



Immanuel Lutheran Church

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+ ST. MARK, EVANGELIST +

Prayer and Preaching

April 25, 2021

As We Gather ~ St. Mark, Evangelist

The Lord sends His messengers out “as lambs in the midst of wolves” bearing the message, “Peace be to this house” (Luke 10:3–5). St. Mark does “the work of an evangelist” (2 Tim. 4:5) and “publishes peace” (Is. 52:7). He is remembered as the lion-hearted evangelist, depicted with his fellow evangelists as the four living creatures of Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4. The evangelist is often identified with John Mark of Acts and the cousin of Barnabas, with whom he worked in Cyprus to “proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). Despite their earlier differences, Mark was reconciled with St. Paul, who considered him “very useful ... for ministry” (2 Tim. 4:11). Later he worked in Rome (1 Peter 5:13), where tradition has it that he wrote his Gospel from St. Peter’s sermons before founding the church in Alexandria and facing a martyr’s death.

Opening Hymn ‘All Who Believe and Are Baptized’

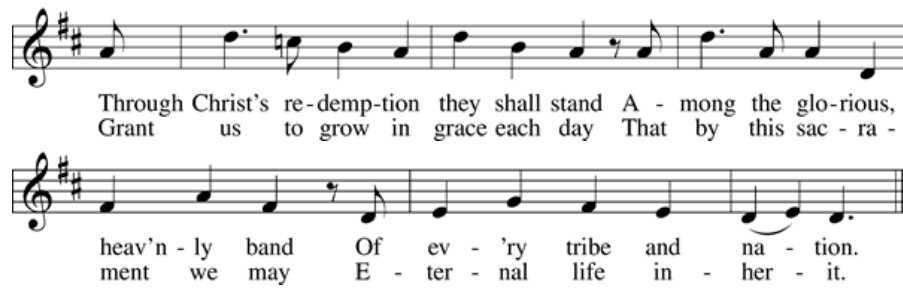
LSB 601



1 All who be - lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Versicles: Common

LSB 260

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
C I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
C Teach me Your paths.
- L Sanctify us in Your truth.
C Your Word is truth.
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

With joy will you draw wa - ter from the

wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that

day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,

make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -

claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done

glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the

earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -

hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the

Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

7How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

8The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

9Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 146

1Praise | the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

2I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*

I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

3Put not your trust in | princes,*

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

4When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;*

on that very day his plans | perish.

5Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

6who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is | in them,*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

7who executes justice for | the oppressed,*

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the | righteous.
9The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,*
but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.
10The LORD will reign for- | ever,*
your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the | beginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Reading

2 Timothy 4:5–18

5As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

9Do your best to come to me soon. 10For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. 12Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. 14Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. 16At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! 17But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. 18The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Mark 16:14–20

14Afterward [Jesus] appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen him after he had risen. 15And he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all the creation. 16Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17And these signs shall follow those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; with different languages they will speak openly; 18and in their hands they will pick up serpents; and if something deadly they drink, it shall surely not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be well.”

19So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken openly to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20And they went out and preached everywhere, as the Lord was working with them and confirming the Word through accompanying signs.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory: Common

LSB 263

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant
or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs
to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon

‘Connected Ladder of Grace’

Mark 16:14-20

Hymn ‘With High Delight Let Us Unite’

LSB 483



1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord

ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van - quished lie;
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed

Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His

free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set

ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

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Tune: Public domain

Offering

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

L Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**

Refrain

C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.

Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.

Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

Refrain

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to

sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Refrain

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Benedicamus

LSB 267

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 267

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn 'Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won'

LSB 490



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no long - er can ap -
2 Je - sus lives! To Him the throne High a - bove all things is
3 Je - sus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Je - sus
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing me from Him shall
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the gate of life im -

pall me; Je - sus lives! Death's reign is done!
giv - en. I shall go where He is gone,
liv - ing, Pure in heart and act a - bide,
sev - er. Nei - ther death nor pow'rs of hell
mor - tal; This shall calm my trem - bling breath

From the grave will Christ re - call me. Bright - er
Live and reign with Him in heav - en. God is
Praise to Him and glo - ry giv - ing. All I
Part me now from Christ for - ev - er. God will
When I pass its gloom - y por - tal. Faith shall

scenes will then com-mence; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
faith - ful; doubt-ings, hence! This shall be my con - fi - dence.
need God will dis - pense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
be my sure de - fense; This shall be my con - fi - dence.
cry, as fails each sense: Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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Immanuel Spirit

Scripture Lessons for next Sunday: Isaiah 12:1–6, James 1:16–21 and John 16:5–15.

Stewardship: 1 John 3:2 – “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” The essence of our sanctification is becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection. In the meantime, we strive toward that goal because we want to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. By His grace we share His destiny in eternal life, and therefore we desire to share His life of service now.

Building Healthy Families for April 25th: Did You Know? The truth hurts, or so they say, but lies hurt so much worse. Whether you are a teenager relating to your parent or a husband or wife relating to your spouse, pledge to always be truthful, even (and maybe most especially) when it would be easier not to. Don’t try to cover things up. It will later cause the relationship to suffer from a lack of trust. “We trap ourselves by telling lies, but we stay out of trouble by living right.” (Proverbs 12:13). **Lutheran Family Service of Iowa: Des Moines (515) 251-4900. www.LutheranFamilyService.org**

Life Quote for April 25th: “Death is the one thing no Christian has to do on his or her own. Jesus has already been through suffering and death before us. He knows the way through death and the way back to life, too. Our friends and family cannot go with us—but Jesus can. He will never let go of our hands. And He will bring us back to life with Him because He has promised, and He will never lie.” Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries ~ **A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org**

Lutheran Hour Ministries for May 2nd: Hear “Laughed At” based on Jonah 3 by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Speaking out against the prevailing culture might prompt ridicule but it could also produce repentance. ~ **Listen next Sunday on 600 WMT at 6:30 a.m., 1190 KFJB at 8:30 a.m., WHO-1040 at 7:30 a.m., & 1410 KGRN at 7:30 a.m.**

Life Thoughts in the Church Year: Mark's Gospel makes known how the Lord loves all lives and every body. His appearing as embryo and baby (2 Timothy 4:8) has shown us His strong arm (Isaiah 52:10) and His gentle heart. And this good news makes humankind beautiful from head to heel (Isaiah 52:7)—no matter how small or how frail we may be!

1 CORINTHIANS BIBLE STUDY... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon will begin a study this week on 1 Corinthians. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Audio: LifeMoments from Lutherans For Life and KFUE Radio – “Hear the sanctity of life throughout Scripture and all year long! Life-Moments from Lutherans For Life listens to each week's appointed lectionary readings with life ears and applies God's Word to life hurts.”

Cleaning: Household(s) responsible for the week of 4/25—5/1 is **Shell**. Household(s) responsible for the week of 5/2—5/8 is **Sittig**. If it is your week to clean church & you have other obligations or prefer to write a check rather than cleaning, the cost is \$50. Please contact the church office at immanuellutheran@iowatelecom.net no later than the Thursday of the week before it is your week to clean.

Celebrating Birthdays This Week

Joan Heimsoth...Monday

Dennis Moon & Diane Schultz...Wednesday

We pray God's blessings upon you in the coming year.

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.

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, 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.



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

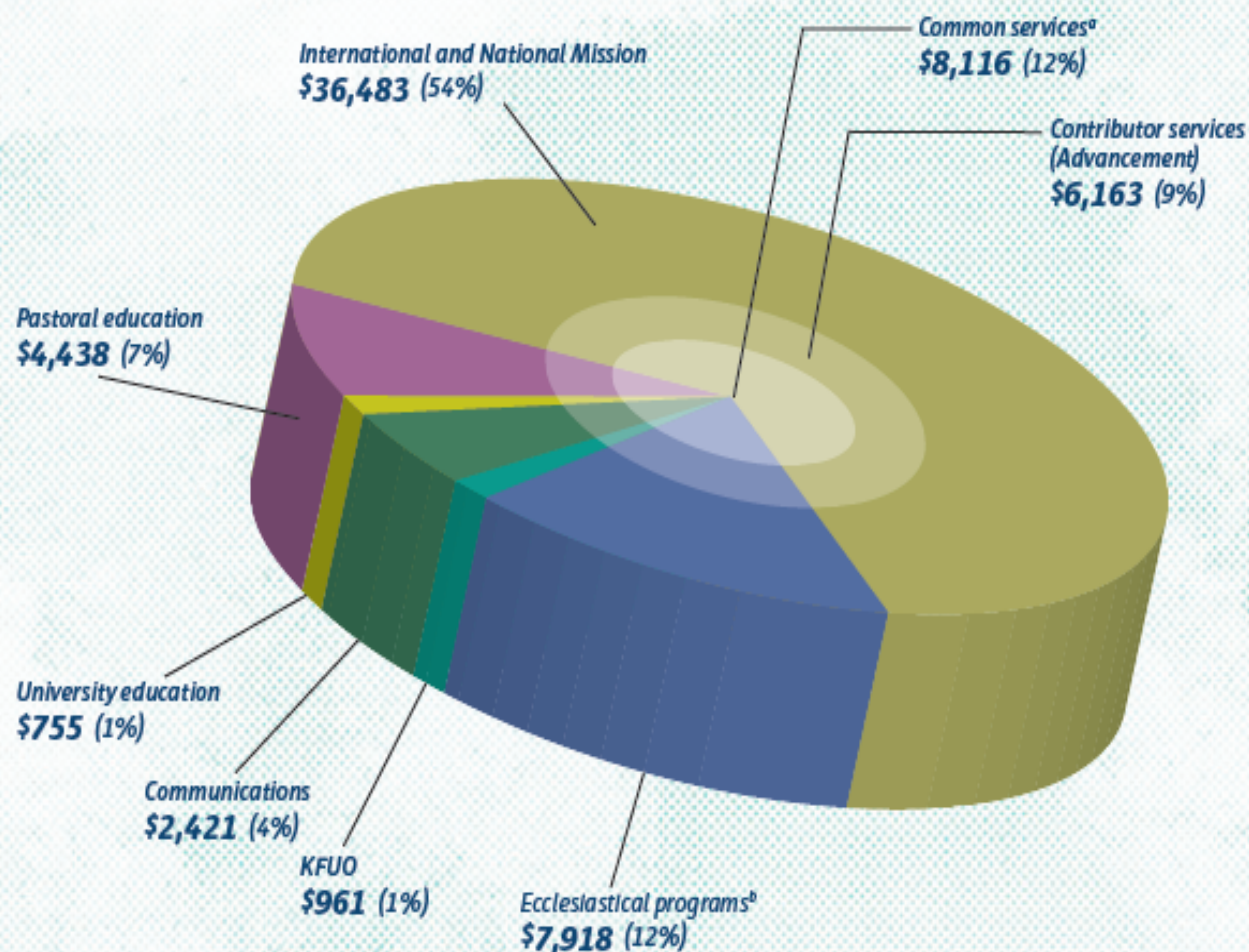
FISCAL YEAR 2020 (July 2019 – June 2020)

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
Office of the President, BOD, COP			
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
Chief Financial Officer, Chief Adm. Officer			
Common Services	8,959,188	8,116,473	6,990,135
Release of Unrestricted Net Assets			14,680,891
	<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 ^c		COMBINED PROGRAM COSTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPENSES
			Contributor services (Advancement)	Common services ^a		
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%
Sub-totals		\$52,975 (79%)	\$6,163 (9%)	\$8,116 (12%)		
<i>(Percentages of total in italics)</i>			\$14,279 (21%)			
Total Expenditures					\$67,254	100%

