

CHRIST IS RISEN

..... I N D E E D

Sunday, July 19

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Today's Business

Issue 2A

Morning Session

- 8:00 Matins—*Rev. Peter K. Lange*
- 8:30 Preparations for Opening Business Session
- 8:40 Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel
- 8:45 Electronic Voting System and Microphone Queue
- 9:15 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#11)
- 9:20 Standing Rules
- 9:35 Convention Schedule
- 9:45 President's Report (Part 3)
- 10:15 Consent Calendar
- 10:30 Welcome and Greetings from Pacific Southwest District
- 10:35 Convention Essay—*Rev. Dr. Jon S. Bruss,*
"Christ is the Truth"
- 11:00 Essay Responder—*Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray*
- 11:10 Presentation—All Nations Ministry
- 11:25 National Witness (#1)
- 12:00 Recess

Afternoon Session

- 1:30 Midday Prayer—*Rev. Brady L. Finner*
- 1:55 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#11)
(Announce presidential election result)
- 2:00 Response from newly elected president
- 2:05 Registration, Credentials, and Elections (#11)
(Voting delegate registration report)
- 2:10 Presentation of Slate and Balloting for First Vice-President
- 2:20 ... for Central Regional Vice-President
- 2:30 ... for East-Southeast Regional Vice-President
- 2:40 ... for Great Lakes Regional Vice-President
- 2:50 ... for Great Plains Regional Vice-President
- 3:00 ... for West-Southwest Regional Vice-President
- 3:10 Ballot to determine ranking of vice-presidents
- 3:20 Greetings—Concordia Plan Services, *Kevin Herweck*
- 3:30 Omnibus Resolutions A, B, C
- 3:55 Committee for Convention Nominations
*(Nominations from the floor for Secretary of Synod
and Synod Board of Directors)*
- 4:10 Presentation—International Mission: Spread the Gospel
- 4:30 International Witness (#2)
- 5:00 Life Together (#4)
- 5:40 Evening Prayer
- 6:00 Recess
- 7:30 Evening—LCEF Ice Cream Social (*North Ballroom 120 A–D*)



Rev. Dr. Mike Gibson

Office of the President
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Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the Pacific Southwest District! It is our honor to serve as the host district for the 69th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, held in Phoenix, Arizona. We are a district of 265 congregations and 137 schools spread out over Southern California, Southern Nevada, and Arizona. It is with joy that the people of the Pacific Southwest District join you in sharing the message of our crucified and resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ with the world. Christ is Risen Indeed!

Our team is working hard to coordinate volunteers who will welcome you to the desert southwest, guide you as you register, and help you find your way through the beautiful Phoenix Convention Center. We are pleased to invite you to visit our display area in the Exhibit Hall where you will learn more about our congregations and schools, find comfortable seating to rest your tired feet, a place to recharge your phone, and, for as long as they last, secure a copy of the Pacific Southwest District Coloring Book (and crayons), full of images around the district.

“Don’t forget to hydrate!” is a phrase that you will hear a lot during your time in the Valley of the Sun. Phoenix experiences extreme summer heat. The average daytime high in the month of July is a scorching 106 degrees. While it is a dry heat, temperatures commonly soar above 110 (July 2025 recorded 12 days over 110 degrees) and nighttime lows offer little relief, dropping only to an average of 83-85 degrees. So, please drink a lot of water, make use of the convention water bottle refill stations, and consider creating your own shade by carrying an umbrella as you walk on the hot sidewalks at midday sun. We are grateful to our friends at Concordia Plan Services for providing resources to help us all stay hydrated, cool, and safe.

The congregations, schools, church workers, and members who make up the Pacific Southwest District are praying for you, for safe travel, incredible fellowship, faith inspiring worship, God-honoring dialog and debate, and decisions that will advance the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in proclaiming Christ to the world. Christ is Risen Indeed!

I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix.

In the Name of the Risen Christ,

Rev. Dr. Mike Gibson, President
Pacific Southwest District, LCMS



Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick
President Emeritus

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Attendees at LCMS Convention in Phoenix:

My dear Terry and I send warm greetings to each of you who will be attending the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Phoenix, which I'm sure will be lovely in July! Some of you are convention veterans. Others are most likely attending for the first time.

Conventions of the 35 districts and of our national church body have always been intriguing to me. Having attended no less than 100 such conventions during the 56 years of my LCMS ministry, I've been both pleased and disappointed with the proceedings.

It's pleasing to experience the vibrant worship services with hundreds, yea, thousands of brothers and sisters in Christ singing with heartfelt gusto unfamiliar to the vast majority of our numerically much smaller LCMS congregations. "O, come. Let us worship the Lord!"

It's disappointing to witness the rancor and disharmony manifested by some delegates who appear to be unhappy with almost any proposal. It's also disappointing when significant attention is not spent considering matters of importance for the health and well-being of our congregations.

Our beloved Synod is in a period of significant decline. We are an aging church with dwindling numbers. Many congregations are shrinking. Pastors are not easily found by churches without one. Institutions of higher learning are closing. Seminary enrollment is insufficient to meet the demand.

Faced by these and other realities, people from across our land will gather in Phoenix to worship, to study, to debate, and to decide matters of significance for the future of our beloved Synod.

My prayer is that the power of God's Spirit will infiltrate each worship service, business session, and smaller gathering, with a special measure of His power and peace, as together we proclaim: Christ is Risen Indeed!

Rev. Dr. Gerald B. "Jerry" Kieschnick
President Emeritus | The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Presidential Ambassador | Pastoral Leadership Institute

1927



concordia
historical
institute

2027

HOME OF THE CABINET OF LUTHERAN CURIOSITIES
LUTHERAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE QUARTERLY

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:3–6 ESV)

Greetings to all attending the Convention Assembly!

On behalf of the CHI Board of Governors and staff, I bring you greetings in Christ, thankful for your continued support of the faithful preservation and proclamation of the redeemed history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In line with the attestation of Saint Paul that he has faithfully kept what he has received, so Concordia Historical Institute is charged with faithfully treasuring and clearly trumpeting the saving grace and mercy of Christ in and among us. While we do not skew historical evidence entrusted to us, we do present it in a winsome way—we trumpet our shared history as the great and jaw-dropping narrative it is, with thanksgiving and joy for what Christ has done in and among us, despite tragedy and shortcoming and even our own fallen refusal and rebellion.

Concordia Historical Institute asks you to continue to keep the curating of our shared sacred story in your prayers and visit our convention display. We covet your continued financial support and we invite you to explore and re-discover the breadth and width and depth of the historical treasures contained in CHI's Cabinet of Lutheran Curiosities. Sign up for a subscription to our digital offerings and be re-amazed by "Thus far the Lord has helped us." (1 Samuel 7:12)

Explore the peculiar history of "Book of Concord" Lutheranism and sign up on the CHI website today for regular installments of our shared church family history at:

concordiahistoricalinstitute.org

Yours in the Crucified and Resurrected Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Harmelink, Executive Director

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The Department of History and Archives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



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Publisher of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
The Word of the Lord endures forever.

July 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings from Concordia Publishing House! On behalf of CPH, it is my privilege to welcome you as we gather for the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We thank God for the opportunity to assemble as His Church, united around His enduring Word and the shared work He has entrusted to us.

Our convention theme, drawn from 1 Corinthians 15:20–22, reminds us that Christ's resurrection is the first fruits of what is to come. With confidence and hope, knowing that our sins are forgiven and that the risen and ascended Lord reigns for eternity, we await the day of Christ's return, when we will be raised with Him and death will be permanently destroyed. In a world marked by uncertainty and darkness, we can joyfully and boldly share this resurrection hope.

For more than 157 years, Concordia Publishing House has been honored to serve as the publisher of the LCMS, supporting congregations, schools, church workers, and families with resources grounded firmly in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Guided by the resurrection hope we confess, CPH strives to equip the Church to proclaim the living Christ with clarity, fidelity, and joy—from the pulpit, in the classroom, and within the Christian home. With the Lord's guidance, we remain committed to serving the Church now and for generations to come.

May the joy, peace, and confidence that flow from our risen and ascended Lord richly bless you as you deliberate, worship, and serve together during this convention.

In Christ,

Jonathan D. Schultz
President and CEO

P.S. I hope you will stop by the CPH booth in the exhibit hall. My team and I would value the opportunity to visit with you and hear about your ministry and how we might better equip you with resources as we continue to serve together in Christ.

We strive to be the premier publisher and provider of choice for products and services
that are faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.



Dear Delegates to the 69th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. As you gather under the joyful and enduring proclamation, *“Christ is Risen Indeed,”* we give thanks for the hope, confidence, and unity we share in Him.

On behalf of Concordia Plan Services, it is an honor to greet you at this important gathering of the Synod. For 60 years, CPS has been entrusted with a vital mission: *“Serve ministries ... care for workers ... so that the Word of God spreads!”* This calling continues to guide us as we support those who faithfully carry out the work of the Church. Today, that mission is lived out in our culture— *“Created to Care for You.”* It is a reflection of our deep commitment to those who serve.

You were called to serve a higher purpose—and we were created to care for you.

We are grateful to share that the CPS benefit programs—retirement, health, and disability and life—remain strong, stable, and sustainable. These Plans are grounded in disciplined stewardship, professional management, and the shared strength of participation across thousands of LCMS ministries. Together, we ensure that those who dedicate their lives in service to Christ and His Church are supported and cared for in meaningful and enduring ways.

As you deliberate, worship, and fellowship, please know that CPS stands alongside you—caring for those who serve and strengthening the ministries of the Synod. We ask God’s blessing on this convention, that He would grant wisdom, unity, and guidance in all you do.

In Christ’s service,

Kevin Herweck
Chief Executive Officer



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To the esteemed delegates and attendees of the 2026 LCMS National Convention, Phoenix, Arizona.

Greetings from the Concordia University System and its campus presidents, professors, staff, and students. The primary purpose of the Concordia University System is to prepare workers for Godly vocations in the Church and the world. It is our calling and delight to be the church's universities! It is our joy to carry out the mission of the Bible through the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's confession and witness to the world. I give thanks to my God in heaven for the faith given to you by the power of the Holy Spirit this day. May the joy of the gospel of Jesus Christ fill your hearts and minds.

As we reflect on the last three years since the 2023 convention, my heart, and indeed the heart of the entire Concordia University System, is filled with profound gratitude to God. We give thanks to our merciful and gracious Father for the abundant mercies and sustaining grace that the Concordia University System has so clearly enjoyed. It is clear within the life of our universities that the steadfast love of God has endured and is evident in countless ways.

While the last three years have been marked by significant change in the Concordia University System, we rejoice that all five of our universities received the highest affirmation from the system, "affirmed, with no concerns." This is the first full triennium that the CUS has implemented LCMS Convention Resolution 7-04B and its changes to visitation. We look forward to many more years of carrying out ecclesiastical visitations on behalf of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

There is no doubt that the landscape of higher education has presented its share of challenges and uncertainties in recent years. Yet, by God's grace, even amid this rocky environment, the Concordia University System and its schools have experienced remarkable growth and stability. This blessing enables us to continue our vital work with renewed vigor and purpose, serving the Church and the world as we share the love of Jesus Christ.

I remain grateful for the unique opportunity and sacred trust placed in our schools to prepare faithful Christians for the vocations God has called them to in every corner of His Kingdom, in the Church, and in the world. Our identity and mission as Lutheran Christians lie at the very core of the Concordia University System and continue to drive our universities with boundless energy and unwavering commitment to Jesus Christ, His forgiveness, and salvation.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our schools and lead our decisions towards a fruitful outcome that brings glory to God and strengthens our beloved Synod. We pray for a convention that is truly inspiring, productive, and centered in Christ.

In His Service,

Jamison Hardy CUS President

THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Ann Arbor, Michigan • Denver, Colorado • Irvine, California • Mequon, Wisconsin • Portland, Oregon •
Rancho Cucamonga, California • River Forest, Illinois • St. Paul, Minnesota • Seward, Nebraska



Dear Convention Delegates,

On behalf of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) family, it is with great joy and appreciation that we welcome you to the 69th Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) as we gather in Phoenix to celebrate under the theme, "Christ is Risen Indeed!"

Thank you for your time in sharing thoughts and prayers as decisions are made in the days ahead to facilitate and support the furthering of the blessed message of salvation and eternal life, through the resurrection of the Son of God, Jesus Christ—our joy.

It was the convention of 1978 that gave approval to establish a national church extension fund under the name Lutheran Church Extension Fund to provide resources for the support and expansion of ministries of the LCMS. We have been blessed to have partnerships with 31 districts, with total assets of over \$2.1 billion and a loan portfolio over \$1.7 billion. Since our inception, LCEF has provided financial resources to over 80 percent of the congregations of the LCMS, with many congregations utilizing our support and services multiple times.

We are most appreciative of our investors whose ministry hearts are part of our work and allow LCEF to operate through those investments. Today, congregations, schools, the Concordia University System, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), Rostered Church Workers (RCWs) and partner churches access our resources. The focus of LCEF remains serving the LCMS—it is God's calling for our organization.

I welcome you to visit us at our exhibit during your stay here in Phoenix. You are also invited to join your fellow delegates at our "Sundae on Sunday" ice cream social being held at the Convention Center Ballroom from 7:00 to 9:00 this Sunday evening. I look forward to greeting you in person and answering your questions.

Thank you again for being here in Phoenix and serving as a delegate at our convention. We praise God for your safe travel to be with us and ask for continued mercies as we do His work in the days ahead.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart Day", enclosed within a large, loopy oval.

Rev. Bart Day
President and CEO
Lutheran Church Extension Fund

LCMSFoundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Welcome to Phoenix and the 69th convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As you gather under the theme *“Christ is Risen Indeed”* (1 Corinthians 15), it is our prayer that your time here is marked by encouragement, clarity, and the assurance of our Lord’s presence among you.

The LCMS Foundation traces its roots to the 1959 Synod Convention, where a clear need emerged to help God’s people make plans for their estates that provide for their families and support the work of the Church. Since that time, the Foundation has served thousands of congregations, ministries, and individuals by offering expert guidance in creating and carrying out those plans.

What the Lord has accomplished through this work is remarkable. Through the gift plans created by LCMS members, more than \$1.3 billion has been distributed in support of congregations, schools, seminaries, universities, and other ministries across the Synod. In the past year alone, the LCMS Foundation distributed \$42 million of donor-directed gifts to nearly 1,000 ministries. We give thanks to God for His continued provision and for the many ways He sustains His Church.

Another important part of the Foundation’s work is partnering with ministries to invest a portion of their financial resources so they might provide ongoing returns that help fund mission for years to come. Today, the Foundation manages nearly \$1.7 billion, all dedicated to strengthening ministry now and in the future. We carry out this work with humility, recognizing these resources belong to the Lord and are entrusted to us for His purposes.

If you have the opportunity, we invite you to visit us in the exhibition hall. Our team would welcome the chance to learn more about your ministry and to share how we may serve you, whether through a gift planning partnership or the investment services we provide.

Thank you for your service to Christ and His Church, and for your participation in this convention. May the Lord bless your time in Phoenix, grant wisdom in your deliberations, and bring you safely home.

Yours in Christ,



David Fiedler
President

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As a fellow disciple of Christ, I bid you greetings in the Name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who continues to draw the faithful into His Church, for His glory. Amen!

Serving as a laity-driven ministry that is one of the two grassroots auxiliaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the International Lutheran Laymen’s League/Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is proud to extend the mission and ministry of the Synod. In fulfilling both this year’s convention theme of “Christ Is Risen Indeed” and our global mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*, LHM makes known the Good News of Jesus Christ by sharing the Gospel nearly 275 million times each week with people around the world who desperately need the love of Christ.

Today, it is more important than ever to reach out in relevant ways to share the Good News with a broken world. With billions of people still unreached with the Gospel message, it is critical that we bring messages of forgiveness, love, and hope found only through Jesus Christ to a world that is hungry for the one thing that is sorely needed. To create the greatest impact for our friends, families, churches, communities, and world, LHM focuses our ministry on three key areas: Impacting people globally, through digital engagement, and right where they are.

Here in North America, our dedicated staff is excited to support laypeople and church workers throughout the Synod by developing tools and resources that not only help to grow and nurture faithful Christians by the power of the Holy Spirit but allow them to share their faith with others. LHM has a variety of offerings available to connect with people at any stage of their individual faith journeys. I invite you to stop by our booth in the exhibit hall to learn how we can partner with you.

On behalf of all of us at LHM, thank you for your active participation during this convention. May God richly bless your work in the Name and for the sake of Jesus!

Your Partner in HIS Mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Buchholz".

Kurt Buchholz
Global CEO
Lutheran Hour Ministries

Greetings for Convention Newspaper – LWML President Eden Keefe

Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, I bring you greetings as you meet in convention. As an official auxiliary we are honored to serve The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with LWML Mission Grants, our service, and our prayers. This 2025–2027 biennium, eight mission grants – totaling more than \$660,000 –directly support the LCMS – with an additional \$100,000 to our partner auxiliary, Lutheran Hour Ministries. The remaining grants (approximately \$2 million) support the mission and ministry of our Recognized Service Organizations, churches, camps, and schools.

This is only what is being accomplished, by God’s grace and provision, on the national level. Currently, 34 of our 40 LWML districts have had their 2026 district conventions. The mission grants they will financially support over the next biennium top \$6.2 million – and all with a Gospel emphasis. Most, if not all, of our LWML districts partner with their LCMS District Presidents and our seminaries and universities to support students and/or district church workers with financial aid and program assistance. Thank you for allowing us the honor of working alongside you!

On the local level, our members support pastors, church workers, and groups within their congregations by providing doctrinally reviewed devotional materials and Bible studies, time and talents as they serve, and mission service projects for use within the congregation and for outreach to the community. Our Gifts from the Heart donations (quilts, kits, disaster response buckets, Amazon wish list items, etc.) dramatically impact organizations like Orphan Grain Train, LCMS Disaster Response, and local mission agencies, just to name a few. When speaking with our partner mission organizations, they continually thank the “women in the pew” for their care and support. It is the relationship with them that they value most – even above the donations.

If your congregation does not have an active group, please connect with your LWML District or Zone President. Together, we can encourage and equip one another in our Christ-centered lives of service.

Transformed in Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we join in the proclamation, “Christ is Risen Indeed!”

Alleluia!

Eden Keefe, President
Lutheran Women in Mission

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Office of the President

Rev. Glenn Obenberger 6 Browns Court Mankato, Minnesota 56001 507-344-7356 glenn.obenberger@blc.edu

5 April 2026 *The Resurrection of our Lord*

Dear President Harrison,

In preparing this letter on the Queen of Feasts, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in regard to your theme for your Convention, I wish to send Easter greetings to you and your delegates on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

“Christ Is Risen Indeed!” – what truly sweet comfort this declaration gives us, we who along with you confess Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. Had our sin, death and hell overcome Jesus, we would find ourselves bereft of hope, peace and comfort in this life. Our faith would truly be futile. But having been charged by the Father with all our sin, made to suffer our death and our eternal punishment of hell, Jesus now lives and therefore we live for His sake.

It has been my pleasure getting to know you personally as well as those from your administration this past decade and a half. We have had the joy of recalling a time when our synods were part of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America as we walked together in the blessed teachings of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus. I have observed firsthand your sincere desire to firm up those teachings and practices in the LCMS which have been challenged in your midst since the 1930s. For many of us in the ELS your synod holds a special place in our hearts and you are included often in our prayers.

May our Lord bless all your decisions regarding the work you enact at your Convention, so that you are able to maintain unity of purpose in declaring that blessed Easter Gospel in all that you do and say as a synod. If it be God’s will that you, Matthew, are re-elected for another term, I pray that He grant you the strength and wisdom to lead the LCMS in the evangelically pastoral fashion as you have in the past all to His glory and for the welfare of His Church.

In Jesus’ name,



Glenn R. Obenberger



Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 Rev. Matthew Harrison
 St. Louis, Missouri

April 27, 2026

Dear President Harrison and LCMS Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is risen—indeed!

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith. It proves to us that Christ's victory over sin and death on the cross is final and fulfilled. It demonstrates to us that Christ is who he said he was—the Son of the living God. It assures us that our resurrection and eternal life is certain. How fitting it is that you have chosen that joyful and victorious proclamation as the theme of your convention. It is the heart and foundation of all that the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod does--the very reason for its existence.

We in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod extend to you our heartfelt greetings and prayers as you meet to express your unwavering commitment to the Word that proclaims the risen Christ and all he did to redeem us. We thank God for your bold stand on the Lutheran Confessions in a world where that stand is not appreciated and is actively opposed. We respect and appreciate your readiness to confess unchanging biblical truths and principles in a world that all too often rejects them. We stand with you as you uphold the foundational truths of the Lutheran Reformation: grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, Christ alone.

The Wisconsin Synod owes a deep debt of gratitude to the LCMS. In its early days, the Wisconsin Synod was not a genuinely confessional Lutheran church body. With its origins traced back to the days of the Prussian Union in Germany, where the lines between Lutherans and the Reformed had been blurred and even erased, early Wisconsin Synod pastors were comfortable with the same blurred lines with the Reformed here in America. From its beginning, however, the LCMS was solidly "Old Lutheran," committed entirely to the teachings of Scriptures and the doctrines articulated in the Lutheran Confessions. They correctly viewed the Wisconsin Synod as less than Confessional and wanted nothing to do with us.

It was through the influence of C.F.W. Walther and the Missouri Synod, along with the faithful leadership of the second WELS President John Bading, that WELS eventually embraced confessional Lutheranism. As a result, the LCMS came to recognize WELS as fully Lutheran, and fellowship between our two synods was soon declared—a blessed fellowship that would last nearly a hundred years. Humanly speaking, WELS is what it is today because of what the LCMS taught us. You have our heartfelt gratitude.

We pray for God's blessings on your convention. We pray that God will continue to bless gospel proclamation carried out in the congregations, schools, and worldwide mission fields of the Missouri Synod. And we pray that God continue to lead and strengthen you by the power of his unchanging Word.

Yours in our living Lord,

WELS President Mark Schroeder



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Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

July 2026

Dear President Harrison and Members of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod,

Greetings in the name of our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

It is an honor to bring you greetings from the North American Lutheran Church on the occasion of your 69th Regular Convention. Know that our prayers are with you as you meet, as well as our ongoing prayers and support for your witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although I am unable to attend in-person, I truly am with you in heart as you work to faithfully bear witness to and proclaim the saving message of forgiveness and life found only in our Lord Jesus.

The theme you have chosen for your convention, “Christ Is Risen Indeed,” is not only appropriate for the occasion of your gathering as a church body committed to the proclamation of Jesus Christ, but even more so given the cultural context in which we live in the 21st century. All of life – past, present, and future – finds its meaning and purpose in the cross and resurrection of Christ. We applaud you for your unwavering commitment to proclaim that message to the world and to stand firm in your witness to that which, as the apostle Paul says, is of “first importance” (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

Our regular consultations with The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church–Canada have been fruitful. Working with President Harrison, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Director of Church Relations, Rev. Michael Frese, Deputy Director of Church Relations, and other members of the consultation, we continue to seek ways for our shared ministries to be supportive of each other and our congregations. Your willingness to give of your time, experience, and resources for the benefit of our collective witness is a true gift and a sign of your gracious support.

Once again, on behalf of the North American Lutheran Church, thank you for your faithful ministry and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May our God continue to bless your work as you respond to the calling and commission entrusted to us in Him.

In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel W. Selbo".

Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo
Bishop, North American Lutheran Church



CHRIST CENTERED | MISSION DRIVEN | TRADITIONALLY GROUNDED | CONGREGATIONALLY FOCUSED



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Villa Adelina, 7 de mayo de 2026

Ref: 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), July 18 – 23, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona.

To: Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison and convention members.

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and from Christ Jesus, who died and rose again.

The Lutheran Church in Argentina began in 1905 in a small village. With the assistance of Pastor Mahler, who visited us from the fledgling church in Brazil, he led a worship service in Aldea San Juan on June 25, and an assembly was held in which the congregation officially accepted the confessions and practices of the Missouri Synod. Today our church has nearly 26,000 members and is spread across almost the entire country with more than 250 congregations.

This is a very special year for us. It marks the 40th anniversary of the decision to become a “Sister Church” of the Missouri Synod. In July 1986, at the 56th General Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Indianapolis, the president of our church at that time, Rev. Leopoldo Gros, signed this declaration. In his memoir, he writes: “During this Convention, on July 22, I had the immense privilege of participating in the moving ceremony of signing the Protocol of the ‘Sister Church Declaration’ of the Synod, a step of such great importance and significance for our church here in Argentina.”

May our merciful God grant you fruitful deliberations and wise decisions that seek the good of all and reflect God’s will to bring the Gospel to every creature.

In Christ,

Pastor Arturo E. Truenow
Pastor Presidente de la IELA



Rev Dr Matthew C Harrison
President, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Dear President Harrison together with the saints gathered in Convention, and all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod,

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is an honour to greet you on behalf of God's people who have sought refuge and found peace through a common confession of the faith in Lutheran Mission – Australia, and to acknowledge the significant support and encouragement we have received from you all.

It is not an overstatement to say that Lutheran Mission – Australia, like many confessional churches around the world, would not be where we are today without the incredible support and undeserved blessings that have flowed to us through the LCMS. While we have received significant funding from the LCMS, for which we are thankful, we especially give thanks to God for the countless prayers and messages of encouragement that we have received from across the Districts of the LCMS.

As I think back on my first conversation with President Harrison when a small group of us had become convinced we needed to leave the Lutheran Church of Australia and establish a new church, I am reminded of St Paul's response to his vision of the man of Macedonia in Acts 16. Here St Luke records that "During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them."

When President Harrison heard of our plight and our desire to establish a confessional Lutheran Church in Australia, like St Paul, he did not hesitate. At once he declared that the LCMS stood shoulder to shoulder with us and while he acknowledged that it was our battle, he assured us we were not alone and that support was only ever a phone call away.

True to his word, President Harrison along with his team from Church Relations, the Office of International Mission, the CTCR and your two seminaries have responded to every request with grace and generosity, helping us navigate the treacherous waters of establishing a new synod that has grown far quicker than any of us could have imagined. While the devil has done his level best to try to convince us we are a small, insignificant group that is all alone, the Lord has countered that with a chorus of support from our dear friends in the LCMS who are a constant reminder that we are most definitely not alone.

As you gather in Convention under the theme 'Christ is risen indeed', we rejoice together with you in the new life we have in Christ and the sure and certain hope of the resurrection that we



share as we remember that Jesus has borne our sins in His flesh and been raised for our justification. We also give thanks for the way in which the Lord has raised us in Australia out of the bonds of death and given us new life to confess our faith with boldness and joy so that future generations will know the joy of confessing that Christ is risen indeed!

I thank God for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the gospel centered, mission focused, faith filled support that is offered to all who desire to be “Book of Concord Lutherans” around the world.

Thank you to President Harrison and to the members of the LCMS for your unwavering commitment to contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

May our Heavenly Father bless your convention that the church may be strengthened, God’s people encouraged and the joy of the resurrection fill the hearts and minds of all.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Anker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" being more prominent than the last name "Anker".

Rev Dr Matt Anker

President, Lutheran Mission – Australia



The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
The 69th Regular Convention

Tervuren / Belgium, 05/05/2026

The Lord is risen indeed, Hallelujah!
May the peace of the Risen One be with you always!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ, dear Friends in the LCMS,

on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium (ELKB), I extend warm greetings to you all and wish you God's rich blessings for your synod convention! May His Holy Spirit guide and fill you with joy and freedom, with love and a heart turned towards people and the world, strengthening and blessing you as you discuss, vote and take decisions; to God's glory and the salvation of mankind.

Unfortunately, for organisational reasons, we are unable to send a representative to attend your synod convention in person. Nevertheless, we feel a close bond with you despite the great distance and are thinking of you during these days. As a traditional, confessional Lutheran church, we have long enjoyed a good relationship with you and greatly appreciate it. And our parish in Brussels, in particular, has its roots in the 'American Lutheran Church of Brussels' and remains to this day an English-speaking expat parish that uses the LCMS service book and hymn book. So we share not only faith and confession, but also, quite tangibly, liturgy and hymns.

As Belgian Lutheran church, we are small, but situated in the heart of Europe with a view to the world. Thus, through our congregation in Brussels in particular, we serve people from all over the world who have come here for professional reasons, and we experience time and again how the Gospel of Jesus Christ and faith know no boundaries, but unite people across all differences into one family. What was proclaimed by the angels in the fields of Bethlehem – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! – finds its preliminary culmination in the greeting of the Risen One: Peace be with you! This new reality, which we can discover in the Gospel, should inspire and guide us all in our faith, in our decisions, in our proclamation and, above all, in our actions. We wish this for you especially during the days of your synod convention.

We rejoice with you and with many sisters and brothers throughout the world as the Lutheran Church in being ambassadors of this heavenly peace. Let us continue on this path with courage and comfort. We look forward to the next opportunities for personal exchange.

Peace + blessing.

In Christ,

The Right Reverend Johannes Reitze-Landau
Church President

EVANGELISCH-LUTHERSE KERK IN BELGIË

Established in 1520 and re-established in 1934 in Antwerp | established 1970/74 in Brussels
Officially recognised in Antwerp in 1566 and 2002 | in Brussels in 2023
Home of the first Lutheran Martyrs on 1st July 1523



8th May, 2026

**The Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
Office of the President
The Reverend Doctor Jonathan E. Shaw
Director of Church Relations
Assistant to the President.
Att: Rev. Michael Frese
Deputy of Church Relations**

**LETTER OF GREETING TO THE LCMS CONVENTIONS DELAGATES
AND GUESTS 2026**

Dear Delegates and Guests, Sisters and Brothers, Dear Friends in Christ- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod!

It was with great joy that we have been invited to submit our Christian greetings to the 69th Ordinary Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

On behalf of the saints in Benin, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you all, many delegates, pastors, teachers, organizers, laypeople and guests of the LCMS with whom the relationship and the unity in Christ's love were shaped.

May God bless you with the spirit of wisdom and discernment, as the decisions you will undertake are very important, not only for you, but also for many confessional Lutheran churches around the world.

Also, we would ask you to keep praying for our young church body in Benin. As we gladly present to you our gratitude and our heartfelt congratulations, we wish you every blessing and a successful 69th Ordinary Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. We assure you that we are solidly behind you. Please accept our best wishes in Christ.

Rev. Abona KOUMBI LEGUE
President, ELA-SBe



L'EGLISE LUTHERIENNE EN AFRIQUE-SYNODE DU BENIN (ELA-SBe)
Enregistrée sous le N° 2014/123 MISPC/DC/SGM/DCCT/SC/SA
BP : 2801 ABOMEY CALAVI, BENIN. EMAIL: elasbe2014@gmail.com



IGLESIA CRISTIANA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA

Personería Jurídica R.P. Nro. 459/99 • NIT 1029995022

OFICINA CENTRAL COCHABAMBA: Av. Topater, Esq. Pasaje Batallón Colorado Nº 250

Teléfono. (4) 4294562 • E-mail: icelbolivia@gmail.com

Bolivia, 11 de abril 2026

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

PRESIDENTE LCMS

69ª Convención Regular LCMS- Phoenix, Arizona

Presente. -

REF.: SALUTACIÓN 69ª CONVENCIÓN REGULAR LCMS - PHOENIX, ARIZONA.

Estimados hermanos en Cristo, que nuestro Dios sea con cada uno de ustedes los delegados a la 69ª convención regular LCMS

En nombre de La Iglesia Cristiana Evangélica Luterana "ICEL" y de toda nuestra membresía me permito como presidente, enviar este saludo a la 69.ª Convención Ordinaria de la Iglesia Luterana, Sínodo de Misuri (LCMS) Phoenix, Arizona, que se reúne bajo la verdad bíblica en su lema "Cristo ha resucitado verdaderamente", oramos en agradecimiento por la LCMS y todo el trabajo que realiza en el mundo, en la proclamación del evangelio y el apoyo a las iglesias locales en todos los países donde sirve, en especial por la fraternidad que nos une como iglesias hermanas, en la declaración conjunta de nuestras iglesias en comunión de altar y púlpito.

Rogamos a nuestro Señor que los bendiga grandemente y los guíe en todas las decisiones que asuman en su 69ª convención regular. Saludos de todos sus hermanos de la Iglesia Luterana de Bolivia.

Los animamos con el siguiente texto bíblico, San Juan 8:31-32

*Rev. Limberth Fernández C.
Presidente ICEL*

SUCRE

Calle Junín Nº 948

POTOSÍ

Calle Lucas Jaimes Nº 121

ACACIO

Prov. Bilbao
Norte Potosí

TINGUIPAYA

Prov. Tomás Frías
Norte Potosí

SANTA CRUZ

Av. Roca y Coronado
entre 3er anillo interno y externo

Letter to the 69th National Convention of the LCMS

Beloved brothers in Christ, esteemed delegates and guests of the 69th Convention of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With joy and gratitude, I address you on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB). In 2025, we celebrate 125 years of the LCMS mission in Brazil.

We recall that, at the 1899 Convention, the decision was made to send a missionary to Brazil. By the grace of God and through the generous offering of an anonymous donor, in March 1900, Pastor Christian J. Broders arrived in our country, marking the beginning of the IELB's history.

Since 2018, I have served as president of the IELB, being the 19th in this journey and the 8th Brazilian to hold this office. We remember with deep gratitude that the first 11 presidents were LCMS pastors who came with their families to care for Christ's flock in Brazil. We are also thankful for the financial support provided by the LCMS, which sustained the work in our country for a century.

Today, by the grace of God, the IELB is present throughout the entire Brazilian territory, with more than 1,500 congregations, around 940 pastors, and over 240,000 members. And, as a fruit of that same grace, we also have the joy of participating in the mission, sending more than 50 pastors to support Christ's work in other parts of the world, always in partnership with sister churches.

As a result of the mission carried out by the LCMS, we are now the 7th and 8th generations living under the precious Theology of the Cross, trusting in the grace of God in Christ, the risen Lord. This blessing can be seen in countless families who have the privilege of living and passing on the faith from generation to generation. We cannot even begin to imagine how many lives have been reached through this wonderful missionary work. Therefore, we give thanks to God and express our sincere gratitude to the LCMS. Praise be to God!

The IELB is a confessional Lutheran church, affiliated with the International Lutheran Council (ILC), committed to the mission of proclaiming Christ to all, bringing the Gospel to people where they are. As a theocentric church, grounded in the Gospel of Christ, we give thanks to God and value the heritage received from those whom God enabled in the past: the hymns and liturgical orders that have edified generations and that, even today, are used in all IELB congregations. At the same time, we recognize that the Lord continues to grant gifts to His Church, equipping His people in our own day as well to serve with new hymns and liturgical forms, which are likewise used with the same responsibility, joy, and gratitude to God.

Thus, we seek a responsible balance: preserving the richness of tradition while also welcoming contemporary expressions, always in faithfulness to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. In a vast and culturally diverse country like Brazil, this balance has been a blessing for the life of the Church.

We pray that this balance may be preserved. We also look with concern at extremes that arise to emerge within the Lutheran community in some countries: both the abandonment of the liturgical heritage and the excessive attachment to forms of the past, as if God were limited to them. We believe that God works through His Word and the holy sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and that He continues to sustain and guide His Church in all times.

Therefore, we ask that the Lord grant His Church throughout the world wisdom and faithfulness, so that the Gospel of Christ may be proclaimed in its purity in all times and places.

We pray for sister churches throughout the world, especially for the LCMS, our mother church, asking that God guide them with wisdom and direction in the use of the gifts He Himself bestows, so that the Gospel may continue to be proclaimed clearly and purely.

May our kind God, who in His infinite grace and mercy sent His Son to die for our sins and rise again for our justification, richly bless this Convention, strengthen His Church, and lead us all in the truth of His Gospel.

With a fraternal embrace,

Rev. Geraldo Walmir Schüler
President of the IELB



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 E-mail: president@lutheranchurch.ca

**S
U
N**
7/19

Office of the President
 Rev. Dr. Timothy Teuscher

April 22, 2026

Dear President Harrison and Members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,

I thank you for your kind invitation to attend your convention and bring greetings on behalf of the pastors, diaconate and congregations of Lutheran Church—Canada. LCC is mainly comprised of former Missouri Synod congregations which became a self-governing church body in 1989. We continue to have a close relationship with our mother church – using resources from Concordia Publishing House, periodic meetings between our mission executives and the presidents of our two church bodies, calling of pastors back and forth across the border between our two countries, working together through the International Lutheran Council, etc.

Although challenges facing us up here in Canada are unique and different than in the Missouri Synod what with smaller congregations, geographical distances, fiscal restraints, and the like; our task and mission is the same – to be ‘Together One’ in teaching and practice as our synodical convention theme of this coming June puts it and based on Ephesians 4:4-6. This is especially necessary in these last days what with anti-Christian voices in government, media, education institutions, and the like becoming louder and more frequent.

At the same time, your convention theme, ‘Christ Is Risen Indeed’, reminds us, in spite of all the issues and challenges facing the church in these last days; that, to use the words from Luther’s Large Catechism explanation of the Second Article of the Creed: “He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed the government at God’s right hand. He did these things so that the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and lie at His feet until finally, at the Last Day, He will completely divide and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, sin, and such” (LC II.31).

May the Lord bless your convention, your talking and listening, your prayers and praises, the elections and decisions that you will make – and all so that Christ and Him crucified and risen would continue to be proclaimed boldly and clearly in all the congregations of the LCMS and throughout the world.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Timothy Teuscher
 President, Lutheran Church—Canada

IGLESIA LUTERANA CONFESIONAL DE CHILE
CALLE CUATRO 2035, VIÑA DEL MAR | PER. JUR. D. PÚBLICO N° 1492 | 06/09/07

GREETING

Tuesday after the Resurrection of the Lord, A.D. MMXXVI
7 April 2026

To the Delegates and Guests of the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Phoenix, Arizona July 18–23, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus.

On behalf of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile (ILC Chile), I extend to you our warmest greetings as you gather for this Convention under the joyful theme, “Christ Is Risen Indeed.” As we celebrate the feast of salvation, we rejoice together that our Lord Jesus Christ has conquered death, the devil, and sin by His holy cross and glorious resurrection.

We give thanks to God for churches that faithfully watch over and preserve the pure doctrine of salvation according to the Holy Scriptures as we brotherly confess it in our lutheran confessions. We especially thank our gracious Lord for the steadfast witness of the LCMS and for your continued commitment to the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen for sinners.

We also wish to express our sincere gratitude for the love and generosity that the LCMS has shown to churches around the world, including our own church in Chile. Your prayers, encouragement, and support have been a great blessing to us. Through this partnership in the Gospel, we are strengthened to continue the work entrusted to us: preaching repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ’s name.

As you deliberate, worship, and fellowship together in convention, may the risen Lord grant you wisdom, unity, and steadfastness in the truth of His Word. May He bless your work richly, so that His saving Gospel may continue to be proclaimed faithfully to future generations.

In the name of our risen Lord,



Rev. Gerardo Omar Kinas
Bishop/president
Iglesia Luterana Confesional de Chile





Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark

Skejbygårdsvej 23-25, DK - 8240 Risskov, DENMARK

Web-site: www.vivit.dk. E-mail: lutheran@vivit.dk.

Aarhus, May 28, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters.

Dear Convention.

Dear pastors and presidents.

Grace and peace be with you as you prepare for the LCMS convention.

And as you come together at the LCMS' convention your sister church in Denmark is sharing with you the Theme we have for this year: 2026-27: **"Church in God's Hands."**

Our Lord and Savior shares this with us through his Spokesman Isaiah:

"For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." (Isa. 41:13).

The right hand of any church worker and of the entire synod is in the hand of the Lord! What a comfort to any pastor who has the load of the pastoral call. What a comfort to any board member and president. And what a comfort for any Christian and member in your congregations.

Our right hand shall not perform and secure any success in our congregations or in our mission to the world. The Lord, our God hold our right hand. And he says *"Fear not, I am the one who helps you."* And we know that he does this through the Gospel, the Means of Grace.

And the spokesman also says:

*But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, ... "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; ¹⁰ fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, **I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.** ¹¹ Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. ¹² You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who war against you shall be as nothing at all. ¹³ **For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."** (Isa. 41:8-13)*

Our Lord Jesus continues and speaks of all who believe and are baptized at your convention:

*"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me, and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, **and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.** What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and **no one can snatch it out of my Father's hand.** I and the Father are one." (John 10:27-30)*

By such certain promises you live in the US, and we in Denmark.

Thank you for fellowship in faith and love during the past year.

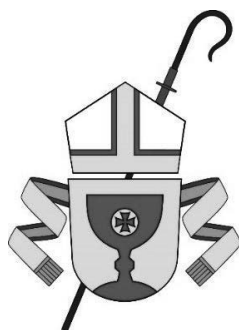
You are in God's hands.

Greetings from Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark

Leif G. Jensen, Pastor and President
May 28, 2026

Enclosures:

- Report from our annual convention May 2-3, 2026



To the 69th Convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

All the effort in the work of the Church. The very existence of every congregation gathered around the altar and the pulpit. The purpose of every seminary and the vocation of every pastor and church worker. The content of countless sermons, hymns, and comforting conversations. The guiding idea behind all publishing work. The meaning of all missionary work around the world. And, the deepest purpose of every human being and the foundation of hope in a chaotic world all return to this one question that separates life and death, hope and despair, heaven and hell: *"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is futile..."* (1 Cor. 15:14).

But since we have a firm and unshakable faith that *"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead"* (1 Cor. 15:20), all our shared faith and labour receive their meaning and goal.

Because Christ has risen from the dead, we share the same saving faith and hope that carries us into eternal life.

Because Christ has risen from the dead, we share through the Holy Baptism the same fellowship as God's children.

Because Christ has risen from the dead, we sing the same new song and confess the same biblical truth, even when the world opposes us and the devil tempts us.

Because Christ has risen from the dead, we have the Gospel to proclaim together in Finland, in the United States, and throughout the whole world.

Because Christ has risen from the dead, what could take away from

us—our sins forgiven and our consciences cleansed—the joy, peace, and courage to serve together in His Church and to build congregations for future generations both near and far?

We in the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland rejoice that together with our sisters and brothers in the Missouri Synod we may live as those who belong to the risen Christ and are in His service.

May this fellowship, based on the shared Lutheran Confession and this close cooperation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, continue to deepen and grow.

May the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Pohjola's bless and guide you in your convention!

Helsinki, May 25, 2026

+Juhana Pohjola

Bishop

The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland



EGLISE EVANGELIQUE LUTHERIENNE SYNODE DE FRANCE

Président : Pasteur Gleisson R. SCHMIDT (B. Th., Ph. D.)
105, rue de l'abbé Groult 75015 PARIS
Tél. : 01 48 42 58 09
Email : president.synode@eelsf.fr
www.eelsf.fr

Paris, May 26, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
pastors, delegates, and members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!" (Gal. 1:3)

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod of France (EEL-SF), I am pleased to bring you fraternal greetings on the occasion of the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, gathered in Phoenix, Arizona, under the theme "Christ Is Risen Indeed" (1 Cor. 15:20–22).

This confession stands at the very heart of the Church's proclamation. Because Christ has been raised from the dead, our preaching is not empty, our faith is not vain, and our labor in the Lord is not in vain. In a world marked by weariness, unbelief, confusion, and death, the Church has been entrusted with the joyful and unchanging message that the crucified Lord lives, reigns, forgives sinners, and sends His Gospel to the nations.

It is in this confidence that we rejoice in the long-standing fellowship and collaboration between the LCMS and the EEL-SF. For more than a century, our churches have shared bonds of confession, mission, theological support, and fraternal encouragement. Today, these ties remain precious, and we give thanks especially for the common projects currently being discussed with the LCMS — in particular with its Regional Directions for Africa and Eurasia — in support of mission in our own country and of theological education for French-speaking churches around the world.

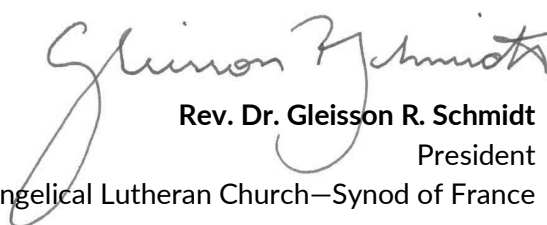
These partnerships are especially meaningful to us at this time. Gathered in our own Synodical Assembly from May 15 to 17, the delegates of the congregations of the EEL-SF identified the need for deeper personal, congregational, and synodical commitment to the mission of the Church in France — once called the "eldest daughter of the Church," yet today so deeply in need of the clear proclamation of Christ crucified and risen. We ask the Lord to strengthen us for this task, and we are grateful for the encouragement and support of sister churches such as the LCMS.

This year, the EEL-SF will be represented at your Convention by its Vice-President, Rev. Garry Heintz. Though I am not able to be present in person, please be assured that my prayers accompany your gathering. May the risen Lord guide your deliberations, preserve you in the unity of the true faith, strengthen your pastors and congregations, and bless your witness in the United States and throughout the world.

*Que le Seigneur vous bénisse et vous garde !
Que le Seigneur fasse luire sa face sur vous
et qu'il vous accorde sa grâce !
Que le Seigneur tourne son visage vers vous
et qu'il vous donne sa paix !*

Amen

In Christ, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod of France,



Rev. Dr. Gleisson R. Schmidt
President
Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod of France

SELBSTÄNDIGE EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE KIRCHE

Selbständige Ev.-Luth. Kirche • Schopenhauerstraße 7 • 30625 Hannover



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bischof@selk.de
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Words of Greeting - 69th Regular Convention of The LCMS

Honorable Synod Convention, Reverend President, dear Matthew Harrison,
beloved brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

on behalf of your sister church, the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), I send you warm greetings and blessings from Germany. I pray that the Holy Spirit will grant you strength for your meeting and much wisdom.

Your synod theme, "Christ Is Risen Indeed," reminds me of a historic event: In 1815, the Allied forces led by the English Duke of Wellington and the Prussian General von Blücher defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. While this news was being transmitted via a visual signal, a disruption occurred in the English fog, and the message read: "Wellington defeated." A stock market crash ensued in London. Only hours later could the full message be relayed: "Wellington defeated the enemy."

When our Savior died on the cross, it seemed as though He had been defeated: Christ defeated! But with His bodily and true resurrection, it is clear: Christ defeated the enemies! That is your theme, "Christ Is Risen Indeed." Christ has defeated the enemies of life – sin, death, and the devil. That is our certainty.

I know that many of you are concerned about the spiritual condition of your sister church in Germany. These concerns are certainly not unfounded, and I share them. On the other hand more and more young pastors in my church are clearly on the side of the biblical message regarding the question of Women's Ordination. The last General Pastors' Convention took a strong stance on this issue. At the 16th Synod of the SELK, a Unity Commission and a Separation Commission will present their findings. I hope and pray that my church will steadily arrive at greater and greater clarity. Whether all congregations will remain with the SELK, I cannot say.

If God grants His grace, I will be your guest at your Convention. I thank you very much for this invitation. So I warmly greet you at your Synod with the cry "Christ has defeated the enemy" or with the words of your theme: "Christ Is Risen Indeed!"

In fellowship of faith and confession
your brother in Christ


Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt D.D.

Hanover, May 28, 2026



Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana

P. O. Box 197, Kaneshie, Ghana, West Africa

Tel: 0244521032/ 0277720019/ 0243250087/ 0277701607

Email: elcga@africaonline.com.gh

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 27, 2026,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, esteemed leaders and delegates gathered at the 69th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona, from July 18–23, 2026, under the theme “*Christ Is Risen Indeed*” (1 Corinthians 15:20–22), please receive our warm commendation and greetings.

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG), I bring you heartfelt Christian greetings and fraternal love. We give thanks to Almighty God for granting you safe travel and for gathering you together in His name to deliberate, discern, and strengthen the mission of His Church.

We join you in praising the Lord for the enduring partnership between the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, a relationship richly blessed since its beginnings in 1958. Through decades of shared ministry, mutual encouragement, and steadfast commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel, our churches have walked together in faith and purpose. This partnership stands as a testimony to God’s grace and the unity we share in Christ.

We especially thank the Lord for the LCMS’s unwavering faithfulness to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Your commitment to the truth of God’s Word has been a source of strength and inspiration not only within your own context but also for partner churches like ours. Through theological education, pastoral formation, evangelism, and diaconal service, your support has borne lasting fruit in Ghana and beyond.

As you gather in convention, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your deliberations, grant you wisdom in your decisions, and renew your zeal for the mission entrusted to the Church. May your time together be marked by unity, clarity, and a deepened commitment to making Christ known in a world in need of His saving grace.

The Lutheran Church presents “Bringing Christ to the Nations”, GBC, “This is the Live” GTV

Please be assured of our continued prayers and our steadfast commitment to this cherished partnership.

May the Lord, who has begun this good work among us, bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Shadrack Donkoh', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rev. John Shadrack Donkoh
President
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG)

IGLESIA LUTERANA EN GUATEMALA
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Ciudad de Guatemala
conlut@gmail.com/luis1jasinto24@gmail.com



Guatemala, April 24, 2026.

A.
 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, LCMS
 69th Regular Convention and
 the 2026 International Church Relations
 Conference ICRC.

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With the certainty that Christ has risen, we also believe in our own resurrection. We join the Fathers of the Western Church of the 2nd century in the Apostles' Creed—an ancient Roman baptismal symbol—when, in its third article on sanctification, they confess: “...I believe in the resurrection of the flesh and the life everlasting. Amen.”

This same confession was ratified by the Council of Nicaea in the year 325 A.D.

On the occasion of the upcoming Ordinary Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), to be held in July of this year, the Lutheran Church in Guatemala takes this opportunity to send and extend a fraternal greeting, an embrace, and a holy kiss to the delegates of the LCMS, as well as to all representatives of the invited Lutheran Churches with whom we share the same faith, teaching, and confession. We are united at the Altar and Pulpit to receive forgiveness through the means of grace, tangibly, through the proclamation of the Gospel and in eating His body and drinking His blood in the real presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To God be all glory and honor, who, through our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit, continually strengthens and deepens our bonds of brotherhood, fellowship, and understanding, and sustains them firmly in both Churches (LCMS and ILG) until the day of Jesus Christ.

Respectfully,
 In Christ Jesus,
 Your fellow servant in the Mission,

MA. Rev. Luis Alberto Jasinto
 President of the Lutheran Church in Guatemala



Greeting Letter to the Convention (July 18–23, 2026)

Dear Delegates and Guests of the 69th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kazakhstan, I greet you with the life-giving Good News: “Christ is Risen!” He is Risen indeed! The Lord is Risen He is our Redeemer and the Victor over death!

Let us give thanks to Christ, who gathers us together, and who has entrusted to us through His Apostles the Great Commission, saying: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:18–20). Having given this command, He also assures us: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Amen.

Beloved in Christ! The risen Lord Himself abides with us always, even to the end of the age. It is He who unites us on earth as confessional Lutherans, in the purity of the Word of God and the Sacraments, within one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus change everything. Thus, our Savior has conquered the last enemy—death itself.

Let us rejoice in Christ’s victory, praise Him with our lips, and proclaim throughout the entire world the Good News that He is truly Risen for our justification. Christ has gathered us from all the continents of the world that we, in the unity of the Spirit, supporting one another and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we be able to deliver to all nations the Good News of the Lord’s Resurrection.

In our beautiful country of Kazakhstan, there is a proverb: “Бірлік болмай, тірлік болмас”—“Without unity there is no life.” But without faith in Christ, there is no hope of eternal life with the Savior.

May the risen Savior be with us, so that we may continue to proclaim the Good News of Christ’s Resurrection and the gift of eternal life by grace through faith in Him. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
The Reverend Alexander Burtsev
Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan.

Date: April 26, 2026

Office of the ELCK Archbishop
P.O. Box 44685–00100,
Nairobi, Kenya.

To:
The LCMS Delegates of the
69th Convention,
Phoenix Convention Centre,
Phoenix, Arizona.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and from our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), I bring brotherly greetings as you gather for the 69th Regular Convention, under the theme **“Christ is Risen Indeed.”**

Together with you, we confess that Christ’s death for our sins and his resurrection for our justification (1 Cor. 15:3–4; Rom. 4:25) are of utmost significance. In him, death has been deprived of its power and the grave its victory (1 Cor. 15:54–57). This Gospel of the crucified and risen Lord constitutes the heart of our Lutheran faith, as articulated in the Augsburg Confession, Article IV, that sinners are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone.

In Kenya, as in your own context, the Church lives amid suffering and fear of death, yet through the pure preaching of the Word and the right administration of the Sacraments, the risen Christ is present, forgiving our sins, creating faith, and sustaining us. We give thanks that both the ELCK and the LC-MS stand together on the Holy Scriptures—the only source and norm of doctrine, and on the Lutheran Confessions, the true exposition of that doctrine, united in “one Lord, one faith, and one baptism” (Eph. 4:5).

Beloved brothers and sisters, as you gather for the Convention, we pray that the Holy Spirit guide all your deliberations so that Christ alone is exalted, sound doctrine is strengthened, and the mission of his Church is advanced. May your resolutions serve the care of souls, the proclamation of repentance, and the forgiveness of sins in his name for all nations (Luke 24:47).

Finally, I beseech you to “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58). May the risen Christ, who is “the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor. 15:20), keep you in the joy of his resurrection and in the comfort of his sure promises.

In the peace and joy of the risen Christ,



Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ochola Omolo
ELCK-Archbishop,



Lutheran Church in Korea

Lutheran Church in Korea
21-11, Sowolro 2-gil, Yongsan-gu, Seoul (04326)
Korea

Congratulation!!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose again for our salvation and, at Pentecost, sent the Holy Spirit, who even now preserves and strengthens the faith of His people through the Word and the Sacraments.

First of all, I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the convening of the 69th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As President of the Lutheran Church in Korea, and on behalf of all the pastors and members of our church, I offer my sincere prayers that this convention may be conducted under God's abundant grace, serving as a meaningful occasion to strengthen the Church's confessional identity and to renew its commitment to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel.

The Lutheran Church in Korea has come to this present day within a deep and distinctive historical relationship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In 1958, LCMS took its first precious step in Gospel mission to Korea by sending three missionaries and their families to the Republic of Korea. In particular, the decision in that same year to commission Rev. Dr. Won Yong Ji, a Korean, as a missionary carries profound significance from the perspective of church history. This was not merely a strategic personnel decision, but a pioneering act that clearly embodied the Church's universal missionary calling: that the Gospel must transcend cultural and ethnic boundaries and be proclaimed to all people. Such a decision reflected remarkable foresight for its time and demonstrated a wise missionary vision—one that recognized the importance of proclaiming the Gospel effectively through a deep understanding of the local language and culture. This historic decision not only became a vital cornerstone in the establishment and growth of the Lutheran Church in Korea, but also remains an enduring example of the direction faithful Christian mission ought to take.

In two years, the Lutheran Church in Korea will commemorate the 70th anniversary of mission work in our country. As we reflect upon the years that have passed, we cannot but humbly confess that this entire history has unfolded solely by the grace and providence of God. At the same time, we carry profound gratitude for the steadfast devotion and brotherly love

through which LCMS has helped establish and nurture the Korean Lutheran Church, standing with us not only as a faithful partner in mission but as a true sister church in Christ. The friendship, prayers, and cooperation extended through difficult seasons and moments of challenge have become a cherished legacy within the history of Korean Lutheranism.

Above all, the Lutheran Church in Korea has long regarded LCMS as a compelling example of a confessional Lutheran church body that has remained firmly grounded in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, faithfully preserving its theological identity while offering clear direction for the Church's life and mission. LCMS's theological commitment to safeguarding the essence of the Church upon the foundation of God's Word and sound doctrine has been both a meaningful challenge and a deep encouragement to us. The Lutheran Church in Korea likewise aspires to stand ever more firmly upon this same confessional foundation, and we earnestly hope that the fellowship and cooperation between churches united in a common confession of faith will continue to deepen and flourish. In particular, we sincerely hope for expanded and fruitful cooperation in the formation of future pastors and in theological education.

Furthermore, we pray that our two church bodies may work in even closer partnership in the missionary task of proclaiming God's Word to places where the Gospel has not yet been sufficiently heard, so that the Gospel of Christ may be proclaimed with even greater strength and clarity.

It is my earnest prayer that this 69th Convention will be a grace-filled occasion for establishing renewed resolve and fresh vision for the unity of the Church and the expansion of the Gospel. May the abundant grace and peace of our Lord be with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and with all delegates gathered for this important convention.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

May 27, 2026

Rev. Jong Ho Won,



President of Lutheran
Church in Korea



**Letter of Greeting to the 69th Regular Convention
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Phoenix, Arizona | July 18–23, 2026**

Dear Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, distinguished delegates, esteemed leaders, honored guests, and beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed.

On behalf of the Malagasy Lutheran Church (Fiangonana Loterana Malagasy – FLM), I extend warm fraternal greetings as you gather for the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We give thanks to God for the longstanding partnership that unites our churches in a shared confession of the Gospel, grounded in the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and authoritative Word of God and faithfully confessed in the Lutheran Confessions.

We join you in confessing with joy your convention theme, “Christ Is Risen Indeed” (1 Corinthians 15:20–22). This confession is the heart of the Church’s proclamation and the source of her life. The risen Christ is not only the foundation of our hope, but also the One who sends His Church into the world. In Him, we proclaim forgiveness, life, and salvation—gifts that the world cannot give, yet so deeply needs.

The Malagasy Lutheran Church remains steadfast in the Word of God and faithful to the teaching entrusted to us in the Lutheran Confessions. We give thanks for our partnership with the LCMS, through which we are encouraged and strengthened in our common calling to proclaim the Gospel and to serve Christ’s Church.

In a time of many challenges, we stand together in the mission of Christ, bearing witness to His truth and love. It is our prayer that this convention will be a time of faithful deliberation, encouragement, and renewed commitment to the work entrusted to you.

May the Lord bless your gathering and guide your decisions for the good of His Church.
Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Denis Rakotozafy
President
Malagasy Lutheran Church (FLM)



From: The Church Presidency

Confessional Lutheran Church-(Malawi Synod)

P.O. Box 20395, Luwingu, Mzuzu 2

Malawi, Eastern and Southern Africa.

Cell: +265995275209 / Email: daviswowa2@gmail.com

Dear Rev. Michael Frese, Deputy Director, Church Relations, L CMS

The confessional Lutheran church -Malawi synod CLC-MS, with all her members, sends our warm greetings from Malawi, the warm heart of Africa. We are also pleased and wish you all the best as you meet at the Phoenix Convention Center for the synod convention from **18 -23** July this year. Take note that as you gather together, we are with you in Spirit and harmony for the glory of God. Our strength and mutual partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is growing more and more. Christ is Risen indeed! We are no longer under the bondage of sin, death, and the power of the devil. Christ has conquered all three of these enemies. We have the responsibility to share His love with all mankind; therefore, as you gather for this synod's deliberations, this is an indication that you are committed to God and to the word of grace (Acts 20:32). So, **we are!** May the grace of God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit keep us **all** in the true faith and maintain the Spirit of servanthood in His kingdom!

He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!

In his service,

Bishop elect, Northern Diocese-CLC-MS

Davis Robert Wowa

Mzuzu, Malawi

Eastern and Southern Africa

H. Matamoros Tamaulipas, Mexico a 27 de abril de 2026

A los queridos hermanos en Cristo reunidos en la convención de LCMS:

Reciban un cordial y fraternal saludo de sus hermanos en la fe en Mexico. Gracia paz y misericordia de Dios nuestro Padre y de nuestro Señor Jesucristo sea con ustedes ¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡Verdaderamente ha resucitado! Esta es la confesión que sostiene a la iglesia en todo tiempo y lugar. Vivimos días difíciles en nuestro país y en muchas partes del mundo; sin embargo, damos gracias a Dios porque, en medio de la tribulación, él nos concede la única esperanza verdadera: las buenas nuevas de Cristo nuestro Señor, crucificado por nuestros pecados y resucitado para nuestra justificación.

Como Sínodo Luterano de Mexico damos gracias a Dios por la bendición de caminar junto a ustedes en la confesión de una misma fe, fundada en la palabra de Dios y centrada en Cristo. Recordamos con gratitud la obra misionera que, por medio de LCMS, dio fruto en Mexico hace ya muchas décadas. También agradecemos profundamente que, en los momentos difíciles de la iglesia luterana en nuestro país, especialmente ante la falta de pastores, ustedes nos hayan acompañado fraternalmente para que el dulce evangelio de la justificación por la fe volver a brillar con claridad en nuestras iglesias.

En lo personal, he tenido la bendición de ser partícipe de esta historia. Mi abuela y mi madre conocieron a Cristo por medio de la misión de LCMS en Mexico, y yo mismo nací y crecí en una iglesia plantada por misioneros luteranos en la frontera de Mexico hace ya 50 años. Hoy tengo la bendición de servir a esta Iglesia como pastor y, ahora, como presidente del Sínodo Luterano de Mexico. Por todo ello, doy gracias a Dios por su fidelidad, su misericordia y su amor manifestados también a través de nuestra iglesia hermana.

Hoy vemos en Mexico un nuevo despertar entre jóvenes que desean servir al Señor, así como muchos lugares donde la palabra de Dios necesita ser predicada y donde el cuerpo y la sangre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo necesitan ser dados para el perdón de los pecados. Oramos para que Cristo, la cabeza de su iglesia continúe guiando, sosteniendo y bendiciendo su obra entre nosotros. Confiamos en que su palabra cumplirá siempre el propósito para el cual el envía, sabiendo que nunca volverá vacía.

Que el amor del Padre, la gracia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo y la comunión del Espíritu Santo esten con ustedes, con sus congregaciones y con toda la iglesia de

Suyo en Cristo resucitado.

Rev. Omar Marín Garza Martínez

Presidente del Sínodo Luterano de Mexico

H. Matamoros Tamaulipas, Mexico, April 27, 2026

To our dear brothers and sisters in Christ gathered at the LCMS convention:

Receive warm and fraternal greetings from your brothers and sisters in faith in Mexico. Grace, peace, and mercy from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Christ is risen! He is truly risen! This is the confession that sustains the church in every time and place. We are living through difficult times in our country and in many parts of the world; however, we give thanks to God because, in the midst of tribulation, he grants us the only true hope: the good news of Christ our Lord, crucified for our sins and risen for our justification.

As the Lutheran Synod of Mexico, we thank God for the blessing of walking alongside you in the confession of the same faith, founded on the Word of God and centered on Christ. We gratefully recall the missionary work that, through LCMS, bore fruit in Mexico many decades ago. We are also deeply grateful that, during the difficult times for the Lutheran church in our country, especially in the face of a shortage of pastors, you accompanied us fraternally so that the sweet gospel of justification by faith could shine brightly once again in our churches.

Personally, I have been blessed to be a part of this story. My grandmother and my mother came to know Christ through the LCMS mission in Mexico, and I was born and raised in a church planted by Lutheran missionaries on the Mexican border 50 years ago. Today, I am blessed to serve this church as a pastor and now, as president of the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. For all of this, I give thanks to God for his faithfulness, his mercy, and his love, also manifested through our sister church.

Today in Mexico we see a new awakening among young people who desire to serve the Lord, as well as many places where the Word of God needs to be preached and where the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ need to be given for the forgiveness of sins. We pray that Christ, the head of His church, will continue to guide, sustain, and bless his work among us. We trust that His word will always accomplish the purpose for which he sends it, knowing that it will never return empty.

May the love of the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, with your congregations, and with the entire church.

Yours in the risen Christ.

Rev. Omar Marín Garza Martínez

President of the Sínodo Luterano de Mexico

Iglesia Evangélica Luterana del Paraguay



“VIVAMOS EN LA GRACIA”

Tito 2 . 11 y 12

Dear Brothers in Christ gathered in the LCMS 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Phoenix, Arizona.

Grace and peace from Our Lord Jesus Christ!

It's a great privilege to greet the entire LCMS (Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) for this 69th Regular Convention under the theme: “Christ Is Risen Indeed”.

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay has over 85 years of relationship with the LCMS. We currently work as sister Churches in the ILC (International Lutheran Council) as well as in common missionary projects. The current theme for the years 2026-2028 in our IELPA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay) is: *“LET US LIVE IN GRACE” - Titus 2:11-12. This year of studies, we remember that God's grace teaches us to live: Soberly – Before ourselves; Righteously – Before society; Godly – Before needs and suffering.*

We wish God's blessings and guidance on the decisions that will be made in this LCMS 69th Regular Convention, for the growth of the Church of God in the United States, as well as in its international missions.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

Rev. Alceu Alton Figur
President of the IELPA
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay



IGREJA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA PORTUGUESA

Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ, who is risen and alive!

Dear delegates and guests for this special moment in the Church of Christ.

We are grateful for the opportunity granted to us to greet the delegates gathered at this 69th Regular Convention – of The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod. It is with immense joy that the Portuguese Evangelical Lutheran Church greets its brothers and sisters gathered here with whom we maintain fellowship from pulpit to altar in faith and grace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and share a little about who we are and to tell our story, of which you are also a part, even if many are unaware.

We are a small church located in the southernmost country of Europe. In a country with more than 800 years of history, Portugal.

The Brazilian Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELB) began its missionary work in Portugal in 1954, and in 1959 the Portuguese Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELP) was founded in Lisbon by missionaries sent from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB), which to this day is the church that provides pastors for ministry in Portugal, primarily due to the common language that unites us. However, from its inception until 1992, it was financially supported by the Mission Department of the LC-MS, and other departments, including the Lutheran Hour, for which we are immensely grateful. We were also assisted by our sister church in Germany (SELK) through the "Diasporawerk".

With a history spanning over 72 years in Portugal, where many missionaries have also passed through, to whom we owe our gratitude, as well as countless people who have been part of this work, some for a short time and others continuously. Today, this work includes two pastoral ministries, three congregations, and two preaching points. We are present in Portugal in Greater Lisbon, in Mem Martins, Mercês; in Greater Porto, in the city of Maia; and on Terceira Island in the Azores, in Angra do Heroísmo, parish of São Mateus. And we have members spread throughout the country, from north to south, who are visited and pastorally cared for according to our possibilities.

The IELP also belongs to ELC and ILC, in which it participates and with which it shares the same faith and hope. And in this communion, it finds the strengthening of our convictions, liturgy, and practice in these troubled and difficult times in many contexts and places.

We also know that the story does not end here and that much is yet to come and be done. Work is always before us, and therefore we seek guidance from on High and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate our steps and keep us on the path.



IGREJA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA PORTUGUESA

Being present at this Synod and having the privilege of bringing this greeting to you is of great significance to us, as it places us within a larger universe, which is the "Kingdom of God," to which we belong as the Church of Christ.

We wish this convention the richest blessings of God in its conduct and that each pastor may be graciously enriched in the studies carried out as well as in the fellowship experienced and lived with those who form such a select and chosen people of God, called to be "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God."

On behalf of the Portuguese Evangelical Lutheran Church, its congregations, members, and pastors, our sincere thanks for the invitation to be here and greet you in this way.

Pastor Adalberto Hiller – President.

Portugal, May 8, 2026.



SIBERIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ulitsa Lykova 3, Novosibirsk 630055, Russia

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Dear President Matthew C. Harrison,
dear delegates of the 69th Regular Convention
of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod,
brothers and sisters in Christ.

The theme of your 2026 Convention, “Christ Is Risen Indeed,” sounds like conflation of the standard Easter greeting used throughout Russian speaking Christianity including our Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church: “Christ is risen!” – “He is risen indeed!”

While we temporarily stop this solemn liturgical pronouncement outside of the Easter season, we continue to believe it as Christians, pray with it in mind, meditate upon it and inwardly digest it, since every Sunday divine service is a little “Pascha” to us.

Likewise, to be a Christian is to be a “little Christ.” All Christian life then is a struggle between the old Adam and the new man in Christ. Outside of the Church there is no spiritual struggle, as outside of the Church and her means there is no Christ as Savior and thus no salvation. Outside it is “the god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4) who claims people’s hearts and minds.

The real struggle is internal, both individually and communally. The church is the body of Christ. “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together” (1 Cor 12:26). The unity of the Church in the risen Christ is essentially spiritual. “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor 15:50), though those with fleshly desires and ambitions try as much as they can to make life more miserable for the faithful on this side of eternity. Yet, those of us who are Christians hope for ultimate vindication in the presence of God and innumerable witnesses. Our vision is eschatological. “Each one’s work will become manifest” (1 Cor 3:13) in the light of the day, and so we are called to walk in the light of the Day even as we await our glorious resurrection in the future.

We Siberian Lutherans are incredibly grateful to our longtime friends and supporters in the LCMS, and we ask for your continuous prayers as our Church has come under spiritual attacks lately in more than one way. “If one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

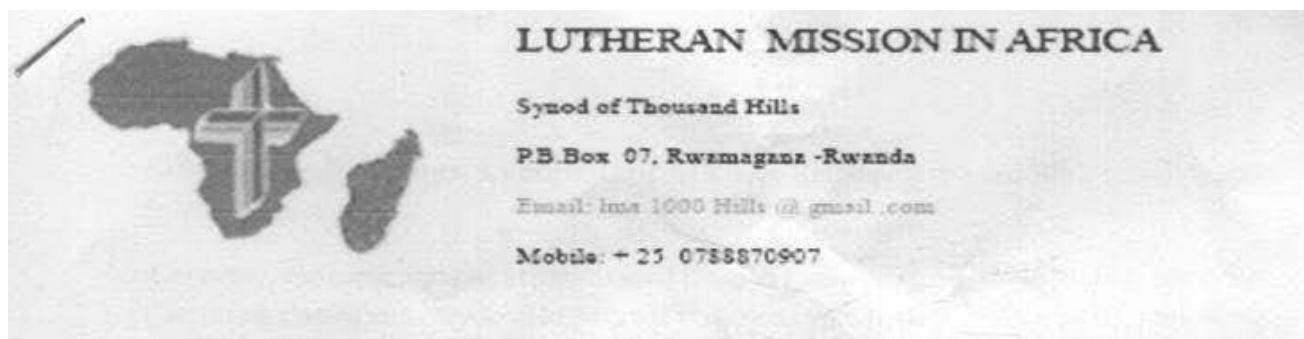
I wish spiritual wisdom and discretion for all the members of your honorable assembly as you deliberate on important topics relevant to your Church Body and the confessional Lutheranism worldwide.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vsevolod Lytkin', written in a cursive style.

Vsevolod Lytkin, Bishop of Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

7 of May, 2026



Rwanda 24/4/2026

Rev Dr Jonathan E. Shaw

Director of church Relations

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Ref; Greetings in the LCMS convention

Dear Rev Dr Shaw

Lutheran Mission in Africa Synod of Thousand Hills started in 2015. The first Sunday service was on 1st January 2015 the church was having only one pastor from Lutheran church of Rwanda who separated himself because of liberal teaching in the church. In 2018, the year of a new policy of the Rwanda Government in relation to church buildings, the church had planted 22 congregations, 10 pastors, and 2217 congregants. The present members are 2517, 17 Pastors and 5 Deaconesses

Rwandan Government has passed high demands including; registration which contains strict requirements for church facilities. Each church compound must measure at least 5000sq, flowering garden, adequate parking (cemented), modern toilets and sanitary facilities with Permanent water availability.

Based on the 2018 church registration the congregations without own land and therefore renting the houses for prayer while the buildings were not meeting the requirements were closed, and twelve congregations among 22 were totally closed, thus remained underground worshippers. Thereafter, the COVID 19 which caused lock down for almost two years (2020-2021) without public prayer all over the country affected the growth of the ministry badly.

The third and more critical moment to the emerging young church, started in July 2024 up to this moment, none of LMA-STH congregation is operating openly, buildings are not meeting the standard of the requirements, size of the plots is an issue, we have to reapply for legal personality and only Pastors with Bachelor degrees are recognized by the present policy.

However, we thank God for His provision through LCMS, that Kayonza Children center is being used by children (Nursery school), Rwamagana Training center was purposely purchased for Head office and training, young people are in colleges (different levels of theological education),

roofing 8 church buildings, seminars, Gospel through Radio program and Bible school to train Evangelists.

Generally, the congregations are ministered through Radio program, Bible studies, Small Catechism classes and very limited pastoral visitations with hope that some days, "impossible will be possible".

Moreover, we remain faithful to the **Lord Jesus Christ our Savior, Mission** "Called by God to encourage, enrich and energize all ages in their walks with Christ and **Vision** "In response to the grace of God, to live and share Christ's love in the church and the community." Among of the **Opportunities "are;**

Welcoming society, Committed leaders and church members, International Partners (Recently "Partners Consultation", was very encouraging 13-18/4/2026), Number of Youth, Women groups who serve one another and Confessional teaching with basic Literature,

While some **Threats are;**

- Teachings of liberal theology
- Historical churches and strong Christian institutions.
- Post modernity influence.
- Being categorized among the Pentecost movements simply because we don't have any tangible social activity

Lastly, un ceasing prayers and visits by LCMS Africa team (Nairobi Kenya) have been helping hand and supportive in many ways, therefore supporting missionaries in Africa automatically supporting LMA-STH and Rwanda at large. We always value your prayers and support

In Christ

Rev Seburikoko M Selestine

Bishop-LMA-STH



FROM: John Kangba Bundor
National President, Christ Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Sierra Leone

TO: Rev Dr. Jonathan E. Shaw
Director of Church Relations
Assistant to the President
Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army Retired

DATE: 15th April 2026

Dear Sir,

Ref: Greetings to the delegates and guests of 69th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church---
Missouri Synod (LCMS).

With reference to the above subject matter, I hereby write and extend me since greetings to both the delegates and guests of 69th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It is my desire and hope that our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit will make it possible for me to be presence at the 69 Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Phoenix.

Moreover, I want to thank you very much for remembering the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sierra Leone and extending this invitation to the Church National President.

Yours in the vineyard of Christ

Rev John Kangba Bundor

National President.

FREE EVANGELICAL-LUTHERAN SYNOD IN SOUTH AFRICA
FREIE EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE SYNODE IN
SÜDAFRIKA
VRYE EVANGELIES-LUTHERSE SINODE IN SUID-AFRIKA
030-793-NPO



Physical Address: 24 Konigkramer Ave, Westville, Durban 3629
Tel/Cell: 082 524 0012
E-mail: helmutrpaul@gmail.com; or felsisamail@gmail.com

Office of the Bishop
Rev. Helmut Paul

9th April 2026

Convention Delegates and guests of the
69th Regular Convention of the LCMS
at the Pheonix Convention Center, Pheonix, AZ
c/o The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw

Re: Words of Greeting from the FELSISA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA), I extend to you our warm greetings as you gather for your Synod Convention under the theme: “Christ is Risen Indeed.”

As I write these words, we are in the beginning of the Easter season. Our days are filled with the richness of the resurrection accounts, with hymns of victory and joy, with the repeated proclamation: “The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!” In such a time, it can almost feel as though the ordinary rhythms and burdens of daily life are set aside for a moment. We are immersed by the beauty and fullness of the Easter message.

When you will meet for your convention, it will be months after Easter. The account of Jesus walking with the disciples of Emmaus not necessarily part of devotion texts during this time of the church year. And yet it is the reality of our lives, in the weekdays, especially on Sundays, whenever we gather in Jesus’ name, He is in our midst, with his life, with his hope as our risen Lord. Often, we are tempted to celebrate Easter seasonally, yet it should be a daily event (cf. Luther’s Explanation in the SC to the 4th question on Baptism).

Your convention, too, will be filled with weighty matters: decisions to be made, motions to be considered, responsibilities to be carried out faithfully for the sake of Christ’s Church. Such work is necessary and important. Yet in the midst of deliberations, reports, procedures, and paperwork, there is always the temptation that the Church’s central treasure may recede into the background.

For this reason, your chosen theme during hot summer days is not only appropriate - it is essential. “Christ is Risen Indeed” is not merely a seasonal acclamation, nor a theological statement among others. It is the living and enduring reality that gives meaning to all the

Church's work. It is the inconceivable hope that has been given to us: death is defeated, sin is forgiven, new life has begun in Christ.

It is this hope that sustains the Church in her mission, that comforts the suffering, that strengthens the weary, that gives hope and light in the midst of hopeless situations, and that accompanies us even to the edge of the grave. It is also this hope that relativises all earthly structures and labours. Decisions, policies, and administrative tasks are necessary, yet they are not ultimate. Bureaucracy and paperwork will have an end. The risen Christ, however, reigns eternally.

Richest blessings in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Paul', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Helmut Paul
Bishop of the FELSISA



**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTH SUDAN AND SUDAN
(ELCSS/S)**

Head Office – Yambio, Western Equatoria State, Republic of South Sudan

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

Cell: +211 916757076/+211 927 401 968; Email: peteranibati@yahoo.com

www.elcss-s.org

May 5, 2026

**The Reverend Doctor Matthew C. Harrison,
LCMS President,**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan and Sudan (ELCSS/S), I extend brotherly greetings to you, all clergy, and the faithful members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as you gather in Phoenix, Arizona for your 69th Regular Convention.

We give thanks to God for the enduring witness and ministry of your church, and for the partnership we share in proclaiming the Gospel, nurturing the faithful, and serving those in need. Your steadfast commitment to the truth of God's Word and to God's mission around the world continues to be a source of encouragement and strength to us. As you deliberate on matters vital to the life and mission of the Church, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your discussions, decisions, and fellowship.

In South Sudan and Sudan, we remain grateful for your prayers, accompaniment, and support amid the challenges we face. We are reminded that we are one body in Christ, called to bear one another's burdens and to rejoice together in hope.

May the Lord bless your convention abundantly, strengthen your faith, and empower your witness, so that together we may continue to share the saving love of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Blessings+++

**The Rev. Peter Anibati Abia,
Presiding Bishop**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan and Sudan (ELCSS/S)



John 10:10...I have come in order that they may have life and have it abundantly.



Delegates and Guests
 69th Regular Convention
 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 May 6, 2026

Dear Delegates and Guests:

Greetings from your brothers and sisters of the China Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of our risen Christ, truly risen indeed! “Death is swallowed up in victory...The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:54-57 ESV).

We truly cherish our partnership with you in the Gospel. Confessing the one true faith, drawn from Holy Scripture and faithfully expressed in our Lutheran Confessions, is often very challenging for us here in Taiwan, as we’re certain it is for you in the United States as well. However, our Lord has granted us our unity in confession in part to encourage and strengthen one another in this task. Thanks be to God!

We have truly been blessed the past fifteen years through our increased partnership with you, especially in the area of theological education. Particularly as we seek to expand our small nascent seminary, Concordia Theological Seminary, Taiwan, we look forward to continued collaboration and mutual encouragement. Thank you again for your partnership with us!

May our risen Christ bless you as you meet in convention, that His Word and Spirit guide and direct your deliberations and decisions. We pray for you especially at this time, and thank our Lord for your prayers on our behalf.

peace to you in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Miao'.

Rev. Andrew Miao
 President, China Evangelical Lutheran Church

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA

MWANGA DIOCESE

P. O. Box 396 Mwanga - Kilimanjaro, TANZANIA



4th, May, 2026

Rev. Michael Frese

Deputy Director of Church Relations

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)

RE: Greetings to 69th Regular LCMS Convention.

Dear LCMS Convention Delegates and Guests,

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Mwanga Diocese.

I am writing to express sincere gratitude for the relationship we have just started in 2025. For us Mwanga Diocese this relationship is a great opportunity to learn Lutheran Confessional Theology, praying for one another and remain faithful to the Word of God in the changing world.

I would like to extend many thanks to LCMS for Supporting Mwanga Diocese in Church roofing and Pastors training. Through this partnership pastors have been equipped to serve faithfully and congregations now gather in improved places of worship and the church is growing. We look forward to continuing with this relationship.

As you gather in this 69th Convention, be assured that Mwanga Diocese is praying for you and for a fruitful convention for God's glory.

In the Name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In His Service,

Rev. Dr. Daniel Henry Mono

Bishop ELCT – Mwanga Diocese

Dear Delegates and Esteemed Guests,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On behalf of our church community (Lutheran church of Togo. West Africa), I extend warm greetings to all delegates and guests gathered for the 2026 Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It is a great privilege to address you at this significant moment of fellowship, reflection, and shared mission.

We give thanks to God for His continued faithfulness in guiding the Synod through seasons of growth, service, and witness. Your coming together for this convention is a powerful expression of unity in Christ, as you seek His wisdom in decisions that will shape the future of the Church's ministry and outreach.

We pray that your time together will be marked by meaningful dialogue, spiritual renewal, and a deepened commitment to proclaiming the Gospel faithfully. May the Holy Spirit grant you discernment, strength, and joy as you deliberate and collaborate in advancing the mission entrusted to you.

Please know that you are in our prayers as you gather. May this convention be fruitful and inspiring, bringing glory to God and blessings to His people around the world.

Yours in Christ's service,
LARE Kolani Lambon
President of Lutheran Church of Togo.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF UKRAINE

Office of the Bishop

To the 69-th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
honored delegates and esteemed guests,
pastors, regional bishops, and President of the Synod,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

With fraternal love in Christ, I address you with greetings on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine as you gather for the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod under the solemn and life-giving confession: “Christ is risen indeed!”

This paschal proclamation stands at the very heart of the Church’s faith and life. The crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ is Himself our righteousness, our living Head, our unfailing Light, and our eternal salvation. In Him the Church finds her origin, her unity, and her enduring hope. Because He lives, we also shall live; because He reigns, His Church remains steadfast amid all trials.

In these unsettled and difficult times, when many are led astray and the truth of God’s Word is obscured, your clear and faithful confession of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions is a cause for thanksgiving to Almighty God. Such faithfulness is not only a sacred heritage received from those who have gone before us, but also a solemn responsibility for the life of Christ’s Church in our time.

For us in Ukraine, the joy of the resurrection is confessed in the shadow of suffering and war. Yet even there, the light of the risen Christ is not overcome. He remains the Lord of His Church, granting the forgiveness of sins, sustaining His people, and strengthening us to bear witness to His Gospel. In weakness, His strength is made perfect; in darkness, His light shines all the more brightly.

We give thanks to God for the bonds of fellowship that unite us with you, beloved brethren, and for the many expressions of your Christian love and support. Your prayers and your assistance have been for us a visible sign of our unity in the one Body of Christ and a true consolation in time of need.

We also recall with gratitude our common confessional heritage. Our forefathers, many of whom departed from the German lands in order to preserve the purity of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments, have bequeathed to us this precious unity in doctrine and faith. In this shared inheritance we remain joined together across nations and generations.

May the risen Lord graciously bless your labors, granting you wisdom from above, unity in the truth, and steadfastness in your sacred calling. May He guide your work for the strengthening of His Church and for the proclamation of His saving Gospel to all the world.

We humbly ask you to remember the Church in Ukraine in your prayers, that the Lord in His mercy would grant us peace, endurance, and unwavering faith.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,

† Serge Maschewski,

Bishop of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine

Odesa, Ukraine

2026



Iglesia Luterana de Venezuela

Rif. J-00019136-0

...un Señor, una fe, un bautismo, un Dios, y padre de todos, el cual es sobre todos
y por todos y en todos. Ef. 4: 5,6.



Caracas 07 de Mayo del 2026

Gracia y Paz de Cristo Resucitado sea con todos ustedes amén

Asunto: Saludo Formal – 69.^a Convención Regular de la LCMS

Fecha: 7 de mayo de 2026

Estimados delegados de la convención:

Reciban un saludo fraternal en el nombre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Es un honor dirigirme a ustedes en ocasión de la 69.^a Convención Regular de la Iglesia Luterana—Sínodo de Missouri (LCMS).

En mi carácter de presidente de la Iglesia Luterana de Venezuela, deseo expresar nuestro más profundo agradecimiento por la gentil invitación a participar mediante este saludo en un evento de tanta relevancia, bajo el lema “Cristo ha resucitado verdaderamente” (1 Cor. 15:20–22).

Queremos extender un saludo especial al presidente del sínodo, el Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, y a todos los cuerpos eclesiásticos que mantienen una relación con el LCMS, estamos profundamente agradecidos por el apoyo constante que el LCMS brinda a nuestra Iglesia en Venezuela y por las oraciones que cada una de las iglesias de este sínodo realizan para y por nosotros, como presidente de esta iglesia (ILV), valoro inmensamente no solo esta invitación para dirigirme a ustedes, sino todo el respaldo y la colaboración que han brindado para fortalecer la obra del Señor en nuestro país.

Nos unimos a ustedes en el regocijo por la victoria de nuestro Salvador sobre la muerte y el pecado. Oramos para que el Espíritu Santo guíe cada sesión de esta convención y las futuras por venir, para que la proclamación del Evangelio siga extendiéndose con fidelidad.

Que la paz de Cristo, quien es nuestra esperanza y resurrección, sea con todos ustedes.
Fraternalmente en Cristo

Presidente

Pastor Eduardo Flores

Eduardofloressaavedra@gmail.com

Telf. 0424-2865467 / 0412-7835575

Email: ilvvenezuela@gmail.com / @iglesialuteranadevzla

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NOTES

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal black lines running across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. The background is a solid off-white color. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

