
REPORT 1: PRESIDENT OF LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA

Part 1

Statutory Bylaw 11.13 f. of the *2022 Handbook* of Lutheran Church--Canada requires the Synod President to “report on his activities to each meeting of the Board (of Directors) and to each Convention.” I shall endeavour to do that in these pages. In addition, I will provide a second part of my report during the convention in Winnipeg, which will be printed later in the *Convention Proceedings*.

‘Together One’ – Our Convention Theme

Our convention theme is taken from St. Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus: “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Eph. 4:4-6). This is a fitting theme in that it is the basis upon which our congregations, pastors, and deacons are joined together to, as the first two objectives of forming Lutheran Church—Canada state in our Synodical Constitution: “1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10) . . . and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17); and heresy. 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend the Gospel witness into all the world.”

Besides considering resolutions, receiving reports from various individuals and entities, and election of individuals to synodical offices, the BOD, commissions, and the like; the convention “shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information” (Synodical Bylaw 2.001). As such, various worship services and devotions will be held throughout the convention. In addition, two guest essayists will lead us in a study of God’s Word on our convention theme. This is indeed good, right and salutary since it is

only by and through the Word of God that we can be and remain ‘Together One’.

‘Together One’ – Campaign

‘Together One’ is, fittingly, also the theme of our campaign to fund our walking together in support of: 1) Word and Sacrament ministry in our congregations, many of which are being challenged by demographics, declining resources, and increased expenses; 2) the expansion of our domestic missions among various people groups in our nation and to new immigrants to Canada; and 3) the training and equipping of church workers and lay leaders to serve at a time and in a nation that has become antithetical to the Gospel. This campaign, as I have mentioned on numerous occasions, is not only vital and necessary on a practical level; but such is, in effect, based upon that which we see throughout the New Testament.

The apostle Paul, for example, writes these words to the church in Corinth: “Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper. . . . And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem” (1 Cor. 16:1-3). Or as St. Peter puts it: “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Pet. 4:10). We will hear more about this campaign during the convention.

‘Together One’ – Ecclesiastical Responsibilities

Our Synodical Constitution states the following concerning one of the duties of the President: “(to) use all means at his command to promote and maintain unity of doctrine and practice in all regions” (SC, Article 10.3).

One of these means was providing a regular column in our *Canadian Lutheran* periodical in which I addressed over these past four years topics such as the value statements that were highlighted at the Strategic Framework presentation at our previous convention and which informs and directs who we are and undergirds what we strive to do in our walk together as a synod – Truth, Grace, Unity, Vocation, Sanctity of Life, Trust, Relationships. In addition, I also addressed various topics related to stewardship, worship, our various callings or stations in life, the office of the holy ministry, and so forth.

Other means for promoting and maintaining unity of doctrine and practice included my attendance at various region, circuit, and congregation events across our synod; e.g., participating in the Sacred Convocations and Call Services at our two seminaries, leading a Bible study at the diaconal Sabbath Conference in Edmonton, attending the workshop in Montreal on the basics of Lutheran liturgy which marked the official launch of a new African edition of LCC's French hymnal, preaching at various anniversary celebrations in some of our congregations, attending conferences of church workers in each region where I often preached and presided at Divine Services and presented various topics. These are in addition to my attendance at numerous meetings of the BOD, PMC, various synodical commissions, the office staff, and other entities such as the Canadian Lutheran World Relief BOD, the International Lutheran Council BOD, the Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines BOD, and the Red River Circuit Pastors Conferences/Winkels; and to also preach, preside at Divine Services, and teach Bible Classes occasionally in local congregations here in the Winnipeg area.

'Together One' – Restructuring Revisited

In polling done throughout LCC which led to our restructuring in 2017, 'Providing Ecclesiastical Supervision' was considered to be of major importance. This was not something new but goes

back not only to 1988 when LCC was founded, or to 1848 and the formation of the Missouri Synod, or to 1528 and the visitation of pastors and churches in Saxony which became the catalyst for Luther's writing of the Small and Large Catechisms; but to the New Testament church itself. In an effort to be more proactive and intentional about the supervisory role of the synod so that we might be and remain 'Together One', forms for such visits of Regional Pastors and Circuit Counsellors to pastors and congregations were prepared by the PMC, along with an introductory devotion on the biblical and confessional basis for such visitations. The fact of the matter, however, is that such visitations have become few and far between due to the heavy workload carried by our Regional Pastors and the difficulty of our Circuit Counsellors to have the time for such visits because of their primary duties in their own congregations, coupled with the geographical distances in some of our circuits. As such, the PMC proposed to the BOD that an assistant to the Regional Pastor is needed so that this and other important and mandated tasks might be carried out; and to which the BOD concurred.

'Building Community and Caring for Members' were also mentioned as important reasons for our synod restructuring, along with developing a variety of communication resources. Such were also identified at the 'Priority, Purpose, and Planning' presentation at our 2022 convention. Our synod's website includes a variety of resources for pastors and congregations; such as, a treasurer's manual, a sample marriage policy, funeral policy, abuse policy, and policy for receiving bequests and special gifts. Bulletin communion announcements based in large part on the various seasons of the church year, as well as witness and outreach bulletin blurbs based on the appointed Scripture readings of the day, are also available. In addition, three documents produced by the PMC are posted on our website – 'Guidelines for Congregational and Pastoral Practice', 'Guidelines for Congregation Constitutions and Bylaws', and 'Lay Service

Guidelines’. And, finally, there is our most popular resource which is being used well beyond the borders of Canada – written sermons and prayers for each Sunday and festival day in the church year. All of these resources are provided so that we might indeed be ‘Together One’. I would, as such, encourage our pastors and congregations to make use of them.

‘Together One’ – Communications

In addition to the *Canadian Lutheran* bi-monthly magazine, the *InfoDigest* is LCC’s official weekly e-newsletter and contains the latest news and information from around our synod – announcements, upcoming events, calls, special prayers, and the like. These may be copied and pasted in congregation bulletins. At present time, however, a number of pastors and congregations are not receiving this weekly e-newsletter. While improving communications to our pastors and congregations is an ongoing concern and task, this is also a two-way street. I would, as such, again encourage all of our pastors, deacons, congregations, and even individual members of our congregations to sign up to receive the *InfoDigest*. A link is provided on the Home Page of our website to do so. More detailed information on this and other communication matters is provided by our Director of Communications, Dr. Tasheny Francis, in her convention report.

‘Together One’ – Church Relations

One of the duties of the Synod President is to “represent Lutheran Church-Canada at national and international meetings and gatherings of Lutherans and other multi-denominational gatherings” (Constitution, Article X 4.d). The Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) is tasked to assist the president in this and other matters pertaining to theology and church relations (Synodical Bylaw 2.077). In light of which, I appointed Rev. Joel Kuhl, chair of the CTCR, as my representative for dialogues between LCC, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA); and Rev. Michael Keith,

member of the CTCR, as my representative for dialogues between LCC, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). A report on these and other theological matters can be found in the CTCR report elsewhere in the *Convention Workbook*.

Currently, LCC has official partnership or altar and pulpit fellowship status with eleven church bodies: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB), Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ), Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE), Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany, The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF), The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS), Lutheran Church Synod of Nicaragua (ILSN), Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC), Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC), and The Lutheran Church in Norway and Iceland (LKNI). I will mention briefly items of interest and significance for LCC pertaining to some of them, as well as other church relations matters.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)

The relationship with our ‘mother Synod’ continues to be cordial and cooperative and an encouragement and joy. I meet periodically with President Matthew Harrison and other LCMS staff to discuss mutual matters of concern, mission opportunities, etc., and also attended their Synod Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2023. In addition, our Director of International Missions, Rev. Mark Smith, is in regular contact with some of the LCMS folks in their various missions departments to discuss cooperative work in such areas as Central America, Southeast Asia, and eastern Europe. Over the past quadrennium our President’s Ministry Council (PMC) met in Chicago with their Council of Presidents (COP) and had the opportunity to share mutual challenges and issues facing both of our churches at the present time; such as, declining membership, shortage of

pastors, etc. Synodical leaders from both churches have also met on a few occasions with pastors from our East Region and those from the English District of the LCMS who are serving in Ontario in ‘Koinonia Conferences.’ In addition, this past year we (President, Director of Domestic Missions, Director of Advancement), along with representatives from our Listed Service Organizations (LBTC, BC Mission Boat Society, and LAMP), met with individuals from the Missouri Synod concerning their assistance in our efforts to begin or increase mission work in some of our First Nations communities here in Canada.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB)

Similar to LCC, our partner church in Brazil was for many years a district of the Missouri Synod and became self-governing around 1980. We have been especially blessed over the years by our relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil with a number of Brazilian pastors who are currently serving in all three of our regions. This has come as a result of the 1994 ‘Partnership Agreement’ between our two churches in which it is stated that “To be in pulpit and altar fellowship implies that . . . Pastors who are in good standing in one church body may be called to serve in the other church body without theological colloquy.”

Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ)

Since 1994 when our two churches jointly signed ‘A Confessional Agreement’ our relationship with the LCANZ consisted of short and long-term pastoral exchanges, an exchange of visiting professors at our seminaries, representatives from both churches presenting topics at national conventions and other gatherings, joint meetings of church leaders and our two CTCR’s, and the calling of pastors from one church body by congregations in the other church. Over the past few years, however, this fraternal exchange of pastors, professors and the like diminished due in part to the internal ongoing debate in the LCANZ over the ordination of women to the pastoral office. Sadly, at their convention in October of

2024, at which I was in attendance, such was adopted. In my address to their convention delegates I thus stated: “While your decision to implement women’s ordination might bring an end to the constant discussion and debate here among you, such is likely to lead to some internal ruptures and a new set of tensions that will not be easily healed. Since LCC and the LCA are no longer in agreement on this matter pertaining to the office of the Holy Ministry, we in Lutheran Church–Canada will have no other option than to recognize that your action has severed the bond of fellowship between us. At the same time, we will do all in our power to support the faithful remnant here in the Lutheran Church of Australia.” Our CTCR has thus submitted an overture to our convention for this purpose. As a result of this action of the LCANZ, a few of their pastors have left Australia and are now serving congregations here in LCC. Our seminary in St. Catharines also includes a student from Australia. In addition, some pastors and members of congregations in the LCANZ have left that church over this issue and have established Lutheran Mission-Australia (LM-A). Our CTCR representatives met with them last fall and, as a result, have submitted an overture to our convention to recognize that a state of fellowship exists between LCC and LM-A.

Lutheran Church Synod of Nicaragua (ILSN)

(See the report from the Director of International Missions concerning our work in Nicaragua.)

Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC)

(See the report from the Director of International Missions concerning our work in Thailand.)

Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC)

(See the report from the Director of International Missions concerning our work in Cambodia.)

International Lutheran Council (ILC)

LCC also maintains relationships with other confessional Lutheran church bodies around the world through the International Lutheran Council. I am currently serving as ILC Vice-

Chairman, as well as being the area representative for North America. Past President Robert Bugbee also served on the Board of Directors as a member-at-large until May of 2025. Rev. Dr. David Somers was appointed in 2025 to serve on the newly established French-speaking committee of the ILC. In addition to participating in numerous virtual meetings of the BOD of the ILC over the past four years, I also attended the ILC's World Conference in September 2025 in Bohol, Philippines and preached at one of the daily services. Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger was the keynote speaker at the conference. Mathew Block who serves as the Communications Manager of the ILC, and our Director of International Missions, Rev. Mark Smith, were also in attendance. The conference of over a hundred representatives from various confessional Lutheran churches around the world – including for the first time individuals from our two sister churches in Thailand and Cambodia – gathered under the theme ‘Unity in Christ: Confession and Cooperation in a Fragmented World,’ inspired by 2 Corinthians 4:13; and echoing, as it were, the theme of our convention.

Lutheran Council in Canada (LCIC)

In previous years the LCIC met occasionally in Winnipeg to monitor a limited number of common areas where the major Lutheran bodies in Canada – ELCIC and LCC – work together . . . scouting, prison ministry, and chaplaincy in the Canadian Armed Forces. Since the first two areas are, for the most part, defunct, and church bodies are now able to have their own representative in the CAF chaplaincy program; the BOD's of both churches agreed to dissolve the LCIC. This is now in process with any legal and financial matters still to be dealt with. Dwayne Cleave, our CAO, is taking the lead on this matter.

‘Together One’ – Statistics in Brief

Summary of 2024 statistics:

Congregations 266
 Baptized Members 42,725
 Communicant Members 32,512
 Avg. Worship Attendance 42

Children Baptized 431
 Adults Baptized/Confirmed 498
 Pastors 367
 Deacons 49

I would take this opportunity to ask congregations and pastors to submit their statistical reports regularly and promptly. The statistics contained therein do assist us with some planning and financial functions; such as assessments of congregations for convention expenses and for expenditures related to church workers conferences, up-to-date information on congregations for inclusion in call documents, etc. Such statistics are also important for short and long-term planning in providing financial support for some of our congregations and domestic missions.

Closing Thoughts

I am grateful for the support and words of encouragement that I have received from so many throughout our Synod, for the opportunity to meet many of the faithful in congregations across our Synod; and especially for your prayers. I have treasured the collegiality and unity of the brothers on our President's Ministry Council (Regional Pastors Marvin Bublitz, David Haberstock, Rob Mohns, and Vice-president Michael Schutz) as we worked through many challenging issues. A special thanks to the office staff here in Winnipeg for all their hard work and dedicated service and who I have come to know and love as dear brothers and sisters in Christ. After serving in this office over these past eight years, and as I will have reached the age of 74 later this year; I have decided not to let my name stand for election to this office for another four-year term. What my continued service might entail and where I might

serve in a limited capacity is still up in the air as I write these words. As I come to the end of forty-six years of full-time service in our Lord's church, I am reminded of His words to the disciples: "When you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty'" (Lk. 17:10). Finally, I would again thank all the pastors and

people in our Lutheran Church—Canada family for your prayers and words of condolence upon the passing of my dear wife Paula back in March.

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Timothy Teuscher, President
Lutheran Church—Canada

REPORT 2: PRESIDENT'S MINISTRY COUNCIL (PMC)

The President's Ministry Council (PMC), formerly called the Council of Presidents, consists of the Synod President Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Vice-President Rev. Michael Schutz, and the three Regional Pastors: Rev. Robert Mohns (West Region), Rev. David Haberstock (Central Region), and Rev. Marvin Bublitz (East Region).

The PMC is tasked in part with "advising the president and giving him counsel, counseling with one another on matters regarding the doctrine and administration of LCC and its regions, edifying and supporting one another in the ministry they share, and serving as the Board of Assignments for the first calls to candidates for the pastoral and diaconal office" (Synodical Bylaw 2.301). Strictly speaking, it is not a decision-making body but works to support especially the work of the President and the Regional Pastors.

Members of the PMC also serve in other capacities, either *ex officio* or as assigned. Vice-President Schutz is the chair of the Colloquy Committees of the Synod. Central Regional Pastor Haberstock is the chair of the Pastors with Alternate Training (PAT) Committee. West Regional Pastor Mohns serves on the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. President Teuscher and East Regional Pastor Bublitz are members of the Board of Regents of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines.

The General Work of the PMC

The PMC has met in-person regularly in conjunction with in-person LCC Board meetings in March and October each year. It has met at other times in-person when it can be combined with other events and when it is prudent to do so. It has met annually with the joint Boards of our seminaries, which has been a great benefit to our Synodical family in various ways. In November of 2024, the PMC travelled to Chicago, IL at the invitation of the LCMS Council of Presidents to be a part of their meeting at Concordia University, Chicago. This was an excellent opportunity to connect with our sister church's leadership and strengthen relationships with the LCMS.

Perhaps the primary project of the PMC over the past quadrennium was to further develop the Pastors with Alternate Training (PAT) program, which is given to the PMC to oversee. While the program has existed since 2002, it has been less effective than initially envisioned. The 2017 convention directed the then-COP (now PMC) to expand and further develop the program so that congregations would be able to be served with Word and Sacrament ministry through this program when it was not feasible for them to be served by a pastor trained in one of our traditional programs. As a result of strong collaboration with the PAT Committee and our seminaries, the program has been greatly strengthened in this past quadrennium. More information about this is in the PAT committee report to the convention.

The PMC has also been closely connected to the strategic plan of LCC, working on a number of initiatives together with other groups and with Director of Advancement David Friesen. This work is ongoing and will continue into the next quadrennium, as God blesses it.

In all of the PMC's work, and especially in meeting together, it is important for the members to support one another in the work of providing ecclesiastical oversight, caring for Members, and much more. Providing this work to congregations and our pastors and deacons can be a difficult and thankless task. Please especially keep our Regional Pastors in your prayers as they fulfill their roles with great diligence.

Convention Business Assigned to the PMC

There were three specific items of business from the 2022 Synod Convention related to the work of the PMC, including one resolution from 2017.

RESOLUTION 17.2.07 (To Restate Expectations Regarding Continuing Education For All Church Workers): "that the Council of Presidents be asked to restate its expectations in the matter of the continuing education of pastors and other church workers and to give appropriate guidance and counsel to the congregations, pastors, deacons, and seminaries of Synod; and that the Council of Presidents present these expectations and recommendations to the next synodical convention for adoption and implementation."

The PMC reported in 2022 that it had not been able to address this matter. We have formally addressed this with an overture submitted to this convention, which is a result of many conversations and much deliberation over the past quadrennium. In particular, it is the result of conversations with the Boards of our seminaries as we desire to strengthen our partnership and work together not only in the matter of continuing education, but more broadly in "formation",

which includes not only professional/academic growth but growth of the whole person, in

particular through the diligent study of the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions. This "continuing formation" is one area of a more broad three-tiered approach to the lifelong formation of pastors and deacons: 1. early and ongoing formation through involvement in congregational life and catechesis, 2. formation during a seminary program towards pastoral ministry or as a deacon, and 3. continuing formation throughout one's life following placement into service in the church.

RESOLUTION 22.1.05 To Amend Synodical Bylaw 1.15 Constitutions of Congregations

This 2022 resolution directed that the Regional Pastors would be responsible for the initial review of and guidance on proposed changes to the constitutions of Member Congregations. While it is certainly true that it is good for Regional Pastors to be familiar with constitutions, it is beyond the scope of the office of Regional Pastor to be experts in the so-called "left hand kingdom" affairs of congregations. Our Regional Pastors have been diligent in this work to the best of their ability, seeking the expertise of others within LCC when needed for counsel and aid.

RESOLUTION 22.2.04b To Request the PMC to Provide Relevant Materials Pertaining to the Intersection between Biomedical Ethics, Technology and Theology

In March of 2022, the PMC decided that President Teuscher would ask the CTCR to address this matter.

There will certainly be changes coming to the PMC over the next quadrennium, with the retirements of President Teuscher and Regional Pastor Mohns. These men, and all members of the

PMC, have worked diligently and faithfully to lead and guide according to God's Word and the best of their ability. Our gracious Lord will continue to bless and keep them for the sake of Christ and His Church.

President's Ministry Council (PMC)
Rev. Timothy Teuscher, Chair
Rev. Michael Schutz, Secretary

REPORT 2.1 THE PASTORAL AND DIACONAL COLLOQUY COMMITTEES

The pastoral and the diaconal colloquy committees of Lutheran Church-Canada are entrusted with the task of evaluating the credentials, experience, and aptitude of professional church workers seeking to join our Ministerium as pastors or Diaconate (as teachers, DPSs or other full-time workers) from other church bodies, or in some limited circumstances defined in the LCC handbook, to move from the diaconate into the ministerium.

The word colloquy means "conversation", and that is the fundamental approach of our LCC process. Candidates are those who may be already ordained as pastors in other church bodies and/or have some significant life and church-work experience, and thus do not require a full residential program to be certified as a pastor or deacon in LCC.

In their oversight of the colloquy programs, the committees take seriously the responsibility delegated to them to ensure that those entering our Ministerium or Diaconate are in agreement with the Scriptural and Confessional stance of our Synod, and with the practices of our church. At the same time we do not want to unduly burden individuals who seek to join our fellowship. Those who are accepted and complete the program do so because they want to serve in a church body with which they have doctrinal agreement.

Changes made to the LCC handbook in 2017 meant there is less detail about the process in the handbook and more reliance on the committees. During this past quadrennium, the pastoral committee has worked to develop internal

processes and standards to ensure consistency and effectiveness. It outlined three areas of evaluation: coursework at one of our seminaries, proofs of competency, and supervised work. It also strengthened the connection with Regional Pastors, who are the ones tasked with the initial work in receiving, compiling, evaluating, and submitting applications, as well as with the President's Ministry Council, which not only assigns certified candidates but also can be an important part of the process while it is being completed.

The committees are active on an as-needed basis. The pastoral committee has been quite active due a number of applications being received, as detailed below. The diaconal committee has not met since there have been no diaconal applications received within the last quadrennium. The pastoral committee has met 13 times this quadrennium as of the writing of this report. All of these meetings have been conducted via video conferencing or in-person when the members are already together for other purposes, and so there have been no direct costs incurred for this committee to do its work.

The LCC handbook specifies that the LCC Vice-President chairs both committees and that the presidents of both the Edmonton and St. Catharines seminaries are members of both. In addition, the LCC President appoints one deacon to serve on the diaconal committee. Dr. Jennifer Frim has been that appointee during this quadrennium.

As chair, I wish to offer special thanks to the two seminaries for their work this quadrennium. CLS

in Edmonton was in an interim presidential situation for much of the quadrennium. Dr. Joel Heck served on the committees during his time as Interim President of CLS. Rev. James Fritsche served for a short time between Dr. Heck's departure and the arrival of new CLS President Rev. Jonathan Kraemer in September 2025. CLTS President Dr. Thomas Winger served for most of the quadrennium save for some time on sabbatical in 2025, during which time Dr. James Kellerman served. Many thanks go to all who served so willingly and ably, and to the seminaries as a whole for their work in teaching and forming not only students in the regular programs but also colloquy as well.

The following individuals have completed the pastoral colloquy process since our last convention. They are Certified Candidates who have been commended to the President's Ministry Council, acting as the Board of Assignments, for

placement into a congregation upon receipt of a call.

- Rev. Ephraim Gemta (2023)
- Rev. Magarsa Danu (2024)
- Rev. Malkaa Gemechu (2024)
- Rev. Noel Richards Barre (2025)
- Rev. Ben Wyatt (2025)
- Rev. Connor Longaphie (2025)
- Rev. Lemi Eba (2025)
- Rev. Jean-Luc Damas (2025)

Pastoral colloquy is in process for Rev. Rev. Bart Eriksson and Rev. Bjorn Meinhardt.

In addition, two individuals applied for pastoral colloquy over the past quadrennium but withdrew their applications before completing the process.

Rev. Michael Schutz
Vice President, LCC
Chairman, Pastoral and Diaconal Colloquy
Committee

REPORT 2.2: PASTORS WITH ALTERNATE TRAINING (PAT) PROGRAM

Approved by LCC at the 2002 convention, the "Pastors with Alternate Training" (PAT) program is a way in which pastors are trained to serve congregations of a different culture, language, or which are geographically remote. The PMC is responsible for the program and provides oversight through Rev. David Haberstock and administration through the tireless work of Dr. Thomas Winger, and newly appointed PAT coordinator Rev. Kevin Walrath. They are aided by members of the PAT Committee: Chair Rev. David Haberstock, PAT Coordinator Rev. Kevin Walrath, CLS Representative Rev. Dr. Alex Vieira, and CLTS representative Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger.

Since the 2022 Synodical Convention report, one student has graduated from the PAT program and was placed by the PMC: Joseph Nhial. Since 2002 seven pastors have been ordained through the PAT program. Six for linguistic groups, and one for a remote parish.

There is currently 1 approved student in the program who started before 2025 from a linguistic group. A cohort of 8 students started in 2025 under the newly reconfigured PAT program, mostly from geographically remote situations.

The PMC has been discussing how to meet the needs of geographically remote congregations that have been without a called pastor for many years. These discussions have considered many pathways, but led the PMC to engage with the seminaries and with the PAT committee over the last quadrennium. In order to address the pressing need, we needed to understand why the program has only produced 7 pastors over the last 23 years. Effectively, the program ended up being the primary responsibility of a local pastor mentor who ended up doing most of the teaching and mentorship of a PAT student into the Office of Holy Ministry. This has proved beyond the

capacity of most mentors who also served as fulltime parish pastors.

Together we have worked through those challenges. We asked Rev. Kevin Walrath to serve as Coordinator. From now on we will seek to recruit cohorts of students to go through together. This will enable the PAT coordinator to schedule seminary professors, and capable pastors who have taught in our mission fields, to deliver the 3 to 5 courses a year to the cohorts. This will happen primarily through distance means, though in person intensives are hoped for. We hope to keep the training time for the program to around 4 years.

As stated earlier, the PAT program is intended for “linguistically remote” and geographically remote congregations who do not have the ability to partner with other nearby congregations to fill the office of ministry in their midst. It is not intended for congregations that could easily partner with other nearby congregations. Before your congregation explores PAT you should consult with your Regional Pastor and exhaust all other options of partnering with nearby churches to support and call a pastor.

For instance, in many of our rural circuits there are several congregations that can no longer

afford a FT pastor, even working together with multiple points. These may be candidates for a PAT trained pastor. There are also contexts in which there are no sufficiently close congregations to partner with these are what PAT is designed for. In such contexts we envision a fully seminary trained pastor overseeing ministry in the circuit or area, and working with one or several PAT trained pastors who are likely to be retired men, or men still working to support their family, and thus unlikely to serve more than part-time as a pastor. Through these partnerships we hope to maintain a high standard of theological education for our PAT trained pastors and parishes, and a high standard of doctrine, preaching, and pastoral care for our people even in these geographically remote areas.

This dovetails with a secondary discussion within the PMC and the broader church both for PAT and regularly seminary trained pastors of creating ongoing education and enrichment plans and expectations (professional development). But that is a project for the upcoming quadrennium.

Submitted by
Rev. David Haberstock
PAT Committee chair, and PMC Liaison

REPORT 3: CENTRAL REGION PASTORS REPORT

A – Analysis (as of February 28, 2026)

of congregations: 75
of dual or multipoint parishes: 10 parishes, 25 congregations
of congregations vacant & calling: 5
of congregations vacant & non-calling: 16
of pastors serving congregations: 37
of pastors-emeritus: 21
of pastors serving in other positions: 5 (1 missionary, 4 LCC staff)
of pastor candidates: 2
of deacons actively serving: 2 (1 LCC staff)
of retired deacons: 1
of deacon candidates: 1

Summary: We are smaller than we were. Are we being weaned and winnowed as Gideon’s army was (Judges 7), until only those who knelt down and slurped like a dog were left? What is the Lord doing in our midst? Is this simply natural attrition or what mighty work is He bringing about in the midst of this for the salvation of His people?

C – Challenges

1. The twin forces of “**Rural Decline**” (since the 1960s) & “**Attrition**” (the aging and death of the Silent and Boomer generations) are hitting hard.

- this has resulted in the closure of 9 congregations during my two terms: 6 rural, 3 urban (Saskatoon, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg) and two of those urban churches were the mother church of their cities (Thunder Bay, Winnipeg)
 - rural congregations and circuits had at least one round of amalgamation in recent decades, and may be facing another round at the moment, or further closures
 - this places stress on pastors who may serve fewer people, but they are scattered over greater distances in multiple communities
 - this places stress on congregations financially and on volunteer resources, especially for governance and maintenance of property
 - Also, rural congregations depopulate as their younger members move to cities for education and careers—though some rural areas are seeing some return at the moment
- 2. Distances**, especially in rural circuits, or the rural parts of circuits
- Central Region is spread out over Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northwest Ontario
 - it is about 20 hrs driving East to West, and about 8 hrs driving north to south, with about half of the congregations within a 3 hr drive of Regina
 - this makes partnering with other churches more challenging, but general resistance to cooperation and change is also harming congregations receiving God's Word & Sacraments
- 3. Pastoral Shortage**
- with the retirement of Baby Boomer pastors and not enough younger pastors being formed (due to those generations being smaller than the Boomers, more secular, and many new comers are not Christian or Lutheran) those shortages mean there are not enough new, young pastors to send to rural spots that historically have been hard to fill except with graduates

- This is necessitating training pastors through the PAT stream

4. Government Policy

- in Central Region in general, but especially in rural circuits, as one CC said: “disastrous Federal government policies have hit agriculture, oil & mining sectors hard. These are the primary livelihoods in our circuit. Parishioners are feeling the strain, which means parish budgets are also impacted, and communities as a whole.”

5. These challenges also present a faith challenge

- as congregations see decline they are challenged with stress, grief, and their trust in the Lord that He is still Lord of His Church and has not abandoned her, despite it not looking like the Boom years they remember

Summary: These challenges bring us almost full circle to the founding era of Central Region when pastors covered vast areas, had huge challenges, and burnt out easily, but were given much missionary zeal; when lay leaders with hymnals, catechisms, and sermon books maintained the devotional life of their faith communities between the times when pastors could come, and when through many prayers and trials (1 Peter 1:6-7) the Lord provided for His Church and strengthened her to meet the challenges of the moment. These are not easy times, but the Lord will see us through if we acknowledge these times and challenges honestly and respond in faith. All such times exist to temper us (James 1:2-4; Malachi 3:3), train us in righteousness (Romans 5:3-5), and make our hands skillful for the task ahead (Ps. 18:34; 144:1).

T – Thanksgiving

- 1. Many rural circuits have gone through extreme vacancies, but are now topped up**
- at one point Northlands had 7 vacant congregations, Assiniboine had 6
 - Northwest Ontario currently has 7 vacancies and could use at least 2 more FT pastors, but also needs to reorganize their parish

alignments and pray about training a few PAT pastors

2. Around Regina and Winnipeg we are **blessed with missionaries, emeriti, and LCC staff pastors** who help cover vacancies in the surrounding areas
3. **Super-circuit events**
 - The 3 southern Saskatchewan circuits hold a joint winkle twice a year, and Qu'appelle pastors often join the Wascana winks
 - Portage pastors have been meeting with the Red River Winkel, and the two circuits have agreed to combine (due to decline and closures in Portage Circuit)
 - Northlands & Saskatoon circuits have often met together (especially when Northlands was largely vacant)
4. **Foreign labour force**
 - We are blessed to have received 3 pastors from Brazil (between 2016-2022) and 4 from Australia (between 2021-2026)
 - This has provided new energy and perspective to parishes and circuits
5. **Slow trickle of new people in parishes**
 - some from intentional mission and evangelism, many from the sheer grace of God causing new comers to Canada to show up, or young men (in particular) who either come on their own, often having read Lutheran materials (such as the Book of Concord) online, or if young enough they drag their family's along on their spiritual searchings

Summary: We are in a moment where decline due to attrition is fast and furious, where financial and personnel resources are stretched (pray for workers in the harvest! Matt. 9:38). But there is a bright future and trends our Lord is working which we, with our doctrine and practice, are well positioned to align ourselves with and catch the masses He is bringing to His Church. As this attrition hits, we must not despair, but see our Lord's hand at work. The faithfulness and financial resources of the passing generation will be needed to bridge our congregations to the time

in the near future when our congregations will be smaller, but vastly younger. When young families and members will turn to the Church as their source of healing and hope. For the Lord is, at this moment, causing faithlessness to pass away in the world, and zeal and faithfulness to take its place. As this slow trickle of younger generations turns into a torrent the challenge (and joy) is that these new believers often need much time and discipleship as they have not been raised or trained in the faith. But this is a blessing to our pastors and parishes as they are forced to relearn the lost art of evangelism, catechesis, and soul care, and how each go hand in hand.

