

2015 District Convention Report – the New Jersey District

The 2014 New Jersey population was estimated to be 8,872,593 people, residing in 21 counties and 566 municipalities; with the following population distributions:

<u>Gender</u>	population	percentage
Female	4,542,551	51.20%
Male	4,330,042	48.80%

Age (median age = 39.4)

Homeland (Z)	2005-2025	1,104,163	12.44%
Millennial (Y)	1982-2004	2,589,637	29.19%
Gen X (13 th)	1961-1981	2,542,445	28.66%
Boomer	1946-1960	1,606,461	18.11%
Silent	1925-1945	888,259	10.01%
GI	1901-1924	141,627	1.60%

Racial/Ethnic

Asian		735,061	8.28%
Asian Indian	299,034		
Chinese	126,659		
Filipino	112,385		
Korean	95,325		
Black/African American		1,130,379	12.74%
White		5,255,539	59.23%
Hispanic/Latino		1,573,098	17.73%
Puerto Rican	437,977		
Mexican	219,073		
Cuban	84,946		
Pac Is/Am Indian		178,516	2.01%

Marital Status (Population 15+)

Never married	2,432,418	33.15%
Married	3,684,527	50.22%
Divorced	608,305	8.29%
Separated	141,188	1.92%
Widowed	470,785	6.42%

Employment Status (Population 16+)

Blue Collar	1,393,902	31.70%
White Collar	3,003,313	68.30%

<u>Household size</u>	population	percentage
1-person	817,600	25.20%
2-person	988,368	29.79%
3-person	563,397	17.37%
4-person	511,155	15.76%
5-person	234,017	7.21%
6-person	88,345	2.72%
7-or-more person	62,936	1.94%

Household income

Less than \$10,000	160,540	4.95%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	118,091	3.64%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	250,488	7.72%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	253,827	7.82%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	347,469	10.71%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	533,970	16.46%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	429,334	13.24%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	575,280	17.73%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	360,465	11.11%
\$200,000 or more	214,354	6.61%

As one surveys the religious landscape regarding those who reside in New Jersey, the population can be placed within these religious categories and preferences:

		2014	2004
Catholic & Orthodox		34.0%	39.2%
Catholic	33.5%		
Orthodox	0.5%		
Historic Mainline Protestant		16.8%	18.8%
Baptist	5.0%		
Congregational	1.5%		
Episcopalian/Anglican	1.9%		
Lutheran	2.6%		3.1%
Methodist	3.4%		
Presbyterian/Reformed	2.3%		
Other Protestant Denominations		6.7%	5.8%
Other Non-Christian Religious		10.9%	11.4%
Buddhism/Hindu/Sikh/Taoist	0.9%		
Islam/Baha'i	0.3%		
Judaism	7.9%		
Mormon	0.4%		
None/No Preference or Spiritual		31.2%	24.4%

The State of the New Jersey District – LC-MS

The New Jersey District comprises fifty-four congregations, with 12,096 baptized members and 9,862 communicant members and an average Sunday worship attendance around 4,075. Eleven congregations operate a preschool ministry, five congregations operate a preschool-kindergarten ministry, three congregations operate a preschool through second grade ministry; and one congregation operates a preschool through eighth grade ministry. As a Lutheran presence, we are almost invisible in a State that numbers nearly 9,000,000 residents (one out of every 5,000 residents is a LC-MS member).

We continue to see that many of our congregations are growing smaller in terms of both baptized and communicant membership; and that the average age of those who worship are getting older. We also know that this trend has been taking place for several years now, beginning already in the early 1980s. At present, of the fifty-four New Jersey District congregations, eight are close to closing their doors since their average worship attendance is below twenty now and another twelve to fifteen congregations worship below fifty members on an average Sunday morning.

The crisis situation in which we find ourselves is this: we no longer live in a church culture but in an un-church and de-church culture. This state of affairs both challenges and invites God's people to acquire and possess a proper ministry balance between edification and evangelism; most importantly, to become more missionary in our posture and orientation toward those who are not Christians.

Pressing Ministry Challenges

There are several ministry challenges that have presented themselves in our time:

Ministry challenges related to evangelism

- + up until the late 1970s, many LC-MS congregations grew as they welcomed and incorporated large waves of Lutheran immigrants when they entered the USA; they helped them get assimilated into this country, baptized their babies into the Christian faith, catechized these children and, hopefully when they grew up, they would marry a Lutheran spouse so that the cycle could be repeated into the next generation but now, in the 21st century,

how do we witness to, and evangelize, people “who are not like us” – a people who have built their lives upon non-Christian narratives, especially the growing segment of the population who have “no religious or spiritual preference (31.2% of NJ residents)”

- + the inability of God's people to proclaim the Gospel, and witness their Christian faith, with persons who are not Christians

- + we struggle to reach the younger generations with the Gospel (nearly 42% of NJ residents are under the age of thirty-three – Millennial and Homeland generations)

Ministry challenges related to becoming a mature disciple of Jesus Christ

- + for many within our congregations, their identity and mission is defined more by a “church member” mentality than by what the Scriptures have to say about “who they are in Christ” and “why they are in the world”¹
- + for many within our congregations, who grew up within the Lutheran church, they stopped studying the Scriptures at age thirteen or fourteen when they were confirmed

Ministry challenges related to our life together as the body of Christ

- + there has been an increasing erosion in denominational loyalty since the 1970s
- + we are struggling to pay our bills, compensate our called church workers, and maintain our physical plant/properties – let alone have significant dollars for the extension of His kingdom to the ends of the earth
- + the inability to teach and establish/enculturate the Christian faith in the lives of our children and grandchildren...this is evidenced in the significant gaps between:
 - + babies being born but never baptized
 - + babies baptized but not, as children, taught the faith
 - + babies baptized, children taught and confirmed in the faith, but refrain from attending worship and participating in congregational life once they have been confirmed
 - + babies baptized, children taught and confirmed in the faith and who remain faithful until they leave home for post-secondary education or a first job, and then fail to stay active in a relationship with Jesus Christ and His church
- + 25% to 33% of our congregational members worship on any given Sunday; with the majority of His people not gathering for worship on Sunday

¹ The Scriptures use many different words to help us understand who we are in Christ: disciple, priest, witness, servant, steward, living letter, temple of the Holy Spirit, salt, light, etc. For example, a disciple is a believer in Jesus Christ who is an active student of God’s Word, building one’s life on the words and practices of Jesus Christ – someone who is stamped and fashioned in the mold of Jesus Christ and is a living witness to Him. Jesus identified two marks of a disciple: if you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples (Matthew 7:24-27; John 8:31-32); and if you love one another (John 13:34-35).

Ministry challenges related to living out our Christian faith before a watching world

- + we have many ex-neighborhood congregations that were established by Northern European ethnic peoples who were raised within, or were very familiar with, the Lutheran faith; however, most of these ethnic groups no longer reside in the neighborhood in which our congregations are located and we do not know how to minister to, and connect with, our new neighbors
- + how to communicate the Biblical message in oral, print, broadcast and digital culture; and how to use social media effectively for social engagement and ministry in the “public square”
- + how to overcome, and speak into, a culture that perceives and judges the Christian faith to be irrelevant in answering the big questions, and dealing with the day-to-day problems, that people have in, and with, life

What Is Our Reflective Response to This Present Reality?

From the very beginning of time and human history, God’s fundamental mission is to save humankind; for God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of their salvation in Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:4). So that His mission might be accomplished in the lives of all peoples, God has entrusted His people with four ministries.

- + **an evangelistic ministry**, as they seek to evangelize large numbers of non-Christians through their life of witness and Gospel proclamation and bring them, by God’s grace, to faith in Jesus Christ

Motivated by His love, and possessing an urgency that none perish but that all people might be saved, each disciple of Jesus vigorously seeks to make known His love for all people as they share the Good News about Jesus with those who do not believe in Him. They understand that they are the ones who have been sent by God into the lives of their family members, neighbors, friends and acquaintances as “fishers of men” and “sowers of the Word of God” so that they, by God’s grace and activity, might come to saving faith in Him.

- + **a maturational ministry**, as they grow up into Christ, who is the Head of the body, and become mature disciples of Jesus, who are also His stewards, servants, priests, witnesses, salt, light, and living letters

A disciple is a believer in Jesus Christ who is an active student of God’s Word, building one’s life on the person and word of Jesus Christ and being stamped and fashioned in the mold of Jesus Christ as an imitator and living witness to Him. Being a wise and mature disciple, they are committed to hearing the words of Jesus and putting them into practice (Matthew 7:24-27) so that they might grow up into Him in every way

(Ephesians 4:11-16) and be sufficiently equipped, as a mature follower of Jesus, for their ministry in the lives of other people, both believers and non-believers.

- + as His stewards, they seek to use all of the gifts that He has given them to prosper His business;
- + as His witnesses, they seek to speak and live in such a way that others can easily see that they have been with Jesus and that Jesus lives in them;
- + as His priests, they pray for believers and non-believers before the throne of God frequently and fervently and, as they face others in their daily contacts and relationships, they become His instrument of counsel and consolation and blessing in their lives;
- + as His servants, they empty themselves as did their Master and Lord (John 13:2-17; Philippians 2:5-11) so that others might be served;
- + as His salt, they are to live in such a way that this corrupt world is challenged with His abundant life and convicted to embrace a living way filled with hope and health;
- + as His light, they have been sent to do good works so that others may see these caring and loving works and glorify the Father who is the giver of every good gift and the Father of all light;
- + as His living letters, they desire that their words and actions are “read” in such a way by others that they would see Jesus living in them (Acts 4:12-13; Galatians 2:20)
- + **an organic ministry**, as they are connected to each other in relationships that live out the “one another” admonitions of the New Testament, with each believer using his or her gifts for the building up of the body and for the common good

A disciple does not live his or her life in isolation from other disciples since they are the body of Christ, each one connected to Him, and to one another, as His members. Consequently, they come together often to praise God for calling and gathering them into His family and making them to be His people. As they come together, they seek to hear and know the Word of God so that they might tell it to others and live it in their lives. In their life together, they understand that each believer is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and serves as His instrument of blessing that counsels, consoles, encourages and builds up each other in the Christian faith and His way of life together.

As they journey together in this life, and toward their eternity with God and His people, they are committed to be a blessing to each member of the body as they have an equal concern for one another, pray for one another, love one another, honor one another, serve one another, forgive one another, and give their lives for one another.

- + **an incarnational ministry**, so that wherever they go, and to whomever they come into contact with, they are able to be His ambassadors and living letters, making known His mind and word and demonstrating His love, concern and compassion for others;

Every believer has a mission and is being sent by God to “go and make disciples of all nations and peoples. “ This mission is to permeate all of their lives and acts of living; in these daily mission trips, we are to make known His heart and word in the lives of others and demonstrate His love, concern and compassion for all kinds of people.

New Jersey District -- Four Desired Outcomes:

The New Jersey District Board of Directors has identified four desired outcomes that guide the ministry labors of the District President in his relationship with the professional church workers and congregational members of the New Jersey District congregations. The four desired outcomes are²:

- + to equip people in New Jersey District congregations for Christian leadership (Synodical emphasis: life together)
 - + Transforming Churches Network learning communities (Rev. Dave Born)
 - + Best Practices in Ministry conference
 - + Wiki Conference on “Apostolic-Style Leadership”
 - + “A Day with the Presidents”
 - + Spring and Fall Pastors’ Conferences
 - + Doxology (Dr. Harold Senkbeil)
 - + “Pastoral Leadership in a Post-Church Culture” (Dr. Bob Newton)
 - + “Congregational Ministry in a Post-Church Culture” (Dr. Bob Newton)
 - + “Coaching Seminar” (Rev. Scott Gress)
 - + “The Divine Drama” (Dr. Reed Lessing)
 - + Lutheran Educators’ Conference (NJD Staff Caren Vogt)

² Listed under each of the desired outcomes are various equipping events that were offered in order to form His servants for their ministry labors.

- + to equip people in New Jersey District congregations for Christian leadership (Synodical emphasis: life together)
 - + “Practical Pastoral Leadership” (Dr. David Peter, June 25-26, 2015)
 - + “Lay Leadership Team Formation” (Dr. David Peter, June 27, 2015)
 - + “The Parables of Jesus: living under Him in His kingdom” (Dr. Jeff Kloha, May 6-7, 2016)
 - + “Surprising Stories: Jesus’ parables and the reign of God” (Dr. Jeff Gibbs, June 16, 2016)
 - + “Discipleship in Matthew” (Dr. Jeff Gibbs, June 17-18, 2016)

- + church workers who are spiritually mature, professionally competent and living a healthy family life (Synodical emphasis: life together)
 - + family friendly partners network (three year ministry relationship with Dr. Ben Freudenburg, beginning the fall of 2015)
 - + assessing family needs
 - + parents as “faithshapers”
 - + training in “pre-marriage” and “post-marriage” ministry
 - + parenting through the lifespan
 - + human sexuality
 - + non-nuclear families
 - + adulthood and aging
 - + “Pastoral Leadership in a Post-Church World” (Dr. Bob Newton)
 - + “The Divine Drama” (Dr. Reed Lessing)
 - + Doxology training (Dr. Harold Senkbeil)
 - + Lutheran Educators’ Conference (NJD Staff Caren Vogt)
 - + “Recent Trends in Preaching” (Dr. David Schmitt)
 - + Confessional Preaching
 - + Kerygmatic Preaching
 - + Transformational Preaching through Narrative and Image
 - + Dialogical Preaching
 - + “Practical Pastoral Leadership” (Dr. David Peter, June 25-26, 2015)

- + church workers who are spiritually mature, professionally competent and living a healthy family life (Synodical emphasis: life together)
 - + “The Parables of Jesus: living under Him in His kingdom” (Dr. Jeff Kloha, May 6-7, 2016)
 - + “Surprising Stories: Jesus’ parables and the reign of God” (Dr. Jeff Gibbs, June 16, 2016)
 - + “Discipleship in Matthew” (Dr. Jeff Gibbs, June 17-18, 2016)
 - + “Pastor as Teacher” (Dr. Marv Bergman, October 31 – November 2, 2016)
- + to equip members of New Jersey congregations for their outreach ministries and to enable them to bring saving faith to the unchurched residents of New Jersey (Synodical emphasis: witness)
 - + “Pastoral Leadership in a Post-Church Culture” (Dr. Bob Newton)
 - + “Congregational Ministry in a Post-Church Culture” (Dr. Bob Newton)
 - + “Pastor as an Evangelist” (Dr. Richard Bliese)
 - + “Serving the World as an Evangelistic Church” (Dr. Richard Bliese)
 - + “Gospel Witness in North America” (Dr. Robert Kolb)
 - + “Strategies for Evangelism” (Dr. Robert Kolb)
 - + “Our Life and Mission as an Evangelistic Church” (Dr. Leonard Sweet)
- + to encourage New Jersey congregations in their social and human care ministries (Synodical emphasis: mercy)

The following statements describe core, strategic focuses that will guide the New Jersey District during the next triennium as we seek to fulfill the Lord’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-49) and Great Commandment (Matthew 25:31-45; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-12, 19-21).

Ten Strategic Focuses:

- Focus #1: a District-wide process that addresses the pressing issues and adaptive challenges that are facing NJD Professional Church Workers and New Jersey District congregations

- + fifteen to twenty NJD pastors meet eight times a year in order to discuss assigned readings and to acquire those skills connected with adaptive leadership
- + part-time District staff counsel NJD congregational leaders in a three-part adaptive process that equips them to...
 - + clearly state the pressing issues and adaptive challenges that they are facing as a congregation
 - + think biblically and theologically about these issues and challenges -- what do the Scriptures have to say about these things (since all theology and ministry practices are normed by Scripture)
 - + formulate a ministry plan that is congregationally owned and constructed; a plan that identifies the next steps to be taken as it seeks to address these issues and challenges

Focus #2: connecting and networking with one another through a Day with the Presidents and monthly Learning Communities, as we form and equip ourselves for ministry in the 21st century

- + twice a year the District President convenes a Saturday meeting for the congregational presidents of the New Jersey District so that we might grow in our leadership skills and abilities, mutually encourage each other in their leadership labors, and discuss ways in which they can address the pressing issues that they are facing in our respective congregations
- + pastors are invited to attend a learning community led by Rev. Dave Born on adaptive leadership

Focus #3: identifying twenty-five to thirty pastors for potential pastoral ministry service in New Jersey congregations; they will be the next generation of pastoral leaders to shape the District's ministry culture and lead it into the future

- + usually eight to twelve names are shared with a calling NJD congregation for their consideration by the District President; these names are provided in addition to the pastoral candidates who have been identified and nominated by the congregation

