

Convention Proceedings

The 10th (49th) Regular Convention

Lutheran Church-Canada

Central District



Lord teach us to pray.

Luke 11:1

April 13-16, 2015
Delta Bessborough Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Dear Delegates,

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

I pray also that the enclosed pages will remind you of the good that our Lord accomplished in and through us as we gathered together for our District Convention in Saskatoon, April 13-16.

Please find enclosed the "Proceedings" of the convention, including the minutes, election results, and resolutions considered, as well as the Small Group Discussion summaries. Unfortunately, we do not have a copy of Dr. Gimbel's presentation as he did not speak from a printed manuscript. Any additions or deletions that were missed, particularly in the minutes, should be directed to the Secretary of the District, Rev. David Haberstock, in care of our office in Winnipeg.

A special thank you to all whose elected or appointed terms ended with the convention. Our church is far richer for your faithfulness, service and devotion! Continue to include those elected at the convention, including myself, in your daily and weekly prayers. May our Lord grant us an abundance of wisdom in order to manage wisely the gifts He so graciously gives to His church!

I pray that the Lord would bless you and your congregation in the days and weeks ahead as you meditate upon His holy Word, and as you continue to pray that His rich grace and mercy rest upon our Central District.

Peace in Christ,



Rev. Thomas E. J. Prachar
President LCC, Central District

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DISTRICT CONVENTION 2015

CONGREGATIONAL VOTING PASTOR AND LAY DELEGATES

<u>Congregation/Parish by Circuit</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
<u>ASSINIBOINE CIRCUIT - #1</u>		
Churchbridge	Jeffery Dul	Allan Lutz
Inglis/Grandview	Ken Eichenlaub	<i>No Delegate</i>
Langenburg/Landestreu/MacNutt	Arron Gust	Frank Becker
Roblin/Zorra	Barry Wood	Brian Bauer
Springside	<i>vacant</i>	Kevin Kotzer
The Pas	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
Yorkton	Daniel Moeller	Lawrence Kitz
<u>SOUTHLAND CIRCUIT - #2</u>		
Coronach	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
Estevan	Randy Kleemola	Keith Haberstock
Frobisher/Oxbow	Jason Schultz	Leonard Moncrief
Midale	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
Moose Jaw	John Kreutzwieser	David Buck
Swift Current/Maple Creek/Ponteix	Brad Julien	<i>No Delegate</i>
<u>NORTHLAND CIRCUIT - #3</u>		
Hudson Bay/Mistatim	Stephen Bartlett	<i>No Delegate</i>
Humboldt	Rob Grout	Lorna Grout
La Ronge	<i>vacant</i>	Sylvia Danyluk
Middle Lake	John Rapp	Charlene Rapp
Nipawin/Melfort	Randy Fiege	Norman Fengstad
Prince Albert	Richard Mensch	Brian Maier
<u>KATEPWA CIRCUIT - #4</u>		
Cupar/North Southey/Southey	Lowell Dennis	<i>No Delegate</i>
Fort Qu'Appelle	Todd Guggenmos	Mark Erickson
Lipton	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
<u>ONTARIO CIRCUIT - #5</u>		
Atikokan	Keith Blom	Alfred Bruer
Dryden/Vermilion Bay	Justin Miller	Jack Rhyner
Fort Frances	Jacob Quast	<i>No Delegate</i>
Ignace	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>

DISTRICT CONVENTION 2015

CONGREGATIONAL VOTING PASTOR AND LAY DELEGATES

<u>Congregation/Parish by Circuit</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
<u>(Con't) ONTARIO CIRCUIT - #5</u>		
Kakabeka Falls	Garry Heintz	Eldon Kangas
Kenora	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
Nipigon	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
Red Lake	Michael Montague(<i>absent</i>)	Don Nord
<u>Thunder Bay:</u>		
Bethel	Jamie Bosma	Christine Bosma
Calvary	Tim Barone	Rod Johnson
Christ	Brian Falkenholt(<i>absent</i>)	Michael Maunula
Epiphany	David Haberstock	Terry Hostland
Lappe/Trinity	Neil Otke	John Nojonen
<u>PORTAGE CIRCUIT - #6</u>		
Brandon	Edmund Mielke	<i>No Delegate</i>
Morden/Winkler	Alex Klages	Paul Freier
Neepawa/McCreary	<i>vacant</i>	Duane LaCoste
Plumas	Mark Smith	Robert Kunzelman
Portage La Prairie	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
<u>QU'APPELLE CIRCUIT - #7</u>		
Broadview/Grenfell/Wolseley	Gerald Andersen	Ron Kraushaar
Melville	Johannes Nieminen	Vernon Eger
Moosomin	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
Neudorf	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
<u>RED RIVER CIRCUIT - #8</u>		
Beausejour	<i>vacant</i>	Norman Lutomske
<u>Winnipeg:</u>		
Beautiful Savior	Cam Schnarr	<i>No Delegate</i>
Holy Cross	Richard Kruesel	August Jaeger
Immanuel	Richard Beinert	John Cullen
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd	Harold Borchardt	Hermann Meyer
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Todd Hoeffs	Jordan Wall
Peace	Glenn Worcester	James Lutomske
Saint James	James Schnarr	Glen Jorundson

DISTRICT CONVENTION 2015

CONGREGATIONAL VOTING PASTOR AND LAY DELEGATES

<u>Congregation/Parish by Circuit</u>	<u>Pastoral Delegate</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
<u>SASKATOON CIRCUIT - #9</u>		
Bergheim	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
Luseland	David Mellecke	<i>No Delegate</i>
Maidstone	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
St. Walburg	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
<u>Saskatoon:</u>		
Faith	Rudy Pastucha	<i>No Delegate</i>
Grace	Rod Parker	Helen Riggs
Holy Cross	James Vosper	Ryan Baker
St. Paul's	Murray Keith	Steven Loewen
Unity/Wilkie	Doug Taylor	Stuart Lawrence
Warman	Randy Heide	Travis Heide
<u>WASCANA CIRCUIT - #10</u>		
Frankslake	<i>vacant</i>	<i>No Delegate</i>
Ogema	<i>vacant</i>	Jerry Tondevold
<u>Regina:</u>		
Good Shepherd	James Chimirri-Russell	<i>No Delegate</i>
Grace	Jeremy Swem	Ken Manz
Mount Olive	Terry Defoe	Roberta Nixon
New Beginnings	Bruce Corson	Marc Cyrenne
Prince of Peace	Daryl Solie	Michael Raedeke

IN SERVICE TO THE CONVENTION

HOST CONGREGATION: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Saskatoon

OPENING WORSHIP HOST PASTOR: Rev. Murray Keith

PREACHER: Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee

GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. James Gimbel

CONVENTION CHAPLAIN: Rev. Rudy Pastucha

CONVENTION PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Jordan Wall

CHAIRMAN – Rev. Thomas E.J. Prachar

SECRETARY – Rev. David Haberstock

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Rev. Arron Gust

DEVOTIONAL LEADERS: Rev James Vosper, Rev. Arron Gust, Rev. David Haberstock

DISTRICT CONVENTION 2015

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES AND PERSONNEL

ADVISORY DELEGATES

Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee
Rev. Dong Joo Kim
Rev. Alvin Borchardt
Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel
Rev. James Dimitroff
Mr. Don Paulus
Rev. Howard Ulmer
Mr. Dwayne Cleave
Rev. Adrian Toms
Rev. Ward Yunker
Ms. Melissa McNeil
Vicar Cody Cooper

EXHIBITORS

Mr. Dennis Fingas – Regina Hospital Chaplaincy
Mrs. Arlene Kish – LWML
Mr. Clifford Pyle – Lutherans for Life–C
Mr. Tom Brook – CLWR
Rev. Neil Otke – Military Chaplains
Mr. David Friesen – Lutheran Foundation
Mr. Elton Harper – Ambassadors of Reconciliation
Mr. Jim Keller – Lutheran Bible Translators
Dr. William Mundt – CLTS
Mr. Glenn McDougall – Bethany Pioneer Village
Mr. Tom Sperling – Sperling Church Supply
Mr. Jonathan Strand – Concordia University College
Mrs. Kathleen Sydney – Faithlife Financial

