
- Healthy called workers growing spiritually and professionally
- Well-equipped circuit pastors and district leaders encouraging others
- Congregations supporting the work of our synod

Mission: *(Why we exist...)*

The Minnesota District Presidium supports congregations of our district and their leaders in biblical ministry.

Vision: *(What do we want to be...)*

The Minnesota District of WELS is a vibrant group of congregations with ...

- leaders that are personally rooted in the Word, and,
- well-trained and well-balanced spiritual leaders collaborating to carry out Jesus' Great Commission up-to-date and realistic strategic plans,
- engaging and edifying worship and spiritual growth programs,
- regular and effective outreach to "the lost," well-rounded biblical stewardship, strong support for missions,
- good communication with their members and in their community,

Leadership training of people in our districts

- We believe that circuit pastors are important in providing counseling and leadership to the pastors, teachers and congregations of our district. To that end, we have training for our circuit pastors every year in early November and hold quarterly video conferences to address current issues and review progress toward our long range goals.
- We have provided a cloud-based reporting site on our synod's database, where circuit pastors can report their visits to pastors and congregations. These reports are visible to the district presidium.

Our Two Year Goals

Develop Best Practices for LES/ECE ministries Leadership training in our district

- Build leadership in schools (principals, ECE Directors) using foundation of pastoral leadership
- Conferences for ECE directors / administrators based on principal conference model
- Encourage & train congregations in Ministry Planning

Circuit Pastor Training and Support

- Visit circuit meetings throughout the district at least once each year
- Updated CP Handbook
- 4-Year Training Curriculum
- Schedule quarterly virtual meetings with CPs

Learn from thriving congregations

- Note things thriving congregations are doing
- Share that information with other congregations in the district
- Develop “best-practices” / resources drop-box for online ministry opportunities
- Post COVID church – what did we learn, how do we continue, greater efficiency?

Take advantage of multicultural opportunities

- Promote & equip multi-cultural outreach efforts
- Hold a district-wide multi-cultural conference.

School sustainability

- Identify financially sustainable models to help schools thrive.
- Provide children’s ministry harvest strategies

Reach out to Millennials/Z’s

- Determine & promote successful methods for doing so

Aging demographics

- Assess how we can best serve the large Boomer demographic
- Enlist 2-3 congregations to develop senior ministry models for other congregations to adopt and adapt

MN District News: To receive news and event notifications please subscribe to the MN District e-mail list at www.welsmn.org.

2022 PASTORS ASSIGNED:

*Jacob Schlomer	St. Paul's, St. James, MN
*Samuel Lor	St. John's, True North Campus Ministry, Minneapolis, MN
*Nathaniel Savage	Tutor – Martin Luther College
*Philip Schroeder	Tutor – Martin Luther College – reassigned for second year

2022 TEACHERS ASSIGNED	
Mrs. Mya Kessler-Peshon	Salem Lutheran School-Greenfield MN, Greenfield, MN
Mrs. Jamee Kroll	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
*Mr. Jakob Casper	Trinity Lutheran School, Belle Plaine, MN
*Mr. Christian Stoeberl	St Croix Lutheran Academy, West Saint Paul, MN
*Mr. William Rauh	St John Lutheran School, Red Wing, MN
*Mr. Joshua Higgins	Holy Trinity Lutheran Academy - Child Care, New Hope, MN
*Mr. Ryan Maertz	St Peter Lutheran School, Saint Peter, MN
Miss Lydia Bitter	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Miss Molly Berg	Bloomington Lutheran School, Bloomington, MN
Miss Maria Werre	Crown of Life Lutheran School, West Saint Paul, MN
Miss Halie Flores	St John Lutheran School, Redwood Falls, MN
Miss Sarah Kjenstad	Cross of Christ Lutheran School, Coon Rapids, MN
Miss Rebecca Boehlke	Salem Lutheran School-Greenfield MN
Miss Brittany Denn	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
Miss Camella Kohl	Trinity Lutheran School, Belle Plaine, MN

*These are accepted into the membership of the Minnesota District.

DISTRICT STATISTICS

Congregations = 153

Early Childhood Ministries = 46

Lutheran Elementary Schools = 34

Area Lutheran High Schools = 3

Pastors Active = 166

Staff Ministers Active = 3

Teachers Active = 403

Total Called Workers Active = 582

Conference of Presidents:

1. At MLC this year, there were 74 (92 in 2021, 120 in 2020) teacher candidates who could go anywhere (57 from the graduating class and 17 from previous years), and all of them were assigned. In addition, 51 teacher candidates who were limited geographically received Calls for a total of 125 candidates assigned (168 in 2021, 150 in 2020). After the Assignment Committee met, there were still at least 140 total vacancies across WELS for teacher-trained men and women (WELS wide at least 90 at this time in 2021, at least 50 at this time in 2020).
2. The MN District submitted 31 teacher assignment requests (1-College, 7-high school, 16 - LES, 7-ECE. We received 13 newly assigned teachers to our district. One individual assignment was made permanent, and one candidate was reassigned for a second year.
3. At MLC, 48 men graduated in the pre-seminary program (35 in 2021, 40 in 2020), 47 with a Bachelor of Arts degree (33 in 2021, 39 in 2020) and 1 with Seminary Certification (2 in 2021, 1 in 2020).
4. A task force is being put together to study and address the growing concern for the lack of teachers in our synod and how best we can meet the demand.
5. The most recent **parish vacancy estimate** count from the May COP Meeting was (161 total pastoral positions) **136 vacant parishes**. Vacant parishes are down from 146 in April 2022. Our district submitted nine parish assignment requests and was blessed to have two of those filled – St. Paul’s, St. James, MN and St. John’s/True North Campus Ministry, Minneapolis, MN.
6. In the Assignment Committee at WLS this year, there were 90 requests for candidates (74 in 2021, 57 in 2020). There were 27 candidates available (33 in 2021, 26 in 2020), and all of them were assigned, so 63 requests remained unfilled (41 in 2021, 31 in 2020). Of those 27 candidates, 25 were seniors receiving their first Call and 2 were from previous classes. In addition, 5 men were reassigned to one-year Calls. After the Assignment Committee did its work, there were still 136 vacancies for pastor-trained men synod-wide of which 21 were in the Minnesota District (95 in 2021, 87 in 2020), an 11% vacancy rate.
7. The COP plans to distribute a final draft of its document “**God’s Beautiful and Balanced Design for Male and Female**” for discussion in late summer or early fall. Once again there is no set timeline for ratifying this document. There will be time for circuits, pastors, teachers and congregations to study it. The desire is to produce a statement that accurately, clearly, and concisely confesses the teaching of Scripture.
8. **WELS Leadership Conference - January 16-18, 2023 - Chicago.** Look for more information as the date gets closer.
9. A subcommittee of WELS Synodical Council is working on WELS next long-range plan. Like previous plans, this one will include broad goals for the synod’s various areas of ministry. (One example would be the Board for Home Missions’ desire to open 100 new congregations in 10 years.) However, this long-range plan is also looking at establishing gospel-centered objectives for congregations and WELS members, as we all strive to serve the mission of Christ’s Church in our personal lives, doing all we can to lovingly serve all those whom God has brought within our sphere of influence. As we approach the 175th anniversary of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (in 2025), our prayer is that this plan would offer a vision of how, together, all of us will carry confessional Lutheranism forward: to a dying world, to a post-Christian nation, and to our next-door neighbor. More information will be coming out. Some of the objectives of the plan will be discussed at the WELS National Conference for Lutheran Leadership, held January 16-18, 2023 in Chicago. **The long-range plan will be placed before the delegates of the 2023 synod convention.**

WELSource Reminder:

1. **Retired Called Workers:** Please take some time to update your information as well. Retired pastor John Seifert is working with the synod to keep the retired people's willingness to serve updated. This is to assist the COP as it seeks retired people to serve in part-time roles.
 2. **Personal Biography Information:** A Personal Biography link is available to all WELS Called Workers via My WELS Cloud (<http://cloud.wels.net/me>).
 3. **Self-Assessment Forms.** All Called workers, please take a moment to update your WELS Cloud profile to ensure it reflects the most current information. Please refer to our updating help document <https://wels.bmetrack.com/> for details.
 4. **Teacher Forms:** Information and instructions regarding the forms are available in the General Documents folder on the Lutheran Schools Resource Center (<http://cls.welsrc.net>). If you need to request an account, go to <http://account.wels.net>. When prompted for a request code, please enter CWI. Once your account has been established you will receive an email that contains your login information.
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A. PASTOR CALLS ACCEPTED INTO AND WITHIN THE DISTRICT		
Name	Start Date	Calling Body
Prof. Nicolas Schmoller	7/1/18	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Prof. Ross Stelljes	7/1/18	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Roger Riedel	8/1/18	Grace Lutheran Church, Oronoco, MN
Rev. Marques Nelson	9/1/18	St Paul's Lutheran Church, North Mankato, MN
Rev. Samuel Biebert	9/1/18	Christ Lutheran Church, Cambridge, MN
Rev. Gary Wong	10/15/18	Zion Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Seth Georgson	10/16/18	Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Saint Louis, MO
Rev. David Eckert	1/1/19	First Lutheran Church, Minnesota City, MN
Rev. Patrick Feldhus	1/1/19	The Lutheran Home, Belle Plaine, MN
Rev. John Kelly	3/1/19	St Peter Lutheran Church, Saint Peter, MN
Rev. Christopher Oehlke	6/1/19	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Buffalo, MN
Prof. Joel Thomford	7/1/19	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Steven Bauer	8/1/19	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Gibbon, MN
Rev. William King	9/16/19	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, IA
Rev. Eugene Andrus	10/1/19	St Peter's Lutheran Church, Balaton, MN
Rev. Mark Rieke	10/1/19	First Lutheran Church, La Crescent, MN
Rev. Adam Pilarski	11/16/19	St John Lutheran Church, Glencoe, MN
Rev. Alan Horn	1/1/20	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lake City, MN
Rev. Thomas Westendorf	7/1/20	Minnesota Valley LHS, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Paul Meitner	7/1/20	Zion Lutheran Church, Winthrop, MN

