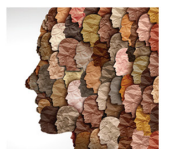


Section V

OVERTURES



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

I. WORD

Ordained Ministers

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

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

Commissioned Ministers

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

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

Lay Delegates

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

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

Advisory

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

Staff

Rev. Kris Whitby, kris.whitby@nidlcms.org



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

II. WELLNESS

Ordained Ministers

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

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

Commissioned Ministers

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

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

Lay Delegates

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

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

Advisory

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

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

Staff

Rev. John Prohl, john.prohl@nidlcms.org
Joe Willmann, joe.willmann@lcef.org



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

III. WITNESS

Ordained Ministers

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

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

Commissioned Ministers

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

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

Lay Delegates

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

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

Advisory

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

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

Staff

LeeAnn Acosta, leeann.acosta@nidlcms.org

Lois Stewart, lois.stewart@nidlcms.org



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

IV. ELECTIONS

Ordained Ministers

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

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



LCMS Northern Illinois District 2025 Convention

Floor Committee I – WORD

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



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

Floor Committee II – WELLNESS

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



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

Floor Committee III – WITNESS

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-01

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

53

54 Therefore, be it

55

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

61

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

67

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

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

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

87

88 Respectfully submitted,

89 Circuit Forum, Circuit S17

90 Rev. William C. Ryden, Circuit Visitor



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-02

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 58 mandate, or any school policy, that imposes the government's will over the parents'
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 60 parents; and further be it

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

87

88 Respectfully submitted,

89

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

91 William Rohder, Jr., Acting President

92 Marlene Barmann, Recording Secretary



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-03

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

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

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

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

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

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69 Synod in convention and each and every one of her districts to boldly, unequivocally,
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83 families to benefit their children with the use of Lutheran schools or Lutheran
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85 the children may be protected from such government overreach and godless agendas
86 and may be raised in the proper fear of the Lord.

87
88 Respectfully submitted,

89
90 Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, Illinois



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-04

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

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

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

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

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

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 59 duty to raise their children or that aids the minor child's will to be kept secret from the
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 63 readiness to support, come to the aid of, and speak in defense of any parents within
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 66 children in the fear of the Lord; and further be it

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

74

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

80

81 Respectfully submitted,

82

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

84 Rev. Cory Estby, Secretary Designee



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-05

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

48
49 Therefore, be it

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

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

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

66
67 Respectfully submitted,

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

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-06

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-07

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

74 Therefore, be it
 75

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

114
115 Respectfully submitted,

116
117 Circuit Forum, Circuit S17

118 Rev. William Ryden, Circuit Visitor



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-08

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

49
 50 **WHEREAS**, Historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during
 51 times of plague, notable examples including the plague of Alexandria in 250 AD, where
 52 the Christians who remained to tend for the sick were considered martyrs, and the
 53 1527 plague at Wittenberg, where Martin Luther recommends in his letter that some
 54 in the pastoral office must remain to serve the sick and dying; and

55
 56 **WHEREAS**, Historically, even in times of plague, pastors have brought Absolution,
 57 God’s Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be
 58 present at church and were near death; and

59
 60 **WHEREAS**, During the recent Covid pandemic and due to concerns of disease spread
 61 and lack of personal protection equipment, pastors and churches were threatened,
 62 fined, attacked and forbidden to visit those who are hospitalized and in long-term
 63 residential care facilities; and

64
 65 **WHEREAS**, We are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where
 66 the authorities contradict God’s Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts
 67 5:29); and

68
 69 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Convention of the LCMS encouraged in-person worship
 70 (Resolution 4-06) and affirmed in-person communion (Resolution 5-08A), but did not
 71 speak with clarity to the essential nature of the Church’s corporate life and care of the
 72 sick and infirm during times of plague and pandemic;

73
 74 Therefore, be it

75
 76 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that weekly
 77 in-person gathering is essential for the health and well-being of God’s people, and to
 78 be more legally active in protecting churches and pastors; and be it further

79
 80 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that where a
 81 man ordained to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry is present and available,
 82 congregations should continue the in-person administration of the Lord’s Supper, even
 83 during times of plague; and be it further

84
 85 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that
 86 congregations, using God’s gifts of science and reason, may take steps to lessen fear
 87 and risk, while not interfering with the administration of the Lord’s Supper as He
 88 instituted it; and be it further

89
 90 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District fall on the LCMS to affirm that the
 91 bringing of Word and Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-



92 being, and the pastor, as a physician of souls, should have the same visiting rights
93 and responsibilities as it is for the health care worker; and be it further
94

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

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

108 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to commend the
109 Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, for their advocacy on this and other such
110 concerns; and be it finally
111

112 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District memorialize the 2026 LCMS Synod
113 convention to take up this matter for consideration.
114

115 Respectfully submitted,
116

117 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lockport, Illinois
118

119 William Rohder, Jr., Acting President
120

121 Marlene Barmann, Recording Secretary
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**OVERTURE TO THE 61st CONVENTION
OF
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
MARCH 7-8, 2025**

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

OVERTURE: 1-09

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

79 Therefore, be it
 80

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

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

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



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

94

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

99

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

105

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

112

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

116

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

119

120 Respectfully submitted,

121

122 Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin Illinois



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



46 **WHEREAS**, The evil one, having been cast from heaven, is continually at war with
 47 God's people, and in times of plague, uses fear to pull them apart from each other and
 48 from the receipt of Christ's gifts (Luke 10:18; 29 Revelation 12:10, 17; LC V 26); and
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50 **WHEREAS**, When we gather together in person to receive God's gifts, we are able to
 51 withstand the attacks of the evil one (Ephesians 6:10-18; LC V 80-82); and
 52

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

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

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

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

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

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

82 Therefore, be it
 83

84 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that weekly
 85 in-person gathering is essential for the health and well-being of God's people, and to
 86 be more legally active in protecting churches and pastors; and be it further
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88 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that where a
 89 man ordained to the Office of the Holy/Public Ministry is present and available,
 90 congregations should continue the in-person administration of the Lord's Supper, even
 91 during times of plague; and be it further



92
 93 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District call on the LCMS to affirm that
 94 congregations, using God’s gifts of science and reason, may take steps to lessen fear
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 96 instituted it; and be it further

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

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

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

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

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

121
 122 Respectfully submitted,

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-11

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



47
48 Therefore, be it

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

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

56
57 Respectfully submitted,
58
59 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Elmhurst, Illinois
60 Kathleen Wilharm, Congregation President
61 Marcus Lindemulder, Congregation Secretary



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



47
48 Therefore, be it

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

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

56
57 Respectfully submitted,

58
59 Circuits N2 & N5



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-13

Subject: ESTABLISHING A NEW VOTING STRUCTURE INCLUDING ROSTERED WORKERS

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,

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



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

48

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

51

52 Respectfully submitted,

53

54 Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

55 President

56 Secretary



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-14

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,



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

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

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

58
59 Respectfully submitted,

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-15

Subject: RECOGNIZING ROSTERED WORKERS AS LAITY FOR VOTING PURPOSES

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,

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

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

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



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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-16