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Alvin Borchardt
Rev. James Vosper
Mrs. Pat Rocheleau
Mrs. Arlene Kish

CENTRAL DISTRICT OFFICE PERSONNEL

Rev. Thomas Prachar	President
Mrs. Lil Kozussek	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Jodie Hyde	Convention Assistant

CENTRAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 – 2015

President	Rev. Thomas E.J. Prachar
Vice President (Saskatoon Region)	Rev. James Vosper
Vice President (Thunder Bay Region)	Rev. David Haberstock, Secretary
Vice President (Winnipeg Region)	vacant
Vice President (Yorkton Region)	Rev. Arron Gust
Vice President (Regina Region)	Rev. Jeremy Swem
Lay Delegate (Thunder Bay Region)	Mr. Michael Maunula, Chairman
Lay Delegate (Regina Region)	Mr. Wayne Gust
Lay Delegate (Saskatoon Region)	Mr. Daryl Walter
Lay Delegate (Winnipeg Region)	Mrs. Eileen Turner
Lay Delegate (Yorkton Region)	Ms. Gloria Rathgeber
Member at Large	Ms. Roberta Nixon
Advisory	Mr. Don Paulus, District Treasurer

The Two Committees of the Board

Governance

Rev. Arron Gust (Chairman)
Rev. David Haberstock (Secretary)
Mr. Wayne Gust
Rev. Thomas Prachar
Ms. Roberta Nixon
Mrs. Eileen Turner

Financial Audit

Mr. Daryl Walter (Chairman)
Mrs. Gloria Rathgeber (Secretary)
Mr. Michael Maunula
Rev. Jeremy Swem
Rev. James Vosper
Mr. Don Paulus (Advisory)

CIRCUIT COUNSELLORS 2012 – 2015

Assiniboine Circuit	Rev. Barry Wood
Southland Circuit	Vacant
Northland Circuit	Rev. Rob Grout
Katepwa Circuit	Rev. Lowell Dennis
Ontario Circuit	Rev. Garry Heintz
Portage Circuit	Rev. Alex Klages
Qu'Appelle Circuit	Rev. Gerry Anderson
Red River Circuit	Rev. Brad Schollenberg
Saskatoon Circuit	Rev. Randy Heide
Wascana Circuit	Rev. Bruce Corson

LUTHERAN CHURCH – CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014

President	Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee
1 st Vice President	Rev. Nolan D. Astley
2nd Vice President	Rev. Thomas Kruesel
3rd Vice President	Rev. Mark L. Smith
Chairman	Mr. Arnold Drung
Secretary	Rev. Paul Schallhorn
Treasurer	Mr. Dwayne Cleave
Rev. Kurt Reinhardt	Mr. Ronald Roller
Mr. Cam Pelzer	Mr. Alan Schmidt
Ms. Grace Henderson	Mrs. Cindy Scholdice

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONVENTION 2015 FLOOR COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE # 1 – CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS

Rev. Rod Parker, Chairman (Grace, Saskatoon); Ryan Baker (Holy Cross, Saskatoon); Rev. Stephen Bartlett (Hudson Bay/Mistatim Parish); Stuart Lawrence (Unity/Wilkie Parish); Rev. John Rapp (Faith, Middle Lake); Sylvia Danyluk (La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship, La Ronge). *Advisory:* Rev. Thomas Prachar (District Office Staff).

COMMITTEE # 2 – ELECTIONS

Rev. Doug Taylor, Chairman (Unity/Wilkie Parish); Helen Riggs (Grace, Saskatoon); David Buck (Emmanuel, Moose Jaw); Allan Lutz (Trinity, Churchbridge); Rev. Randy Kleemola (St. Peter's, Estevan). *Advisory:* Rev. David Habersock (District Secretary); President Thomas Prachar (District Office Staff).

COMMITTEE # 3 – DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, AGENCIES, CONFERENCE MINUTES AND ESSAYS

Rev. Jacob Quast, Chairman (Church of the Lutheran Hour, Fort Frances); Eldon Kangas (Redeemer, Kakabeka Falls); Rev. Michael Montague (Christ, Red Lake); Alfred Bruer (Faith, Atikokan); Jack Rhyner (Dryden Parish); Rev. Tim Barone (Calvary, Thunder Bay). *Advisory:* President Thomas Prachar (District Office Staff).

COMMITTEE # 4 – GOALS AND RESOURCES

Rev. Mark Smith, Chairman (Zion, Plumas); Duane LaCoste (Neepawa/McCreary Parish); John Cullen (Immanuel, Winnipeg); Rev. Jim Schnarr (St. James, Winnipeg); Jordan Wall (Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Winnipeg); *Advisory:* Don Paulus (District Office Staff).

COMMITTEE # 5 – CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Rev. Daryl Solie, Chairman (Prince of Peace, Regina); Ken Manz (Grace, Regina); Rev. Todd Guggenmos (Our Saviour, Fort Qu'Appelle); Leigh Bishop (Cupar/North Southey Parish). *Advisory:* Rev. James Chimirri-Russell (Good Shepherd, Regina), President Thomas Prachar (District Office Staff)

COMMITTEE # 6 – SPECIAL AND SUNDRY MATTERS

Rev. Jeff Dul, Chairman (Trinity, Churchbridge); Mark Erickson (Our Saviour, Fort Qu'Appelle); Rev. Dan Moeller (Zion, Yorkton); Vernon Eger (Zion, Melville); Rev. Barry Wood (Roblin/Zorra Parish); Kevin Kotzer (St. Paul's, Springside). *Advisory:* President Thomas Prachar (District Office Staff).

**Proceedings of the 10th (49th) Regular Convention
of Lutheran Church–Canada, Central District
Delta Bessborough, Saskatoon, SK
April 13-16, 2015**

Monday, April 13

Delegates and guests registered in the afternoon and evening.

The Board of Directors (BOD) and floor committees met in the afternoon.

Session1 ~ Monday, April 13 – 7:30pm

The opening Service with Holy Communion was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church Saskatoon SK. Rev. Murray Keith (celebrant) Rev. President Robert Bugbee (preacher). Rev. President Thomas Prachar installed the convention delegates. Offering received at the opening Worship Service was given to Concordia Lutheran Mission Society (\$1,625.00). Coffee and cookies followed.

Session 2 ~ Tuesday, April 14

President Prachar called the morning's proceedings to order at 8:30 A.M.

Rev. James Vosper (VP of BOD) led morning devotion on The Introduction and First Petition of The Lord's Prayer.

Committee #1 ~ Convention Arrangements – Rev. Rod Parker, Chairman
Report on Registrations.

Represented:

70 Parishes (88 congregations) — 55 are represented

Lay Delegates 48

Pastoral Delegates 47

Total Voting 95

BOD Advisory 11

Pastoral Advisory 2

Emeritus 7

Official Guests 6

Church Workers 2

Staff 3

Excused 4

The Proposed Standing Rules were reviewed (I 1-3) were reviewed.

M/S/C to accept the Standing Rules.

The Parliamentarian: Jordan Wall, Winnipeg MB Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

The Proposed Convention Agenda on pages A 9-11

M/S/C to adopt the Amended Convention Agenda (Tuesday 9:50 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. agenda items were switched).

Reception of New Candidates

President Bugbee welcomed the new Candidates into Lutheran Church–Canada. Candidates who signed the Constitution included:

Rodney Craig Parker	Grace Lutheran Church, Saskatoon SK
Stephen John Bartlett	Good Shepherd, Hudson Bay SK/Zion, Mistatim SK
Michael James Montague	Christ Lutheran Church, Red Lake ON
Timothy James Barone	Calvary Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay ON
Todd Guggenmos	Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Fort Qu’Appelle SK
Johannes Nieminen	Zion, Melville/Trinity, Neudorf SK
Justin Michael Miller	Associate, Our Saviour, Dryden/St. Mark, Vermilion Bay ON

Committee #5 ~ Constitutional Matters – Rev. Daryl Solie, Chairman

M/S/C – RESOLUTION 2015-5-02 TO MERGE THE KATEPWA AND QU’APPELLE CIRCUITS

M/S/C – RESOLUTION 2015-5-01 TO AMEND THE CENTRAL DISTRICT BYLAWS REGARDING CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ALBERTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEMBERSHIP

Greetings from the LWML ~ Arlene Kish

Committee #2 ~ Elections

The District President reported that because of the absence of Committee #2 Chairman, Rev. Brian Falkenholt, he had appointed Rev. Douglas Taylor from that committee to be the Chairman.

