

**NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS
January 28, 2025
District Office**

MINUTES

In Attendance

Mr. Craig Timm, Chairman
Rev. Timothy Shoup, 1st VP
Rev. Preston Paul, 2nd VP
Rev. Timothy Roser, 3rd VP
Rev. Donald Engebretson, Secretary
Mr. Dwayne Maroszek, Treasurer
Mr. Brian Betts
Mrs. Marie Fenske
Rev. Aaron Gehrke
Mr. Bryon Graff
Mr. David Mellem
Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen
Mrs. Althea Wirtala
Mr. William Zick

Guests

Rev. Dr. James Baneck
Mr. Gary Vought

District Staff

Mr. Bill Jordan
Mrs. Lori Kavajecz
Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, President

Chairman Timm called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Devotion –Rev. Dr. Timothy Roser shared the Opening Devotion.

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Timm stated that the District Handbook needed to be added for approval. A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of the approval of the District Handbook. **APPROVED**

Approval of Consent Voting Agenda

Approval of October 29, 2024, Minutes. A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the above Consent Voting Agenda as presented. **APPROVED**

Board Training

Board members were asked to read pages 1-64 in the book *Unforgivable*. Members broke into small groups to discuss and then came back together and shared nuggets from their discussions with the large group.

Labor of Love Report

Mr. Jordan shared that we have been giving out grant monies since 2019. The Labor of Love Million Dollar campaign was passed at the 2022 Convention. Applications open in September and close mid-December. The Committee meets to review the applications, makes a decision on awards and amounts and recipients are notified in January. Checks are cut and sent directly to the lender of the recipients.

The goal was to give away \$50,000 a year. Mr. Jordan happily reported that we finally reached that goal in 2024. There were 18 applicants and 18 recipients. With the Labor of Love campaign in place, it is the hope that these grant monies will be able to be distributed into the unforeseeable future.

Mission Mini Grants

The committee has been revising the application with clarifying language to better explain the qualifications to apply.

NWD Preliminary December 2024 Financials

Mr. Maroszek provided the Board with an overview of the preliminary financials for year-end and offered an opportunity for questions.

Camp Luther Preliminary December 2024 Financials

Mr. Maroszek provided an overview of the preliminary financials for year-end and provided an opportunity for questions.

December 2024 Preliminary Consolidated P & L

Mr. Maroszek shared the preliminary consolidated reports for year-end and provided an opportunity for questions.

Mr. Maroszek shared with the Board that the audit is scheduled for February 24-26, 2025, and he doesn't foresee any issues as we are using the same auditors we have used for the past three years.

Mr. Maroszek shared that District leadership has decided to change our bank accounts from People's State Bank to The Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU). He stated that LFCU provides significant advantages to the District. The District currently pays \$100/month in fees at our current bank; there are no fees with LFCU. LFCU will pay 2.5% interest on our account which is significantly higher than our current bank.

Since LFCU is located in St. Louis we will have an arrangement with a local credit union that will have access to our account and allow us to make deposits locally that will then be transferred to our account with LFCU quickly.

Camp Luther

District Representative Report

Chairman Timm shared that since Rev. Gehrke is not in attendance we will await his report until May.

Property Discussions

Chairman Timm stated that he had a conversation with Trigger concerning the property situations at hand and the Board will hear more about the status of these at our May meeting as well.

Election of Camp Luther – Member at Large Position

Chairman Timm shared that Camp Luther has recently had a member-at-large position that the District Board fills resign from the Camp Luther Board. The Camp Board met the day prior and unanimously agreed to place Rev. Aaron Unseth's name on the ballot. As a backup, they also shared that John Steenport, who had recently stepped down, stated that he would also be willing to serve a second term if needed. The other name on the ballot was Heidi Yaw which

was submitted by a District Board member. Candidate biographies were shared with the Board, ballots were cast and collected. Secretary Engebretson counted the ballots and reported that Rev. Aaron Unseth has been elected to the Camp Luther Board.

District Handbook

Over the past few months, District leadership has been working with the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) and District legal counsel, Mr. Dave Piehler, to review and revise our District Handbook since the last Synod convention. In early January the CCM reported that they approved the proposed District bylaws and feel they are in harmony with the Constitution & Bylaws of the Synod and approve it for presentation to the 2025 District Convention for adoption in June. A **motion** was made and seconded to approve the District Handbook for presentation to the 2025 District Convention in June.

APPROVED

Constitution & Bylaw Changes

Secretary Engebretson provided his constitutional report on the below Constitution & Bylaws that were submitted:

- Emmanuel – Suring, WI
- St. Luke's – Wisconsin Rapids, WI
- St Paul – Laurium, MI
- Trinity – Merrill, WI

Secretary Engebretson stated that more follow up is required for Emmanuel-Suring, St. Luke's-Wisconsin Rapids and St Paul-Laurium. He requested approval for Trinity-Merrill. A **motion** was made and seconded for approval of the Constitution & Bylaws for Trinity-Merrill as presented.

APPROVED

Staff Reports

Bill Jordan

Mr. Jordan shared the following highlights:

- LCEF has gone through rebranding – new website & logo
- New all-access steward accounts are available for churches (checking or savings)
- Besides handling North Wisconsin District, he has also been asked to cover Minnesota North & Minnesota South for a time until a replacement for this area is secured.
- Continuing to work with loans, services, real estate solutions, capital campaigns, investments, etc.

Set Apart to Serve

Rev. Dr. James Baneck, LCMS Executive Director of Pastoral Education, joined the group for lunch and provided a presentation to share the Set Apart To Serve work that is happening and how everyone from laity to pastors, to congregations can and should get involved in this endeavor.

LCMS Foundation Report

Mr. Gary Vought gave an overview of the work he does and how it can benefit congregations and other ministries. He shared that he is also available to assist individuals with their gift planning needs.

Standing Committee Updates

Administrative Services Committee

No report at this time.

Audit & Investment Management Committee

Mr. Mellem shared that the Foundation controlled investments had a 10% overall return while all other investments at the Foundation and at Lutheran Legacy had a 7.5% return.

Stewardship Committee

President Lueck shared that he will be attending a Stewardship Conference in Texas in March.

President's Report

President Lueck shared highlights from his written report distributed at the meeting.

Rev. Preston Paul closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Donald Engebretson, District Secretary
Lori Kavajecz, Recording Secretary