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,



47 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District request the CTCR
48 of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to prepare a study¹ on First Communion and
49 Confirmation that engages the following questions? –

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

60

61 Respectfully submitted,

62

63 Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL

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



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

To the 61st Convention of
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March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-17

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

97

98 Respectfully submitted,

99

100 Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

101 President

102 Secretary



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

89
 90 Therefore be it,

91



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

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

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

110 Respectfully submitted,
111

112 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

113 Mark Stern, Chairman

114 Max Paisker, Secretary



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

To the 61st Convention of
The Northern Illinois District
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March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 1-19

Subject: TO USE ONLY SUSTAINABLE BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

65
66 Therefore be it,

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

76
77 Respectfully submitted,

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

79
80 Respectfully submitted,

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-21

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

WHEREAS, June 27, 2027 is the 175th birthday of Franz Pieper; and

WHEREAS, May 4, 2026 is the 150th anniversary of the death of Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken; and

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,

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



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

48
49 Respectfully submitted,

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-22

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

61
62 Therefore be it,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

92



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



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-23

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,



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

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

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

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

61
62 Respectfully submitted,

63
64 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-24

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

50
51 Therefore be it,

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

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

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

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

70
71 Respectfully submitted,

72
73 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-25

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,



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

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

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

53

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

56

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

60

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

63

64 Respectfully submitted,

65

66 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 1-26

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

50
51 Therefore be it,

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

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

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

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

70
71 Respectfully submitted,

72
73 Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

74 Pastor

75 Lay Representative



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

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

11
12 OVERTURE: 2-01

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

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

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

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

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

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

32
33 Therefore be it,

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

37
38 Respectfully Submitted,

39
40 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL



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

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

11
12 OVERTURE: 2-02

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

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

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

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

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

29
30 Therefore be it,

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

34
35 Respectfully Submitted,

36
37 Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL



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

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

11
12 OVERTURE: 2-03

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

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

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

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

26
27 Therefore be it,

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

31
32 Respectfully Submitted,

33
34 Circuit W8



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

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

11
12 OVERTURE: 2-04

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

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

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

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

26
27 Therefore be it,

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

31
32 Respectfully Submitted,

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-05

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO REGULARLY REVIEW
CONGREGATIONAL GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-06

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

47
48 **WHEREAS,** Christians are to submit to proper governing authorities, per the Fourth
49 Commandment (Ex. 20:12, Deut. 5:16); and

50
51 **WHEREAS,** “[The congregation’s] relationship to the Synod is not merely that of
52 membership in an organization but [part of] a fellowship of Christians united by faith
53 in Jesus Christ” (*The Shepherd Under Christ*, Armin W. Schuetze & Irwin J. Habeck,
54 (NPH: 1974), 359), and Christians are “called to be saints together with all those who
55 in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:2);
56 Therefore be it,

57
58 **RESOLVED,** That pastors and congregations of the Northern Illinois District be
59 encouraged to annually submit accurate reports to the LCMS Office of Rosters and
60 Statistics through the LCMS Information Support Network for Congregations (LISN)
61 portal.

62
63 Respectfully Submitted,

64
65 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors
66 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair
67 Rev. David Totsky, secretary



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

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

11
12 OVERTURE: 2-07

13
14 Subject: WELLNESS OVERTURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39
40 Respectfully Submitted,

41
42 Circuit W8



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

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

11
12 OVERTURE: 2-08

13
14 Subject: TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR CHURCH WORKERS

15
16 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) faces growing shortages of
17 pastors and other church workers; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, the financial burdens of study for church work present a significant
20 barrier to prospective students; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, significant student debt presents a significant challenge to the wellness of
23 workers and their families and limits the ministries at which some can serve; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture in many places admonishes the faithful to care for pastors
26 and other ministers out of obedience to and love for the LORD; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District (NID) of the LCMS is a strong and financially
29 sound district;

30
31 Therefore be it,

32
33 **RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention direct the board of directors to support
34 church work students at no less than the per student average of all of the districts of
35 the LCMS utilizing whatever district funds they deem best suited for the purpose; and
36 be it finally

37
38 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the NID and their members be encouraged to
39 further support church work students according to their ability.

40
41 Respectfully Submitted,

42
43 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-09

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,



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

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

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

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

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

66 Respectfully Submitted,
67

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



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-10

Subject: TO SUPPORT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO GRADUATES PURSUING
SEMINARY STUDY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,



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

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

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

57
58 Respectfully Submitted,

59
60 Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-11

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-12

Subject: TO LOCALIZE AND CENTRALIZE DISTRICT WORK

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

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

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

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

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

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



47 (essentially, groupings of several visitation circuits), with a part time circuit visitor-
48 district president based at his own congregation (no office building to maintain) and
49 one part time administrative assistant, freeing pastors from administrative work and
50 meetings to serve local parishes; and

51
52 **WHEREAS**, "back office", and "support" operations could be provided by Synod with
53 greater efficiency, so, for example, Lutheran schools could be supported without
54 having to have 35 separate district education executives and their related salaries and
55 benefits; and

56 **WHEREAS**, instead of four costly annual Council of Presidents meetings with
57 associated meeting expenses, time commitment, and nationwide travel, the existing
58 Synod Regional Vice Presidents could fill the current COP role, at great cost savings to
59 the church;

60
61 Therefore be it,

62
63 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention submit an overture
64 requesting the 2026 Synod convention to approve a blue-ribbon process to study and,
65 after appropriate advance discussion and consultation, recommend to the 2029 Synod
66 Convention, for its consideration, a plan to localize district work through more
67 numerous but smaller and localized districts, and to centralize back office services
68 and support at the Synod level for greater efficiencies.

69
70 Respectfully Submitted,

71
72 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-13

Subject: TO MODERNIZE THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS PROCEDURES OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD THROUGH THE AMENDMENT OF
LCMS BYLAWS 3.12

WHEREAS, The present election process of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) provides for the online election of the Synod President prior to the national convention (LCMS Bylaw 3.12) and completion of this process two weeks prior to the national convention, and

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

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

WHEREAS, Technological advancement and modem communication networks make it possible to complete this process prior to the national convention,

Therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the Northern Illinois District (NID) memorialize the LCMS to amend LCMS Bylaw 3.12 to facilitate the election of the First Vice President, Regional Vice-Presidents, Synod Board of Directors, Mission Boards, and other elected offices prior to the national convention, and to this end be it further

RESOLVED, That the NID establish a committee to review the existing LCMS Bylaws and advise friendly amendments to the above memorialization to the LCMS, and be it finally



46 **RESOLVED**, That these proposed amendments be submitted to the LCMS for
47 consideration at the next national convention.

48

49 Respectfully Submitted,

50

51 Circuit W9



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-14

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
TO ENACT A SABBATICAL POLICY FOR PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS

PREAMBLE: While serving Jesus has always been difficult, the toll taken on professional church workers, especially during and following COVID has reached epidemic proportions. The LCMS and NID have put considerable thought, planning and prayer into ways to help combat this assault on those who lead the Lord’s work in the congregations of His Church. One such preventive tool in care for professional church workers is implementing a policy that encourages and supports sabbaticals in the parishes of the NID.

WHEREAS, According to Barna Research in 2022, pastors across all Christian denominations saw low levels of vocational satisfaction, fulfillment and high levels of burnout. 35% of pastors felt more confident about their calling than when they entered the ministry. 52% felt very satisfied with their vocation as a pastor and only 38% felt very satisfied with their ministry at their current church. These numbers have begun to see some improvement but are still at very concerning levels. District leadership report similar findings among NID clergy and other professional church workers.

WHEREAS, While each professional Church worker’s situation is unique, many report burnout from overwhelming expectations, workload, conflict and loneliness.

WHEREAS, Within a comprehensive worker care plan many congregations find a sabbatical policy to be key tool in combating burnout and drain on Church workers. While sabbaticals can take on various forms, the most successful allow for a time of “sabbath” (which translates in “rest” or “cessation of work.) The gift of time for the worker to reenergize so that they can more effectively serve the Lord and congregation typically has long lasting effects on the relationship between the worker and congregation resulting in healthier workers, congregations and tenure of service.

WHEREAS, A sabbatical allows a worker to rest from “the round the clock” duties and spend time recharging themselves in the way that uniquely suits their needs and



47 desires. They report returning stronger spiritually, physically and mentally, reigniting
48 their desire to serve the Lord, His Church and the particular flock they are entrusted
49 with. Not only is the worker empowered to serve more effectively, but the entire
50 congregation benefits from a reenergized worker to be Christ's presence in their
51 particular setting.

52
53 **WHEREAS**, Policies that allow the worker to shape their own sabbatical without
54 congregational expectations of continuing education, publication or "work produced"
55 result in the best outcomes. The message that a congregational investment in their
56 worker so that he/she may serve joyfully and fulfilled for years to come does much to
57 offset the struggles faced in these difficult times.

58
59 Therefore be it,

60
61 **RESOLVED**, All the congregations of the Northern Illinois district prayerfully consider
62 creating or continuing a policy that allows for professional church workers to take
63 sabbaticals during their years of active service.

64
65 **RESOLVED**, Be it further resolved that the district provide examples and guidance to
66 congregations seeking to create such a policy.

67
68 **RESOLVED**, And finally, be it resolved that this overture (resolution) and its
69 recommendations be highlighted in district publications and other means of
70 communication encouraging all NID congratulations to explore and where possible
71 implement and well thought out sabbatical policy.

72
73 Respectfully Submitted,

74
75 Circuit W8



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-15

Subject: TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTION OF UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES BY SLATE

WHEREAS, St. Paul writes, "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. (1 Corinthians 10:23); and

WHEREAS, King David says in Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"; and

WHEREAS, we are called to keep the 9th Commandment in all matters; and

WHEREAS, the convention has the authority to emend slates of candidates if it deems adding or removing one is appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the convention is required to elect candidates for all the positions it votes on; and

WHEREAS, voting against an unopposed candidate serves no purpose other than to make an anonymous and unexplained statement of opposition which is not in keeping with the love we should have for one another; and

WHEREAS, voting on each unopposed candidate uses time the convention could put to valuable use on other matters,

Therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the bylaws of The Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) be amended so that following the acceptance of the pertinent slate of nominations, all unopposed candidates be elected as a slate by acclamation; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this change be voted upon prior to any elections at this convention and take effect immediately.



47 Respectfully Submitted,
48
49 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-16

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE PROPER PASTORAL OVERSIGHT IN ADMINISTRATION OF
LORD'S SUPPER THROUGH VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, The Synod has consistently encouraged its pastors and congregations to exercise communion practices which are faithful to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, Pastors are called to be faithful in their stewardship of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1- 2; 2 Tim. 4:3-4) and need encouragement to carry out this important stewardship; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul admonishes the Corinthians against eating the Lord's Supper with divisions among them (1 Cor. 2 11:17- 18); and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has commended for study the 1999 report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Admission to the Lord's Supper: Basics of Biblical and Confessional Teaching (St. Louis: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 1999); and

WHEREAS, Concerns about communion practice still come before district and Synod conventions for resolution; and

WHEREAS, The practice of inviting all baptized believers who merely affirm the real presence, while neglecting to address the necessity of unity of confession, is not consistent with the biblical and confessional position of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod direct the district president to "supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members of his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision" (Bylaw 4.4.5); and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod make provision for official congregational visits by the respective district president or his representative; and



47
 48 **WHEREAS**, In the Bylaws of the Synod it states that the district president is to "seek
 49 to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's
 50 objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution" (Bylaw 4.4.4[b]); and

51
 52 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod states that the district president is to "[s]ee
 53 to it that all resolutions of the Synod which concern the districts are made known to
 54 the districts and are carried out by them." (Constitution Article XII 9 A; along with
 55 Bylaw 1.3.6); and

56
 57 **WHEREAS**, 111e Bylaws of the Synod state that "He shall conduct his official visits in
 58 an evangelical manner" (Bylaw 4.4.4[c]) and "come to the pastor and t11e congregation
 59 as a brotherly advisor" (Bylaw 4.4.4[d]); and

60
 61 **WHEREAS**, T11e 2013 convention passed Resolution 4-10, "To Encourage Proper
 62 Oversight in the Administration of Lord's Supper by Visitation from Ecclesiastical
 63 Supervisors";

64
 65 Therefore be it,

66
 67 **RESOLVED**, That during this next triennium the district president (or his
 68 representative) address each district congregation's administration of the Lord's
 69 Supper in his official visitations, spending time in the Word of God and studying the
 70 Synod's position on "closed communion"; and be it further

71
 72 **RESOLVED** That those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and
 73 the Lutheran Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of
 74 bringing about harmony and consistent practice especially as that applies to the Lord'
 75 s Supper; and be it further

76
 77 **RESOLVED** That the district president shall report in writing the progress of his
 78 visitation regarding proper communion practices to the district no less than 90 days
 79 before the 2028 district convention; and be it finally

80
 81 **RESOLVED** That the President of the Synod be exhorted to see that the district
 82 presidents apply themselves faithfully to this task in accord with his responsibility as
 83 detailed in Constitution Article XI B, especially paragraphs 2, 3, and 4; and that in
 84 accord with Const. Art. XII 9 A-B, each district president shall report the progress of
 85 this visitation regarding proper communion practices to the President of the Synod no
 86 less than 90 days before the 2029 convention so that the President of the Synod can
 87 report regarding this visitation resolution at that convention.

88
 89 Respectfully Submitted,

90
 91 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-17

Subject: TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE PASTOR'S WIFE

WHEREAS, The Synod has consistently encouraged its pastors and congregations to exercise communion practices which are faithful to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions; and

WHEREAS, Pastors are called to be faithful in their stewardship of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1- 2; 2 Tim. 4:3-4) and need encouragement to carry out this important stewardship; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul admonishes the Corinthians against eating the Lord's Supper with divisions among them (1 Cor. 2 11:17- 18); and

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention has commended for study the 1999 report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Admission to the Lord's Supper: Basics of Biblical and Confessional Teaching (St. Louis: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 1999); and

WHEREAS, Concerns about communion practice still come before district and Synod conventions for resolution; and

WHEREAS, The practice of inviting all baptized believers who merely affirm the real presence, while neglecting to address the necessity of unity of confession, is not consistent with the biblical and confessional position of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod direct the district president to "supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members of his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision" (Bylaw 4.4.5); and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod make provision for official congregational visits by the respective district president or his representative; and



47 **WHEREAS**, In the Bylaws of the Synod it states that the district president is to "seek
48 to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's
49 objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution" (Bylaw 4.4.4[b]); and
50

51 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod states that the district president is to "[s]ee
52 to it that all resolutions of the Synod which concern the districts are made known to
53 the districts and are carried out by them." (Constitution Article XII 9 A; along with
54 Bylaw 1.3.6); and
55

56 **WHEREAS**, 111e Bylaws of the Synod state that "He shall conduct his official visits in
57 an evangelical manner" (Bylaw 4.4.4[c]) and "come to the pastor and ttle congregation
58 as a brotherly advisor" (Bylaw 4.4.4[d]); and
59

60 **WHEREAS**, Ttle 2013 convention passed Resolution 4-10, "To Encourage Proper
61 Oversight in the Administration of Lord's Supper by Visitation from Ecclesiastical
62 Supervisors";
63

64 Therefore be it,
65

66 **RESOLVED**, That during this next triennium the district president (or his
67 representative) address each district congregation's administration of the Lord's
68 Supper in his official visitations, spending time in the Word of God and studying the
69 Synod's position on "closed communion"; and be it further
70

71 **RESOLVED** That those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and
72 the Lutheran Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of
73 bringing about harmony and consistent practice especially as that applies to the Lord'
74 s Supper; and be it further
75

76 **RESOLVED** That the district president shall report in writing the progress of his
77 visitation regarding proper communion practices to the district no less than 90 days
78 before the 2028 district convention; and be it finally
79

80 **RESOLVED** That the President of the Synod be exhorted to see that the district
81 presidents apply themselves faithfully to this task in accord with his responsibility as
82 detailed in Constitution Article XI B, especially paragraphs 2, 3, and 4; and that in
83 accord with Const. Art. XII 9 A-B, each district president shall report the progress of
84 this visitation regarding proper communion practices to the President of the Synod no
85 less than 90 days before the 2029 convention so that the President of the Synod can
86 report regarding this visitation resolution at that convention.
87

88 Respectfully Submitted,
89

90 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-18

Subject: ENCOURAGE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH THROUGH
THE VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS

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

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

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

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

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

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



47 Therefore be it

48

49 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District commend its district president in the
50 carrying out of such ecclesiastical supervisory visits to all of our congregations and
51 their pastors, and be it further

52

53 **RESOLVED** That we encourage our pastors and congregations to readily and joyfully
54 receive these ecclesial visits as they are intended for the building up of God's Holy
55 people for the carrying out of His mission and ministry, and be it finally,

56

57 **RESOLVED** That the district president shall include the progress of these visitations
58 in his report to the 2028 district convention.

59

60 Respectfully Submitted,

61

62 St. John's Lutheran Church, Union, Illinois



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-19

Subject: TO SUPPORT AND CLARIFY THE PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS

Rationale: Since the 2013 Convention, appointments to theological faculties at all universities and seminaries, as well as all college, university, and seminary presidential appointments, have been subject to the prior approval process. While the convention in 2013 amended the bylaws to delegate the responsibility for prior approval to specific groups (see bylaws referenced below) the bylaws did not, and still do not, stipulate how the process of prior approval should be carried out. Over time this has led to questions as to the standards used to evaluate candidates as well as the process utilized by the prior approval panels. In the hopes of building trust and relieving any undue criticism of the panels and the process, the following overture aims to increase transparency for the process and standards used by the panels as well as ensuring clear communication between the panels, the candidates, and the Synod.

WHEREAS, one of the expressed purposes of Synod is to "recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth" (Art. 15III.3); and

WHEREAS, Synod has the responsibility to oversee that training; and

WHEREAS, Synod has designated that responsibility to the prior approval panels outlined in 18 various bylaws (3.6.6.1, 3.10.5.7.3, 3.10.6.8.2, 3.10.6.9.2); and

WHEREAS, those panels have responsibility not only to work in behalf of the Synod but also are responsible to the Synod; and

WHEREAS, those under consideration for theological professorships and other such positions as require prior approval have ordinarily been ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry or have been commissioned and/or consecrated into an auxiliary office of the Church; and



46 **WHEREAS**, those under consideration for aforementioned positions have also been
47 examined and approved for service on the roster of The Lutheran Church-Missouri
48 Synod; and

49
50 **WHEREAS**, those individual members of Synod have, by virtue of their membership in
51 the Synod, agreed to the confessional basis as outlined in Art. II, as well as recognize
52 and affirm the validity of Bylaws 1.6-1.8;

53
54 Therefore be it

55
56 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri
57 Synod (NID LCMS) in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the
58 Synod and its agencies to preserve and enlarge the workers of the harvest; and be it
59 further

60
61 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention give thanks to those engaged in the various
62 prior approval processes for being engaged in difficult and important work; and be it
63 further

64
65 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do
66 the same; and be it further

67
68 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod to require that
69 process used by the various panel to carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the
70 Synod be made transparent and publicly available; and be it further

71
72 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod to stipulate that
73 unless those under consideration by the prior approval panels are found to be in
74 violation of their ordination, commissioning, consecration, or installation vows that
75 their approval be assumed; and be it further

76
77 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to
78 stipulate that if those under consideration are thought to be in violation, that the
79 candidate be given every opportunity to clarify their position to the panel; and be it
80 finally

81
82 **RESOLVED**, That the NID in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to
83 stipulate that is such a violation be found that the panel would, with the appropriate
84 District President as that individual's ecclesiastical supervisor, engage in the
85 appropriate processes to restore the erring brother or sister so that one deemed
86 unworthy to teach at one of the Synod's institutions not be permitted to remain on the
87 roster or serve a congregation and thus lead that congregation to err or become out of
88 step with Synod.

89
90 Respectfully Submitted,
91 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, IL



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

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

OVERTURE: 2-20

Subject: ENCOURAGE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH THROUGH
THE VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS

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

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

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

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

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

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



47 Therefore be it

48

49 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District commend its district president in the
50 carrying out of such ecclesiastical supervisory visits to all of our congregations and
51 their pastors, and be it further

52

53 **RESOLVED**, That we encourage our pastors and congregations to readily and joyfully
54 receive these ecclesial visits as they are intended for the building up of God's Holy
55 people for the carrying out of His mission and ministry, and be it finally,

56

57 **RESOLVED**, That the district president shall include the progress of these visitations
58 in his report to the 2028 district convention.