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

b. Ecclesiastical P(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



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

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
Total Net Asset Releases (Income)	73,034	94,771

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

Change in Net Assets (Bottom Line)	2020	2019
Net Assets — Beginning of Year	98,067	76,506
Net Assets — End of Year (June 30)	103,847	98,067
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 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
Chief Mission Officer						
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
Office of the President, COP, Commissions						
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	-
Chief Financial Officer, Chief Adm. Officer						
Common Services; Board of Directors	8,174,926	8,116,473	58,453	18,006	1,126,338	6,972,129
TOTALS	81,276,698	67,254,468	14,022,230			
Source of Revenue						
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

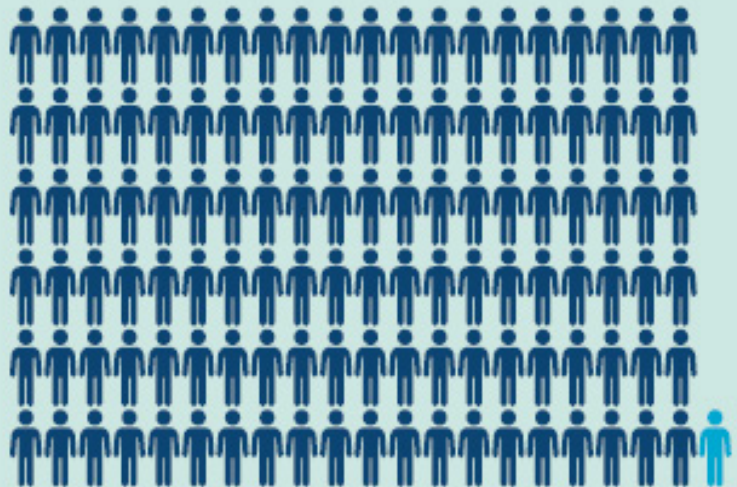
LCMS MISSIONARY TEAM

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 ^a	35	439	13,799,617
6,232	9,098	3,099,025	Individual contributions to Synod Unrestricted ^a	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) ^b	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

^aThe 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.

^bThis figure does not match the amount on the financial statements due to timing issues and recording regulations.

^cWhile 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.

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

Mark D. Hofman

Executive Director, LCMS Mission Advancement

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.

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
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

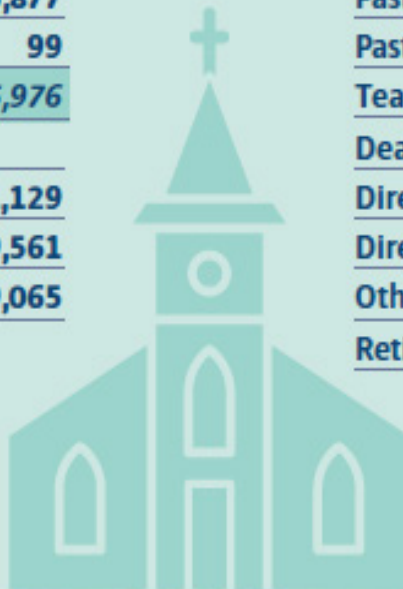
CONGREGATIONS

Continuing congregations	5,877
New church starts	99
Total	5,976

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



ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

April 18, 2021

Attendance	31
Communion	25
General Fund	\$3165.00
Missions	N/A

WEEK AHEAD

Today	9:00am	St. Mark, Evangelist Acolyte/Crucifier: Cole/Lauren
	10:30am	Christian Education/Popcorn Sunday Food Pantry Sunday
Tues.	10:00am	Greek Study, Pastor in Newton
Thurs.	11:00am	Bible Study
Friday/Saturday		IDE Spring Confirmation Retreat
Next Sun.	9:00am	Cantate (5th Sunday of Easter) Missions: Lutheran Hour Ministries Acolyte/Crucifier: Elizabeth/Joey
	10:30am	Christian Education

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*

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!