

Zion Lutheran Church Voters Meeting June 15, 2025

Present: Ted and Debbie Kamrud, Nancy and Tom Wheeler, Linda and Ron Jung, Maxine Samuelson, Larry Feight, Glorian Sprengeler, Kerry and Luann Cutting, Krystin Slater, Corbin Slater, Russell Maack, John Diefenderfer, Diana Parks.

Before the start of the meeting Pastor Jim Mavis announced that health issues were forcing him to retire effective August 15, 2025.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 with opening prayer by Ron Jung.

Maxine Samuelson read the minutes from January 19, 2025, Voters Meeting; the minutes were approved.

Maxine Samuelson gave the Treasurers Report, (Attached). The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Kerry Cutting gave the District Convention Report, (Attached).

Old Business

The Building Committee was put on hold indefinitely and will be on Old Business at the next meeting.

New Business

The following motions were approved as follows:

John Diefenderfer, Executive Director, President

Larry Feight, Assistant Director, Vice President

Ron Jung, Chairman of Lay Ministers

Martha Haxby, Treasurer

Diana Parks, Secretary

Kerry Cutting, Chairman, Board of Education

Tom Wheeler, Chairman, Church Property

Krystin Slater, Chairman, Board of Fellowship

Evangelism was put on hold.

The meeting was closed at 10:25 with the Lord's Prayer.

- Prepared by Diana Parks

Zion Lutheran Jan 1, 2025-May 31, 2025

Balance forward January, 2025 39,486.68

Income: 41,851.46

Jan: 3676.00, Feb: 11,915.51 includes 4328.51 from Memorial and 50.00 uncashed check, Mar: 8422.99 includes 16.00 Thrivent, Apr: 12,149.96 includes 39.00 Thrivent, May: 5687.00

Expenses: 39,977.18

Music: 1200.00

Water: 594.50

Gas/Elec: 1120.17

St Mark: 23,219.06

Insurance: 3402.52, Salary: 13,422.75, Parsonage: 3098.40, Secretary: 1475.00, Mileage: 1699.44, Music copyright: 61.87, Hotel for conference: 59.08

Joshua Wareham: 250.00 (Adopt-a-Student)

Stephen Wareham 300.00 (Adopt-a-Student)

Building: 176.85

Church Supplies: 46.43

Office Supplies: 28.99

Stamps & Address labels 52.96

Church Insurance: 3222.00

Concordia: LW 48.16

Concordia: Portals 53.80

Fellowship: 11.98

To Memorial: 375.00

Montana LCMS: 1477.28

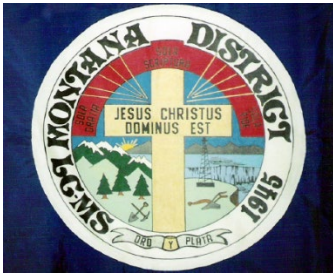
Pledge: 1250.00, Cong. Assessment: 192.28, Conference Assessment: 35.00

LCEF Reserve: 7800.00

Balance forward June, 2025 41,360.96

Other Resources for Zion Jan 1-May 31,2025

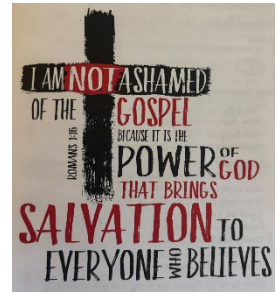
Memorial:	3115.48
LCEF Building:	11,890.05 (as of April 30, 2025)
LCEF: Reserve:	48,230.49



36th District Conference Final Report

09 - 12 June 25

Billings, MT



Theme – “I Am Not Ashamed” (Romans 1:16)

Pastoral Voting Delegate – Rev. James Mavis

Lay Voting Delegate – Mr. Kerry Cutting

Day 1 – Floor Committee work.

- **7 Committees (Only 6 active)** - Mission, Specialized Ministries, Human Care, Education, and Administration, Registration & Credentials
- **Began study guide** on Romans 1&2
- **District Convention Opening Service** – Trinity Lutheran, Billings
Rev. Dr Scott Murray – 3rd Vice President for LCMS, Pastor @Memorial Lutheran, Houston, TX
Message focus – “Winning by Losing.”
Heaven and earth meet at the cross, Christ reaches out to us, but the world wants him dead, Christ is on a mission to save sinners, and nothing is beyond His grasp. Christ gave His body and His blood. We can't tell people we “don't have time to teach our children and grandchildren the bible, but we'll teach them the rules of football and god forbid hockey?” He bore the cross so we don't have to, and we should pass that message to everyone.