59

60 Respectfully Submitted,

61

62 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mount Prospect, IL

63 Chair of the Board of Directors

64 Chair of the Board of Elders



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-01

Subject: TO OFFER THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Many congregations and individual offer regular prayers and financial support for the Churchly work of the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod;

Therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in Convention offer thanks and praise to the Triune God for congregations and individuals who are able and “compelled by the Gospel of Christ”,(II Corinthians 5:14)



47 even in challenging times, to support the work of Christ through the Northern Illinois
48 District and The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod with financial offerings rejoicing
49 that God's redeemed people are, "Stronger Together: Co-Workers for the Kingdom of
50 God;" and be it further

51
52 **RESOLVED**, That The Northern Illinois District in convention express thanks to
53 congregations and individuals for financial offerings given to support the "Common
54 Profit" among us in the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran Church--Missouri
55 Synod to the Glory of God, the honor of His Name and that we are always striving
56 "vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches,
57 communities and the world" (LCMS Mission Statement); and be it finally
58 Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution, the assemble gathered sing stanzas 1,
59 2, 3, and 6 of "We Give Thee but Thine Own" [LSB 781]

60
61 Respectfully Submitted,

62
63 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors
64 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair
65 Rev. David Totsky, secretary



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-02

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT TO WORK TOGETHER IN MISSION AND MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Therefore be it,



47 **RESOLVED**, That The Northern Illinois District in convention commend
48 congregations, schools, and ministries to the task of purposefully building healthy
49 relationships with each other in Christian love; and be it further

50
51 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District encourage congregations, schools and
52 ministries to explore various ways that they might partner together to build one
53 another up in love and service, to lighten present burdens and carry out the mission of
54 Jesus among us; and be it finally

55
56 **RESOLVED**, That we entreat our congregations to continually lift up neighboring
57 LCMS ministries by name in our Prayers of the Church and to speak well of sister
58 congregations, schools and ministries to the glory of God, the honor of His name and
59 the salvation of all.

60
61 Respectfully Submitted,

62
63 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors
64 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair
65 Rev. David Totsky, secretary



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-03

Subject: TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD AND ENCOURAGE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Lutheran schools provide a tremendous blessing to their students and broader communities; and

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

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

Therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the district in convention commend all early childhood teachers, day school teachers, high school teachers, administrators, and all those who serve in our Lutheran schools and give thanks to God for their faithful service; and be it further



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

50
51 **RESOLVED**, That all congregations of the district congregations be encouraged in
52 their continued operation and support of our Lutheran schools; and be it further

53
54 **RESOLVED**, That all parents who are members of district congregations be
55 encouraged, where available, to enroll their children in our Lutheran schools; and be it
56 further

57
58 **RESOLVED**, That the pastors and congregations of our district view their schools as
59 the front line of the mission field; and be it further

60
61 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention give thanks to God for the growth of
62 Lutheran schools, including classical Lutheran schools, micro-schools, homeschools,
63 and all other emerging school models that provide instruction in Lutheran doctrine
64 and godly knowledge; and be it further

65
66 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the district be encouraged regularly to pray for
67 all schools, their teachers, administrators, staff, and boards, and the welfare of the
68 youth entrusted to their care; and be it finally

69
70 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention give thanks to God for His blessing and
71 work in the schools of our Synod by rising and singing “Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”
72 (Lutheran Service Book, 865).

73
74 Respectfully Submitted,

75
76 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL
77 Carl von Holten, Chairman
78 Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-04

Subject: TO REAFFIRM “WORD, WELLNESS, WITNESS” AS THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT’S MINISTRY FOCUS

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Northern Illinois District in its 60th Convention resolved that “Word, Wellness, Witness” would be our ministry focus for our work together; and

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

Therefore be it,

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

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



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

48
49 Respectfully Submitted,

50
51 The Northern Illinois District Board of Directors
52 Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, chair
53 Rev David Totsky, secretary



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-05

Subject: TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR 150 YEARS OF BLACK MINISTRY

WHEREAS, Christ our Lord says at the end of Matthew’s Gospel, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”; and

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

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

WHEREAS, 2027 marks the 150th anniversary of Black Ministry within The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) with its establishment at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, IN at the 1877 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America; and

WHEREAS, the history of black ministry within the LCMS is, as the Rev. Dr. Richard C. Dickinson aptly put it in the title of its centennial history, one of both rose and thorns; and

WHEREAS, much more could be said about both there roses and thorns than can be included in a resolution;

Therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois District (NID) of the LCMS rise and give thanks to God by singing Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (LSB 940); and be it further



46 **RESOLVED**, that the NID celebrate the roses of this work both within and outside of
 47 our district, especially the missionaries, teachers, churches, and schools involved in
 48 this work; and be it further

49

50 **RESOLVED**, that the NID lament the thorns wherein the district and the LCMS have
 51 failed to meet the biblical standards of love for one another; and be it further

52

53 **RESOLVED**, that the NID repeats and reaffirms the biblical condemnation of racism in
 54 all its forms; and be it further

55

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

61

62 **RESOLVED**, that able scholars within the LCMS be encouraged to provide an updated
 63 history of Black Ministry within the LCMS and build upon the centennial work of
 64 Richard C. Dickinson and the 50th anniversary publication of C. F. W. Drewes; and be
 65 it further

66

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

70

71 **RESOLVED**, that the district in convention memorialize the Synod to adopt this
 72 resolution *mutatis mutandis* at its 2026 convention.

73

74 Respectfully Submitted,

75

76 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL

77 Carl von Holten, Chairman

78 Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-06

Subject: CREATE A THIRD PATHWAY FOR GENERAL PASTORAL COLLOQUY FOR MEMBERS OF LCMS CONGREGATIONS WHO HAVE GRADUATED WITH AN ACCREDITED MASTERS OF DIVINITY DEGREE FROM A NON-LCMS SEMINARY

WHEREAS, God’s Word calls us to pray for additional workers in the harvest, “When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest;” (Matthew 9:36-37, ESV); and

WHEREAS, the reformers write in *The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope* that the local church is granted the right of ordination, “(Christ) grants the power of the keys principally and without mediation to the church, and for the same reason the church has primary possession of the right to call ministers;” (*The Book of Concord*, Kolb/Wengert, 334) and

WHEREAS, the reformers write in *Smalcald Article X* in response to the Romanists refusal to ordain that: “the Church ought not on their account to remain without ministers [to be forsaken by or deprived of ministers]” and that “we ourselves will and ought to ordain suitable persons to this office; and, even according to their own laws, they have not the right to forbid or prevent us.” (*The Book of Concord*, Kolb/Wengert, 324) and

WHEREAS, pastors of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are retiring in larger numbers than ever before and the number of men entering our seminaries is significantly less than what is needed to replace these faithful servants and expand further mission and ministry; and

WHEREAS, the congregations of the Northern Illinois District—LCMS give thanks to God and celebrate the various alternate routes to ordination and pastoral ministry available in the LCMS, such as Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP), there is a growing need for general ordination pastors who are able to receive divine calls from congregations without restriction, provide supervision for other rostered church



47 workers, supervise vicars, hold elected or appointed office on the district or national
 48 Synod level such as a Circuit Visitor, and vote as delegates at the Synodical
 49 conventions of the church; and

50

51 **WHEREAS**, practical observations of the U.S. Military shows that the combination of
 52 high quality residential, and high quality localized non-residential programs work
 53 synergistically to produce large quantities of excellent commissioned military leaders.
 54 And that graduates from both such programs are given commissions and
 55 opportunities to advance without restrictions or hierarchy of preference based on their
 56 program; and

57

58 **WHEREAS**, there are pathways by which pastors, from church bodies outside the
 59 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, who meet specific criteria may secure admission to
 60 the ministerium of the LCMS as general ordination pastors through Colloquy. This
 61 admission may be provided through a “colloquy” (discussion, interview) with the
 62 Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry; and

63

64 **WHEREAS**, The Policy Manual for Admission to the Pastoral Ministry of The Lutheran
 65 Church–Missouri Synod by Colloquy: Bylaws and Policies states that applicants for
 66 Colloquy must fit into one of two categories (the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral
 67 Ministry is responsible for the final determination of the category in each individual
 68 situation):

69 1. Active Pastors from Other Christian Church Bodies: Men who, at the time of
 70 application are in good standing and in active service as pastors in another
 71 Christian Church body/denomination may apply for colloquy.

72

73 2. Men who have prepared for pastoral ministry but, at the time of application,
 74 are not in active service as pastors: Such applicants must be graduates of a
 75 program of study that leads to ordination, from an accredited institution,
 76 with no fewer than 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of required
 77 academic credit. Applicants with prior pastoral service must provide the date
 78 (month and year) and the reason (e.g. retirement, resignation, dismissal)
 79 their active service ended. Such an applicant also must have been a
 80 communicant member in good standing in a congregation of The Lutheran
 81 Church–Missouri Synod for at least two years immediately prior to the time
 82 of application. This category does not apply to LCMS members who while
 83 members of LCMS congregations have obtained Master of Divinity degrees
 84 outside the LCMS; and

85

86 **WHEREAS**, Men who have been long-time members in good standing in a
 87 congregations of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, but are graduates of
 88 programs of study leading to ordination from an accredited institution outside The
 89 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (meeting all the necessary academic accreditation
 90 requirements), are not afforded the same opportunity to apply for Colloquy, but must
 91 enroll in the Residential Alternative Route Program (requiring a two year residential



92 academic program at one of our two seminaries and a one year vicarage) before
 93 becoming a general ordination pastor in the LCMS; and

94

95 **WHEREAS**, Churches in growing and diverse areas of our country, with vision to start
 96 multiple churches to reach their growing area in a short period of time (ex. five
 97 churches in five years) by developing leaders and eventually pastors from within their
 98 own congregation are deeply concerned that certification and ordination routes do not
 99 adequately meet their localized training needs; and

100

101 **WHEREAS**, the Residential Alternate Route program still requires future pastors
 102 serving their church to leave their individual contexts and congregations for at least
 103 two years to pursue a General Ordination certification, thus removing two years of
 104 leadership influence in their local congregation; and

105

106 **WHEREAS**, Rev. Dr. James Baneck, in his August 2021 article “Understanding the
 107 Church Worker Recruitment Initiative” wrote, “Yet, we are not driven by fear but hope.
 108 We raise up workers in the church not to sustain institutions but to serve the church;”
 109 therefore be it

110

111 **RESOLVED**, to create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy that provides the
 112 opportunity for members of LCMS congregations for 3 or more years who have
 113 graduated from programs of study leading to ordination from outside the seminaries of
 114 the LCMS (satisfying all the necessary academic requirements) to become general
 115 ordination pastors with an amendment to the Bylaws, Item 3.10.2.2. The current
 116 bylaw states that candidates must “seek certification for call and placement in the
 117 Synod by participating in the Residential Alternate Route program of one of the
 118 seminaries of the Synod, if otherwise eligible for admission to the seminary.” The
 119 proposed amendment would say, “LCMS laymen and commissioned ministers who
 120 receive a Master of Divinity or equivalent degree from a non-LCMS seminary may
 121 apply for colloquy provided they have received a recommendation from their respective
 122 district president.”

123

124 Respectfully Submitted,

125

126 NID Circuit N2 and N5

127 Rev. Karl Fay, N2 Circuit Visitor

128 Rev. Jerry Hays, N5 Circuit Visitor



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-07

Subject: TO GIVE THANKS FOR 90 YEARS OF LWML IN NID

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

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

WHEREAS, individual LWML societies provide tremendous other service within their congregations and communities; and

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

Therefore be it,

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL
Carl von Holten, Chairman
Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-08

Subject: TO *REAFFIRM KIRCHE UND AMR* AS OFFICIAL DOCTRINE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD AND REBUKE PASTORS WHO INTERFERE WITH THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A CONGREGATION WITHOUT A PROPER CALL

Preamble

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

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

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

Therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the NID memorialize the Synod in convention to reaffirm these beliefs, and be it further

RESOLVED, That ecclesial supervisors fraternally, yet strongly, rebuke any pastors interfering with the internal affairs of a congregation to which they are not properly called, and be it finally



47 **RESOLVED**, That if no repentance is made in a timely fashion, disciplinary action be
48 taken by the appropriate ecclesial authority, in accordance with existing disciplinary
49 procedures to preserve the unity of the church's witness and prevent schism.

50 Respectfully Submitted,

51

52 Circuit W-9 of the Northern Illinois District

53 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



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

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

OVERTURE: 3-09

Subject: TO ENCOURAGE MEETING AND FELLOWSHIP ACROSS CIRCUITS AND DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, it was deemed expedient for the sake of good order to divide the LCMS into districts and circuits, but these divisions do not reflect a division of the fellowship we have together; and

WHEREAS, these divisions sometimes separate churches and pastors which are close to one another and have good reason to communicate and work with one another; and

WHEREAS, Psalm 133:1 says, " Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity," Proverbs 27:17 says, " Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another," Paul says in Romans 14:19, "So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding," and the Apostles and leaders of the early church regularly met together to settle disputes and strengthen one another as shown in Acts and the Epistles; and

WHEREAS, the church suffers a loss when congregations and pastors do not interact with one another because of circuit and district divisions, particularly when they do not support and encourage one another in their mutual work for the kingdom of God;

Therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the pastors of circuits be encouraged to meet with the pastors of one or more neighboring circuits within or outside of our district at least once a year; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that general pastors conference committee be requested to pursue holding a joint pastors conference with one or more neighboring districts during each triennium.

