

REPORTS ON SYNOD ENTITIES AND AGENCIES



WE PREACH
CHRIST CRUCIFIED

1 Cor. 1:18-25



CHI MANAGES

- › The largest environmentally controlled archive of Lutheran history in North America.
- › The newly reformatted and expanded *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*, the longest-running journal of Lutheran history in North America.
- › A historic church and schoolhouse in Perry County, Mo., that showcase the life and faith of Lutherans in the 1800s.
- › A knowledgeable reference department to help with historical research and presentations for district, school and congregation anniversaries.
- › Museum exhibits, both permanent and traveling, that tell the history of Lutheran church bodies, leaders, schools, congregations and service organizations.
- › Online digital resources (concordiahistoricalinstitute.org).
- › CHI support staff for those researching and writing about Lutheran history in North America.

“HONORING OUR PAST—INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.”

For almost 100 years, Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) has been charged with preserving and proclaiming the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) at the national and international levels. CHI is also tasked with providing LCMS districts and congregations with resources to manage and archive historical documents. (LCMS *Handbook* 3.6.2)

Membership in the Director's Circle (\$100/month or \$1000/year) is a special way for districts to advance the cause of preserving and proclaiming the gracious history of Christ among us. Partner with us as we move Lutheran history forward — together.

CHI not only manages the largest archive of Lutheran history in North America, it seeks out historically important documents, photographs, artifacts and fine art, so that future generations might make informed decisions as they better understand the redeeming work of Christ in the life of districts and congregations. This is increasingly critical as more and more documents are being lost — especially those in the digital world.

CHI has also been charged to receive the official records of congregations closing. We strongly encourage district offices to partner with us in securing these legal records (and other historically significant documents) and send them to CHI for archiving when a congregation disbands.

In addition to cataloging and caring for a vast number of historical touchstones, CHI also trumpets them to our churches and communities in concert with district, school and congregational archivists and Lutheran history enthusiasts. CHI's entire archive catalog is now available online.

Please contact CHI to discuss how we can help manage the documents and artifacts under your care.

CONTACT INFO:

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St. Louis, MO 63105
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CONCORDIA PLANS

CPS AT A GLANCE

- › CPS is the trusted benefits and solutions partner for the LCMS, providing accountable stewardship of ministry dollars and navigating external economic factors through sound investment, program and vendor management since 1965.
- › As members of the Plans, LCMS workers and their families have an advocate supporting their well-being throughout their career and into retirement and beyond, helping them understand and use their benefits.
- › LCMS ministries have access through CPS to business solutions and complimentary consultative services that help ease the challenges of running a ministry.
- › CPS has a team of financial educators to help LCMS workers navigate personal financial challenges, manage debt, set savings goals and plan for a financially secure retirement, providing complimentary one-on-one consultations, webinars and more.
- › The mental health and well-being of LCMS workers is a priority for CPS, and we continue to evaluate and provide resources to help, like an enhanced Employee Assistance Program through Evernorth Confide with care navigators ready to assist Concordia Health Plan members and their families.
- › The wellness resources included with the Concordia Health Plan help workers be well so they can serve well, improving their health outcomes and quality of life through condition management, reduction of medications and surgeries, and more.
- › CPS helps seminary students and their families by providing financial education throughout their time as students as well as meeting and planning with them as they prepare to serve at their first call.

Concordia Plan Services (CPS) serves the LCMS by providing cost-effective, quality employee benefits and business solutions, freeing up time for ministry leaders and caring for their workers so they can focus on spreading the Word of God. Through CPS, which is a non-profit organization that manages self-insured employee benefits, ministries have access to resources and cost advantages that are typically only available to large companies.

As the LCMS benefits partner, CPS administers Concordia Plans, ensuring that benefits are aligned with our faith and Christian values, and reducing risks and concerns normally associated with administering employee benefits.

The plans include:

- Concordia Retirement Plan, which provides vested workers retirement income for life, and eliminates the investment risk for workers as well as the risk of outliving their savings that comes without a pension.
- Concordia Retirement Savings Plan (CRSP), which provides workers with the flexibility of contributing pre-tax, post-tax or both. These personal savings through the CRSP, along with the Concordia Retirement Plan pension and Social Security benefits, provide LCMS workers a path to a financially secure retirement.
- Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan, which provides benefits, income replacement and financial peace of mind through life's most challenging times.
- Concordia Health Plan, which offers multiple options to work within a ministry's budget while providing comprehensive coverage, benefits and resources designed specifically to care for church workers.

Additional resources for ministries and workers include risk management programs, worker wellness programs that support emotional, financial and physical health, and ancillary products including supplemental life insurance and services that support the way ministries do business, including payroll and HR support.

