

Winter 2023

MONTANA Reflections

Montana District LCMS

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In the Lord I Take Refuge

The wind stings a hard frozen mist against my cheek as I take a cold morning walk around the lake. The geese are reluctant to move, but they know where they are safe. As soon as they see me come round the corner they instinctively waddle to the water. They complain loudly, or warn one another, but the water is their refuge. Predators are at a disadvantage when the geese are in their element.

God built this safety instinct into the waterfowl. It was built into us too, until the day we thought it better to hide in the garden than to find refuge in the God who had made us. Now sin has us running in all the wrong directions when danger threatens. This “after-market” instinct, pressed into us by sin, is a deadly vice. It threatens to be our end. Yet, we rarely confess our penchant for turning somewhere other than our Father for refuge.

The world has a solution for all our problems. They are daily droned into our subconscious by meddling media, intent on selling the various refuges the world has to offer. When you turn on the television, radio, computer, you are sure to be deluged with offers to cure your diseases, your worries, your failures, your mistakes, and deliver your dreams. We listen. Oh, do we listen. Which of us hasn't determined that the refuge we really need is the pill, the drink, the hot tub, the bulging bank account, or the fulsome self-confidence that allows us to flit over our problems into freedom and safety.

The Word of God does not deny that God works through the means of this world to grant us His help. The danger is when we start listening to the voices that encourage us to believe that these worldly means are not God's means, but are refuges in themselves. Such voices have always plagued God's people.

Listen to how King David answers the temptation to find refuge in something other than His God. *“In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, ‘Flee like a bird to your mountain, for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.’”* (Psalm 11:1–2) The wicked were fitting arrows to shoot at David but he did not heed the advice that the mountain was his refuge, or that new armor could be his refuge. He declared that the Lord was his refuge.

As the Holy Spirit of God moved David so also He moves you, dear Christian. In the Lord you take refuge. He gave the water as a refuge to the geese. He has given you many and various blessings in this world to keep you safe. Those blessings are not the refuge. The Lord is the refuge.

This refuge is not a warm fuzzy feeling that you are safe now. It is the confident assurance that you belong to your Father because of the work of Jesus. You never have to worry whether you have earned the refuge. God gives it to you through the merits of Christ our Lord. In fact, Jesus is pictured as the one who carries those who are harassed and helpless into the fold, into the refuge that is the kingdom of God. The world may claim to offer refuge to the weary soul, but they are false comforts. Your refuge is in the Lord for the sake of Jesus

Rev. Terry Forke

Montana District President

District President's Calendar

- Jan 8: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Jan 15: Official Visit: Holy Trinity & Grace Lutheran Church, Belgrade/Three Forks
- Jan 20: March for Life, Washington DC
- Jan 22: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Jan 29: Official Visit: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Billings
- Jan 30: Board of Directors Meeting, District Office, Billings
- Feb 6-9: COP meetings, St. Louis, MO
- Feb 7-9: Quad Circuit Conference, Peace Lutheran Church, Great Falls
- Feb 12: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Feb 12-16: National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Conference, Trinity Camp, Big Fork
- Feb 19: Pastor Daniel Rinderknecht retirement celebration, Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Billings
- Feb 26: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Mar 5: Official Visit: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Anaconda
- Mar 12: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup
- Mar 16-18: COP regional meetings, Minneapolis, MN
- Mar 26: Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton/St. Paul Lutheran Church, Roundup

Around the District

Rev. Raymond Larson was called to glory on December 24, 2022, and his funeral service was held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Stevensville on Wednesday, January 4th, at 12:00.

Pastor Vernon Sandersfeld has been appointed Circuit Visitor of the Western Circuit.

Rev. Lowell Siebrass was called to glory on August 11, 2022. He served his first Call at Trinity, Harlowton and St. Paul, Roundup, before serving as associate and senior pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Riverside, CA.

Pastor David Behm (Concordia Lutheran Church, Williston) has returned the Call to Redeemer Lutheran in Sidney, Ohio.

Pastor David Behm also received and returned the Call to St. John's and St. Stephen's Lutheran Churches in Rush City and Braham, MN.

Pastor Daniel Merz, Emmaus Lutheran Church, has received a Call from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Buffalo, Wyoming.

Susan Eberhard, principal and teacher, of First Lutheran School in Missoula has accepted the Call as principal to the Lutheran School Association of Woodburn, Woodburn, IN.

Rev. Gerald and Heidi Paul will be traveling to Montana in July 2023 to present on their service in the Cayman Island.

Mr. Andrew Boll has accepted the Call to Mount Olive Lutheran School, Billings. He will be installed on Sunday, March 26th.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Called to Glory



Rev. Raymond Everet Larson Sr. (Emeritus) was called to glory December 24, 2022. He began his ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyceville, WI, after which he served 20 years as an Army Chaplain, then as a parish pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Stevensville. He was very active in the Montana District and Synod, serving as a Circuit Visitor and chair of the District Missions Committee, and as a representative for Operation Barnabas, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, and Rural and Small Town Ministry. Rev. Larson's funeral was held at Our Savior Lutheran Church on January 4, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Roseanne and their beloved children and grandchildren.

Rev. Larson's full obituary can be found at: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/26786935/rev-raymond-everet-larson-sr>

Grants and Scholarships

The Montana District Schools Fund Grant application is online. Grant applications are due to the District office by May 31st.

