



PACIFIC
SOUTHWEST
DISTRICT
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Shepherding with Hope in Difficult Seasons

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:27

There is So Much Pressure

Pressured to make your pulpit a platform?



Article Title: **Can Churches Get Political? What Church Leaders Need to Know**
From *Church Law & Tax*, August 2026

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

But as for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5

- Keep your head under pressure, refuse to let panic or false teachings cloud your judgment.
You know they're just myths.
- There is pain and mistreatment that comes with ministry – don't quit.
- Stay focused on proclaiming Christ
- Leave nothing undone – satisfy completely



Invidious – The Hidden Costs of Longterm Leadership

Guard Your Hearts – Protect Your Marriage

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” Prov. 4:23 (ESV)

“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. (NLT)

“Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well... Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth.”

Prov. 5:15, 18

Thank God for the AMAZING PSD Team



Every year the PSD Team makes
1,000s of contacts
100s of visitations

to “effectively resource congregations and schools for
transforming lives and making the Great Commission REAL!”

PSD CALLING CONGREGATIONS – September 2026

1. Arrowhead, Mt. Calvary	P	Call extended
2. Blythe, Zion	P	Orientation completed
3. Cerritos, <u>Concordia</u>	P	Part-time vacancy pastor
4. Chandler, Risen Savior	Exec P & Assoc	Working with first list
5. Downey, Messiah	P	Seeking God's direction
6. Encinitas, St. Mark	P	Working with a third list
7. Glendale, Atonement	Assoc P	Call declined
8. Hacienda Heights, Holy Trinity	P	Working with a first list
9. La Jolla, CA, ULC	P	Awaiting a third list (2 nd call declined)
10. Lake Havasu City, Lamb of God	P	Working with a second list
11. Las Vegas, First Good Shepherd	P	Working with a first list
12. Long Beach, Bethany	<u>SrP</u>	Restarting in the fall
13. Menifee/Sun City, CA, Good Sh.	P	Working with first list
14. Palmdale, First	P	Call orientation completed
15. Phoenix, St. Paul	P	Working with a list
16. Ridgecrest, Our Savior	P	Working with a second list
17. San Diego, Hope	Hispanic	Call orientation completed
18. Santa Ynez	P	Call Orientation completed
19. Sun City West, Crown of Life	<u>SrP</u>	Call declined
20. Temecula, Trinity	P	Multiple declines, awaiting a new list



LCMS Vacancy Report

CATEGORY	9/2026	9/2025	9/2024	9/2023
• Calling a sole pastor	454	440	413	447
• Calling a senior pastor	52	52	54	59
• Calling an assoc/asst	82	56	63	65
• TOTAL Calling Congs	588	548	530	571
• Congs served part-time	641	785	630	569
• New Starts	13 (+5)	3	5	7
• Congs closed	28	13	16	14

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Definition of a New Church Start

An intentionally organized gathering which

- comes together on a regular basis for worship and/or Bible study, (Sacramental activity may not yet have begun)
- is *intended* to grow into a member LCMS congregation.

The term “New Church Start” replaces the terms “mission congregation” and “preaching station,” which were used previously.



SMP APPLICATION POLICY

1. SMP applicants must have **membership and significant service in an LCMS congregation for at least the last 5 years. (*)**
2. SMP applicants must have membership in the **congregation of placement or a nearby congregation, for at least the last 3 years. (*)**
3. SMP applicants must be at least **40 years old. (*)**
4. Prospective SMP applicants will be directed from the beginning of the process to seminary admissions counselors for clarification regarding the nature of the SMP program and for exploration of the possibilities of residential seminary study. **A visit to the campus of one of the LCMS seminaries will be strongly encouraged.** Congregations should not act or vote to approve a man for SMP service before he has confirmed his willingness to enter the SMP program after consultation with one or both of the LCMS seminaries.

SMP APPLICATION POLICY

5. As part of the SMP application process, congregations in which and supervising pastors under which SMP students will be learning will affirm their ready willingness to **teach and practice according to our Synod's doctrines and resolutions.**

6. Seminary admissions will give priority to SMP applicants who will serve congregations **that could otherwise not receive Word and Sacrament ministry. (Admission Rankings)**

7. **Congregations and districts should pledge themselves to be responsible for the funding of the student's program** (if feasible in the circumstance) to create a clear sense of their involvement, fully considered commitment and valuing of the SMP pastor's program of study and service.



SMP APPLICATION POLICY

8. Ongoing supervision of SMP pastors throughout their careers of ministry will be formalized, defined, documented (i.e., on LCMS Church Worker Locator, Pastoral Information Forms) and required for continued rostered SMP status.

Commitment to long-term supervision will be explicitly acknowledged and planned by the student and by the congregation, circuit and district from the beginning of the program and shall be the responsibility of the district president and the SMP pastor to arrange and document on a continuing basis.



SMP Exceptions (Policy Items #1-3)

1. The DP completes a SMP Admission Exception Form which identifies:
 - a. Candidate name
 - b. District President Requesting the Exception
 - c. Which of the three possible exceptions are being requested
 - d. Provide information about the candidate
 - e. Provide information about the congregation(s) to be served
 - i. General information
 - ii. Worship practice (The Ordo)
 - iii. Communion Practice (Close(d) Communion)
 - f. Provide information about the SMP Supervisor
 - g. Why SMP is the right option for this man and congregation

Exemptions are granted by a majority vote and recommended to the seminaries. Seminaries retain final admission decision.



