

# SOUTH WISCONSIN

## DISTRICT

### THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD



## This Is Our Time

To be distinctly Lutheran  
To plant new congregations and schools  
To honor our Christ-centered vocations  
To embrace our communities

**The South Wisconsin District** is one of 35 districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) serving more than 80,000 baptized members in South Wisconsin. Elected, called, or appointed, we serve you as advisors and resources in support of your efforts to live out your calling to proclaim the Gospel within your congregation and into your community.

The **Office of the President** guides your pastor as he supervises the doctrine, life, and official administration of the ordained and commissioned ministers of the District.

The **Office of Mission & Mercy** supports your ministry in your outreach efforts, as the Holy Spirit equips you to be the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing a message of hope in the midst of hopelessness, help in times of helplessness, and life in the face of death.

The **Office of Education** nurtures the faith of your children by assisting you to operate schools through staffing resources, accreditation, state and federal advocacy, consultation, and professional growth opportunities.

The **Business Office** and **LCEF**, with access to other ministry partners, are your resources for day-to-day operational guidance.

***Confessing Christ for the Next Generation***

The South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a not-for-profit corporation and is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

# Your Gifts at Work...

as of Oct. 31, 2024

For Christ and for His world, SWD *magnifies* partnerships, *multiplies* ministries, and *maximizes* resources.

## In Service to Others

# 18

**Rev. John Wille** was born to eternal life in June having served as President of the South Wisconsin District for eighteen years.

**Rev. Eric Skovgaard** was elevated from his position as First Vice President and now serves the District and his own congregation Elm Grove (Elm Grove) concurrently through the next district convention in June 2025.

## Dominican Republic

# \$36,000

The District has a long history of supporting international mission work in the Dominican Republic and across Latin America and the Caribbean through direct funding and the resourcing of human capital as we encourage and attempt to subsidize travel as part of an education, construction, or other mission team visits.

[servenow.lcms.org](http://servenow.lcms.org) 

## Media Studio Sessions

# 28

In partnership with **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**, we extended an open invitation to churches, schools, and RSOs seeking to enhance their outreach through multimedia. Our *Media Studio* offers an environment for training and crafting engaging content tailored to the unique needs of ministries.

[swd.lcms.org/media](http://swd.lcms.org/media) 

## Christ-Centered Vocations

# 24

People have begun registering for our newly created *Vocational Directory* intended to build a network of LCMS business owners and skilled professionals within our membership so that they might share their expertise with congregations across South Wisconsin as we work to honor their Christ-centered vocations.

[swd.lcms.org/PRO](http://swd.lcms.org/PRO) 

## Micro-Grants

# \$74,184

Building on the successes from previous years, the District continued the micro-grant application process, inviting congregations and schools to request funds for unique ministry opportunities. So far this year, 39 micro grants have been awarded for various ministry initiatives; and more funds are available!

[swd.lcms.org/grants](http://swd.lcms.org/grants) 

## Campus Ministry

# +2

With the additions of **Rev. Alan Strawn** (UW) and **Rev. David Baker** (CUW), our campus ministry leadership is growing. Our various campus ministry teams met with district leaders from North Wisconsin and Iowa East for a convocation to align the efforts of campus ministry in the Midwest.

[swd.lcms.org/campus](http://swd.lcms.org/campus) 

# 199

Congregations

# 51

Elementary Schools

# 23

Preschools & ECCs

# 8

High Schools

## Congregational Compass

# 1→2→3

In partnership **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**, we have created a three-part journey to lead congregations through the *Mission-Insite* demographic study, a self-assessment of development and decline, and the *WHY Discovery* process. It is intended to help congregations better understand the community in which they have live and serve.

## Called to Serve

# 1

Long-time mission partnership grant recipient, **Rev. Samuel Lee** was ordained into the office of holy ministry in May and continued his specific ministry at Elm Grove Lutheran Church until he was Called to serve the District as Missionary for International Outreach in South Wisconsin.

## Student Aid

# \$61,170

Through various gifts and bequests and continued support from the **LWML-SWD**, by the end of the calendar year, we will have contributed toward the education of 49 future church workers at our Concordia Universities as well as the seminaries in Fort Wayne and St. Louis.

## Confessing Christ

# 5

Congregations in our District were blessed to receive seminarians into the pastoral ministry.

- **Rev. Luke Otten** (Christ the King & Holy Cross, Racine)
- **Rev. John Schober** (Risen Savior, Franklin)
- **Rev. Graham Jenkin** and **Rev. Christopher Sturges** (Divine Redeemer, Hartland)
- **Rev. Anthony Sedotto** (Grace, Menomonee Falls)

## Events

# @8100

In addition to our regular board and committee meetings, we host various events at the District Office including pre-seminary student interviews, meetings of our Mission Partners, Urban Pastors, LERT Volunteers, orientations for new teachers and pastors, pre-retirement workshops, training sessions for circuit visitors, and even a Pastor Appreciation lunch.

## The Next Generation

# 4

Our congregations welcomed vicars from our seminaries as they complete their pastoral training in the parish.

- **Vicar Zachary Benker** (Pella, Waupun)
- **Vicar Kyle Bliss** (St. Peters, Arlington)
- **Vicar Travis Galle** (Our Savior, Baraboo)
- **Vicar Josiah Junkin** (Faith, La Crosse)

## Micro School Initiative

# 11

**Rob Lunak** and Lutheran Neighborhood Schools welcomed 11 students this fall, spanning from kindergarten to 8th grade. It has been incredible to see how quickly the students have settled in, embraced new friendships, and tackled their studies with enthusiasm and curiosity.

myLNS.org 

## Church Plants in Motion

# 2

While **Rev. Joshua Benish** continues church planting efforts in Green County, **Rev. Jacob Eichers** and Faith, La Crosse partnered with the District and the LCMS Office of National Mission to lay groundwork for a mission start in Viroqua. Part of their current vicar's responsibilities include guiding a team of lay leaders through the *Church Planting Simplified Program*.

## Collaboration

# 250 & 850

We embraced the occasional opportunity to meet with our counterparts from the north. We hosted more than 250 active and retired pastors at a joint *Pastors' Conference* in Rothschild, WI and more than 850 teachers, principals, and other parish professionals at the triennial *North/South Teachers Conference* in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

### Congregation Support

# \$1.33M

Through the first three quarters of this fiscal year, our congregations have shared freely of more than \$1,337,000 of their precious resources and will likely surpass their own goal of \$1,672,000.

*(The current average unrestricted congregation support is \$19.95 per communicant member.)*

### Shared with Synod

# 25%

One-quarter of all unrestricted congregation support (which translates to fifteen percent of our total budgeted expense) is shared directly with Synod in addition to our continued support of the LCMS Office of International Mission's work in the Dominican Republic.

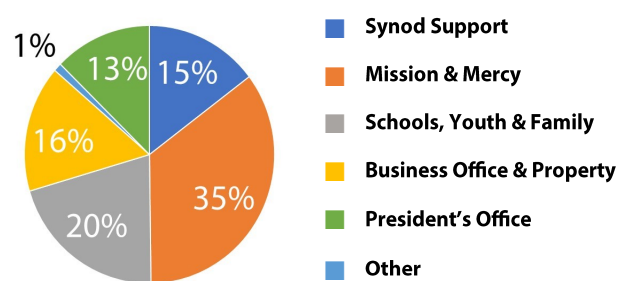
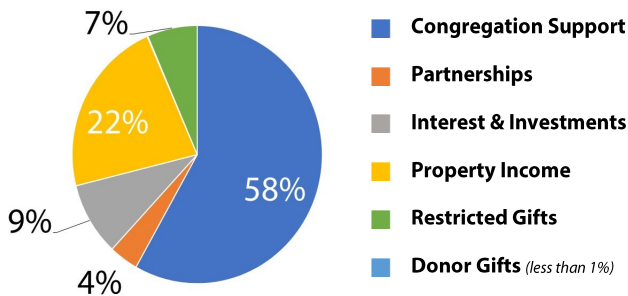
### Partnership Grants

# \$1.16M

We support partnerships to raise up and bolster strategic ministries, including international mission, campus ministry, specialized ministry (*deaf, community outreach, prison, ex-offender*), urban ministry, ethnic ministry (*Hispanic, Hmong, French African*), and church and school planting.

### 2024 Budgeted Income | \$3.21M

### 2024 Budgeted Expenses | \$3.17M



**SOUTH WISCONSIN**  
— D I S T R I C T —  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
8100 W Capitol Drive | Milwaukee, WI 53222

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# SUPPORT **SWD** TODAY!

[swd.lcms.org/donate](https://swd.lcms.org/donate)