Pres. Richard Gurgel	7/1/20	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Daniel Schmidt	9/1/20	Faith Lutheran Church, Excelsior, MN
Rev. Jeffrey Enderle	10/1/20	St John's Lutheran Church, Saint Clair, MN
Rev. Daniel Slaughter	11/1/20	Trinity Lutheran Church, Belle Plaine, MN
Rev. Keith Schreiner	11/16/20	St Paul's Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls, MN
Mr. Andrew Schmidt	2/1/21	St Paul's Lutheran Church, North Mankato, MN
Rev. James Bourman	5/1/21	Grace Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Rev. Darren Green	5/1/21	St John Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN
Rev. Mark Kaesmeyer	7/1/21	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
Rev. Luke Thompson	7/1/21	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Daniel Waldschmidt	7/1/21	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Aaron Robinson	7/1/21	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Jon Wolff	7/12/21	St John Lutheran Church, Caledonia, MN
Rev. David Linn	9/1/21	Courtland Lutheran Church, Courtland, MN
Rev. Aaron Jensen	10/1/21	St Peter Lutheran Church, Monticello, MN
Rev. Roger Rockhoff	11/1/21	Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Owatonna, MN
Rev. Robbin Robbert	11/1/21	St John Lutheran Church, Goodhue, MN
Rev. Scott Oelhafen	11/1/21	St Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Cody Hauch	12/1/21	St Luke's Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN
Rev. Dennis Harbach	12/1/21	St John Lutheran Church, Hastings, MN
Rev. Daniel Herold	2/1/22	Christ Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN
Rev. Joshua Olson	2/1/22	Christ Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN
Rev. Benjamin Foxen	4/16/22	One Africa Team (OAT), Waukesha, Lusaka
Rev. Keegan Dowling	5/1/22	One Africa Team (OAT), Waukesha, Lusaka
Rev. Jonathan Bourman	5/1/22	St Mark Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN
Rev. Paul Fritz	6/1/22	Immanuel Lutheran Church, Woodville, WI
Rev. Timothy Otto	6/1/22	St John Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, MN
Rev. Preston Heuer	6/1/22	Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Elk River, MN
Rev. Timothy Berg	6/1/22	St John's Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN
Rev. Craig Wasser	7/1/22	Ministry of Christian Giving Office, Waukesha, WI
Rev. Ryan Wolfe	7/1/22	Salem Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN
Rev. Gary Bode	7/1/22	Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Coon Rapids, MN

B. TEACHER & STAFF MINISTER CALLS ACCEPTED INTO AND WITHIN THE DISTRICT		
Name	Start Date	Congregation
Mrs. Ann Parker	7/1/18	St Paul Lutheran Church, Saint James, MN
Prof. Kelli Green	7/1/18	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Eileen Wassermann	7/1/18	Mt Olive Lutheran School, Delano, MN
Mr. Nathan Voss	10/1/18	St Paul's Lutheran Church, North Mankato, MN
Mr. Peter Wolfgramm	6/1/19	Grace in Action, New Ulm, MN

Mrs. Renee Manian	7/1/19	Samuel Lutheran School, Marshall, MN
Mr. Todd Brassow	7/1/19	St John Lutheran School, Redwood Falls, MN
Mrs. Tiffany Mateske	7/1/19	Resurrection Lutheran School, Rochester, MN
Mr. Adam Reinhard	7/1/19	Little Lambs Learning Center, Duluth, MN
Mrs. Michelle Hardinger	7/1/19	Bloomington LS, Bloomington, MN
Mrs. Rebekah Bohlmann	7/1/19	Salem Lutheran School, Greenfield, MN
Mrs. Annette Schultz	7/1/19	St John Lutheran School, Redwood Falls, MN
Mrs. Elizabeth Jensen	7/1/19	Mt Olive Lutheran School, Delano, MN
Mr. Stephen Granberg	7/1/19	Grace in Action, New Ulm, MN
Mr. David Gartner	7/1/19	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
Mrs. Elizabeth Tiedemann	7/1/19	Resurrection Lutheran School, Rochester, MN
Mr. Grey Davis	7/1/19	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Miss Tabitha Mays	7/1/19	Samuel Lutheran School, Marshall, MN
Mrs. Robin Paustian	7/1/19	St John Lutheran School, Redwood Falls, MN
Miss Ashley Jensen	7/1/19	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
Mrs. Kirsten George	7/1/19	Holy Trinity Lutheran Academy, New Hope, MN
Miss Rebecca Kramer	7/1/19	Crown of Life LS, West Saint Paul, MN
Prof. Theodore Klug	7/1/19	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Dyllan Jensen	7/1/19	Mt Olive Lutheran School, Delano, MN
Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht	7/1/19	St John Lutheran School, Caledonia, MN
Mrs. Emilee Friebe	7/1/19	Christ Lutheran School, North Saint Paul, MN
Mr. Peter Markgraf	7/1/19	St Paul's Lutheran School, New Ulm, MN
Prof. Breanna Olson	7/1/19	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Adam Frey	7/1/19	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Carrie Pilarski	12/9/19	Precious Little Blessings, Glencoe, MN
Mr. Galen Holzhueter	1/1/20	Camp Croix, Danbury, WI
Mrs. Carol Schroeder	6/1/20	First Steps ELC, La Crescent, MN
Mrs. Amy Filthaut	7/1/20	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
Miss Louisa Kahrs	7/1/20	Little Lambs Learning Center, Danube, MN
Mrs. Katherine Wenner	7/1/20	Prairie Lutheran School Upper Site, Fairfax, MN
Mrs. LaShawn Smith	7/1/20	Jesus Loves Me LC, North Mankato, MN
Mrs. Elizabeth Roecker	7/1/20	Little Lambs Preschool, Saint Paul Park, MN
Mr. Justin Vilski	7/1/20	Crown of Life LS, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Lori Gieschen	7/1/20	St Peter Lutheran School, Saint Peter, MN
Mr. Justin Wasser	7/1/20	Trinity Lutheran School, Nicollet, MN
Prof. David Biedenbender	7/1/20	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Rachel Hahm	7/1/20	St John Lutheran School, Red Wing, MN
Mrs. Stefanie Hill	7/1/20	Cornerstone Early Learning Center, Hugo, MN
Mrs. Bethany Ohm	7/1/20	Crown of Life LS, West Saint Paul, MN
Mr. Kyle Seim	7/1/20	St John Lutheran School, Caledonia, MN
Mrs. Adrienne Bengel	7/1/20	Holy Trinity Lutheran Academy, New Hope, MN
Mr. Brett Bengel	7/1/20	Holy Trinity Lutheran Academy, New Hope, MN
Mr. Caleb Dobberstein	7/1/20	Living Hope Lutheran School, Shakopee, MN