S – Sundry (Other)

Unique things in each Circuit:

- Northlands Circuit has an annual Family Retreat which has been wonderful
- Red River has 3 circuit forums a year and an annual evangelism workshop, as well as Annual circuit wide Reformation and Ascension services
- Southland: Emmanuel, Moose Jaw exploring calling Rev. Dan Barr (Cand.) as an Assistant Pastor to visit shut-ins and seniors
- Wascana: Aiming to foster trust and relationships among the leadership of all our congregations. Will be holding a second annual leadership meeting where will attempt to carry out circuit wide mission project.
- Assiniboine CC has served for 17 years, will gladly stand down or continue, according to conventions' will.

Summary: After the halcyon days of hyper-individualism we are learning to work together again. We are learning to be David's mighty men (2 Samuel 28) who knew the blessings of steadfast faith, and faithful brotherhood, where 5 chase 100 and 100 chase 10,000 (Leviticus 26:8). We are facing a calamity, not unlike the Flood, The Church (the ark of faith) must batten down the hatches and prepare for the torrential tide which is coming. But we face the storm in order to go forth and populate the new world our Lord has given us; to cross over Jordan and take the

promised land, led by our Joshua. Together One, we must go forth in the name of Jesus so that many may be saved, and our Lord's name exalted.

REPORT 4: EAST REGION PASTOR REPORT

A – Analysis (as of February 28, 2026)

of congregations: 80
 # of dual or multipoint parishes: 13
 # of congregations vacant & calling: 2
 # of congregations vacant & non-calling: 14
 # of pastors serving congregations: 58
 # of pastor emeritus: 48
 # of pastors serving in other positions: 16
 # of pastor candidates: 3
 # of deacons actively serving: 5
 # of retired deacons: 5
 # of deacon candidates: 6

Almighty God has revealed to us in I Corinthians 12: ¹² *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ..... God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose.* ¹⁹ *If all were a single member, where would the body be?* ²⁰ *As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.....* ²⁶ *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.* ²⁷ *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

And He tells us in Philippians 2 *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,* ² *complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.* ³ *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.* ⁴ *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* ⁵ *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...*

It is with the intention of working together as one body for the good of others that we reflect on our life together over the past quadrennium and look toward the future.

C – Challenges

As we look at the challenges in our Circuits, we see some recurring themes. There is the ever-constant shortage of resources of Pastors, lay leaders, people in the pews, and finances. This means that those who serve as pastors, deacons, and lay leaders are finding more and more is expected of fewer and fewer people. This can often lead to burnout, resentment, and a feeling of hopelessness.

People have a great attachment to their particular house of worship, her location, and the specific group that gathers there. While that can be healthy, it also makes for serious tension and anxiety as resources shrink and congregations are realizing the need to realign or merge together.

The cost of providing adequate housing to the pastor at the same time financial resources shrink is making it difficult, if not impossible, for some congregations to afford.

While there are opportunities for outreach to new immigrants and language groups, resources are needed to carry this out.

The Church, as it always has, struggles with members facing the pull of societal pressures and influence. In our day the message of the gospel is not just ignored, it is actively fought against.

These are just a glimpse of the challenges facing the people of God at this time. But the

overarching challenge is that satan tries to get us to focus on ourselves and our efforts to make the Church succeed and grow. Thus, we lose focus on the cross and Christ Who is the Lord of the Church and provides all the resources needed. He has promised to shepherd His people feeding and sustaining us through Word and Sacraments. He Who died for His Church strengthens and sustains her through all trials.

T – Thanksgiving

That is our greatest reason for thanksgiving. Christ died for us and saves us. He will sustain us here and take us there to our Father’s mansion.

Christ has equipped His people and moved them in many places to share the resources He has bestowed. In some circuits, congregations share the workload. Sometimes they join and have one treasurer serve multiple congregations. There are discussions of shared secretaries. Events that each congregation historically did on their own are now becoming a circuit event. This brings the body together in wonderful ways.

The challenges we are facing have moved us to look to the interests of others. The people of God are looking outside themselves and their individual congregations to the needs of the

whole circuit, the whole region and the whole synod.

We have great reason to be thankful for faithful pastors who constantly bring the divine gifts of heaven through Word and Sacrament to the people of God.

In many places the Lord of the Church is bringing young people into our midst who have already read the confessions and are seeking a faithful church body. They are not looking for the fluff so many denominations offer. They want solid food rooted in Holy Scripture. Thankfully, the Lord has placed and equipped us to provide such food for the soul.

S – Sundry (Other)

When the current times and challenges are considered, some could be led to despair. Some might hang their heads in hopelessness and guilt at what is not being accomplished. But not so us. We, as the Lord’s chosen people, lift our heads looking to heaven from whence all help comes. There is nothing in this world that can stand against our Lord. It is His Church. We are His people. He sustains us and strengthens us to live as together as His one body. Rejoice dear friends for *Now you are the body of Christ.*

REPORT 5: WEST REGION PASTOR REPORT

A – Analysis (as of February 28, 2026)

of congregations: 109
 # of dual or multipoint parishes: 12
 # of congregations vacant & calling: 14
 # of congregations vacant & non-calling: 15
 # of congregations (vacant or filled) PAT site: 4
 # of pastors serving congregations: 76
 # of pastor emeritus: 78
 # of pastors serving in other positions: 12
 # of pastor candidates: 3
 # of deacons actively serving: 15
 # of retired deacons: 8

of deacon candidates: 2

Introduction: A Time for Every Purpose

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven, the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us (Ecc 3:1). He continues with a reflective order: “A time to be born and a time to die...” In his summary, the Wisdom writer states, “I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink

and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God’s gift to man.

I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.”

The words of the wisdom writer are reflected in the life of the faithful congregations and workers of Lutheran Church Canada. In this season of great transition God’s people keep toiling away. Their confidence is not in their own toil but in the work of God who brings together what has been driven apart. To that end this past quadrennium has resulted in great praise to God for the additions of new members and workers for God’s kingdom, also in celebrations of anniversaries that recognize the faithfulness of God to sustain His congregations and workers including pastors, deacons and lay leaders. And yes, even through tear filled eyes, God’s people rejoice in thanksgiving to Him for calling to glory many of our brothers and sisters.

A Season of Transition

Over the past four years, significant transitions have shaped the world, the Christian church, and our Synod.

Traditional methods of congregational growth have been challenged by declining marriage rates, lower birth rates, and decreased retention of Christian youth due to shifting societal pressures to conform to world views in conflict with their Christian faith. Political, social, and economic polarization and frequent natural disasters have further impacted communities, including those where our members live.

Canada, particularly the western region, has seen notable growth in newcomer populations. Newcomer populations have included groups of Christians some of which have strong ties to Lutheranism. Other newcomers have expressed

interest in the Christian faith and a curiosity to know more about Christ.

Despite increased obstacles to Christian witness from both external and internal sources, congregations remain committed to faith, worship, service, and developing new strategies to meet these challenges.

Transitions in the West Region During the Last Quadrennium Challenges

A considerable number of lay leaders, pastors, and deacons—including founders and leaders of Lutheran Church Canada—have been called to glory in recent years.

Opportunities

At the start of the quadrennium, congregations faced challenges from pandemic transitions, making it difficult for pastors and lay leaders. However, the development of online resources expanded Lutheran outreach and connected isolated members.

The pandemic caused leadership burnout, early retirements, and departures. Congregations and Circuits now see a greater need for leader wellbeing, development, elder training, strategic planning, and biblical education to strengthen their communities and outreach efforts.

Strengthening Congregations

Responding to the need to improve the health of congregations caused by internal conflict, in 2025, the West Region through its RMMC facilitated Ambassadors of Reconciliation training to equip interested lay people, and pastors. The desired outcome is to have reconciler teams for each Circuit. The West Region, through its Regional Mission and Ministry Council have supported youth and young adult ministry events. In the last quadrennium congregations, Circuits, pastors, and lay leaders have shared resources and learning through convocations. Some of these convocations have been recorded for broader access. Lay people and workers are making use of our seminaries’ continuing education

programs, some of which are now offer through on-line digital platforms. In the next Quadrennium, through the Together One work program, congregations will have the opportunity to have greater support for family and youth ministry.

Renewal in Word and Sacrament Ministry

Over the past four years, some congregations have renewed their focus on Word and Sacrament ministry, strengthening worship life and spiritual foundations. Synod leaders, seminaries, pastors, and congregations are collaborating to provide support through downloadable worship resources and training for congregations lacking regular pastoral leadership. Technology, including livestream services, has enabled vacant and isolated congregations, as well as homebound members, to participate in the life of their congregations. This support has occasionally reached beyond Canada, extending resources and ministry to wider communities.

Addressing Worker Shortages and Training Initiatives

To address worker shortages in the West, Synod leaders, seminaries, pastors, deacons, and congregations have collaborated. Some smaller or culturally distinct congregations now serve as Pastor with Alternate Training (PAT) Sites. Seven men from isolated or cultural communities are currently enrolled, with more applicants pending. The West Region's colloquy program is also growing quickly. Pastors from other denominations, attracted to LCC's scriptural fidelity, have completed colloquy and now serve congregations or act as missionaries at large; several more candidates are applying.

Additionally, two deacon candidates from separate West Region congregations are training at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton.

Economic Challenges and Congregational Partnerships

Housing costs in Canada have exceeded many congregations' ability to support pastors,

especially in the West Region. Synodical leaders and nearby congregations have assisted these transitions, often resulting in shared pastoral resources and more joint parishes. Several congregations have disbanded, with more likely to do so in the next quadrennium.

Looking Forward: Continuing the Work

Despite collective efforts to provide pastors and workers to congregations in the West Region, a significant gap remains. Members of Lutheran Church Canada continue to pray and trust that the Lord of the harvest will provide workers for the ripening fields.

In the West Region, because of the large wave of immigration, we currently have more requests for help from Christian communities from diverse cultural backgrounds than we have resources to accommodate them. In the last Quadrennium Lutherans from the African nations, including Sudan, Nigeria Ethiopia Eritrea have settled in our communities in large numbers. In addition, the inflow of peoples from China, and Asia who have sought to know Christ has continued at a steady pace. Some of our congregations are hosting one or more Christian communities. Together One, the Synod through its mission executives, RMMC, Circuits and congregations are providing catechesis and worship resources to members of the communities and supports to help them form Lutheran Church Canada congregations.

Responding to Cultural Diversity and Immigration in the West Region

The West Region has experienced a significant increase in requests for assistance from Christian communities with diverse cultural backgrounds, primarily due to a large wave of immigration. Over the past quadrennium, many Lutherans from African nations such as Sudan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Eritrea have settled in these communities in substantial numbers. Alongside this, there has been a consistent influx of individuals from China and other parts of Asia,

who are seeking opportunities to know Christ and participate in Christian fellowship.

Several congregations in the West Region have responded by hosting one or more Christian communities within their churches. In collaboration with mission executives, the Regional Mission and Ministry Council (RMMC), Circuits, and local congregations, the Synod is actively providing catechesis and worship resources to these communities. Support is also being extended to help members of these communities form Lutheran Church Canada congregations, ensuring their spiritual needs are met and fostering greater integration within the broader church body.

Ministry Among First Nations in Western Canada

More than half of all First Nations in Canada are located in Western Canada, with British Columbia alone home to 202 of the country's approximately 680 distinctive First Nations. Over the years, Lutheran Church Canada's (LCC), Listed Service Organizations such as the BC Mission Boat Society and the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP), have built meaningful and lasting relationships with First Nations communities. These partnerships have fostered trust and enabled collaborative ministry that respects the unique histories and needs of these communities.

As a result of this ongoing work, a number of Christian First Nation leaders along the geographically diverse Pacific Northwest have

reached out, seeking more sustained support for themselves and their communities. Recognizing these requests, LCC, together with its mission partners, the Regional Mission and Ministry Council (RMMC), Circuits, and congregations, is committed to walking alongside these leaders. In the coming quadrennium, LCC and its partners will work collaboratively with Christians in First Nations communities along the Pacific Northwest to explore their needs and determine how best to support the ongoing proclamation of the Gospel in these regions.

Beginning a New Quadrennium: Embracing God's Enduring Promises

"I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away."

As we enter a new quadrennium, Lutheran Church Canada—comprising pastors, deacons, and congregations—remains steadfast in its commitment to the Word of God and His enduring promises as found in Holy Scripture. Amidst the constant changes and uncertainties of the times, we are reassured that whatever God accomplishes endures forever. This conviction grounds our mission, sustains our ministries, and inspires us to continue serving faithfully through every season.

REPORT 6: CHANGES IN THE ROSTER
March 2, 2022 – February 28, 2026

PASTORS

1. ENTERED THE SYNOD

a. Ordinations & Installations (alphabetical by last name)

1.	BUCK, Connor	(CLS, Edmonton), Redeemer, Creston, BC, 2024-08-25 by Rev. Robert Mohns
2.	CUNNINGHAM, Daniel	(CLTS, St. Catharines), Redeemer, Kitimat, BC, 2024-09-01, by Rev. Robert Mohns
3.	GILLARD, Jason	(CLTS, St. Catharines), Christ Our Saviour, Grimsby, ON, 2023-08-27 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
4.	JAGNOW, Martin	(CLS, Edmonton), Grace, Drumheller, AB, 2025-08-06 by Rev. Robert Mohns
5.	KYLE, Eddy	(CLS, Edmonton), Zion, Prince George, BC, 2022-08-07 by Rev. Robert Mohns
6.	MILLER, Chad	(CLTS, St. Catharines), Grace, St. Catharines, ON, 2022-09-25 by Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger
7.	NHIAL, Joseph	(PAT Program, Calgary, AB) South Sudanese Nuer Lutheran Church Fellowship in Calgary, Calgary, AB, 2025-09-07 by Rev. Robert Mohns
8.	PROZENKO, George Nigel	(CLTS, St. Catharines), Prince of Peace, Regina, SK, 2023-08-20 by Rev. Timothy Teuscher
9.	SAMUEL, Vijay	(CLTS, St. Catharines), Risen Christ/Immanuel, Mississauga/Georgetown, ON, 2025-08-17 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
10.	TEKLEMARIAM, Henock	(CLS, Edmonton), Trinity, Abbotsford, BC, 2023-08-27, by Rev. Robert Mohns

b. Received by Colloquy

1.	CLERICUS, Walta	(Colloquy), Assistant Missionary-at-Large Sainte-Trinité, Quebec City, QC, 2022-09-25 by Rev. Mark Smith
2.	DENU, Megersa	(Colloquy), Missionary-at-Large, Faith, Surrey, BC, 2024-09-15 by Rev. Jacob Quast
3.	GEMECHU, Malkaa Legese	(Colloquy), Christ the King, Edmonton, AB 2025-06-08 by Rev. Robert Mohns
4.	GEMTA, Ephram Fikru	(Colloquy), Oromo, Calgary, AB, 2023-10-15 by Rev. Robert Mohns
5.	LONGAPHIE, Connor	(Colloquy), St. Matthew's, Cornwall, ON, 2025-10-26 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz

c. Received by Transfer

1.	BAIKOV, Guntars	(Lutheran Church of Australia), Grace Lutheran Church, Oshawa, ON 2025-07-06 by Rev. Vishal Paul
2.	FERREIRA, Dionatan	(Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil), Our Saviour's/Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches, Chatham/Amherstdurg, ON 2025-09-21 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
3.	GLITZ, Airton	(Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil), Trinity, Churchbridge, SK, 2023-03-19 by Rev. David Haberstock
4.	HECK, Joel	(Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Springfield (LCMS)), Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, AB, 2023-09-05 by Rev. Robert Mohns
6.	HEIDORN, Gregory	(LCMS) St. Peter's, Estevan, SK, 2024-04-14 by Rev. David Haberstock

7	KELLERMAN, James Allen	(Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (LCMS)), CLTS, St. Catharines, ON, 2022-09-11 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
8	MANNING, Shaun	(Lutheran Church of Australia), Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Winnipeg, MB 2024-09-08 by Rev. David Haberstock
9	NOBLE, Peter James	(Lutheran Church of Australia), Christ Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, ON 2025-07-08 by Rev. David Haberstock
10	SCHMIDT, Davi	(Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil), Bethel, Kitchener, ON, 2023-02-05 by Rev. Andre Schroth

2. CHANGES WITHIN THE SYNOD

1.	ABRESCH, Ronald	Emeritus to St. Peter's / Peace, Castlegar / Trail, BC, 2022-09-18 by Rev. Robert Mohns
2.	ALBRECHT, Lucas	Mount Olive, Regina, SK to Hope, Port Coquitlam, BC, 2023-10-01 by Rev. Robert Mohns
3.	ASTLEY, Aaron	Redeemer / Christ Our Saviour, Hamilton / Grimsby, ON to St. Luke, Ottawa, ON, 2023-05-07 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
4.	BLUM, John	Candidate to La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship, La Ronge, SK, 2023-09-23 by Rev. David Haberstock
5.	BRAYALL, Scott	Faith, Grande Prairie, AB to Mount Calvary, Red Deer, AB 2024-08-04 by Rev. Robert Mohns
6.	BUCK, Kai	Peace / St. Peter, Trail / Castlegar, BC to Zion, Yorkton, SK, 2022-08-07 by Rev. David Haberstock
7.	CHRISTOFORIDIS, Vasilios	Christ Our King, Mississauga, ON to Mount Olive, Regina, SK, 2026-02-15 by Rev. David Haberstock
8.	CLIFFORD, Robert	Candidate to Trinity / Fath, Lacombe / Sylvan Lake, AB, 2023-05-05 by Rev. Robert Mohns
9.	DAS, Jayanta	Candidate to St. Paul's, Elmira, ON, 2022-11-13 by Rev. Andre Schroth
10.	ESPERANZA, Vic	Savior, Delta, BC to Faith, Surrey, BC 2025-06-22 by Rev. Wayne Lunderby
11.	FALKENHOLT, Brian	Christ, Thunder Bay, ON to Trinity, Richmond, BC, 2024-08-28 by Rev. Robert Mohns
12.	GALLAS, David	Chaplain, Mississauga, ON to Chaplain, CFB Halifax, NS 2024-05-24
13.	GAMBLE, Scott	Candidate, Drumheller, AB to Concordia, Penticton, BC 2024-09-15 by Rev. Andrew McDonald
14.	GAMBLE, Scott	Assistant Pastor, Concordia, Penticton, BC to At. John's, Summerland, BC 2025-11-23 by Rev. Michael Schutz
15.	GIMBEL, James	President, CLS, Edmonton to Academic Dean and Professor of Theology, CLS, Edmonton, 2023-11-16 by Rev. Robert Mohns
16.	GODKIN, David	Chaplain, CFB Winnipeg, MB, to Chaplain, CFB Trenton, ON 2024-07-23
17.	GOVASKI, Edivar	Candidate to Calvary, Thunder Bay, ON, 2023-09-13 by Rev. David Haberstock
18.	HABERMAS, Matthew	Immanuel, Georgetown, ON to Christ (Petawawa), Pembroke, ON, 2022-11-27 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
19.	HETZEL, Jack	Grace, Oshawa, ON to St. Peter's, Stratford, ON 2024-04-13 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
20.	KRAEMER, Jonathan	All Saints, Edmonton, AB to Synodical Faculty - CLS, Edmonton, AB, 2025-10-26 by Rev. Robert Mohns
21.	KOENIG, Jeffrey	Candidate to St. John's, Summerland, BC, 2022-06-29 by Rev. Robert Mohns

22.	KUBKE, Roland	St. John's, Beach Corner, AB to Faith, Courtenay, BC, 2024-09-01 by Rev. Fraser Coltman
23.	KUHN, Michael	Candidate to Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, AB 2025-09-02 by Rev. Robert Mohns
24.	LAM, Milton	Christ, Timmins, ON to Risen Christ, Kanata, ON, 2023-09-10 by Rev. David Smilek
25.	MAURICIO, Shiekh Lief	Good Shepherd, Valleyview, AB to Christ / Immanuel / Christ (Triune Parish), Langenburg / Landestreu / MacNutt, SK, 2023-06-25 by Rev. David Haberstock
26.	MAXFIELD, John	Synodical Faculty – CLS, Edmonton, AB to All Saints, Edmonton, AB, 2022-09-11 by Rev. Robert Mohns
27.	MCDONALD, Andrew	Lord of Life, Kamloops, BC additional call to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm, BC, 2025-03-02 by Rev. Robert Mohns
28.	MCLEAN, Christopher	St. Paul's, Dawson Creek, BC to North East Saskatchewan Parish (Zion, St. Paul's, Good Shepherd, Zion), Nipawin, Melfort, Hudson Bay, Mistatim, SK, 2022-06-26 by Rev. Clint Magnus
29.	MOFFETT, Eric	Foothills, Calgary, AB to St. John's (Parkland County), Beach Corner, AB, 2025-04-13 by Rev. Robert Mohns
30.	MONTAGUE, Michael	Christ, Red Lake, ON to Our Saviour / St. Mark, Dryden / Vermilion Bay, ON, 2023-11-04 by Rev. David Haberstock
31.	PALMER, Gregory	Candidate, Saskatoon, SK to Holy Trinity, Luseland, SK, 2024-10-19 by Rev. Robert Grout
32.	PASTUCHA, Jan	King of Kings, St. Albert, AB additional call to Riverbend, Edmonton, AB (associate) 2024-03-17 by Rev. Robert Mohns
33.	PAUL, Vishal	Risen Christ, Mississauga, ON to Risen Christ/Immanuel, Mississauga/Georgetown, ON 2025-09-06 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
34.	QUAST, Jacob	Church of the Lutheran Hour, Fort Frances, ON to Lutheran Church–Canada, Director of Domestic Missions, Winnipeg, MB, 2024-05-05 by Rev. Timothy Teuscher
35.	RADFORD, Kirk	Christ, Sarnia, ON to CLTS, St. Catharines, ON, 2023-09-10 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
36.	RICHHOLT, Timothy	Emeritus to Vacancy Pastor St. Peter's, Leduc, AB, 2022-10-02 by Rev. Robert Mohns
37.	RINAS, Jody	St. John's, Clifford, ON to First St. Matthew's / St. John's, Hanover / Clifford, ON, 2023-02-05 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
38.	ROGGOW, Paul	Trinity, Duncan, BC to Holy Cross, Kitchener, ON, 2023-03-19 by Rev. Marvin Bublitz
39.	SCHNEIDER, Timothy	Good Shepherd, Amherstburg, ON to Holy Trinity / Hope, Inglis / Grandview, MB, 2022-11-13 by Rev. David Haberstock
40.	SCHULTZ, Mark	Zion, Rimbey, AB to Zion / Immanuel / Zion, Rimbey / Usona / Wetaskiwin, AB, 2023-01-29 by Rev. Al Lewis
41.	STERN, Neil	Peter's, Leduc, AB to Grace, Edmonton, AB (interim), 2022-07-31 by Rev. Robert Mohns
42.	STERN, Neil	Peter's, Leduc, AB to Grace, Edmonton, AB, 2024-03-05 by Rev. Robert Mohns
43.	TIMM, Alex	Our Saviour / St. Mark, Dryden / Vermillion, ON to Bethany, Campbell River, BC, 2023-03-26 by Rev. Robert Mohns
44.	VALSSON, Jakob	Trinity, Abbotsford, BC to Faith, Middle Lake, SK, 2022-07-31 by Rev. David Haberstock

3. TRANSFER TO OTHER CHURCH BODIES

1.	ANDERSEN, Gerald	English District, LCMS, 2024-08-18
2.	FENN, Matthew	AALC, 2023-05-26

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3.	GIMBEL, James	Minnesota North District, LCMS, 2025-07-01
4.	HECK, Joel	Ohio District, LCMS, 2025-07-01
5.	HELLWEGE, John	Missouri District, LCMS, 2023-06-15
6.	NIEMINEN, Johannes	Rocky Mountain District, LCMS, 2023-06-12
7.	RISTAU, Harold	Wyoming District, LCMS, 2024-04-01
8.	STEPHENSON, John	Iowa District East, LCMS, 2024-07-04
9.	WILCH, Gerhard	North Wisconsin District, LCMS, 2024-04-01

4. CANDIDATE OR EMERITUS (alphabetical by last name)

a. Candidate

1.	ABRESCH, Ronald	2025-05-01	6.	GRAFF, Timothy	2022-07-31
2.	ALBERT, Fred	2025-01-29	7.	HAROLD, Steven	2024-06-04
3.	BARR, Daniel	2024-08-15	8.	KUHN, Michael	2024-12-31
4.	CHOI, Sang-Rog	2020-08-25	9.	PARKER, Rodney	2024-08-02
5.	COOPER, Cody	2022-07-25	10.	PLATZ, Kevin	2025-06-22

b. Emeritus

1.	ABRESCH, Ronald	2025-04-30	16.	KOEHLER, Mark	2023-02-26
2.	ASMUS, Jonathan	2025-06-30	17.	KRUESEL, Thomas	2023-01-09
3.	AZAVEDO, de Gilvan	2021-12-31	18.	LEUNG, Wing Yan David	2023-06-01
4.	BETSCH, Eric	2022-11-01	19.	LINDEMANN, James	2025-02-21
5.	BODE, David	2025-03-03	20.	LUNDERBY Wayne	2024-09-30
6.	BRYANS, Robert	2025-01-31	21.	MARSHALL, Robert	2024-02-27
7.	CHOI, Sang-Rog	2025-02-21	22.	MENSCH, Richard	2023-06-01
8.	CRAIG, Andrew	2023-03-23	23.	OTKE, Neil	2025-08-31
9.	GRAFF, Timothy	2023-04-24	24.	RUF, Mark	2026-01-01
10.	GROUT, Robert	2024-01-01	25.	SCHOLLENBERG, Brad	2022-12-13
11.	HAROLD Steven	2024-06-01	26.	SCHOUBYE, Harald	2024-10-31
12.	HOVELAND, Keith	2024-12-31	27.	SOLIE, Daryl	2022-12-01
13.	HOWARD, Russell	2025-06-22	28.	STEPHENSON, John	2023-01-01
14.	KING, Bryan	2023-04-30	29.	VOEGE, Kenneth	2024-11-25
15.	KJOS, Gregory	2025-09-30			

5. RESIGNED OR REMOVED FROM ROSTER

1.	BOEHM, Curtis	2025-05-05	4.	KIM, James (Kyung-Hyun)	2022-03-03
2.	COOPER, Cody	2024-10-22	5.	PARKER, Rodney	2026-01-15
3.	DRESSLER, Darren	2022-03-03			

6. CALLED TO GLORY

1.	ANDERSON, W. JAMES	2024-01-10	18.	KRUESEL, Richard	2026-01-06
2.	ARNDT, Leander	2024-05-16	19.	KUEHN, Marcus	2024-10-09
3.	BORCHARDT, Alvin	2024-07-03	20.	LEHMAN, Edwin	2024-12-05
4.	BROTHERTON, Lawrence	2023-01-20	18.	MONTAGUE, Michael	2025-09-28
5.	CARLSON, Lester	2023-12-03	19.	NATZKE, Louis	2025-11-14
6.	DEBLOCK, Paul	2025-12-02	20.	OBERHAMMER, Alvin	2024-08-04
7.	DRESSLER, Linden	2022-10-17	21.	RUF, Harold	2024-12-12
8.	EIFERT, Paul	2025-03-10	22.	SCHELP, Sanford	2024-12-08
9.	GUEBERT, Lowell	2024-11-23	23.	SILVER, Frank	2022-11-07
10.	HAMP, Warren	2026-02-27	24.	STEFANIK, Darryl	2023-10-06
11.	HOHNER, Lester	2024-08-11	25.	STEWART, C. Ward	2023-09-03
12.	HUMANN, Roger	2024-10-13	26.	STROUP, Forrest	2022-07-05
13.	HWANG, Bokman	2024-03-11	27.	VISSER, Alan	2024-06-23
14.	JORGENSEN, Philip	2026-01-26	28.	WAGNER, Carl	2022-09-25
15.	KLEIN, Richard	2025-10-13	29.	WILCH, John	2024-11-24
16.	KOCH, Donald	2023-04-13	30.	WILLIE, Robert	2024-10-15
17.	KOEHLER, Wilbur	2023-11-07			

DEACONS

1. ENTERED THE SYNOD

a. Ordinations/Consecrations & Installations (alphabetical by last name)

1.	NEEB, Samantha	(CLS, Edmonton), Lutheran Church–Canada, Associate Director – Family Ministry, Winnipeg, MB, 2025-07-31 by Rev. Timothy Teuscher
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a. Received by Colloquy

None

b. Received by Transfer

None

2. CHANGES WITHIN THE SYNOD

1.	GILLINGHAM, Michael	Bethel, Sherwood Park, AB to Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP), Edmonton, AB by Rev. Jonathan Kraemer
2.	LYONS, Linnea	Candidate to SML Christian Academy, 2025-05-05 by authorization of the PMC
3.	OLDING, Lisa	Candidate to Trinity Western University, 2023-11-15 by authorization of the PMC
4.	WILCH, Tingyu	Candidate to Faith, Surrey, BC, 2023-03-12 by Rev. Gerhard Wilch

3. TRANSFER TO OTHER CHURCH BODIES

1.	RYAN, Brenda	English District. LCMS, 2022-11-20
2.	STEPHENSON, Bonnie	Iowa District East LCMS, 2024-07-04
3.	WILCH, Tingyu	North Wisconsin District LCMS, 2025-01-21

4. CANDIDATE OR EMERITUS

a. Candidate

1.	WILCH, Tingyu	2024-12-15
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b. Emeritus

1.	FAERBER, David	2025-03-03
2.	LADOSKI, Eric	2020-08-31
3.	SCHWEYER, Donald	2014-06-30

5. REMOVED FROM ROSTER

1.	GARRIOTT, Andrea	2024-09-16	5.	SADOROSZNEY, Tara	2023-03-23
2.	MASKOWITZ, Ashley	2025-02-20	6.	SCHOEPP, Paul	2025-05-05
3.	MILLER, Wayne	2025-05-05	7.	SCHULTZ, Lori	2022-07-11
4.	PETERS, Wanda	2025-11-24			

5. CALLED TO GLORY

1.	ENDERS, Katherine	2025-04-01
2.	KLANN, Harry	2023-01-13
3.	TOWRISS, Margaret	2024-02-05
4.	ROSHER, Rosalyn	2024-03-08

CONGREGATIONS

A. TO BE RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

1.	Cornwall, ON	St. Matthew's	2025-10-17
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B. DISBANDED, MERGED OR RESIGNED

1.	Ogema, SK	St. Luke's	2024-06-09
2.	Oyen, AB	St. Peter's	2022-06-08
3.	Coronach, SK	Faith	2023-04-30
4.	Kirkland Lake, ON	St. Paul	2023-08-05
5.	Maidstone, SK	Battle River	2024-09-17
6.	Taber, AB	Peace	2025-01-27
7.	Airdrie, AB	Shepherd of the Hills	2025-06-10
8.	McCreary, SK	St. Paul's	2025-09-01
9.	Winnipeg, MB	Immanuel	2025-09-07
10.	Smithville, ON	St. Matthew's	2025-11-20
11.	Vulcan, AB	Bethel	2026-02-03
12.	Castlegar, BC	St. Peter	2026-02-03
13.	Cardston, AB	Faith	2026-02-03

REPORT 7: DEAN OF MILITARY CHAPLAINS/ICCMC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT REPORT TO THE SYNOD

Following the 2022 Synodical Convention, Rev. Rod Buck, who served as Synod's Dean of Military Chaplains and Dr. Harold Ristau, who served as LCC's representative on the national Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplains (ICCMC) concluded their work in these positions. We are grateful for their exemplary work. Earlier in their ministry each had served as chaplains in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and had seen service in Afghanistan. As a Church, we are grateful for their service. In 2022 I was asked to serve in both positions and so offer this report on the work of our Lutheran chaplains.

Lutheran Church Canada's involvement in military chaplaincy continues to grow through its pastors who serve the men and women of our Canadian Armed Forces. They are the "boots on the ground" in terms of mission and ministry for our soldiers, sailors and airmen and their families. They serve with our troops in various locations at bases across Canada and are often deployed to bases around the world.



While relatively small in number compared to the total of chaplains of all faiths in the CAF, they are not insignificant in terms of the positive impact they have on CAF members and their families. Some serve as Reserve Force chaplains who continue to pastor their congregations and provide chaplaincy services to a local military base. Others serve as Regular Force chaplains who are assigned by the military's chaplaincy services to work at a specific military base. From time to time, both Reserve and Regular Force chaplains may be called upon to deploy with their unit. Most recently, we have had chaplains deploy as far away as Latvia.

In the reports below, we have tried to capture the kind of work done by our chaplains. You will notice some of the accomplishments achieved and recognitions received by our chaplains. For example:

- Padre Vic Morris received his doctorate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. His Major Applied Project was "Preparing Spiritually Resilient Warriors in the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command."
- Rev. David Jackson was awarded the King Charles III Coronation medal. The notification of this award included this description: "Recipients were selected based on nomination in recognition that they have made a significant contribution to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region or community of Canada, or have made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada."
- The wives also provide valuable service! In July of 2024, Guislei Flor, the wife of Padre Gerson Flor, received the Formation Europe Commander's commendation for her contributions to the Canadian Community in Mons, Belgium. The Flors have since been relocated to Colorado Springs, Colorado.

This is just a brief sample of the work that is done by our LCC chaplains. I have often used the expression that our cadre of chaplains "punch well above their weight" and are seen as an invaluable asset to the chaplain programme of the CAF. Our men serve with distinction. The following is a list of our chaplains and a brief description of their responsibilities and work.

**Maj. the Rev. Gerson Flor - Regular Force
Canadian Element North American Aerospace
Defense Command (CANELEMNORAD)**

**Peterson Space Force Base
Colorado Springs, CO, USA**

Padre Flor continues to serve as Sr Lutheran Chaplain to the CAF; stationed in Colorado Springs, CO, he supports over 300 military families spread across nine American states and Greenland. He regularly attends and supports LCMS congregations in Colorado Springs. Padre and Mrs. Flor celebrated 30 years of marriage in July 2025. They are expected to remain at their new post until August 2027.

Capt the Rev. David Gallas, CD - Regular Force**Mental Health Chaplain, Canadian Forces Health Services Atlantic
Canadian Armed Forces
CFB Halifax, NS**

Padre David Gallas serves as the Mental Health Chaplain at the military medical clinic in Halifax, NS, providing spiritual and psychotherapeutic care to military members. Working alongside social workers, mental health nurses, psychologists, and psychiatrists, he counsels military members struggling with guilt, shame, grief, and fear. He received his therapeutic credentials from the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario. In addition to his mental health chaplaincy work, Padre Gallas assists Padre Jackson at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Halifax.

**LCdr the Rev. Dave Godkin - Regular Force
Senior Wing Chaplain
8 Wing Trenton
Canadian Armed Forces
Trenton, ON**

Padre Godkin continues to serve as Senior Wing Chaplain at 8 Wing Trenton. In this position, he supervises the base chaplains and serves as an advisor to the Wing Commander and the Deputy Wing Commander. From July to December 2025 Padre Godkin deployed on PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 25 with the US Navy. This was a humanitarian mission to Papua New Guinea,

Micronesia, Palau, Samoa, and Vanuatu, which focused on building resilience in these countries. Padre Godkin is looking forward to a future of serving members and their families and enjoying his family in Quinte West.

**NALC Chaplain
Capt. the Rev. Shane Hein
Chaplain, the South Alberta Light Horse
Medicine Hat, AB**

Padre Hein is the chaplain of the South Alberta Light Horse reserve regiment in Medicine Hat, AB, where he will soon be entering his sixth year of service. The SALH is spread across three armouries, located in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, and Edmonton. The SALH is also closely associated with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, both of which are armoured units. Last October, Padre Hein, alongside the regiment's CO and RSM, was tasked with travelling to Europe to rededicate a monument for a recently identified Canadian First World War soldier, killed in action at Vimy Ridge. Sgt Arthur Davidson Melvin was a member of 31 BN CEF, one of the predecessor units of the SALH.

**LCdr the Rev'd David N. Jackson, CD - Regular Force
Senior Fleet Chaplain, Canadian Fleet Atlantic / Royal Canadian Navy,
Canadian Armed Forces
CFB Halifax, NB**

Padre Jackson continues to serve a third year as the Senior Fleet Chaplain, Canadian Fleet Atlantic, as well as the Senior Base Chaplain, CFB Halifax as a secondary duty. In October 2025 he deployed for 12 days to Constanta, Romania with Clearance Divers from Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) as the Black Sea Chaplain on Operation REASSURANCE, Mine Countermeasures, Black Sea. While there, Padre Jackson conducted Religious Leader Engagements with Romanian Chaplains and local Romanian Orthodox clergy. In February 2026 he attended the British Armed Forces' Advanced

Chaplain Course at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. Padre Jackson also continues to assist with Services at St Andrew's Lutheran Church, Halifax during their ongoing vacancy.

**Capt. the Rev. Min Kim - Regular Force
Chaplain,
Canadian Armed Forces
CFB Edmonton, AB**

Padre Kim retired from service as a military chaplain and we are grateful for his years of service.

**Captain Gregory Lutz - Regular Force
Chaplain, Canadian Forces Base Wainwright
Alberta
Canadian Armed Forces**

Captain Lutz was Posted to Wainwright in the summer of 2025 after being in Winnipeg for a year. He serves as the 2IC to the Senior Base Chaplain. He serves the Military Police as well as other Units on the Base. Captain Lutz also volunteers as Chaplain to the RCMP Detachment in Wainwright, quite often going out on calls with them. Captain Lutz is a rostered LCMS Chaplain serving under the umbrella of LCC. He is the Senior LCMS Chaplain in Canada serving as a liaison between both Church bodies. In 2023 Captain Lutz was awarded the St. Martin's of Tours Medal for 20 years of service by the LCMS. In 2024 Captain Lutz was awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal and in 2026 he will be awarded his 2nd Canadian Forces Decoration Medal for 22 years of service. Captain Lutz will be celebrating 30 years of Ordination in August 2026.

**Major the Rev. Sye Van Maanen, CD - Reserve
Force
Deputy Division Chaplain, 3rd Canadian
Division Headquarters / Joint Task Force West
Headquarters
Canadian Armed Forces**

Canada's Army is going through a period of modernization. "The global security environment has been rapidly evolving, driven by

great power competition, technological disruption, climate change, and hybrid threats. In response, Canada's defence policy has emphasized the need to urgently modernize and restructure our land forces.

The goal: creating a modern Army that is ready and resilient, equipped and able to operate seamlessly across diverse environments and cohesively with joint, allied, and other partner organizations in the defence of Canada at home and around the world.

Army modernization is about more than new equipment and capabilities. It requires a mindset and a cultural shift. It aims to build a warfighting advantage through resilience, adaptability, innovation, and risk tolerance." - Government of Canada/Canadian Army

In my position I continue to make sure the Brigade chaplains in each Brigade receive the training, resources, information and supervision necessary to carry out the task of caring for the chaplains in their AOR(s) and serve the greater mission of the CAF. The necessity of the role of chaplains is reinforced by our utilization within our respective units and commands. I also remain focused on recruitment and retention. As the Army moves through this modernization process the Chaplaincy in the Primary reserve adapts to the new structure as well. Our role remains the same, to care for the troops, but our chaplains must also continue to build resiliencies and relationships in order to carry out our role.

**Capt. the Rev. Chad Miller - Regular Force
Chaplain, 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade
Group and Signals Squadron
Canadian Armed Forces
Edmonton, AB**

Padre Miller completed Phase Four of Chaplain training in May of 2025, receiving chaplain qualification. He is currently posted to CFB Edmonton, and is chaplain to 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron as his primary unit, as well as to eight other smaller units on the base.

**Capt. the Rev. Vincent Moore - Reserve Force
Chaplain, 41 Signal Regiment
Canadian Armed Forces
Edmonton, AB**

Padre Moore will be completing Chap BQC at the end of May 2026. 41 Signals Regiment is becoming more familiar with Padre Moore and he has been able to provide chaplain support to members in Edmonton, Red Deer, and Calgary. Members are opening up and trusting him with more of their personal lives and this has been very fruitful and rewarding work.

**Maj. the Rev. Dr. Victor E Morris, CD -
Regular Force
Chaplain, 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade
Group (2 CMBG)
Canadian Armed Forces
Petawawa, ON**

Major Vic Morris leads the 2 CMBG chaplain team in Petawawa, ON. 2 CMBG made up of a number of combat units, who work together as a battle group. From June - December 2025, Maj Morris served as the Chief Chaplain, to the Multinational Brigade deployed to Latvia, as part of Operation REASSURANCE, Canada's mission and commitment to NATO. Maj Morris's work is currently focused on chaplain readiness for operations, and will he will be posted back to Ottawa to continue this work this summer. He and his family continue to enjoy the beautiful city of Ottawa.

**Rev. James Chimirri-Russell - Reserve Force
Regina, SK**

Padre Chimirri-Russell received his endorsement to serve as a Reserve Force military chaplain and underwent his 13 week Basic Training fall of 2025.

**Rev Capt Sean Smallwood, - Regular Force
Base Chaplain, Canadian Forces Base (CFB)
Edmonton
Canadian Armed Forces
CFB Edmonton, AB**

Padre Sean Smallwood is posted to Canadian Forces Base Edmonton, where he currently

serves as Chaplain to 1 Field Ambulance, covering the clinic, the dental unit and the Health Services Support Group. In addition to these duties, he is Chaplain for the Base Administrative Company, Faith Centre Coordinator for the Protestant Chapel, serves the Base Chaplain as his second-in-command and acts as a mentor to chaplains on the basic training list who have been posted to CFB Edmonton.

**Capt. the Rev. Dr. Dusan Tillinger - Regular
Force
Chaplain, CFB Borden
Canadian Armed Forces
Borden, ON**

Padre Tillinger accepted a permanent REO position at CFB Borden on September 2025. Currently he is care of three units: CFLRS, where he is taking care of 4 BMQ platoons and staff; He is also serving CFRG (Recruiting group) in Borden and Barrie; and Transition Center where his focus on solders who are not able to continue active service at the CAF.

**Lt(N) The Rev. Erik Trovall - Reserve Force
Chaplain HMCS Malahat, Victoria, BC
Saanich Peninsula Legion Branch #37, Sidney,
BC**

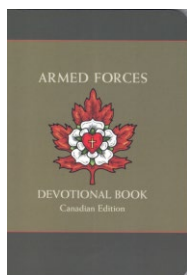
Since 2022, Padre Trovall has served as the Unit Chaplain at HMCS MALAHAT in Victoria, BC and Saanich Peninsula Legion Branch #37 in Sidney, BC. Over the course of the past four years, Padre Trovall has facilitated various peer-support training courses, training presentations for recruits and members, presided at unit weddings and baptisms, officiated numerous Remembrance Day ceremonies, and provided chaplaincy support for the local legion branch on the Saanich Peninsula. In February 2026, Erik was awarded a service medal from Legion Branch #37. Erik continues to minister full-time at Peace Lutheran Church in Sidney, BC.

**Maj. the Rev. Phillip Washeim - Reserve Force
Brigade Chaplain
39 Canadian Brigade Group HQ
Victoria, BC**

Padre Washeim took on the position of Brigade Chaplain for 39 CBG in September of 2025. He has been working to get to know his new area of responsibility for the last number of months. His main role is recruiting and caring for the chaplains working at the unit level. He recently initiated a retreat to help care for reserve chaplains in 39 CBG, scheduled to happen in June of 2026. The hope is to make this a yearly occurrence so that chaplain burnout can be avoided by giving them a place to reflect and talk about their experiences in the chaplaincy.

Canadian Armed Forces Devotional Book

Last year, at the request of our chaplains, the LCC Board of Directors approved the funding for a Canadian version of the Armed Force Devotional Book published by Concordia Publishing House. The work is complete and this new Canadian version of this devotional resource is now available to our chaplains for use and distribution among the men and women of the CAF.



Care for Chaplains

Both our representation on the ICCMC and the LCC Deanery highlight the importance of care our Church places on the support of our military chaplains. This does not take the place of the regular care that Regional Pastors and Circuit Counselors provide. Rather it supplements that care recognizing there are some needs and challenges unique to the military chaplaincy.

The military used to provide face-to-face gatherings under the banner “Called to Serve”. Since COVID, that now appears to be a thing of the past and ICCMC members have had to find

other ways of connecting with their chaplains. Our LCC caucus has had a number of online meetings and every Fall there are regional exercises at which ICCMC members are welcome to attend. Travel costs for ICCMS members are covered by the Chaplain General’s office. Hopefully through these gatherings and through additional personal contacts we can provide a level of effective care for our chaplains. It is our goal this year to have a spiritual retreat/gathering for all of our Lutheran chaplains.

Recruitment

With recent announcements from the Federal government that Canada will be dramatically increasing its investment in the CAF - both in members and equipment - the need for military chaplains will increase. LCC pastors are encouraged to speak with our Reserve and Regular Force chaplains to explore the possibility of serving in this capacity. If you are interested in becoming a military chaplain, scan this QR code for more information.



In Conclusion

Lutheran Church–Canada plays a significant role in providing chaplains to serve the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families. We give thanks to those pastors who serve as chaplains in military and in emergency services. May our gracious Lord continue to bless their work. Soli Deo Gloria!

In Christ our Lord,
Rev. Donald R. Schiemann
February 2026

REPORT 8: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA (LCC)

Report will be included in Today’s Business

REPORT 8.1 DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

“Tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord.” Psalm 78:4

It is a joy and a privilege to serve as Lutheran Church–Canada’s Director of Advancement. As this was a newly established position within LCC at the beginning of 2022, it has been both exciting and challenging to navigate the nuances of how this work impacts so many aspects of our Synod. We have learned a lot, grown a lot, and begun processes that realistically have not been done before in LCC. Through it all, we can see God’s goodness and mercy abound, even in the challenges in a world affected by sin.

The discipline of advancement considers the overall needs and direction of an organization, works with organizational leadership to develop strategic plans to address these needs, communicates those plans out to its members, fosters improved relationships, and encourages strong stewardship principles to bring about positive change. Applying these functions to LCC, the role of advancement is both a biblical and spiritual ministry, while at the same time accomplishing practical goals. It encourages members in their spiritual growth, challenges them to become greater stewards of all God’s richest blessings, and develops needed resources to accomplish the Lord’s work.

The LCC advancement function includes responsibility for annual funds, congregational remittances, major gifts, planned gifts, capital campaigns, church relations, stewardship, and advancement services.

At a high level, the primary responsibilities of the Director of Advancement to Lutheran Church–Canada fall under two distinct areas:

1. Cultivation and enhancement of congregation relations across Synod.

2. Identification and development of ongoing sources of funding to help achieve the mission and ministry of our church today and into the future.

These functions work together to strengthen the sustainability of our Synod, enhance unity between our regions and congregations, and position our Synod for mission expansion and congregational vitality.

Congregation Relations and the PPP Process

Leading up to the last convention in 2022, significant effort was given to the Purpose and Priorities Planning (PPP) process. This was a foundational effort to align LCC’s priorities, bring clarity to its strategic framework (mission, vision, values), and establish goals that guide our synod in both the short and long term. Ultimately the PPP settled on six primary goals—Disciple Making Culture, Equipping Leaders, Mission Outreach, Organizational Effectiveness, Fiscal Resources and Responsibility, Strategic Communications—deemed critical to the future health and vitality of LCC and its ability to meet pressing mission and ministry opportunities. The input received through the PPP process from Synod leaders, board members, pastors and deacons, laypeople, and others from across Canada, made it very clear that our members desired:

1. More transparency and understanding in terms of structure and operations.
2. Better communication on what LCC is doing (this included opportunities for congregation involvement).
3. Access to materials and resources to assist them in doing their work.
4. Increased mission efforts.
5. Greater unity between regions, congregations, and the synodical office.

As Director of Advancement, I have a unique role in each of these areas as I am often in front of our members. During the past four years, I have shared the mission and ministry of our Synod with many congregations across our country, expressing gratitude for their support and its significant impact on our ability to accomplish our mission (*To serve, strengthen, and equip congregations for bold, faithful, Christ-centred witness*). These visits, presentations, and talks also develop a greater clarity of the purpose and work of Lutheran Church–Canada within our members, thus encouraging greater support.

Since 2022, much has been accomplished through the strategic initiatives under each goal in support of our mission. Updates can be viewed on our website under News/Strategic Initiatives Tracker. Highlights include the calling of a Director of Domestic Missions, an Associate Director-Family Ministries, additional Missionaries-at-Large, as well as an enhanced Pastors with Alternate Training program, and increased language ministry opportunities. In addition, emphasis has been placed on congregation vitality resources, expanded communications including a robust annual report, the development of impact stories, and in many other areas. As a result of the PPP process, confidence and trust are being restored across all regions, laying the groundwork for important forthcoming advancement initiatives. We give thanks to God for all He has done in and through our members, congregations, pastors and deacons, and synodical leaders.

In October 2025, the first Quadrennial Work Plan conference was held in Winnipeg. This conference served as a collaborative forum for key ministry stakeholders to share, reflect, and plan. The primary purpose of the conference was to create a unified opportunity to express ministry goals, explore how LCC can support these through the shared lens of the Synod's strategic framework, and equitably allocate financial resources across existing and new

initiatives. Participants included the LCC Board of Directors, Regional Pastors, Seminary Presidents, LCC Executive Staff, and three representatives from each Regional Mission and Ministry Council (RMMC). This forum was the first of many to guide the advancement of our work together as Synod.

Advancing the Mission

The identification and cultivation of financial resources to fund current work programs and provide opportunities for mission and ministry expansion is the primary responsibility of the Office of Advancement. Without adequate financial resources, our Synod simply cannot increase this work domestically or internationally, let alone accomplish the work we have already committed to doing. Financial support for this work is only possible through the faithful stewardship of God's blessings by our members, our congregations, and our synodical family organizations. Developing a sustainable funding model focuses on annual needs through congregation remittances and individual donor support, combined with stable earnings from longer-term planning through endowment growth and opportunity funds.

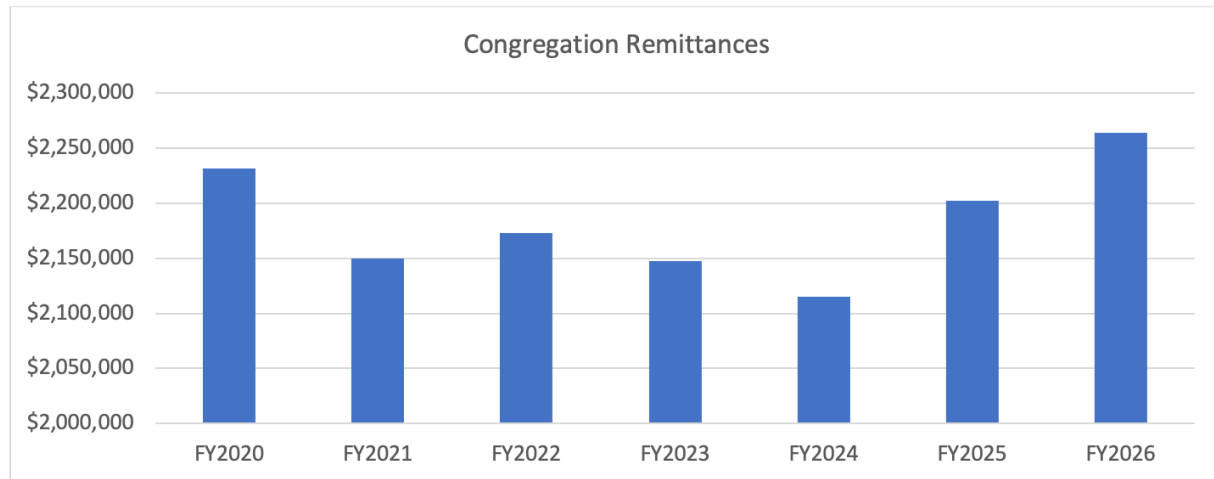
Congregation Remittances

Historically, the largest percentage of crucial unrestricted support for our mission and ministry comes via congregation remittances. We recognize that all congregations face increased costs of goods and services, higher inflation, and often changing demographics through declining membership. Nevertheless, most members continued to support their local congregations and by extension, the work of Synod, as they were able. For that faithfulness we can all rejoice.

Over the past four years, 43% of our total revenue was derived through congregation remittances. During this quadrennium, we shared several very intentional communication pieces emphasizing the purpose and work of LCC and the significance of congregational

support, combined with in-person presentations and specific calls-to-action. Despite declines in membership, the total financial support increased. In fact, in the last year of this

quadrennium, we saw the highest level of financial support since restructuring. Thanks be to God for this result!



Together One Vision and Plan

One of the outcomes of the PPP process was the development of the Together One Vision and Plan. Having received a strong mandate from our members to expand our domestic mission and ministry, this plan focuses on key priorities and initiatives in support of:

- Word and Sacrament ministry in all our congregations, regardless of size or location;
- the training and equipping of church workers and lay leaders who seek to serve their synod boldly and steadfastly at a time of moral ambiguity in a nation that has become antithetical to the Gospel;
- a renewed focus on youth, young adults, and young families, building on a momentum of Millennials and Gen Z looking for truth, authenticity, and community;
- a clarion call to bring the Gospel to the thousands of new immigrants who are coming to Canada each year.

To provide financial support for these initiatives and enable our Synod to respond to the needs within our country, we embarked on a campaign feasibility study with the assistance of Zacharias Advancement Consulting. Beginning mid-2023 we developed a campaign Case for Support. This document and the concept of running a campaign was tested with a select number of individuals and key stakeholders across Synod. Feedback was gathered through a series of confidential interviews during the spring and summer of 2024. Findings were presented to the Board of Directors in October of that year. Based on the positive results of the feasibility study, the BoD made the decision to embark on the next phase of a capital campaign.

Back in the early 1980s, many of our congregations participated in the LCMS campaign, *Forward in Remembrance*. The result of that campaign still bears fruit today, which speaks to the longevity of faithful stewardship. Although some of our members will remember that campaign, there has not been another major effort to solicit financial support for the mission and ministry of our Synod. The Together One

Campaign therefore is a bold new initiative with a clear outcome of supporting our congregations and developing stronger ministries, equipping up our leaders, and expanding the call to share the good news of Jesus Christ across our nation. Two funds were established to receive gifts from our members: the Endowment Fund and the Mission and Ministry Opportunity Fund. Already at this juncture we have seen incredible response. Our National Campaign Council was established in late 2025 and together with Lutheran Foundation Canada, we are working with key members to develop lead gifts to the campaign. These seeds that we plant today will bless generations to come. You will hear much more about this effort in the second half of 2026.

Conclusion

God understands with perfect clarity what His mission will require in terms of financial support and knows precisely when each voluntary gift will have the greatest impact. He also knows exactly what each member is capable of giving and has provided them with the resources to give back to His mission. Every gift given, no matter the size, is meaningful and we give thanks to Him who has blessed each of us with the opportunity to share through courageous acts of faith. Great stewardship is certainly alive within our Synod. May we all experience the joy of generosity for His sake.

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him. Bless His name. For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100

REPORT 9.1 INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.” (Psalm 126:3)

With thanksgiving to God and confidence in His abiding mercy, I present this report on the international mission work of Lutheran Church–Canada. In every field where the Lord has placed us, we continue to witness His faithfulness as He gathers, preserves, and strengthens His Church through Word and Sacrament, often under conditions of great difficulty. What follows is not merely a summary of programs and projects, but a testimony to the Lord’s work through faithful servants who bear Christ’s cross for the sake of His Gospel.

Ukraine

In the midst of war and profound uncertainty, the Lord continues to sustain His Church in Ukraine. We give heartfelt thanks for the faithful, devoted, and sacrificial ministry of our missionary, Rev. Oleksiy Navrotsky, who serves both the parish in Nikolaev and the mission station in Lviv.

Alongside his pastoral labours, Rev. Navrotsky oversees the Ukraine Aid Fund, which has provided critical assistance to countless individuals and families affected by the war, offering not only material relief but also pastoral care and the comfort of Christ.

We also commend the pastors and congregations of SELCU, who continue to persevere faithfully under the heavy burdens imposed by war. Despite displacement, danger, and loss, they remain steadfast in providing spiritual care, preaching Christ crucified, and administering the Sacraments to God’s people. Their witness is a powerful reminder that even amid devastation, the Church perseveres and Christ reigns.

Nicaragua

In Nicaragua, the Lord has granted us the privilege of continued ministry in extraordinarily challenging circumstances. Through our eight *Pan de Vida* Feeding Program sites and twenty-two Day Schools, we are providing both physical

nourishment and spiritual formation to children in disadvantaged communities across the country. These ministries serve as tangible expressions of Christ's mercy, grounded in catechesis, prayer, and spiritual care.

We give thanks for the faithful and devoted service of our pastors and deaconesses who serve across thirty-two ministries throughout the country. Their steadfastness has ensured that Word and Sacrament ministry, as well as our various programs and projects, have continued without interruption.

We are especially grateful that, through LCC's Mission Association, we have been able to continue our work even as the Nicaraguan government shuttered over 5,000 church organizations and NGOs, including the Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua (ILSN). Because this ministry is predominantly funded and administered through the Mission Association, the ministry of the Church has been preserved and sustained. At present, the Church is in the process of reorganizing itself and taking the necessary steps—assisted by our Mission Association—to obtain official recognition as a Church body with the government. We pray for wisdom, patience, and the Lord's continued protection.

Costa Rica

Our mission in Cartago, Costa Rica, continues despite significant challenges related to property ownership. Although a property was purchased for the mission congregation, it was later discovered to be the victim of fraud. While the crime was identified two years ago, the investigation and court proceedings have progressed slowly, and we continue to await a resolution. We ask for your continued prayers that justice may prevail and that this matter may be brought to a faithful conclusion.

Amid these difficulties, we rejoice that the Lord has raised up workers for His harvest. This past year, we trained and commissioned Deaconess

Priscilla Diaz Sisar, who now faithfully assists our missionary, Rev. Edmundo Retana, in the work of mercy, catechesis, and congregational life.

Thailand

In Thailand, LCC continues to support mission work in the northern regions of the country, particularly among the various Hill Tribe communities in the Chiang Mai region. A new ministry established among the Shan community has experienced encouraging growth, with many being brought to the saving waters of Holy Baptism. We are also supporting new outreach efforts among the Hmong and other Hill Tribes, where the Gospel is being received with openness and joy.

We commend the faithful service of our missionary, Rev. Chujit Suchart, who continues to serve diligently in the Kokkloi area in the southern region of the country, as well as the pastors of our sister church, the Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church (TCLC). Through their perseverance, Christ's Church continues to be built in a context that demands patience, humility, and faith.

Cambodia

In Cambodia, our focus has been on strengthening the Church through theological education, supporting our sister church, the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC). We have provided various courses and workshops across the country to equip pastors, deaconesses, and church workers for faithful confession and service.

We give thanks for the twenty-four deaconesses serving throughout the country, whose works of mercy we are privileged to support. Their service to the vulnerable is a vital expression of the Church's vocation. We also highlight a particularly fruitful project: the provision of altars, baptismal fonts, and pulpits to newly

established congregations. These furnishings visibly confess the Church's commitment to Word and Sacrament and serve as lasting signs of Christ's presence among His people in this young and growing church body.

Israel

In Israel, LCC has established a new mission among the large Ethiopian community in Tel Aviv/Jaffa. Through the faithful service of several of our Ethiopian pastors—especially Rev. Assefa Aredo and Rev. Gizaw Chuta, who provide online catechesis—we are seeing modest but encouraging growth.

Our long-term aim is to work alongside our partner churches who are engaged in outreach among Russian, Norwegian, Filipino, and Arab communities, with the hope of forming one confessional Lutheran Church body in Israel, comprised of several language ministries united in doctrine and confession.

Haiti

In Haiti, we give thanks for our involvement in the renewal of theological education. Through the support of the Haitian Lutheran Mission Society, and the dedicated service of Rev. Dr. David Somers, Rev. Walta Clercius, and Rev. David Milete, a new seminary class has been

established at Concordia Theological Seminary of Haiti. Students are once again attending in person, with instruction also provided online. The fruit of this work has led to 60 students graduating in 2025.

After several years in which no formal theological education was available in the country, this development marks a significant step forward in forming pastors who are grounded in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, ensuring faithful pastoral care for Christ's Church in Haiti for generations to come.

Conclusion

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, these mission fields bear witness to the truth that the Church of Christ lives not by human strength or favourable circumstances, but by the Word of the Lord which endures forever. We give thanks for your prayers, your support, and your shared confession, and we ask that you continue to commend this work to the Lord of the Church, trusting that He who has begun this good work will bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam.

Rev. M.L. Smith
Director of International Missions

REPORT 9.2: DOMESTIC MISSIONS

On May 5, 2024, I was blessed to be installed as Director of Domestic Missions for LCC. I am deeply humbled by this responsibility given to me by the Church, and I will endeavour to carry out this work to the best of my abilities. I am so grateful for the prayers, support, and encouragement that I have received from members across Synod. Truly, there is great interest and desire for the Church to engage in Mission—proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus—not only Internationally, but across Canada as well.

Since I have taken on this position, I have been privileged to travel from coast to coast and visit many of our congregations and mission sites. It has been incredibly uplifting to personally witness the incredible mission work being done throughout the Church to share the Gospel. Indeed, the Lord of the Church continues to give us opportunity upon opportunity to spread His Word of Life, and so there is much to be thankful for. My time thus far has been largely spent in working with various ethnic and language

ministries, while also developing new opportunities for Mission, particularly among First Nations people. I have also been able to meet with and support our missionaries currently at work, and to share the good work that we do Together One with many congregations and circuit gatherings.

CHINESE MINISTRY

Opportunities for Chinese ministry continue to grow across the Synod. While the bulk of this work is in serving Cantonese and Mandarin speaking people in the Greater Vancouver Area and the GTA, LCC has recently been blessed with more outreach opportunities in Winnipeg. Truly, it is a wonder to behold God's Word taking root in peoples' hearts as they come to hear and believe the message of the Gospel.

FIRST NATIONS OUTREACH

One of the most exciting new developments has been increased outreach and ministry to people in our First Nations communities. Thanks to the work of LSOs like B.C. Mission Boat Society and L.A.M.P. the table has been set for increased ministry in many First Nations communities. In fact, LCC has been approached by some communities to provide more pastoral care. Working with our partner organizations, as well as local congregations (like Redeemer in Kitimat, B.C. and Bethany in Campbell River, B.C.), LCC is poised to bring God's Word of comfort and life on a more regular and consistent basis to our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

FRENCH MINISTRY

Lutheran Church-Canada's French Ministry of Gospel in Word and Sacrament ministry persists. Over the last few years, providing sufficient pastoral care has been difficult because of lack of resources and the 350 km span of where the members live. This has been somewhat compensated by zoom meetings for catechetical instruction, worship and youth activities, but the

limitations of the online format take their toll through this restricted means of communication. The instability of no permanent place of worship for any of the francophone congregations also plays on the mind.

Preparation for the transition from a full-time MAL to several part time pastors in the coming year and the ensuing modification of the French work that entails has been in progress for the past twelve months. Active production of new materials has been curtailed, but internet access to the now well-established base of documentation developed in recent years is newly more accessible through the enhanced LCC French sites.

All the while, attendance, general participation, membership, contributions and, most notably, the number of new contacts have increased. The Word prevails and the people of God are richly blessed.

-submitted by the Rev Dr. David Somers, MAL - French ministries

KINGSTON/TRENTON

This mission congregation is composed of a group of dedicated Christians currently served by Pastor Habermas, with assistance from other areas pastors, including Dr. Maleske. They regularly gather to receive God's gifts in Word and Sacrament and are intent on reaching out with the Gospel to gather more people into God's family of the Church.

MUSLIM OUTREACH

LCC has been richly blessed with a gifted and eager evangelist ideally suited to proclaim the Gospel to Muslim immigrants in the Niagara region of southern Ontario. His bold witness in sharing the Christian faith is bearing much fruit as people are drawn into the church through Bible study and conversation. He is able to connect new converts to various local congregations where

they are able to receive further catechesis and be incorporated and welcomed into the body of Christ, and where they can partake of Christ's saving gifts in Word and Sacrament.

OROMO OUTREACH

LCC's most extensive Domestic Mission outreach continues to be to Oromo communities across the country, as relationships continue to grow and expand. Indeed, the Church has called an Oromo pastor to serve as Missionary-at-Large to serve the Oromo community of lower-mainland, B.C. There are also multiple Oromo men from various communities, seeking to be trained as pastors through our PAT program training. Once trained, these men will provide additional pastoral care support to existing Oromo congregations, in addition to assisting with further outreach. We pray the Spirit will bless this work so that more people may be gathered around God's holy gifts offered in His Divine Service through His Church. Indeed, the gathering of saints in Vancouver is actively working towards becoming a rostered congregation in LCC, and there are other groups that have also indicated a strong to desire to begin the process. God be praised!

STREET REACH, REGINA

LCC Missionary-at-Large, Rev. Dongjoo (DJ) Kim continues to serve at-risk youth and young adults on the streets of Regina, in addition to providing sound pastoral care to emergency services personnel. The police squad car serves as his "mobile church" in which Pastor Kim is able to proclaim God's Word of Law and Gospel to people in desperate need. Through patient listening, Pastor Kim is able to hear peoples' confession of sin and then respond with the Lord's gracious Word of Absolution. This impactful ministry serves to bring God's comfort and peace to those who are burdened with grief, trauma, sin, and violence on a daily basis.

SUDANESE OUTREACH

Sudanese ministry continues to grow and expand across the country. There are groups in southern Ontario and Alberta. The congregation in Calgary recently called a PAT graduate to serve as their pastor. The special service of Pastor Nhial's installation was attended by hundreds of people, with representatives from congregations as far away as Edmonton and Hamilton. This church has been actively pursuing rostered membership with LCC! We rejoice at the addition of these brothers and sisters in Christ to our fellowship.

WINDSOR/ESSEX COUNTY LUTHERAN OUTREACH (WECLO)

Javed Khan and his wife, working with several volunteers from First, Windsor and other local congregations, continue to provide a multi-cultural outreach, designed to reaching newly arrived immigrants in Essex County, Ontario. In order to help immigrants adjust to a new life in Canada, Bible Studies, ESL courses, fellowship meals, sports events and other activities are offered, while introducing them to nearby Lutheran congregations. This important outreach has been very fruitful over the years, leading several individuals into LCC and LCMS congregations in the Windsor area.

CONCLUSION

"Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all peoples." – Psalm 96:3

Looking at all the work we do as LCC, both Domestically and Internationally, it is easy to see how the Lord has both blessed and equipped our church to serve His people with the Gospel. This is an exciting time for the Church, even though it comes with certain challenges. The opportunities for fruitful mission are abundant, and we give thanks to God for the partnership we have with our LCC Auxiliaries and LSOs that permit us to support and expand the work we do Together One

on the Mission Field, whether that be on the other side of the globe, or in our own backyard. It is important to remember that this is work that we all do Together. From our Mission Remittances and local congregational mission efforts, to the prayers we offer to the Lord in support of all Mission work, we are all in this Together One. That is why I am so grateful to God for the work of such people as Rev. Smith, our International Missions Director, David Friesen our Director of Advancement, and our Associate Director Family Ministries, Dcn. Neeb who serve the Lord and His church so faithfully. And I am also deeply grateful to God for all of you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ of LCC. For without your support, without your loving and sacrificial

service to your local congregation and the wider church, much of the work that we strive to do would not occur. However, by God's grace, you are shaped and molded (firstly, through God's gifts to you in His Word and Sacrament, secondly, through your sacrificial response of thanks and praise) to be used by the Lord in loving service to your neighbour. Together One may we ever rejoice in God's gifts and work together in sharing His love and mercy with others.

Yours In Christ,

Rev. Jacob Quast
Director of Domestic Missions

REPORT 10: LCC COMMUNICATIONS

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS SINCE THE LAST CONVENTION | 2022-2026

Missouri North (Amazon release)

- *Missouri North: The History of Lutheran Church–Canada* was a special publication first released and gifted to delegates at the 2022 LCC Synod Convention.
- The book charts the development of LCC from its origins until autonomy, offers essays by LCC's first three presidents recounting milestones in the history of Lutheran Church–Canada over the next three decades, and provides insights into the unique story of LCC's French-language ministry. The book was subsequently released on Amazon, and has sold 204 copies as of January 2026, including 41 copies sold internationally. The book continues to be used as a required textbook by LCC seminaries for the course on Lutheranism in North America. Concordia Historical Institute has also recognized the publication of *Missouri North* with an honourable mention for books published in 2022.

Armed Forces Devotional Book - Canadian Edition (Paperback)

- LCC's military chaplains received printed copies of the new Armed Forces Devotional Book Canadian Edition. The devotional was prepared in cooperation with Concordia Publishing House, under the guidance of LCC military chaplain, LCdr the Rev. David Jackson, Senior Fleet Chaplain serving the Royal Canadian Navy's Atlantic Fleet.
- Modelled after the US counterpart, this Canadianized devotional book begins with the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. In addition to a variety of prayers, select Psalms, and Scripture lessons, the devotional includes hymns, a brief summary of the Christian Faith, the Order for Christian Burial, and the Order for Holy Baptism.

Turning and Returning: A Lenten Journey of Repentance and Renewal (Paperback and online)

- The devotional, *Turning and Returning: A Lenten Journey of Repentance and Renewal*, is written by Rev. M.L. Smith and beautifully complemented by original artwork from LCC member Harrison Avery Prozenko.

- Structured around the penitential rhythm of the season, the devotional guides readers through weekly themes of turning: from the world, from idols, from pride, from fear, from guilt, from self-sufficiency. These movements are not presented as superficial moral adjustments but, as the devotional emphasizes, “movements of the heart back to the Cross, where grace flows freely and new life begins.”
- Each day’s devotion includes Scripture, prayer, and sacred hymnody—centred on Christ, who calls His people to repentance and receives them with mercy. The material was released as a free digital download on LCC’s website for personal or congregational printing, with paperback copies available for purchase through Amazon.

DIGITAL RESOURCES SINCE THE LAST CONVENTION | 2022-2026

Quick Reference Guide (Webpage)

- An online guide was developed as a quick reference point for LCC leadership and members to easily access all available communication pieces, projects, and initiatives (with a concise description, and details on where to find more information and updates).

Worship Terminology Resource Page & Printables

- As part of his internship, Andrew Hayes assisted in the development of the new Worship Terminology webpage, which includes an explanation of worship from a Lutheran perspective, features citations from our Lutheran Confessions, and includes concise definitions of various so-called “Lutheran Buzzwords” related to worship and the structure of the Divine Service. A printable PDF version of the webpage is also available as an additional tool for congregation or individual use.

Hymn of the Day Project

- The Hymn of the Day Project builds on the framework of the existing Hymn Selection

Guide by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This webpage highlights some of the rich hymnody we have in the Lutheran Church, by providing examples of organ and acoustic guitar renditions of select ‘hymns of the day’ by LCC musicians.

Congregational Archives Quick Guide

- LCC’s Archives Committee developed this resource to help congregations record and preserve their church’s local history.

Lay Service Guidelines for vacant congregations

- Prepared by the President’s Ministry Council and CTCR, this resource was provided to help congregations temporarily without a pastor by providing guidelines and examples for lay-led services—ensuring that a proper way to delegate the pastor’s wider duties is available to congregations in these extraordinary circumstances so that they are not deprived of God’s Word and corporate prayer.

Advent Devotional Calendars for Families

- Prepared by Dcn. Samantha Neeb, LCC Associate Director - Family Ministries, LCC Communications supported the design and distribution of *Waiting for Jesus* and *Immanuel: God with Us*—devotional calendars with tips for beginning a daily devotional practice, as well as other guidance. *Waiting for Jesus* was also produced and released in French.

Lenten Devotional Calendars for Families

- Following the success of the Advent Devotional Calendars for Families, a variation for the Lenten season was produced and released in both English and French.

UPGRADES TO LCC’S DIGITAL PRESENCE | 2022-2026

In an increasingly digital age, LCC has taken great strides in the last quadrennial to improve our online presence.

Online Resource Hub for Family Ministries

- In partnership with Dcn. Samantha Neeb, LCC Associate Director - Family Ministries, LCC Communications worked to establish a convenient digital hub for family resources by category to support faith formation in the home and beyond. The resources are categorized for Home Use, Church Use, as well as organized by seasons of the Church Year. At the time of writing this report, several new resources have been produced, including three Devotional Calendars for Families (two of which had versions available in French) and one Brief Guide to Home Devotions, to encourage use of the Lutheran Service Book in this context.

Online Synodical Calendar

- An online synodical calendar was added to LCC's website to highlight national and regional events; meetings of elected/appointed synodical boards, commissions, councils, and committees; and events linked to affiliated organizations such as auxiliaries, LSOs, and seminaries.

Written Sermon Database Restructuring

- Our Written Sermon Database—one of our most used resources by LCC members—was restructured to accommodate the growing number of sermons, ensuring easy navigation. The new database includes a search feature and option to pull up sermons by both Series and Season of the Church Year, including Feasts and Festivals.

Find a Congregation Feature Upgrades

- The Find a Congregation feature on LCC's website is another one of our most used resources. This feature supports connecting individuals with local Lutheran congregations and it is important that it remain up-to-date and user-friendly.
- Based on user feedback, upgrades have been made to the Find a Congregation feature so that the locator works according to distance as well as city name.
- Our summer intern (2025) did excellent work updating all congregational site profiles

corresponding to this feature on our website. 174 congregational profiles required updates in 2025 (63.7%). 30 congregations (11%) had major issues (i.e. a dead web URL, discrepancy of street address, no contact details, etc.).

- Moving forward, updated protocol has been put in place to ensure these updates are maintained more regularly.

Strategic Initiatives Tracker

- This centralized resource allows congregations and ministry partners to access the latest progress updates on key goals and initiatives across our Synod. The digital tool is designed not just to report activity but to support accountability, transparency, and collaboration as we walk together in faith and service.

Additional upgrades have been made in the area of LCC Missions and French Ministries, which will be highlighted below.

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION FOR LCC MISSIONS | 2022-2026

Ongoing efforts, in partnership with LCC's Directors of Missions—Rev. M.L. Smith (International) and Rev. Jacob Quast (Domestic)—continue to strengthen communication on missions.

LCC Mission and Ministry Photo Gallery

- An LCC Mission & Ministry Photo Gallery was developed for internal purposes to ensure the Communications Department and beyond have access to publication-ready photos from each of LCC's International and Domestic Mission sites—for use in publications and for easy sharing with Auxiliaries, LSOs, and other entities promoting this work.
- With this system, communicators within our synodical family have access to photos labelled correctly and appropriately for publication that are categorized intuitively. Additionally, photo galleries have been established for various occasions and

gatherings of our Synod, and as pictorial directories of office staff, clergy, deacons, and missionaries.

Interactive Mission Maps

- Beginning in 2022, work on a massive expansion of LCC's Mission webpages began, including the development of two interactive mission maps for our International and Domestic sites.
- Quality information on all mission sites has been added to the website to increase awareness of the work we do together as a synod across the country and around the world, making these details more accessible to our members and to the public.
- At the time of this report, all Domestic and International mission map webpages have been updated as of 2025, ensuring the latest information is available.

Other Upgrades

- LCC's Missions webpages were restructured, in connection with our interactive Mission Maps—with a focus on easier navigation, improved quality of content, and reduced risk of outdated content.
- A dedicated column was added to The Canadian Lutheran for the Missions Department.
- A Mission News link was added to LCC's website.
- LCC introduced a new international missions badge (by Harrison Avery Prozenko), now integrated into International Missions webpages.

ENHANCING LCC'S FRENCH DIGITAL PRESENCE | 2022-2026

In partnership with Rev. Dr. David Somers and Rev. Dr. David Saar, LCC Communications has supported the implementation of an intentional digital presence for LCC French Ministries as we seek to faithfully serve in a bilingual country and beyond.

Égliselutherienne.ca

- This serves as our national French language website, and includes: a welcome page, information on who we are as confessional Lutherans in Canada; information on the work we do through LCC's ILLF (more details below); extensive resources for pastors, church workers, and laity; as well as information and contact details for LCC's French-speaking congregations and mission sites.
- Major enhancements to this website began in 2025 and into 2026 to make the website more navigable, catechetical, and sustainable.
- Resources have been developed and categorized to support pastors; parents, teachers, and leaders; and for use by anyone. Resources are organized by liturgical season for each Sunday of the Church Year. A searchable database feature has also been launched in its early form, with greater implementation scheduled over the next few years.

LCC's Institut liturgique luthérien francophone

- This serves as a digital space to host material for LCC's Institut liturgique luthérien francophone (The Francophone Lutheran Liturgical Institute – ILLF) which provides support in the French language to those responsible for teaching, researching, and carrying out pastoral work in areas pertaining to Lutheran liturgy.
- The ILLF equips pastors and church workers with a better understanding of the historic liturgy and also provides practical and educational resources—and is useful to musicians, choir leaders, cantors, pastors, and laity in other ways as well. ILLF is the only Confessional Lutheran institute of its kind available entirely in French.

CONTINUING SUPPORT TO CONGREGATIONS IN MANAGING THEIR ONLINE PRESENCE | 2022-2026

LCC continues to work with congregations to provide communications guidance and support in an increasingly digital age that is both helpful and appropriate for a church context.

Congregational Site Toolkit - Free website hosting and development

- LCC offers free website development and hosting services to LCC congregations, including the option of a free customized domain under LCC's network of sites. **The number of congregations or parishes using this service has grown from approximately six in 2020 to sixty as of January 30, 2026.** This includes: **25** in the East region; **12** in Central Region; and **23** in the West Region.
- Support is provided in the initial setup of the website, along with individualized training to congregation members to ensure they can confidently manage the content on their new website. Guidance on content and communication strategy is provided, along with long-term troubleshooting support.
- This service has been valuable in particular to smaller congregations who may not otherwise have the capacity to manage a website due to prohibitive costs or limited time and volunteers to set it up and oversee it.

INTERNSHIPS | 2022-2026

LCC's Communications Department and Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada has continued to team up in offering a paid, part-time summer internship opportunity to LCC members.

Interns

- 2022's interns: Andrew Hayes and Erika Schroth-Gajdos
- 2023's intern: Joseph Behl
- 2024's interns: Emily Kuhl, Gracie Harper, Aashish Paul, Sophia Kuhl
- 2025's interns: Tim Bayha, Luke Mayan, Anna Scheetz

STAFFING TRANSITIONS | 2022-2026

New Position: Digital Communications and Content Manager

- This position was developed as part of a strategic restructuring to strengthen our communications efforts and more effectively support the Synod's mission and ministry in a digital age.
- The new role reflects LCC's commitment to enhancing our digital presence and ensuring excellence across all online platforms, while continuing to serve the church with clarity, consistency, and confessional faithfulness.
- The position was developed in collaboration with Alex Steinke, LCC's former Director of Communications. Her input helped shape the role to meet the evolving communication needs of the Synod in keeping with our goals and values. In the fall of 2025, Steinke stepped into this new position.

New Leadership: Director of Communications

- LCC appointed Dr. Tasheny Francis as the church's new Director of Communications, effective November 17, 2025.
- Dr. Francis is an award-winning communications strategist and sociolinguist with more than 15 years of experience leading communication initiatives across academic, non-profit, and faith-based sectors. She is also an accomplished educator and public speaker.
- Her extensive background includes strategic communication planning, stakeholder engagement, and crisis management, with previous experience in faith-based organizations such as the Bible Society of the West Indies, where she led national outreach initiatives centred on Christian themes.

AWARDS | 2022-2026

Decline and Growth: A Look at the Lutheran World Today

Author: Mathew Block
Third Place - Feature Category (2023)

Canadian Christian Communicators Association (CCCA)

In Review | *Top Gun: Maverick*

Author: Rev. Ted Giese
Third Place - Media Review (2023)
Canadian Christian Communicators Association (CCCA)

The Canadian Lutheran: November/December 2024

Authors: Mathew Block (Comfort and Joy?); Rev. Oleksiy Navrotsky (Christmas Peace in a Land of War: Reflections from Ukraine); Bishop Juhana Pohjola (Who Are You Bowing To?); Michelle Heumann and Rev. Scott Gamble (Advent Blues)
First Place - Feature Series (2024)
Canadian Christian Communicators Association (CCCA)

In Review | *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*

Author: Rev. Ted Giese
Third Place - Media Review (2024)
Canadian Christian Communicators Association (CCCA)

Christmas Peace in a Land of War: Reflections from Ukraine

Author: Rev. Oleksiy Navrotsky
Third Place - Biblical/Theological Reflection (2024)
Canadian Christian Communicators Association (CCCA)

Sharing Jesus on the Streets of Canada's Murder Capital

Author: Rev. Daniel W. Barr
Third Place - First Person Account (2024)
Canadian Christian Communicators Association (CCCA)

REPORT 11: FAMILY MINISTRIES

The role of Associate Director - Family Ministries was established by LCC's Board of Directors in response to Resolution 22.3.03 that was passed at the 2022 Synod Convention. This position was created to provide focused support and leadership in the areas of youth, young adult, and family ministry. This is to be accomplished through work with leaders across Synod to develop resources, facilitate events, and build communication networks among church workers and volunteers. The goal is to equip and strengthen congregational ministry to families throughout the synodical family.

Having started in this new position on August 1, 2025, I have been at work gathering information from congregations, church workers and volunteers about what family ministry looks like in their contexts. In addition to the information gathering, I have worked with Alex Steinke, Digital Communications and Content Manager, to add a Family Resources page on the LCC website. It is an ongoing project, and I would

encourage people to share the resources they have found helpful, or ones they have created so that they can be shared more broadly. Some of the new resources include Family Devotional Calendars for Advent and Lent, and an updated version of the Brief Guide to Home Devotions using the Lutheran Service Book.

One of the opportunities I have been working on to help equip and support church workers and volunteers across our Synod has been to provide webinars. At the time of writing this report, there has been one webinar on the topic of Vacation Bible School (VBS), hosted in January, with four panelists sharing different models of VBS. A second webinar is scheduled for February on the topic of Equipping Young Leaders, with two panelists. More webinars are being planned that cover different areas of ministry.

I have also been blessed to make connections with our brothers and sisters in Christ in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). In

addition to connecting with church workers in the LCMS Office of National Mission, I had the chance to attend some project meetings and conferences which included sessions on children in worship, healthy youth ministry practices, equipping youth for service, engaging parents, volunteer retention, faith conversations with young adults and more. I also look forward to attending a family discipleship facilitator training in the spring. I am thankful for this partnership in ministry and look forward to sharing what I have learned with the members of Lutheran Church-Canada.

I look forward to helping plan the 2028 National Youth Gathering and attending the upcoming Impact (West Region) Youth Gathering at Pines Bible Camp in Grand Forks, BC from June 27-30, 2026. There are young adult retreats and gatherings in the planning stage, and I am grateful to have attended an EDLYA (East District Lutheran Young Adults) retreat this past fall, where I led a discussion.

I look forward to using the information I have thus far gathered, and the work done by the Purpose and Priorities Planning Process that happened in 2022 to continue to help support the work that is being done congregationally in family ministry. Some areas that I will be focusing on in the upcoming quadrennium are family discipleship, vocational identity, youth

leader support, equipping volunteers and event-based ministries.

I am incredibly humbled to be in this position and am grateful for the staff at the synodical office who have welcomed me into this role and for all the work they do. I am also beyond grateful for the welcome I have received from members across the synod and the excitement and opportunities for creation and collaboration that have come forward.

I would like to end by encouraging you to reach out to me at any time, as *Together One*, we continue to tell the coming generations of the glorious deeds of the Lord.

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
 incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
 I will open my mouth in a parable;
 I will utter dark sayings from of old,
 things that we have heard and known,
 that our fathers have told us.
 We will not hide them from their children,
 but tell to the coming generation
 the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
 and the wonders that he has done.— Psalm 78:1-4

In His Service,
 Deacon Samantha Neeb

REPORT 12: LCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Lutheran Church – Canada (LCC) includes the following faithful servants:

Lay: Arnold Drung, Lois Griffin, Kirsten Guggenmos, Grace Henderson, Doug Petersen

Clergy: Rev. Timothy Teuscher (President), Rev. Theodore Giese, Dcn. Amanda Hastings, Rev. Mark Hennig, Rev. Thomas Kruesel, Rev. Michael Schutz (Vice President),

Diaconate: Dcn. Amanda Hastings

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Synodical Bylaws, the property and business of LCC is managed by the Board of Directors (the Board). During the intervals between Conventions, the Board possesses and may exercise the powers of the Convention. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Board makes decisions in the best interest of LCC in cases where specific direction has not already been provided by the Convention. All actions of the Board are reported

to the next Convention and are subject to revision or alteration by the Convention, provided that no acts or rights of third parties are affected or invalidated by any such revision or alteration.

The following is a report on the decisions taken by the Board since the 2022 Convention. These are organized by calendar year since the Edmonton Convention.

2022

The final meeting of the outgoing Board was held in August. At that meeting, the Board reviewed progress on the merger of the LCC pension plan with the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) pension plan, approved the 2023 Compensation Guidelines for Pastoral and Diaconal Personnel, and ratified the Circuit Counsellor and Regional Mission and Ministry Council (RMMC) elections. These elections were unable to be completed during the convention due to time constraints and were subsequently completed electronically. President Teuscher also expressed thanks to the outgoing Board members for the ongoing service and sacrifice, especially as their term of office was extended due to COVID.

The inaugural meeting of LCC's new Board, elected at the June 2022 Convention, was held in Winnipeg on October 15.

The meeting began with a Board orientation conducted by Rev. Alex Klages, representing the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS). The largest action item of the meeting was the appointment of the standing committees. After this meeting, the Board of Directors met twice online (October and November) to make additional appointments, receive reports on the LCC pension plan merger, and prepare for the adoption of the 2023-2024 budget.

2023

In 2023, the Board met in-person two times and online five times.

The January online meeting focused on the receipt of the draft 2023-2024 budget and action necessary to continue the pension plan merger with CAAT.

During the March in-person meeting, the Board approved a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU*) received from the MOU Consultant, Rev. Nolan Astley. A budget in the amount of \$4,028,316 was adopted. The results of the campaign readiness study were presented for review.

The two online meetings in June focused on receipt and review of the audited financial statements. The audit findings report communicated a clean audit with no corrected or uncorrected adjustments.

In August's online meeting, the Director of Domestic Missions position description was approved, allowing the search for a candidate to begin.

October 2023's in-person meeting saw additional MOUs approved, initiated the creation of a crisis management plan, and established an ad hoc archives committee.

Additionally, during the in-person meetings in March and October, the Board received reports from the president, the regional pastors, and the chief administrative officer. The Directors of Missions and Communications also provided reports, and the Director of Advancement, reported on the unfolding work of the Purpose and Priorities Planning (PPP) process.

2024

The Board met via electronic means four times and in-person twice in 2024.

During the online meeting in January, the BOD approved establishing a formal relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ÉÉLH) to support its need for theological education. Additionally, Rev. Jacob Quast was called to the position of Director of Domestic

Missions. Rev. Quast began his work in this role in May.

In-person in March, the Board approved the printing of a devotional book for the Canadian Armed Forces at the request of LCC's Dean of Military Chaplains. The budget of \$4,167,728 for 2024-2025 was approved.

In the May and June online meetings, the audited financial statements were approved along with an MOU. The audit findings report communicated a clean audit with no corrected or uncorrected adjustments. The position description for the Associate Director – Family Ministries was approved, allowing the start of the search for a candidate for this position.

Also, the BOD was pleased to issue a call on behalf of the congregations of LCC to Rev. Megersa Denu to serve as missionary-at-large, Lower Mainland, BC (Oromo).

At their in-person meeting in October, the Board approved the national archive plan developed by the ad hoc archives committee. Additionally, the agreement for Haiti seminary education funding was approved.

The online meeting in November focused on the actions needed resulting from the campaign readiness study, approving the campaign plan, and staffing recommendations.

During the in-person meetings in March and October, the Board received reports from the president, the regional pastors, and the chief administrative officer, along with other synod staff.

Throughout 2024, the BOD received action updates on the synod strategic initiatives developed from the PPP process started in 2022. These initiatives are helping to focus attention on the issues that are most critical to directing, strengthening, and sustaining LCC's overall mission and ministry.

2025

In 2025 the Board met online five times and twice in-person.

At its February online meeting, an application for a Candidate Deacon was submitted to the Board of Assignments by the Board on behalf of the congregations of LCC to fill the position of Associate Director – Family Ministries. Subsequently, Dcn. Samantha Neeb began her work in this role, in August.

The in-person meeting in March saw the approval of the capital campaign budget, and the engagement of a campaign consultant. The 2025-2026 budget of \$4,972,302 was also approved.

March also saw the start of planning for the four-year (quadrennial) work program planning conference, to be held in October. Representatives from the RMMCs, the Board and LCC executive staff will meet to create a more focused, mission-aligned draft quadrennial work program for presentation at the 2026 Synod Convention.

The Board received a report from the Regional Pastors (RPs) reflecting on highlighted areas in which there has been progress in implementing the new structure, and also challenges that have hindered them in their role as it is currently defined during the past seven years since the creation of this position as a part of LCC's restructuring.

In June, the online meeting focused on the receipt and approval of the audited financial statements. The audit findings report communicated a clean audit with no corrected or uncorrected adjustments.

The Board chair Arnold Drung was appointed to the position of chair of LCC's National Campaign Council (NCC) in anticipation of the Together One Campaign. The Board Vice Chair Doug Petersen agreed to assume the responsibilities of The Board chair until the next elections at the

2026 LCC Convention. Arnold Drung will serve the LCC BOD as Vice Chair.

In response to some of the challenges identified in the March report of the RPs, the Board established the position of Assistant Regional Pastor for the West Region.

The October in-person meeting of the Board was preceded by the quadrennial work program conference. Feedback from the conference was reviewed. Three new MOUs were approved. And one new congregation was approved for membership in LCC and will be formally received at the 2026 Convention.

In November, the online meeting of the Board primarily dealt with the approval of overtures, being submitted on behalf of the Board, to the 2026 Convention.

The introduction of the LCC Vicarage Placement Fund in 2025 will provide the twelve-month salary to host congregations. This will enable more congregations to host a vicar, providing support for the important formation of pastors for the church.

Throughout 2025 the BOD received action updates on the synod strategic initiatives developed from the PPP process started in 2022.

During the in-person meetings in March and October, the Board received reports from the president, the regional pastors, and the chief administrative officer, along with other synod staff.

The Board planned to meet again in March 2026 for its regular in-person meeting.

Summary

Since the 2022 Convention, the Board of Directors has worked to faithfully steward the governance, resources, and mission of Lutheran Church–Canada. Through regular in-person and online meetings, the Board has worked to strengthen the church’s organizational structure, support mission and ministry initiatives, ensure sound financial oversight, and advance long-term priorities such as the pension plan merger, strategic initiatives from the Purpose and Priorities Planning process, and preparations for a national capital campaign.

Significant actions during this period included calling key ministry leaders, supporting international and domestic mission efforts, establishing new ministry positions, strengthening archival and crisis planning work, and initiating funding structures to support pastoral formation. The Board has also worked closely with regional and synodical leaders to refine ministry structures and prepare a focused quadrennial work program for consideration at the 2026 Convention.

The Board gives thanks to God for the opportunity to serve the congregations of LCC and remains committed to supporting the church’s mission of proclaiming the Gospel, strengthening congregations, and equipping future leaders for faithful service.

*A list of the MOUs approved this quadrennium can be found in Workbook section G

REPORT 13: COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (CTC)

Members: Lisa Jackson (Chair), Pastor Michael Schutz, Grace Henderson, Gracie Harper

Staff Liaison: Director of Communications

The Communications and Technology Committee (CTC) is a Standing Committee of the Board, mandated to provide advice, direction, and resources in the areas of communications and technology. The committee serves in a

consultative capacity to the Director of Communications and supports the development of effective communication across Lutheran Church–Canada.

A Season of Transition and Realignment

Since the 2022 Convention, the Communications portfolio has experienced significant transition, including an extended leave and, most recently, the calling of a new Director of Communications.

Throughout this period, the CTC has focused on:

- Supporting continuity of communications during staff transition
- Clarifying reporting structures between operational and governance responsibilities
- Re-establishing alignment as leadership roles resumed or changed

With the appointment of a new Director of Communications, the committee has reaffirmed its commitment to serve as a consultative body — offering feedback, guidance, and strategic reflection as she assumes full responsibility for the communications portfolio.

Strengthening Communication Structures

During this convention cycle, the CTC has engaged in discussion and support around:

- Evaluation of communication tools for Regional Ministry and Mission Councils
- Guidelines for appropriate use of the LCC badge and visual identity
- Email server reliability and contingency communication protocols
- Support and discernment during the Communications Director hiring process

These discussions have centred not on operational control, but on governance-level awareness, clarity of expectations, and long-term structural stability.

Social Media Seminar Proposal

The CTC received a request from the Sabbath Conference Committee to partner in developing a social media seminar. LLL Canada prepared a proposal on behalf of both LLL-C and LCC. Although the proposal was positively received, LCC determined that current staffing and workload realities did not permit pursuit of the initiative at this time. The committee supported this decision considering capacity considerations.

Looking Ahead

The CTC's focus remains steady:

- Supporting the new Director of Communications in a stable transition
- Encouraging clarity in theological and institutional communication
- Promoting communication systems that serve congregations effectively
- Maintaining governance-level oversight without operational duplication

This convention cycle has been marked more by consolidation than expansion. The committee remains committed to strengthening the structures that allow Lutheran Church—Canada to communicate clearly, faithfully, and effectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Jackson

Chair, Communications and Technology Committee

REPORT 14: LCC NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



Greetings in Jesus!

The 2025 Lutheran Church-Canada National Youth Gathering took place from July 4-8 at

Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. The goal going into this NYG was for 250 youth and leaders, and 10 Minions. In the end, there were 105 youth, 24 leaders, 30 volunteers (which included committee members, minions—formerly known as iBods, and LLL ambassadors), and 18 exhibitors in attendance for the NYG from congregations all across Canada. While our numbers were lower than we had hoped for, when compared to 2022 in Winnipeg (74 youth, 22 leaders, 31 volunteers, 9 exhibitors) we saw an increase from the previous NYG.

Overall, it was a great opportunity for everyone to be able to have the time to connect with others (who are going through what they're going through), study God's Word, worship, have some fun, serve, and learn about what it means to be UNBREAKABLE: with the whole armour of God (this was the theme based on Ephesians 6).

The committee was made up of people with various talents and experience representing all the different regions of LCC. There are many tasks involved in putting on an NYG and many roles to be filled by the committee, so we have highlighted some of them. From the West Region: Rev. Eric Moffett (Co-Chair); Kayla Moffett; Michelle Heumann; Rhonda Kelman; Gail Haussler. From the Central Region: Rev. Glenn Worcester (Co-Chair); Nathan Vaughan; Dcn. Amanda Hastings. From the East Region: Rev. Paul Roggow (Chaplain); Tony Marchand.

The main speakers were Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee (Windsor, ON) and Jennifer Kerr (Regina, SK) and each main session they took different pieces of the armour of God from Ephesians 6 and connected it to their life and to the lives of those in attendance. Cassie Moore also returned to the NYG as a guest speaker. She led breakout sessions for youth and youth leaders, as well as a leader training session.

The NYG Committee has tried our best to organize an event that offers maximum value for a reasonable price. We had been able to keep the

registration fee at \$495 per person since 2007 because of ongoing support from the synod, congregations, and individual donors, but for 2025 it was raised to \$525. The actual cost to attend the NYG is over \$700 per person. Since this is not a yearly expense, even with the increase in cost, we do believe that \$525 is manageable for most youth and their families, especially with fundraising efforts, and will do our best to keep it at that price.

In 2019 we put out the specific direction of the NYG. Our mission statement is: **“Providing opportunities for Lutheran youth to grow in faith and relationship with others as the body of Christ.”** Our statement of direction is: **The National Youth Gathering will provide opportunities for youth, leaders, and volunteers to join in corporate worship, study God's Word, be equipped through large and small group sessions, reach out to the community through servant events, and engage in fellowship and fun.** And our core values are: **community/relationships and spiritual growth/formation with a Lutheran identity.**

Within this framework we planned eight worship services, five Bible study times, and over thirty-six breakout sessions. **We would like to continue encouraging all congregations of LCC to be involved with the NYG;** please consider bringing a group from your church or coming as an adult volunteer (aka minion) or donating to support the ministry. It would not be possible without the support of congregations and members of LCC.

We will continue to pray for the young people who are now living their lives back in their respective homes after attending the NYG. We also lift up their leaders, their pastors, and their churches in prayer that they can continue to encourage them to live UNBREAKABLE with the whole armour of God. Please pray for them as well, and for us, as planning for the next LCC NYG begins.

We know there is plenty more work to be done, and plenty of conversations to have regarding the relationship of LCC NYGs with LCC. As it currently stands, the LCC NYG committee is made up of Rev. Eric Moffett, Rev. Glenn Worcester, Dcn. Amanda Hastings, and Dcn. Samantha Neeb. By the time of the LCC Convention, we hope to be able to tell you where the 2028 NYG will be held as well as what the theme is.

We appreciate the ongoing support of the synod and congregations and look forward to gathering together in 2028 to provide opportunities for Lutheran youth to grow in faith and relationship

with others as the body of Christ. It has been a joy to serve the synod as co-chairs of the NYG for the past three years.

For regular updates and detailed event information, please visit our website (www.lccnyg.ca) or follow us on Facebook (@LCCNationalYouthGathering) or Instagram ([lcc_nyg](https://www.instagram.com/lcc_nyg)).

Your brothers in Christ,

Rev. Glenn Worcester and Rev. Eric Moffett
Co-Chairs of the 2025 Lutheran Church-Canada
National Youth Gathering

REPORT 15: COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS (2022-2026)

“Together One: One Lord, One Faith, One Body” Ephesians 4:4-6 is the theme under which our Lutheran Church-Canada gathers together in convention. The goal of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations has always been to work towards this togetherness, as synod, but also as we interact with other synods and church bodies around the globe. By God’s grace, we remain faithful to our Lord and His goals for us as His Church!

Members of the Commission

The members of the CTCR for the past quadrennium have been: Rev Joel Kuhl (Waterloo, ON), Rev Michael Keith (Stony Plain, AB), Rev Warren Hamp (Kitchener, ON), Mr Mathew Block (Swan River, MB), Mr Archie Richardson (Rocky Mountain House, AB), Rev Dr Thomas Winger (CLTS, St Catharines), and for short bouts of time Rev Dr James Gimbel, Rev Dr Joel Heck, and Rev Dr Sam Thompson (all of CLS, Edmonton, each filling in as transitions were happening there). Of course, our dear President Rev Timothy Teuscher also served as a member *‘ex officio,’* guiding us into the work LCC needed us to look after. A big thank you goes out to the LCC office staff who helped us with so many arrangements for our meetings and dockets.

Of a more sombre note, Rev Warren Hamp, a most valuable member of the CTCR over multiple terms, finished his final term with us this year, and by the time of our convention will have joined the Church Triumphant after his battle with pancreatic cancer. Even whilst enduring chemotherapy, he still attended our final meeting via video conferencing, aiding our Commission with his counsel and advice. Thanks be to God for faithful members of His Church for serving us so diligently!

Our Meetings

The CTCR met online on June 13, 2023 to make some elections for internal appointments and go through an initial run of the topics before us. Rev Joel Kuhl was elected to continue as Chairman, and Mr Mathew Block was elected to serve as Secretary.

We held two meetings in Winnipeg, MB to conduct our business on behalf of synod: October 19-20 2023 and again in October 14-15, 2025. In between these in-person meetings, we held several email exchanges over a variety of topics. By God’s grace, we were able to stay on top of everything before us.

Theological Topics Discussed

One topic that carried over from the previous quadrennium was the whole issue of helping struggling congregations keep doing the work our Lord has given them to do whilst at the same time dealing with limited resources and fewer Pastors in our midst. The Presidents' Ministry Council (PMC) has been working on a document, "Ministry Models for the Present Age," and has asked for CTCR input along the way. We also helped update another document, "Guidelines for Congregational and Pastoral Practice." Some discussion also happened concerning the PAT program. The intention of all of these conversations has been to help our congregations and Pastors work faithfully together in Christ's mission and to keep moving forward rather than find ourselves hindered by worry or inactivity.

The CTCR document offered to the synod addressing "A Lutheran Response to Contemporary Issues" received some feedback, which was the intent of this document. While this document couldn't address every issue that may come before our congregations, it was meant to strike up conversation between members of synod and make us all think through how we are to respond faithfully. We received some good feedback and we thank all of those who sent it to us.

Speaking of feedback, we also received some on an old document that was being used by the West Region in their Circuit Counsellors meetings. We are so pleased to hear the work of previous CTCR groups still invites LCC members to think through the various thorny issues we face. As they gave us some feedback and questions, we pray our response was also received as helpful to them as they continue to work together with us in Christ's Church.

Among the other issues that have been before this current CTCR a big one was to discuss what role the International Lutheran Council (ILC) may play in aiding Church Fellowship issues for member synods. Not every member synod of our

federation can fund an active group to manage a variety of Altar and Pulpit Fellowship discussions. Might there be a way that the ILC, which has a very defined set of requirements for full membership already in place, be a gateway for smaller synods to use that membership as a guide for those discussions? LCC sent a letter to the ILC asking whether this could be done in a formal way, but was met with some resistance. The discussion remains ongoing.

Other items that we have discussed with much prayer: 'Christian Nationalism' and what that is and whether we need to be overly concerned about it in Canada; the social and environmental 'gospel' that Canadian Lutheran World Relief's leadership added to some of their latest mailings that go outside of the mandate to simply help in social needs worldwide; and, whether vicars may take consecrated and reserved elements to members of congregations whether sick, homebound, or in remote areas (the answer was no, it is best to commune properly and well yet with less frequency than to engage in practices that will take us into theological questions we shouldn't be asking that are outside of Communion's use and purpose).

For the future, we would like to begin thinking and addressing the rise of Virtual Services that came about in great number since COVID. What is it? Why do we do it? And if we should, how is this best to be done? We did not have time during this quadrennium to deal with this question, but hope the CTCR can delve into it in the next term.

Church Relations

In our constitution as synod, Lutheran Church-Canada has a mandate to guard against sectarianism and to seek unity in Christ where it may be found. To that end, the CTCR aids our synod President in Church Relations, guarding the precious deposit our Lord Jesus has given to us in our various dialogues and also in our synod to synod relationships.

We have three active ecumenical dialogues going on in LCC: a Roman Catholic dialogue that takes place predominately in southern Ontario with local clergy and theologians to keep costs down; and two dialogues in which we partner with the LCMS, one with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and one with the Anglican Church in North America. Both of these groups formed over a decade ago over human sexuality issues in their former church bodies, and LCC and the LCMS have been privileged to be in dialogue with them to see how much we have in common, where our differences still exist, and how we can learn from one another to seek the Truth of Christ in his Word for the sake of His Mission for his Church on earth. Both of these dialogues are manned by one individual of our CTCR to keep our costs down, Rev Michael Keith with the NALC dialogue, and Rev Joel Kuhl with the ACNA dialogue.

On Church Relations with our sister synods we have had some very good dialogues, such as those with the LCMS in regards to improving relationships in southern Ontario and Quebec between the old East District of LCC and the LCMS English and Slovak Districts where some old relationships had soured in years past. Many topics were aired and discussed, with repentance and forgiveness given. This has been a blessed dialogue.

Likewise, there have been good discussions happening internationally with the Lutheran Church of the Philippines (LCP) and with the new fledgling synod in Australia, the Lutheran Mission Australia (LMA) that has arisen in the fallout of Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand's (LCANZ) decision at their last convention. Discussions continue also with the

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria (ELCI). It is hoped that we can formally recognize altar and pulpit fellowship with these sister synods soon.

Sadly, not all of our relationships continue in harmony. As noted above, LCANZ voted at their 2024 convention to permit Women's Ordination. President Teuscher was present at that convention and told them what the ramification of their vote meant for our two synods: It severed the working relationship we established together in 1993. Our convention this June will need to ratify this sad reality, and we will need to take this vote with sober hearts and minds, and with much prayer, that God might call all sinners back to the Truth of His Word.

In Conclusion

It has been my privilege to serve the CTCR, my second as Chairman, with so many wonderful and gifted men in our synod. My prayer is that we continue moving forward as Christ's Church faithfully holding onto His Word with great tenacity and integrity.

To that end, we pray that our LCC will look with great anticipation to the 500th Anniversary of the Augsburg Confession in 2030. By God's grace, we hope to honour that great event of standing up for God's Truth as a synod with a number of resources to be made available for Pastors, congregations, and lay members alike to read, learn, and rejoice in the glorious Truth's the Holy Spirit continues to bring back to our minds by Christ's Word. For it is that Word of our Lord Jesus that makes us and keeps us One!

In Christ's service,
Rev Joel V. Kuhl, CTCR Chairman 2022-2026

REPORT 16: COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS AND STRUCTURE

Dear Fellow Members of Lutheran Church-Canada,

The Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure of Synod (CCMS) has been diligent in following our mandate to:

1. Make rulings on questions or concerns brought to our attention (we have made rulings about an independent school and a 2022 Resolution to name just a couple).

The Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS) received a request to render a ruling on the legitimacy of Resolution 22.1.15 passed in the affirmative at the 2022 Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) Synod Convention. After a lengthy review of how Resolution 22.1.15 was handled at the 2022 LCC Convention (including examining the pertinent sections of the recorded video from said convention and significant discussion between CCMS members), the CCMS rules as follows:

Resolution 22.1.15 had its origin as a proposed amendment by Rev. Michael Schutz to Resolution 22.1.13a, a substitute motion by Resolution Committee #1 (which referenced Overture 1.13) when Resolution 22.1.13a was being discussed by the convention. Rev. Schutz's proposed amendment was ruled out of order by the chair and Resolution 22.1.13a was voted upon separate from the attempted amendment and passed. Unfortunately, in doing so, the chair and the convention inadvertently created a situation where the proposed amendment was separated from the Resolution it was trying to amend. It was then reintroduced separately as Resolution 22.1.15 by Resolution Committee #1 the next day. Because an amendment to a previously passed Resolution cannot be made into a separate Resolution, the CCMS sees no other avenue but to rule Resolution 22.1.15 null and void on procedural grounds.

We furthermore share the following opinion which is not a ruling:

Resolution 22.1.15 'To Amend Bylaw 2.195' (2017 numbering) was adopted at the 2022 Convention which included the following: "When presenting a resolution, committees may recommend to the convention that it be defeated, they shall not present a resolution to decline an overture except for those referenced in Synodical Bylaw 2.19c." This is confusing in that convention resolution committee recommendations historically are presented precisely in the form of resolutions to adopt or decline an overture. Moreover, requiring members of a convention resolution committee to "not present a resolution to decline an overture" seriously limits the scope of their work and renders their duties somewhat meaningless. Last but not least, in the course of their work, this Resolution creates the possibility whereby members of the resolution committee are required to present a resolution that is contrary to the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and a violation of their consciences which is something that cannot be allowed.

The members of the CCMS understand and sympathize with the impetus of Resolution 22.1.15. We too want transparency where all voices are heard, and the intent of those voices is not significantly changed. But instead of trying to recreate the wheel and place restrictions on resolution committees that can potentially cause more harm than good, we remind everyone that there is already a mechanism in place where if someone feels that the intent of their overture has not been appropriately heard or shared, they can reintroduce their overture in its original form as a Substitute Motion on the floor of the convention. The entire number of voting delegates will then decide whether or not to hear and discuss the overture and it will be handled by a broader number of people and not just by a resolution committee.

We all need to be reminded that our basis for being a Synod and "walking together" is built on

the foundation of faith and trust – in God and in one another through Christ. Yes, as sinners we will all make mistakes which can lead to the breaking of trust and if not dealt with, can lead to divisions and schisms. Nothing pleases Satan more. So to repair and prevent future fractures in LCC, we need to constantly hold one another up in prayer against the assaults to our unity.

Therefore, earnestly pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in faith. Pray for our Synodical leadership. Pray for the Resolution Committee members who have been tasked with the difficult assignment of sifting through the overtures given into their care. And pray for yourselves that we all “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:3)

2. Give clarification on certain procedures based on the Handbook; and also
3. Continually review the structure of LCC set out in the Handbook (our overture to the 2026 Convention reflects the changes we have suggested based on our review)

We had to say farewell to Curtis Schafer, our lawyer, whom God took to be with Him in heaven, and we ask that God continue to give comfort and peace to Henrietta and the Schafer family.

We welcomed Timothy Lach who was appointed to fulfill the rest of Curtis’ term on the CCMS as our lawyer.

I would like to thank all of the CCMS members for their efforts these past four years. It has been a privilege to serve with you, and I pray for God’s blessings and wisdom to be given to the new incoming CCMS members for success in their endeavours over the next 4 years.

Think of God Loving You,



Pastor Paul Schallhorn
CCMS Chair

REPORT 17: COMMISSION ON ADJUDICATION

No report.

REPORT 18: BOARD OF DIRECTORS – WORKER BENEFIT SERVICES INC

Our Mission: The mission of LCC Worker Benefit Services Inc. (WBS) is to serve members and employers by ensuring the provision of sustainable benefits.

Our Vision: We will develop an efficient, innovative and sustainable benefit plan with shared responsibility among engaged stakeholders.

De-risking through a Plan Merger

Reducing and eliminating risk in the Defined Benefit (DB) component of the LCC Pension Plan has been a priority of the Board of Director

of Worker Benefit Services (WBS) since the mid 2000’s. The primary objective being to eliminate the deficit on the Defined Benefit (DB) component of the pension plan and permanently secure members’ pension benefits.

During the following 15 or so years, the WBS Board was active in implementing a range of de-risking strategies such as asset class changes, annuity buy-ins, and changing our registration status with the Alberta pension regulator. While this actions reduced risk, government mandated solvency funding continued to expose the plan to significant volatility over short periods of time.

These external requirements were a major driver of pension funding levels that was not within our control. As well, our ability to effectively manage the risks and volatility of a defined benefit pension plan became more challenging as the LCC organization reduced in size.

During this period, employers expressed concerns in regards to the overall cost of the Worker Benefit Programs, a significant component being the deficit on the pension plan. At the same time, many employees who had been transitioned into the Defined Contribution Plan (DC Plan) in 2012/2013 indicated that they would prefer a return to a defined benefit pension structure. While the WBS Board has long believed that a DB Pension is a better plan in delivering secure retirement benefits to our member demographic, the costs and risks inherent in operating a defined Benefit (DB) Pension Plan prevented a return to this structure following the move to the DC Plan.

The culmination of these issues meant a broader approach was needed and in 2021/2022 the Board began to explore the possibility of merging with another plan, preferably one that was not subject to solvency funding requirements. This process ultimately led to discussions with the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) Pension Plan, which had recently opened participation to other employers.

Why CAAT?

While a merger with other pension plans was considered, CAAT was chosen for a number of reasons. The CAAT Plan is a large expertly run plan that has been in existence with more than 50 years of experience and was created to support the Ontario college system. At the time LCC joined it had over 200 participating employers, and more than 75,000 members (more have come on board since). CAAT was well funded (124% funded on a going concern basis) and is respected for its pension governance and investment management expertise focused on stability and benefit security.

An important consideration for LCC was the sustainability achieved through participation in a larger plan with a diverse group of employers. CAAT's structure means that the Plan is not reliant on the financial health of any single employer, significantly reducing risk for both employers and members.

A partnership with CAAT also allows employers and members to benefit from expertise and economies of scale. Advantages of this type of plan to members is that they earn a Defined Benefit pension with better benefits for the same contributions under the former DC plan, without exposure to market risk or the responsibility of managing investments. Advantages to employers are cost and risk certainty, including a clearly defined timeline for eliminating the pension funding shortfall resulting in a decrease in pension contributions and eliminating exposure to market, interest rate and longevity risks which can have the effect of increasing the liabilities in the plan and increase required funding.

In short, CAAT provided a comprehensive and sustainable solution to challenges the LCC Pension Plan had faced for many years including reducing volatility, reducing costs over time, improving benefit security, delivering a lifetime pension without transferring risk to members, and providing employers with a known period of time to pay off the deficit without it increasing due to changes in interest rate, investment and longevity risks.

The Path to a Merger

Throughout 2021 and 2022, WBS held a series of meetings with CAAT to develop a detailed understanding of the CAAT Pension Plan, the benefits provided, and the preliminary costs for LCC employers and members. These discussions culminated in the signing of a non binding agreement that allowed for the exchange of detailed information and further negotiations.

Advantages of the Pension Merger

Advantages for Employers

- Certainty on when the pension funding shortfall will be eliminated and when pension contributions will decrease.
- Better value for the same contribution rate with an enhanced pension benefit for members.
- Economies of scale resulting in significantly lower administration costs so that more of the contribution goes towards member benefits.
- Elimination of balance sheet risk for LCC and employers as contributions can be accounted for on the same basis as a DC Plan even though CAAT provides DB benefits.

Advantages for Members

- Removes the burden of managing investments under a DC Plan or the worry of outliving your savings.
- DBplus includes survivor benefits and conditional inflation protection both while you're working and when you're in retirement.
- Allows the option to use eligible DC Plan assets to purchase additional DBplus pension.

In spring 2022, members and employers were formally advised of the intent to pursue a merger with CAAT, including an overview of the anticipated advantages and the approval process. This was followed by a series of informational webinars for both members and employers outlining the CAAT plan, expected costs, and implementation steps. In June 2022, delegates at the Edmonton LCC Convention overwhelmingly supported a resolution approving the merger.

Employer and CAAT Agreements

To implement the merger, participating employers were required to sign Agency Agreements authorizing LCC to negotiate with CAAT on their behalf. These agreements were distributed in summer 2022, with approximately 99% of employers returning signed approvals.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with CAAT was finalized in September 2022. The MOA outlined the terms of the merger, including the transfer of DB service benefits and assets, actuarial assumptions, the required funding top up, and the list of participating employers.

The MOA also included a clause that providing an increase in benefits for member's earned LCC DB Pension that was transferred to CAAT. Specifically for each year a member contributes to CAAT, their transferred LCC DB pension is increased annually based on increases to the Average Industrial Wage (AIW) in Canada to a maximum of 2.3%. This replaced using future salary increases to determine the member's pension benefit and applies regardless if the member receives a salary increase.

Funding Shortfall

To align the transferred liabilities to CAAT's going-concern funded ratio of 124%, along with providing for an annual increase to the LCC pension that was transferred, an estimated top-up of approximately \$ 4.00 million needed to be transferred to CAAT. This meant that employer pension contributions were expected to remain the same at 16% until June 30 2024 or a 27 month repayment period (April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024). Some good news for employers was that the top-up ended one month earlier than originally estimated. After the shortfall was paid, the amount of employer contributions dropped to 6% representing the ongoing current service contribution rate.

Member Approval

Pension legislation required the approval of the merger by plan members. Specifically, pension regulations required that two-thirds of the active

membership with DB service were required to vote in favour of the merger and no more than one-third of inactive members with DB service could vote against the merger.

Voting packages were sent by CAAT in late 2022 and members had 90 days to return their voting forms. Further webinars for members were held to explain the CAAT plan along with the merger and voting process. By the deadline date in March 2023, the merger had received overwhelming support, with 96% of voting members with DB entitlements approving the merger.

Effective April 1, 2023 all active members were enrolled and started earning a future defined benefit pension benefit under CAAT's DBplus provisions. Employers continued to contribute 16% of member's earnings during the shortfall repayment period, with 6% going to members' current service benefits and 10% for the shortfall. Employer contributions reduced to 6% June 1, 2024. Members' required contributions continued at 4%.

Regulatory Approval

Throughout the merger process LCC and CAAT had continuous communication with the Alberta and Ontario Pension Regulator (the LCC Pension Plan was registered in Alberta and the CAAT Plan is registered in Ontario) to clarify requirements and ensure legislative compliance. Reports were filed with both pension regulators to approve the merger of the DB component of the LCC Pension Plan with the CAAT Pension Plan, as well as the wind-up of the DC component of the LCC Pension Plan.

In September 2023, the Alberta Pension Regulator approved the transfer of the (DB) pension assets and liabilities to CAAT. The actual transfer of funds being completed by the beginning of November, 2023. As a result, members retiring after the merger receive a single pension from CAAT that reflects both the DB pension earned under the LCC plan and benefits earned under CAAT's DBplus provisions.

DC Wind-up

Following the transfer of the DB assets to CAAT, the next step in the process of winding up the LCC pension plan was the dispersal of the assets of the DC component of the pension plan. Member with a DC account had the choice from several options. Including:

- Using their eligible DC account balance to purchase additional pension under CAAT's DBplus plan.
- Transferring their DC account balance into other eligible registered retirement vehicle such as a locked-in Retirement Account or the purchase of an annuity.
- Leaving their DC assets with Sun Life under their Group Choices Plan

Information packages were sent by CAAT to members on using their DC funds to purchase optional CAAT pension. As well, a series of webinars were held to explain how the pension purchase option worked. Members could also make appointments with CAAT to discuss their options. Approximately 126 members elected to use their DC funds to purchase additional pension.

Sun Life also provided members with packages of information outlining members' options for handling their DC Account balances, including the option to purchase pension with CAAT. Sun Life also made dedicated agents available who could assist members in understanding the various options.

A series of education and communication materials were also sent by WBS to assist members in making a decision on their DC account.

WBS conducted a significant amount of follow-up with both active and inactive members throughout 2024 and into 2025 to assist members in understanding their DC options and making an election.

For the small number of members who did not make an election, their DC assets were distributed in accordance with the applicable provincial

pension legislation (i.e. transferred to Sun Life Group Choices, purchase of an annuity, etc.)

Retirees

In order for the LCC DB Pension Plan to be wound up, all assets had to be dispersed from the DB trust held with CIBC Mellon. Annuities were purchased from Canada Life and RBC Life for retirees whose pension was paid from the LCC DB Pension Plan. This meant assets reflecting the liabilities for retirees' pension were transferred to the insurers and the retirees receive their monthly pension payments directly from the insurers. The amount and terms of retiree's pension payments were the exactly the same as what they had under the LCC DB Pension Plan. Letters outlining the process were sent to retirees by WBS along with letters from the insurers.

Plan Wind-up and Deregistration

Once the DC plan was closed and all assets distributed in 2025, an application to de-register the LCC Pension Plan was made with the provincial pension regulator and Canada Revenue Agency. The DB trust, held with CIBC Mellon, was closed following the completion of all asset transfers.

Conclusion

Looking back over the 2022–2026 period, the merger of the LCC Pension Plan with the CAAT Pension Plan stands as one of the most significant and successful initiatives undertaken by the WBS Board. What began as a strategy to reduce risk and address long-standing funding challenges ultimately delivered far more than anticipated. The merger eliminated volatility, provided cost certainty for employers, restored access to a defined benefit pension for members, and achieved these outcomes in a manner that was fiscally responsible and carefully governed.

We are deeply grateful that this strategy came together as it did. It was a true blessing to see the Plan merger completed successfully, all goals met, and the interests of both employers and members strengthened. The result is a better,

more secure pension benefit for members and significant long-term savings for employers.

Group Benefit Plans

Insurance Provider Review

As part of Worker Benefit Plan governance, a full marketing of the Group Benefit Plans is conducted at least every five years. The plans include health, dental, life, disability, and accident coverage. The purpose of this marketing process is to assess the marketplace and determine which insurer can provide the best overall value, pricing stability, and service for plan members.

In the summer of 2025, a formal marketing process was undertaken. Five insurers were invited to participate, and three submitted proposals. Following a detailed evaluation, Manulife and one other carrier presented the most competitive options. Manulife was ultimately selected as the preferred insurer, as they offered the strongest overall value when considering pricing, service, and continuity.

Key reasons for selecting Manulife included:

- Competitive premium rates
- Strong service levels and administrative support
- Continuity of service, minimizing disruption for plan members
- Avoidance of transition and implementation costs
- Premium rate guarantees providing cost stability:
 - o Basic Life, Dependent Life, and Long-Term Disability: guaranteed for three years
 - o Health and Dental: guaranteed for two years

New Premium Rates – Effective January 1, 2026

The renewed pricing reflects significant savings for the organization while maintaining existing coverage levels:

- Basic Life, Dependent Life, and Long-Term Disability: approximately 20% premium reduction
- Extended Health and Emergency Out-of-Country Health: no premium change
- Dental: 5% premium increase

Overall, the results of the marketing process confirm that the current group benefits program remains competitively priced and well-positioned to deliver sustainable value to both the employer and plan members.

Post-Retirement Benefits and CAAT Pension Contributions

Effective January 1, 2026, post-retirement benefit contributions were reduced by 0.25% to **1.00% of payroll** (from 1.25%), reflecting a decline in the number of retirees with benefits and lower-than-expected claims experience.

At the same time, employer contributions to the CAAT pension plan increased by **0.25%** to ensure pension contributions are funded for members on Long-Term Disability (LTD).

When a member is on LTD, certain benefit premiums are waived by the insurer, while other benefits—including pension, health, and dental—are funded through a long-standing pooled employer model. This approach, in place for over 20 years, spreads the cost of benefits for disabled members across all participating employers, rather than placing the full financial burden on a single employer.

When the transition to the CAAT pension plan occurred, the original contribution rates did not account for pension contributions for members on LTD. Under the former Defined Benefit plan, these costs were already included in the employer contribution rate. This adjustment corrects that oversight, ensuring that contributions for LTD members are properly funded in the CAAT Pension Plan Contributions.

Administration

Administration rates have held steady for the past decade as WBS has done its utmost to streamline administration and keep cost down.

Time for Wellness

Surveys

In October 2024, WBS conducted an Employee/Employer Survey to gather insights into the need to expand some of our services such as positive lifestyle initiatives, additional mental health services and other resources to encourage work-life balance and combat worker burnout.

Seventy percent of church workers and 41 percent of congregation leaders agreed that congregations are experiencing the effects of worker burn out or stress; 81 percent of church workers and 69 percent of congregation leaders felt mental health coverage should be expanded and 86 percent of church workers and 80 percent of church leaders agreed with providing resources to encourage work life balance.

An expanded more detail survey was conducted by Manulife of members that provided confirmation of the LCC Survey results, along with additional insight into the issue and suggestions on changes.

The surveys' results underscore the importance of addressing mental health, stress, and work-life balance in our church worker community.

Expansion of Mental Health Practitioner Coverage

As a result of the feedback we received from the member survey we expanded access to a broader range of mental health care practitioners—many of whom are more accessible and cost-effective than psychologists and psychotherapists covered under the health plan. Effective August 1, 2025, coverage was extended to include services provided by Social Workers, Clinical Counsellors, Marriage and Family Therapists, Psychoanalysts.

Caring for Your Called Workers

With the assistance of a number of stakeholder including members, employers, regional pastors and the LCC Board of Directors guidelines were developed on “Caring for your Called Workers”. The finalized guidelines were distributed to employers and members along with a cover letter from President Teusher encouraging congregation to “review, adopt and implement the guidelines”. The cover letter outlined why the guidelines should be adopted including to strengthen ministry effectiveness, to prevent burnout and turnover, foster congregational health and reflect the love of Christ.

Collecting Data

We have reviewed our Health Care Usage so we know where our health care dollar is being spent. Drugs account for 70 % of our healthcare spend and the most frequently prescribed medications (by occurrence, not cost) are for high blood pressure, depression and diabetes. We have also reviewed our EAP usage. Collecting data along with the information from surveys helps us identify priority areas to target our efforts.

Creation of new programs

With the assistance of third party provider expertise we will be running webinars and in person sessions on a variety of topics such as Managing Stress and Achieving Balance, Managing Your Blood pressure, Diabetes Awareness and Fitting in Fitness etc.

Wellness Coordinator

We have engaged the services of an independent contractor to act as a part-time Wellness Coordinator for a one-year term. Sasha Lipskaia has a significant amount of experience as a Life and Wellness coach and will be focusing on developing, sourcing, and implementing wellness initiatives for Called Workers throughout the country. These programs will include mental health and stress management supports, physical health initiatives (such as fitness classes, challenges), resources on healthy eating and nutrition, and spiritual care opportunities. The

Wellness Coordinator will work to tailor programs to the needs of LCC’s pastors, deacons, and other church workers. The goal is to promote well-being, prevent burnout, and create joy and vitality in ministry.

Next Steps and Conclusion

Over the coming year, WBS will focus on implementing pilot wellness programs, collecting participant feedback, and developing practical resources to help congregations integrate sustainable wellness practices into their ministry. These efforts will allow us to assess effectiveness, refine program offerings, and ensure that initiatives remain responsive to the needs of Church workers.

WBS believes that a comprehensive wellness strategy can address key concerns identified through the surveys, including stress management, mental health support, physical activity, and preventive care. Over time, these efforts have the potential to lead to healthier and more effective ministry, stronger congregational health, and reduced use of healthcare resources.

WBS is committed to:

- Developing initiatives to address the concerns that emerged from the survey and evaluate the feasibility and impact;
- Hosting follow-up consultations to gather additional feedback.
- Collaborating with stakeholders to refine program designs and address specific concerns
- Minimize costs while maximizing program impact.

Supporting positive lifestyle initiatives and offering resources to combat burnout is not only a compassionate response to the challenges faced by Church workers but also a strategic investment in the sustainability of ministry. By prioritizing wellness, we affirm the value of those who serve, help Church workers maintain balance between personal and professional responsibilities, and strengthen their capacity to serve faithfully and effectively in their communities.

Pension and Benefit Challenges

We continue to focus on providing competitive and valued programs to employers and members and delivering them cost-effectively. No further changes to the program are planned at this time. The Worker Benefit Plans have been, since inception a series of comprehensive programs designed to protect active members and their families from financial loss as a result of health issues and to provide a source of income in retirement. We understand the pressures employers are under to reduce costs and we in turn are doing the utmost to manage our administrative costs and deliver programs competently in the best manner possible.

We believe over the last 4 years we have worked hard at fulfilling our mission of providing sustainable benefits to church workers; we have listened to employers and employees enhancing our understanding of their challenges as well as listening to their input; we have worked hard to reduce risk in our plans to members and

employers through the merger with CAAT and the purchase of annuities for retirees; and we continue to enhance our governance practices to ensure that our plans are well managed.

We thank you for your understanding and support and assure you we will continue in our role prayerfully and conscientiously, asking for God's wisdom and blessing on all our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne Cleave, Executive Director LCC Worker Benefit Services Inc.

Current WBS Board Membership*

The WBS Board is made up of the following individuals:

- Dwayne Cleave
- Ron Walter
- Paul Hambrock
- Reverend Nolan Astley

REPORT 19: LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA FINANCIAL MINISTRIES

Introduction

On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors, I am pleased to report to the convention on the activities of Lutheran Church – Canada Financial Ministries. Operating under our registered trademark name of Lutheran Foundation Canada, our primary task is to encourage and assist in the development of gifts within LCC's membership in support of mission and ministry.

Stewardship of God's blessings

Gifts come in all shapes and sizes, but connected to each, is a passion for mission and ministry in all its many forms. As Christians we understand our desire to be thankful to God for all His earthly blessings, so donors are excited at the possibility of using a portion of those blessings to support the Lord's Kingdom work. "*Reflecting God's grace*" the Foundation's tagline in our logo, is much more than a catchy phrase, it is a summary

of what we as Christians are called to do! The Foundation's Gift Coordinators not only encourage and remind LCC's membership of this responsibility, but are also available to assist you in determining how best to meet your gifting goals for family and ministry. While there are some who are able to make an extraordinary, lifetime gift, and then see the benefits of their gift to ministry, almost everyone has the capacity to leave an estate gift as a way to thank God for His many blessings. For married couples, such estate gifts are usually given from the estate of the surviving spouse. Most often, donors making an estate gift designate a percentage of their estate residual as a charitable gift, however this may not always be the best option. The Foundation's Gift Coordinators provide direction (at no cost) on how best to meet your charitable giving goals for family and ministry, based on the assets held within your estate.

Averaging \$6M in reported gifts per year, 25% of those are lifetime gifts already received as cash, estate bequests, or from the transfer of publicly traded securities. The remaining 75% of gifts are recorded as future estate bequests. Not surprisingly, one-third of all gifts either received or planned for the future, are designated to the donor's home congregation, with the remaining two-thirds designated for LCC missions or to members of LCC's synodical family, which include our two seminaries and the many listed service organizations and auxiliaries of LCC.

Gift Allocation Agreement

Although everyone knows that gifts of cash are common, not everyone is aware of the other gift types possible, or how they are administered, including:- farmland, registered funds, insurance policies, and publicly traded securities. Each of these gift types have their own unique process, administrative requirements, or tax benefits. For information on these types of gifts, talk to a Gift Coordinator or visit the Foundation's website. In many cases, due to the size of the gift, donors wish to divide their gift between multiple organizations, and this can easily be done using the Foundation's *Gift Allocation Agreement*. With over 200 agreements already in place, the donor makes one gift to the Foundation and we disburse that gift as outlined in the donor's Gift Allocation Agreement. As a free service, this greatly simplifies the estate executor's work, minimizing the administrative requirements. Additionally, if donor's wish to alter their allocations, all they need do is change the agreement, without incurring the cost of changing their will.

Fiduciary Accountability

The Foundation currently has \$26 million in Assets Under Management (AUM), with \$12 million gifted as "*endowment funds*" and \$14 million invested as "*custodial funds.*" All funds invested by the Foundation, including our endowments and custodial funds, use the Foundation's *Balanced Mandate*, an asset allocation strategy as outlined in our *Investment Policy Statement* – a policy outlining specific

goals, limitations, and asset allocation requirements – as similarly used by all foundations across Canada. Although past performance is no guarantee of future returns, NET investment returns (after fees) over the last 17 years have averaged 6.2 %. Pooling of investment funds allow us to invest across five (5) investment firms, six (6) different asset classes, and seven (7) different investment funds, in order to manage and mitigate risk. Pooling investments also creates economies of scale, enabling the Foundation and therefore our investors, access to investment opportunities unavailable for smaller investments, plus significant savings in investment management fees. Oversight of these investments is provided by the Foundation's nine-member board comprised of individuals selected for their business acumen in areas of finance, investing, and management, also using the contracted services of a Chartered Financial Analyst from Ellement Consulting Ltd. - the same consultant that previously oversaw LCC's pension fund.

Endowment and Custodial Funds

Endowment Funds – The Foundation currently administers 72 endowments, with disbursements made annually to 32 different organizations - some endowments have one beneficiary while others have many. Although endowment funds have been gifted to the Foundation, use of those funds is strictly prohibited by a trust agreement signed with the donor, stipulating that none of the gift capital may EVER be spent, and only the earnings from investment of the gift may be used. New endowments may be created with a minimum gift of \$100,000, generating a likely annual disbursement of \$4,000 (4%). These investment earnings, disbursed annually by the Foundation, must also be allocated to the beneficiaries named in the donor's endowment agreement. Basically, although the Foundation receives, owns, and administers the endowments, the funds may only be used as outlined by the original donor.

Custodial Funds – The Foundation currently administers 35 custodial funds, with a required minimum investment of \$25,000. Custodial funds remain the property of the investing congregation (or other LCC-affiliated organization) and may be withdrawn in whole or in part at any time. The Foundation’s Custodial Fund Program allows congregations with reserve funds the ability to invest those funds into the marketplace using the Foundation’s *Balanced Mandate*, as outlined

above. With an average return of 6.2% over the last 17 years, custodial funds should be considered a long-term investment, allowing congregations to earn more than term deposits or GICs, which rarely keep pace with inflation. More information on the Foundation’s Custodial Fund Program may be found on our website, at lutheranfoundation.ca

We are thankful to God for the many donors who support the Lord’s Kingdom work.

REPORT 20: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SEMINARY, EDMONTON, ALBERTA (CSL)

Mission



Concordia Lutheran Seminary, a seminary of Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC), forms “servants for Jesus’ sake” (2 Corinthians 4:5). These servants include pastoral and deacon students, colloquy students, and laymen and laywomen of the church.

Support

We give thanks that so many across Canada support seminary education and students, not only financially, but also in prayer. CLS is in a strong financial position thanks to God’s provision through regular donors and through bequests as well as a careful management of those gifts. A great deal of thanks goes to the seminary’s supporters, to you, for following God’s prompting to pray, give, and encourage. For all of those things we are truly thankful!

Recruitment

Jesus said: “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 9:37-38). This kind of fervent prayer is the heart of sending laborers into the harvest. In addition to prayer, the encouragement that pastors, family, and friends give to future pastors and deacons is also vital. Dr. Mike Kuhn,

our Director of Recruitment, is eager to hear from you if you are thinking of serving in this way or if you know of someone who is. We are always ready for a conversation with potential students who are considering whether God may be calling them to study at the seminary

Enrollment

The enrollment has been in decline for a number of years and at the moment is lower than we would like or the church needs. Currently our total student population is 15, including 2 diaconal students, 1 colloquy student, 4 MDiv students, and 8 Open Study students. However, there are signs that this may be changing. We are hearing of more and more men who are considering coming to the seminary, especially if we are able to get a Bachelor of Theology degree in place in the next year or so (more about that below).

Graduates

We can give thanks to God for our graduates who are serving in every region of LCC and having an impact on the church and the world. A total of 85 of our alumni are pastors currently serving in ministry, with 22 Emeriti who are also often also serving in their retirement. We also rejoice that we have graduated 2 Deacons from the GDPS program.

Active Pastors	
West Region	58
Central Region	21
East Region	6
Total	85
Deacons	2
Candidate Status	5
Emeritus Status	22

The 2025-26 is our 41st school year. Since the seminary began in 1984, there have been nearly 200 students who have graduated from various programs.

BTh (Bachelors of Theology)	4
Colloquy	28
MDiv (Master of Divinity)	149
GCTS (Graduate Certificate of Theological Studies)	4
GDPS (Graduate Diploma of Parish Services)	2
MTS (Masters of Theological Studies)	11
Total	198

Governance

The Board of Regents (BoR) governs the seminary, having responsibility primarily for the policies of the seminary and for finances. We give thanks to God for the work of our board, for their support of the faculty, the staff, and students as well as their faithful support of the mission of the seminary.

The following members of the board are continuing:

Rev. Clint Magnus, Central Region
(Nomination committee)

Rev. Keith Haberstock, West Region
(Personnel committee)

Dcn. Miriam Winstanley, West Region
(Secretary, Personnel committee, Policy Committee)

The outgoing members of the BoR are:

Rev. Scott Lyons, West Region (Chairman, Policy Committee)

Mr. Tony Marchand, East Region (Vice Chairman, Personnel)

Rev. Tom Krussel, West Region

Rev. Robert Mohns, West Region (Finance Committee)

Mr. James Deitrich, West Region (Finance Committee)

We give thanks to God for them and the work that was accomplished during their terms and wish them God's richest blessings in the future. We also look forward to the slate of nominees which the synod convention will approve and from which the Board will select the new regents. Two additional board members will be joining our board, one will be the new West Regional Pastor, and the other will be appointed by the Board of Directors of Synod.

Faculty and Staff

We are blessed with excellent faculty and staff, committed to the Scriptures and the Confessions. Dr. Mike Kuhn joined the faculty last summer. We now have three full-time faculty members, including Dr. Alex Vieira, Dr. Sam Thompson, and 1 part-time faculty member Dr. Jenn Frim (part-time and currently on leave). They really are at the heart of the formation both formal and informal that takes place at CLS. They give of themselves in so many ways, not only to the seminary but also to the work of LCC showing what it means to be a "servant for Jesus' sake." Behind the scenes Danielle Glubish, Anna Yang, Jennifer Maxfield, and Naomi Begoray serve faithfully in their vocations and keep us functioning well.

Accreditation

CLS is accredited by the Association of Theological schools. This accreditation is valid until its renewal in 2028, and we will be working toward that goal over the next two years.

Bachelor of Theology (BTh)

The faculty have been ardently exploring the possibility of offering BTh degree at CLS. Dr. Jenn Frim has been instrumental in this study. The BTh would have some overlap with our MDiv making it a 6-year course of studies from the beginning of the BTh to the completion of the MDiv. This would allow us to admit students from high school and younger adults who have not completed a bachelor's degree. We have identified a number of students who would be interested in this degree. We will see how God will lead us in this project!

Cooperation with Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary (CLTS)

We continue to cooperate with CLTS where we can, including the sharing of courses, recruiting pastors to be seminary champions in each circuit, the support of our joint journal: *Lutheran Theological Review*, and coming together for joint faculty and board meetings. We are blessed to be able to work together and support one another and the church.

Connecting with CLS

There are a number of ways you can connect and help form future churchworkers. .

- **Pray** for CLS

- **Visit** the seminary.
- Visit our **website**: www.concordiasem.ab.ca
- Subscribe to our **weekly newsletter** (via our website)
- Join the **Seminary Guild** to support the work of CLS and to support the students.
- Support a student directly through the **Adopt-a-Student** program
- **Read** our Spring, Summer, and Fall mailout newsletter.
- Attend our **Quest** educational program for pastors, deacons, and especially lay people. It is available online or in person in the fall and the spring.
- Host a student for the **Take Wing** program.
- And many more....

Personally

I have been blessed to accept the call to be the new president of CLS. I am thankful for our very supportive board, faculty, staff, students, and even more broadly, church. Most of all I am thankful to God for the opportunity to serve in this way.

-Rev. Jonathan Kraemer, President, CLS.

REPORT 21: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO (CLTS)

History, Purpose, and Anniversary

Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, was established in 1976 by the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod as a Canadian extension of its Fort Wayne seminary. From its beginnings in the basement of Resurrection Lutheran Church, CLTS moved in 1984 into a new facility built on the campus of Brock University. In 1989, the LCMS gave the seminary to Lutheran Church–Canada.

The purpose of establishing a seminary in Canada was: (1) to encourage more Canadian students to

enter the ministry and to keep those graduates in Canada; and (2) to contextualise their pastoral formation to the unique setting of Canadian Lutheranism. CLTS continues to serve LCC by forming men for the pastoral ministry and educating laypeople in the Christian confession. These two purposes are carried out respectively in the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degrees. Some pastoral students lacking an undergraduate degree receive certification for ordination by Diploma. CLTS also has administrative responsibility for

the Pastors by Alternate Training programme (PAT).

Throughout her history, CLTS has been particularly international and mission-oriented. The current student body includes men capable of serving a variety of multilingual or multi-ethnic ministries. The faculties of both LCC seminaries provide the backbone of teaching staff for LCC's mission work abroad (Ukraine, Thailand, Nicaragua). The seminary's functions thus extend far beyond pre-paring pastors. This includes lay education courses, faculty serving on the CTCR, lecturing to pas-tors' conferences and circuit events, teaching at workshops, preaching and serving vacancies, advising church leaders, and writing theological books and articles. In co-operation with CLS, Edmonton, the seminary publishes an annual journal, *Lutheran Theological Review*, which is provided to all pastors in LCC at no cost and sent to libraries and subscribers around the world. The seminary also regularly hosts church, university, and community events, lifting the church's profile in the world.

In 2026 CLTS celebrates her 50th anniversary. This will be observed with a theological conference in November, including an alumni reunion. We are also launching a campaign to build a student residence, which will enhance community, aid recruitment, support students through subsidised housing, and add a stable stream of income to the seminary's budget.

Graduates and Students

In her 50-year history CLTS has produced 240 graduates. Of these, 26 are men and women (mostly lay) who have attained to the MTS degree. 219 graduates have entered the pastoral ministry. Our graduates serve mainly in Canada, but a significant portion serve in the Missouri Synod or abroad. Many are now retired or deceased.

Active Pastoral Graduates	
<i>West Region</i>	13
<i>Central Region</i>	8
<i>East Region</i>	46
LCC total	67
LCMS in Canada	4
LCMS in USA	43
Other Lutheran in NA	6
World Lutheranism	2
Other confessions	6
Inactive Pastoral Graduates	
CRM	11
Retired	45
Resigned	14
Deceased	17
Unknown	4
Total	219

Student enrolment now averages 20 to 25 students, with 2/3 in pastoral formation and 1/3 in the MTS degree. With a large number of vacancies in LCC and many retirements on the horizon, it is important to identify and encourage suitable men for the pastoral ministry. Our faculty are in regular contact with dozens of potential students, and promote the seminary through public speaking, writing, and broadcasting. We maintain active communication through multiple media and engage with young people at church gatherings whenever possible. The most significant support that members of LCC can offer to the seminary is to encourage young men to enter the ministry, by word and prayer.

Faculty and Staff

Since the last LCC convention (2022) the seminary has called two new regular faculty members: Dr James Kellerman, Academic Dean, teaches mainly in historical and exegetical theology; and Rev. Kirk Radford, Director of Development, teaches historical and dogmatic theology. Dr Korcok teaches dogmatics and practical theology, but has reduced to half-time service in anticipation of retirement. Dr Thomas Winger, President and Dean of Chapel, teaches exegetical and liturgical theology. The faculty are supplemented by adjunct professors Rev. David

Duke (OT) and Dr James Keller (systematics), and a few guest instructors.

The seminary's work is supported by four staff members (totalling 2.8 FTE): Ashu Paul (business manager), Susan Hamp (development assistant), Maria Munoz (Administrative Assistant), and Rebecca Atwood (librarian, registrar's assistant). We rely on the staff of LCC Financial Ministries (particularly James Krestick in the East Region), who encourage and aid members in planning gifts and bequests. We are also grateful for volunteers who work in the library, archives, and help with mailings and events.

Major Events since the Last Convention (2022–26)

After forty years of fruitful co-operation between CLTS and Brock University, on whose campus the seminary building is located, the university leadership severed the Affiliation Agreement in 2023 and advised our faculty to seek our own degree-granting authority. By God's grace we were able to complete this massive undertaking and received accreditation through PEQAB (see below). At the May 2025 Sacred Convocation we conferred MDiv and MTS degrees in our own name for the first time. The end of the agreement also required us to put in place independent internet service and various student supports. While we are grateful for Brock's help in the past, we are now stronger and more self-sufficient. The intense labour involved in this process has meant that many other regular events, such as major academic conferences, were deferred. However, two pastoral preaching retreats (held in June 2024 and January 2026) were warmly received.

Governance, Accreditation, and Affiliation

Serving on the CLTS Board of Directors (Regents) in the past synodical quadrennial were (expiry date in brackets): Rev. Robert Krestick, chairman (2024); Rev. Cameron Schnarr, vice-chairman/chairman (2028); Mr Reginald Tieg, vice-chairman (2026); Rev. Dan Abraham,

secretary (2028); Mr Ivan Boles (2026); Mr Philip Prozenko (2026); Mr Jordan Wall (2028); Rev. Timothy Teuscher (ex officio, 2026); Rev. Marvin Bublitz (ex officio, 2026); and Rev. Dr Thomas Winger (ex officio).

Concordia's MDiv and MTS degrees were granted by Brock University until 2024. CLTS received degree-granting authority in her own right through the Ontario Post-Secondary Education Assessment Board in December 2024. CLTS is an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools in the US and Canada, but will let this membership lapse in July 2026 in view of holding provincial accreditation.

In 2019 the seminary signed an MOU with the LCC's Board of Directors, which sets down the respective rights and responsibilities of the seminary and synod. We remain committed to close co-operation with our sister seminary in Edmonton and the leadership of LCC, for whose service the seminaries exist.

Finances

In the four years since the last convention, the seminary's finances have remained stable, with annual budget surpluses, thanks be to God. A number of factors have combined to make this possible:

1. The seminary has been blessed with receipt of generous bequests.
2. The Seminary Foundation (endowment fund) contributes in a significant way to the seminary's operating fund and student aid.
3. Student enrolment is healthy and stable, which provides steady tuition fee income. Student aid is generous enough to assist students with the majority of these costs.
4. LCC has continued to provide an annual subsidy of \$136,000, for which we are thankful.
5. Individual donors in LCC and the LCMS continue to offer generous support in response to regular appeal letters.

6. The seminary administration have kept expenses as low as possible.

We are fully supportive of the synod’s upcoming Together One campaign, which includes plans to increase subsidy support of the seminaries. In addition, we expect our residence campaign to add further stability to our financial future.

Looking Ahead

Although overall enrolment at CLTS is strong, the number of pastoral candidates (at both seminaries) remains lower than is needed by LCC’s congregations. While the seminaries invest significant energy in vocational “recruitment”, the reality is that very few students choose to enter the ministry because a seminary persuaded them. The true front line lies in congregation and home, where pas-tors, parents, Sunday School teachers, and youth workers can expose young men to the joys of the pastoral office and encourage them to consider it as their lifelong vocation. We encourage all members of LCC to join us in forming pastors for the church’s

future. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest.

We rejoice that the Lord has given us a strong faculty. Yet with retirements looming within the next decade, it is vital that we identify men suited to be the next generation of theologians and teachers at our seminaries and provide them with the encouragement and opportunity to pursue higher degrees.

We are immensely thankful to the members of LCC for their ongoing support in prayers, good will, labour, and gifts. We pray that we might continue to work together as partners in Christ’s mission. In the midst of our hard work and occasional anxiety, we must not forget that the primary mandate of preparing men for Christ’s office in His Church continues unabated at CLTS. The Word of God is taught and proclaimed. And as it is likewise taught and proclaimed in LCC, we believe that your support for our work will also continue unabated as the Lord gives us all strength for our labour.

Thomas M. Winger, President.

REPORT 22: LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE - CANADA

From Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Canada

The women of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Canada seek to serve their Lord at home, at church and in the world.

The theme for this triennium is (2024-2027) Is “Sing to the Lord a New Song”.

Who we are:

Lutheran A body of believers, trusting in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Women’s Supporting women of all ages, nationalities, backgrounds, in Canada and around the world.

Missionary Reaching our with the Gospel to those in our homes, churches, communities and the world.

League Organized into small groups (societies) within congregations, zones, districts and nationally.

Canada An auxiliary of Lutheran Church Canada with 1319 members, and 134 societies.

Our board of directors works together to serve the women of Lutheran Church Canada.

Member Development-Created a seminar ‘The Lord is my Song,’ prepares blogs for our website, maintains a resource centre that provides materials and devotions.

Christian Mission-Work to present webinars on our mission grants and oversee payment of the mission grants chosen at convention. (\$251,200.00 for this triennium.).

Christian Education-provides devotional material writes a prayer service and LWMLC Sunday service.

Communications-updates our website and provides materials for download on demand.

Four district administrators provide support and guidance. (Laurentian, Ontario, Central and Alberts British Columbia)

Prayer meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month to provide an opportunity to share prayer concerns across our nation.

Our generous LWMLC members give their mites for our mission grants chosen at convention. This triennium \$251,200.00 will support 16 domestic and international projects.

Convention 2027 will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan July 15-17. Our theme is “Go and Tell” Mark 16:15.

Our motto is ‘Called to Serve’ based on Deuteronomy 10:12 “And now, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, walk in all His ways to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Serving Him,
Marilyn Witte, President
Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Canada

REPORT 23: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY

(An Auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada)

Almost 30 years ago eight individuals from across Canada met together at the Lutheran Church-Canada LCC Synodical Office in Winnipeg, February 21-23, 1997 to discuss the feasibility of a Mission Society within Lutheran Church-Canada: Terry Goerz, Doreen Haberstock, Anne Taylor, Rod Haberstock, and Rev.’s Ed Lehman, Don Schiemann, and David Somers. In 2026 Concordia Lutheran Mission Society CLMS is busy doing the work that those eight dedicated people of God envisioned.

From 1997 onward and since the last LCC Convention CLMS has continued to raise heartfelt contributions from our generous donors to support our mission work in Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Ukraine, Nicaragua and Costa Rica AND proclaiming the Good News in Jesus in Canada. CLMS has also enabled several “Donor Initiated Projects” over the years, ideas for mission projects generated by some of our CLMS members.

At this 13th Convention of Lutheran Church-Canada we pause to thank all our donors over the years and those who have served as Officers and Board Members of CLMS since 1997. Their dedicated volunteer work and generosity has been much appreciated.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society continues as a volunteer mission auxiliary of Lutheran Church-Canada. Contributions directed to a specific mission project are channeled 100% to that project. Gifts to pay for administrative cost (mailings, brochures, board meetings) are welcomed and received.

Our donors were very generous during 2025 with contribution exceeding expectations. We have put these gifts to work and continue to the same in 2026. While greatly blessed, we have many challenges ahead, with putting funds to work in our troubled and chaotic world that needs the Gospel message of Jesus’ love and forgiveness purchased through the Cross.

Concordia Lutheran Mission Society has put forward an ambitious project goal list for 2026, put forward by Lutheran Church-Canada's domestic and foreign missions staff, and is trusting that God's people will respond, as they

have in the past. CLMS looks forward to continued service in the Lord's Kingdom as we work hand in hand with Lutheran Church-Canada and its mission work.

REPORT 24: INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE (Lutheran Hour Ministries)



Introduction:

The International Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries serves as a grassroots auxiliary of Lutheran Church—Canada and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is proud to extend the mission and ministry of these two church bodies by focusing our energies on a mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations®—and the Nations to the Church*. The International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL) is the corporate name under which the organization does business; Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is the public identity under which we conduct worldwide Gospel outreach.

Working in conjunction with the Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada, LHM proclaims the Gospel throughout Canada by creating, distributing, and promoting resources through various media while also equipping Christians for outreach.

As we build upon LHM's nearly 110-year history and move forward into the mission field, great opportunities abound:

- Five billion people have yet to hear the saving message of Christ.

- As people crave a relationship with God and each other, technology allows us to engage with others more efficiently and effectively than any other time in history.
- We can use our gifts to make a difference among people we know and see every day. Our faith, put into action on a local level, can make an immediate and personal impact on our neighborhoods and beyond.

Our Strategic Priorities:

Impacting People Globally

Around the world, people long to hear the Good News in a way that speaks to their own lives. Our **ministry model** goes far beyond translation to transformation through the Holy Spirit by identifying and equipping local leaders who understand the language, customs, and daily realities of their communities. These cultural insiders are uniquely positioned to share Christ's love in ways that connect with people, meeting them where they are and addressing the needs they face every day. Through locally developed programs, resources, and media in native languages, LHM proclaims the hope of the Gospel in ways that build trust and open doors for lasting relationships. This personal connection draws people into fellowship and strengthens local Christian communities across the globe.

Our establishment of a **multidivisional global mission** rooted in localized regional leadership moved forward with the hiring of a president of Asia Ministries based in Singapore, LHM's first regional president living outside of the United States. By creating a ministry model that shifts

leadership to regional presidents who are located closer to where ministry is happening, LHM can ensure that our mission is tailored to the unique needs of specific areas.

Over the past couple years, LHM has opened **six new mission fields** that uplift the next generation of Christians leaders to begin ministry in partnership with our existing ministry centers. Teams in Peru, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Bolivia are now sharing the Gospel in their home countries through teams of three local people focused on children and youth ministry, digital outreach through social media, and multimedia content creation. In addition, LHM–Kenya started airing evangelistic radio spots in a new area—in neighboring Tanzania. By working with local Lutherans from Tanzania, the inspiring Gospel messages are advertising LHM’s popular Bible Correspondence Courses via radio.

LHM continues to **partner with SAT-7**, a large multimedia ministry in the Middle East and North Africa, to make God’s love visible to millions of people in more than 20 countries throughout the region. In addition to a newly launched seventh season of Arabic programming that explores themes common to young adults from a biblical perspective, a multi-language project called Reconnecting the MENA to Hope uses content from LHM’s topical booklets to offer hope in Jesus through unique satellite broadcasts, digital and social media, and direct follow up. Programs air on three channels: SAT-7 ARABIC, SAT-7 PARS (for Persian speakers), and SAT-7 TÜRK (for Turkish speakers). Each channel’s programming is tailored to the unique language, culture, and felt needs of its audience.

Holistic outreach is an effective way of demonstrating to people the love of Christ. These programs have a comprehensive impact in reaching both body and soul as a ministry to the unchurched in word and deed where both physical and spiritual needs are addressed. In African nations like Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya,

and Liberia, our successful holistic programs continue to reach at-risk young adults, especially women, through medical camps, prison ministry, vocational training, and spiritual guidance and fellowship.

Impacting People Through Digital Engagement

In today’s digital age, more people than ever are searching online for guidance on topics like stress, anxiety, depression, fear, guilt, toxic relationships, and other relevant issues. **Vivenciar.net** continues to be an instrumental platform for reaching Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking individuals worldwide, including an increased focus on connecting with Hispanics living in the United States. Vivenciar.net assists these individuals through live chats, blog posts, articles, e-books, and courses. It also offers a safe space where trained ministry volunteers can listen to what people have to say about specific situations in their lives and accompany them in these moments with biblically based support and guidance.

Our “for Hispanics, by Hispanics” approach to creating content continues to resonate with a growing digital-first Hispanic audience that is hungry for ministry resources that share the hope of the Gospel. The **Sentido Latino** podcast is now available on YouTube, an additional platform to reach out with our Hispanic ministry messages and resources to new communities in the United States and beyond. In less than a year, our YouTube channel has more than 50,000 subscribers. Sentido Latino also has more than one million views across all platforms.

Thred continues to create content to equip Christians for sharing their faith in the digital world. Two of the newest downloadable resources help individuals tell their story. The Search for Self reminds users that as Christ-followers we identify as children of God, which in this image-oriented world we live in is not always easy to remember. Not My Job encourages people to see their place in the Gospel narrative and inspires them to talk about what

God has done and is doing in their lives. In addition, Thred's weekly email series delivers content to more than 21,000 subscribers and offers a way for subscribers to join the conversation through polls or specific feedback prompts followed by comment boxes.

Our annual **Gospel Adventures™** program reaches around 40,000 elementary and middle school students each year. This interactive virtual experience includes a five-day curriculum, videos, theme music, hands-on activities, and more—all working together to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the work of the Gospel in their own lives and how God works in people's lives in another part of the world. The 2026 program explores Mongolia.

The Lutheran Hour® continues to expand its reach through digital means beyond traditional radio stations in North America. While it currently airs each week on around 1,700 stations as well as the American Forces Network, the program is also available online, as a podcast, and on media platforms like Amazon Alexa, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Google Home, and Sirius XM satellite radio. The sermons, as well as other LHM resources like Daily Devotions, topical booklets, and Bible studies, can also be accessed through the "Connected by LHM" app.

Impacting People Right Where They Are

Growing diversity, cultural shifts, and spiritual hunger are reshaping North America—opening new doors to share the unchanging hope of Jesus. The mission field is no longer far away; it is right outside our doors.

God has called all laypeople to be powerful witnesses for Christ with their families and communities. LHM continues to produce timely resources that offer convenient ways for people to connect with Jesus and share their faith with others. From the popular **Project Connect** booklet ministry with more than 50 titles to dozens of online **LHM Learn** courses under five faith-strengthening categories, and from **Daily**

and **Seasonal Devotions** to online **video Bible studies**, LHM has offerings to connect with people at any stage of their individual faith journeys.

Several years ago, LHM began a **partnership with Barna Group**, a world-renowned Christian research firm. The resulting research findings have allowed LHM to provide timely and relevant resources that meet people where they are by equipping individuals and churches to engage in fruitful spiritual conversations, deepen faith in households, impact neighborhoods with the Good News of Jesus Christ, and develop their God-given talents. They enable us to gain a hearing for the Gospel in an inviting and contextual way—guiding those who seek toward faith.

One of our newest resources, ***Spiritual Conversations: Sharing Life, Faith, and Jesus with Friends***, is a seven-lesson curriculum to help high school students recognize and respond to opportunities to have spiritual conversations with their peers. Combining insights from Barna Group research and LHM's commitment to equipping people for sharing the Gospel, this course includes interactive group activities, videos, data to consider, opportunities for discussions on Scripture and faith-sharing conversations, and more. Schools, Sunday school classes, and youth groups are already benefiting from this easy-to-implement—and fun—resource.

The Results of God's Blessings:

- By God's grace, LHM's programs and resources reach people around the world with the Gospel nearly 275 million times each week.
- Outreach through LHM's global ministry programs has, by the power of the Holy Spirit, netted almost two million responses and more than 405,000 individuals referred to churches and Christian communities this past year.

- Individuals were equipped to share their faith more effectively around 455,000 times last year.
- Around 390,000 constituents are currently engaged with our global ministry efforts through giving, volunteering, or using our resources.

Vision for the Future:

With billions still waiting to hear the saving message of Jesus Christ, LHM continues to move forward under the following vision:

- Every person has the opportunity to hear the Gospel in an understandable way.
- Those seeking are connected to a healthy Christian community where they can grow in their faith.

- Every Christian is equipped to share the Gospel in word and deed.
- Engaged Christians advance this common mission as a global community.

We are called to act now! LHM embraces the exciting future of global ministry as a strong, emergent, future-focused ministry that harnesses new opportunities, research, and resources to grow the body of Christ—one life at a time—all for the glory of God.

On behalf of all of us at LHM, thank you for your service. May God richly bless your work in the name and for the sake of Jesus!

Kurt Buchholz
Global CEO
Lutheran Hour Ministries

REPORT 25: LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

Equipping the Church Across Generations (2022–2026)

The Church is renewed not by invention, but by faithful transmission.



Across generations, the Gospel is received, confessed, and handed on. Since the **2022 Synodical Convention, Lutheran**

Laymen's League of Canada has intentionally focused on strengthening intergenerational formation — equipping congregations, families, and leaders to serve Christ together in **Lutheran Church–Canada**.

INTERGENERATIONAL FORMATION IN ACTION

Forming Children in the Word

- Weekly Kid's Lectionary Learning supporting congregational and home catechesis
- 366 subscribers receiving resources across Canada, the United States, Romania, and the Philippines

- Seasonal family devotions reinforcing Word-centred formation

Forming Youth Through Service

- Servant Events hosted provincially and nationally, encouraging youth to serve with responsibility
- Initiatives designed to build connection, encouragement, and vocational awareness within the Church

Forming Young Adults for Leadership

- 11 interns mentored since 2022
- 8 young adults sent to serve on international mission teams

Intentional mentorship structures creating real responsibility, not symbolic inclusion

STRENGTHENING CONGREGATIONS ACROSS GENERATIONS

- **Resources and workshops** supporting mentorship within congregational life

- **Bilingual outreach** expanding French-language engagement
- **Tools** equipping congregations to cultivate service across age groups

**BY THE NUMBERS
(JUNE 2022–FEBRUARY 2026)**

- **366** congregational and individual subscribers to **Kid’s Lectionary Learning**
- **Servant Events** engaging youth in Alberta, Ontario, and nationally
- **8** young adults serving internationally
- **11** interns mentored
- **\$97,525** invested in **Mentors & Mission** initiatives

**A GROWING CULTURE OF
INTERGENERATIONAL INVESTMENT**

Since 2022, we have witnessed strengthening commitment across generations, not only in participation but also in **financial partnership**. Supporters have invested **more than \$97,000** in **Mentors & Mission** initiatives during this convention cycle. This sustained investment reflects growing confidence in long-term formation rooted in the Gospel and oriented toward the future health of the Church.

Older generations are not retreating; they are **investing in those who will carry the Gospel forward**. Younger generations are not disengaged; they **flourish when given mentorship, responsibility, and encouragement**.

This culture of **shared commitment** is shaping the life of our auxiliary and strengthening **Lutheran Church–Canada** more broadly.

**FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP AND
PARTNERSHIP**

- Active and engaged **Board of Directors** providing governance oversight
- Clear **financial controls** and external bookkeeping support
- Collaboration with **Lutheran Church–Canada** offices and congregations
- Responsible and sustainable **mission partnerships**

LLL Canada continues to serve as an auxiliary in alignment with the Synod’s mission and priorities

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming convention cycle, we will:

- Deepen **mentorship pathways** across congregations
- Expand the **Servant Event Toolkit** nationally
- Strengthen **young adult leadership formation** and responsibility
- Support congregations navigating **generational transition**
- Continue **bilingual and multicultural** outreach initiatives

Our focus remains steady: **equipping the Church across generations** so that the Gospel is **faithfully proclaimed and joyfully handed on**.

Yours in Christ’s service,



Lisa Jackson
Managing Director
Lutheran Laymen’s League of Canada

REPORT 26: B.C. Mission Boat Society



Vision Statement: A thriving body of Christ within remote BC coastal First Nations communities.

Mission Statement: Sharing Christ's love and equipping communities to grow in faith.

Contact Information:

Website: www.bcmissionboat.org
 Mailing Address: 201 Birch street
 Campbell River, BC, V9W 2S4
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BCMBS>
 Main Office: Bethany Lutheran Church
 Phone: (250)871-8311
 Mission Administrator: Marie Josee-Gravel
 Email: admin@bcmissionboat.org
 Mission Leader: n/a
 Mission Consultant: Julie Klassen
 Email: info@bcmissionboat.org
 Cell: (250)895-1040

B.C. Mission Boat Society Overview:

Over the past four years the B.C. Mission Boat Society has continued bringing Christ's Word and care to coastal First Nations communities, Even though we made some internal staffing transitions, our purpose has remained steadfast: to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equip the First Nations communities we serve to grow in Christian faith.

By God's grace:

- Mission teams were sent out regularly, maintaining consistent presence in the communities we serve.
- Existing relationships were strengthened through ongoing spiritual care,
- New engagement opportunities were established for community members.

- Additional communities have expressed interest in receiving visits.

As we continue to seek a full time Mission Leader (pastor or lay worker) to guide the mission forward, we give thanks to God for all the opportunities He has placed before us over the 25 years of this mission.

Strategic Goals:

We have five overarching goals that guide the B.C. Mission Boat Society. These goals were recently updated at the Board Retreat in November 2025. They include:

1. Personnel – ensuring we have a fully staffed mission.
2. Communications – developing and enhancing our communication strategy with all our constituents.
3. Community Services - strengthening our presence and building relationships in each of the communities we serve.
4. Governance – reviewing and enhancing our organizational efficiency and effectiveness.
5. Development and Fundraising – enhancing donor stewardship and the gifts that are generously given to support our mission.

Mission Highlights:

Spring/Summer 2022: After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we returned to traveling into the communities we serve. We were blessed with two summer students in 2022. A total of seven teams and one staff team went to Ehattesaht and Kyuquot as well as serving at the Northern Regional Games (NRG) hosted in Friendly Cove.

Spring/Summer 2023: Although we could not visit all the communities this year, we were able to send three teams into Ehattesaht, Kyuquot, and Kingcome, and served in other capacities at the

Junior All Native Basketball Tournament (JANT) as well as the Northern Regional Games (NRG). One of our team leaders, Pastor Gerhard Wilch, was invited with his family to join the Mowachat/Muchalat First Nation (MMFN) on their annual community camping trip.

After seven years as Executive Director, Rhonda Kelman stepped down from that role in June 2023. We give thanks to Rhonda for her years of service. She was instrumental in building a great foundation for the mission and helped to strengthen community relationships. Julie Klassen (Bellrose) moved into the Mission Director position on a contract basis and worked in close collaboration with the Board of Directors. We are thankful for her passion for the mission and her tireless effort in promoting and maintaining everything we do.

This year also saw us complete and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Lutheran Church–Canada, establishing the B.C. Mission Boat Society as a Listed Service Organization of LCC and part of the Synodical family.

Winter 2024: We began 2024 with a Board Retreat focused on reviewing and updating our strategic plan. Like any organization, it is important to understand our strengths, learn from our weaknesses, and build on our opportunities. This activity helps to position the mission for greater service and partnerships with the First Nations communities and Lutheran Church–Canada.

Spring/Summer 2024: We made the important decision to move our office from Faith Lutheran Church in Courtenay to Bethany Lutheran Church in Campbell River. Not only did this put us closer to the communities we serve, but it also ensured a presence in the city where many of the First Nations community members come for appointments, healthcare, and other personal reasons. We are confident this relocation will give us greater exposure and visibility with those we hold dear.

Summer 2024: We were blessed to bring Sonja Bland on board part time to work in the office and be a support facilitator with the teams and a liaison with the communities. We had one summer student for July and August. Although we were able to visit three of the four communities, we did not have a team for Kyuquot.

February 2025: We began our year with an impactful Women’s Retreat held at Camp Homewood on Quadra Island. Women from each of the communities we serve were invited to attend. The retreat was called “From Mourning to Joy” and our main speaker, Jennifer Kerr, led the group in beautiful conversations around the subject of grieving and joy keeping Jesus at the center. In all we had 29 women and 7 volunteers attend.

Spring/Summer 2025: We were blessed to have Nicolas Goerz, a seminarian from Concordia Lutheran Seminar in Edmonton, as our summer student. Nicolas and his family accompanied the three teams that traveled during the summer to Kyuquot, Kingcome, and Klemtu. This was a great experience for Nicolas, and the communities he traveled to loved that he brought his family.

October/Nov. 2025: Marie-Josée Gravel began as our new office administrator in Campbell River, bringing experience and a great love for the mission. Our annual Board Retreat, which we moved from February to November, focused on updating our bylaws and many of our policies. Julie Klassen is taking the role of overseeing as a mission consultant as we are incorporating more of a shared leadership model.

Looking Ahead: Discussions continue with Lutheran Church–Canada on how our two organizations can work better together to build this important ministry to First Nations, including great spiritual care, Bible studies, and a regular pastoral presence. We are planning to reconnect with three communities (Bella Bella, Anahim

Lake and Bella Coola) that have been inviting us to return. We also have several teams preparing to go into each of the 4 communities we serve.

Our Commitment to the Communities:

We currently serve four communities: Kyuquot, Ehattesaht, Klemtu and Kingcome and are grateful to be reaching a second generation of children through Kids' Club. As we are able, we try to include the whole community in our mission with various activities like Men's and Women's Bible studies, music worship, elder visits, community engagement activities, youth activities, community dinners, and home visits. We are honoured and privileged to be invited to join in community events.

Our Commitment to our Teams:

The BCMBS joined Plan to Protect to ensure the safety and protection of children, youth, and vulnerable adults, through rigorous screening, training, accountability, and documented practices for all staff and volunteers of the B.C. Mission Boat Society. Over the last 6 months, we also updated our training for teams to better support and equip them for their mission trips.

Our Commitment to Donors/Supporters:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our mission depends on faithful people. We remain deeply grateful to all our supporters,

including donors, volunteers, congregations, and teams, for your many past and current contributions. The Lord has preserved and even grown this mission during a time when it could easily have stalled or failed.

As we look ahead, the need is clear. The followers of Christ in First Nations communities have the same concerns that many of our own members have. Who will help them share the faith with their grandchildren? Who will strengthen them in their own walk of faith? What will happen in their communities if the love of Christ is not present? How will their communities heal without the Gospel? These and many other needs are waiting to be filled and by God's grace, we are privileged to be a part of doing just that.

Please continue to pray for this mission and especially for the people we serve. Together we are one body in Christ, sharing the good news of salvation to those who seek to hear it. We give thanks that through every change, Christ remains the One who sends, sustains, and blesses this work.

"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." ~ 1 Corinthians 3:7

Marie-Josée Gravel
Mission Administrator

REPORT 27: BETHANY PIONEER VILLAGE

Middle Lake, Saskatchewan
www.BethanyPioneerVillage.ca

"The mission of Bethany Pioneer Village is to glorify God by providing a welcoming Christian environment and a caring staff to nurture those in need of physical, personal and spiritual care."

Bethany Pioneer Village is a faith-based, non-profit, charitable organization that provides a continuum of care to 100 residents at three levels:

- Independent Living in three buildings of one-and-two-bedroom apartments
- Assisted Living at Birch Manor
- Long-Term Care at Aspen Manor

Our facilities are situated in a park-like setting on 120 acres beside a scenic lake, a Regional Park and the Village of Middle Lake.

We're Celebrating 70 Years of Care! A Look At the Journey.

The Beginning: Back in the early 1950's, Saskatchewan's Department of Social Welfare (as it was then called) made it known that they were looking for, and offering 20% of the capital cost to sponsors willing to build and operate Retirement Centres. Pastor Karl Krahenbil of Middle Lake read an article about this and the seed called Bethany that the good Lord planted began to grow.

A committee of four (Pastor Stanley Rosenau, Marvin Nabor, Art Hoeflicher and Pastor Karl Krahenbil) was appointed to promote the construction of a Home for the Aged. In April 1956, 120 acres were purchased and Bethany was Incorporated with \$20,000 in the bank. With the approval of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church Missouri (now Canada) Synod, the committee of four approached individual Lutheran congregations for their financial support.

Meanwhile, negotiations with the Department of Social Welfare were taking place, but approval was dependent on the choice of a satisfactory site. Because of Middle Lake's small population and lack of Medical and Cultural facilities, the committee's plans were in jeopardy of being denied.

The committee extended an invitation for the Department of Social Welfare to visit their proposed site. There they encountered the enthusiasm and desire of the Middle Lake community and learned of the large financial contributions already made towards the project and saw the beauty of the proposed site near the shores of Lucien Lake. Approval was granted. On April 4, 1957 construction began on the first of the three buildings that would house the rental units and by January, 1958 residents began moving in.

And that was just the beginning:

- July, 1960 construction was completed on a 55-bed Hostel to meet the needs of those unable to care for themselves.
- August, 1985 the 36-bed Special-Care Home facility (Aspen Manor) was completed.
- July, 1986 construction began on regenerating the old Hostel into enriched Senior Citizens Housing (Assisted Living facility now called Birch Manor).
- In 1999 an additional new wing with 13 large rooms for Assisted Living was added on to Birch Manor.
- In 2019 the Silver Willow Room was completed to create a gathering place for accommodating larger groups and enabling Bethany to offer a variety of programs and events for residents, families and community members.

“Have faith, the Lord will provide!”

These words were often quoted by Pastor Krahenbil during Bethany's start-up journey when the challenges seemed insurmountable. And, yes, the Lord has faithfully provided. The organization that began with a \$20,000 bank account now operates with a five-million-dollar budget.

In the early years Bethany's Board of Directors was a very hands-on group who, out of necessity, dealt with every detail of the organization. Documents, board minutes and letters from the earlier years reveal a constant struggle with government bureaucracy and finances.

As the organization expanded and became more complex, the Board changed to follow the Carver model of governance giving management more authority and responsibility and, in 1991, the Board accepted its first female member. In recent years the Board adopted Les Stahlke's Christian-based Governance Matters Relationship Model. Since its beginning, all Bethany Board Members have been Christian. Through the years with health care reform, the formation of Health Districts and Regions and recently a Province-

wide Saskatchewan Health Authority, Bethany has remained adamant in their vision to maintain its faith-based affiliate status.

How Bethany Is Funded

Residents living in Long-Term Care at Aspen Manor pay a monthly fee based on their income and Bethany has an Affiliate Principles and Services Agreement with Saskatchewan Health Authority that funds their care.

Residents in our Independent Living facilities and those in Assisted Living pay a monthly rental fee.

Income that Bethany's Foundation receives from donations, grants and fundraising events are used to fund facility maintenance, repairs and upgrades.

Recent fundraising efforts created income to purchase a new van for resident outings and to fund the renovation of a new tub room at Aspen Manor.

Bethany's Community Impact

Rural Saskatchewan reality:

Imagine daily life without running water or electricity, no in-door heating, and cooking on a wood stove. This was the reality for seniors living in our rural area of Saskatchewan in the 1950's. And this became the motivation for Pastor Krahenbil, his Lutheran congregation, and other area community members to initiate providing better living conditions for seniors and others needing care.

Work Opportunities:

Bethany currently has 75 employees working on a full-time, part-time or casual basis. Over the years these job opportunities have provided income, health benefits and retirement benefits for hundreds of individuals and families in our rural communities.

A Strong Spiritual Connection:

Since its beginning, the Pastor of Middle Lake's Faith Lutheran Church has been the Chaplain for

Bethany. Our current Chaplain is Pastor Jakob Valsson. There are three churches in Middle Lake that provide weekly services, devotionals or hymn-sings and visits with residents, family members and staff.

Bethany Moving Forward

Over the last three years the Board's Strategic Planning has focused on researching options for up-grading Bethany's business practices. We brought in business advisors and did an analysis of our office systems and procedures. By outsourcing accounting services with a professional organization, we have improved our business practices without having to invest in new technical equipment and systems, are saving money and receiving financial reports that are designed to meet our specific needs.

In December, 2024 the Board welcomed Dianne Eisner as Bethany's Administrator/CEO. She has an extensive background in a variety of health-care positions with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Her experience, professionalism and personality are valuable assets to our organization.

Looking To The Future

Bethany Board and Administration are currently working with a Business Advisor and a Fundraising Advisor as we develop short-term and long-term strategic plans.

Being located in a small, rural community brings challenges in the areas of staffing and housing. Keeping up with these challenges and providing solutions for the future are priorities for the Board right now.

We are confident that with the Lord's help, these challenges will be met. After all, we have 70 years of experience knowing that if we "have faith, the Lord will provide."

REPORT 28: HAITI LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY

The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (HLMS) continues to support initiatives in Haiti despite political instability and violence over the past years. The society is actively supporting three main projects.

One project, which is supporting the Concordia Theological Seminary of Haiti, is a blessed success story. Through the support of an internet connection and video communication Lutheran Church — Canada (LCC) pastors have been able to provide a growing number of Haitian students with solid Lutheran doctrine education. Every Saturday students have been joining the remotely taught classes using Zoom to be instructed in French. The outreach using the French language has been extremely successful and in December 2025 one hundred students completed their theological training and are now ready to serve as theologians, pastors, lay preachers, deaconesses, and Christian educators in the Lutheran Church of Haiti.

Another long running project is the support of the feeding program in a school in Mixte Nazareth. The school and its feeding program are organized and maintained by Trinity Hope, an American charity with close ties to LCMS. The feeding program in Mixte Nazareth has been sponsored by the HLMS for over a decade.

Pastor Walta Clercius, a Haitian born LCC pastor has helped the HLMS with distribution of French bibles to Haiti schools. 770 French language bibles have been purchased and distributed to children in schools by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Laotchikit in Central-Plateau, Haiti. More bibles will be purchased and distributed in the future.

Many more projects are initiated and supported by the HLMS such as providing food and shelter supplies when natural disasters strike. Solar power projects for church buildings allow evening worship with lighting and provide villagers with the means for charging their smartphones! Equipment for reliable power for Pastor Willy Dieudonné; a Haitian student studying remotely at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St Catharines to obtain his Master of Divinity degree has been funded by the HLMS. The society continues to find ways to spread the Good News through Christian and humanitarian efforts that Jesus Christ died and was resurrected so that everyone who believes may also live eternally. Please pray for the people of Haiti and pray for the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society so that we can continue to do God's work in a country where many people have never heard the Gospel message.

Andrew Jackson
HLMS Chairperson

REPORT 29: LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARIES & PILOTS (LAMP)

Dear delegates of the Lutheran Church of Canada Convention,

The Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) began mission work in the northern areas of Alberta in 1970.

Since its inception, LAMP has expanded its mission work from B.C. to Ontario. For over 50

years, LAMP has reached out to the Indigenous communities in remote northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. The population in northern Canada has grown rapidly, particularly among the Indigenous people which are the fastest growing people group. Currently, nearly one million live in isolated areas reachable only by aircraft or seasonal roads. Today, about half of that population is under the age of 14.

At the same time, the number of local clergy and missionaries has declined dramatically. There is currently an entire generation of children and youth that have not been taught the Holy Scriptures and the hope that is theirs through faith in Jesus. And yet, the greatest asset that LAMP can offer the Church is the lasting relationships that have allowed us to be invited into communities, to bring the Gospel. We have become part of the fabric of these communities. And not only do volunteers state that they get more out of serving than those being served in these communities, it fosters a desire to then serve in local missions in neighborhoods in proximity to their churches.

LAMP is also very grateful for our partnership in the Gospel, as a Listed Service Organization of the LCC. Just as we were honored to participate in a planning session in June with LCC and LCMS representatives, to discuss sustained ministry to First Nations communities in Northern Canada. We stand at the ready to assist

with LCC church planting endeavours, and helping to build relationships in the communities that we have been given access to. Our role was described as setting the table for these efforts, just as we have subject matter expertise to offer in this context of this ministry.

Thanks to your support, our “55x55 Initiative” was incredibly successful as we exceeded our goal of 55 in-person visits for our 55th anniversary in 2025. As we could not truly celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2020, it was a pleasure to host 4 regional celebration events in 2025. And by God’s grace, we know that these many decades of service, are just the beginning. LAMP plans to expand its summer VBS program, which served nearly five thousand children, to reach many more communities asking for Christian teaching for their children. LAMP hopes to reach out to pre-teens, teenagers and young adults through expanded youth outreach, sports camps, and Christian support for youth at risk for years to come

REPORT 30: LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS OF CANADA



...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

Our God is faithful and true to His Word. And He is using Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada in mighty ways as He accomplishes His purpose in sending out that Word in the heart languages of more and more people groups around the world.

50th Anniversary

Our faithful God has blessed LBTC so richly over the past 50 years. We celebrated our anniversary

with an attitude of thankfulness and giving even as we have been blessed.

LBTC’s partner in translation work in Cameroon, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (EELC) celebrated 100 years of Lutheran mission work in Cameroon in 2023. As a thankoffering for both our organizations, LBTC offered to sponsor a conference for all the EELC pastors in January, 2024. The subjects their national bishop proposed were Trauma Healing and the use of mother-tongue Scriptures in congregational ministry. More than 350 pastors attended and it was a joy-filled time of spiritual growth, fellowship, and celebration.

We also planned two anniversary celebrations, one at our offices at Messiah, Waterloo, ON and a second one at Bethel, Sherwood Park, AB, in

order to rejoice with our supporters and partners across Canada. At both events we gathered for a joyful worship celebration and enjoyed a delicious banquet. We welcomed our current and former missionaries and had opportunities for current and former board members, staff, and executive directors to reconnect. We also welcomed ministry partners from LBT US, Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church, LAMP, BC Mission Boat, LLL Canada, our LCC seminaries, and the Canadian Institute for Linguistics, to name just a few. All the parts of these events gave us ample opportunities to give thanks to God for past blessings and look to the future with faith, hope, and confidence in our faithful Lord.

LBTC's current staff consists of Pastor Ron Mohr, Executive Director and Tara Bradley, Office Manager/Accounting Supervisor. Tara is a

consistent source of knowledge about this organization and is God's gift to us, giving wise counsel thanks to her long history with LBTC.

Shortly after the last LCC convention, LBTC moved our offices from the former East District office building in Kitchener to Messiah, Waterloo. LBTC gives a huge thank you to the special people at the old East District office. They became our office "family", especially Darryll Holland, Pastor Zabel, and Pastor Morley. We held devotions together, worked out problems together, and often enjoyed shared lunches with enlightening conversation. They were and continue to be precious gifts from God to LBTC. The same is true for our new location at Messiah. Pastor John Rapp, the staff, trustees, and all the members continue to provide a very welcome place for LBTC ministry to continue.

Here are our Boards of Directors for the past four years:

2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Rev. Dr. Stephen Chambers	Rev. Dr. Stephen Chambers	Rev. Dr. Stephen Chambers	Rev. Dr. James Keller
Darryll Holland	Glenn Kahle	Tim Kuehn	Tim Kuehn
Glenn Kahle	Tim Kuehn	Tim Kuhl -- Chair	Tim Kuhl -- Chair
Tim Kuehn	Tim Kuhl -- Chair	Daniel Lantz	Daniel Lantz
Tim Kuhl -- Chair	Daniel Lantz	Gordon Martens	Gordon Martens
Daniel Lantz	Gordon Martens	Rev. Michael Mayer	Rev. Michael Mayer
Gordon Martens	Rev. Travis Heide	Rev. Travis Heide	Rev. Travis Heide
Rev. Travis Heide			
aptd-non-voting			

I thank God for these people who tirelessly of the time and talents to assist with this ministry and to help ensure that work is done in accord with God's Word and with our stated goals and mandate. Jesus certainly brings awesome people together to serve in His kingdom.

We also send out 6 mailings each year. These mailings include a prayer calendar with specific prayers related to LBTC's various translation projects and the people involved in those projects. Also included are prayer letters from the

missionaries in the field and from me, encouraging people to pray for more specific needs that are current in each area of LBTC's ministry. These six mailings are joyfully put together by a wonderful group of volunteers who gather together at the LBTC office. Some cut and fold the material for the mailings, others stuff, label, and seal the individual envelopes. These people are each a precious gift to us in the office, and I thank God for each one.

LBTC Missionaries/Translators

During the anniversary year, Pastor Mike Kuhn received and accepted a call to serve on the faculty of LCC's seminary in Edmonton. This certainly brought significant change for the Kuhn family, but also for LBTC. Even though Pastor Kuhn is greatly missed by LBTC and by the Bible translation community in Cameroon, our Lord's hand is powerfully in evidence in this change. The seminary community will benefit greatly from Pastor Kuhn's huge heart for missions, especially Bible translation ministry. It creates a stronger bond between LBTC and the seminary community. It also pushes LBTC to be more diligent in recruitment.

And now Kara Kuhn, Dr. Kuhn's wife, has begun working as the West Africa Data Coordinator with LBTC, but is seconded to LBT US for this work. God is bringing great blessings from these unexpected changes for the Kuhns and for LBTC! Kayla Falkenholt is certainly a gift from God for LBTC. She began her life with LBTC as the Kuhn family's teacher/child care worker. She loved that work and thrived in that role. When the Kuhns returned to Canada, she decided to stay in Cameroon and became a teacher on the staff of the Greenhouse School for missionary kids in Yaounde. Again, she has thrived in that role, teaching various grades over the last two-plus years, as well as teaching music for the whole school. What a blessing she has been to LBTC, to the Kuhns and to the broader missionary community in Cameroon!

Although Martin and Joan Weber retired from LBTC/LBT US in 2021, they have continued to serve as adjunct missionaries, returning to Cameroon at least once a year for short-term service. There they have assisted with various translation teams, led workshops for translators, and represented LBTC/LBT US at EELC conferences and other meetings. They also have one son and his family who serve as missionaries there, so they have a chance to visit with them when they travel to Cameroon. Their long-time

experience with LBTC and especially in Cameroon continues to be a great blessing!

Translation Work

Of course, the chief place we see God's blessings is in our Bible translation work. The projects that LBTC has been involved with in Cameroon for several years are continuing to bear fruit. The Dowayo and Dii full-Bible projects are making great strides forward and are ready for revisers and a translation consultant to check their translation work. Both communities report that nearly 90% of the Old Testament is translated. The Nizaa work is moving more slowly, but the portions of the New Testament that have been translated (Luke, John, and several epistles) are being used in video productions and in various audio media. These are stirring up great interest in the community as God works through His Word.

And LBTC is involved in several new projects, thanks to great support from our donors and prayer warriors across Canada. In Cameroon, the Tikar and Mambila communities are well into preparing 3-year lectionaries for use in their churches and homes. The Kwanja are eager to continue work on an Old Testament and produce a full Bible for their community. The Mbum Pana community is also eager to begin work on producing a full Bible, and LBTC is supporting the Gbaya community in growing their Scripture Engagement work through more Bible study programs, workshops for using the Gbaya Scriptures in worship, and training in Trauma Healing for their Gbaya church workers.

Beyond Cameroon, LBTC is excited to be working with LCC international missions and the Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church to translate the Bible into Southern Thai. As this project moves forward, we will be using a relatively new translation method called Oral Bible Translation. This makes use of the indigenous translators' cultural skills for memorization and oral storytelling. LBTC is also working with LCC's domestic missions along with LAMP and BC

Mission Boat to see how best to bring God's Word to indigenous language groups in Canada, especially along the west coast. The Oral Bible Translation method may be of great use in some of these communities. Praise God for new techniques to bring His life-giving Word to these communities.

All glory and praise be to our Lord Jesus for these old and new opportunities to bring His saving gospel to more and more people in the languages of their hearts.

Translator Training, and Cooperative Projects

For the past five years, LBTC has provided funding for spiritual retreats for the EELC translators and those who work with them in their communities. Our funding increased the participation in these events from 5 communities to over 20 communities. These have been organized by the EELC's Department for Translation and Literacy (DTA) and either Pastor Kuhn or Martin Weber has represented LBTC at the events. But in 2025, I was able to attend myself, bring greetings from LBTC, and give a presentation on the power and truth of God's Word. These retreats have been such a blessing to all participants. There were times for Bible study, worship, sharing of positives and challenges in each community, as well as translation work training.

Pastor Kuhn and Martin Weber have led many translator training sessions over the past four years. These are sometimes focussed on one language community and sometimes done for several language groups together. LBTC is also supporting Scripture Use programs in the language communities where we are engaged in translation work. God's Word continues to go out into these communities and produce fruit. It never returns without accomplishing Christ's purpose. It always succeeds in the things for which He sends it!

Also, over the past four years, LBTC has been a funding partner in a major research project in

Cameroon called SURAM (Scripture Use Research and Ministry). Other funding partners included One Book, SIL International, and Wycliffe Bible Translators. Pastor Kuhn served as part of this project which involved over 20 language communities throughout Cameroon. Teams went to each community to interview people about their experience with God's Word in their church, home, and community. There were times for worship, prayer, and celebration in each place. The resulting report gives a wealth of information that will help in structuring future projects in ways that will bring the best results.

SIL Cameroon's i-DELTA (Institute for the Development of Languages and Translation in Africa) is a specialized training program based in Yaoundé, offering undergraduate-level education in Bible translation, Scripture engagement, and language development. LBTC supported Pastor Ousmanou Dieudonne's (Nizaa translator) participation in this 2-year continuing education course. He completed the course with high honours and is now assisting in teaching the current group of students. LBTC decided to support two students in this session of i-Delta, Pastor Bakari Boukar (DTA Director) and Sylvain Bokdoko (Dowayo translator). Both are quite excited about their participation in the course and quite eager to put their learning into practice.

While I was in Thailand in October, 2025, I was able to attend the International Bible Translators Conference. Over three hundred people gathered from all over the world to attend. I joined in with the group of 30-plus colleagues from LBT US. What an awesome time of fellowship, worship, and networking. But the information I gleaned from the experience was encyclopaedic. The connections I was able to make with LBT US people I had only heard of by name, CanIL, Faith Comes By Hearing, Wycliffe Canada, SIL Thailand, and more have already proven so valuable! In addition, LBTC sponsored Jabez Temsakun to attend the conference with me. He is a university student and the son of Pastor Niran

Temsakun, TCLC Mission Executive. This was an ideal opportunity to pique his interest in Bible translation ministry.

Closing

As one hymn writer puts it: God's Word is our great heritage.... To spread its Light from age to age will be our chief endeavour. God has blessed LBTC with countless generous donors and prayer warriors who have played a vital role in this chief endeavour. Words of thanks are clearly not enough in light of this outpouring of generosity. The individuals mentioned in this report are also powerful gifts from God as they use their mission-focussed hearts and Holy Spirit-given skills in bringing God's Word into the heart

languages of people in the above noted places. Christ is glorified in you and in your work. Paul reminds us in Romans 10, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Whether through written or oral Bible translations, Scripture Engagement or Literacy programmes, lay people or pastors sharing the Word and work of our Triune God, LBTC is so blessed to be part of the work of Christ's mission of strengthening the faith of believing Christians and bringing people to know Jesus through His life-giving Word.

In Peace and Joy in Jesus,
Respectfully submitted by
Pastor Ron Mohr
Executive Director

REPORT 31: LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of our founding. Our mission has been bringing the hope of Jesus Christ to Lutherans in active treatment hospitals in northern Alberta. To carry out this mission we have trained and supervised hospital visitors who visit Lutheran patients in the Edmonton area. We have also trained members of LCC congregations to visit Lutherans in hospitals in their own locale who were supervised by their local pastor.

When Covid struck, the Alberta Health Services quit providing patient lists to our visitors. Recently the Spiritual Care Department of AHS

started providing patient lists to visitors who serve volunteers in the particular hospitals. That is good news for LHMNA. Once we find a new Chaplain, we will be able to once again train and supervise visitors who will once again bring spiritual care and hope to Lutheran Patients

Rev. Ken Rodeman, Chairperson
14 Westridge Place
Spruce Grove, AB T7X 1S1
780-426-3216
Rev3in1@telus.net

REPORT 32: LUTHERANS FOR LIFE CANADA

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who experienced life from the womb to the tomb, testifying to its sanctity by His incarnation, death and burial! Lutherans For Life-Canada (LFLC) gives thanks to God that we continue to serve as a Listed Service Organization of Lutheran Church—Canada. Using the objects of LFLC as

decided upon when we organized in 2004, here is what we have done since our last report to a synodical convention.

To provide an organization through which Lutheran Christians can unite to share dialogue and give common witness within the Church and

society to their concern for the value and dignity of all human life;

Much of this continues to take place through our Facebook group, moderated by Judith Obelnycki and through our website, lutheransforlife-canada.ca looked after by John Krim. As well, since the last LCC convention, we have instituted a substack administered by Ian Stewart. By subscribing free of charge to <https://lflc.substack.com>, a person can receive more in-depth articles as well as articles dealing with recent events surrounding life issues. We have also been blessed in recent years to be able to provide a four-page insert in the May/June issue of the Canadian Lutheran. Although intended as a pan-Lutheran organization, our membership continues to be predominantly members of Lutheran Church Canada alongside some members from LCMS and CALC.

To strengthen the existing bond of concern by bringing Lutherans of like mind into contact with one another;

This has primarily taken place through presentations at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), though we were also privileged to provide one of the breakout sessions at the 2022 Lutheran Church—Canada convention. Presentations given since LCC last met in convention included: “Blessed by Life Issues: What Was Meant for Evil, God Meant It for Good” by Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, the director of Word of Hope, a Lutheran help line for people with post-abortion struggles and other life issues (2022); “Dignity & Compassion: Hospice Care vs Euthanasia” by Rev. Ken Maher (2023); “Pro-Life Dialogue Training” by Ms. Maria McCann (2024); and “Counselling Job: Sharing Hope with the Hopeless” by Rev. Adam Chandler (2025).

To gather and share pertinent information with its membership and develop strategies for witness and response;

Three times a year, we publish a newsletter that is sent to our membership, often specifically addressing life issues within Canada, as well as providing information from around the world.

This is available in both paper and electronic formats. As well, volunteers known as Life Ministry Co-ordinators pass on information on life issues and share life concerns with their congregations.

To develop and distribute educational materials based on the Word of God;

We are very thankful for our mother organization, Lutherans For Life in the United States for all the support they have provided in the past for us and continue to do so. You can discover these resources at lutheransforlife.org. Recently we have also produced materials through our substack.

To identify resource people who can write and speak on behalf of the organization;

Several times in recent years, the American podcast, *Issues Etc.*, has reached out to us and had interviews with a representative of our organization on life issues from a Canadian perspective, such as the Canadian reaction to the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, and, more recently, the legacy of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on life issues, following his resignation.

To monitor public and private action in order to enhance the right to life;

Several members on our Board of Directors regularly monitor various sources of life news and other media and seek to share this news, particularly through our Facebook group.

To respond to and cooperate with other groups in society which share similar concerns;

Members of Lutherans For Life-Canada have in the past few years helped organize Lutheran participation in Marches For Life across Canada: the National March For Life in Ottawa; the Ontario March For Life in Toronto, the British Columbia March For Life in Victoria; and the Alberta March For Life in Edmonton. We also encourage Lutherans to take part in Life Chain, a respectful and silent hour of prayer and protest in cities across Canada held in the afternoon on the first Sunday in October every year.

To examine and correct popular but misleading stereotypes regarding pro-life advocacy;

We find our greatest opportunity for this is as we provide display tables at different gatherings, such as LWMLC conventions or retreats; Synodical conventions; youth gatherings; etc. The members of our Board of Directors (all volunteers), as time allows them, have also spoken to congregations, circuits and to groups within congregations.

To operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. It will not participate in political campaign for or against any candidate for public office or devote a substantial part of its activities to influence legislation.

There are many other groups that do an excellent job on informing the public with regard to legislation and candidates at election time. Such groups can readily be found with the help of an internet search engine.

Our current Board of Directors consists of: Rev. Richard Juritsch (President and acting Secretary), Judith Obelnycki (Newsletter Editor and Facebook Moderator), Alan Schmitt (Treasurer), Tracey Juritsch (Life Ministry Coordinator), John Krim (Webmaster), Ian Stewart (Substack Administrator) and Directors at Large – Rev. Adam Chandler and Glenn Kahle. Our Pastoral Advisor is Rev. Paul Williams.

We thank God for the faithful service of others who serve on our board member this past quadrennium, Rev. David Mellecke, Rev. Kevin Walrath, and Mrs. Linda Welke, as well our former pastoral advisors, Rev. Keith Habersock and Rev. David Zakel.

God's richest blessings to Lutheran Church—Canada as it gathers in convention.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Richard Juritsch,
President

REPORT 33: MALABAR MISSION SOCIETY

www.malabarmissionsociety.org

Malabar Mission Society, formed in 1990, has provided financial support for over 36 years to the Pastors and Gospel Workers for their outreach ministry among the people along the Malabar coast in Kerala State, India. The Pastors, Gospel Workers, and evangelists, are part of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC). The Gospel Workers, along with the churches and mission stations, form the Malabar Mission Circle. In 2011 Dr. Miller wrote, **Two Decades of Service, The Story of the Malabar Mission Society**, a 94 page history of the Malabar Mission Society. In 2020 Rev. Carlton Riemer wrote, **Malabar Mission Projects Progress: The Malabar Mission Society 2011-2016**, a 30 page book that updates the history. “Your Entry to a World of Service,” a 32 page booklet, was published to illustrate the work and activity in Malabar and beyond. These publications are available for distribution. The Malabar Mission

Society Newsletter, published 1-2 times a year, highlights the recent activities in Malabar and beyond.

The Malabar Mission Society assists the Pastors and Gospel Workers in sharing the Good News of Jesus in their communities. They reach out to the Hindu and Muslim people through the congregations and mission stations, Vacation Bible Schools, Bible Correspondence School, Reading Room in Malappuram, and the Christian Welfare Centre and Hospital in Malappuram. Since the IELC has limited funding the Malabar Mission Society provides a small salary subsidy for the Pastors and Gospel Workers and assists them with outreach activities in their villages. The Pastors and Gospel Workers of the Malabar Mission Circle formed the Malabar Gospel Mission Society to “undertake evangelistic work in the Malabar area”. The annual Family

Convention, Leadership Seminars for Sunday School Teachers, Women, Youth and Evangelism equip the Pastors, Gospel Workers and lay people to share the Gospel in their community.

The opportunities to share the love of Jesus are great! Since 2004 the Vanitha (women) Friendship Centre, including a Chapel, Reading Room, residence for staff, Conference Room, literature storage and kitchen, was established in Kannur. The Saar Bible Correspondence School with online and print courses is located at Vanitha. Daily the Friendship Centre provides an opportunity for many college students to visit this centre and learn about Jesus. Staff assist the students to find materials and share their love of Jesus. An ESL (English as a Spoken Language with accent reduction) was conducted in 2007, 2009, 2012 and 2015.

In 2025 Vacation Bible School was held in 7 communities with 277 students (Hindus, Muslims and Christians) who attended. These children heard the Gospel and experienced God's love. The Pastors and Gospel Workers followed up with the families.

Anantapur, in Andhra Pradesh State, has seen tremendous growth with many Muslims and Hindus baptized. Annually there are several adults baptized at Christmas. The 5 Leaders, 34 Gospel Workers and others regularly visit several hundred villages showing the "Jesus" film and preaching in public meetings, as well as freely distributing many Gospel portions, tracts and booklets. Support is needed for this powerful work of the Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Dr. Roland Miller, missionary from 1953 to 1976 in Malappuram, Kerala, India, served as Project Officer 1988-2008. Rev. Carlton Riemer, former missionary in India, from Stillwater, Oklahoma served 2008-2016. Ms Lorna Pederson served 2016-2022. Currently Rev. Greg Heidorn serves as our Project Officer. He communicates regularly with Mr. C. D. Solomon, India Agent, who supervises the work and distribution of funds. Annual visits are made to the Pastors, Gospel Workers and churches of the Malabar Mission Circle. We give thanks for the faithful prayer support and financial support for this outreach ministry in India.

Rev. Howard Ulmer, President
malabarmission@sasktel.net

REPORT 34: PHILOXENIA/HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Philoxenia is the New Testament Greek word for "friendship with strangers." Philoxenia is the synod's only listed service organization dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Christ with Muslims. As Canada is now mainly growing by immigration, many new Canadians hold the Islamic faith and so are in need of hearing the Good News that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Saviour. We are called by our Lord in the Great Commission to share his kingdom and Jesus' saving name with all people including our Muslim neighbours. We invite you to join us in this effort. The

opportunities of Muslim outreach are now virtually unlimited.

Philoxenia is currently working hand in hand with synod to support a synodically backed and supervised lay missionary who is a Muslim background believer who is very effectively evangelizing Muslims. This lay evangelist is doing evangelism on a part-time basis working out of a circuit in the East Region. In 2025 and again this year in 2026, the Ministry has gone out in faith and committed to pay \$750 a month to this lay evangelist's salary. We never had the money but the Lord supported us! Our hope is that as we gain further supporters who pray for

us, and donors who give to our cause that we will eventually be able to completely pay this evangelist's salary so that synod can move on to sponsor new missionary work and we can continue to support this talented and gifted lay evangelist in his work. Then, it would be wonderful to grow to be able to support vicars and even ordained missionaries-at-large once more for the opportunity and potential for our work is everywhere. The Ministry also seeks to instruct lay people like you and pastors in how to better understand Islam and so become more effective witnesses to Christ for their Muslim co-workers, acquaintances and neighbours.

To learn more about us please visit our (rather basic) website: <https://hospitalitylcc.org>. The Ministry is a listed charitable organization with

Revenue Canada and all donations will be issued charitable tax receipts. Giving can be made online or by mailing a cheque (made out to Philoxenia - Hospitality Ministry) or cash to:
Hospitality Ministry
PO Box 1031, Waterloo STN Waterloo
Waterloo, ON N2J 4A9

If you would like to join our mailing list and receive our regular newsletters please email pastorkorsch@yahoo.com with the message title "Hospitality mailing list." We'd love to hear from you and tell you much more about the Ministry and our plans for the future.

Sincerely,
Rev. Robin Korsch, S.T.M.
President, Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry

REPORT 35: THE ROCK LUTHERAN INNER CITY SOCIETY

The Rock Inner-City Society has been incorporated since 1996. This year we will be celebrating our 30th year of operations, feeding breakfast to inner-city folks and families.

The first Breakfasts were served in June of 1996 in the halls attached to Saint Peters church. The presiding Pastor of Saint Peters in those days was Rev. Neil Otke.

Breakfasts are now served three days a week. During peak times we have served over 1000 guests a week. This has fallen a bit to 600-900 weekly during the winter months.

Today we are managed by a working board of volunteers. We have 9 elected members who serve a term of 2 years. Most of our directors have served multiple terms.

The board manages our supply side for food purchases and a good supply of volunteer kitchen staff.

The Board manages the building and facilities. The kitchen dishwashing area has been fully remodelled as has our beverage area. We seat

about 80 guests at one time and rotate as many as 325 guests through in a morning.

The board does fund raising and we are fully supported by donations from local churches, organizations and individuals in our community.

All these items are looked after by our working board members directly with the help of our dedicated Volunteers.

We have one paid employee who provides stability and continuation in our endeavours and a paid janitor who does part time service keeping the halls clean and presentable.

Difficult to describe what all our members and volunteers do for our mission. We have been blessed with the right folks, in the right place, at the right time.

I hope you have a wonderful conference.

Yours in Service
Dan Wright

REPORT 36: WAGNER HILLS FARM SOCIETY



Wagner Hills Farm Society has been a place of restoration, growth, and lasting change since 1981.

Over the past four decades, between 7,500 to 10,000 individuals have come to Wagner Hills seeking hope, healing, and a fresh start. What began as a simple vision — to provide a safe, life-giving environment for those pursuing recovery — has grown into a vibrant and impactful ministry that continues to see lives transformed.

Wagner Hills is situated on a 45-acre farm located in the Glenn Valley just on the outskirts of Fort Langley/Aldergrove area.

Our one-year residential program combines meaningful farm work with holistic counselling, trauma recovery support, practical life-skills training, biblical teaching, and individualized recovery planning. Residents are also connected with the broader community through local partnerships and service opportunities. For some, the journey continues beyond the first year through our integrated alumni program, where graduates live on the farm, work off-site, and help foster ongoing growth within the community.

Daily life at Wagner Hills is intentionally designed to support each person's spiritual, emotional, psychological, physical, nutritional, and relational well-being. Because every recovery journey is unique, we create space for both personal healing and shared community living.

In recent years, we have placed renewed focus on strengthening the “living farm” experience. We now raise pigs and cattle for program use and

continue expanding our vegetable and herb gardens, blueberry fields, and fruit trees. As of July 2025, Wagner Hills welcomed the opening of our new building, “Oakhouse”, the supernatural culmination of a 3 year, \$14.5 M capital campaign. The name originates from Isaiah 61:3, which promises that God will provide beauty, joy, and praise to those who grieve, calling them oaks of righteousness. This brand-new debt-free building holds 50 individual resident rooms, a new gym, family room, and more. We also recently built a new barn that will house our animals. The old barn will be torn down very soon to make way for a new woodworking and market shop. We are beyond grateful for God's provision and the future of Wagner Hills.

Our dedicated team of staff, educators, and volunteers walk alongside residents as they build both character and practical skills. Whether working the land, caring for animals, crafting in the woodshop, or contributing to daily household responsibilities, residents experience purposeful work within a supportive community.

While the practical elements of our program are vital, we believe true and lasting transformation comes through God's work in each life. As a faith-based Christian organization, we remind every resident that no matter their past, they are deeply loved and not beyond redemption. Sharing this message of hope, forgiveness, and purpose — alongside providing tangible tools for healthy living — creates meaningful and sustainable change. We partner in the process, but we trust the Lord for the ultimate transformation.

If you would like to learn more or join us in this mission, we invite you to visit www.wagnerhills.com.

We are deeply grateful for your continued prayers and support as we navigate current challenges and pursue the work God has set before us.

Thank you,
Kris Sledding
Chairman of the Board

REPORT 37: CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (CLWR)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
Grace and peace to you. As you gather under the theme “Together One” (Ephesians 4:4–6), I bring greetings on behalf of the board and staff of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). It is a privilege to share what, together, we have been able to do in Christ’s name — serving our neighbours around the world and welcoming newcomers here at home.

In a world marked by war, disaster, displacement and a changing climate, your partnership continues to help transform compassion into practical, life-saving support. I want to thank the people and congregations of Lutheran Church–Canada for your prayers, leadership and generosity. This report on our impact is truly a report on your impact.

Humanitarian responses

In the last year, CLWR and our partners have delivered life-saving help in the name of Jesus to many of the most difficult situations in the world – like in Gaza, Ukraine, Somalia, South Sudan and Haiti. Our capacity for this type of work has grown significantly in recent years, and in our 2025 fiscal year, we reached 421,878 people with critical assistance and protection. In every case, our response extends beyond initial aid and typically includes things like repairing water sources, providing protection for women at risk of violence, and helping provide mental-health and trauma support so recovery can last beyond the immediate emergency.

Food security and livelihoods: restoring land and hope around Lake Chad and beyond

Alongside emergency response, CLWR works with communities to build long-term resilience. In 2024–2025, our food security and livelihoods

programming reached 168,705 people in Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, El Salvador and Ethiopia — working in partnership with local organizations and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

One of the most exciting parts of this work is our nature-based solutions programming in the Lake Chad basin. Farmers are learning regenerative techniques, planting trees and reviving wetlands to restore an ecosystem that was collapsing under severe pressure from climate change and mismanagement. In 2024–2025 alone, 4,741 farmers near Lake Chad received training; 25 tree nurseries were established; and 14,341 hectares were being converted using nature-based solutions. This is the kind of practical hope that can keep families rooted in their communities rather than forced to migrate in search of survival.

Across Canada, congregations are also taking part through Friends of Creation — a four-Sunday journey that weaves worship, learning and action. With matching support from the Government of Canada, \$50 can help restore an acre of land around Lake Chad. Thanks to generous supporters, more than 10,000 acres of land are already being restored. This is an encouraging sign of what we can accomplish when we act together as one.

Education and skills: opening pathways in Nicaragua and the West Bank

CLWR’s work also includes education and skills training that equips people to shape their own futures. The GRIT program in the West Bank, with funding from Global Affairs Canada, provided technical and vocational training to Palestinian women — including women with disabilities — for the last six years. Over 3,000 women graduated through the program, and 82%

are employed today. While officially ended, the project's impact will continue — for example, through the nine educational institutes in the West Bank that have now adapted policies to make their programs more accessible to women.

We are so glad to be in continued partnership with LCC In Nicaragua, where CLWR is supporting LCC's ministry in the country by providing school supplies, tutoring and meals at school for children in rural communities.

Refugee resettlement in Canada: welcome as a witness

CLWR was created in the aftermath of World War II to respond to displacement, and our commitment to refugee resettlement remains central. As a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the Government of Canada, CLWR supports congregations and other groups as they sponsor refugees and welcome them into Canadian communities. In 2024–2025, 199 people went from refugee to permanent resident in Canada

with support from Lutheran churches and community groups across the country.

Stewarding your trust

Over the last several years, CLWR has seen strong growth of our programs due to increased government funding and legacy gifts from Lutherans in Canada. We are grateful for the steadfast partnership of LCC in this ministry.

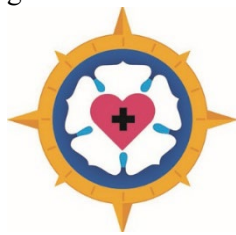
In a time when the challenges facing our world can feel overwhelming, your partnership with CLWR has become tangible hope for so many. Thank you for being part of CLWR's mission, and for giving us the privilege of putting faith into action.

May God bless your convention and your ministry in the years ahead.

In Christ,
Rev. Michael Pryse
Interim Executive Director
Canadian Lutheran World Relief

REPORT 38: INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL

The International Lutheran Council (ILC) is a global association of Confessional Lutheran church bodies, grounded in the authority of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. We exist to promote and support witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by faithful



Lutherans around the world. To that end, we remain grateful to the people of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) for their long-term support of the ILC and its programming.

It is my pleasure, therefore, to share with the members of LCC a brief snapshot of the work with which the ILC has been busy over the past four years.

2022 – ILC World Conference

The ILC held its 27th (12th) World Conference from September 13-16, 2022, in Kisumu, Kenya. The theme for the conference was “Liturgy and Culture: How Worship Shapes our Life Together and Why We Do What We Do.”

The conference saw the election of a new ILC chairman: Bishop Juhana Pohjola of Finland. Elected to serve alongside Chairman Pohjola on the ILC's Board of Directors were: Bishop John Donkoh of Ghana (Secretary); Archbishop Joseph Ochola Omolo of Kenya (Africa); President Antonio del Rio Reyes of the Philippines (Asia); Chairman George Samiec of the United Kingdom (Europe); President Alceu Alton Figur of Paraguay (Latin America); and President Timothy Teuscher of Lutheran Church–Canada (North America). Appointed members of

the board included LCC Past President Robert Bugbee and President Matthew Harrison of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

The 2022 World Conference saw the ILC vote to accept two church bodies as full members and one as an associate member. The conference also formally welcomed ten new observer members who had been accepted into the ILC since the last world conference.

Participants in the 2022 World Conference adopted a summary Statement on Liturgy and Culture. The convention further produced a unanimous statement rejecting virtual communion as incompatible with a faithful Lutheran understanding of the Sacrament.

The conference also received reports on the results of the ILC's ecumenical discussions with the Roman Catholic Church. On the basis of these results, the ILC adopted a resolution calling for continued ecumenical conversations with Roman Catholics in the leadup to the 500th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession in 2030.

2023 – 30th Anniversary Celebration

The ILC celebrated its 30th anniversary as a council in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 14, 2023. The event followed a multi-day International Church Relations Conference hosted by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

While 2023 marked the ILC's thirtieth anniversary as a "council," the organization traces its full history back to 1952, when an international group of Lutheran leaders a first meeting in Germany. The third meeting of this group in 1963 gathered under the name "International Lutheran Theological Conference." The ninth meeting in 1978 shortened the name to "International Lutheran Conference." During its 15th meeting in 1993, the ILC formally reconstituted itself no longer as a "conference" but now as a "council": the International Lutheran Council.

The anniversary celebration featured the installation of Rev. Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz as General Secretary of the International Lutheran

Council. Dr. Klaus is the Roemer-Baese Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Director of the PhD in Missiology Program for Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne, Indiana). He succeeded Rev. Dr. Timothy C.J. Quill, who served as General Secretary from 2019-2023.

LCC Past President Robert Bugbee served as the keynote lecturer for the 2023 anniversary celebration, speaking on the history of the ILC and the underlying values which will guide it into the future.

The 2023 conference also saw the publication of a new statement by the ILC's Board of Directors entitled "Confessing the Faith with Intrepid Hearts: A Statement on the 30th Anniversary of the International Lutheran Council." The statement reaffirms the commitment of the ILC to the authority of Scripture over and against the changing mores of contemporary society.

2024 – ILC World Seminaries Conference and ILC Extraordinary Assembly

The ILC held its 8th World Seminaries Conference from June 11-14, 2024, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The conference theme was: "Church and State: Challenges and Opportunities for Seminary Education."

The event brought together representatives from the seminaries and theological programs of 21 ILC member churches in 19 countries, as well as other guests. Among the many presenters was Canada's Rev. Dr. James A. Kellerman, who spoke on the question of government interference in seminary education.

The ILC also held an Extraordinary Assembly on October 26, 2024, in Wittenberg, Germany. As with the ILC's 30th anniversary celebration in 2023, the 2024 assembly followed a church relations conference hosted by the LCMS.

Among other business, the 2024 Extraordinary Assembly saw two churches transition from observer membership to full membership in the ILC. It also saw the introduction of Bishop Charles Bameka of Uganda as the ILC's new

secretary. Bishop Bameka succeeded Bishop Donkoh, who stepped down in 2024 as his church body was preparing for a change in leadership.

2025 – ILC World Conference

The ILC held its 28th (13th) triennial World Conference from September 14-19, 2025, in Panglao, Bohol, Philippines. The conference theme was “Unity in Christ: Confession and Cooperation in a Fragmented World.”

The conference saw Bishop Juhana Pohjola of Finland reelected to a second term as ILC Chairman. Elected or reelected to serve alongside Chairman Pohjola were: President Omar Garza (Secretary); President Charles Bameka of Uganda (Africa); President Matt Anker of Australia (Asia); Archbishop Rinalds Grants of Latvia (Europe); President Alceu Alton Figur of Paraguay (Latin America); and President Timothy Teuscher of Canada (North America).

Earlier in 2025, LCC Past President Robert Bugbee announced his decision to step down as an appointed member of the ILC’s Board of Directors. LCMS Matthew Harrison continues to serve on the ILC’s Board of Directors as an appointed member.

The 2025 World Conference saw six observer member churches in the ILC newly received as full members.

Serving as keynote speaker for the 2025 World Conference was Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger of Canada. Dr. Winger gave a three-part presentation entitled “The Spiritual Temple,” focused on Ephesians 2:11-22.

The conference also adopted two statements. The first—“An Affirmation of the Nicene Creed”—was adopted in light of 2025’s anniversary commemorations of the Council of Nicaea. The second statement—“Unity in Christ and His Gospel”—reflects on the theme of the 2025 ILC World Conference.

Faithful Witness to the Authority of Scripture

As Christians, we are called to stand firm on the Word of God—even when that stance faces hostility from the outside world. We have seen that firsthand in the ongoing prosecution of Bishop Juhana Pohjola of Finland. Bishop Pohjola and Finnish Member of Parliament Päivi Räsänen have been undergoing a multi-year criminal prosecution for their articulation of historic Christian teaching on human sexuality. The ILC has been openly supportive of the two, and has worked to amplify the voice of confessional Lutherans worldwide who are concerned about what the trials mean for freedom of religion and freedom of speech in Finland. This support is notable not only in a public letter signed by confessional Lutheran church leaders worldwide, but also in the decision of ILC members to elect Bishop Pohjola to serve as ILC Chairman in 2022 and to reelect him in 2025.

The call to stand firm on God’s Word is not only about our stance to the outward world; we are also called to affirm that stance within our own membership. To that end, the ILC made the painful decision in March 2025 to remove the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) and the Japan Lutheran Church (JLC) from observer membership in the ILC for departing from the doctrinal standards required of all ILC members. The two churches had, in recent years, authorized the ordination of women. As an automatic consequence, each church was initially moved from full membership to observer membership in the ILC, in accordance with ILC bylaws. After a long period of outreach to the two church bodies in question, both made it clear they were unwilling to return to the biblical understanding of ordination. As such, the Board of Directors had no choice but to remove them from membership.

We are grateful to God that a group of Lutherans in Australia has already organized a new church body to carry forward in that country a faithful confessional Lutheran witness to Christ and His Word. To that end, we were pleased to welcome this new church body—Lutheran Mission –

Australia—into full membership in the ILC during the ILC’s 2025 World Conference in the Philippines.

Regional Support and Leadership Development

The ILC has been busy with several other projects and events over the past four years. These have included regional conferences in Europe (2023 in Germany), Africa (2024 in Kenya), Latin America (2024 in Bolivia), and Asia (2025 in South Korea), as well as new work to identify and serve the unique needs of Francophone Lutherans.

The Lutheran Leadership Development Program (LLDP) continues to provide leadership development education and training for Lutherans worldwide, with current students hailing from church bodies in Asia and Africa. The LLDP—an ILC project conducted in partnership with Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne, Indiana), Concordia Publishing House (CPH), and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod—is coordinated by Rev. Dr. Naomichi Masaki. November 2022 saw the graduation of the first participant from the LLDP program. As of late 2025, the program has celebrated ten graduations, with a new cohort of students currently participating in studies.

The ILC has also taken steps to improve its ability to provide capacity building conferences, currently responding to requests from Lutherans in Tanzania. Rev. Peter Brock has been appointed to lead this initiative.

Ecumenical Work

The ILC continues its ecumenical work with Roman Catholics. Following guidance from the ILC’s 2022 World Conference in Kenya, the ILC Board of Directors in 2023 authorized a new round of theological discussions with Roman Catholics. To that end, the ILC and the Roman Catholic Church’s Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity encouraged the establishment of the Augustana Working Group. While not a

formal dialogue *per se*, the working group brings together Confessional Lutherans and Roman Catholics to examine together the ecumenical potential of the Augsburg Confession in light of its upcoming 500th anniversary in 2030. Among the Lutheran participants is Canada’s Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger.

The Old Latin School in Wittenberg

The International Lutheran Center at the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, Germany, continues to serve as an important base for ILC events and programming. Operation of this historic school—which neighbours St. Mary’s Church, the mother-church of the Lutheran Reformation—is overseen by the ILC, Germany’s Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the Old Latin School went on to host dozens of Ukrainian refugees for an extended period of time. Today the centre continues to host a Ukrainian Lutheran congregation in its chapel.

The Old Latin School was developed to serve as a Lutheran visitor and event centre, and can provide accommodations for small and large groups. In addition to hosting ILC events—like sessions of the ILC’s Lutheran Leadership Development Program—the facility houses a chapel, providing regular Divine Services in several languages, including English. Groups considering a visit to the birthplace of the Reformation are encouraged to contact the Old Latin School through its website: oldlatinschool.org.

World Lutheran News

An important service that the ILC provides to Lutherans across the world is the publication of global confessional Lutheran news through the ILC’s website (www.ilcouncil.org). There readers can learn about Lutheran news of international import, including the election of new church body leaders; the recognition of fellowship between different church bodies; and, of course, news related to ILC events and programming. News is

prepared by the ILC's Director of Communications, Mathew Block of Canada.

You can subscribe to electronic ILC updates at ilcouncil.org/contact-us.

Support

The International Lutheran Council relies on the support of faithful Lutherans around the world. To that end, we invite your prayers for the work of the International Lutheran Council. We also invite you to consider making a financial contribution to the work of the ILC. You can give online through the ILC's website at www.ilcouncil.org or by sending a cheque to:

International Lutheran Council
P.O. Box 10149
Fort Wayne, IN 46850
United States of America

Final Thoughts

The ILC has a long and storied history of partnership with Lutheran Church–Canada. We

note, for example, that all four synodical presidents of LCC to this point have served important leadership roles in the ILC. LCC President Edwin Lehman—welcomed into glory in 2024—served as Chairman of the ILC, as did his successor in LCC, President Emeritus Ralph Mayan. More recently, Past President Robert Bugbee and outgoing President Timothy Teuscher both served many years on the ILC's Board of Directors.

As the people of Lutheran Church–Canada prepare for your 2026 synodical conference, we want you to know that your friends in the International Lutheran Council are praying for a successful event. May God bless your continued witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ across your great country and in your mission fields, and may He bless our continued work together through the International Lutheran Council!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz
General Secretary
International Lutheran Council