



St. Paul's Monthly Messenger

August, 2026

Pastor's Notes:

Synod Convention Summary

I attended the 2026 LCMS Convention in Phoenix as the pastoral voting delegate for our circuit in July of this year. At the Synod Convention, lay and pastoral delegates from every circuit in synod gather together to elect people to national offices and boards as well as vote on various resolutions that are brought to the floor. Think of a church voters' meeting, but one thousand times bigger. Summaries of the convention, as well as the complete minutes, can be found online in many places. My goal here is to briefly highlight some of the resolutions that passed that would be of interest to the congregations of our circuit.

- Parents' Duty - Resolution 1-11A, "To Confess God's Design for Family," came from our own circuit forum, was passed through the Northern Illinois District to the Synod convention. Passed unanimously, the synod in convention resolved that we "plainly state our religious objection to government interference in Christian parents' duty to raise their children in the faith" – specifically mentioning laws which allow minors to get sex-change operations or abortions without parental approval, or school policies which promote this or other anti-scriptural social agendas.
- Commission on Worship - Resolution 4-06A, "To Amend Bylaws to Reinstate a Commission on Worship," created the commission of worship, which was previously ended in 2010. Such a commission is a board of pastors, musicians, and other laypeople who will help provide worship resources in the future, including hymnal supplements or even a future new hymnal.
- Fellowship - Altar and pulpit fellowship means that we have recognized a church has the same doctrine and practice as the LCMS. We officially recognize altar and pulpit fellowship with churches at the synod convention. Resolution 5-01 recognized fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church of Bolivia. Resolution 5-02 encouraged future fellowship with Lutheran Mission-Australia. Lutheran Mission – Australia is a new church which was formed in the last year after the Lutheran Church of Australia voted to allow the ordination of women. Those who opposed this unbiblical action formed Lutheran Mission – Australia, who will be having their first convention in August of this year. We look forward to supporting this new, faithful Lutheran church.
- Closed Communion - Resolution 5-05, "To Address Open Communion and Pastoral Exceptions in Extraordinary Circumstances," reaffirmed the Biblical practice of closed communion and commended further study on what "pastoral exceptions" mean (i.e., when someone is under pastoral care but due to circumstances cannot go through the ordinary means of joining the congregation).
- Lay Readers - Resolution 5-09A, "To Address the Public Reading of Scripture," commends a study to come out before the 2029 convention on the practice of lay readers in the divine service. There is much disagreement on this – our congregation only has the pastor read (unless it is an elder-led service), some allow any man, woman, or child to read in the service. It will be good to get some clarity and reinforce that reading of scripture is the pastor's duty.
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- In Vitro Fertilization - Resolution 5-11A, “To Reaffirm the Sanctity of Human Life Regarding the Practice of In Vitro Fertilization [IVF],” IVF is widely used and there needs to be more teaching concerning the practice, which “involves the creation of human embryos outside of the womb, which can result in needless destruction and indefinite freezing of embryos [children].” The synod voted to condemn the needless loss of life in IVF, recommended couples seek counsel from pastors when looking at reproductive technologies, and commended a future study, hopefully for use in teaching and resolutions in the future.

Pastoral Training - There were also several resolutions that commended the synod’s process for training pastors. We currently have two residential programs at the seminary, Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Residential Alternate Route (RAR). MDiv is the typical 3 year plus vicarage, Hebrew and Greek, with a Master’s Degree. RAR is a year shorter and reserved for older men, but still includes Greek, and has certification without a master’s degree. It was resolved that both MDiv nor RAR would be done in person, not online, and no online seminary degrees would be accepted to certify LCMS pastors. The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) is another track which is hybrid online and in person for very specific circumstances where the best option is to train and ordain a layman in the congregation. This route was also commended and strengthened for its own purposes, while also continuing to encourage further certification. This was all very positive – we will continue to support making well-trained Lutheran pastors at our seminaries.

- Universities - Two resolutions regarding the Concordia Universities encourage them to be more Lutheran as well. One encourages the university chapels to move toward the same services done in the congregations from the LSB hymnal. Another will continue to study and encourage “Lutheran identity” in the Concordia Universities. Many Christian colleges have drifted from their original identity, we want ours to be Lutheran, and a good place for Lutheran young people to study.

