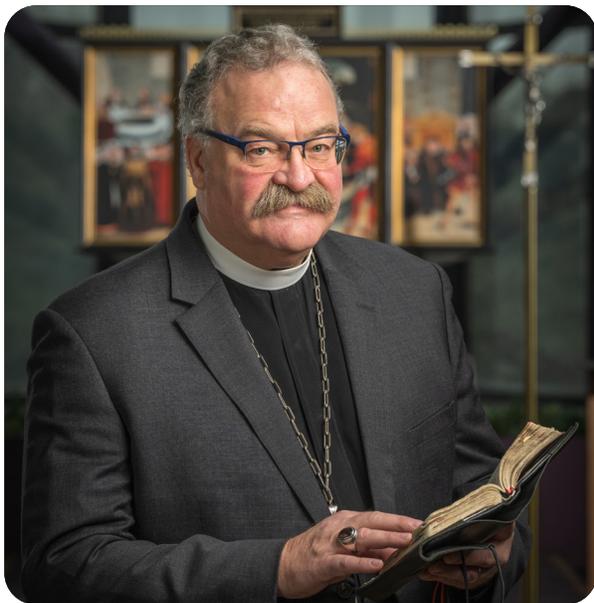


PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION



Whereas, God loves us and sent His Son to be our Savior; and

Whereas, Lutheran schools provide opportunities for teachers and students to teach and hear this Good News of God's love; and

Whereas, Jesus told His church: "I am the vine; you are the branches" (JOHN 15:5); and

Whereas, Students in Lutheran schools are the branches, connected to the Vine by their Baptism and faith; and

Whereas, Teachers in Lutheran schools are also the branches, connected to the Vine by their Baptism and faith; and

Whereas, "The branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine" (JOHN 15:4); and

Whereas, All who believe and are baptized abide in Jesus and by Him "bear much fruit" (JOHN 15:5); and

Whereas, Lutheran schools bear much fruit by teaching the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection for sinners; and

Whereas, Christ commanded His church, "to love one another as I have loved you" (JOHN 15:12),

Whereas, Every Christian repents daily, knowing that apart from Jesus we can do nothing (JOHN 15:5); and

Whereas, Jesus told His church, "Abide in me, and I in you" (JOHN 15:4); and

Whereas, Salvation by grace through faith because of Jesus comes through God's Word; and

Whereas, Through hearing God's Word each and every day, students and teachers in Lutheran schools abide in His love; and

Whereas, Lutheran schools carry on a legacy of excellence in preparing students to explore the manifold gifts of creation in all academic fields and to serve their neighbors in varying vocations and diverse careers; and

Whereas, During National Lutheran Schools Week, we rejoice that by God's grace and through God's Word we are "Connected" to Christ, who is the Vine; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Jan. 21–27, 2024, be officially proclaimed as National Lutheran Schools Week in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod