



**Our funeral ...
and the reason for the
hope that is in us**

"... In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).



Rev. Dale Sattgast
South Dakota
District President

Dear friends in Christ,

I attended two funerals recently. In each case, I left the church with a deep sense of sadness. The sadness was not because of those who had died. The sadness was because of the words of the funeral sermons.

In both cases, I had hoped for funeral sermons that would clearly state the message of the Christian Gospel—the reason for the hope that is in us as God's people of faith in Christ Jesus. Ultimately, only in the Gospel is there true hope for those who believe and true and lasting comfort for those who mourn. Moreover, both of the people who had died were people who knew and had professed that they were sinners and that their hope for eternal life was based not on anything they had done in life, but entirely upon God's grace in Jesus.

In both instances, however, even though the services were held in two different Christian churches and were led by two different pastors, nearly the first words of each pastor's message were that we were assembled "to honor" the person who had died. Then nearly the entire content of each of the funeral sermons was about what a wonderful person this person had been.

In one sermon, the pastor spoke about the "faith" of the person who had died. But nearly every mention of "faith" was centered on the person and not on Jesus. Nearly every mention of "faith" was about the good things the person had done in life or about the person's personality. In reality, what was said could have been said about the "faith" of someone of any religion.

In the other sermon, and at the very end, there was one very brief reference to Jesus' death and resurrection. But the pastor gave no explanation at all as to why Jesus' death and resurrection are important.

What both pastors delivered in those two funeral services were "eulogies." By definition, a eulogy is a speech in honor of a deceased person. Both eulogies were very effective in bringing to mind nice memories

of the persons who had died. Both brought a fair share of tears. And while both pastors emphasized to those who mourned that their loved ones have eternal life in heaven, their eulogies certainly failed to explain that eternal life comes only through Jesus (see John 14:6). Although they didn't state it outright, both pastors implied (I expect unintentionally) that those who had died were in heaven because of their good lives.

The Church exists to bring the Gospel message of salvation, through Word and Sacrament, to the world. And, as part of the Church, the life of every believer in Christ is one of Gospel witness, always being prepared to give an answer to anyone who calls us to account for the hope that is in us. That hope is not based on what we have done, but on God's grace in Jesus. That's the message that is at the center of our lives.

That Gospel witness does not need to stop when we die. Our funeral can and should be a continuing testimony of the reason for the hope that is in us. Ideally, every pastor has that as his focus when he brings his message in a funeral service.

Does that mean that a pastor will only mention in



passing the person who has died? Of course not! There is a place for memories to be shared. That person lived his or her life in relationship to loved ones, whether family or friends. And there was also a relationship with God and with His Church. Such matters should be spoken about!

But, for those who have died in faith, at the center of the funeral

sermon should always be the reason for true and lasting comfort. Whether these particular verses are spoken or not, here is what is central:

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance

(Continued on Page B.)

DISTRICT NEWS

FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

(Continued from Page A.)
with the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). “By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die” (John 11:25-26).

In this message alone is true and lasting comfort for those whose loved ones have died in faith. And with this same message, there continues to be the witness to others of the reason for the hope that is within us.

“... nothing ...
except Jesus
Christ and Him
crucified”

In Christ,
Pastor Dale L. Sattgast
1 Cor. 2:2
2 Cor. 3:4-6
2 Tim. 1:8-12



Belonging

People like to belong. Belonging can be found at several levels:

- **Public belonging**—This can be seen in communications that are fairly common. Saying “hi” or “thanks” to people you meet or who help you signals this level.

- **Social belonging**—This usually involves a circle of acquaintances—perhaps coworkers, people in your grade at school, or workers at a favorite restaurant. You know you are at this level of belonging by conversation that is more personal than the public level. Your conversation usually includes some personal “snapshots” of who you are.

- **Private belonging**—This would include close friends, relatives, even family who could describe much more about you than anyone from the other two mentioned groups. They would know you in your good times and the struggles you have had.

- **Intimate belonging**—This person or persons would know all the other things about you, but also know your goals and aspirations, your closely held fears. This is someone who has seen you at your best and worst and still wants to be close. Often, this is a spouse.

What does all this have to do with our faith and life? Well, people choose the level of belonging to a congregation. The levels often reflect the relationships that have been formed and the trust that is inherent in that relationship. Do not chide people for remaining at a level you think is too aloof. Rather, we should seek ways to grow the relationships that encourage them to willingly change the level.

In the same way, God has taken us—aloof and unwilling—to be in His family, and through the good news of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, brought us close to Himself.

Think about the people you know and talk about the levels of belonging, especially in your congregation. What can you do and say that would help a person grow to a deeper sense of belonging at your congregation? What would you like others to do to help your relationship with others grow deeper?





Call information

as of Jan. 19

CALLS PENDING

Daryl Tompkins, Zion, Chamberlain, received a call as pastor at St. John, Clarinda, Iowa, 1/16/09.

Kevin Vogts, Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes, received a call to Faith, Denver, Colo., 1/26/09.

ACCEPTED/DECLINED

None

VACANCIES

- St. Paul/St. John, Aberdeen, assistant pastor
- St. John, Howard
- Bethesda/First English, Marion/Parker
- Lord of Life, Sioux Falls
- Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis
- Concordia, Vermillion
- First/Emmanuel, Wall/Creighton

Marion women hold annual bake sale



The Bethesda Lutheran Ladies Aid (Marion) held its annual bake sale on Nov. 21, 2008. The group received supplemental funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

In the photo above are Nora Ballweg and Mavis Knutson. In the photo below are Rosemary Schoenwald, Mavis Knutson, Gwen Spomer, and Ginette Dick.



South Dakota District archivist

In March 2008, Wayne L. Steensma had the privilege of being appointed archivist for the LCMS South Dakota District. He looks forward to continuing the same excellent work as former archivists Emil Schaefer, Rev. Orlett Brach, and Howard Koosman. Steensma writes:

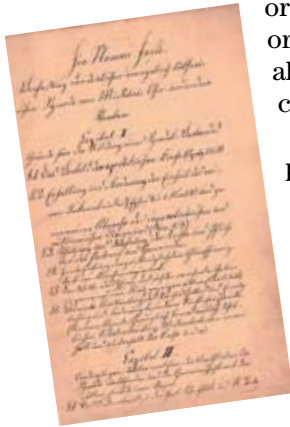


Wayne Steensma

History is a very important part of our church. The collection and preservation of records of historical nature, either in the district's archives or within the congregation, is very important.

The duties of the district archivist have been set and are published in the district's policy manual. One of the many duties directs the archivist to encourage each congregation to appoint a historian and enable him or her to work with the district's archivist to achieve the goal of making our district archives an efficient resource center.

If your congregation has a historian, please send his or her name to our district office, or send the name of an individual who knows much of your congregation's history.



If you have any questions, please contact me at the South Dakota District office at 605-361-1514 or send an e-mail to sdarchives@midco.net.

Wayne L. Steensma
Archivist
LCMS South Dakota
District

May issue deadline: March 15



When possible, please send photos in a JPEG format, at 300 dpi. If you send print photos, please send a copy that you won't need back. Thank you.

Vonda Sturzenbecher
E-mail: vsturzenbecher@yahoo.com
or mail **8605 Woodland Drive**
Black Hawk, SD 57718

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Counselor's corner

What Every LWML President Likes to Hear

Someone did a survey once and came up with the most beautiful words in the English language. I remember being slightly surprised that one of the top-rated phrases was "free; take one." I guess it makes sense. Who doesn't like a gift or a free sample? Just put a jar of candy on a desk or counter with a sign that says "free; take one" and see what happens.

Your local and district LWML presidents also have favorite phrases they like to hear. What president wouldn't like to hear, "I have a box of quilts to donate. Where should I put them?" You also could make their day by saying, "It's been a while since I served on a committee. Which one do you have the most trouble filling? Put me on that one." You might need to be ready to catch her before she faints, but it would be fun to say it just to see the reaction.

Another fun phrase to try out would be, "Do you have a new mite box for me? My old one is all worn out and bursting at the seams."

It might also earn you a smile from your president if you were to inquire, "Do we have any more of those Christian resources for sale? I want to buy my grandchildren some more of those 'Kids Kards' that they like so much. I also want a 'Jeans Gems' set of devotions for my middle-school-age granddaughter. And my friend is having trouble with some of her coworkers, so I thought I'd get her those 'Noontime Nibbles' devotions to help get her through the day."

We all like to hear beautiful phrases, such as "I love you," "Thanks, that was very thoughtful of you," or "I appreciate that." As Christians, we have constant access to the most beautiful words ever spoken. God constantly surprises and delights us by saying, *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool"* (Is.1:18b). Who doesn't like to hear from the lips of Jesus, *"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matt. 11:28)?

Now you know what to say if you want to put a smile on someone's face.



Rev. Brian
Lemcke
LWML District
Counselor

2009 South Dakota District LWML Retreat

*Friday, April 17, 7 p.m. and
Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m.
Ramada Inn, Mitchell*



*1 Corinthians 12
Eph. 2:10*

God has given us all gifts that we are to use in His service. What gifts have you been given? Are you an encourager, a musician, a leader, a hostess, possibly a writer? Can you teach, cut stamps, help the homeless, or lead a mission trip? Come explore and find God's "fit" in your life. We are called to do that which God has gifted us to do and for which we have been promised the guidance and presence of the Holy Spirit. Rooms have been blocked at the Ramada Inn. Make your reservation by calling 800-888-4702 by March 27, and ask for the special LWML guaranteed rate of \$64.95 per room for one to four people. Look for full information in the call letter that has been sent to every society in the South Dakota LWML.

Detach and mail:

Registration form is due by March 27.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Society _____

Zone _____

The registration fee is \$30, which includes materials for the retreat and Saturday breakfast and lunch.

Make checks payable to **SD LWML Retreat**.
Please send registration form and payment to:

**Judy Wunder
P.O. Box 507
Armour, SD 57313**



Blessed! Mission trip to the Dominican Republic, Oct. 8-17, 2008

Our South Dakota LWML team of eight—two couples and four women—were joined by a representative from M.O.S.T. (Mission Opportunities Short-Term) Ministries to travel to the Dominican Republic. We were invited to teach Bible studies about biblical marriages.

Our hosts were the first Lutheran missionaries in the Dominican Republic—Pastor Walter Ries Jr., originally from Brazil, and Danelle Putman, who grew up in Montana. They had been in that country three years to start churches and work with persons with developmental disabilities. They met us late Thursday night in Santo Domingo with a van that would be our transportation for the week.

Walter got us off on the right attitude as he said, with a big, toothy smile, “This is what we do here, no matter what happens!”

We thought of that often as we endured long rides on “hole-y” narrow, crowded streets, waited for people to come (on “Dominican” time), avoided using the water to brush our teeth (we had filtered water), experienced different toilet facilities, strange foods, and thick coffee, and also saw much poverty. To counter that, however, was fresh pineapple, a trip to the ocean (sparkling, clear, and warm), friendly and loving people to welcome us, beautiful children singing from the heart, and our Bible studies and marriage presentations so well-accepted with hugs and words of appreciation.

And so much evidence of God working! Both Walter and Danelle told of beginning their ministry with one person there in the Dominican and now they are baptizing, confirming, marrying, and leading services, workshops and Bible studies, as well as mentoring young leaders to begin other groups.

Joseph and Willy are two such individuals who are ready to share the word of salvation with others in their community. They also are working to empower nationals to take training to help others with disabilities in their own neighborhoods so they need not be institutionalized. And they visit and try to improve care of those who are in institutions.

We felt broken-hearted to visit a facility where about 100 children live crippled from cerebral palsy. We were uplifted to watch a trained volunteer work with a deaf child in her home and a small boy with cerebral palsy. First, she prayed, then worked with the child, instructing the mother how to continue during the week. Next, she read a Bible story (from CPH) for all the family

there. Then she prayed again. Meeting needs and sharing God’s Word: blessing them in two ways!

In the first of two cities we stayed in—Santo Domingo—the “church” was a large third-story room in a very poor neighborhood. White plastic chairs, wooden dividers to create a children’s area, two lovely banners, a lectern, a simple table with two candles for an altar, and a wooden cross on the wall were the furnishings. Walter worked with battery-operated electricity for his computer and PowerPoint to show words to songs on the wall, and he played his guitar to lead them.

And then the beautiful people came in with their smiles and enthusiasm! They eagerly listened and looked up Bible verses to read aloud and sang out with gusto. The church became alive! We all praised and worshipped and heard God’s Word and were BLESSED, together!

Donna Kaufman

Remember that mites for the 2007-09 LWML biennium are due by March 15 to the national LWML office.



The mission of the South Dakota Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is to provide women opportunities for spiritual growth and to equip and nurture them to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord in home, church, community, and the world.



LOOK! Look no further for reasons to attend the LWML convention June 25-28 in Portland, Ore., where we will “**Look to the Hills ... God Reigns.**” See you in Portland!

Find out more at www.lwml.org.

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

A NEW KIND OF NET

The Men's NetWork is unlike any men's ministry you've experienced before! It is a Christ-centered, web-based ministry designed to equip and motivate men to greater levels of commitment, leadership and service as they become stronger disciples of Jesus Christ. Targeting men using humor and insight, the NetWork offers...



- Cutting edge video-based Bible studies that offer real-world applications
- Interactive web page for men's groups to connect
- Relevant resources to enhance your men's ministry

Men's NetWork...keeping men connected to their Savior.





Lutherans For Life—'Witnessing to the Sanctity of Human Life through education based on the Word of God'

LFL annual meeting held in Mitchell

"Citizens of Two Kingdoms: Life in Church and State" was the theme for the Life Conference/Annual Meeting held Jan. 17 at Zion Lutheran Church, Mitchell, S.D. Rev. Bob Moeller led opening devotions based on Matt. 22:15.

President Rev. Dale Sattgast led an in-depth study of Rom. 13:1-7. The Bible study took conference participants through a historical overview of God's direct governing authority to the delegated authorities in both temporal and spiritual matters. The New Testament brought complete separation of the spiritual and temporal matters, resulting in two distinct kingdoms of authority, with Christ's passion story at the very apex. Christians live a dual citizenship—they are not of this world; heaven is a Christian's home. But while here, believers in Christ are to be influential in this world.

President Sattgast began the keynote address with the overture on the subject "to affirm the sanctity of human life" that will be brought before the 2009 LCMS convention. He then continued the message, which was built out of the Bible study, reviewing results of the co-mingling of the two kingdoms within the empires of the past, including American history to the present.

The annual meeting brought LFL chapters together to report on their activities, elect a state board, and discuss past and future educational activities. Dutch TeSlaa, who has an active role with "Main Street Living," announced a television media idea to continue LFL educational efforts.

The conference ended with an enthusiastic address, "Where do we go from here," by Rev. Col. John Eidsmoe, who currently serves as legal counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law and serves on the national board of Lutherans For Life.

Thank you to the White Lake LFL chapter and to Zion Lutheran Church for hosting the conference, and also to the other chapters—East Dakota, Heartland, Aberdeen, and Southeast—for participating. Thank you to conference speakers President Sattgast, Rev. Moeller, and Rev. Eidsmoe, and to all those who came and participated.

Make preparations ... for the 2009 Diaper Derby!

- Who?** Any South Dakota congregation
What? Collect diapers
When? Mother's Day through Father's Day
Why? To show appreciation to moms and dads for choosing life!
Where? All across South Dakota
How? Count the diapers, take a picture, distribute diapers to a crisis pregnancy center, women's shelter, or contact center in your community, and report results to LFL of SD.
Wait ... To find out who's the winner of Diaper Derby 2009

Mark Your Calendars

The National Lutherans For Life Conference 2009 and the 30th anniversary celebration will be held July 24-25 at the DoubleTree Westport, St. Louis.

The theme is "Celebrate the Abundant Life" based on John 10:10, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." The two-day conference will include workshops, worship, and special guest speakers and performers.

Coming events:

- **Anytime**—Making Abortion Unthinkable training near you.
- **Anytime**—Pennies for Life fundraiser
- **Anytime**—Celebration of Life Sunday
- **May-June**—Annual Diaper Derby
- **July 24-25**—Lutherans For Life Conference, St. Louis



Bike For Life update

GOOD NEWS! The Bike For Life money is the most we have ever received. As of Jan. 20, the total is slightly more than \$14,236. Praise the Lord for His goodness!

If you want to donate to the cause, it is never too late. Please send check to:

Southeast South Dakota LFL
c/o Rev. Nabil S. Nour
P.O. Box 158
Armour, SD 57313-0158

DISTRICT RECEIPTS

LCMS South Dakota District Mission Receipts

for the 12 months ending Jan. 14, 2009, compared to 12 months ending Jan. 14, 2008