Day 2 – Elections, Reports and Committee resolutions

- **Tuesday Matins** led by Rev David Behm, Concordia Lutheran, Williston, ND.
- **Tuesday Afternoon Service Prayer** led by Rev. Christopher Brandt, Retired
- **Committee 7 report** – 74 Delegates (40 Lay, 34 pastors) 98 Total attendees
- **Continued the study** on Romans 3-4 (session 2) and Romans 5-7 (Session 3)
- **Received the District President's report**
 - MT District is not a business enterprise
 - Many congregations have been without a pastor for years, but the Gospel has preserved the message of Christ and what He has done for us.
 - The power of the Gospel, and not our hands, will craft the future.
 - The Gospel will always remain the same.
 - 85% of our congregations have fewer than 100 in attendance, and around 50% have fewer than 50 on any given Sunday.
 - Many pastors serve in multi-congregational roles, and at least 6 are using technology to deliver services. (Minus the Lord's Supper.)
 - It is the desire of the district to keep all congregations open no matter how small.
 - Added a congregation in Challis ID. MT District now has congregations in ND, ID and looking at Canada next. (not really)
- **Received the District Treasurer's report**
 - All reports and documents can be found at <https://mtdistlcms.org/treasurer/>
 - Money is a tool used to accomplish the mission.
 - Please email Kerry if you'd like a complete copy of the District Financial Report.
 - District 2022-24 final expenses and 2025 budgeted expense breakout are at the end of this report.
- **Election Results**
 - **District President** - Rev. Ryan Wendt – Certified Teacher and principal before entering the ministry, Currently Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran, Billings, MT, MT Board of Directors (BOD) since 2015 and was formally the 2nd VP of the MT District. MT District rep. to “Set apart to Serve” initiative. “Much to learn”, asked for patience and prayer. “Looking forward to unique challenges and opportunities to serve.”

- Article IX and X – The Sacraments. The culmination of the Augsburg Confession is Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
 - We better know “what it is and why we are coming to receive it.” It is the true Body and true Blood for the forgiveness of sin.
 - If a non-member has examined himself/herself and can answer those two questions, then the Pastor has his Pastoral discretion to serve communion.
 - LC-MS Seminaries do not train stupid Pastors.
 - 1st Timothy – The Pastor is the steward of the Lord's resources.

Day 3 – Reports and Committee resolutions

- **Wednesday Matins** led by Rev Gideon Pullman, Faith Lutheran, Boulder, MT
- **Tuesday Afternoon Service Prayer** led by Rev Johnathan Schultz, Trinity Lutheran, Great Falls, MT
- **Continued the study** on Romans 8-9 (session 4) Romans 10-13 (Session 5) and Romans 14-16 (Session 6)
- **The following resolutions were voted on and results are included**
 - **Resolution 1-01 – Passed**
To Study How to Amend the Practice of Issuing “Divine Calls” to Positions Not in the Direct Service of the Proclamation of the Gospel and the Administration of the Sacraments
 - **Resolution 1-02 – Passed**
To Support the Acquisition of a Parsonage for the Congregations at Wolf Point, Plentywood, and Glasgow.
- Note 65K has already been raised through donations and a grant
 - **Resolution 1-03 – Passed**
To speak against trends of Radical Ideologies and Racism in the United States of America
 - **Resolution 1-04 – Passed**
To Encourage the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to produce Sunday School Material for very small Congregations
 - **Resolution 2-01 – DOA. Found to be unnecessary.**
To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process
 - **Resolution 2-02 – Passed**
To Amend Montana District LCMS Bylaw 1.3.2 (m-r)
(Bylaw amended to fall in line with Synodical bylaws and wording)
 - **Resolution 2-03 – Passed**
To Assist Navigation of the Foster and Adoption Processes
 - **Resolution 2-04 – Passed**
To Foster Future Church Worker Recruitment
 - **Resolution 3-01 – Passed**
To Reject the Use of AI-Created Sermons in All Montana District Congregations
- This resolution is against Pastors creating entire sermons from AI.
 - **Resolution 3-02 – Passed**
To Amend Montana District LCMS Bylaw 2.1.3.3
(Bylaw amended to fall in line with Synodical bylaws and wording)
 - **Resolution 4-01 – Passed**
To Request Cessation of Publication of Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and Contemporary Applications (LLCACA)
- Note this resolution only calls for CPH to cease the sale of the LLCACA as it currently exists (With Essays written by non-LCMS Pastors and lay teachers)
 - **Resolution 5-01 – Fail**
To Condemn the Stone Choir Podcast
(Delegates reviewed a proposed substitution. The convention felt that this resolution brought more attention to the podcast and that because they were not LCMS members, there is little or no admonishment and call for repentance that can be issued.)
 - **Resolution 5-02 – Passed**
To Amend Montana District LCMS Bylaw 2.2.2.2
(Bylaw amended to fall in line with Synodical bylaws and wording)

- **Resolution 5-03 – Passed**
To Reclaim a Beneficial Understanding of Our Synodical Union
- **Seminaries from Concordia St Louis and Ft Wayne** - Gave presentations on their respective programs.
- **Closing worship, memorials and installation of new District officers**
Service was led by Rev Steven Thomas, St John Lutheran, Libby, MT

POC's for this Final Report

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