

**Report on The 62nd Regular Convention of The South Dakota District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

The Sixty-Second Regular Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) opened with a worship service at Sioux Falls Lutheran School on Sunday, December 5, with Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Synod President, as preacher. The convention theme, “Rooted in Christ, Abounding in Thanksgiving,” based on Colossians 2:6-7, was woven through the next two days, as pastors, lay members, and special guests gathered for business and fellowship activities at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

In his Synod President’s Report, President Harrison gave an update on the work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod both in the United States and abroad, announced upcoming initiatives, and engaged in a Q&A session with the delegates. Rev. Michael W. Newman, President of the Texas District of the LCMS, was the Convention Essayist, and spoke of our “Gospel DNA,” tracing the roots of the LCMS and its founders to the solid truth of the Gospel and establishing key characteristics that are essential to continuing the work of bringing souls to Christ.

Rev. Scott C. Sailer of Sioux Falls was re-elected to serve a third term as President of the South Dakota District. Also re-elected were Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, Pastor at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Black Hawk, and Rev. Timothy Ryneerson, Senior Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, Brookings, to their second terms as District First Vice-President and Second Vice-President respectively. Also elected to serve on the District Board of Directors were Rev. David Otten, Pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Gettysburg and Christ Lutheran Church in Lebanon, as District Secretary; Mr. Kent Harnisch of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls as District Treasurer; and Mr. David Andrews of St. John Lutheran Church in Wagner, and Mr. David Zuercher of Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre as lay members.

President Sailer delivered his District President’s Report to the delegation with emphasis on the relevance of the convention theme to the work of the District and its congregations, as well as to the opportunities ahead. He reminded us that despite challenges, we have much for which to be thankful, and that our deep roots in the Gospel equip us to spread outward in witness, in love, and in mercy to care for our neighbors and lead them to Christ, highlighting ways in which we can work together toward this end.

*Delegates voted on and adopted several resolutions during the convention. Among those were Resolutions 1-03 and 1-04, through which the District’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were amended to implement a new procedure for electing the Vice-Presidents of the District; to account for new categories of membership in the Synod; and to account for Synod Convention action on a new definition of representation of congregations and parishes at meetings of the Synod and Districts by voting and advisory delegates. The adoption of Resolution 1-06 serves to realign the District’s electoral circuits in order to fulfill certain membership number requirements for circuits established in the Synod’s Bylaws and to bring some parishes, with congregations overlapping circuit lines, into the same circuit. The convention also ratified Resolution 2-01, which continues the agreement between the South Dakota District--LCMS with Lutheran Family Service, and Resolution 2-02, which continues support for Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram, missionary to Southeast Asia, and adds financial support for Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek, missionary to Eurasia, through Together in Mission. The adoption of Resolution 2-04 suspends the current Service Area structure and establishes a Mission and Ministry Council to explore new ways of providing support and ministry resources to churches, congregations, and schools. Delegates recognized the importance of church workers in the passage of Resolution 2-06, which encourages care for our church workers to promote *their* wellness, and Resolution 2-08, which encourages the recruitment of church workers through support from our congregations, schools, and laypeople.*

Throughout the convention, delegates received greetings and information from several partner organizations and institutions. Numerous individuals, special ministries, and organizations were recognized with thanksgiving for their work in sharing the Gospel.

Please plan to be a part of the next South Dakota District Convention, which will take place February 16-18, 2025!

--Mrs. Krista Erickson
Public Relations Director
The 62nd Regular Convention of The South Dakota District--LCMS