- Presidential Voting – The only resolution that wasn’t passed was on moving the election of the Synod President back to the convention. Up until 2010, the Synod president was elected at convention by the delegates. Since then, the elections have been online, with every congregation getting one lay vote and one pastoral vote. The convention decided not to take this away from the congregations. People complain about politicking, but as one delegate said, it’s not about what kind of system of democracy we have, but what is in our sinful hearts.

There were many more resolutions passed, presentations, opportunities for worship over the six days of convention. This is just a small sample of what I think is the most important.



A stray pigeon that flew into the convention center

NEWS AND NOTES

Manna: Order forms are available on Sunday, August 2, orders with payment are due on August 9, and orders can be picked up on August 16.

August Mission Offering: Concordia Seminary St. Louis

Reminder - Doors will be locked for safety after the opening hymn for our Sunday services. The elder on duty will be monitoring the doors for anyone who might show up after they are locked. You can also ring the doorbell if you can't get in. Thanks for your understanding.

Leave a Google Review - Help St. Paul's by leaving a positive review for our church on Google. Google is the first place many people will encounter a church, and having positive reviews from real people is very helpful. If you have a Google account, just look up the name "St. Paul's Lutheran Lockport" and leave a review.

Liturgical Banners - Pastor and the board of elders have approved the addition of banners in the season's liturgical color to beautify the worship space. These banners are green, which is the color of the Trinity season, symbolizing the growth of the church. The crosses on the banners symbolize Christ, that all growth is in Him. Each banner also has a symbol of a sacrament - the shell with three water drops for Holy Baptism, and the chalice and host for the Lord's Supper. It is through these means that we are born into and grow in the life of Christ.



AUGUST EVENTS

Lunch with Pastor: The next lunch with pastor will be held on Tuesday, August 11 at 11 am at George's Restaurant

Family Lunch – Will be Sunday, August 9 at Noon.



Paula Thomas	August 7
Shawn Murray	August 9
Daniel Campbell	August 13
Richard Bellas	August 14
Stephanie Fox	August 14
Angel Zavala	August 15
Christopher Antonetti	August 16
Alyssa Rada	August 17
Doris Peterman	August 25
Jade Rohder	August 28

Happy Baptismal Birthday

Linda Sanfilippo	August 1
Jean Lemke	August 3
Madelyn Nomura	August 3
Angel Zavala	August 5
Gavin Popadowski	August 8
Brooklynn Panka	August 9
Karin Antonetti	August 13
Stephanie Scott	August 14
Matthew Collier	August 28
Clare Mueller	August 28
Michael Saxon	August 31



August 29, 2020

Allan & Jeanette Luzbetak



August, 2026
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Lockport

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9 th Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult Bible class 1:05 pm Joliet Slammers Game Manna order forms available	3 8 am Morning Prayer 7 pm Elders meeting	4 8 am Morning Prayer	5 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs.	6 8 am Morning Prayer	7	8 8:30 am Trustee meeting 9 am Monthly Work Day
9 10 th Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult bible class Noon Family lunch	10 8 am Morning Prayer	11 8 am Morning Prayer 11 am Lunch with pastor 7 pm Church Council	12 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs	13 8 am Morning Prayer	14	15 9 am Long Range Planning meeting
Manna order forms with payment						
16 11 th Sunday after Trinity 7 am Coffee @ Dellwood Park 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult Bible class Manna orders ready for pickup	17 8 am Morning Prayer	18 8 am Morning Prayer	19 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs	20 8 am Morning Prayer	21	22
23 12 th Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult Bible class 6 pm Book of Concord	24 8 am Morning Prayer	25 11 am NICL	26 8 am Morning Prayer 8:30 am Pvt. Conf/Abs	27 8 am Morning Prayer 9-11 am Pastor Teaching High School @ Brookfield	28	29
30 13 th Sunday after Trinity 9 am Divine Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:40 am Adult Bible class	31 8 am Morning Prayer 7 pm Elders meeting 4:30 pm Long Range Planning meeting	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5



Baptism of Isla Evangeline Zavala by her grandfather, Rev. Jim Kress, on June 14

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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