General Pastor Certification (GPC)

2026 Resolution 6-07

(final) WHEREAS, Many specific ministry pastors desire to pursue GPC but are limited due to financial constraints and limits on access to needed classes; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod encourage specific ministry pastors to pursue hybrid GPC, the RAR Program, or the M.Div.; and be it further

Resolved, That the **pastors' congregation(s), district, and seminary work collaboratively to fund all tuition and fees for specific ministry pastors pursuing GPC;** and be it further

Resolved, That the seminaries work in partnership with each other and prospective GPC candidates to **accommodate the schedules of students (evening courses, intensive classes, etc.)**

GPC requires 1-year of Greek



SMP and GPC Funding in PSD

SMP/GPC Tuition = \$12,000 per year (only program w/ no scholarship)

PSD 2027 Board Designated SMP/GPC Fund of \$40,000

10 Scholarships at \$4,000 per year (increasing annually)

SMP funding = Congregation (Student) and District

GPC funding = Congregation, Seminary, District



PSD Students - All Seminary Pathways

<u>ST. LOUIS</u>	Enrolled	Applic.	FORT WAYNE	Enrolled	Applic.
MDiv	14	3	Mdiv	6	1
SMP	5	4	SMP	1	
CMC	11	0			
CHS	1	0			
EIIT	0				
Deaconess	3	1			

TOTAL PASTORS ENROLLED 2026-2027 38

TOTAL DEACONESSES ENROLLED 2026-2027 3

PENDING ENROLLMENTS 2027-2028 8 (+ 1 Dec.)



SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT





Celebrating 50 Years of
partnership in preparing
workers for the harvest.

TONIGHT!



Some DP Goals

1. Targeted Resourcing of congregations and schools – Team Project

- *Christ Lutheran Church and School, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA*
- *Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Rancho Cucamonga, CA*
- *Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Anthem, AZ*
- *Lamb of God Lutheran Church and School, Las Vegas, NV*
- *Zion Lutheran Church and School, Anaheim, CA*



Some DP Goals

1. Targeted Resourcing of congregations and schools
2. **Lutheran Middle Eastern Ministry Center, El Cajon (San Diego)**



Some DP Goals

1. Targeted Resourcing of congregations and schools
2. Lutheran Middle Eastern Ministry Center, El Cajon (San Diego)
3. **Director of Development**



Director of Development

Welcome to Todd Moritz (August start)

CPA, CEO of Milwaukee Lutheran HS Assoc. and Orange Lutheran High School, PLI Director of Development, Creator and Director of LuTEC

- 1) At least 75% of PSD congregations are contributing annually to the district by June 2028.
- 2) Increase PSD congregational giving, reclaim those who have stopped.
- 3) Develop a group of individual donors who regularly contribute to the general fund or special projects of PSD.
- 4) Work with the LCMS Foundation to establish a pathway through which individuals can include PSD in their estate planning and report that they have done so.



Director of Development

The Good News:

The number of congregations giving is up in 2026.

64% of congregation now support the work of your District. Thank you!

The Challenge:

The amount given was down over \$200,000 last year.

35% of congregations have not made a gift in three years.

We want your support. We need your support. Your support makes a difference. Watch for a funding appeal coming in November.



District Mission Council

Thank you to Pastor Aaron Smith, Grace, Escondido and the team!

PSD Mission Budget

- \$150,000 annually in sustaining grants for immigrant ministries
- \$400,000 annually in mission grants - reviewed/approved 2x each year
- Three tiers: Innovation (up to \$5,000); Incubation (up to \$20,000),
Impact (up to \$50,000)

September 2026 – DMC approved \$106,000 in grants

THAT'S A LOT OF MISSION DOLLARS LEFT ON THE TABLE



District Finances

The last 3 years of Audited Financial Reports are available on the District website.

<https://www.psd-lcms.org/about>

**Outstanding work of the PSD Financial Team for completely
CLEAR Audit Reports 4 YEARS IN A ROW!**

No comments by the auditing agency



Some DP Goals

1. Targeted Resourcing of congregations and schools
2. Lutheran Middle Eastern Ministry Center, El Cajon (San Diego)
3. Director of Development
4. **Break ground on RES Solutions Projects: Norwalk and Riverside.
New planters/workers in place prior to groundbreaking
(4th qtr. 2027)**





NORWALK SITE

ROSECRANS AND CLARKDALE



Sindhu Center

St Paul Lutheran Church

Wee Care Montessori

ROSECRANS AVE. NORWALK

Google

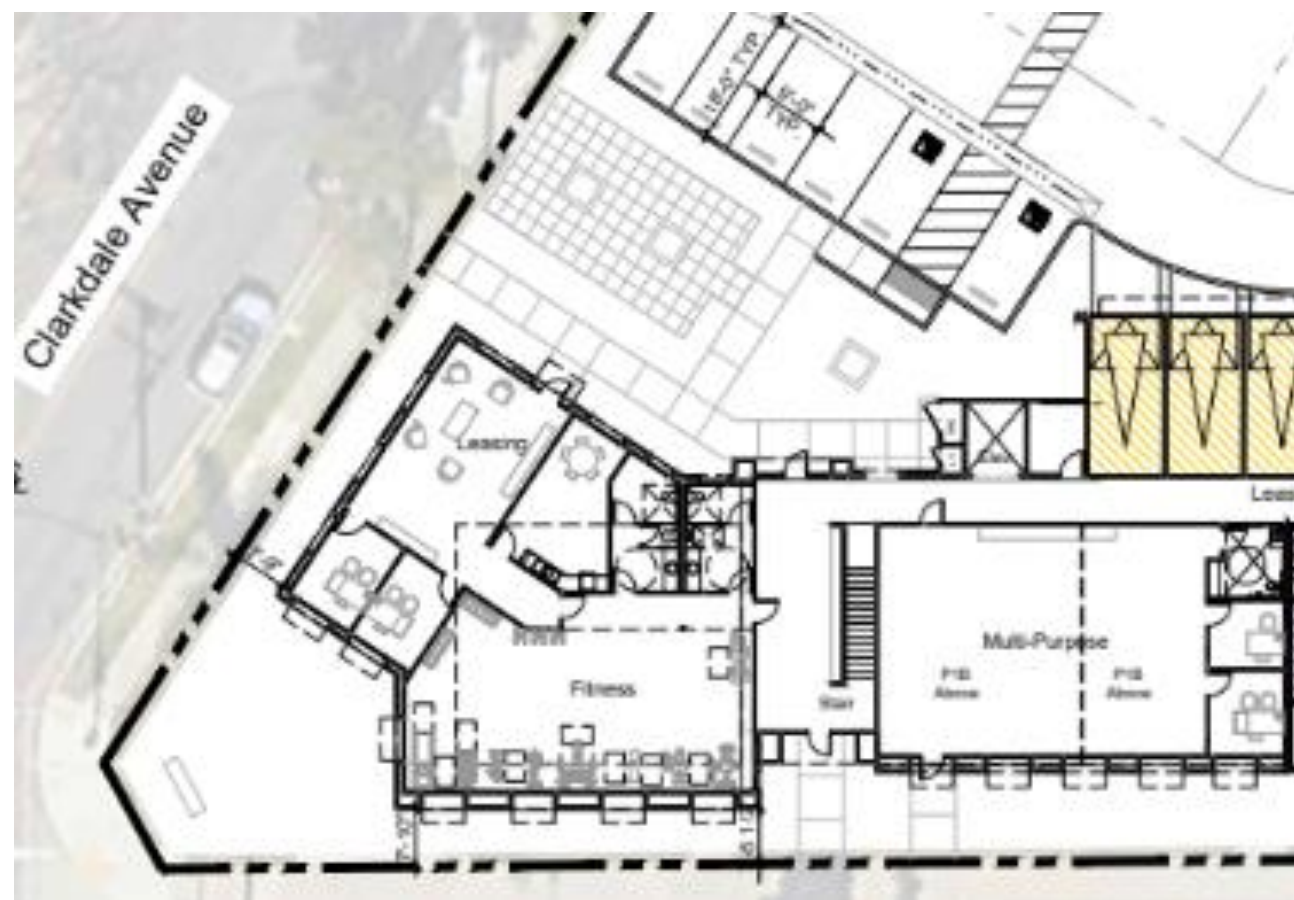
Google Camera : 143 m 33°54'13"N 118°04'43"W 25 m 100%











Some DP Goals

1. Targeted Resourcing of congregations and schools - current
2. Lutheran Middle Eastern Ministry Center, El Cajon (San Diego) - current
3. Director of Development
4. Break ground on RES Solutions Projects: Norwalk and Riverside. New planters/workers in place prior to groundbreaking (4th qtr 2027)
5. **Two advance site purchases (church and school) in growth areas. (Spring 2028)**



Some DP Goals

1. Targeted Resourcing of congregations and schools
2. Lutheran Middle Eastern Ministry Center, El Cajon (San Diego)
3. Director of Development
4. Break ground on RES Solutions Projects: Norwalk and Riverside. New planters/workers in place prior to groundbreaking (4th qtr 2027)
5. Two advance site purchases (church and school) in growth areas. (Spring 2028)
6. **Mission Plan for each Circuit (June 2027)**
 - Mission Training Center – Jonathan Priest
 - Lutheran Mission Society of San Diego – Tardelli Voss
 - Coastal Mission Society – John Alwood



Some DP Goals

7. Open two new university campus ministry locations by June 2028.



Some DP Goals

7. Open two new campus ministry locations by June 2028.
8. **Circuit Realignment by December 2027.**



Some DP Goals

7. Open two new campus ministry locations by June 2028.
8. Circuit Realignment by December 2027.
9. **Have all the pieces in place for the 100th Anniversary of PSD by June 2028.**



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT · LCMS

Telling Your Congregation's Story

An overview of the Congregational History template — a practical guide for committees researching and writing their church's history.

PART OF THE DISTRICT'S ROAD TO 2031 · PSD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Presented at the Pastors' Conference

Every Congregation Has a Story Worth Preserving

*This effort is part of the District's **Road to 2031** — building toward the celebration of PSD's 100th Anniversary.*

1

Honors God's Work

Documents how the Lord has built and sustained the congregation through decades of ministry.

2

Connects Generations

Gives newer members a window into the people and events that shaped their church home.

3

Ready for 2031

Completed histories will be compiled into the District's 100th Anniversary e-book.

4

A Living Resource

Once compiled, it can be updated rather than rebuilt from scratch for future occasions.

Step 1 — Appoint a Historical Committee

*One person should conduct the research and write the story. The rest of the committee supports that work.
(If filling all of these positions could prove difficult, just do the best you can.)*

1	Lead Researcher / Writer	Conducts the actual research and writes the narrative history.
2	Records Survey Team	Makes a preliminary survey of church records, flagging items for the researcher to review.
3	Oral History Coordinator	Builds a list of members to interview and arranges the interviews.
4	Photo & Media Coordinator	Gathers photographs and digital media, including anniversary-service materials.

Step 2 — Gather Your Resources

- ✓ Previous congregational histories
- ✓ Minutes of voters' meetings
- ✓ The congregation's paper or newsletter
- ✓ Old church bulletins and programs
- ✓ Documents from anniversary services (25th, 50th, 75th...)
- ✓ Reminiscences of older members
- ✓ Baptismal, confirmation, marriage & burial records
- ✓ Local newspapers

Don't forget the District Archives • They may hold additional information on your congregation.
Contact **Bruce Benne/Archives@psd-lcms.org**

The Story to Tell — 11 Focus Areas

Suggest focusing on completing one section per month

1

Organization & Founding

How, where, when, and why the congregation began.

2

Pastors, Teachers & Lay Leaders

Who built and grew the congregation over time.

3

Charter Members

Who they were, and who is still living.

4

Buildings & Locations

Every site the congregation has used or relocated to.

5

Synod / District Affiliation

Membership, mission support, and church extension.

6

Worship Life

Liturgy, hymnals, language, and special festivals.

The Story to Tell — 11 Focus Areas

Suggest focusing on completing one section per month

7

Educational History

Schools, Sunday school, VBS, Bible classes, and more.

8

Congregational Organizations

LWML, youth groups, sports leagues, and similar ministries.

9

Human Interest Stories

Community events that shaped the congregation's work.

10

Sons & Daughters in Church Work

Members who went on to serve as church workers.

11

Photos & Digital Media

Images and video that bring the story to life.

Bring the History to Life



*A picture — or a video — often tells
what words alone cannot.*

Collect Digital Media

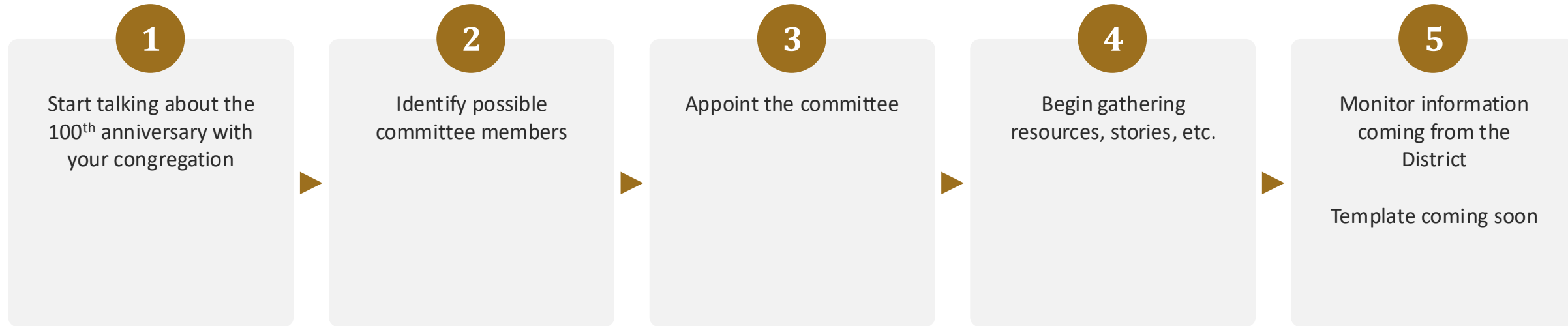
Include any photos or videos that enhance the story — building dedications, confirmation classes, anniversary celebrations, mission trips, and everyday congregational life.

Revisit Past Anniversaries

Look at documents from previous anniversary services — 25th, 50th, 75th, 100th, and beyond. Earlier committees have often already done much of this work.

NEXT STEPS

Take This Back to Your Congregation



Every finished history will be compiled into the District's 100th Anniversary e-book. A congregational history template will be published soon.

Every congregation has a story.

Let's make sure it gets told.

Completed histories will be compiled into the District's 100th Anniversary e-book, celebrating PSD's 100th anniversary in 2031.

Congregational History Template · COMING SOON

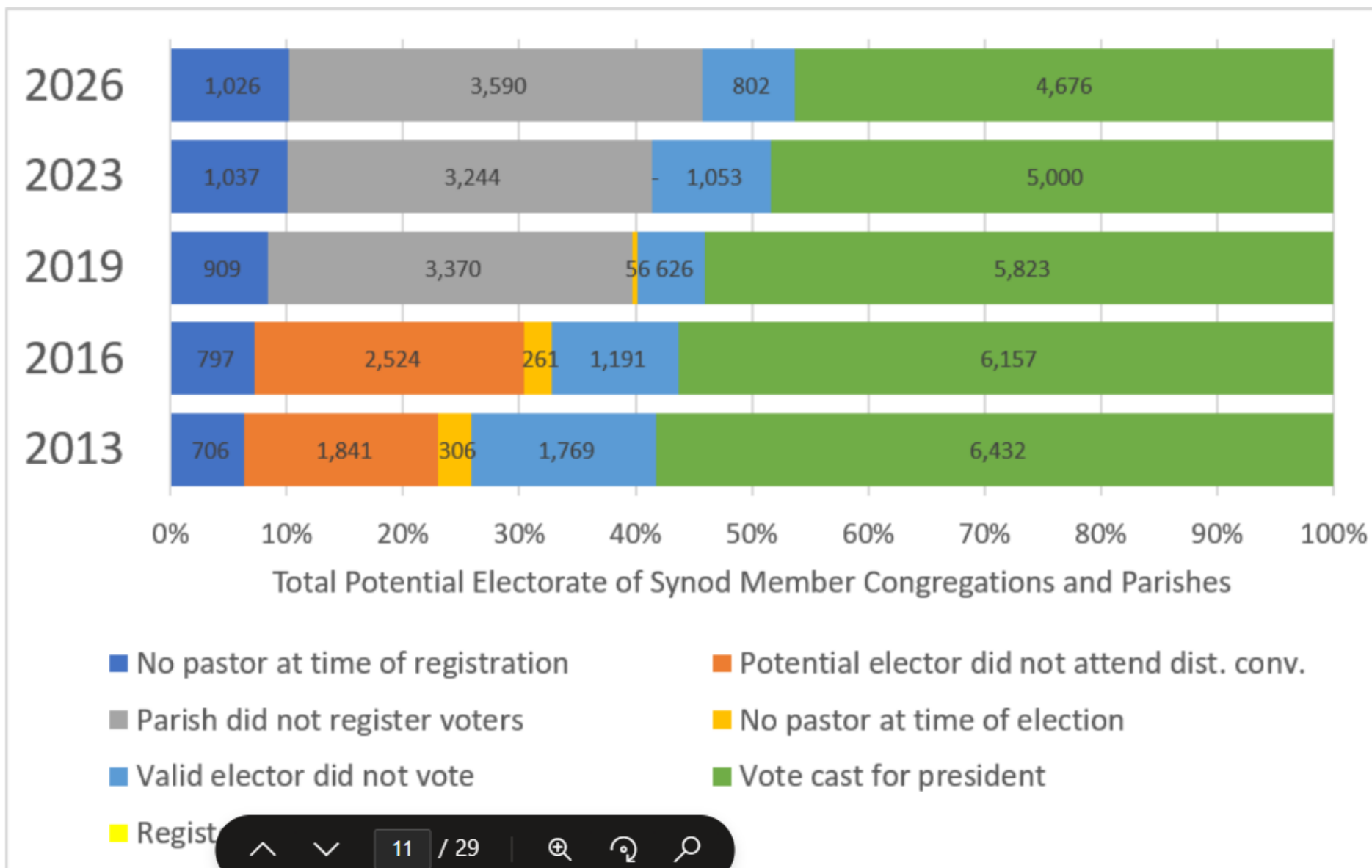
Questions or archival records requests: Archives@psd-lcms.org

Synod: Convention and Other Stuff

- Election of Synodical President



2026 President Election



Synod: Convention and Other Stuff

- LCMS Region Five VP – Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa
- Constitutional Amendment – Calling of special District Conventions
- “The Ordo” – 2016 Resolution 4-04A



The Ordo – 2016 Resolution 4-04A

Common Order of Service for the Lord's Supper

- Trinitarian Invocation
- Confess our sins and Absolution
- Praise the blessed Trinity
- Reading and the proclamation of God's Holy Word
- Confess our faith using the Historic Creeds
- Offer prayers for all people according to their needs including praying the Lord's Prayer
- Celebrate the Lord's Supper with Christ's own words
- Depart with God's blessing to send us forth as His forgiven children and witnesses to His grace

Synod: Convention and Other Stuff

- LCMS Region Five VP – Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa
- Constitutional Amendment – Calling of special District Conventions
- “The Ordo” – 2016 Resolution 4-04A
- Pastoral Formation Committee
 - Both seminary presidents, COP representative – Missouri DP Lee Hagen, Synodical president’s appointment, Exec Dir of Office of Pastoral Formation – Rev. Dr. James Baneck
- God Pleasing Use of Digital Communications – 2026 Resolution 10-4A



2026 Resolution 4-10A – God Pleasing Use of Digital Communications

- Resolved, That those using pseudonymous accounts for the purpose of sowing discord within Synod be encouraged to repent, delete their accounts, and confess to their pastor or ecclesiastical supervisor to receive absolution; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Synod call on individuals to “ [bear] with one another in love” (Eph. 4:2), by providing forgiveness, by speaking well of each other, by praying for one another, by seeking peace, and by explaining everything in the kindest way; and be it further
- Resolved, That the Synod encourage its rostered workers, congregations, and laity to avoid using social media to express their conflicts, and for the sake of theological clarity, pastoral care, and a spirit of reconciliation, seek in-person opportunities to engage each other in civil and respectful conversations; and be it further



Synod: Convention and Other Stuff

- Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct the CTCR, in consultation with the Council of Presidents, to prepare a theological and pastoral statement addressing: the Eighth Commandment in the digital age; the proper handling of accusations against pastors and congregations; the appropriate and inappropriate uses of social media, blogs, podcasts, and similar media in relation to ecclesiastical supervision and discipline; the dangers of anonymous or pseudonymous attacks; the responsibility of Christians to refrain from sharing unverified accusations; and be it finally
- Resolved, to distribute . . .



Synod: Convention and Other Stuff

- LCMS Region Five VP – Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa
- Constitutional Amendment – Calling of special District Conventions
- “The Ordo” – 2016 Resolution 4-04A
- God Pleasing Use of Digital Communications – 2026 Resolution 10-4A
- Lay Reading of Scripture – 2026 Resolution 5-09A





**The Public Reading of Scripture – An Overview and History of
a Phrase (1 Timothy 4:13) Rev. Dr. Albert Collver
PLUS a Response to the Document**

Upcoming

- 2026 Lutheran Educators' Conference – November 22-24, Town and Country Hotel and Resort, San Diego
- 2027 PSD All Workers' Conference – November 21-23, Sheraton Harbor Hotel and Resort, San Diego (Airport)
- 2028 Pacific Southwest District Convention – June 21-23, Concordia University Irvine

The Nominating Committee will begin work in Spring 2027!



Mission Training Center

Rev. Jonathan Priest



MISSION

TRAINING CENTER

WHAT WE DO

- Train Lay Members
- Deepen Faith
- Develop Calling
- Develop & Deliver Courses

WHO WE ARE

- 40 LCMS Pastors & Educators
- 2 staff
- 6 Partner Districts

2026 -2027

- Host 36 Courses
- 91 Students Fall Trimester
- 48 FLT
- 43 MTC



MTC COURSES

1. MTC 001 & 002 | MISSION IN BIBLE
2. MTC 003 & 004 | DOCTRINE & HISTORY
3. MTC 007 & 008 | INTERPRETATION & EVANGELISM
4. MTC 010 & 011 | ENGAGING & CARING



COURSE GOALS

1. INCREASE AWARENESS
2. INVITE REFLECTION
3. INTEGRATE PRACTICE



ONLINE COHORT = LEARNING TOGETHER



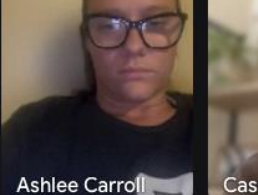
Kristin Townsend



Therese Dobis



Jennifer Williams



Ashlee Carroll



Cassie Rivkin



Jason Mauck

K



16 others



Mission Training Ce...

 Mute all

 Add people

IN THE MEETING

Contributors 26

-  Mission Training C... (You)
Meeting host
-  Andrea Peters
-  Ashlee Carroll
-  Caitlin Eckstein
-  Cassie Rivkin
-  Catha Huff
-  Claire Maser
-  FLT001 Michigan
Meeting host
-  FLT001 Michigan
Presentation
-  Hannah Layson
-  Hannah Lewicki
-  Jason Mauck
-  Jennifer Williams
-  Jill Kopper
-  Jill Wulf
-  Julie Lambright
-  Karrie Estes



FLT001 Michigan



Jill Kopper

 Ask Gemini





























Account



Admin



Dashboard



Courses



Calendar



Inbox



Help

Dashboard



Published Courses (7)



FLT 001 • WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE & WHY

FLT 001 (Pacific) What Lutherans ...

FLT 001

Fall 2026

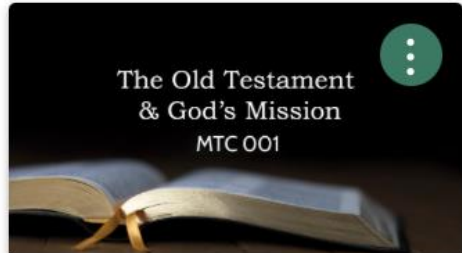


FLT 001 • WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE & WHY

FLT 001 (Michigan / Minnesota) ...

FLT 001

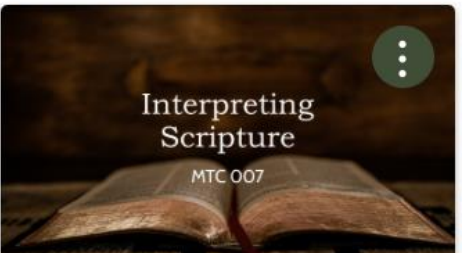
Fall 2026



MTC 001 The Old Testament & G...

MTC 001

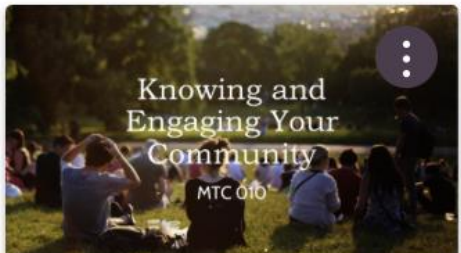
Fall 2026



MTC 007 Interpreting Scripture

MTC 007

Fall 2026



MTC 010 Knowing and Engaging ...

MTC 010

Fall 2026



MTC 000 New Student Canvas Tu...

MTC 000

To Do

- 3

Grade Discussion: What are your expectations? (Answer BEFORE first class)

MTC 010

10 points • Aug 5 at 11:59pm

×
- 1

Grade Week 2 Discussion: C.F.W. Walther Quote Reaction

MTC 010

10 points • Aug 14 at 11:59pm

×
- 1

Grade Assignment: Geographic "Community Map"

MTC 010

10 points • Aug 14 at 11:59pm

×
- 2

Grade Assignment: Prayer Walk #1

MTC 010

10 points • Aug 14 at 11:59pm

×
- 2

Grade Week 3 Discussion: What does your community think about your church and believe about God?

MTC 010

10 points • Aug 21 at 11:59pm

×

9 more...

Coming Up

 View Calendar

- 

Assignment: Community Survey #1

MTC 010

10 points • Aug 28 at 11:59pm

WHAT MTC COSTS

- 8 weeks = \$300
- 4 weeks = \$150

**DOES MTC MAKE
A DIFFERENCE?**



Christ Lutheran Church

Elk City, Oklahoma

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Staff](#)

[Ministries](#)

[Photos](#)

[Christmas](#)

[Directions](#)

[Prayer](#)



Staff ▸

Aaron Husher

Church President/Deacon

Aaron Husher



Knowing and
Engaging Your
Community

MTC 010





FOUNDATIONS

OF LUTHERAN TEACHING



FLT COURSES

1. WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE & WHY
2. JESUS THROUGH THE BIBLE
3. SPIRITUAL WELLNESS & THE EDUCATOR
4. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS
5. TEACHING THE FAITH

WHAT FLT COSTS

- 1 hour work per week
- 3 Live Sessions
- \$1250 for school year

**DOES FLT MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?**





B.E.S.T. Coach
Lisa Jackson





SO WHAT'S NEW?



Spiritual Leadership Formation

MTC 006



Rev. Dr. Dominic Rivkin

Build a cohort!

- Queens, NY Circuit
- OSLC Arcadia
- West Coast Cohort

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The person is wearing a dark-colored plaid shirt. The background is blurred, showing a wooden surface. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Who do we have?

**How do we fund
this?**

Deepen Your Faith Develop Your Calling Training For Laity



MISSION
TRAINING CENTER

missiontrainingcenter.com

Lutheran Mission Society of SD

Rev. Dr. Tardelli Voss

An aerial photograph of San Diego, California, showing the city skyline, the San Diego Bay, and the San Diego-Coronado Bridge. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the harbor is filled with many sailboats. The bridge spans the bay, connecting the city to Coronado Island. The sky is clear and blue, and the water is a deep blue. The overall scene is a vibrant and detailed representation of the city and its coastal environment.

Lutheran Mission Society **San Diego...**

...and Tijuana



EVANGELISCH-LUTHERISCHE GEMEINDE DER DEUTSCH

**Mobilize God's
People**

**Serve LCMS
Churches**

**Start and
Strengthen
Ministries**



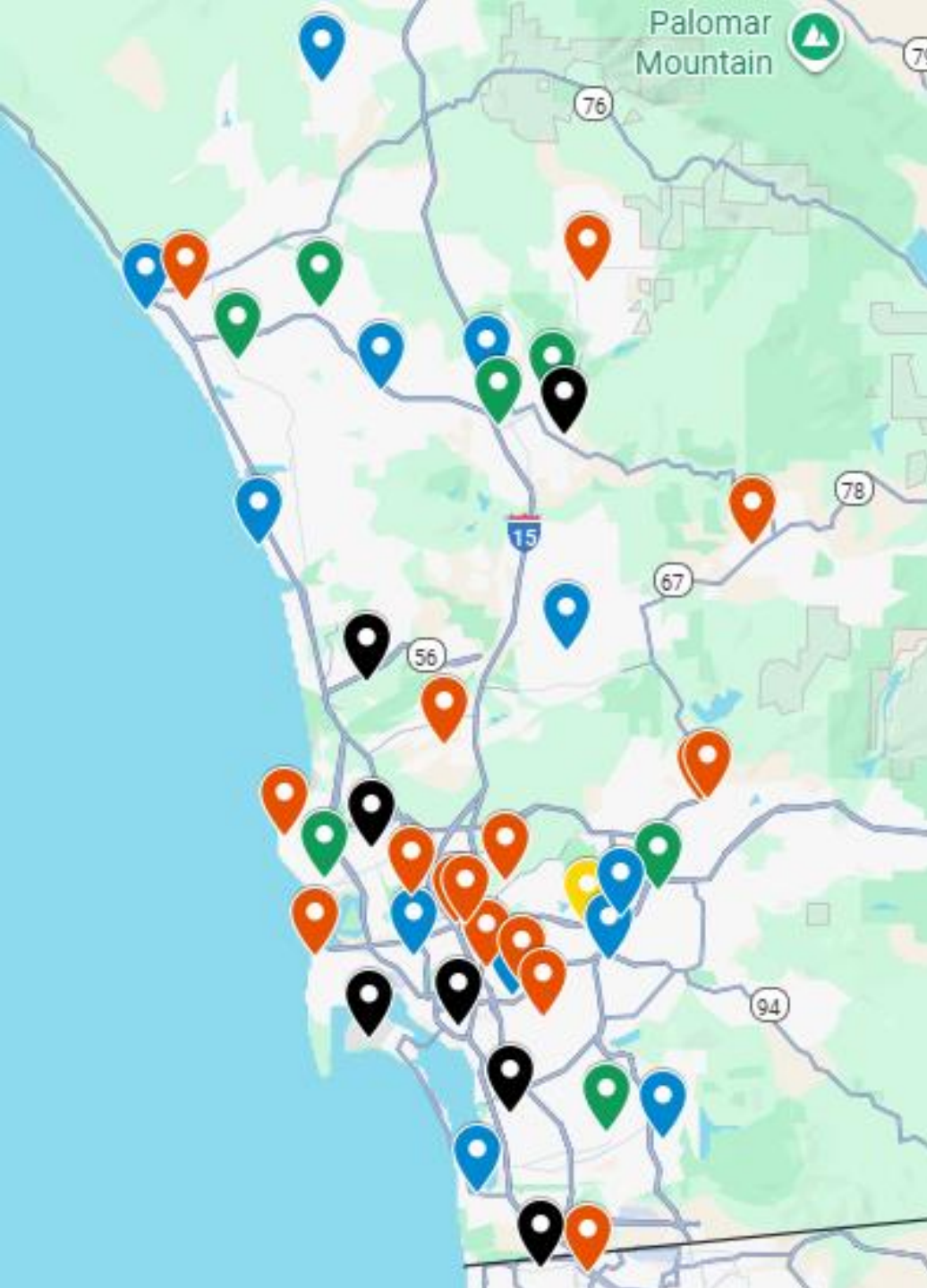


Bi-national conurbation

San Diego-Tijuana metropolitan area is approximately **5,221,157**

San Diego County (3,298,634)

Tijuana (1,922,523)



LCMS Congregations San Diego County

34 active churches (8 lost locations)

-  Worship: 200+
-  Worship: 100-200
-  Worship: 50-100
-  Worship: -50
-  Closed or lost location

What We're Most Thankful For...

37 Churches

34 San Diego County

3* Tijuana

Relationships	35
Ministry "Partnerships"	27
Financial Supporters	17

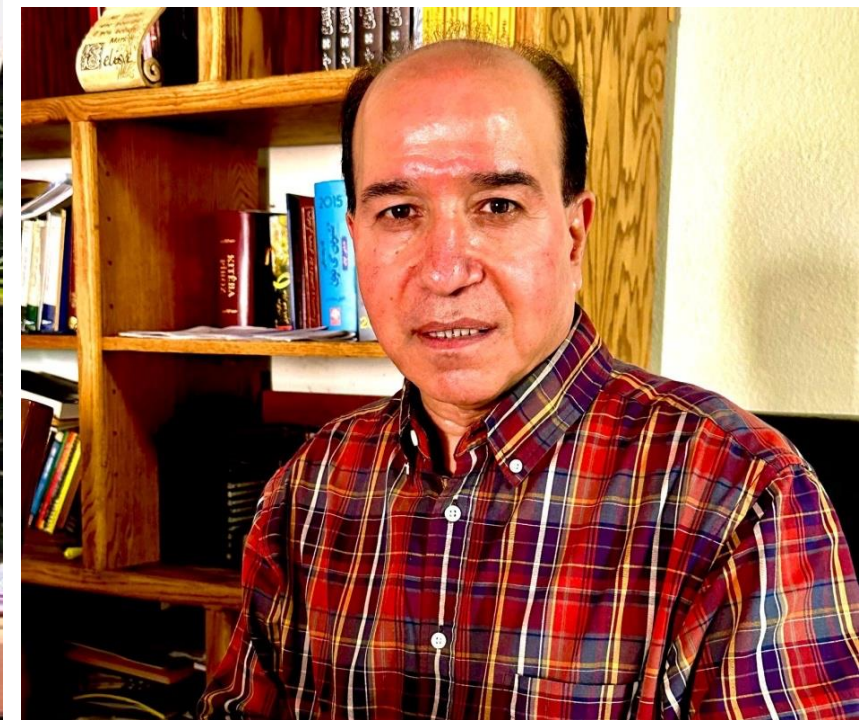


70 local missionaries

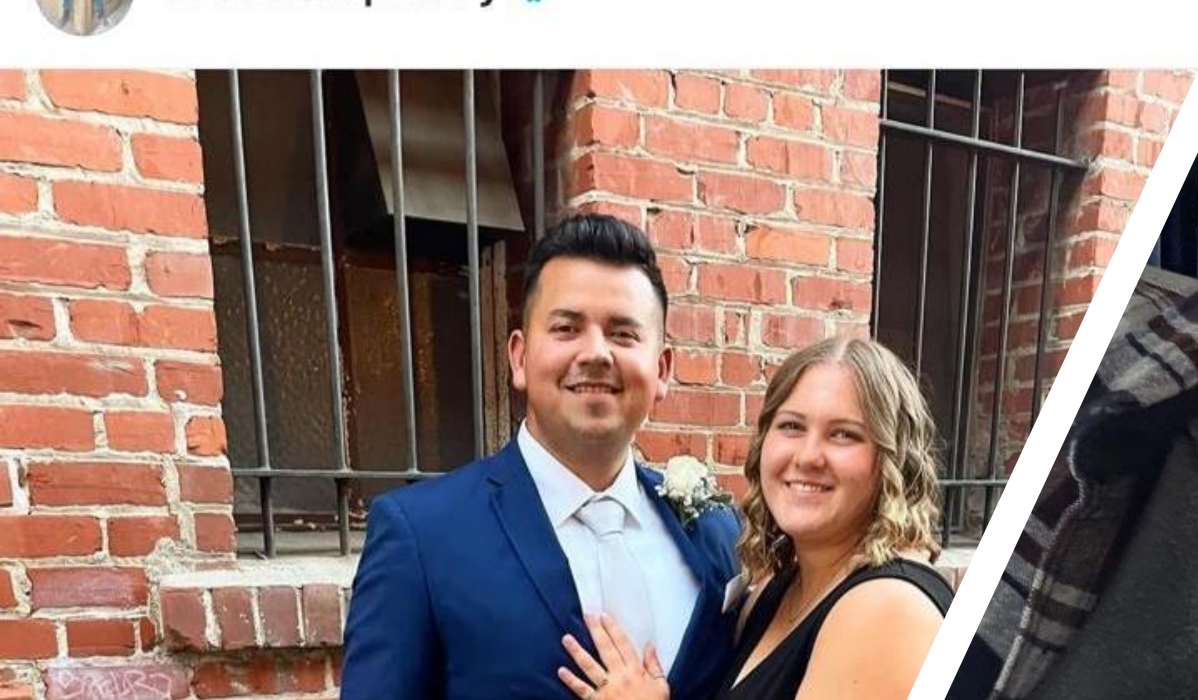
Coverage	49
Companionship	15
Collaboration	1
Catalysts	5

















38 ministries

**active or actively
developing**

24 new ministries in
development

14 existing ministries being
nurtured

25 additional opportunities in
preparation or discernment

[as of September 2026]



How Churches Participate

Nesting

The church provides space and support while the ministry team leads its development.

Seeding

The church hosts the ministry and actively helps it develop.

Sending

The church sends a missionary to serve in another community or setting.



New Ministries Are Taking Root

Examples of the 24 ministries currently in development:

- Hispanic ministry at St. James
- ESL ministries at Hope and Concordia
- Bilingual missional communities through Victory
- Brazilian ministries at St. Paul's and Concordia
- Cancer Care Ministry at Community Lutheran
- Digital evangelism through Gloria Dei



Churches are Sending Missionaries

Missionaries are carrying the Gospel beyond the walls of their congregations:

- Military outreach at Camp Pendleton, Balboa Hospital, and Point Loma
- Prison and reentry ministries
- Campus outreach at Cal State San Marcos, SDSU, and UCSD
- Homeless outreach throughout San Diego
- Spanish-speaking women's discipleship groups
- Swimming lessons and friendship for Afghan women





Missionary Sending

Jake Jackson & Bill Nielsen



Luke 2:
The Christmas Story







God is at Work in Tijuana

Local leaders remain at the center of every partnership

- Cristo Redentor is strengthening its school ministry and developing new mission sites.
- Sola Gracia Sola Fe is nurturing ministries for children and youth.
- Comedor Misión San Lucas provides breakfast, relationships, and God's Word.
- San Pablo is being replanted under Abner Pérez's local leadership.
- 1000 Generations connects children, families, and elderly adults.





The Gospel in Heart Languages

Congregations are welcoming communities through their own languages and cultures:

Oromo and
Ethiopian ministry

Mandarin-speaking
Lutheran ministries

Brazilian Bible
studies and
missional
communities

Hispanic ministries
and Spanish
discipleship groups

Mission: Salam
among Afghan
refugees

**Every language and
culture can
become a bridge
for the Gospel.**



Mercy Opens Doors

- Cancer Support Fellowship
- Homeless outreach
- Afghan refugee support
- Children's breakfast ministries
- Elderly care facility Bible studies
- Prison and recovery ministries





Everyday Missionaries Are Being Raised Up

Most ministries begin with someone whom God has already prepared through:

- Personal experience
- Relationships within the community
- A growing sense of calling
- The encouragement of a local congregation

The Mission Society helps churches recognize, train, send, and accompany these missionaries.



New Opportunities Taking Shape

Current conversations include:

- Sports, soccer, volleyball, karate, and motorcycle ministries
- Celebrate Recovery
- Lotus Ministry for South Asian women affected by trauma
- Ministry among survivors of human trafficking
- Seniors, music, and school chaplaincy ministries
- Kurdish, Chaldean, Oromo, and Brazilian outreach

Some have a clear direction. Others remain in prayer and careful discernment.



Not Everything Goes According to Plan *(Learning as We Go)*

- **3 seasonal** ministries have concluded
- **5 proposed initiatives** did not reach launch
- **Countless conversations** planted seeds that have not [yet] grown into ministries





coastal

MISSION SOCIETY









**Equipping the saints for the work of ministry.
Entrusting ministry to baptized believers in vocation.
Establishing churches for every enclave.
Engaging mission together in our local areas.**



Regarding circuit mission plans...

We'd love to help!

1. Pilot test an Equip cohort
2. Owning and activate this vision
3. Develop a circuit equipping & sending hub



Wanna grab coffee or a Lutheran beverage?

Text "Yo!"

To John Alwood at **562-412-1334**

john@coastalmission.org

coastalmission.org



Questions