Respectfully Submitted,



- 47 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL
- 48 Carl von Holten, Chairman
- 49 Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



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

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March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 3-10

Subject: TO AFFIRM BAPTISMAL IDENTITY IN CHRIST AND REJECT IDOLATRY OF HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS

WHEREAS, God's Word calls us to unity in Christ: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Is Christ divided?" (I Cor. 1:10, 13), and

WHEREAS, The World and Satan seek not unity, but division: by urging some to fall into sinful pride (Prov. 11:2) based upon the human attributes with which God has created us (Matt. 3:9), and by burdening the consciences of others with "sins" they have not committed and for which there can be no absolution; and

WHEREAS, the Synod has condemned (e.g., 2019 Res. 7-02) such harmful ideologies, which embrace the Marxist concepts of victim and oppressor by appealing to our sinful nature to lord it over one another (Mark 10:42); and

WHEREAS, The Church must reject false teachings that war against God's unchanging truth and His order of creation; that would make us our own gods and deny the fact of His creation of male and female (Gen. 1:27); that would assign merit or guilt based upon worldly demographic or socioeconomic characteristics; or that would define and measure the success or failure of our own churches and institutions based upon the superficial appearance of our brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS, The Church must faithfully proclaim the Word of God, which is living and active (Heb. 4:12), to all nations and trust the Lord of the Harvest to provide the increase, rather than go beyond what God says and into the realm of worldly sociological discourses (See Report of Drs. Canon A. MacKenzie, Ken Schurb, James W. Voelz, and Norman Nagel, 1995 Convention Workbook Appendix R3-01A, commended by the Synod by 1995 Resolution 2-05A);

Therefore be it,



47
 48 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District rejects as idolatry, and directs its
 49 institutions not to teach or advocate, any radical paradigm for human relationships
 50 and institutions that pits brothers and sisters against one another by encouraging
 51 them, based on their racial, sexual, socioeconomic, or other characteristics, to claim
 52 or seek status (contrary to Matt. 3:9; Gal. 3:28) in preference to or in derogation of
 53 other members of the Body of Christ, or any philosophy that promotes utopian
 54 "equity" as a foundation of secular works righteousness for absolution of supposed sins;
 55 and be it further

56
 57 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District affirms that God has created all the
 58 nations and all of our varied attributes, of which no one should be ashamed; rejoices
 59 in His good gifts of creation given to each of us; and calls upon all people to glory only
 60 in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:2-11) and their baptismal identity in Christ as redeemed
 61 children of God (Rev.7:9-17); and be it finally

62
 63 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District in convention submit this resolution as
 64 an overture to the Synod.

65
 66 Respectfully Submitted,

67
 68 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL
 69 Mark Stern, Chairman
 70 Max Paisker, Secretary



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

To the 61st Convention of
The Northern Illinois District
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March 7-8, 2025

OVERTURE: 3-11

Subject: TO PROTECT THE DIVINE CALLS OF MISSIONARIES

WHEREAS, one of the objectives of Synod is to extend the Gospel witness into all the world (Constitution, Article III.2); our Lord states: "behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35); and

WHEREAS, the sending and support of missionaries is therefore a vital objective of our Synod; and

WHEREAS, it is also an objective of Synod to provide protection for pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights (Constitution, Article III.9); and

WHEREAS, called pastors at local congregations are protected by the doctrine of the Divine Call, explained by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to mean that a pastor can be removed right fully from his call only for teaching false doctrine; offensive conduct (which may include, among other things, neglect of, or inability to perform, official duties) or scandalous life; (CTCR Report: "Theology and Practice of 'the Divine Call' ", February 2023, page 25); and

WHEREAS, the CTCR has also recognized in its Report that due process must be followed in removing a man from a call; additionally, pastors serving in certain capacities, for example as seminary professors, are granted express protection in the Synod bylaws against arbitrary removal from their calls without just cause (see Synod Bylaw 3.10.5.7.5); and

WHEREAS, missionaries serving the Synod, called by the Board for International Mission, are not granted express bylaw protection, nor do the current Board for International Mission Policies provide for due process for missionaries before the Board can terminate their calls and effectively end their mission service; and

WHEREAS, consistent with I Peter 2, Matthew 18, and other Scripture passages, the mission boards of the Synod should set a good example in their conduct and



47 treatment of their called missionaries, and institute a formal requirement for good
48 cause before terminating the call of any missionary, and ensuring due process,
49 fairness, and an opportunity to be heard before any such decision is implemented,
50 with appropriate right of appeal through the Synod' s dispute resolution process;

51
52 Therefore be it:

53
54 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in
55 convention to grant called missionaries serving the Board for International Mission
56 protection in their Divine Calls by revising the Synod Bylaws to require good cause
57 before terminating the call of any missionary, and ensuring due process, fairness, and
58 an opportunity to be heard before any such decision is implemented, with appropriate
59 right of appeal through the Synod's dispute resolution process; and be it finally

60
61 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in
62 convention to overturn any part of the CTCR Report: "Theology and Practice of 'the
63 Divine Call'", February 2023, that holds that the Divine Call of a missionary in service
64 to the Synod is of lesser tenure or protection than the call of a local parish pastor.

65
66 Respectfully Submitted,

67
68 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL
69 Mark Stern, Chairman
70 Max Paisker, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61st CONVENTION
OF
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
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To the 61st Convention of
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OVERTURE: 3-12

Subject: TO LET THE WORD, CONFESSIONS, AND LITURGY HAVE FREE COURSE

WHEREAS, in the Collect for the Church we pray that God's Word, *as becometh it*, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve God and in the confession of His name abide unto the end; and

WHEREAS, one of the objectives of Synod is to "Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;" (Constitution, Article III.6); and

WHEREAS, we subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions because they are a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and therefore are also useful and necessary for missions, evangelization, and teaching; and

WHEREAS, it is therefore appropriate to make Lutheran Confessional resources *as broadly available as possible* for the purpose of missions, evangelization, and teaching, and not for purposes of profit or financial gain; and

WHEREAS, it is frequently burdensome, for example, for mission organizations, small congregations, and others to purchase printed copies from CPH at U.S. market prices and then bear the additional costs of shipping these items around the country or the world to foreign mission fields, when it may be possible to provide such items abroad at much lower cost;

Therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in convention to direct Concordia Publishing House to make available to any member of Synod a royalty-free license to duplicate, translate, excerpt, and distribute any edition



46 of the Lutheran confessional writings controlled by CPH, or of The Lutheran Hymnal
47 and Lutheran Worship and their related liturgical resources, without charge,
48

49 Respectfully Submitted,

50

51 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

52 Mark Stern, Chairman

53 Max Paisker, Secretary



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

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

11
12 OVERTURE: 3-13

13
14 **Subject:** TO GIVE A CLEAR CONFESSION OF THE RESURRECTION IN OUR
15 FUNERAL PRACTICES

16
17 **WHEREAS**, in Luther's Small Catechism explanation of the First Article of the Creed,
18 we confess, "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me
19 my body..."; we are called to preserve our bodies as living sacrifices; and there is no
20 reason we would want to destroy willfully that which God has created in His image
21 and given to us; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, when Holy Scripture speaks of the burning of bodies by fire (a practice
24 that historically, and currently, is observed in pagan societies), it does so in a negative
25 context, including specific words of condemnation in Amos 2; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, by contrast, the burial of the bodies of God's people is described as
28 occurring with reverent care, as witnessed by Christ Himself whose body was anointed
29 for burial; and many other examples; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, neither cremation nor burial nor any other funeral practice has any
32 impact on the salvation of the deceased, nor does it impact the bodily resurrection we
33 confess in the Creed; nonetheless, the funeral service is the last rite given to each of
34 us as members of the Body of Christ until we are transformed at the Last Day, and is
35 a witness to the faith of the deceased; thus, we should strive in these as in all things
36 to give a clear confession of the teaching of Holy Scripture, rather than use Christian
37 liberty to minimize it; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, for these reasons the Church has opposed cremation of bodies; our
40 funeral rites speak of the committal of the body to the grave, and we are to consider
41 the coffin as a bed in which the dead in Christ sleep until they reawaken at Christ's
42 appearing; and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, at the present time some oppose the process of embalming for various
45 reasons; although spoken of without condemnation in Genesis 50:2 (Israel) and
46 Genesis 50:26 (Joseph), nonetheless embalming is not necessary for a funeral service



47 with the body present, which may be held with a closed casket, or promptly after
 48 death, without need for embalming, so that "embalming or cremation" is a false choice;
 49 and

50

51 **WHEREAS**, a funeral service with the body present is a vivid reminder of the wages of
 52 sin that we have all earned, yet simultaneously an opportunity for the proclamation of
 53 the Gospel and Christ's triumph over death and the grave in which the deceased
 54 shares through Holy Baptism; and

55

56 **WHEREAS**, in our modern culture that embraces youth and pleasure, and rejects the
 57 concepts of sin and death, we should also take every opportunity to use funeral
 58 services to proclaim Law and Gospel: our sin, and resulting death, that requires
 59 Christ's vicarious atonement; and the victory we have in Christ: never to engage in
 60 eulogies, sentimentality, and other practices that distract from the theology of the
 61 Cross; and

62

63 **WHEREAS**, the process of cremation requires the burning of the flesh and the
 64 physical crushing of bones to create "ashes" and although many treat the resulting
 65 remains in a dignified manner and do inter them, it is also the case that some engage
 66 in careless or even frivolous practices in the handling thereof, such as scattering to
 67 the heedless winds to achieve "oneness with nature," or at a favorite location of the
 68 deceased such as Disneyland, which is not the case with physical burials; and

69

70 **WHEREAS**, for all these reasons, the Synod ought to teach that the best practice
 71 regarding last rites is a physical burial of the body, because that gives the clearest
 72 confession of our faith regarding our body as a creation of God, our death as the
 73 wages of sin, and our sure and certain hope of our bodily resurrection through
 74 Christ's own death and resurrection;

75

76 Therefore be it,

77

78 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in
 79 convention to direct the CTCR, by July 1, 2027, to issue a final report affirming the
 80 burial of the body as the best practice for last rites, not as a burden of conscience but
 81 as a joyful confession of the eternal life and bodily resurrection won for us by Christ,
 82 while acknowledging God's mercy for those situations where such is not possible, e.g.,
 83 a plane crash or loss at sea, or the like; and that our seminaries and official
 84 publications teach likewise.

85

86 Respectfully Submitted,

87

88 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

89 Mark Stern, Chairman

90 Max Paisker, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 61st CONVENTION
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THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
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To the 61st Convention of
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OVERTURE: 3-14

Subject: TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT PRESIDENT JOHN WILLE

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. John C. Wille honorably served as president of the South Wisconsin District (SWD) of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) for 18 years including service on the Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis boards of regents and numerous other commissions, boards, and floor committees, and his district hosted the 2023 Synodical and LWML conventions; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul admonishes us in Romans 12 " Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor... Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." (vv. 10 and 15); and

WHEREAS, since the early church neighboring districts/dioceses have shown particular love for one another and assisted one another in their time of need;

Therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS give thanks to God for the life and service of President Wille by rising and singing " Now Thank We All Our God" (LSB 895); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the NID president convey the conventions gratitude for President Wille and his service to his family and the SWD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL
Carl von Holten, Chairman
Phillip Fischaber, Senior Pastor



1 **OVERTURE TO THE 61st CONVENTION**
2 **OF**
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4 **MARCH 7-8, 2025**

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

11
12 OVERTURE: 3-15

13
14 **Subject:** STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL AND MINISTERIAL SUPPORT FOR URBAN
15 MINISTRY THROUGH DISTRICT AND SUBURBAN PARTNERSHIPS

16
17 **RATIONALE:** This overture calls for a concerted effort within the Northern Illinois
18 District to create a framework of mutual support between suburban, rural, and urban
19 congregations, recognizing that a shared mission can bolster ministry in all contexts
20 and further the reach of the Gospel.

21
22 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord commands us to proclaim the Gospel to all nations (Matthew
23 28:19-20), and the mission of the Church is to make disciples of all people. Urban
24 areas are often diverse in culture, race, and socioeconomic status, providing both
25 unique opportunities and challenges for the proclamation of the Gospel; and

26
27 **WHEREAS,** Many urban congregations face financial constraints, including limited
28 resources for outreach, pastoral support, and property maintenance, while suburban
29 and rural congregations often have greater financial stability and untapped potential
30 to partner in mission; and

31
32 **WHEREAS,** Partnerships between suburban, rural, and urban congregations reflect
33 the biblical model of mutual support within the Body of Christ (Acts 11:29-30, 2
34 Corinthians 8:14-15), and can strengthen the collective mission and witness of the
35 Church; and

36
37 **WHEREAS,** The district plays a pivotal role in facilitating and coordinating mission
38 work within its jurisdiction and is uniquely positioned to foster collaboration between
39 suburban and urban congregations; and

40
41 **WHEREAS,** There is biblical precedent for stronger congregations supporting those in
42 need, as seen in 2 Corinthians 8:14, where Paul encouraged churches to give
43 generously to help others;

44
45 Therefore be it,
46



47 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District encourage her congregations to identify
48 urban ministry needs within their respective regions and work collaboratively with
49 suburban congregations to create partnerships; and be it further

50

51 **RESOLVED**, That the district provide opportunities for suburban congregations to
52 directly support urban ministry efforts financially, through regular offerings, special
53 collections, or designated mission funds; and be it further

54

55 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District and suburban congregations commit to
56 ongoing prayer, financial support, and personal involvement in urban mission
57 initiatives, including supporting outreach programs, mercy work, and church planting
58 efforts in urban settings; and be it further

59

60 **RESOLVED**, That urban congregations receiving support regularly report to their
61 district and partnering congregations the impact of such support, fostering
62 transparency, mutual accountability, and encouragement in the shared mission; and
63 be it further

64

65 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District put together a diverse task force that
66 includes Called Workers and urban laity to find the best ways of bridging the gap
67 between urban, rural and suburban churches; and be it further

68

69 **RESOLVED**, That the LCMS in convention give thanks for the opportunities to
70 proclaim Christ's love in urban areas and encourage all members of the LCMS to see
71 urban ministry as an essential part of the church's mission field; and be it finally

72

73 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of the LCMS share this Resolution to
74 the 2026 Synod in Convention.

75

76 Respectfully Submitted,

77

78 Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

79 Pastor

80 Lay Representative