- Focus #4: strengthening New Jersey District congregations through equipping resources and events that are based upon their needs, along with the onsite or online ministry of specialized District staff plus the ministry curriculum of the *New Jersey District Leaders and Learners* program
- + 2012
 - + “Building Bridges into the Community” (Rev. David Born)
 - + “Introduction to Scripture” (Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn)
 - + 2013
 - + “Hermeneutics” (Rev. Paul Kritsch)
 - + “Congregational Prayer Ministry” (Rev. Jim Buckman)
 - + “Homiletics” (Rev. Robert Holsten)
 - + “Leadership Development” (Rev. Jim Buckman)
 - + “Introduction to the New Testament” (Rev. Stephen Vogt)
 - + 2014
 - + “Lutheran Worship” (Rev. Dr. David Rowold)
 - + “Romans” (Rev. Dennis Bottoms)
 - + “The Stories of God” (Dr. Robert Kolb)
 - + “Introduction to the Old Testament” (Rev. Robert Holsten)
 - + “The Divine Drama” (Dr. Reed Lessing)
 - + “Digital Ministry” (NJ Staff Caitlin Dinger)
 - + “The History of the Christian Church” (Dr. Anthony Steinbronn)
 - + 2015
 - + “Lutheran history 1500 to the present” (Rev. Stephen Vogt)
 - + “Recent Trends in Preaching” (Dr. David Schmitt)

Focus #5: extending His Kingdom through the formation of mission leaders

In 2007, Mission Executive Anthony Steinbronn designed curriculum for the formation of mission leaders; there are six core courses:

- + *The Mission of God*
 - + core missiological question: what would be involved in a genuinely missionary encounter between God's Word and this Modern and Postmodern culture
- + *Discipleship in the New Testament*: ("who we are in Christ" and "why we are in the world")
 - + core ecclesiastical question: the Great Commission lays a double obligation upon His people: (1) the strengthening of present disciples in their already existing discipleship and (2) reaching out to those who are not yet disciples with the hope that they will become His disciples...for the entire mission and ministry of a Christian congregation must be geared toward fostering discipleship and discipling (Matthew 28:18-20)
- + *"Body Life" as the Body of Christ, with Christ Being the Head*
 - + a theology of body life and leadership (OT and NT stories of godly leaders; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-16)
 - + the words and practices of Jesus so that His people might be equipped to...
 - + answer the big questions that every person has in life with soteriological and hermeneutical wisdom (2 Timothy 3:14-17)
 - + examine and discern the condition of the lamp stand (Rev. 2-3)
 - + foster an organic, healthy body life as the Body of Christ
 - + interact with the nations so that they might bring some to a saving knowledge of God's grace in the person of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
 - + remember who God is and what God has done for us and for all people

- + remember who they are (identity) and why they are in the world (vision/purpose)
 - + use their lives to prosper the Master's business of making disciples
 - + reach out to others with the narratives of Scripture so that they can help those who do not know God's story to make sense of their story in light of His saving story
 - + guard and keep the one true apostolic faith
 - + be able to test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1-6)
 - + live out a biblical spirituality grounded in prayer (oratio), meditation upon Scripture (meditatio), and life's struggles and temptations (tentatio)
 - + be faithful and fruitful stewards of the Gospel and of His many physical blessings, so that they might be a blessing to the nations through their Gospel proclamation along with their deeds of love and compassion within the body of Christ and in the world
 - + communicate His Word and His way of life through their words and actions
 - + be formed and shaped through the daily, intentional, socialization of the Christian faith in Christian homes and in the ministries of the church
- + *Biblical Anthropology and Culture Learning*
- + the study of human beings – and how they have been scripted through the process of enculturation
 - + the root myth and root metaphors of the Modern and Postmodern Condition
 - + culture learning through the study of philosophy, art and architecture
 - + culture learning through the study of music, literature and the movies

- + *Worldviews*
 - + introduction to the concept of worldview, along with exploring one's own personal worldview
 - + possessing a Biblical worldview, along with defining the essential characteristics of the true and false church
 - + worldview summaries of the major non-Christian world religions that originated in the East: Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam; along with identifying barriers to, and bridges for, Gospel communication within these religious "life-ways"
 - + worldview summaries of the major non-Christian world religions and ideologies that originated among ancient man and in the West: Animism, Peasant, Marxism, Modern and Postmodern; along with identifying barriers to, and bridges for, Gospel communication within these religious "life-ways"
- + *Fostering Revitalization and Mission Movements*
 - + God's vision, and His cultural blueprint, for His people
 - + what processes are needed to transmit this cultural blueprint, and to socialize/enculturate this way of living, so that it is embraced/indwelt by the congregational membership and lived out in their daily life, behaviors, and relationships with others

Focus #6: the formation of urban vicars for labor in densely urban congregational and mission contexts

- + at its April 2015 BOD meeting, 420k was authorized to be spent in order to contract an urban vicarage supervisor who would oversee the formation and ministry labors of urban vicars and help revitalize NJD congregations located in the greater Newark area (along with Trenton)
- + the funding for this ministry initiative came through a legacy request made by the leadership of Our Savior Lutheran Church, North Bergen, when it closed

Focus #7: design and establish a "restart" model for densely urban and suburban congregational ministry

- + one-third of NJD congregations worship less than fifty people on an average Sunday morning so how can we strengthen the Word and Sacrament ministry in these congregations
- Focus #8: exploring and embracing the counsel and practices of our ascended Lord, made known through His special servants, given to equip His people for their work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- + the Church is always in need of receiving the correcting and reforming words of Jesus so that they can, in every age and context, be a mature, fully informed, formed, and equipped body of Christ
- Focus #9: developing a process to interface with, and ministry to, “at-risk” congregations so that they might experience a new chapter of ministry
- + there are nine NJD congregations that worship less than thirty people, most of them in densely urban contextual settings so how can we strengthen the Word and Sacrament ministry in these congregations
- Focus #10: exploring creative and innovative ways of ministry configurations at the congregational and circuit levels through strategic partnerships
- + so what do I mean when I talk about “strategic partnerships”
 - + approximately one-third of our congregations are “stand alone” congregations; that is, they can fully compensate a pastor and fund their congregational ministry without receiving additional income from non-congregational sources
 - + one of these “stand-alone congregations” could partner with a smaller congregation so that, over the next couple of years, they could strengthen the smaller congregation
 - + this model has been done in several places throughout the Synod, with some very good outcomes
 - + two or more congregations could come together in order to start a new church with a new name – each congregation decides to sell its facilities and find a new location (which is either rented or purchased) – successful mergers have the same life expectancy of a new church plant

- + two congregations resolve to be served by one pastor – the churches come together and reach agreement on worship times, office hours and ministry expectations for the pastor and how much each congregation will contribute towards the salary and benefits for the pastor – because each church is now served part-time by a pastor (thereby reducing the financial costs to each congregation), additional funds could be made available to call another part-time church worker for specialized ministry such as a “director of Christian education” or a ”director of Christian outreach”
- + five congregations located in a circuit or region could “covenant” together so that they are served by three full-time pastors (along with the possible additional of other specialized staff)
- + a congregation resolves to close, entrusting its assets to the District so that this asset might be stewarded for new ministry elsewhere; for example, St. Luke, Elizabeth & Our Savior, North Bergen)

In closing, the Professional Church Workers and Congregations of the New Jersey District have been, and continue to be, richly blessed by these very special servants:

- + Suzanne Bottoms
 - + Professional Church Worker and Family Care
- + Rev. Jim Buckman
 - + Congregational Prayer Ministry
 - + Congregational Mercy Ministry
 - + Summer Urban Mission Teams
- + Caitlin Dinger
 - + District Communications
 - + Internet, Website & Social Media
 - + Children, Youth & Family Ministry
 - + Volunteer Training and Support
- + Susie Herzberg
 - + Professional Church Worker and Family Care

- + David Hildebrandt
 - + Stewardship Programs
 - + A Day with the Presidents
 - + Property Management
 - + Congregational Visitation/Consultation & Coaching
 - + Sandy Response Coordinator

- + Rev. Paul Huneke
 - + A Day with the Presidents
 - + Congregational Visitation/Consultation & Coaching
 - + Church Worker Wellness

- + Rev. Dick Izzard
 - + A Day with the Presidents
 - + Congregational Visitation/Consultation & Coaching
 - + Church Worker Wellness

- + Elaine Schleifer
 - + LC-MS Roster & Statistics
 - + Program, Project & District Staff Support
 - + Administrative Assistant to the District President

- + Rev. Anthony Steinbronn
 - + District President

- + Caren Vogt
 - + Lutheran Schools, Preschools & Early Childhood
 - + Rostered Teachers

- + Bill Webster
 - + Financial Budgeting & Reporting
 - + District Payroll & Business Manager
 - + Asset & Vendor Management

As with the Christians in the 1st century, we have this good work that is ours in Christ Jesus and He is the One working through us to accomplish His saving intentions toward all people. Therefore we can rejoice in this “partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a work in you will carry it to completion until the Day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:3-6).

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn
District President, New Jersey District, LC-MS