Nomination of President

Slate for President (listed on E.2) was presented by Rev. Arron Gust

Nominations:

Rev. Thomas Prachar

Rev. David Haberstock

Elections Committee distributed Ballots

Lutheran Laymen's League of Central District Greetings ~ Rev. Daryl Solie presented on behalf of Calvin Ulmer.

Break

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

Results for the election for District President

Total Ballots cast	92
Spoiled	1
Rev. Haberstock	43
Rev. Thomas Prachar	48

Rev. Thomas Prachar was declared elected

Nomination of the Vice Presidents

The slate for the five regional Vice Presidents (listed on E.2) was presented.

Nominations for Regina region:

Rev. Jeremy Swem withdrawn because he took a call out of the region.

Rev. John Kreutzwieser was nominated from the floor and accepted.

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Nominations for the Saskatoon region:

Rev. James Vosper

Rev. Rudy Pastucha withdrew his name from the slate.

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Nominations for the Thunder Bay region

Rev. David Haberstock

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Nominations for the Winnipeg region.

Rev. Harold Borchardt

Rev. Alex Klages

Rev. Richard Beinert was nominated from the floor and accepted.

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Nominations for the Yorkton region.

Rev. Arron Gust

Rev. Gerald Anderson was nominated from the floor and accepted.

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Guest Speaker ~ Rev. Dr. James Gimbel

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

Handed out biographical information

Announcements and Prayer by the Convention Chaplain, Rev. Rudy Pastucha

Break for Lunch

Session 3 ~ Tuesday, April 14

President Prachar called the afternoon's proceedings to order at 1:15 P.M.

Announcements

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Greetings~ Robert Granke

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

The ballots for Regional Vice Presidents were distributed.

Lutheran Church-Canada Report ~ President Robert Bugbee & Synod Staff.

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

Results for the elections of the five Regional Vice Presidents were:

Total Ballots cast	91	Ballot #1
Regina region:		
Rev. John Kreutzwieser	86	
Saskatoon region:		
Rev. James Vosper	90	
Thunder Bay region		
Rev. David Haberstock	91	
Winnipeg region.		
Rev. Harold Borchardt	25	
Rev. Alex Klages	34	
Rev. Richard Beinert	32	
Yorkton region.		
Rev. Arron Gust	67	
Rev. Gerald Anderson	24	

Rev. John Kreutzwieser, Rev. James Vosper, Rev. David Haberstock, Rev. Arron Gust were declared elected.

The slate for the five Regional District Board Of Directors Lay Members (listed on E.2-3) was presented.

Nominations for Regina region:

Mrs. Roberta Nixon

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Nominations for the Saskatoon region:

Mr. Daryl Walter

Mr. Elton Harper

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Nominations for the Thunder Bay region:

Mr. Michael Maunula

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Nominations for the Winnipeg region:

Mr. John Robins Sr.

Mrs. Eileen Turner

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Nominations for the Yorkton region:

Ms. Gloria Rathgeber

M/S/C that nominations cease.

"Mission Moment" – Rev. Neil Otke ~ Street Reach, Thunder Bay

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

The results for the elections of the Vice President of the Winnipeg Region:

Total Ballots cast	90	Ballot #2
Winnipeg region		
Rev. Alex Klages	50	
Rev. Richard Beinert	40	

Rev. Alex Klages was declared elected.

The ballots for Regional District Board Of Directors Lay Members were distributed.

Break

Lutheran Church-Canada Financial Ministries ~ Mr. David Friesen, Central District Gift Coordinator.

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

The results for the elections of the five Regional District Board Of Directors Lay Members:

Total Ballots cast	84	Ballot #1
Regina region:		
Mrs. Roberta Nixon	81	
Saskatoon region:		
Mr. Daryl Walter	44	
Mr. Elton Harper	39	
Thunder Bay region:		
Mr. Michael Maunula	82	
Winnipeg region:		
Mr. John Robins, Sr.	36	
Mrs. Eileen Turner	47	
Yorkton region:		
Ms. Gloria Rathgeber	80	

Mrs. Roberta Nixon, Mr. Daryl Walter, Mr. Michael Maunula, Mrs. Eileen Turner, Ms. Gloria Rathgeber were declared elected.

The slate for the District Board Of Directors Lay Member At Large (listed on E.2-3) was presented.

Mr. Elton Harper
Mr. John Robins, Sr.

M/S/C that nominations cease.

District President’s Report ~ Rev. Thomas Prachar

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

The results for the District Board Of Directors Lay Member At Large were.

Total Ballots cast	87	Ballot #2
Spoiled Ballots	7	

Mr. Elton Harper	48
Mr. John Robins, Sr.	32

Mr. Elton Harper was declared elected.

Committee #5 ~ Constitutional Matters – Rev. Daryl Solie

M/S – RESOLUTION 2015-5-03 TO REQUEST THE COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS & STRUCTURE TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO LCC STRUCTURE

The resolution was sent back to the committee

The Slate for Circuit Counsellors

In advance of the presentation of the slate for Circuit Counsellors the District Secretary directed the Southland, Ontario, Portage, and newly created QuAppelle circuits to meet and identify a candidate for Circuit Counsellor and to report back to the Secretary this evening.

Announcements, Closing Prayer by convention Chaplain, Rev. Rudy Pastucha

Adjournment at 5:45 P.M.

Supper - Battleford Ballroom

Session 4 ~ Wednesday, April 15

President Prachar called the morning's proceedings to order at 8:45 A.M.

Rev. Arron Gust (VP of BOD) led morning devotion on The Second and Third Petitions of The Lord's Prayer.

District Committee on Nominations ~ Rev Alvin Borchardt, Chairman

Nominations were requested for the District Committee On Nominations.

Rev. Jamie Bosma, Bethel Lutheran Church, Thunder Bay, ON was nominated and accepted.

Rev. Todd Hoeffs, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Winnipeg, MB was nominated and accepted.

Rev. Edmund Mielke, Grace Lutheran Church, Brandon, MB was nominated and accepted.

Ms. Helen Riggs, Saskatoon, SK was nominated and accepted.

Mr. John Cullen, Winnipeg, MB was nominated and accepted.

M/S/C that nominations cease

Guest Speaker ~ Rev. Dr. James Gimbel

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman
Distributed the ballots for District Committee On Nominations.

Break

“Mission Moment” – Rev. D.J Kim ~ Regina Street Ministry.

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman
The results for the election on District Committee On Nominations:

Total Ballots Cast	92
Spoiled Ballots	1
<u>Pastors (Two Elected)</u>	
Rev. Jamie Bosma	69
Rev. Todd Hoeffs	69
Rev. Edmund Mielke	41
<u>Lay Persons (Two Elected)</u>	
Mr. John Cullen	88
Mrs. Helen Riggs	90

Rev. Jamie Bosma, Rev. Todd Hoeffs, Mr. John Cullen, and Mrs. Helen Riggs were declared elected

The Slate for Circuit Counsellors

The slate of Circuit Councillors was presented by the chairman of the committee on election:

Assiniboine Circuit:	Rev. Barry Wood
Northland Circuit:	Rev. Rob Grout
Ontario Circuit:	Rev. Keith Blom
Qu’Appelle Circuit:	Rev. Gerry Anderson
Saskatoon Circuit:	Rev. Randy Heide
Southland Circuit:	Rev. Randy Kleemola
Portage Circuit:	Rev. Adrian Toms
Red River Circuit:	Rev. Jim Schnarr
Wascana Circuit:	Rev. James Chimmirri-Russell

The Slate for Nominations for the Synod’s Committee for Convention Nominations.

Rev. Rudy Pastucha, Faith Saskatoon.

Mr. Ryan Baker, Holy Cross Saskatoon, SK was nominated and accepted.

Mr. Rod Johnson, Calvary Thunder Bay, ON was nominated and accepted.

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Committee #6 ~ Special and Sundry Matters – Rev. Jeff Dul, Chairman

M/S/C – RESOLUTION 2015-6-01 TO STUDY THE PERMISSIBILITY OF HOLDING MULTIPLE CALLS SIMULTANEOUSLY

M/S – RESOLUTION 2015-6-02 TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF THE LUTHERAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE AS THE OFFICIAL ARCHIVES OF LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA, CENTRAL DISTRICT.

M/S/C that this resolution be tabled indefinitely

M/S/D – RESOLUTION 2015-6-03 TO REQUEST THE SYNOD IN CONVENTION TO IMPLEMENT A UNIFIED ARCHIVE LOCATION FOR SYNOD, THE THREE DISTRICTS, AND OTHER ENTITIES OF LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA

Greetings from Concordia University College of Alberta ~ Dr. Jonathan Strand.

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

The Slate for Nominations for the Synod’s Committee For Convention Nominations.

Rev. Rudy Pastucha, Faith Saskatoon.

Mr. Ryan Baker, Holy Cross Saskatoon, SK was nominated and accepted.

Mr. Rod Johnson, Calvary Thunder Bay, ON was nominated and accepted.

M/S/C that nominations cease.

Distributed the ballots for Synod’s Committee For Convention Nominations.

Announcements & Prayer by the Convention Chaplain, Rev. Rudy Pastucha

Lunch-Battleford Ballroom

Session 5 ~ Wednesday, April 15

President Prachar called the afternoon’s proceedings to order at 1:15 P.M.

Greetings from Guests ~ Reserve Chaplaincy - Rev. Neil Otke & Padre Terry McLaughlin.

“Mission Moment” – Rev. Assefa Aredo ~ Missionary at Large, Central District

Greetings from Guests ~ Concordia Lutheran Seminary – Dr. James Gimbel & Dr. Mundt
Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Committee #2 ~ Elections – Rev. Douglas Taylor, Chairman

Results for the Synod’s Committee For Convention Nominations:

Total Ballots cast	90
Spoiled	0
<u>Pastor</u>	
Rev. Rudy Pastucha,	87
<u>Lay Person</u>	
Mr. Ryan Baker	41
Mr. Rod Johnson	48

Rev Rudy Pastucha and Mr. Rod Johnson were declared elected

M/S/C to Destroy Ballots

The members of Committee #2 were thanked for their work.

The Task Force on Vacant, Non-Calling Congregations

The members of the Task Force, Rev. Arron Gust, Rev. James Vosper, Rev. Alex Klages, Rev. Barry Wood, Eileen Turner, Norm Lutomske, reported on their study of vacant congregations in need of a pastor

Break

Committee #3 ~ District Administration, Agencies, Conference Minutes and Essays – Rev. Jacob Quast, Chairman

The committee presented no resolutions

The members of Committee #3 were thanked for their work.

Committee #4 ~ Goals, Resources, and Work Program – Rev. Mark Smith, Chairman

M/S/C – RESOLUTION 2015-4-01 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

M/S/C – RESOLUTION 2015-4-02 TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER

M/S – RESOLUTION 2015-4-03 TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT WORK PROGRAM

M/S/D – to amend the Work Program in order to restore the funding to the hospital ministries in Regina and Saskatoon

/C original RESOLUTION 2015-4-03

The members of Committee #4 were thanked for their work.

“Mission Moment” – La Ronge Mission ~ Rev. Wayne Olson, Vicar Cody Cooper, DPS Melissa McNeil

Committee #5 ~ Constitutional Matters – Rev. Daryl Solie, Chairman

M/S/C – RESOLUTION 2015-5-03 TO REQUEST THE COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS & STRUCTURE TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO LCC STRUCTURE

M/S/C – RESOLUTION 2015-5-04 TO RATIFY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ APPROVAL OF NEW/AMENDED CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS

The members of Committee #5 were thanked for their work.

Greetings from the National Youth Gathering ~ Rev. Glenn Worcester

Greetings from Lutherans for Life ~ Rev. David Mellecke

Announcements, Closing Prayer by the Convention Chaplain, Rev. Rudy Pastucha

Adjournment at 5:15 P.M.

Session 6 ~ Thursday, April 16

President Prachar called the morning’s proceedings to order at 9:00 A.M.

Rev. David Haberstock (VP of BOD) led morning devotion on The Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Petitions of The Lord’s Prayer.

Guest Speaker ~ Rev. Dr. James Gimbel

The Task Force on Vacant, Non-Calling Congregations – Rev. Arron Gust, Rev. David Haberstock, Rev. Barry Wood

The Task Force shared the results of the small group case studies.

Committee #1 ~ Convention Arrangements – Rev. Rod Parker

M/S/C – RESOLUTION 2015-1-01 TO GIVE THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF THE TENTH REGULAR CONVENTION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA CENTRAL DISTRICT

M/S – RESOLUTION 2015-1-02 TO SET THE DATE OF THE 11TH (50TH) REGULAR CONVENTION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA CENTRAL DISTRICT

M/S/C that this motion be tabled for further cost analysis and final decision to be made by Board of Directors.

The members of Committee #1 were thanked for their work.

Greetings from Bethany Pioneer Village ~ Rev. John Rapp

Greetings from the St. John Chrysostom Preachers Retreat ~ Rev. Arron Gust.

Announcements

Closing Worship with Installation of Newly Elected Officers (BOD & C.C.)

Convention closed singing Hymn ***Forth In the Name of Jesus***, by Dr. Ed Lehman.

Adjournment at 11:30 A.M.

2015 Convention Resolutions Summary

ADOPTED:

- 2015-1-01 To Give Thanks To All Involved In The Planning Of The Tenth Regular Convention Of Lutheran Church-Canada Central District
- 2015-4-01 To Adopt The Minutes Of The 2014 Annual Meeting
- 2015-4-02 To Adopt The Report Of The Treasurer
- 2015-4-03 To Adopt The District Work Program
- 2015-5-01 To Amend The Central District Bylaws Regarding Concordia University College Of Alberta Board Of Directors' Membership
- 2015-5-02 To Merge The Katepwa And Qu'appelle Circuits
- 2015-5-03a To Request The Commission On Constitutional Matters & Structure To Propose Changes To LCC Structure
- 2015-5-04 To Ratify The Board Of Directors' Approval Of New/Amended Congregational Constitutions
- 2015-6-01 To Study The Permissibility Of Holding Multiple Calls Simultaneously

TABLED:

- 2015-1-02 To Set The Date Of The 11th (50th) Regular Convention Of Lutheran Church-Canada Central District
- 2015-6-02 To Recommend The Approval Of The Lutheran Historical Institute As The Official Archives Of Lutheran Church-Canada, Central District.

DEFEATED:

- 2015-6-03 To Request The Synod In Convention To Implement A Unified Archive Location For Synod, The Three Districts, And Other Entities Of Lutheran Church-Canada

2015 Convention Resolutions

<u>2015-1-01</u>	TO GIVE THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF THE TENTH REGULAR CONVENTION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA CENTRAL DISTRICT
WHEREAS	many individuals have been gathered by God to plan the tenth regular convention of the Central District, and
WHEREAS	the Spirit has given many blessings through these individuals to this convention; therefore be it
RESOLVED	that we give thanks to the Triune God for these blessings; and be it further
RESOLVED	that we give thanks to the Saskatoon Circuit for hosting the Tenth Convention of the Central District; St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Saskatoon for hosting the Opening Worship Service and to the other congregations of the Saskatoon Circuit for providing the many volunteers to operate the convention smoothly, all convention committees and floor committees, to the Delta Bessborough and staff; the Central District staff, worship leaders, convention speakers, and anyone else involved in the planning of this convention.
ACTION	Adopted, Session 6
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<u>2015-1-02</u>	TO SET THE DATE OF THE 11TH (50TH) REGULAR CONVENTION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA CENTRAL DISTRICT
WHEREAS	the Synodical Handbook states: The regular conventions of the districts shall be held in the year immediately following the triennial Convention of the Synod; therefore be it
RESOLVED	that the 11th (50th) regular convention of Lutheran Church-Canada Central District be held in Thunder Bay beginning Monday April 23, 2018.
ACTION	Tabled for further cost analysis and final decision to be made by BoD, Session 6
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<u>2015-4-01</u>	TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING (Ref. B.30)
WHEREAS	the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Central District were duly recorded, therefore, be it
RESOLVED	that the minutes of the May 13, 2015 Central District Annual Meeting be adopted.
ACTION	Adopted, Session 5
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<u>2015-4-02</u>	TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER (Workbook B.31-32, Audited Financial Statements B. 33-48)

WHEREAS the firm of Mintz and Wallace has been engaged as auditors for the Central District and have completed an audit for the year ending December 31, 2012 and, the firm of KPMG LLP has completed audits for the years ending December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS the auditors have found the financial statements to present fairly the financial position and the results of operations of the Central District for the years ending December 31,2012, December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2014; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Central District in Convention at Saskatoon, SK, April 13-16, 2015, adopt the Report of the Treasurer; and be it further

RESOLVED that the audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31,2014 be adopted; and be it finally

RESOLVED that that we authorize the Central District Board of Directors to, in due course, appoint the auditors for 2015.