Mrs. Christine Baganz	7/1/20	St Paul's Lutheran School, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Martin Santos	7/1/20	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Karyn Clemons	7/1/20	Minnesota Valley LHS, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Melissa Priest	7/1/20	First Steps ELC, La Crescent, MN
Mrs. Rebecca Berg	7/1/20	Minnesota Valley LHS, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Rebecca Rogotzke	7/1/20	Minnesota Valley LHS, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Timothy Schultz	8/1/20	St John Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN
Ms. Lisa Wendt	1/1/21	St John Lutheran School, Caledonia, MN
Mrs. Tracy Birkholz	7/1/21	Good Shepherd LS, Burnsville, MN
Miss Brooke Berlin	7/1/21	Christ Lutheran School, North Saint Paul, MN
Mr. Daniel Bredendick	7/1/21	Salem Lutheran School, Stillwater, MN
Mr. James Dretske	7/1/21	St John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Terese Redders	7/1/21	Good Shepherd LSI, Burnsville, MN
Mrs. Deborah Weigand	7/1/21	St John Lutheran School, Red Wing, MN
Mrs. Kayla Becker	7/1/21	Cross of Christ LS, Coon Rapids, MN
Mrs. Kellie Prins	7/1/21	Trinity Lutheran School, Nicollet, MN
Mr. Adam Mateske	7/1/21	Resurrection Lutheran School, Rochester, MN
Miss Abigail Bartel	7/1/21	Building Blocks for Life ECE, Cambridge, MN
Mr. Ryan Plath	7/1/21	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Katrina Brohn	7/1/21	Bloomington LS, Bloomington, MN
Mr. Thomas Stob	7/1/21	Salem Lutheran School, Stillwater, MN
Mr. Daniel Whitney	7/1/21	Risen Savior Lutheran School, Mankato, MN
Mrs. Connie Weilage	7/1/21	Prairie Lutheran School Lower Site, Gibbon, MN
Mrs. Carin Schmiel	7/1/21	Bloomington LS, Bloomington, MN
Mr. James Brohn	7/1/21	Bloomington LS, Bloomington, MN
Miss Kathleen Siverly	7/1/21	St John Lutheran School, Lake City, MN
Mrs. Sandra Brauer	7/1/21	St John Lutheran School, Dakota, MN
Mr. Bradley Essig	7/1/21	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Miss Maria Reese	7/1/21	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mr. Austin Eisenmann	7/1/21	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Rebecca Guenther	7/1/21	St Paul's Lutheran School, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Lori Holicky	7/1/21	Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Belle Plaine, MN
Mrs. Lisa Charlson	7/1/21	Salem Lutheran School, Greenfield, MN
Mrs. Rachel Berger	7/1/21	Holy Trinity Lutheran Academy, New Hope, MN
Mrs. Kayla Schoeneck	7/1/21	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Jennifer Zenke	7/1/21	St John Lutheran School, Dakota, MN
Mrs. Leah Samuelson	7/1/21	Cross of Christ LS, Coon Rapids, MN
Mr. Phillip Bunkowske	7/1/21	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Emily Stoering	7/1/21	St Paul's Lutheran School, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Anthony Norrick	7/1/21	Minnesota Valley LHS, New Ulm, MN
Miss Heidi Kostrzewa	7/1/21	Salem Lutheran School, Stillwater, MN
Mrs. Kristin Watson	7/1/21	Precious Lambs Preschool, Rochester, MN
Mrs. Nicole Tranberg	7/1/21	St Peter Lutheran School, Saint Peter, MN