CONTACT INFO:

888-927-7526 (toll-free)
info@concordiaplans.org
concordiaplans.org



CPH AT A GLANCE

- › CPH is the world's largest and oldest continuously operated Lutheran publishing house.
- › Our resources are thoroughly edited for doctrinal faithfulness by going through Synod's doctrinal review process.
- › CPH resources have been translated into 170 languages and are used around the world.
- › We offer leading technology for church management and worship planning, and cutting-edge apps, including *The Lutheran Study Bible* app, InPrayer and Luther's Small Catechism.
- › CPH is the only publisher to have received the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.
- › Our customer service center has repeatedly won national awards for excellence.
- › We operate a state-of-the-art distribution center allowing us to reach customers in 2–3 days.

Concordia Publishing House is the official publishing arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). As such, we strive to be the premiere provider of resources that are faithful to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

We are passionate about the mission given by our Lord Jesus Christ to His church. We exist to strengthen and aid LCMS congregations, pastors, teachers and other church workers and the lay members of our congregations.

We partner with all agencies and entities of The LCMS at the congregational, district and national levels. We also serve tens of thousands of Christian congregations throughout the world. We highly value feedback and constantly seek it from those we serve.

CONTACT INFO:

Please visit our website to review all that we offer:

cph.org

Feel free to call our customer service center:
800-325-3040

DID YOU KNOW?

- › CUS campus communities regularly gather around Word and Sacrament in chapel services.
- › The CUS has over 32,000 students enrolled in graduate and undergraduate programs.
- › CUS institutions offer numerous programs in both on-ground and online learning formats.
- › Academic excellence and rigor are the hallmarks of Concordia higher education programs.
- › Numerous study abroad opportunities are offered throughout the system.
- › The institutions of the CUS engage students, their communities and the world with Christ.

BLESSINGS AND CHALLENGES

The Concordia University System is greatly blessed by the strong support of the members of congregations of the Synod. These saints regularly support the institutions with gifts of time, talent, treasure, prayers and by sending their children and grandchildren to enroll. The unity of the schools with the LCMS is also a great blessing to the schools. The greatest challenges facing the institutions are the shrinking population of LCMS young people who are available to enroll and the continual battle of issues of religious liberty.

The Concordia University System (CUS) is comprised of five universities with six residential campuses and several other locations throughout the United States. The programmatic offerings range from associate through doctoral degrees, allowing students to prepare for a variety of rostered church work vocations or pursue numerous other fields of study. The institutions of the CUS offer a range of online programs at all degree levels as well. Uniquely Lutheran, the CUS institutions are educating the future leaders of both the church and the world in a distinctly Christ-centered setting.

The commitment to boldly confess the Christian faith is seen in the introduction to the Lutheran Identity and Mission Outcome Standards (LIMOS) adopted by the CUS. This Lutheran identity, while expressed in a variety of ways, is nevertheless palpable from campus to campus and shapes how faculty and staff fulfill their vocations. Worship and Bible study take place regularly on all campuses. By God's grace, non-Christian students are catechized in the faith and receive Christ's gifts in Holy Baptism. Campus life and online offerings are both inextricably linked to the faith that makes each CUS campus distinctly Lutheran. The CUS is currently implementing a robust visitation process for each campus centered around Lutheran identity and LIMOS.

The purpose of the CUS is to provide Christ-centered education through the programs of the individual campuses. This purpose is a vital ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as the CUS assists in bringing the Word of Christ to those both inside and outside the Christian faith. This is true not only among the students in enrolled in academic programs, but also through the continued sharing of the Gospel by alumni throughout the world. The purpose of the CUS is ultimately to proclaim Christ in the often dark realms of higher education so that all may know that in Him “all things hold together”(COL. 1:17).

CONTACT INFO:

314-996-1252

cus.edu



LCEF AT A GLANCE

- As of April 2024, LCEF has \$2 billion in total assets and a loan portfolio of \$1.6 billion.
- Thousands of Lutheran investors allow LCEF to make a difference for thousands of LCMS ministries.
- LCEF offers customized, low-cost loans and ministry support services to LCMS ministries and rostered church workers.
- A partnership with LCEF is never just a financial transaction — it is a process that allows us to walk alongside LCMS ministries to support and strengthen them.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978.

What we do is simple. We invite Lutherans to invest with us. We then use those investments to help support the work of other LCMS individuals, congregations, schools and organizations through low-cost loans. It's Lutherans helping other Lutherans.

Because of this unique arrangement, LCEF never stops raising new investment dollars. In fact, there are times when that need is urgent. Current and future loan projections indicate there is a real need today as the demand for loans in the LCMS is showing no signs of slowing down anytime soon. LCEF wants to ensure that this momentum keeps going and that the Church enjoys the resources it needs to thrive, both today and far into the future.

LCEF has plenty of opportunities to earn good rates on a variety of products. But in addition to the attractive rates, there is another benefit of investing with LCEF: the ministry dividend, which is the joy you'll experience knowing your invested dollars are supporting LCMS projects that have an eternal impact.

CONTACT INFO:

800-843-5233

lcef.org

- LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.

LCMS FOUNDATION BY THE NUMBERS

- › The Foundation manages more than \$1.1 billion in assets that will eventually benefit ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- › About \$457 million of Foundation assets are in trust accounts or endowments created by past gifts. Another \$835 million are investment funds managed for congregations and other ministry organizations.
- › In 2023, the Foundation distributed \$38 million in matured estate gifts to LCMS ministries. It also assisted donors in writing new gift plans totaling \$139.5 million.
- › The Foundation's 22 gift-planning counselors work primarily through partnerships with congregations and districts.

The LCMS Foundation was created to provide Christian estate gift planning and to handle the receipt, management and investment of estate gifts. The work of the Foundation is for the entire church, serving both those who wish to give and those who receive the gifts of others.

The Foundation has four primary purposes:

- 1) providing planned giving services to LCMS members for the benefit of all ministries of the Synod;
- 2) providing investment management services for congregations and other LCMS ministries;
- 3) providing training to others in the LCMS on how to do charitable gift planning; and
- 4) receiving non-cash gifts, like land and securities, on behalf of any LCMS organization.

When the Foundation does its job well, both donors and ministries are blessed. Specifically, donors are assisted in using their God-given spirit of generosity to make the most effective gifts to ministries and their families, while ministries are supported through the creation of long-term funding sources, as well as by having the Foundation as a trusted steward to invest and grow those sources.

CONTACT INFO:

800-325-7912

lcmsfoundation.org



THE LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY WILL:

- › Provide information on impending legislation, government infringement and other matters of concern to LCMS members.
- › Create a direct LCMS presence in the nation's capital near other Lutherans and like-minded partners, helping to build coalitions and accomplishing more together than alone.
- › Provide a venue to facilitate the engagement of Lutheran youth in the public square as well as encourage vocations in government service or politics.
- › Offer input, information, education, advice and resources regarding four primary areas of focus in the public square: religious liberty, life, marriage, and educational freedom.
- › Actively engage in discussions, establish partnerships and work collaboratively, as appropriate, with individuals and groups in Washington, D.C.
- › Boldly and winsomely speak out on cultural issues in keeping with the doctrine and teachings of the LCMS.
- › Conduct "Champions For Liberty" events at LCMS congregations all across the country, build a Champions Network, preparing the Church and training its people to exercise their temporal liberties and Two Kingdom citizenship in service to the mission and ministry of the Gospel.

Nearly two centuries ago, those who would eventually form The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) came to the United States seeking the religious freedom guaranteed in our nation's Constitution. Today, that freedom is under continuous assault. That's why the LCMS is establishing the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) in Washington, D.C., the very epicenter of need for a compelling Christian witness in years to come.

The mission of the LCRL is to ignite and fuel a uniquely Lutheran response to increasing governmental intrusions, limitations and challenges to the Church while educating, encouraging and equipping LCMS members and organizations to take informed action in support of religious liberty, life, marriage, and educational freedom.

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LCRLfreedom.org



We are the credit union of the LCMS.

LutheranFCU: DID YOU KNOW?

- › LutheranFCU exists for members and organizations of the LCMS.
- › Individuals and organizations that use LutheranFCU benefit both themselves and the church.
- › Accounts at LutheranFCU are insured up to \$250,000 by the federal government.
- › LutheranFCU members can conduct transactions online or through mobile banking.

As *the* credit union of the LCMS, Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LutheranFCU) offers everyday banking and lending services to the people and organizations of the LCMS community. By providing a full range of financial products and services, LutheranFCU complements the investment-focused products and services of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Started and supported by the LCMS, we are proud to have a growing membership that chooses LutheranFCU as their day-to-day financial partner. Connected to more than 30,000 network ATMs and 5,000 network branches, LutheranFCU serves members in all 50 states, which means YOU!

LutheranFCU. *Good for You. Good for the Church.*

CONTACT INFO:

314-394-2790

844-430-1563 (toll free)

314-394-2799 (fax)

lutheranfcu.org

Old Latin School

DID YOU KNOW?

- › The OLS was established in 1564 as the city school for boys and shares much of Wittenberg's Reformation history.
- › You can gather your congregation or youth group to study where Luther walked, taught and preached!
- › On a tour? A service in our chapel is a powerful witness of our confession.
- › Considering a sabbatical? Book a longer stay at the OLS and enjoy using our reference library.
- › Browse our bookstore with many CPH titles as well as German books.

The International Lutheran Center at the Old Latin School offers an historic setting for Christ-centered worship, lodging and education for the many visitors and residents of Wittenberg.

In the very center of the birthplace of the Reformation, the Old Latin School is managed by the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg (ILSW). This German nonprofit organization is a partnership of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (SELK), and the International Lutheran Council (ILC). The ILSW is also a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS.

The Old Latin School provides a place for people to learn, grow, study, meet, retreat and experience the Gospel in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, home of the Reformation. Steps from St. Mary's City Church, we share our Lutheran heritage by confessing Christ in the local and international community. We invite all to come home to Reformation by exploring their Lutheran roots in Wittenberg.

CONTACT INFO:

oldlatinschool.org