The Church Worker Scholarship application is also available online for students enrolled at an LCMS college, university or seminary, and who are pursuing fulltime church work within the LCMS. Applications are due to the District office by June 30th.

More information is found on our website at: <https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/congregational-resources/>

Congregational Statistics

Congregational statistics are due to Synod by March 31st. Submission is completed online. If your congregation needs login information; please contact rosters.stats@lcms.org or call (314)996-1966. If you need your congregation's Synod ID number, please contact the District office.

Welcome to the Montana District

Rev. Richard Green (Emeriti-NOW District)

Mrs. Serena Derricks (Commissioned Candidate-NOW District)

Mr. Andrew Boll (Commissioned Candidate-MNS District)

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Pastors from our Southern Circuit congregations, and the Yellowstone Valley Lutherans for Life were honored to present LaVie's executive director, Cindy Nordstog, with a check for their Building Hope for Life campaign. Their goal is to raise funds for the building of a new facility to serve the Billings area. Pastor Russell Dewell (St. Paul Lutheran, Park City) coordinated the effort to raise funds from Southern Circuit congregations, that were matched by a generous grant from Synod. They were blessed to present LaVie a check for \$75,215 toward their goal. LaVie's mission is: "To empower individuals to embrace hope by providing loving, compassionate care for early pregnancies, and to be a leader in providing care for those facing unplanned pregnancies."

Their next fundraiser is an improv comedy night on April 20th. For more information visit their website: <https://laviebillings.com>



Group photo: l-r Pastor Chris Brandt, Pastor Ken Zoeller, Angie Ebel- President Yellowstone Valley Lutherans for Life, Vicar Eric Saunders, Pastor Ryan Wendt, Pastor Dan Rinderknecht, Cindy Nordstog- Executive Director, LaVie, Pastor Terry Forke, Pastor Russ Dewell.



Baptism of Colton McCann was baptized at Zion in Chinook. Pictured left to right are: Pastor Dane Breitung, Colton, Paige McCann, Cole McCann, holding sister Addilyn and sponsor Chase Moxley, brother of Paige.

Welcome to the family of Christ, Colton!

¹³For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.

Psalm 139: 13-14

Letter from Synodical President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

On February 21, 2023, LCMS Synodical President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison issued a letter addressing the controversy surrounding the Concordia Publishing House (CPH) release of *Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications*. This edition of the Large Catechism was brought forth by 2013 Synod Resolution 3-13A: To Update the Synod's Catechetical Materials, and 2016 Synod Resolution 5-12: To Commend and Encourage Use of Luther's Catechisms, the final resolve of 5-12, stating: "That the CTCR, in concurrence with the President of Synod and the seminary faculties, explore the creation of an annotated and expanded edition of the Large Catechism for widespread use and study in the church."*

Luther's Catechism itself reminded unchanged. To fulfill the resolution, this publication included introductions and essays, with explanatory footnotes. It was with what was written within these annotations that concern was raised, particularly through social media and comments online. Unfortunately, some members of our Church body chose to express their displeasure, concerns, and objections with aggressive commentary, and unchristian propaganda.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison responded to these concerns and the manner in which they were expressed. He invites discourse, invites Christ centered and Christlike dialogue, calls for repentance of unchristian behavior and speech, and firmly puts our focus back to Christ. He states:

"I am not speaking about the individuals who may have expressed theological concerns about the essays published alongside the Catechism. I'm talking about a small number of men who based their opposition upon racist and supremacist ideologies. The former we welcome. The latter we condemn."

"The LCMS is a robust Christian community under the absolute authority of the inerrant Scriptures as the very Word of God and bound together in subscription to our Lutheran Confessions. Theological dialogue is good. We have clear processes for registering concerns over published materials, and we encourage such theological critique. The biblical confession of the LCMS on doctrine and life is true and unchangeable."

"LCMS congregations agree to uphold our biblical standards. We are not a top-down institution. That said, I will work together with our pastors and district presidents to address this matter wherever it arises among us and reject it. We issue the cry of Jesus: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2). We are confident that the same Law and Gospel that broke the hard heart of St. Paul, himself a murderer and blasphemer, can and will do the same today. We are all called to repentance daily."

"This horrid attack of the devil drives us to be firm in our confession. Our message of Christ the Savior for all, our local and global mission that serves the entire human race with forgiveness and joy stands firmly opposed to Satan and all evil. Our steadfast message of love and biblical fidelity on the cultural issues of marriage, sexuality, race, and life is an assault on the devil and his minions to no end. Our steadfast witness and assistance to our global Lutheran friends has the devil fuming."**

(continued on page 6)

Letter from Synodical President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

While the public attacks on our Synod have been uncomfortable and difficult to witness, let us remember that Christ has and will continue to work all things for His good.

Let us stand firm with each other in Christian love and humility, holding each other accountable to Christ and our confession. Let us forgive and be forgiven through Christ's death and resurrection, and let us move forward bound to Christ and His truth alone.

**This quote and the full response from the CTCR is found at: <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/E1575FAC-9886-4602-BA14-D3D29CFC66B4>*

***To read the President Harrison's entire letter online, visit: <https://reporter.lcms.org/2023/president-harrison-denounces-disturbing-ideologies/>*

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to his purpose.”*

Romans 8:28 ESV

2023-2026 National Offering The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

This triennium, support the translation and production of meaningful Lutheran resources in languages other than English through the LCMS National Offering.

“The purpose and goal of the 2023–2026 LCMS National Offering is to produce meaningful Lutheran resources in other languages so that all may read, hear and speak the Good News of Christ crucified.”

Donations are now being accepted, and will be accepted through 2026.

You can donate three ways,

- Online at: <https://www.lcms.org/givenow/national-offering>
- By phone by calling 888-930-4438 or texting 2023OFFERING to 41444
- By mail: Make check payable to “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” and write “2023 LCMS National Offering” on the memo line.

Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
2023 LCMS National Offering
P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Excerpt from: The Preus Family in Eurasia Spring 2023 Newsletter

From Pastor Preus

Dear fellow partners in Christ's mission: Grace, mercy, and peace be yours in Christ Jesus, our great High Priest, whose holy passion and perfect obedience has made satisfaction for our sins and gained us access to the throne of God's grace! I bring you greetings from Braşov, Romania, where my family and I have been settled for almost a year now. I would like to give you an update on the many wonderful things God has accomplished in Romania and the region of Eurasia over the past few months. A good part of my missionary work takes place in my home office through the online Luther Academy, headquartered in Riga, Latvia. Last semester, I taught a Basic Introduction to Greek to our second-year students. I was also appointed as Coordinator of Mentorship, which involves the supervision of student fieldworkers and mentors across the region. Our seminary has many irons in the fire, including colloquy courses with a group of Pakistani pastors. I was slated to travel to Pakistan, but our trip was canceled twice now due to security issues. In conjunction with my seminary activities, I have also been nominated coordinator of theological and pastoral conferences throughout the region, but especially in Spain, Italy, Romania, and Scandinavia. This important and exciting task has put me in contact with Lutheran pastors from all over the region and forced me to acquire additional administrative skills.



Pastor Trifa preaches the Romanian while Pastor Preus reads the English translation

Reflections from home, by Jenny



We visited Bucharest in October and saw some of the historical sights in the capital city

The children continue with schooling using various online and self-paced programs. To varying degrees, they have begun learning Romanian. Rebekah and I just finished the first level course which was led by an instructor from the University of Transylvania, and Rolf studied independently and achieved an intermediate level of Romanian within the first 6 months of moving here. David is also studying in his free time and just preached in Romanian for the first time a couple of weeks ago. A few of the older kids and I have started weekly guitar lessons with a local instructor. He pushes us pretty hard and we've been able to add quite a few American folk songs to our repertoire. It's also been fun to recall some songs from my youth that I had forgotten about until now. Since learning guitar has been a goal of mine for a while, this hobby has brought me a lot of joy. A couple of months after moving here, our church organist had to quit. He was a university student whom Pastor Trifa hired to accompany our services, but this vacancy required that I step into the position as our new church organist. It is a new role for me, and one that I need to continue working at. At the

beginning of February, I was able to accompany David to Spain for an assembly he attended there. It was great fun seeing some of the sights in Madrid and Toledo while also meeting some of the pastors and church members at the mission there. The kids did a great job of holding down the fort while we were away. We have also enjoyed regular gatherings with other missionaries and new friends whenever opportunities arise.

Excerpt from: Serving the Lord in the Cayman Islands

News from Gerald and Heidi Paul, March 2023

First Visit by a regional administrator since Covid

Rev. Jonah Burakowski's week-long stay was filled with numerous talks, home-visits and meetings with the board in an effort to get to know us, the people, their culture and their vision for Safe Harbour's future.

Fruitful discussions

He quickly found out, that a permanent home for Safe Harbour and opening a preschool had been the focus of discussion for years, and that our current (rented) location serving as parsonage and church has become the most permanent setting thus far. Yet... it would be really nice to have our own church – and school... Exciting prospects Rev. Burakowski opened a way in which we could see and work our way toward realizing this dream. A committee is now being formed by Safe Harbour to work on the intricate logistics of starting an early childhood center.

Looked at real estate

The three of us went out with a realtor to look at a few properties that would be appropriate. We know this is still in its infancy, but the buzz sure is exciting!

Ash Wednesday

The Ash Wednesday service was held in the morning as the day is a public holiday here. Afterwards, we took Rev. B. to the local agricultural show which had just been opened by their royal highnesses, the earl and countess of Wessex, Edward and Sophie! We were too late for the proceedings but later saw a car with a flag on the hood and blacked out windows leave them!

Snowbirds are returning!

This month we've had the privilege to meet some of the pre-covid snowbirds that had regularly attended Safe Harbour especially in the winter! We've had people from Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana fill up our worship space every Sunday!



The new paraments and the new stole matching the banners made new last year.

Excerpt from: Stinnetts in Ethiopia, February 2023

Unexpected Teaching

Unexpected opportunities arise sometimes. Johanna was recently approached with a concern about some women on our campus not being able to take care of themselves as they didn't have a bar of soap or money to take care of their monthly needs. It is a widespread problem in Ethiopia. As inflation is currently sitting at 32.9% (and has been in the 30-35% range for the last year) compared with 6.41% in the US for January 2023, costs for everything have quickly exceeded what most people here can afford except for bare necessities. Johanna was soon able to have the opportunity to partner with MYS and do health teaching



here at the seminary and soon at a local women's prison. The subject matter is rather sensitive, but involves hygiene teaching and supplying reusable and washable sanitary pads to women who otherwise have no means to



help themselves during this monthly time. This prevents girls and women from attending school since it is too expensive to buy disposable pads and eventually, as they miss one week per month, they fall further and further behind until they drop out of school. In the case of the women prisoners who are serving 10-20 years or even a life sentence, it alleviates and gives some small dignity to them in a place where no material comfort is to be found. The students gave devotions in Amharic and then again in Afaan Oromo followed by prayers and then the health teaching (which was again translated into the two languages). Three women were brought to faith and there was much singing and rejoicing in this usually sombre setting. Additionally, there were 20 children living in the prison with their moms. We were able to bring gifts of food for the little ones. But the real joy is in relating to them as a woman and telling them about Jesus and His forgiveness when there is precious little hope otherwise.

For more information on LCMS missionaries, please visit: [International Mission - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod \(lcms.org\)](https://www.lcms.org/mission)

Biographical information, prayer requests, and options for financially supporting missionaries are found at: [Missionary Support - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod \(lcms.org\)](https://www.lcms.org/missionary-support)

For service opportunities, please visit: [Missionary Service - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod \(lcms.org\)](https://www.lcms.org/missionary-service)

Board of Directors

January 30, 2023

The Montana District Board of Directors (BOD) met on Monday, January 30th, at the District office for the quarterly board meeting. The fourth quarter financial statements were reviewed and no concerns were noted. It was reported that the Big Timber property for Emmaus Lutheran Church has been sold, with a closing date of February 21, 2023. Appointments for the Montana District Standing Committees was review. President Forke will continue to work on filling those positions. The Board of Directors reviewed the history of subsidized congregations, and the two year financial outlook.

During the past quarter, President Forke reported that he had made 13 congregational visits, 5 member visits, 10 pastor visits, attended 5 local pastors meetings, 3 circuit meetings, had 2 other district level meetings, attended 1 Council of Presidents. He also attended the Life March in Washington DC in January.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on May 8th at the District office in Billings.

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Psalm 95:1-3

Retirement

Pastor Daniel Rinderknecht's retirement from serving as senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, and active service as a pastor of the LCMS for almost 40 years, was celebrated on February 19, 2023 at Trinity Lutheran School. Family, friends, pastors, and congregation members joyfully thanked Pastor Rinderknecht for his loving, faithful service, in person, over video, and in song, and were thrilled to have him play guitar and sing as part of his celebration. Thank you, Pastor Rinderknecht! May the Lord richly bless you and Cathy, as you enjoy your family and pursue hobbies and aspirations in retirement.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

On Saturday January 14, 2023 Almighty God united Isaiah Hollatz and Breanna Andrew, members at Faith Lutheran in Boulder, MT, in Holy Matrimony at St Mark Lutheran in Butte, MT. We pray that God in His grace and mercy will give them many happy and loving years together as husband and wife in faith and service to their Savior Jesus Christ. "What God has joined together let no man put asunder." Congratulations Isaiah and Breanna. God bless you both in your marriage!



Trinity Lutheran School, Billings, students raised \$1,201.95 for LaVie to kickoff their 2023 Baby Bottle Campaign!

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:3-6

Reflections Submissions Wanted

Our District would love to hear about events and projects that your congregation is doing in your community. Weddings, baptisms, new members, LCMS school events, LWML events, and Thrivent grant projects are just a few examples of the wonderful news that we would love to share with the District. Please submit photos and descriptions, along with your name and the congregation you are representing to: office@mtdistlcms.org

Please remember to notify anyone in a picture that you submit, so that they are not surprised to see themselves in our newsletter. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!



MONTANA DISTRICT PICNIC

All Montana District Congregations, please join us for worship, fun, and food

SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH

1-4 pm: Fun & Games

4 pm: Worship

5 pm: Picnic

8 pm: Campfire



**Red Lodge Lion's
Campground**



\$5/person (Cash or Check only)

Please RSVP by May 19th

406-259-2908 or office@mtdistlcms.org



Montana District Family Camps RED LODGE 2023

**"THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD"
EPHESIANS 2:19**

ALL CONGREGATIONS PICNIC: JUNE 18

FAMILY CAMP 1: JUNE 23-25

FAMILY CAMP 2: JUNE 27-29



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY,
HIKING, CRAFTS, CAMPFIRES
AND MORE!

THE REGISTRATION FEE
IS \$125 PER FAMILY.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
THE MONTANA DISTRICT

LCMS OFFICE AT 406-259-2908
OR OFFICE@MTDISTLCMS.ORG

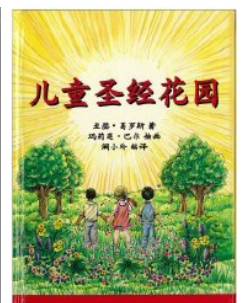
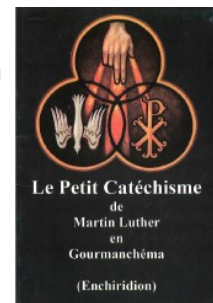
REGISTER ONLINE AT:
[HTTPS://MTDISTLCMS.ORG/](https://MTDISTLCMS.ORG/)

Grant Opportunity

The LCMS Million Dollar Life Match Grant program has announced a 4th round of grants. These grants are for pro-life outreach. Applications are due **June 30, 2023**.

Details are available at: <https://www.lcms.org/serve/grants/life-grant>

FREE RESOURCES: Do you know someone who doesn't speak English as a first language, and you want to introduce them to the Savior? Check out the Lutheran Heritage Foundation's database of free Lutheran books, translated into more than 140 languages of the world! Resources include children's Bible storybooks (often also good for adults with lower literacy levels), Luther's *Small Catechism*, and devotion booklets in languages like Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Swahili – all available at no cost to the ministries, short-term mission teams, and individuals who need them. Search the LHF Publication List at www.LHFmissions.org/



www.LHFmissions.org/Publications

2022 Congregation District & Synod Mission Plan of Support / Donation Summary

Circuit	City	Congregation	#	2022 Plan of Support	Remitted December 2022	Total YTD 2022
			Confirmed Mbrs. Reported	(Italics=No Plan submitted, 2021 Actual)		
Southern						
1	Belfry	St. John	48	\$2,600	600.00	2,400.00
1	Billings	Christ the King	126	\$8,040	670.00	8,040.00
1	Billings	Hope	47	\$900	50.00	600.00
1	Billings	Mt. Olive	410	\$6,000	1,000.00	6,000.00
1	Billings	Our Savior	128	\$1,500	0.00	2,000.00
1	Billings	Trinity	1086	\$98,497	7,486.00	102,194.00
1	Bridger	St. Paul	61	\$1,200	450.00	1,641.00
1	Crow Agency	Crow Ministry	43	\$1,100	343.06	1,153.83
1	Hardin	Redeemer	63	\$0	0.00	1,500.00
1	Harlowton	Trinity	23	\$1,000	0.00	1,000.00
1	Lame Deer	Circle of Life	40	\$2,400	0.00	2,400.00
1	Laurel	St. John	429	\$26,000	5,600.40	29,215.80
1	Park City	St. Paul	102	\$1,500	0.00	1,500.00
1	Roundup	St. Paul	12	\$200	0.00	200.00
1	Worden	Our Redeemer	16	\$1,500	0.00	1,500.00
Total	15	2634		\$152,437	16,199.46	161,344.63
Western						
2	Condon	Faith	20	\$380	0.00	430.00
2	Hamilton	Grace	314	\$33,915	2,509.00	29,292.85
2	Missoula	First	502	\$53,061	3,261.20	43,440.34
2	Missoula	Messiah	65	\$7,000	0.00	7,000.00
2	Salmon, ID	Shepherd/Valley	130	\$13,010	1,992.60	12,328.52
2	Seeley Lake	Holy Cross	47	\$2,400	400.00	2,400.00
2	Stevensville	Our Savior	135	\$5,000	0.00	5,000.00
2	Superior	Trinity	29	\$6,236	330.75	5,951.10
2	Thompson Falls	Shepherd/Valley	36	\$4,216	350.00	4,200.00
Total	9	1278		\$125,218	8,843.55	110,042.81
Eastern						
3	Colstrip	Mt. Calvary	146	\$3,300	0.00	3,240.85
3	Fairview	St. John	37	\$500	0.00	500.00
3	Fallon	Grace	20	\$500	0.00	500.00
3	Forsyth	Concordia	145	\$8,400	700.00	8,400.00
3	Glasgow	Faith	21	\$500	500.00	1,000.00
3	Glendive	Our Savior	338	\$12,000	1,000.00	12,000.00
3	Hysham	Trinity	39	\$961	0.00	0.00
3	Miles City	Trinity	321	\$24,840	859.12	24,840.00
3	Plentywood	Trinity	58	\$3,000	250.00	3,000.00
3	Sidney	Trinity	90	\$7,500	625.00	7,500.00
3	Williston, ND	Concordia	89	\$12,519	950.94	13,345.97
3	Wolf Point	Trinity	29	\$1,200	0.00	1,200.00
Total	12	1333		\$75,220	4,885.06	75,526.82