Mr. Jared Matthies	7/1/21	Crown of Life LS, West Saint Paul, MN
Mr. Zachary Richie	7/1/21	Little Lambs Learning Center, Duluth, MN
Mr. Stephen Gurgel	7/1/21	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
Mrs. Nicole Grunwald	7/1/21	Salem Preschool, Woodbury, MN
Mr. Kirk Schauland	7/1/21	Minnesota Valley LS, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Katherine Voss	7/1/21	St Peter Lutheran School, Saint Peter, MN
Mrs. Lynette Olson	7/1/21	Christ Lutheran School, North Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Erin Dooley	7/1/21	MLC Early Childhood LC, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Heidi Wendland	7/1/21	Salem Preschool, Woodbury, MN
Mrs. Jill Wolf	7/1/21	Bloomington LS, Bloomington, MN
Mr. Eric Wolf	7/1/21	Bloomington LS, Bloomington, MN
Mrs. Paula Sulzle	7/1/21	St John Lutheran School, Redwood Falls, MN
Ms. Rebecca Ziegler	9/1/21	St Paul Lutheran School, Arlington, MN
Mr. Benjamin Lundsten	12/20/21	Minnesota Valley LHS, New Ulm, MN
Ms. Hannah Schmiede	1/1/22	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Jessica Wolfe	7/1/22	Salem Preschool, Woodbury, MN
Miss Sara Rieke	7/1/22	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Valerie Schmidt	7/1/22	Crown of Life LS, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Kathryn Sievert	7/1/22	Crown of Life LS, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Kelly Schauland	7/1/22	St Paul's Lutheran School, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Katherine Christensen	7/1/22	St Paul Lutheran School, Saint James, MN
Mrs. Danielle Kuehn	7/1/22	Cross of Christ LS, Coon Rapids, MN
Mr. Michael Wiechmann	7/1/22	Minnesota Valley LHS, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Julia Pasch	7/1/22	St John Lutheran School, Goodhue, MN
Mrs. Amber Brown	7/1/22	St Paul's Lutheran School, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Joel Pankow	7/1/22	St John Lutheran School, Goodhue, MN
Mrs. Kari Hahm	7/1/22	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
Mr. James Hahm	7/1/22	West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN
Mrs. Sarah Kohls	7/1/22	Risen Savior Lutheran School, Mankato, MN
Mr. David Rust	7/1/22	Amazing Grace Virtual Academy, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Christianne Bentley	7/1/22	Good Shepherd LS, Burnsville, MN
Mr. Paul Huebner	7/1/22	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Michelle Stob	7/1/22	Salem Lutheran School, Stillwater, MN
Miss Rebecca Doering	7/1/22	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Ms. Marissa Oachs	7/1/22	Good Shepherd LS, Burnsville, MN
Ms. Maddie Stevens	7/1/22	Mt Olive Lutheran School, Delano, MN
Mr. Adam Pavelchik	7/1/22	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Miss Mollie Dorn	7/1/22	Cornerstone Early Learning Center, Hugo, MN
Mrs. Allison Dorn	7/1/22	Salem Lutheran School, Stillwater, MN
Mr. Luke Dorn	7/1/22	Salem Lutheran School, Stillwater, MN
Mr. Jonah Kroll	7/1/22	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Michelle Springer	7/1/22	Jesus Loves Me LC, North Mankato, MN
Dr. Todd Russ	7/1/22	Grace in Action, New Ulm, MN

Mrs. Donna Woldt	7/1/22	Jesus Loves Me LC, North Mankato, MN
Mr. Jon Woldt	7/1/22	Risen Savior Lutheran School, Mankato, MN
Mrs. Melissa Berg	7/1/22	MLC Early Childhood LC, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Timothy Weddle	7/1/22	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN
Ms. Beth Hauf	7/1/22	Salem Lutheran School, Greenfield, MN
Mrs. Catherine Biedenbender	7/1/22	Trinity Lutheran School, Nicollet, MN
Mrs. Shelley Kromschroeder	7/1/22	Salem Lutheran School, Greenfield, MN
Miss Kathryn Gut	7/1/22	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mrs. Kellsie Wasser	7/1/22	Trinity Lutheran School, Nicollet, MN
Mrs. Kristi Bredendick	7/1/22	Crown of Life LS, West Saint Paul, MN
Mrs. Rachel Youngblom	7/1/22	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Phillip Sriver	7/1/22	St Paul's Lutheran School, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Heath Dobberpuhl	7/1/22	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Isaiah Degner	7/1/22	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mr. Nathaniel Kallies	7/1/22	St Croix LA, West Saint Paul, MN

C. PASTORS TRANSFERRED OUT OF THE DISTRICT

Name	Date	Transferred To
Rev. Nathan Wordell	06/30/2018	Northern Wisconsin
Rev. Jonathan Leach	06/30/2018	Pacific Northwest
Rev. Michael Killinger	08/31/2018	Michigan
Rev. Nathan Nass	10/31/2018	South Central
Rev. Clayton Welch	12/31/2018	North Atlantic
Rev. Daniel Voigt	12/31/2018	Northern Wisconsin
Rev. Christian Christenson	01/31/2019	Western Wisconsin
Rev. Roger Knepprath	03/31/2019	Michigan
Rev. Jon Bitter	03/31/2019	South Atlantic
Rev. Richard Tuttle	04/30/2019	Michigan
Rev. Steven Tews	04/30/2019	Northern Wisconsin
Rev. Richard Starr	05/31/2019	South Atlantic
Rev. Paul Spaude	06/30/2019	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Daniel Witte	07/31/2019	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Brian Semrow	10/31/2019	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Paul Tessmer	12/31/2019	Michigan
Rev. Matthew Grunewald	12/31/2019	Northern Wisconsin
Rev. Matthew Sprunger	12/31/2019	Northern Wisconsin
Rev. Kurt Hagen	04/30/2020	Northern Wisconsin
Rev. Timothy Redfield	04/30/2020	Western Wisconsin
Rev. Paul Koester	06/30/2020	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Scott Muske	08/31/2020	Michigan
Rev. Garrett Alford	08/31/2020	Western Wisconsin
Rev. Jason Thiel	10/30/2020	Nebraska
Rev. Daniel Lindner	10/31/2020	Southeastern Wisconsin

Rev. Joseph Koelpin	03/15/2021	South Central
Rev. Keith Siverly	04/30/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Jordan Uhlhorn	06/30/2021	Dakota-Montana
Rev. Michael Otterstatter	06/30/2021	South Atlantic
Rev. Hans Thomford	06/30/2021	South Central
Pastor. Erich Westphal	06/30/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Jonathan Hackbarth	06/30/2021	Western Wisconsin
Rev. Jonathan Brohn	07/31/2021	Nebraska
Rev. Justin Heise	07/31/2021	Northern Wisconsin
Rev. Timothy Bode	07/31/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Seth Scheuerlein	08/31/2021	Arizona-California
Rev. David Rau	10/31/2021	Michigan
Rev. Chris Cordes	12/31/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Timothy Bode	07/31/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Rev. Seth Scheuerlein	08/31/2021	Arizona-California
Rev. David Rau	10/31/2021	Michigan
Rev. Chris Cordes	12/31/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin

D. TEACHERS & STAFF MINISTERS TRANSFERRED OUT

Name	Date	Transferred To
Mr. William Scharf	6/30/2018	Northern Wisconsin
Miss Rachel Kramer	6/30/2018	Arizona-California
Mr. Adam Wiechmann	6/30/2018	Arizona-California
Mr. Jonathan Beilke	6/30/2018	Michigan
Mr. Nolan Valus	6/30/2018	Michigan
Mr. Seth Lange	6/30/2018	Nebraska
Mrs. Ashley Hepner	6/30/2018	Northern Wisconsin
Miss Karin Tiarks	6/30/2018	Northern Wisconsin
Mr. Jason Dutcher	6/30/2018	South Atlantic
Mrs. Kirsten Duin	6/30/2018	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mrs. Emily Seeber	6/30/2018	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mr. Philip Adickes	6/30/2018	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mrs. Kayla Fry	6/30/2018	Western Wisconsin
Mrs. Anneliese Gumm	6/30/2018	Western Wisconsin
Mr. Andrew Wehausen	6/30/2018	Western Wisconsin
Mrs. Anita Krienke	6/30/2018	ELS
Mrs. Allison Dorn	5/31/2019	South Atlantic
Mrs. Emily Rider	6/30/2019	Michigan
Mr. Glenn Metzger	6/30/2019	Pacific Northwest
Miss Crystal Carmichael	6/30/2019	South Atlantic
Mr. Daniel Rick	6/30/2019	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mr. Daniel Schultz	6/30/2019	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mrs. Monica Schultz	6/30/2019	Southeastern Wisconsin

Mrs. Stephanie Smith	6/30/2019	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mr. Karl Kuschel	6/30/2019	Western Wisconsin
Mr. Nathan Livingston	6/30/2019	Western Wisconsin
Mrs. Heidi Wendland	5/31/2020	Northern Wisconsin
Mrs. Jodi Rowe	6/30/2020	Arizona-California
Mrs. Abby Loescher	6/30/2020	Northern Wisconsin
Mr. James Wendland	6/30/2020	Northern Wisconsin
Mrs. Beth Plath	6/30/2020	South Atlantic
Mr. Daniel Plath	6/30/2020	South Atlantic
Mrs. Suzanne Zimmerman	6/30/2020	South Atlantic
Mrs. Melissa Priest	6/30/2020	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mr. Gregory Baures	6/30/2020	Western Wisconsin
Prof. Joseph Gumm	6/30/2020	Western Wisconsin
Mr. Thomas Zuberbier	6/30/2020	Western Wisconsin
Mr. Joel Burmeister	6/30/2021	Arizona-California
Miss Lacey Waters	6/30/2021	Arizona-California
Mrs. Kellsie Wasser	6/30/2021	Michigan
Miss Anastasia Bornschlegl	6/30/2021	Nebraska
Mrs. Erin Achey	6/30/2021	Northern Wisconsin
Mrs. Erin Hulse	6/30/2021	Northern Wisconsin
Mr. Ryan Hulse	6/30/2021	Northern Wisconsin
Mrs. Chloe Kollmann	6/30/2021	Northern Wisconsin
Mrs. Jennifer Boeder	6/30/2021	Pacific Northwest
Mr. Ian Watson	6/30/2021	South Central
Mrs. Kristin Watson	6/30/2021	South Central
Mrs. Noelle Dimke	6/30/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mrs. Erin Dooley	6/30/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mrs. Emma Heyn	6/30/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mr. Gabriel Plocher	6/30/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mrs. Olivia Snyder	6/30/2021	Southeastern Wisconsin
Mr. Paul Habermann	6/30/2021	Western Wisconsin
Mrs. Jennifer Hackbarth	6/30/2021	Western Wisconsin
Miss Kristin Mantey	6/30/2021	Western Wisconsin
Mr. Jason Rupnow	6/30/2021	Western Wisconsin
Mrs. Megan Rupnow	6/30/2021	Western Wisconsin
Mrs. Laura Schaper	6/30/2021	Western Wisconsin
Mr. Christopher Avila	6/30/2021	ELS
Mrs. Carolyn Bernard	6/30/2021	ELS

E: Pastor Resignations	
Name	Date
Rev. Dennis Reichow	9/10/2018
Rev. Paul Kuehn	9/30/2020
Rev. Andrew Schmidt	9/15/2021
Rev. Adam Marley	5/22/2022

F. Teacher & Staff Minister Resignations	
Name	Date
Mr. Andrew Bare	6/30/2018
Mrs. Katherine Boehlke	6/30/2018
Mrs. Anna Duppong	6/30/2018
Mrs. Kayla Fry	6/30/2018
Mr. Brandon Gierach	6/30/2018
Mrs. Sarah Haukoos	6/30/2018
Mrs. Ashley Hepner	6/30/2018
Mrs. Joy Holderbecker	6/30/2018
Mr. Jason Jaspersen	6/30/2018
Dr. Jeffrey Lemke	6/30/2018
Mrs. Jonnica Mayer	6/30/2018
Mrs. Melissa Nehls	6/30/2018
Mrs. Jana Schroeder	6/30/2018
Miss Deneal Sperle	6/30/2018
Mrs. Naomi Johnson	8/17/2018
Mrs. Annette Schultz	8/31/2018
Mrs. Bonnie Ladd	12/31/2018
Mrs. Polly Sue Bitter	3/31/2019
Mrs. Nicole Kotecki	4/30/2019
Mrs. Allison Dorn	5/31/2019
Mrs. Rachel Berger	6/30/2019
Miss Cassandra Davis	6/30/2019
Prof. John Gunderson	6/30/2019
Mrs. Tracy Knepprath	6/30/2019
Mrs. Renae Kramer	6/30/2019
Mrs. Heather Kressin	6/30/2019
Miss Cindy Lendt	6/30/2019
Mrs. Nicole Zagrzebski	7/22/2019
Mrs. Erin Bohl	9/6/2019
Mr. Zachary Unke	9/13/2019
Mrs. Dakota Numrich	10/10/2019
Mrs. Holle Rodriguez	12/4/2019

Mrs. Dinah Spurgin	5/15/2020
Mrs. Melanie Achey	6/30/2020
Mrs. Lisa Avila	6/30/2020
Mrs. Sarah Gierach	6/30/2020
Mrs. Nicole Grunwald	6/30/2020
Mrs. Ashley Kuschel	6/30/2020
Mrs. Monica Mlsna	6/30/2020
Mrs. Gloria Mohr	6/30/2020
Mrs. Beth Plath	6/30/2020
Mrs. Melissa Priest	6/30/2020
Miss Sarah Rigge	6/30/2020
Mr. Ryan Rush	6/30/2020
Mrs. Elizabeth Stokke	6/30/2020
Mrs. Katrina Wascher	6/30/2020
Mr. Galen Holzhueter	8/9/2020
Mr. Adam Reinhard	9/6/2020
Mr. Stephen Pankow	11/20/2020
Dr. Michael Butzow	12/31/2020
Mrs. Holly Christianson	12/31/2020
Mrs. Brittany Brassow	6/30/2021
Mrs. Kay Brohn	6/30/2021
Mrs. Erin Dooley	6/30/2021
Mrs. Mary Graber	6/30/2021
Mrs. Karlie Habermann	6/30/2021
Mrs. Jennifer Hackbarth	6/30/2021
Miss Rebecca Hagglund	6/30/2021
Mrs. Kathy Hoffman	6/30/2021
Miss Katherine Huebner	6/30/2021
Miss Olivia Knudsen	6/30/2021
Mrs. Sarah Kuschel	6/30/2021
Mrs. Tamara Melott	6/30/2021
Mr. Timothy Schultz	1/13/2022
Mrs. Carrie Pilarski	5/20/2022

G. Pastor Retirements	
Name	Date
Rev. Dennis Valleau	2/28/2018
Rev. Bruce Janisch	5/31/2018
Rev. Charles Degner	6/30/2018
Rev. Joel Luetke	6/30/2018
Rev. Gary Wong	6/30/2018
Rev. Stephen Smith	7/31/2018
Rev. James Witt	8/31/2018

Rev. Stephen Kurtzahn	11/12/2018
Rev. Martin Lopahs	6/30/2020
Rev. Mark Neitzel	6/30/2020
Rev. Mark Zarling	6/30/2020
Rev. Dean Gunn	7/12/2020
Rev. Wayne Hilgendorf	7/31/2020
Rev. Jonathan Kruschel	8/2/2020
Rev. John Baumann	9/6/2020
Rev. Jeffrey Mittelstadt	10/31/2020
Rev. Nile Merseeth	1/1/2021
Rev. David Furno	4/30/2021
Rev. Thomas Smith	5/31/2021
Rev. Bruce Hanneman	6/30/2021
Prof em. James Pope	6/30/2021
Prof em. John Schmidt	6/30/2021
Rev. Donald Sutton	6/30/2021
Rev. Jon Wolff	7/11/2021
Rev. Ellery Groth	11/30/2021
Rev. Gregory Sahlstrom	1/9/2022
Rev. Keith Bilitz	5/31/2022

H. Teacher & Staff Minister Retirements	
Name	Date
Mr. Mark Probst	10/31/2018
Mr. Kelly Emde	12/31/2019
Mrs. Jeneane Thiesfeldt	5/15/2018
Mrs. Hope Bourman	6/30/2018
Mrs. Lavonne Bratsch	6/30/2018
Mrs. Julianne Cison	6/30/2018
Mr. John Festerling	6/30/2018
Mrs. Julie Festerling	6/30/2018
Mrs. Ann Gutzke	6/30/2018
Prof em. J Lance Hartzell	6/30/2018
Mrs. Bonnie Menges	6/30/2018
Mrs. Jody Schultz	6/30/2018
Mr. Ronald Wels	6/30/2018
Mrs. Mary Wessel	6/30/2018
Mrs. Cindy Von Eschen	12/31/2018
Prof em. Ronald Shilling	5/15/2019
Mrs. Carol Aker	6/30/2019
Mrs. Rachelle Danner	6/30/2019
Prof em. John Gronholz	6/30/2019

Mr. Thomas Hansen	6/30/2019
Miss Susan Klessig	6/30/2019
Prof em. Lawrence Lotito	6/30/2019
Mr. Timothy Russow	6/30/2019
Mrs. Carlotta Ohm	5/15/2020
Mrs. Debra Bakken	6/30/2020
Mrs. Linda Gronholz	6/30/2020
Mrs. Marilyn Jonas	6/30/2020
Mrs. Cynthia Klatt	6/30/2020
Mrs. Jean Schroeder	6/30/2020
Mrs. Denise Steffenhagen	6/30/2020
Prof. Steven Thiesfeldt	6/30/2020
Mr. Daniel Whitney	8/15/2020
Mr. James Bakken	8/30/2020
Mr. Gary Bain	6/30/2021
Mrs. Julie Beach	6/30/2021
Mrs. Carolyn Bernard	6/30/2021
Mr. Terrence Graf	6/30/2021
Prof em. Thomas Hunter	6/30/2021
Prof em. Paul Tess	6/30/2021

I. Called Workers Called to Glory While Residing in the MN District	
Name	Deceased Date
Rev. Don W. Fastenau	11/17/2018
Rev. Richard C. Schwerin	9/2/2019
Prof em. Robert H. Krueger	1/5/2020
Rev. Thomas C. Henning	4/26/2020
Rev. Gilbert C. Bunde	7/22/2020
Rev. David M. Ponath	7/25/2020
Rev. Wilbert E. Neumann	10/22/2020
Rev. LeRoy H. Lothert	11/16/2020
Rev. Philip C. Mischke	11/19/2020
Rev. Robert A. Kant	2/23/2021
Prof em. Darvin H. Raddatz	9/30/2021
Miss MyKayla J. Jensen	10/20/2018
Mr. Robert W. Kock	1/24/2019
Miss Venita R. Schrupp	5/11/2019
Mr. Frederick W. Blauert	5/14/2019
Dr. Edward Harry. Meyer	5/16/2019
Mr. John R. Schultz	8/20/2019
Mrs. Janet C. Schultz	9/12/2019
Mrs. Doris L. Panning	1/25/2020
Prof em. Gary G. Carmichael	4/8/2020

Mr. Franklin T. Kolander	11/3/2020
Prof em. Arthur J. Schulz	11/9/2020
Mrs. Cheryl S. McLees	3/11/2021
Mrs. Janet P. Lund	9/26/2021
Mrs. Julie A. Festerling	3/7/2022

J. Former MN District Called Workers Called to Glory	
Name	Deceased Date
Rev. Paul H. Wilde	09/19/18
Rev. Arlyn L. Schmeling	12/10/18
Mr. Thomas E. Frey	01/23/19
Rev. John A. Henderson	02/15/19
Rev. Burton E. Stensberg	02/27/19
Mr. James T. Cloute	03/31/19
Rev. Loren A. Schaller	04/11/19
Rev. Richard Ernest. Frohmader	10/30/19
Mr. Theodore H. Kuske	11/13/19
Mr. Roger P. Drews	03/09/20
Rev. Allen P. Zenker	05/13/20
Rev. Carl M. Klein	06/01/20
Rev. Jerome H. Braun	07/16/20
Prof em. Daniel M. Deutschlander	10/26/20
Mr. Robert E. Berg	11/24/20
Prof em. Lloyd O. Huebner	12/08/20
Mr. William H. Hartmann	03/21/21
Rev. Keith N. Schroeder	03/25/21
Rev. Louis W. Meyer	04/12/21
Rev. Edward W. Lindemann	04/29/21
Rev. Mark W. Anderson	07/08/21
Rev. David W. Waage	09/23/21
Prof. Richard D. Balge	10/17/21
Rev. Darrick P. Kolterjahn	02/10/22
Rev. William E. Godfrey	03/29/22
Mr. Robert . Willhite	06/01/18
Mrs. Eleanor R. Mutterer	08/20/18
Mrs. Janice Louise. Goodger	11/04/18
Prof. John H. Schibbelhut	05/01/19
Mr. Frederick W. Blauert	05/14/19
Mr. David M. Adickes	01/29/20
Mrs. Beth M. Wagie	04/05/20
Mrs. Elsa I. Poppert	04/25/20
Mr. Paul E. Zimmermann	06/25/20

Miss Margaret A. Ungemach	01/02/21
Prof em. William H. Birsching	01/18/21
Mr. Merlin A. Meitner	03/05/21
Mrs. Gayle Arlene. Krause	03/26/21
Mrs. Mary M. Klopff	07/05/21
Mrs. Dolores M. Enter	07/14/21
Mrs. Artcy J. Fuhrmann	08/04/21
Miss Doris A. Vohs	08/07/21
Mrs. Gwendolyn A. Tjernagel	08/24/21
Mrs. Monica Rae. Minzlaff	10/12/21
Mr. Robert A. Rausch	11/17/21
Mr. Norman E. Dux	12/25/21
Mrs. Darlene A. Oakley	03/05/22
Mr. Marcus F. Buch	03/07/22
Mrs. Katherine E. Borchert	03/20/22
Mr. Richard Allen. Goodall	03/28/22

Serving Jesus and his saints,

Rev. Dennis C. Klatt

Rev. Dennis C. Klatt – WELS Minnesota District President