ACTION **Adopted, Session 5**

2015-4-03 **TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT WORK PROGRAM**
(Workbook C.1-2)

WHEREAS the various boards and committees of the District have demonstrated faithfulness to their mission; and

WHEREAS their work program requests reflect the desire to achieve reasonable program goals; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we accept the District Three Year Work Program as presented; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Lutheran Church-Canada, Central District Board of Directors diligently monitor and evaluate the results of all programs to ensure that these goals will be met.

ACTION **Adopted, Session 5**

2015-5-01 **TO AMEND THE CENTRAL DISTRICT BYLAWS REGARDING CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ALBERTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEMBERSHIP**
(Ref. Overture 2015-5-02)

WHEREAS representation on the Concordia University College of Alberta (CUCA) Board of Governors was changed at the last synodical convention (Resolution 14.2.01A "To Clarify Membership on the Board of Governors, Concordia University College of Alberta [CUCA]"); and

WHEREAS references in our Central District Handbook need to be revised in order to reflect these changes; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the following revisions be made to the Central District:

Handbook: Article 3 Membership Processes

3.1 Conventions

M. Elections

“In every election balloting shall continue until every position has been filled by majority vote. The order for elections shall be: President; Vice-Presidents by each region; lay members on the Board of Directors by each region; Circuit Counsellors; ~~members on the Board of Regents, Concordia University College, Edmonton;~~ Nominating Committee; and representatives to Synod’s Committee for Convention Nominations.”

~~*3. BOARD OF REGENTS, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, EDMONTON
The Convention shall elect one lay person to the Board of Regents,
Concordia University College, Edmonton.*~~

ACTION **Adopted, Session 2**

2015-5-02 **TO MERGE THE KATEPWA AND QU’APPELLE CIRCUITS**
(Ref. Overtures 2015-5-01; 2015-5-04; 2015-5-05)

WHEREAS a “circuit” in Lutheran Church-Canada is “an association of congregations established by a convention of a district” (LCC Statutory Bylaws P. 1. 2014 Hand Book); and

WHEREAS Synodical bylaws state (4.01 p. 30): “Each circuit shall consist of 7 to 20 congregations involving an aggregate communicant membership from 1,500 to 10,000. Exceptions to these requirements and limitations can be made only by the president upon request of a district board of directors;” and

WHEREAS the Katepwa Circuit [4 congregations & 2 pastors] and the Qu’Appelle Circuit [7 congregations & 2 pastors] have grown smaller in recent years; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Katepwa Circuit and the Qu’Appelle Circuit be merged into a single circuit; and be it further

RESOLVED that the newly structured circuit be called the Qu’Appelle Circuit; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Central District bylaws be amended appropriately.

ACTION **Adopted , Session 2**

2015-5-03a

TO REQUEST THE COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS & STRUCTURE TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO LCC STRUCTURE

(Ref. Overture 2015-5-03)

- WHEREAS The 1993 Synodical Convention appointed a Task Force on the Nature and Structure of Synod (93.3.09) which was received and acted upon in 1996 (96.3.03A); and
- WHEREAS the 1996 Report of the Task Force on the Nature and Structure of the Synod has listed their recommendations and reasons for changes to the structure of the Synod; and
- WHEREAS the 2002 Synodical Convention declined overture 3.10 (“TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA”) (Res. 02.3.14); and
- WHEREAS the present organizational structure does not resolve the uncertainties as to where responsibility for a particular function should properly rest between the Synod and Districts; and
- WHEREAS the new structure could bring greater financial stability and unity within LC–C; and
- WHEREAS in many aspects District Conventions duplicate matters carried out by Synodical Conventions; and
- WHEREAS there is duplication in boards and services to the congregations that could be rectified with a different structure which would allow for better stewardship of personnel and money, thereby enabling the church to direct more funds with less personnel to the proclamation of the Gospel; and
- WHEREAS in light of the recent insolvency of the Church Extension Fund in the Alberta-British Columbia District; and
- WHEREAS valuable time, energy and resources would be misspent in creating yet another Task Force; and
- WHEREAS according to the Handbook of Synod, there is already a process for the ongoing review of the structure of Synod, namely the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure, which is mandated by the Bylaws of Lutheran Church–Canada to provide such assistance in reviewing the structure of Synod, to wit:
“in the area of structure, the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure shall—
- a. Conduct a continuing review of the organizational structure of the Synod, including its Districts and its circuits, and make proposals to succeeding Conventions for improvement;
 - b. Act as a resource committee to convention floor committees on all

- proposals to alter the Synodical structure;
- c. Serve as a resource committee to districts with regard to organizational structure.” (Bylaw 2.103 a.); therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Central District request the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure to begin immediately the work of developing and presenting a new structure *with applicable bylaw and handbook changes* for the Districts and Synod of Lutheran Church–Canada which addresses the current financial and organizational concerns first addressed by the Task Force on the Nature and Structure of Synod (93.3.09) and remain to the present day; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Central District request the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure present a ~~specific model for restructuring~~ that specific structure to the 2017 Synodical Convention for approval and subsequent implementation.

ACTION Adopted, Session 5

2015-5-04 TO RATIFY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ APPROVAL OF NEW/AMENDED CONGREGATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS

WHEREAS the synodical bylaws of Lutheran Church-Canada state: “A member congregation which translates, revises or amends its constitution or adopts a new constitution shall submit such translation, revision, amendment, or new constitution to the district president, who shall direct it through existing channels for review. Upon favourable action by the board of directors of the district, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are valid and approved and that the congregation is empowered to function under the new or changed constitution. Such actions shall be submitted to the next convention of the district for ratification” (1.15b); and

WHEREAS the Committee on Constitutions of the Central District has reviewed and approved the new and amended constitutions of the congregations listed below; and

WHEREAS the Central District Board of Directors has approved the new and amended constitutions of the congregations listed below; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Central District Convention ratify the new and amended constitutions of the following congregations:

- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Regina, SK (amended)
- Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Winnipeg, MB (amended)
- Christ Lutheran Church, Neepawa, MB (amended)
- Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Winnipeg, MB (amended)
- St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Roblin, MB (amended)
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Moose Jaw, SK (amended)
- Zion Lutheran Church, Yorkton, SK (amended)
- Christ Lutheran Church, Red Lake, ON (amended)

ACTION Adopted, Session 5

2015-6-01 TO STUDY THE PERMISSIBILITY OF HOLDING MULTIPLE CALLS SIMULTANEOUSLY

WHEREAS there is confusion over whether a pastor may hold more than one call (electio) at one time, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Lutheran Church-Canada's Commission on Theology and Church Relations studies and gives a written report on whether there is Scriptural support for holding multiple calls simultaneously, historical precedence, and what polity changes would be required for the sake of good order.

ACTION Adopted, Session 4

2015-6-02 TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF THE LUTHERAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE AS THE OFFICIAL ARCHIVES OF LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA, CENTRAL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS God encourages His people to remember their past and His dealings with them (Deut. 5:15); and has given us the Old Testament as an illustration that remembering is important; and

WHEREAS the retention of church records and artifacts often require specialized attention and knowledge of those who need to research them are to have access to them; and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Historical Institute in Edmonton has had years of experience in the preservation and retention of church records, has given leadership to other District archivists in the proper management of their archives, and has excellent facilities; and

WHEREAS many of the archives of non-active congregations of the Central district have already been turned over to the Lutheran Historical Institute for proper retention and preservation; therefore be it

RESOLVED the Central District consolidate all their archives with the Lutheran Historical Institute in Edmonton.

ACTION Tabled, Session 4

2015-6-03 TO REQUEST THE SYNOD IN CONVENTION TO IMPLIMENT A UNIFIED ARCHIVE LOCATION FOR SYNOD, THE THREE DISTRICTS, AND OTHER ENTITIES OF LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA

WHEREAS God encourages His people to remember their past and His dealings with them (Deut. 5:15); and has given us the Old Testament as an illustration that remembering is important; and

WHEREAS the retention of church records and artifacts often require specialized attention and knowledge of those who need to research them are to have access to them; and

WHEREAS recent efforts to create a national archives for Lutheran Church–Canada had foundered for various reasons; and

WHEREAS there has been a desire throughout Synod for a unified archives for reasons of accessibility and feasibility; and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Historical Institute in Edmonton already serves as the depository for the records of Lutheran Church– together with many other records of Lutheran agencies in Canada and could easily serve as the national church’s official archives in a cost-efficient manner; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the SYNOD in convention consider implementing a unified archive location for Synod, the three districts, and other entities of Lutheran Church-Canada.

ACTION **Defeated, Session 4**



2015 Lutheran Church–Canada Central District Convention Election Results

Board of Directors

Clergy

President	Rev. Thomas E.J. Prachar
Vice President – Regina Region	Rev. Dr. John Kreutzwieser
Vice President – Saskatoon Region	Rev. James Vosper
Vice President – Thunder Bay Region	Rev. David Haberstock
Vice President – Winnipeg Region	Rev. Alex Klages
Vice President – Yorkton Region	Rev. Arron Gust

Lay

Regina Region	Mrs. Roberta Nixon
Saskatoon Region	Mr. Daryl Walter
Thunder Bay Region	Mr. Michael Maunula
Winnipeg Region	Mrs. Eileen Turner
Yorkton Region	Ms. Gloria Rathgeber

Member at Large

Mr. Elton Harper

Circuit Counsellors

Assiniboine	Rev. Barry Wood
Northland	Rev. Robert Grout
Southland	Rev. Randy Kleemola
Ontario	Rev. Keith Blom
Portage	Rev. Adrian Toms
Qu'Appelle	Rev. Gerry Andersen
Red River	Rev. Jim Schnarr
Saskatoon	Rev. Randy Heide
Wascana	Rev. James Chimmirri-Russell

District Committee on Nominations

Rev. Jamie Bosma	Rev. Todd Hoeffs
Mr. John Cullen	Mrs. Helen Riggs

Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations

Rev. Rudy Pastucha	Mr. Rod Johnson
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Opening Service – Central District Convention

Monday, April 13, 2015

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Saskatoon SK

Sermon by Synod President – Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee



“COME TO HIM WHO ANSWERS PRAYER” (St. Luke 11:5-13)

In the Name of Christ the Risen One, friends!

“Christians pray.” That’s how an old doctrinal textbook starts its chapter on prayer. You can resonate with that. You know you ought to do it. You sincerely want to do it. At a time of great need you feel driven to pray. There are those moments also when, without thinking much about it in advance, you find yourself in the middle of doing it. The old textbook was right. Christians pray.

“Lord, teach us to pray.” Christ’s men said that. It helps me that they had the courage to be so honest. It sounds as though they were confessing they didn’t feel very good at praying, though they had been with Jesus a long time. If the truth be told, a great many Lutheran church people – and even pastors – feel their own feebleness, an embarrassing lack in this area, even if you have been with Jesus a long time.

Jesus does not answer that weakness by scolding. Instead He paints pictures anyone can understand. You have them in this evening’s Gospel. He’s providing rich teaching in His few words. More than that, Jesus is taking you by the hand. He’s opening the door, inviting you in. He’s kindling courage inside you to come to the Father Who answers prayer. He offers a refuge you and I can surely use as we begin the work of another district convention.

I. HE SAID to His men, “SUPPOSE ONE OF YOU HAS A FRIEND, AND HE GOES TO HIM AT MIDNIGHT AND SAYS, ‘FRIEND, LEND ME THREE LOAVES OF BREAD, BECAUSE A FRIEND OF MINE ON A JOURNEY HAS COME TO ME, AND I HAVE NOTHING TO SET BEFORE HIM.’ THEN THE ONE INSIDE ANSWERS, ‘DON’T BOTHER ME. THE DOOR IS ALREADY LOCKED, AND MY CHILDREN ARE WITH ME IN BED. I CAN’T GET UP AND GIVE YOU ANYTHING.’

The guy doing the asking hits one obstacle after another. The neighbour he’s asking is a friend; he’s got no more leverage than that. The guy doing the asking comes at a time so inconvenient you can only call it annoying ... midnight, for goodness’ sake! He asks this help to benefit an out-of-town visitor the fellow in bed presumably doesn’t even know. He’s expecting his neighbour to stumble around in the dark of a Palestinian house with no night lights and to unbolt a door, which was not exactly an easy process, I’m told.

Yes, the guy doing the asking hits one snag after another. We would say it’s kind of a petty thing to bother a neighbour with at midnight. The visitor from out of town probably won’t starve to death if he has to wait for breakfast in the morning! And the unfriendly spirit of this man who snaps “Don’t bother me,” must have felt like a bucket of ice-water poured all over the guy who asked for help.

Jesus does not say it in so many words, but the guy in bed could not be more different from the Lord to whom you cry out in your prayers. He doesn’t know any inconvenient times. HE WHO WATCHES OVER ISRAEL WILL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP, sang the psalmist. He didn’t bolt His door, either. He’s holding it wide open with the word, SEEK HIS FACE ALWAYS. The needs you bring Him are not about

some out-of-towner He doesn't care about, since even half-penny sparrows don't drop to the ground without the Lord seeing their trouble, and the hairs of people's heads He already has numbered and labeled; He knows them that well. The blessings you ask Him for are not petty. He never sees them as a bothersome thing like three pita breads, or whatever kind the neighbour might have handed over. IN EVERYTHING, wrote St. Paul, BY PRAYER AND PETITION, WITH THANKSGIVING, MAKE YOUR SPECIFIC REQUESTS KNOWN TO GOD. He counts every one as precious, the big and the little ones, the hard and the easy ones, the exceptional and the ordinary kind. When He tells you in Isaiah's book, BEFORE THEY CALL, I WILL ANSWER, He's clearly more ready to hear than you are many times to ask. He's sitting by the phone, you might say. It's a far cry from that neighbour who barked, "Don't bother me. It's too late. I'm in bed."

We've all seen parables and pictures the Bible draws to point out what God is like. This story Jesus tells is remarkable. It's heartwarming, too, because He's using it to show you what your Father is not like!

II. Jesus' tale reaches quite the climax. There's not a single concern in the story strong enough to convince the man in bed to hand over the three breads, but one thing conquers him. It's the shamelessness of the guy who keeps up his noisy begging even after he was flatly turned down. The hard-hearted man in bed with his kids was fundamentally unwilling to help. I realize the Lord Himself sometimes looks that way. Jesus Christ looked that way to a Canaanite woman who begged His help for her daughter, suffering dreadfully from demon-possession, when JESUS DID NOT ANSWER HER A WORD. She didn't let it go with His first little snub. And when He gave her off-putting answers about it not being right to take the Israelite children's bread and toss it to Canaanite dogs like her, she just kept pushing. Rude and shameless she was! But the shamelessness broke through there, too. It laid bare the heart of Jesus, Who wants His children to pray and beg and make noise and pound on the door, the Lord Who, in the end, could not turn a deaf ear to that terrified Canaanite mama.

And after Jesus shows how this pushy, shameless begging even worked on the hard-hearted guy in bed, He makes His own feeling on the subject unmistakably clear: ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU.

The New Testament word for "asking" here can be the sort of petitioning a lowly individual directs to some high-placed person. Yes, says Jesus, ask with that humility. But don't let it go at that. Seek and keep reaching out with that need of yours; send those prayers of yours into every corner of the landscape. Knock; not just once, sort of timidly, only to give up and turn away quickly as people do if they're hoping that they weren't noticed, after all, if the one inside really doesn't wish to be bothered. Knock and knock and knock. All the verbs here are picturing an asking that just keeps asking, a seeking that doesn't give up seeking, and a knocking that would drive a homeowner nuts because the guy on the front step just won't quit. PRAY CONTINUALLY; that's how Paul taught the Thessalonians.

That's hard to keep doing if you've reached the conclusion that it will do no good because the person inside doesn't want to be bothered and isn't going to help. Maybe that's why Jesus does not teach about prayer by giving you a procedures manual. Instead, He hands you this picture of the merciful Father on the other side of the door. When you begin to grasp how that Father wants you, invites you, aches to hear from you, and is just waiting for the knock, it goes a long way to kindling a heart inside to ask and ask and ask.

The Lord Christ could not say it more clearly: EVERYONE WHO ASKS RECEIVES; HE WHO SEEKS FINDS; AND TO HIM WHO KNOCKS, THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED. Your prayers are not a bother at midnight or any other time. The prayer you send to Him this evening is welcome. Jesus here proclaims the certainty of being heard. That's the launching pad where perseverance can grow. It can grow from the certainty of being heard. HE WILL CALL UPON ME, God vows in the 91st Psalm, AND I WILL ANSWER HIM; I WILL BE WITH HIM IN TROUBLE, I WILL DELIVER HIM AND HONOUR HIM. The way and the timing and the details of the Lord's answer may stay hidden for quite a while. That does not change what Jesus says about the certainty of being heard.

III. There's another picture Jesus hands you to give you the heart to pray. Now He's comparing heaven's great Father to one of those defective human fathers like me. The son asks Dad for the simple stuff common people required to live. He wants a fish, and needs it. Even an imperfect Dad isn't going to hand him some hurtful thing, like a snake. If the same kid is hoping to get an egg, Dad won't answer by slipping him a scorpion, which is absolutely deadly. Human fathers, defective as they are, don't mock and hurt their kids that way. Jesus said, YOU KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS TO YOUR CHILDREN, THOUGH YOU ARE EVIL. He's not saying that sinful fathers – and mothers, too for that matter – always get it right. Parental love is a very misguided thing sometimes. We're seeing that in our society, and sometimes even among parents who count themselves followers of Jesus. At times we fail to supply the true needs of our children, especially when it comes to God's Word and a deep Christian training. Or we might think we're doing right by them because we've given them the stuff the rest of the world considers important, medical care, a chance to play hockey, university training, piano lessons, you name it!

How much more will heaven's great Father give the best gift His children could possibly receive? He gives THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM! Think what the Lord is giving you when He gives His Holy Spirit. By that Spirit He's giving you a truly penitent heart that feels sorrow over all the ways you've sinned and grieved Him. By that Spirit He kindles in you the faith to run and cling to Jesus, Who died in your place and was raised again. By that Spirit He makes your heart beat so that you want to grow in holiness and live your life to the glory of the Lord Who saves you. By that Spirit He can bless you with endurance, so that you are kept in the saving faith of Christ Jesus to the end.

I cannot hear Jesus' teaching here without remembering an orientation gathering for brand-new pastors, convened by my district president, Dr. Albin Stanfel, in the spring of 1982. I confess I don't recall every little detail he told us about procedures and how to keep the district happy. One thing I'll never forget, and I'm so glad he said it. You pastors will never do anything more needed or vital for your people than to pray for the Holy Spirit, for yourself and for them. God answers this prayer, President Stanfel told us; Jesus says He will. In so many situations along the way, especially those where you feel like Paul when he said, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE OUGHT TO PRAY FOR, you can pray for this; for this Comforter, this Counselor, this Light, this Fire, this Holy Spirit Who knows how to bring about what you truly need, even if you don't know what to call it.

It's one reason we'd all do well to sing and to memorize Hymn 497 from our hymnbooks, if you haven't done it already, Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord. For once let's forget all the commenting we love to do about whether you really crave that style of music or don't resonate so much with a tune that old. Let yourself be riveted instead to that prayer for the Spirit which always fits what you need in your personal life, what your family needs at home, and what's needed in the congregation where you live and serve.

Sing it to yourself when you just can't find your own words to put your finger on what you need the most, even though your aching heart tells you the need is deep. Sing it to the body of Christ, so that God's people learn to pray to the Spirit as Jesus invites them to do, even when they feel weak and don't know how to do it on their own.

Christians pray. You're learning how when your crucified and now resurrected Lord shows you the pictures of the Father Who wants you to bang on His door, pictures of the Jesus speaking rock-solid certainty that you'll be answered, pictures of the Spirit Whom the Father gives as you pray for Him to come and bring what you need whether you can always name it yourself or not. Come to Him Who answers prayer! It's a great invitation to take with you into a district convention of the church, and into your life in every place and all the time. Amen.

Report of the District President, Part II To the Tenth Regular LCC Central District Convention

"Lord Teach Us To Pray" Luke 11:1



Lord teach us to pray

Luke 11:1

Honoured guests, convention delegates, brothers and sisters in Christ:

"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. Amen." This is the first prayer that I memorized, of course with my mother's help, when I was around three-years-old. It was the prayer I prayed every night in bed before I went to sleep. And then as I recall, after I prayed this short prayer, I attached this addendum: "And God bless mommy and daddy and Bobby (my younger brother), grandmas and grandpas, and all my aunts and uncles and cousins. Amen."

Pretty simple stuff for a kid that age! It's a shame I drifted away from those evening prayers for many years. I suppose it went the same way as giving your parents a hug or kiss at bedtime: oh, I'm too grown-up to do that now! Besides, what would the kids at school think if they learned I said my prayers before bedtime? "Lord, teach me to pray!"

I also recall that one day at school for our dreaded "Memory Work" class (yes, there was such a thing in ancient times), we had to memorize The Lord's Prayer. That was no problem for me because as a result of my mother's instruction, I already knew it. And that prayer was reinforced as I prayed it every Sunday in church.

When I was confirmed, I used the daily morning and evening prayers in My Prayer Book, a gift from the congregation to our class. Of course, after a time that, too, fell by the way as I became too busy and had no time to pray. I do recall making many extemporaneous or off-the-cuff supplications during my teenage years for help at school, and that the Lord would cause a certain girl to fall madly in love with me. (Obviously, He said "no" to that one.) "Lord, teach me to pray!"

Of course, there followed college and seminary, and then my pastorate at two parishes. Although my prayers grew in frequency and fervor, taking on a much more public forum, I found it more difficult to

take the time in my personal life to put into practice the theology of prayer I had learned. Of course, Dr. Martin Luther said it best: "It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last at night. Guard yourself carefully against those false, deluding ideas which tell you, 'Wait a little while. I will pray in an hour; first I must attend to this or that.' Such thoughts get you away from prayer into other affairs which so hold your attention and involve you that nothing comes of prayer for that day..."

And then in 2000 I was elected District President, and my prayer time exploded! One of my first prayers after my election was for wisdom. While I certainly don't feel any wiser today, I'll let others decide if my Lord has blessed me in that way. Over the last fifteen years there have been so many congregations, individual members, pastors, and deacons for whom I could pray, and for whom I needed to pray! "Lord, teach me to pray!"

Maybe you've had some similar experiences to mine. After 60 years you'd think I'd have this prayer thing down to an art! But there is still so much more to learn, so much to experience as my gracious heavenly Father continues to answer my prayers, sometimes with a "yes," sometimes with a "no," and often with, "patience—it's not yet time." On the whole as I look back over the years, my Lord has been so good to me. He has often answered my prayers beyond what I have requested, and taught me His wisdom by withholding things that He knew would not be good for me. Like many things in life, I've probably learned as much about prayer by actually doing it as compared to simply studying it. Nevertheless, "Lord, continue to teach me to pray."

For my personal devotions, I have been using Johann Gerhard's Meditations on Divine Mercy, translated by LCMS President Matthew Harrison. Gerhard is considered one of the Lutheran church's greatest theologians after Martin Luther and Martin Chemnitz. As he begins his book, he paints a beautiful picture for us of prayer. He writes:

"Pious prayer offered in faith is familiar conversation with God. It is a salutary remedy to all the difficulties of life. It is the key to heaven and the door to paradise. It shows us how much we depend on God, and it is a ladder of ascension to God. It is a shield for our defense and a faithful messenger of the ambassador. It is refreshment in the heat of misfortune; it is medicine during illness. It is a winch, drawing us to heaven, and a vessel that draws water from the font of divine kindness. It is a sword against the devil and a defense against misfortune. It is a wind that blows away evil and brings earthly benefits. It is a nurse that nurtures virtues and conquers faults. It is a great fortification for the soul and gives free access to God. It is a spiritual feast and a heavenly delicacy. It is a consolation for the dejected and a delight for the holy. It grants knowledge of the secret things of God and acquires His gifts. It upholds the world and rescues people. It is a joy for the heart and a jubilation for the mind. It follows God's gift of grace, and it leads ahead into glory. It is a garden of happiness and a tree full of delights. It calms the conscience and increases our thankfulness. It sends demons running and draws angels close. It is a soothing remedy for the misfortunes of this life and the sweet smell of the sacrifice of thanksgiving. It is a foretaste of the life to come and sweetens the bitterness of death."

"Whoever is truly a child of God through faith will, with childlike trust, address his or her heavenly Father every day in prayer. The one in whose heart the Holy Spirit has made His home will, as a spiritual priest, daily offer to God this incense of prayer."

As we look around our beloved Central District, there is so much that we can bring to our Lord in prayer! There are all manner of issues and people for whom we can and must pray. And I am as guilty as anyone for not saying “thanks” to my Lord for all His blessings, for all His answers to prayer, be they small or great; the answer I wanted, a different answer, or no answer at all.

If you are unsure what needs we have as a district, I encourage you to go through all the reports in our Convention Workbook, and you will find more than enough to fill your devotional time. Mission work on the grand scale of years ago is no longer happening in our district primarily because of lack of funds. Twenty-two congregations in our district are not able to financially support a pastor, and several more are struggling to keep the pastor they have. “Lord, teach us to pray!”

While the District Convention is our Annual Meeting, and while at Annual Meetings we are required by our bylaws to elect officers and adopt financial statements, there is so much more that happens, often without intricate planning. There is fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ, to be sure. But even more so, there is instruction through essays and reports. There is time for prayer that I dare say would not happen if we had stayed at home these four days. There is instruction in the theology of prayer, as well as modeling prayer as we hear others pray.

At this convention especially, there will be prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Alberta-British Columbia district and the issue of the insolvency of their Church Extension Fund. While we would like to offer more tangible help but are restricted by our own financial constraints, we can pray. That is not the least we can do, but the best we can do. And we dare not in Pharisaical smugness pray, as my thoughts have often suggested to me over the last several months: “Lord, I thank you that I am not like that district with all its problems!” No, we pray that the financial crisis would be resolved in a God-pleasing way, and that our Lord would continue to look after investors whether or not they get back all their money. We pray that our Lord would heal divisions, bring reconciliation, and strengthen faith in His Church and its leaders. “Lord, teach us to pray!”

I encourage you to include in your prayers LCC’s Placement Committee which will be meeting next Tuesday. Now, while we may jokingly report that there are a lot of darts thrown at a map in order to determine where candidates from our seminaries will be going for their first call; while you may hear of a lot of whining and arm wrestling by the District Presidents as they try to get candidates assigned to their respective districts, I can assure you of one very important thing that we do many times during our placement meeting, and that is to pray. I can tell you today that there are six pastoral candidates available, four from Edmonton and two from St. Catharines. Applying for those six candidates are seven parishes, 3 in ABC, 2 in Central (Grace, Regina; La Ronge) and 2 in East District. There are three vicars available from St. Catharines, and none from Edmonton. And the only parish requesting a vicar is Morden/Winkler in our district. There are three Directors of Parish Services (DPS) available, but no requests at present. As our Lord says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Lk. 10:2)

Yes, “Lord, teach us to pray!”

Lately, I have been praying about my future, realizing that there are fewer days ahead than there are behind. In moments of pure self-absorption, I have prayed about what would happen should someone else become District President at this convention. I have been at peace should that change happen in my life, knowing that my Lord will continue to provide for all my physical and spiritual needs. And I have

brought before my Lord's throne of grace the scenario of having to serve another term as District President. And since that is the path upon which He is leading me (based on your voting this morning), I trust in His compassion and goodness, His grace and mercy, to help me to serve to the best of my ability.

Now, I must also confess that as I have said my prayers lately, I have done so with one eye on the calendar, counting my years of service to Christ and His Church. And I have come to the conclusion that this will be my last term as District President. The year of the next District Convention (2018), Lord willing that year I will celebrate my 64th birthday. With that milestone on the horizon, I have decided that it is time for someone else to take a turn at steering the ship. By the way, down through the ages, the church has been portrayed as a ship. I humbly realize that my ecclesiastical oversight is definitely only dingy-size when compared to the "Mother Ship"—the Holy Christian Church. But God's people are important no matter their number or location. In the last fifteen years, I have seen the worst of God's people and the best of God's people. The challenges that you have laid before me the past fifteen years have made me weary, especially without the foundation and pleasant distractions of a family upon which to fall back. But with the Lord's help—and that is the only way anyone can proceed in service to His church—I will endeavor to serve the best that I can in my final term.

The Central District has been my beloved home for the last 30 years. I sincerely thank you for the prayers you have sent to our heavenly Father's throne of grace on my behalf, and for the prayers you have offered on behalf of this precious Central District. May our Lord truly be merciful to us and grant us an abundance of His grace, especially when we ask Him, "Lord, teach us to pray!"

2015 LCC Central District Convention Case Study Results

Case Study #1 - “Becoming a Multi-Point Parish”

Definition: 2 or 3 congregations form one parish.

Description: 3 congregations within a 60 km radius.

Congregation A: Average attendance – 80

Congregation B: Average attendance – 30

Congregation C: Average attendance – 20

1. PROS of becoming a Multi-Point Parish
 - Having a pastor to call their own.
 - Would be able to consistently offer Word and Sacrament ministry.
 - Prevents Closures and keeps a faithful confession of Christ in a community
2. CONS of becoming a Multi-Point Parish
 - Pastor stretched thin at work, at home, and on the road.
 - Challenge to submit with other congregations on times/sharing the pastor and resources.
 - Where will the pastor live?
 - Loss of Identity as a congregation.
3. Other possibilities for these congregations
 - All come to one building, perhaps even vary location
 - Digital feeds/Use of internet
 - Vicars/Deacons, equip lay people more.

Case Study #2 - “Circuit Rider”

Definition: A pastor called by the District to serve isolated congregations without a pastor.

Description: Five isolated congregations that are some considerable (more than 100km) geographic distance apart.

1. PROS of having a Circuit Rider
 - Regular Word and Sacrament ministry
 - Pastor assigned is their own
 - Pooling of resources-multiple congregations able to “finance” pastor
 - Opportunity to strengthen laity

2. CONS of having a Circuit Rider
 - Possible burnout/travel time and expense
 - Decreased community involvement/ minimal pastoral care with less visitation/difficulty getting pastor in emergencies
 - Requires more flexibility over service times
 - Pastor not “called”
 - Logistics of governance
3. Other possibilities for these five congregations
 - Rotation of service times to promote harmony
 - Vicars/retired pastors/P.A.T.s/Deacons take up worship services

Case Study #3 - “Deanery”

Definition: Usually four or more congregations with two or more pastors serving a geographical region.

Description: An urban congregation-D- Average attendance of 110 is surrounded by 3 rural congregations

Congregation A: Average attendance of 10 is 35km from congregation D

Congregation B: Average attendance of 45 is 75km from congregation D

Congregation C: Average attendance of 25 is 80km from congregation D

4. PROS for these 4 congregations becoming a ‘Deanery’
 - Shared resources/cost effectiveness
 - Every congregation receives Word and Sacrament ministry
 - All able to stay at home congregations
 - Pastor not loaded down/team ministry reduces loneliness
 - Allows for ownership of situation
 - Good opportunity/environment for mentorship of younger pastors or vicars
5. CONS for these 4 congregations becoming a ‘Deanery’
 - a. Division of time
 - Logistics of governance/responsibilities
 - Travel costs
 - Potential for conflicts about service times/styles/autonomy
 - Decreased community involvement
 - Maintenance of multiple buildings
 - Preference for one pastor over another
6. Other possibilities for these 4 congregations
 - Congregation consolidation
 - P.A.T.