Circuit	City	Congregation	#	2022 Plan of	Remitted December 2022	Total YTD 2022
			Confirmed Mbrs. Reported	Support (Italics=No Plan submitted, 2021 Actual)		
Central						
4	Chinook	Zion	65	\$0	550.00	550.00
4	Denton	Our Savior	29	\$750	40.00	760.00
4	Fairfield	St. John	20	\$0	0.00	0.00
4	Ft. Benton	First	34	\$2,537	0.00	2,945.00
4	Great Falls	Christ/Deaf	24	\$200	0.00	0.00
4	Great Falls	Peace	110	\$9,600	800.00	10,225.00
4	Great Falls	Trinity	275	\$13,000	0.00	12,999.97
4	Havre	St. Paul	90	\$8,867	684.37	10,426.26
4	Lewistown	St. Paul	100	\$2,552	240.67	3,480.23
4	Power	Zion	80	\$0	0.00	0.00
4	Stanford	Trinity	29	\$1,080	270.00	1,080.00
Total		11	856	\$38,586	2,585.04	42,466.46
Divide						
5	Anaconda	Redeemer	16	\$4,000	0.00	4,000.00
5	Belgrade	Holy Trinity	168	\$8,796	733.00	8,063.00
5	Boulder	Faith	21	\$2,000	0.00	2,000.00
5	Bozeman	First	447	\$31,000	2,500.00	31,000.00
5	Butte	St. Mark	146	\$5,300	0.00	5,200.00
5	Deer Lodge	St. John	97	\$6,000	500.00	5,500.00
5	Dillon	Living Water	15	\$250	0.00	250.00
5	Livingston/Big Timber	Emmaus Luth. Mission	20	\$2,567	0.00	654.42
5	Ennis	Shepherd/Hills	40	\$7,320	393.90	7,955.76
5	Helena	First	434	\$36,942	2,778.52	38,456.60
5	Three Forks	Grace	87	\$4,500	0.00	4,000.00
5	Whitehall	Zion	74	\$2,500	0.00	2,500.00
Total		12	1565	\$111,175	6,905.42	109,579.78
Flathead						
6	Columbia Falls	Our Redeemer	235	\$6,424	584.00	7,008.00
6	Eureka	Holy Cross	138	\$5,500	458.00	5,496.00
6	Creston	Church at Creston	269	\$23,782	59.00	23,784.00
6	Kalispell	Trinity	807	\$16,788	0.00	15,587.00
6	Libby	St. John	131	\$8,816	605.65	8,249.72
6	Polson	Mt. Calvary	65	\$6,127	1,205.20	5,231.10
6	Ronan	St. Paul	85	\$5,000	0.00	5,000.00
6	St. Ignatius	Zion	31	\$7,700	1,200.00	8,350.00
6	Whitefish	St. Peter	36	\$7,198	603.90	7,662.29
Total		9	1797	\$87,335	4,715.75	86,368.11
TOTAL		68	9463			
Total Congregation Donations:				2022	December	YTD
					Actual	
				\$589,971	44,134.28	585,328.61
				\$594,149.85	60,967.61	594,149.85
				Net + - from previous year:		\$ (8,821.24)
				25% Contributed to Synod in 2022:	11,033.57	146,332.15

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2023 Congregation District & Synod Mission Plan of Support / Donation Summary

Circuit	City	Congregation	# 2023 Plan of Support			
			Confirmed Mbrs. Reported	(Italics=No Plan submitted, 2022 Actual)	Remitted January 2023	Total YTD 2023
Southern						
1	Belfry	St. John	48	\$2,400	400.00	400.00
1	Billings	Christ the King	102	\$8,520	710.00	710.00
1	Billings	Hope	47	\$900	50.00	50.00
1	Billings	Mt. Olive	378	\$6,000	0.00	0.00
1	Billings	Our Savior	85	\$2,500	0.00	0.00
1	Billings	Trinity	1100	\$100,467	12,675.00	12,675.00
1	Bridger	St. Paul	61	\$1,641	0.00	0.00
1	Crow Agency	Crow Ministry	43	\$1,200	100.00	100.00
1	Hardin	Redeemer	63	\$1,500	0.00	0.00
1	Harlowton	Trinity	23	\$1,000	1,000.00	1,000.00
1	Lame Deer	Circle of Life	40	\$3,300	3,128.80	3,128.80
1	Laurel	St. John	396	\$29,216	2,182.00	2,182.00
1	Park City	St. Paul	89	\$1,500	1,500.00	1,500.00
1	Roundup	St. Paul	12	\$200	0.00	0.00
1	Worden	Our Redeemer	16	\$1,500	0.00	0.00
Total	15		2503	\$161,844	21,745.80	21,745.80
Western						
2	Condon	Faith	20	\$430	0.00	0.00
2	Hamilton	Grace	314	\$29,293	2,788.00	2,788.00
2	Missoula	First	494	\$43,440	5,499.03	5,499.03
2	Missoula	Messiah	68	\$7,000	0.00	0.00
2	Salmon, ID	Shepherd/Valley	128	\$12,329	0.00	0.00
2	Seeley Lake	Holy Cross	38	\$2,400	0.00	0.00
2	Stevensville	Our Savior	135	\$5,000	0.00	0.00
2	Superior	Trinity	29	\$5,951	491.25	491.25
2	Thompson Falls	Shepherd/Valley	35	\$4,200	400.00	400.00
Total	9		1261	\$110,043	9,178.28	9,178.28
Eastern						
3	Colstrip	Mt. Calvary	146	\$3,204	163.00	163.00
3	Fairview	St. John	37	\$500	0.00	0.00
3	Fallon	Grace	0	\$500	0.00	0.00
3	Forsyth	Concordia	147	\$8,400	700.00	700.00
3	Glasgow	Faith	21	.	0.00	0.00
3	Glendive	Our Savior	304	\$12,000	0.00	0.00
3	Hysham	Trinity	39	\$0	0.00	0.00
3	Miles City	Trinity	321	\$25,751	1,098.10	1,098.10
3	Plentywood	Trinity	58	\$3,000	250.00	250.00
3	Sidney	Trinity	90	\$7,500	650.00	650.00
3	Williston, ND	Concordia	96	\$13,346	479.16	479.16
3	Wolf Point	Trinity	29	\$1,200	0.00	0.00
Total	12		1288	\$75,401	3,340.26	3,340.26

Circuit	City	Congregation	# 2023 Plan of			
			Confirmed Mbrs. Reported	Support (Italics=No Plan submitted, 2022 Actual)	Remitted January 2023	Total YTD 2023
Central						
4	Chinook	Zion	65	\$550	0.00	0.00
4	Denton	Our Savior	29	\$760	0.00	0.00
4	Fairfield	St. John	20	\$0	0.00	0.00
4	Ft. Benton	First	34	\$2,945	0.00	0.00
4	Great Falls	Christ/Deaf	24	\$0	0.00	0.00
4	Great Falls	Peace	112	\$9,600	800.00	800.00
4	Great Falls	Trinity	276	\$13,000	0.00	0.00
4	Havre	St. Paul	90	\$10,426	1,360.98	1,360.98
4	Lewistown	St. Paul	100	\$3,480	251.25	251.25
4	Power	Zion	80	\$0	0.00	0.00
4	Stanford	Trinity	29	\$1,080	0.00	0.00
Total		11	859	\$41,841	2,412.23	2,412.23
Divide						
5	Anaconda	Redeemer	13	\$400	400.00	400.00
5	Belgrade	Holy Trinity	168	\$8,063	1,466.00	1,466.00
5	Boulder	Faith	29	\$2,000	0.00	0.00
5	Bozeman	First	311	\$31,000	2,500.00	2,500.00
5	Butte	St. Mark	146	\$5,200	0.00	0.00
5	Deer Lodge	St. John	97	\$5,500	500.00	500.00
5	Dillon	Living Water	16	\$250	0.00	0.00
5	Livingston/Big Timber	Emmaus Luth. Mission	27	\$2,650	0.00	0.00
5	Ennis	Shepherd/Hills	50	\$8,420	666.59	666.59
5	Helena	First	434	\$38,457	3,400.31	3,400.31
5	Three Forks	Grace	87	\$4,000	0.00	0.00
5	Whitehall	Zion	73	\$2,500	0.00	0.00
Total		12	1451	\$108,440	8,932.90	8,932.90
Flathead						
6	Columbia Falls	Our Redeemer	230	\$7,000	584.00	584.00
6	Eureka	Holy Cross	138	\$5,500	458.00	458.00
6	Creston	Church at Creston	269	\$23,136	3,856.00	3,856.00
6	Kalispell	Trinity	838	\$15,587	2,834.00	2,834.00
6	Libby	St. John	80	\$8,250	1,303.62	1,303.62
6	Polson	Mt. Calvary	28	\$5,231	218.33	218.33
6	Ronan	St. Paul	85	\$5,000	0.00	0.00
6	St. Ignatius	Zion	34	\$7,700	650.00	650.00
6	Whitefish	St. Peter	39	\$7,662	0.00	0.00
Total		9	1741	\$85,066	9,903.95	9,903.95
TOTAL		68	9103	2023 Plan or 2022 Actual	January	YTD
Total Congregation Donations:				2023	\$582,635	55,513.42
				2022	\$ 541,194.33	52,942.58
						\$ 2,570.84
				25% Contributed to Synod in 2023:	13,878.36	13,878.36

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Net + - from previous year:

25% Contributed to Synod in 2023:

	\$	2,570.84
		13,878.36
		13,878.36

2023 Congregation District & Synod Mission Plan of Support / Donation Summary

Circuit	City	Congregation	# 2023 Plan of Support			
			Confirmed Mbrs. Reported	(Italics=No Plan submitted, 2022 Actual)	Remitted February 2023	Total YTD 2023
Southern						
1	Belfry	St. John	48	\$2,400	0.00	400.00
1	Billings	Christ the King	102	\$8,520	710.00	1,420.00
1	Billings	Hope	47	\$900	50.00	100.00
1	Billings	Mt. Olive	378	\$6,000	1,000.00	1,000.00
1	Billings	Our Savior	85	\$2,500	0.00	0.00
1	Billings	Trinity	1100	\$100,467	14,302.00	26,977.00
1	Bridger	St. Paul	61	\$1,641	0.00	0.00
1	Crow Agency	Crow Ministry	43	\$1,200	100.00	200.00
1	Hardin	Redeemer	63	\$1,500	0.00	0.00
1	Harlowton	Trinity	23	\$1,000	0.00	1,000.00
1	Lame Deer	Circle of Life	40	\$3,300	0.00	3,128.80
1	Laurel	St. John	396	\$29,216	0.00	2,182.00
1	Park City	St. Paul	89	\$1,500	0.00	1,500.00
1	Roundup	St. Paul	12	\$200	0.00	0.00
1	Worden	Our Redeemer	16	\$1,500	0.00	0.00
Total	15	2503	\$161,844	16,162.00	37,907.80	
Western						
2	Condon	Faith	20	\$430	0.00	0.00
2	Hamilton	Grace	314	\$29,293	2,497.80	5,285.80
2	Missoula	First	494	\$43,440	4,536.55	10,035.58
2	Missoula	Messiah	68	\$7,000	0.00	0.00
2	Salmon, ID	Shepherd/Valley	128	\$12,329	1,016.60	1,016.60
2	Seeley Lake	Holy Cross	38	\$2,400	200.00	200.00
2	Stevensville	Our Savior	135	\$5,000	0.00	0.00
2	Superior	Trinity	29	\$5,951	672.40	1,163.65
2	Thompson Falls	Shepherd/Valley	35	\$4,200	400.00	800.00
Total	9	1261	\$110,043	9,323.35	18,501.63	
Eastern						
3	Colstrip	Mt. Calvary	146	\$3,204	161.80	324.80
3	Fairview	St. John	37	\$500	0.00	0.00
3	Fallon	Grace	0	\$500	0.00	0.00
3	Forsyth	Concordia	147	\$8,400	700.00	1,400.00
3	Glasgow	Faith	21	.	0.00	0.00
3	Glendive	Our Savior	304	\$12,000	1,600.00	1,600.00
3	Hysham	Trinity	39	\$0	0.00	0.00
3	Miles City	Trinity	321	\$25,751	1,849.11	2,947.21
3	Plentywood	Trinity	58	\$3,000	250.00	500.00
3	Sidney	Trinity	90	\$7,500	600.00	1,250.00
3	Williston, ND	Concordia	96	\$13,346	1,336.38	1,815.54
3	Wolf Point	Trinity	29	\$1,200	0.00	0.00
Total	12	1288	\$75,401	6,497.29	9,837.55	

Circuit	City	Congregation	# 2023 Plan of Support			
			Confirmed Mbrs. Reported	(Italics=No Plan submitted, 2022 Actual)	Remitted February 2023	Total YTD 2023
Central						
4	Chinook	Zion	65	\$550	0.00	0.00
4	Denton	Our Savior	29	\$760	0.00	0.00
4	Fairfield	St. John	20	\$0	0.00	0.00
4	Ft. Benton	First	34	\$2,945	0.00	0.00
4	Great Falls	Christ/Deaf	24	\$0	0.00	0.00
4	Great Falls	Peace	112	\$9,600	800.00	1,600.00
4	Great Falls	Trinity	276	\$13,000	2,166.66	2,166.66
4	Havre	St. Paul	90	\$10,426	777.42	2,138.40
4	Lewistown	St. Paul	100	\$3,480	294.33	545.58
4	Power	Zion	80	\$0	0.00	0.00
4	Stanford	Trinity	29	\$1,080	0.00	0.00
Total	11	859	\$41,841	4,038.41	6,450.64	
Divide						
5	Anaconda	Redeemer	13	\$400	0.00	400.00
5	Belgrade	Holy Trinity	168	\$8,063	0.00	1,466.00
5	Boulder	Faith	29	\$2,000	0.00	0.00
5	Bozeman	First	311	\$31,000	3,500.00	6,000.00
5	Butte	St. Mark	146	\$5,200	1,300.00	1,300.00
5	Deer Lodge	St. John	97	\$5,500	0.00	500.00
5	Dillon	Living Water	16	\$250	1,000.00	1,000.00
5	Livingston/Big Timber	Emmaus Luth. Mission	27	\$2,650	0.00	0.00
5	Ennis	Shepherd/Hills	50	\$8,420	609.99	1,276.58
5	Helena	First	434	\$29,000	3,654.19	7,054.50
5	Three Forks	Grace	87	\$4,000	0.00	0.00
5	Whitehall	Zion	73	\$2,500	625.00	625.00
Total	12	1451	\$98,983	10,689.18	19,622.08	
Flathead						
6	Columbia Falls	Our Redeemer	230	\$7,000	584.00	1,168.00
6	Eureka	Holy Cross	138	\$5,500	458.00	916.00
6	Creston	Church at Creston	269	\$23,136	1,928.00	5,784.00
6	Kalispell	Trinity	838	\$15,587	1,417.00	4,251.00
6	Libby	St. John	80	\$8,250	818.93	2,122.55
6	Polson	Mt. Calvary	28	\$5,231	201.10	419.43
6	Ronan	St. Paul	85	\$5,000	1,000.00	1,000.00
6	St. Ignatius	Zion	34	\$7,700	0.00	650.00
6	Whitefish	St. Peter	39	\$7,662	601.10	601.10
Total	9	1741	\$85,066	7,008.13	16,912.08	
TOTAL	68	9103	2023 Plan or 2022 Actual	February	YTD	
Total Congregation Donations:			2023	\$573,178	53,718.36	109,231.78
			2022	\$ 585,328.61	51,363.18	104,305.76
						\$ 4,926.02
			25% Contributed to Synod in 2023:		13,429.59	27,307.95

The Montana District's most recent annual audited financial statement, current year unaudited quarterly financial statements, and current year Net + - from previous year:

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25% Contributed to Synod in 2023:

	13,429.59	27,307.95
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ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO CONSIDER CHURCH WORK!

Christ's church will continue until He returns, and that church will continue to need church workers.

Set Apart to Serve (SAS) is an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. Together, we pray for workers for the Kingdom of God and encourage children to consider church work vocations. Here are three easy ways you can participate in SAS:

1. **Pray** with your children for God to provide church workers.
2. **Talk** to your children about becoming church workers.
3. **Thank God** for the people who work in your congregation.

To learn more about Set Apart to Serve, visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve.



SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO WORK FOR THE CHURCH!

Professional church work vocations within the LCMS include:



PASTORS



LUTHERAN SCHOOL
TEACHERS



DIRECTORS OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



DIRECTORS OF
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH



DIRECTORS OF FAMILY
LIFE MINISTRIES



DIRECTORS OF
PARISH MUSIC



DIRECTORS OF
CHURCH MINISTRIES



DEACONESSSES

To learn more about each of these professions, visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve.

SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT

