

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
229 Eleventh Avenue West  
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

May 2021 Newsletter

# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER

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## LET US KNOW...

If you have a change of address, have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Pastor Koepp or the church office.

Church Email: [immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net](mailto:immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net)

Office: 641-236-6691

Pastor's Email: [koeppj@hotmail.com](mailto:koeppj@hotmail.com)

Pastor's Cell: 507-829-3901

***All services are live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages:***

*( search for Rev. Dr. Joel Koepp)*

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelGrinnell/>

<https://www.youtube.com>

**Where**

**To**

**Find**

**Us**

### **Podcast Links**

*( search for Immanuel Grinnell)*

Anchor: <https://anchor.fm/ImmanuelGrinnell>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com>

Google: <https://www.google.com/podcasts>

Pocketcast: <https://pca.st/jkhh18k8>

RadioPublic: <https://radiopublic.com>

Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com>

**All links are available on our Church Website:**

**[www.immanuelgrinnell.org](http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org)**



## From the Pastor

### ***“Why Do You Stand Looking Into Heaven?”***

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This month we will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord. The question posed by the angels to the disciples, may be readily posed to us as well, “Why do you stand looking into heaven?” In a world of sin and destruction, in world filled with darkness, where is glory to be found? In our own sinful bodies that will one day die? In our own works that, no matter how well meant they are, they are still tainted with sin? Where is glory to be found? Death and decay is in the world and in our own bodies. As our eyesight fails and as we can no longer eat the spicy foods or drink the same types of drinks that we once could, can we claim that glory is within ourselves? As our lives are filled with jealousy, anger, lust, idolatry, hatred, malice, unthankfulness, and the unwillingness to forgive our brothers and sisters in Christ, can we claim that we are in fact glorious and we are the sources of glory?

Are we the sources of glory? We as fallen, sinful human beings do not create glory within ourselves. True glory can come from God, and this was revealed for us in Christ Jesus. The very knowledge of this fact is what drives us to stand looking into heaven waiting for Christ to come in all His glory. We wait for the day when every tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord. We wait for the day that we will be called to our heavenly home. It is hard to do what I am supposed to do. We are children waiting for the glorious day, the day of wondrous praise, the day when there is no more suffering, sadness, and pain. We wait for that day of resurrection, when we will stand in full glory, in body and soul, in the presence of the lamb, in the holy city.

We hear and we know those pictures, we know about that day, and this is what drives us to stand looking into heaven. “Jesus, come back! We need you!” We know that this glory is for us, but we are not to merely stand looking. Christ is not to be found merely in heaven.

Where is Christ to be found? That is the beauty of Jesus' Ascension. The church confesses the very fact the Jesus did ascend into heaven, but this something that we don't talk about a whole lot. Even as you confess the creed, you may gloss over this fact. What does it mean? It is in the creed. You confess it. People have died to make sure the words are in the creed.

As Jesus ascended into heaven, He now sits at the right hand of God. What does it mean that He sits at the right hand of God? It means that Jesus, as a human and bodily man, now fills all things. The power, the forgiveness, the grace of God that was won through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the grace He won for you, now fills all things.

So why do you stand looking into heaven? Where are you going to find Jesus? He Himself points us exactly to where we are to find Him. Christ comes to us in the waters of Holy Baptism, He speaks to you through His Word, He comes and feeds you with His Body and Blood for the forgiveness of your sins. Christ for you is not to be found in heaven; He is to be found in the font and upon the altar.

Even upon coming to you, after the supper, we still do not stand looking up into heaven. Christ is also to be found in works of mercy towards our neighbors. This month also celebrates the secular holiday of Mother's Day; a day in which we thank our mothers, and we reflect on what they have taught us. What have they taught us, or mom's what are you teaching, in works of mercy? Are you teaching Christ? Or something else? Being a mother is a very great and important work. Being a parent is a great and wonderful vocation that is full of responsibility. You have been given a wonderful gift from God, how much do you thank God for them? How much do you see to it every day that they are learning how to imitate you as you imitate Christ?

We try and try and yet we know that we are not always perfect. Take heart, even when we fail in works of mercy in our daily lives, in our daily conversations, in our daily working in the world, Christ is still with us working through us for His glory to the good and benefit of our neighbor.

That same Jesus fills all things. He has joined Himself to you in baptism, He surrounds you with His word, speaks to you through His called and ordained servants. Being in Christ, you are given special gifts, new life gifts. Your sinful Adam, was drowned and died, your sins are forgiven, and a new man daily rises to live before God in righteousness and purity. As you are a new creation, and the Holy Spirit, you not only possess, but show and live forth in the life of a saint. Jealousy, anger, hatred and the host of other sins, are drowned in the font, and filling you rather with faith, hope and love.

Your entire being defined by God in Christ Jesus, you are not filled to the brim, but rather overflowing with **“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”**<sup>1</sup> Your works then are not sinful acts, but saintly acts. Done for the neighbor, not for your own glory, but solely for the glory of the one who created, redeemed and sanctified you; The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Not only men of Galilee, but brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, Why do you stand looking into heaven? Look at the font, look at the altar, look at the lectern and pulpit, look at His Word, look at your forehead and upon your hearts where You have been marked as one who has been redeemed by Christ the Crucified. Feast daily on His Word, and know Christ comes to you giving to you that which you need. Forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

As you walk through this month to the celebration of our Lord's Ascension, I encourage you to sing:

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<sup>1</sup> Galatians 5:22

# "Up through Endless Ranks of Angels"

LSB 491



1 Up through end - less ranks of an - gels, Cries of tri - umph  
 2 Death - de - stroy - ing, life - re - stor - ing, Prov - en e - qual  
 3 To our lives of wan - ton wan - d'ring Send Your Spir - it,  
 Δ 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to breathe the



in His ears, To His heav'n - ly throne as - cend - ing,  
 to our need, Now for us be - fore the Fa - ther  
 prom - ised guide; Through our lives of fear and fail - ure  
 Spir - it's grace! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hav - ing van - quished all their fears, Christ looks down up -  
 As our broth - er in - ter - cede; Flesh that for our  
 With Your pow'r and love a - bide; Wel - come us, as  
 Oh, to see the Fa - ther's face! Al - le - lu - ia,



on His faith - ful, Leav - ing them in hap - py tears.  
 world was wound - ed, Liv - ing, for the wound - ed plead!  
 You were wel - come, To an end - less Eas - ter - tide.  
 al - le - lu - ia! Oh, to feel the Son's em - brace!

*Tune: © 1973 Henry V. Gerike. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001879*

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Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+Soli Deo Gloria+

Rev. Dr. Joel G. Koeppe



# President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President

## Occupied and Empty

Very early in my first Call into the Holy Ministry I made mention in a Bible class about the corpus on the cross. To some of members of the class that was a scandal. In their understanding of the crucifix, it was a Roman Catholic image and no Lutheran congregation should have such a thing in their sanctuary. To their minds the unoccupied cross was the perfect Lutheran image of Easter. Throughout the discussion it was brought up again and again that the empty cross displays the fact that Jesus is not on it anymore.

While it is true, Jesus was taken down from the cross before 6:00 that Friday evening, the empty cross is not the image that best displays what we confess about Easter. To find comfort in this narrative of Holy Week we do start at the cross. The cross we look to is an occupied cross, not an empty one. The beams Jesus was nailed to had more than likely served as the place of execution for hundreds if not thousands of men before Him. It was not that particular cross that was important, it was He who was on the cross that brings us the peace our sin filled lives yearn for.

While the cross is an instrument of shame, like Paul, we are not ashamed to proclaim the cross. The cross we proclaim is occupied. The blood shed from Jesus' veins was a pure and righteous blood. His words from that cross was the very Word of God spoken to God the Father and to the Church. His flesh affixed to the beams was the flesh of the Lamb that needed to be slaughtered for the sake of a hopeless and defenseless humanity. The accusations Satan makes against us, as much as we hate it, are accurate. Our sins are exemplifications of what we are born with. From conception on, our daily lives warrant the results which end in our death. No escape, nothing we can do about it.

That is why the occupied cross is where we look for hope and salvation. Jesus cried out to the Father begging forgiveness for others, for us. He was abandoned by His Father and left to suffer the totality of punishment the sins of the world deserved. To comprehend this is beyond our ability. We even struggle remembering the sins we commit let alone the sins of the whole of humanity's existence. This includes all sins yet to be committed by future generations. Every one of them have been paid for in full. At the conclusion of that payment Jesus handed His spirit over to the Father. Our hope is not in an empty cross, but in an occupied cross.

If you wish to rejoice in something empty during this holy weekend, look to the empty tomb. On Friday previous Jesus body was laid in that tomb. Those who placed it there expected it to be there until it suffered the totality of decay. That is why the visit Sunday morning was such a surprise. No body, no dead Jesus. The angel preached the first Easter sermon; "He is not here, He has risen. Just as He said."

The empty tomb is proof of Jesus prophecy, and the melody of the Psalms which spoke of His resurrection. The empty tomb is proof that God the Father accepted Jesus payment on our behalf. Now the record stands clear. Satan's accusations are null and void. Our consequences of our sins have been taken away. Since the Devil cannot have Jesus he cannot have us as well. In Baptism Jesus has been bound to us and we to Him. Where He cannot be taken, neither can we. Where He has gone so shall He gather us and take us home to eternal life in heaven.

Not only do we have that promise by the empty tomb, we also have it in the occupied bread and wine in the Lords' Supper. In those earthly elements Jesus places His Body and Blood for us to eat and drink. As we do,



# President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders

District President

we receive forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith, and the firm promise of everlasting life. He who occupied the cross occupies His sacraments which He bequeaths to us with certainty. That is why we proudly display and occupied cross with a crucifix. It is why we look to the tomb when we want to celebrate something empty on this Holy Weekend.

God bless you all as you relish in pure joy concerning occupied cross and the empty tomb. Jesus lives, the victory is won.



The National LWML Convention is scheduled for June 24-27, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky. Women, men, and families from all over the world will be attending and/or watching

(livestream) this exciting event. One of the opportunities we have is to contribute items to agencies that have been carefully selected in the Lexington area, and LCMS Recognized Service Organizations.

See the poster on the bulletin board near the kitchen door for things to purchase - **baby items** (clothes, baby toiletries, baby blankets, etc.), **gift cards to Walmart and Target for LCMS Seminary students** (\$10, \$20, or \$25 are most appreciated), and **used eyeglasses** that will help impoverished people in developing nations around the world.

**If you wish to contribute, please put your donations in the box labeled 'LWML Gifts' from the Heart that is in the church entryway.**

Steve and Pam will take the items that are donated to the convention.

*Your donations mean the world to the recipients!!  
Thank you for your support.*



## **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – May 2021**

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just that we are to give but also what we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?



## **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter article – May 2021**

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).



*Relief for Human Need Worldwide*

**Immanuel Lutheran Church,**

**Thank you for all you have done for Orphan Grain Train. Because of people like you, we have shipped 18 shipments from Clemons, Iowa to the needy and poor of the world. We are in need of donated clothes for the destitute and poor. We are open for donated clothes every Tuesday at Clemons from 8:00am to Noon.**

**John L. Maddick is stepping down as branch manager. He will be 87 on June 3, 2021. Trisha Adams will be your new manager. Her number is 641-751-2479.**

**Our Branch of Orphan Grain Train does have to deal with national riots, COVID-19 and shipping but shipping donated clothes for the needy of the world is something we can do for humanity.**

**Thank you,**

**New Branch Manager Trisha Adams & John L. Maddick**

**Items collected by the Central Iowa Branch, Orphan Grain Train, Inc.**  
**(All items should be in new or slightly used condition, No junk)**

**Bedding**

Blankets and Quilts  
Linens  
Sleeping Mats

**Children's Clothing (Mixed boys/girls)**

Coats  
Shoes  
Summer wear  
Winter wear  
Infant and toddler wear  
Layette kits (see instructions)

**Men's Clothing**

Bottoms summer  
Bottoms winter  
Tops summer  
Tops winter  
Shoes  
Formal wear  
Coats

**Women's Clothing**

Bottoms summer  
Bottoms winter  
Tops summer  
Tops winter  
Shoes  
Formal wear  
Coats

**Clothing Accessories**

Hats/Gloves  
Scarves/Caps  
Hand knitted items  
Belts  
Purses/Wallets

**Underwear**

Socks  
New underwear

**Medical Supplies**

Hospital gowns, clothing  
Mercy kits (see instructions)  
Crutches/Canes/Walkers  
Wheel chairs  
Hospital beds  
Stethoscopes, blood pressure, ect.

**Education Supplies**

School kits (see instructions)  
Sports equipment (balls, ect.)  
Coloring books, writing paper  
School desks, chairs, classroom equip.

**Kitchen Accessories**

Pots and pans  
Plastic plates  
Knives, forks, spoons

**Other Items**

hard and soft toys (small items, not  
battery operated)  
bicycles (in good riding condition)



## **INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Layette Kits Include:**

Diapers (2 cloth and 2 disposable)  
2 diaper pins (pinned to diaper)  
baby wipes (small pack)  
pacifier (new)  
bottle (new)  
sleeper  
onesie (1-piece underwear)  
receiving blanket  
blanket

\*No baby powders or lotions (due to possible customs restrictions)

\*Spread the blanket flat, place everything in the middle, fold insides, roll and secure with string, yarn or ribbon

### **Mercy Kits Include:**

1 bath towel  
1 wash cloth  
1 hand towel (optional)  
1 large bar soap  
1 new toothbrush  
1 comb  
1 purse-sized tissue pack  
6 band-aids (1/2" or 3/4") secured together  
deodorant (optional)

\*No toothpaste due to possible customs restrictions

\*Linens should be in good condition and dark colors are recommended (please no white)

\*Spread the bath towel flat, lay the wash cloth and hand towel (if available) 4-5 inches from the top. Place soap, tissue pack, ect. on the wash cloth, fold the sides into the center so it will be about 15 inches wide. Roll the bath towel and secure with string, yarn or ribbon

### **School Kits Include:**

Backpack  
2 spiral notebooks  
2 pencils  
2 pens  
10 sheets of construction paper  
24 count crayons  
1 ruler  
1 pencil sharpener  
2 glue sticks  
1 blunt scissors  
1 10-pack washable markers (no permanent markers)

\*Place all of the items in a 2 gallon ziplock bag and place in the backpack and make sure it is securely closed.

# District Life Coordinator

## Christ's Comfort at the Time of Miscarriage

We don't know why our Lord Jesus allows some babies to be born and yet others are miscarried. 10-25% of pregnancies result in a miscarriage. Fathers and mothers sometimes want to speak about their loss and be heard, so they can grieve and mourn, while still trusting in Christ and looking forward to the resurrection of the body to everlasting life.

- Share the Lutherans for Life *Directions* newsletter from March-April 2021. Audrey Daenzer shares Christ's peace and comfort, her story, and ideas for burial, committal, prayer, and remembrance in her article "**Caring for the Least of These**," beginning on page 8: [https://lutheransforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Directions\\_March-April\\_2021\\_website.pdf](https://lutheransforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Directions_March-April_2021_website.pdf)
- "**Into His Loving Care**" is a devotional booklet by Linda Bartlett for mothers and fathers who mourn the loss of a child's life through miscarriage or stillbirth, available here: <https://www.cph.org/p-17597-into-his-loving-care.aspx>
- If your family member or church member miscarries, purchase a copy of "**Never Forsaken: God's Mercy in the Midst of Miscarriage**" by Kathryn Ziegler Weber, available here: <https://books.cph.org/never-forsaken-miscarriage>
- Weber's book includes Martin Luther's comforting writing, "**Comfort for Women Who Have Had a Miscarriage**," written in 1542, and also available here: <https://reporter.lcms.org/2016/miscarriage-comfort-in-a-time-of-loss>

**"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..." – Jeremiah 1:5**

Pastor Alex Post  
Iowa District East Life Coordinator  
[Alexpost1226@gmail.com](mailto:Alexpost1226@gmail.com)

# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



## Summer Camp 2021 Discount Extension & Camp Safety

Summer camp registration opened at the end of January and we're please to report that we're nearing 300 camp registrations for the coming summer. Due to the delayed nature of opening registration and sending our registration information, we're extending our first discount deadline to May 1. That means that you'll be able to save up to \$35 on your camp registration compared to full-price, which will go into effect at the beginning of May.

Safety is our number-one priority this summer, and we need your help to ensure a safe and fun summer. Our goal is to have the most "normal" summer possible. Procedures will be in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 within our camp community. Please know that, in addition to best practices in camping, state and local health guidance and restrictions may change our operations, and what we envision for safety now in the planning stages may need to change before or during summer camp. We will communicate a final safety plan sometime in May.

### **WHAT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE PROGRAM?**

In addition to continuing pre-camp health monitoring as we did last summer, drop-off and pick-up will be a bit different this year as parents/guardians will wait at their vehicles to be escorted through the process. While in session, and as always, we'll be spending as much time outside as possible. There won't be any large cabin groups this year. There will never be more than 8 campers per cabin group. We're also giving campers flexibility to eat outdoors with their cabin group whenever possible. Our current plan is that face coverings will be worn in any large-group indoor gatherings and joint cabin activities appropriate for face coverings. We'll be doing lots of cleaning throughout the week in shared spaces and commonly touched surfaces. All campers will have daily temperature checks and counselors will ask each camper about symptoms on a daily basis. We're going to focus our activities on doing as many cabin group activities as possible. Any large-group activities will be adjusted to accommodate mitigation efforts. Please stay tuned for us to drop our final summer camp health plan in May!



## Camp Presentations

Would you like to know more about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? Camp Director Daniel Sanchez is available to speak to congregations and groups about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's mission, facilities, and programs. Call 319-848-4187 to schedule a speaker!



## Important Dates

*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, these retreats are subject to change, postpone, or cancel.*

April 30-May 1

*IDE Spring Confirmation Retreat*

May 1

*Extended Registration Discount Deadline*

May 3-4

*IDE Spring Workers' Conference*

June 17

*First Day of Summer Camp*

August 3-6

*Higher Things Confirmation Camp*

September 10-11

*LWML Fall Retreat*

## THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2020, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received nearly \$9,009 in Thrivent Choice contributions! Thank you donors for making this program a success for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Will you help make 2021 an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice" to designate your choice dollars for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca today.

Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!



**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL®

## Needs List

Lawn Tractor; Paper Towels; Toilet Paper; First Class Postage Stamps; Batteries: 9v, AA, AAA; Cleaning Supplies: window cleaner, all-purpose cleaner. **Please see our web site for a complete list:** [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org).

## 2021 Camp Summer Staff

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is looking for college-aged young adults to make a difference in the lives of children. We still need fill out our staff with a few more counselors and support staff. The opportunity to serve at a camp awaits. Go to [www.nloma.org](http://www.nloma.org) to start your summer service profile today!

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca also needs Junior Counselors (JC's) to assist the summer program. Applicants should be at least 15 years old. JCs spend the week with a cabin group enjoying the many camp activities and serving as a positive role model and motivator for younger campers while helping the cabin counselors supervise younger campers. It's a great experience for only \$100 per week. Please contact Camp Director, Daniel Sanchez by emailing [director@iodiseca.org](mailto:director@iodiseca.org) for more information or to receive an application.



## *Sunday of Special Offering*



*Lutheran Family Service is inviting our congregation to participate in the Say YES! appeal to raise \$50,000 to re-supply the Say YES!*

*Counseling Assistance Fund*

*before the end of their fiscal year on June 30. All gifts given to this cause make it possible for anyone in need of counseling who doesn't have the financial resources to cover the cost of their care won't be turned away. They're asking us to "Say YES!" so that they can always "Say YES!" to anyone in need during the coming year.*

*Please give generously online at  
[www.LutheranFamilyService.org/donations](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org/donations)*

*or by texting the word GIVE to (515) 212-7585*

*On behalf of all who will receive help through your generosity...thank you and God bless you!*

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Monthly Meeting of the Church Council**  
**March 14th, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was held on March 14th, at 8:00 AM. Present: Pastor Koepp, Steve Haase, Chris Christinson, Kevin Schultz, Diane Schultz, Sherry Baker and Kathy Stanek. President Steve Haase called the meeting to order and Pastor Koepp opened with prayer. Minutes from the February 14th, 2021 council meeting were presented for approval. Chris motioned to approve and Diane 2nd. Motion carried.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

**Board of Elders:** Steve Haase

- Elders have discussed becoming more aggressive to contact members who have not attended Immanuel for 3 or 4 years and encourage them to come back.
- Building cleaning is being discussed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Christinson

- Written reports attached. All bills have been paid and the current balances are reflected.
- PPP loan is now forgiven.

**Board of Trustees:** Kevin Schultz

- Expecting a return call from "Top Line Tree Service" regarding removal of 11 pine trees
- Kevin will check out a tree limb that appears to be touching an electric line.
- Ben spoke to the siding contractors and their plan is to finish the siding this spring.
- Installing new weather strip around the door going outside from the Sunday school wing.
- Steve caulked and repainted the front double doors.

**Board of Evangelism:** Pastor Koepp

- Exploring social distance activities to celebrate church members getting back together this spring.
- Discussing what Immanuel will do for the 4th of July parade.



**Board of Education: Sherry Baker**

- The Sunday School board and students are donating 2 trees to be planted. Will work with trustees where the best place is for planting.
- Sunday School students will be waiving palms on Palm Sunday.

**Board of Stewardship: Diane Schultz**

- Business as usual – nothing new to report.

**Pastor's Report: Pastor Koepp**

- Providing spiritual leadership to members of Immanuel church, preparing weekly sermons, preaching and conducting worship services. Leading Confirmation and Bible Study classes.
- Counseling/home visits, attending board meetings, visiting sick/shut-ins as allowed and providing Communion to those who cannot attend Sunday Divine service.

**Unfinished Business: None****New Business:**

- Immanuel has 2 students interested in a 2-week summer program at Christ Academy. The program is directed toward those who are considering a career as a Pastor with a cost of \$650 each. Sherry will discuss with the Board of Education and decide what monies can be donated to help with the funding.
- The church secretary is transferring her membership to the Grinnell Christian Church but would like to stay employed as Immanuel's secretary. The council did not see an issue with this going forward. She will also continue to clean the church at a \$50 charge to members who are unable to clean and choose to pay her during their assigned week.
- Diane motioned to send \$197.50 to the Poweshiek County Sheriff's office to sponsor their Child Safety and Drug Prevention program for kids. Sherry 2nd. Motion carried.

With no other business to discuss Steve thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Council Meeting: April 11, 2021 - 8:00 AM

Submitted by:  
Kathy Stanek  
Church Council Secretary

**THE 2020 LCMS ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE and on the bulletin board for anyone who wants to read it.**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters at Immanuel Lutheran Church:*

*Every personal contribution you make to the mission and work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is absolutely critical. Always thankful to our Triune God for you, we in LCMS Mission Advancement continually strive to serve and support you with the utmost transparency, truthfulness, kindness and care.*

*Producing the organization's annual report every year is just one way we hope to keep you well-informed about how your charitable contributions are put to work.*

*We are pleased to present the 2020 LCMS Annual Report to you, now available on-demand at [lcms.org](https://lcms.org). The report contains important audited financial information, general information and statistics about our shared Gospel-proclamation work.*

*LCMS Mission Advancement's utmost priority is serving contributors, people just like you. In addition to the annual report, other donor accountability and transparency resources are available on [lcms.org](https://lcms.org), updated as information becomes available. We pray that access to these documents builds and reinforces your trust and confidence in how the LCMS manages every dollar of voluntarily-given, charitable offerings. If you are unable to immediately locate a particular resource, have a question, concern or comment, please contact our Contributor Services team at (toll-free) 888-930-4438 and [mission.advancement@lcms.org](mailto:mission.advancement@lcms.org).*



# Annual Report

## 2020

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

*Amounts reflect audited information received January 4, 2021.*



# SEVEN MISSION PRIORITIES



*Making Disciples for Life* is the current triennial mission emphasis of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, adopted at the 2019 LCMS national convention.



## PRESIDENT'S OPENING

**Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison**

*LCMS President*

DEAR CONTRIBUTORS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD,

Grace and peace in Jesus.

2020 was a strange and challenging year. Thanks to many significant factors — including a very painful reduction in force and a strong response by you, the donors of the LCMS — we have been able to fund all missionaries and we have been able to significantly reduce internal borrowing, which is for the most part done against LCMS Board of Directors funds designated for some general future use.

God's people are increasing their direct giving, particularly to undesignated categories. This is occurring despite the continued 40-year decline in dollars that are first given into the local offering plate, then passed to district and finally to Synod. More people are joining you as ongoing contributors to the LCMS. We thank God for you and continue to pass along a greater percentage of donated dollars directly to the work God has given us to do, as noted by our auditors (see Page 5).

The operation of the programs of the national Synod is lean and mean. We have fewer than 10 people in our Office of International Mission, who serve the needs of 120 missionaries and their families. We have clergy serving only in roles that require them. Our great mercy and disaster work continues to allow the Synod, districts and congregations to care for thousands upon thousands of people. Your gifts have made all the difference for hundreds of pastors, teachers and church workers who have needed a helping hand during lean times due to the virus. The Office of National Mission has forged ahead on many fronts, including production of a study of 40 years of LCMS church planting in the U.S.

We remain unequivocally committed to the saving Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins in Christ as delivered and defined by Scripture, and confessed in Luther's Small Catechism, for ALL people. I and our staff are 100 percent committed to the inerrant and verbally inspired Word of God, in which we recognize the voice of our Savior in both Law and Gospel. We confess the *Book of Concord* in toto, and it shapes and informs all daily work.

There are many challenges. And there are many blessings. And there is one Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Pastor Matthew C. Harrison*

# BUDGET & SPHERES OF MISSION

## FISCAL YEAR 2020 (July 2019 – June 2020)

Chief Mission Officer	Plan (Budget)	Expenditures	Available Net Assets Released
International Mission, incl. Projects and Ministry to the Armed Forces	11,958,713	9,763,978	8,745,558
International Missionaries & Workers	13,479,017	11,378,145	11,378,145
National Mission, Programs and Projects	6,798,596	4,231,754	2,824,305
National (domestic) Missionaries	483,389	199,297	173,043
National Youth Gathering	9,708,130	9,477,988	9,139,572
Disaster Response; Disaster Relief	3,314,886	1,431,431	1,431,431
Pastoral Education	963,521	515,078	233,371
Seminary Subsidies & Joint Sem. Fund	2,270,227	3,589,553	2,945,326
Global Seminary Initiative	240,000	333,139	333,139
Communications	3,060,892	2,421,111	402,722
Mission Advancement	7,281,932	6,162,623	4,157,286
<b>Office of the President, BOD, COP</b>			
University Education	1,996,148	755,409	–
KFUO	1,031,514	960,821	907,158
Ecclesiastical Services (incl. Convention)	9,730,545	7,917,668	2,912,386
<b>Chief Financial Officer, Chief Adm. Officer</b>			
Common Services	8,959,188	8,116,473	6,990,135
<b>Release of Unrestricted Net Assets</b>			<b>14,680,891</b>
	<u>Plan (Budget)</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Net Assets Released</u>
Totals	81,276,698	67,254,468	67,254,468

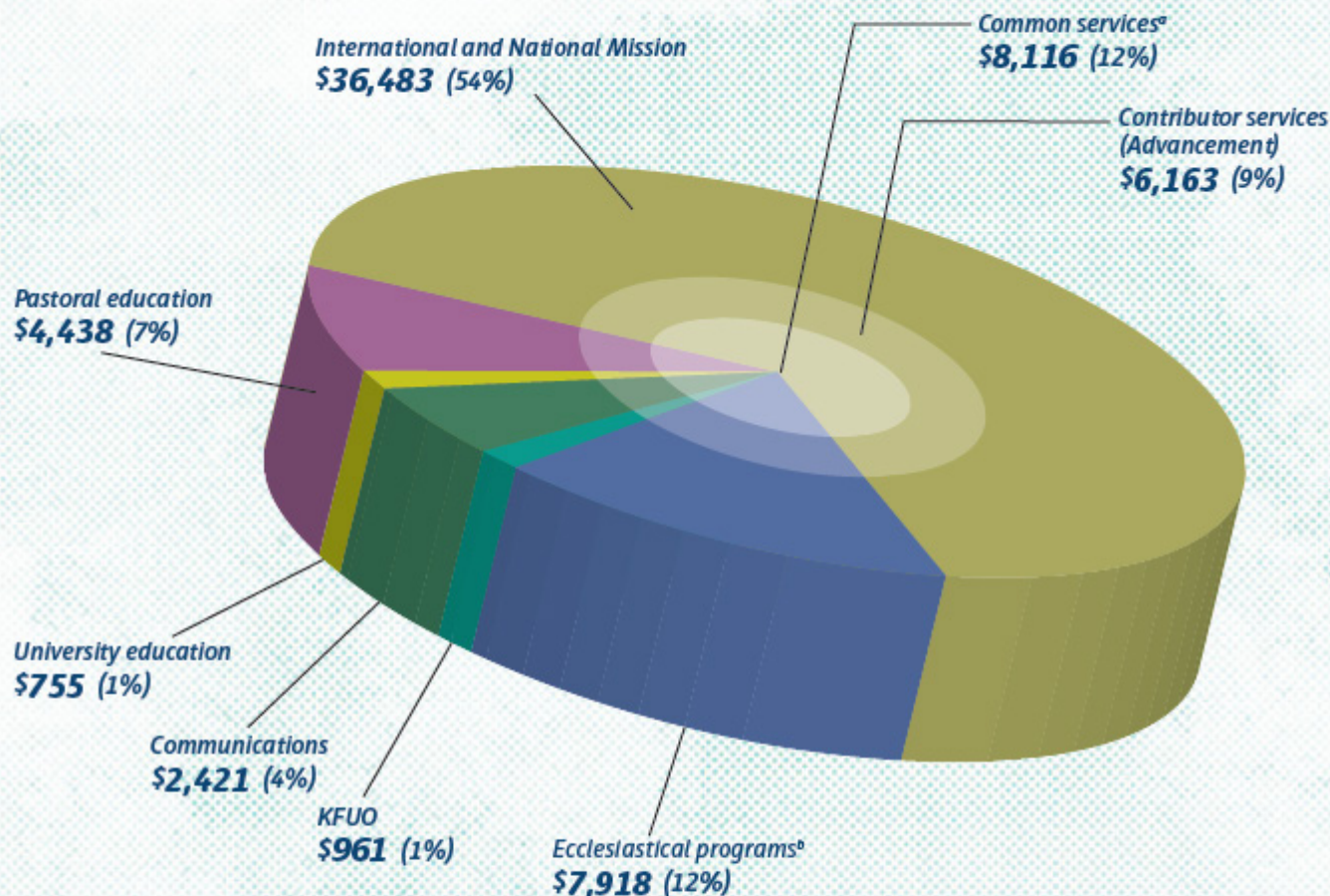
Release of Net Assets without Donor-Imposed Restrictions



# SPENDING: HOW DOLLARS WERE PUT TO WORK

**Total \$67,254**

(\$s in thousands)



PROGRAM AREA		DIRECT SERVICES	INDIRECT SERVICES <sup>c</sup>		COMBINED PROGRAM COSTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPENSES
			Contributor services (Advancement)	Common services <sup>a</sup>		
Int'l & Nat'l Mission (incl. Youth Gath.)		\$36,483	\$4,244	\$5,590	\$46,316	69%
Pastoral education		\$4,438	\$516	\$680	\$5,634	8%
University education		\$755	\$88	\$116	\$959	1%
Communications		\$2,421	\$282	\$371	\$3,074	5%
KFUD		\$961	\$112	\$147	\$1,220	2%
Ecclesiastical programs		\$7,918	\$921	\$1,213	\$10,052	15%
<b>Sub-totals</b>		<b>\$52,975 (79%)</b>	<b>\$6,163 (9%)</b>	<b>\$8,116 (12%)</b>		
<i>(Percentages of total in italics)</i>			<b>\$14,279 (21%)</b>			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>					<b>\$67,254</b>	<b>100%</b>

a. Board of Directors, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Risk Management, Audit, Accounting, Information Technology, Human Resources, Operational Services.

b. Ecclesiastical P(rograms) encompasses the constitution- and bylaws-mandated elected or appointed officers, mission boards, commissions and functions focused on strengthening our life-together and our confession as Christians in the LCMS and its global partner churches. Because they are mandated in the Constitution and Bylaws, the BBB classifies them as an expected program of the LCMS, not an indirect services aspect.

c. The Better Business Bureau, GuideStar and Charity Navigator endorse a standard that indirect services costs should not exceed 33–35% of a nonprofit's total expenditures, with program expenditures being not less than 65–67% of the total.

# ASSETS AND ACTIVITIES

**“The program spending ratio, the proportion of expenditure that goes to the LCMS mission as opposed to management and general or fundraising expenses, has increased to 77 and 79% in the last two years, comparing favorably to the ‘rule of thumb’ target of 75%.”**

LCMS Board of Directors Minutes,  
Page 97 – 2019–2022 Triennium – 11/19/2020,  
available online at [lcms.org/bod](https://lcms.org/bod)



## Our Synod at a Glance

### EMPLOYEES

Corporate Synod (FTE)	171*
LCMS Foundation (FTE)	54
Concordia Plans	158
Lutheran Church Extension Fund	124

### MISSION EXTENDERS

LCMS Districts	35
International Partner Churches (formal fellowship)	39
Emerging Int'l Partners (requesting fellowship)	1
Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs)	191
Auxiliaries	2

\* Excludes international & national missionaries

## Statement of Financial Position (Condensed) — audited

(\$s in thousands)

As of June 30	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash & Receivables	33,515	57,596
Property, Investments, Other	80,882	64,216
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>114,397</b>	<b>121,812</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payable (Due) to Others	9,860	8,845
Deferred Revenue	0	14,177
Other	690	723
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>10,550</b>	<b>23,745</b>
<b>Net Assets (Assets Minus Liabilities)</b>		
Without restrictions on use	10,753	8,979
Carrying restrictions on use, including property	93,094	89,088
<b>Total Net Assets — End of Fiscal Year</b>	<b>103,847</b>	<b>98,067</b>

## Statement of Activities (Condensed) — audited

(\$s in thousands)

Revenue and Net Asset Releases	2020	2019
District Pledges (Worship Offerings) Received	12,971	13,262
Charitable Contributions Released	38,809	51,578
Investment Returns/Sale of Fixed Assets	6,484	25,879
Sales & Services, Incl. Nat'l Youth Gathering & Convention	14,770	4,052
<b>Total Net Asset Releases (Income)</b>	<b>73,034</b>	<b>94,771</b>

Expenditures (Expenses)	2020	2019
<b>Direct Services (Program)</b>		
Missions — ONM & OIM, Incl. Nat'l Youth Gathering	36,483	29,012
Pastoral Ed/Seminaries; Universities	5,193	17,077
Communications, KFUO	3,382	4,333
Ecclesiastical Programs, Incl. Synod Convention	7,917	6,202
<b>Total Direct Services (Program)</b>	<b>52,975</b>	<b>56,624</b>
<b>Indirect Services (Program Support)</b>		
Management & General Overhead	8,116	10,379
Contributor Support & Fundraising	6,163	6,207
<b>Total Indirect Services (Program Support)</b>	<b>14,279</b>	<b>16,586</b>
<b>Total Expenditures (Spending)</b>	<b>67,254</b>	<b>73,210</b>

Change in Net Assets (Bottom Line)	2020	2019
Net Assets — Beginning of Year	98,067	76,506
<b>Net Assets — End of Year (June 30)</b>	<b>103,847</b>	<b>98,067</b>
Change — Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	5,780	21,561

Report to the Synod Board of Directors by the Independent Auditor (November 2020 BOD minutes). Management and General Overhead includes the Board of Directors, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Risk Management, Human Resources, Internal Audit, Accounting, Information Technology, Building Services & Maintenance, and Travel & Meetings. Under the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws, LCMS Mission Advancement is considered a programmatic unit under the Chief Mission Officer. By accounting regulations it is grouped with indirect services. Elected and appointed officers, boards and commissions, and rosters (grouped as ecclesiastical services) are considered by the BBB and accounting principles to be constitution-mandated direct (programmatic) services, not general administration/overhead.



# LCMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

*The composition of the Board of Directors is defined in Synod Bylaw 3.3.4.1.*

**The Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm**  
Chairman  
*Dakota Dunes, S.D.*

**Mr. Ed Everts**  
Vice-Chairman  
*Daytona Beach Shores, Fla.*

**Mr. Keith Frndak**  
Audit Committee Chair/  
Board Treasurer  
*Saxonburg, Penn.*

**Mr. Larry Harrington**  
*Casper, Wyo.*

**The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison**  
*St. Louis, Mo.*

**Mr. Andrew Grams**  
*Franklin, Tenn.*

**The Rev. Peter K. Lange (Non-voting)**  
*St. Louis, Mo.*

**The Rev. Josemon Hoem**  
*Murphysboro, Ill.*

**Dr. Jan Lohmeyer**  
*Waveland, Miss.*

**Mr. Christian Preus**  
*Minneapolis, Minn.*

**Dr. Jesse Yow**  
*Livermore, Calif.*

**The Rev. Dr. John W. Sias**  
*St. Louis, Mo.*

**Mr. Rick Stathakis**  
*Shelby Township, Mich.*

## **OFFICERS** (ELECTED IN CONVENTION)

**The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison**  
LCMS President

**The Rev. Peter K. Lange**  
LCMS First Vice-President

**The Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.**  
LCMS Second Vice-President  
*Great Lakes Region*

**The Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray**  
LCMS Third Vice-President  
*West-Southwest Region*

**The Rev. Nabil S. Nour**  
LCMS Fourth Vice-President  
*Great Plains Region*

**The Rev. Christopher Esget**  
LCMS Fifth Vice-President  
*East-Southeast Region*

**The Rev. Benjamin T. Ball**  
LCMS Sixth Vice-President  
*Central Region*

## **OFFICERS** (APPOINTED)

**The Rev. Kevin D. Robson**  
Chief Mission Officer  
*Appointed by LCMS President*

**Mr. Frank Simek**  
LCMS Chief Administrative Officer/  
Interim LCMS Chief Financial Officer  
*Appointed by the Board of Directors*

## FROM THE 2020 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

### OPINION

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of the auditors, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Subsidiaries as of June 30, 2020 and 2019, and the consolidated changes in their net assets and their cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### EMPHASIS OF MATTER

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to constitute a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern.” As discussed in Note T to the consolidated financial statements, given the uncertainty of the situation, the duration of any business disruption and related financial impact cannot be reasonably estimated at this time. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

**Brown Smith Wallace, LLP**  
St. Louis, Missouri  
November 19, 2020

*(Financial Information and Auditor Reports are publicly accessible at [lcms.org/bod](https://lcms.org/bod) under the “Financials” tab.)*

# BUDGET, SPENDING AND NET ASSET RELEASE

## DETAILED BREAKDOWN

	BUDGET	SPENDING		SOURCE OF \$s		
Area of Oversight	BOD-Approved Plan for FY20	Actual FY20 Expenditures**	Under- (Over-) Spending Plan	Donor-Restricted Assets Utilized	Unrestricted Net Assets Utilized	Fee & Sales Revenues Utilized
<b>Chief Mission Officer</b>						
International work, Missionaries, MAF, Int'l Disasters	\$26,736,815	\$21,608,510	\$5,128,305	\$20,590,090	\$1,018,420	\$-
National work, Missionaries, Disaster Response	9,297,786	5,396,095	3,901,691	3,363,324	1,433,703	599,068
Nat'l Youth Gathering	9,708,130	9,477,988	230,142	61,997	338,416	9,077,575
Pastoral Education incl. JSF, seminary subsidies	3,473,748	4,437,770	(964,022)*	3,411,336	925,934	100,500
Communications	3,060,893	2,421,111	639,782	5,362	2,018,389	397,360
Mission Advancement	7,281,932	6,162,623	1,119,309	4,065,842	2,005,337	91,444
<b>Office of the President, COP, Commissions</b>						
Ecclesiastical programs, incl. 2019 Convention	10,514,806	7,917,668	2,597,138	426,466	5,005,282	2,485,920
KFUO	1,031,514	960,821	70,693	773,623	53,663	133,535
University Education	1,996,148	755,409	1,240,739	-	755,409	-
<b>Chief Financial Officer, Chief Adm. Officer</b>						
Common Services; Board of Directors	8,174,926	8,116,473	58,453	18,006	1,126,338	6,972,129
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>81,276,698</b>	<b>67,254,468</b>	<b>14,022,230</b>			
<b>Source of Revenue</b>						
Fee & Sales Revenues						19,857,531
Release of Donor-Restricted Net Assets				32,716,046		
Release of Unrestricted Net Assets					14,680,891	

\* This item exceeded the forecasted budget due to the generosity of our donors, which allowed the Synod to supply more financial resources to the seminaries than planned. Please see Page 11 for additional information.





## LCMS Missionaries and Military Chaplains at a Glance

### LCMS MISSIONARY TEAM

International regions	4
Missionaries (headcount)	121
Missionaries (family units)	108
Alliance missionaries	10

### MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

LCMS Military Service Branch Chaplains	154
Ministry Staff	3

As of June 30, 2020, the current force of 121 LCMS missionaries serving internationally and domestically:



#### EXECUTIVE STAFF



International Mission/National Mission - Int'l Center Staff w/ missionary support or oversight roles

Missionaries are shown by headcount, not households. For example, a couple comprised of an LCMS pastor and his LCMS deaconess wife are counted as two missionaries if both have calls to serve as LCMS missionaries. A couple where only one individual holds the call or appointment to serve is counted as only one missionary.



# OUR GIVING YEAR TO YEAR

## Contributions Received for Gospel Witness and Mandated Work — adjusted and audited

Fiscal Year 2020 <i>(adjusted and audited)</i>			DESIGNATION (CONTRIBUTOR INTENT)	Fiscal Year 2019 <i>(adjusted and audited)</i>		
DONORS	GIFTS	AMOUNT (\$)		DONORS	GIFTS	AMOUNT (\$)
SYNOD SUPPORT						
35	436	13,057,443	District contributions to Synod Unrestricted <sup>a</sup>	35	439	13,799,617
6,232	9,098	3,099,025	Individual contributions to Synod Unrestricted <sup>a</sup>	4,805	7,618	3,391,909
13,665	25,893	6,207,490	Shared Funds — Global Witness & Mercy, National Offering	12,675	25,234	6,810,475
14,360	55,128	19,188,600	International Only (work/missionaries) — Witness & Mercy	14,869	56,233	24,625,491
2,331	3,927	1,285,293	National Only (work/missionaries only) — Witness & Mercy	2,642	4,634	1,938,898
1,397	2,217	1,278,564	Shared Funds — Disaster Response Work	11,321	13,246	4,000,049
4,083	6,082	3,131,395	Pastoral Ed, incl. LCMS Joint Seminary Fund, GSI (general)	5,591	3,474	2,758,590
728	789	389,469	Global Seminary Initiative — International Student Scholarships	543	580	246,108
1,304	2,685	878,773	Worldwide KFUD	1,426	2,679	1,201,454
216	3,755	338,530	Synod — Other Restricted Uses	218	3,773	450,624
44,351	110,010	48,854,581		54,125	117,910	59,223,215
SYNOD RESTRICTED CAMPAIGNS & SPECIAL INITIATIVES						
—	—	—	Lutheran Malaria Initiative Campaign (inactive) <sup>b</sup>	23	73	5,645
50	171	17,188	Old Latin School, Wittenberg (outreach and education work)	384	476	47,763
50	171	17,188		407	549	53,408
OTHER ENTITIES/PROGRAMS						
136	315	138,872	Concordia University System (CUS)	150	311	270,918
1,866	2,414	616,927	Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL)	1,971	2,419	570,444
66	104	35,949	Lutheran Housing Support Corp (ceased operations in FY20)	399	786	225,383
2,068	2,833	791,747		2,520	3,516	1,066,745

<sup>a</sup> The amount initially reported as Unrestricted contributions and bequests in the FY2019 Annual Report failed to capture bequests and is adjusted here. We regret the error.

<sup>a</sup> This figure does not match the amount on the financial statements due to timing issues and recording regulations.

<sup>b</sup> While the LMI campaign has ended, contributions to support malaria mercy work continue and are counted under International Only.

Amounts are gross contributions at the tax-deductible value; not adjusted to reflect fundraising, contributor care or regulatory compliance costs.

To continue supporting the work of the LCMS with your contributions, please contact Mission Advancement or visit [lcms.org/givenow](https://lcms.org/givenow).



## FUNDRAISING AND GIVING TO SUPPORT OUR SYNOD'S NATIONAL- AND INTERNATIONAL-LEVEL WORK IN 2020

**Mark D. Hofman**

*Executive Director, LCMS Mission Advancement*

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Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 presented a complex set of fundraising challenges to LCMS mission and ministry. As reported in the Synod's audited financial statements, total FY20 revenue from voluntary charitable contributions, intended by God's people to support the witness and work of the LCMS in national and international contexts, declined by \$11,606,000 compared to FY19. When taking into account contributions provided through the LCMS to support other Synod-created corporate entities — the Concordia University System, the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) and LCMS National Housing Support Corporation (Lutheran Housing Support) — the decline was \$11,881,000. Such reduced contributions, however, were not the result of a diminished spirit of giving or a weakening of our love for sharing the Gospel in word and deed.

So, what was behind the decline?

### **BEQUESTS**

The bulk of the decline in charitable funding was in the category of bequests (end-of-life gifts). In this category alone, the total received in FY20 (\$5,336,000) was \$7,914,000 less than what the LCMS received in FY19 (\$13,250,000). Declines in bequests and other estate gifts affected nearly all ministry and program areas, including those funded by unrestricted/undesignated contributions. Neither Synod staff nor contributors determine when estate gifts materialize; only the Lord knows and decides.

### **WORSHIP OFFERINGS**

Unrestricted financial support from regular LCMS congregational worship offerings — reported as district support — remained in a decades-long downward trend, one that the auditors noted as being something of concern. These vital financial resources flow from God's people into the offering plate, then via congregational commitments (budgeted and unbudgeted) to the respective districts. Each LCMS district pledges an annual portion of these gifts received from individuals and congregations to the Synod in order to support constitution- and convention-mandated activities. This unrestricted financial support, if sufficiently robust, can also fill gaps or shortfalls in donor-designated funding that typically supports the Synod's witness and mercy work.

### **MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

Designated gifts and grants in support of LCMS international and national missionaries and humanitarian workers also declined. This was chiefly due to having slightly fewer actively serving missionaries and international workers in FY20, coupled with tighter spending budgets for each position. In the second half of FY20, a temporary moratorium on travel, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, kept many missionaries and LCMS Mission Advancement staff from visiting sponsoring congregations and groups, many of which were not meeting to make mission-focused giving decisions.

## **GIVING TO DISASTER WORK**

A fourth reason for the decline was a decreased demand for LCMS donations to support the Synod's disaster-response work. Due to churchwide generosity in FY18 and FY19, some of the disaster-restricted gifts received were appropriately carried over into FY20. Recognizing this, LCMS leaders chose to suppress active fundraising appeals in the disaster-response category. As a result, FY20 gifts received for disaster-related work were \$2,721,485 less than the amount received in FY19. (LCMS Disaster Response's budget and spending are accounted for under LCMS National Mission and/or LCMS International Mission, depending on where the work takes place.)

Additional, albeit smaller, changes in gift revenues received occurred in areas such as Church Relations and the Office of the President. In addition, a strategic/operational decision to cease the work of Lutheran Housing Support, whose charitable gifts flowed through the LCMS International Center, was made by that entity's board of directors.

In response to a philanthropic environment that significantly tightened in the second half of FY20, LCMS Mission Advancement greatly curtailed its spending and, as part of the FY21 operating budget, released 12 staff from employment as part of a reduction-in-force initiative at the LCMS International Center.

Given the fiscal uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the runup to the 2020 national elections and other factors beyond the Synod's direct control, LCMS Mission Advancement — including Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa — pivoted to a stronger advocacy for gifts with agility in how they are ultimately spent. In contrast to a gift carrying tight restrictions on use (e.g., "only for work in Panama"), the LCMS openly invited unrestricted support and gifts with greater flexibility (e.g., to the Global Mission Fund, World Relief and Human Care, International Mission: Where Needed Most, and National Mission: Where Needed Most). Contributors responded favorably in nearly all of those areas.

Funding for LCMS International and National Mission — especially in unrestricted or less-restricted support for international mission work — is proving to be a tremendously challenging puzzle to solve, while opportunities (and a corresponding financial pressure to raise funds) in both categories remain abundant. By God's grace, donations to the Global Mission Fund as well as LCMS World Relief and Human Care have afforded the LCMS a stream of funds with enough flexibility to help alleviate some of this pressure.

LCMS Mission Advancement continued to encourage God's people in their support of the Synod's seminaries (through the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund) and their students (through the Global Seminary Initiative [GSI], GSI International Student Scholarships and seminary student financial aid). Tremendous generosity to these areas allowed the LCMS Office of Pastoral Education to confidently supply more financial resources to the seminaries than initially forecasted and budgeted (see Page 7).

LCMS Mission Advancement is contracted to provide fundraising and donor-care services to the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL), a separately incorporated entity wholly owned by the LCMS. The LCRL was blessed by higher levels of generosity despite an observed plateauing in the number of gifts and contributors. The LCRL is in the early phases of soliciting contributors on its own. As the center becomes increasingly self-sufficient in its advancement and fundraising efforts, contributions to the LCRL reported by the LCMS are expected to flatten and then decline.

The LCMS continues to depend almost exclusively on the voluntary contributions of God's people, supplied in various ways and through various means, to fund Gospel-focused work at the national- and international-levels. For all who gave generously in Fiscal Year 2020, thank you for being an integral and vital part of our eternally meaningful mission as Christ's disciples.

*To offer feedback on this Annual Report or provide suggestions that may shape future Annual Reports, please contact LCMS Mission Advancement at 888-930-4438 or [mission.advancement@lcms.org](mailto:mission.advancement@lcms.org).*

# EDUCATION



## Our Synod at a Glance

### LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Preschools	1,095
Elementary Schools (K-8)	692
High Schools	97
International Schools	3
Colleges/Universities	7
Seminaries	2



## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS — ENROLLMENT

	Headcount
PRESCHOOL & CHILD CARE CENTERS	94,581
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	69,177
HIGH SCHOOLS	16,720

	Headcount	Full-time Equiv.	Church Work
COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES	38,298	24,504	978

#### By school:

Concordia, Ann Arbor (CUW)	1,328	990	76
Concordia, New York	2,610	1,924	11
Concordia, Chicago	8,140	4,350	110
Concordia, Irvine	5,272	3,600	105
Concordia, Nebraska	3,955	1,946	245
Concordia, St. Paul	6,795	4,421	53
Concordia, Texas	3,158	2,227	65
Concordia, Wisconsin	7,040	5,045	313

	Headcount	Full-time Equiv.
SEMINARIES — Total enrollment	1,125	642

Concordia Theo. Seminary, Fort Wayne	313	266
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	637	376

	Headcount	Full-time Equiv.
SEMINARIES — Ordination-track only	608	443

Concordia Theo. Seminary, Fort Wayne	175	156
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	398	287



# ROSTERS AND STATISTICS



## *Our Synod at a Glance*

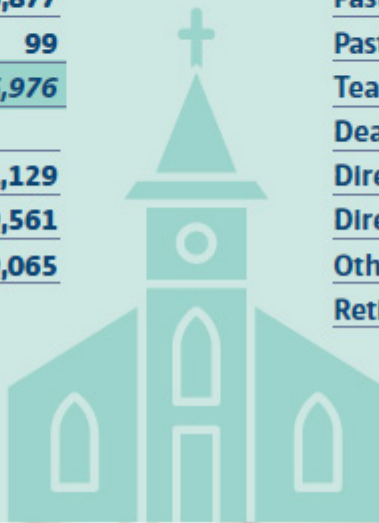
### CONGREGATIONS

Continuing congregations	5,877
New church starts	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,976</b>

Baptized congregants	1,861,129
Confirmed congregants	1,469,561
Reported attendance	669,065

### CHURCH WORKERS

Pastors (Active assignment)	5,938
Pastors (Candidates for calls)	370
Teachers	6,842
Deaconesses	248
Directors of Christian Education	818
Directors of Christian Outreach	35
Other rostered workers	396
Retired workers, including pastors	7,094



# **2021 Immanuel Officers & Board Members**

## President

Steve Haase

## LWML President

Pam Haase

## Vice President

Joel McDonough

## LWML Treasurer

June Routier

## Secretary

Kathy Stanek

## LWML Secretary

Pam Haase

## Treasurer

Chris Christinson

## LWML Christian Life

Denise Cadwell

## Elders

Joel McDonough

Steve Haase

Darlo Kelting

Ken Mergen

## Organist

Pam Haase

Esther Huedepohl

## Trustees

Kevin Schultz

Ben Loudon

Melissa Mintle

## Pianist

Sophia Loudon

## Church Secretary

Amber Carnine

## Board of Education

Sherry Baker

Danielle McDonough

Markie Koepp

## Sunday School Opening

Pastor Koepp

## Altar Guild

Helen Thorpe

June Routier

Danielle McDonough

Pam Haase

Pam Sittig

Esther Huedepohl (Backup)

## Board of Stewardship

Keith Thorpe

Pamela Sittig

Diane Schultz

## Board of Evangelism & Missions

June Routier

Dianna Kelting

Pam Haase