| City, Congregation | Comm. Members | 2008 Intention | 12 Months 2008 * | 12 Months 2007 | Avg/Per Comm. 2008 | Comm. 2007 |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Circuit A—Aberdeen | | | | | | |
| Aberdeen, Our Savior | 522 | 15,000 | 16,100 | 16,270 | 30.84 | 31.17 |
| Aberdeen, St. John | 77 | 5,250 | 9,488 | 7,802 | 123.22 | 101.32 |
| Aberdeen, St. Paul | 831 | 32,000 | 33,504 | 33,544 | 40.32 | 40.37 |
| Andover, Zion | 93 | 4,700 | 4,965 | 3,424 | 53.39 | 36.82 |
| Britton, St. John | 200 | 00 | 2,558 | 5,500 | 12.79 | 27.50 |
| Columbia, St. John | 132 | 5,500 | 5,735 | 6,025 | 43.45 | 45.64 |
| Ferney, St. Paul | 177 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 1,800 | 13.56 | 10.17 |
| Groton, St. John | 332 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 60.24 | 60.24 |
| Hecla, Peace | 65 | 00 | 1,250 | 1,250 | 19.23 | 19.23 |
| Ipswich, Good Shepherd | 20 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Leola, St. Paul | 78 | 500 | 500 | 450 | 6.41 | 5.77 |
| Mansfield, Trinity | 295 | 20,000 | 25,468 | 22,003 | 86.33 | 74.59 |
| Stratford, St. Paul | 54 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 2,500 | 55.56 | 46.30 |
| Circuit A Totals | 2,876 | \$108,650 | \$125,268 | \$120,868 | 43.56 | 42.03 |
| Circuit B—Milbank | | | | | | |
| Corona, Trinity | 162 | 1,500 | 2,230 | 2,403 | 13.77 | 14.83 |
| Milbank, Bethlehem | 73 | 1,800 | 1,226 | 2,139 | 16.79 | 29.30 |
| Milbank, Emanuel | 813 | 31,650 | 23,501 | 24,333 | 28.91 | 29.93 |
| Revillo, St. John | 152 | 8,500 | 8,709 | 8,724 | 57.29 | 57.39 |
| Sisseton, Emanuel | 155 | 4,300 | 4,200 | 4,397 | 27.10 | 28.37 |
| Watertown, Mount Olive | 409 | 00 | 17,500 | 14,250 | 42.79 | 34.84 |
| Waubay, Zion | 119 | 00 | 2,879 | 2,139 | 24.20 | 17.97 |
| Wilmot, Our Savior | 160 | 4,500 | 5,554 | 5,300 | 34.71 | 33.13 |
| Circuit B Totals | 2,043 | \$52,250 | \$65,799 | \$63,685 | 32.21 | 31.17 |
| Circuit C—Pierre | | | | | | |
| Agar, St. John | 48 | 1,700 | 2,845 | 2,769 | 59.27 | 57.69 |
| Blunt, Trinity | 50 | 1,240 | 1,240 | 1,181 | 24.81 | 23.62 |
| Gettysburg, Emmanuel | 259 | 00 | 9,044 | 9,600 | 34.92 | 37.07 |
| Harrod, Immanuel | 45 | 500 | 150 | 500 | 3.33 | 11.11 |
| Lebanon, Christ | 21 | 00 | 815 | 650 | 38.81 | 30.95 |
| Onida, Holy Cross | 106 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,191 | 14.15 | 11.24 |
| Pierre, Faith | 1,386 | 31,500 | 33,751 | 31,486 | 24.35 | 22.72 |
| Seneca, St. Paul | 16 | 500 | 560 | 622 | 35.00 | 38.88 |
| Circuit C Totals | 1,931 | \$36,940 | \$49,905 | \$47,999 | 25.84 | 24.86 |
| Circuit D—Huron | | | | | | |
| Cresbard, Concordia * | 96 | 00 | 2,821 | 895 | 29.39 | 9.32 |
| Doland, Redeemer | 62 | 00 | 1,290 | 2,230 | 20.81 | 35.97 |
| Huron, Mount Calvary | 826 | 63,500 | 72,987 | 67,639 | 88.36 | 81.89 |
| Redfield, Messiah | 133 | 2,200 | 1,500 | 1,960 | 11.28 | 14.74 |
| Wecota, Immanuel | 93 | 5,000 | 10,371 | 16,205 | 111.51 | 174.25 |
| Wessington, Concordia | 27 | 00 | 200 | 610 | 7.41 | 22.59 |
| Wessington Springs, Zion | 79 | 00 | 1,573 | 2,000 | 19.91 | 25.32 |
| Wolsey, St. John | 251 | 12,800 | 13,399 | 13,694 | 53.38 | 54.56 |
| Woonsocket, Mount Olive | 19 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| Circuit D Totals | 1,586 | \$83,500 | \$104,141 | \$105,233 | 65.66 | 66.35 |
| Circuit E—Brookings | | | | | | |
| Aurora, First English | 40 | 3,000 | 3,028 | 3,080 | 75.70 | 77.00 |
| Brookings, Mount Calvary | 340 | 21,000 | 23,446 | 20,973 | 68.96 | 61.69 |
| Brookings, Peace | 125 | 3,000 | 3,051 | 3,614 | 24.41 | 28.91 |
| Chester, St. John | 86 | 1,680 | 2,285 | 1,911 | 26.57 | 22.22 |
| Flandreau, Redeemer | 88 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,530 | 29.55 | 28.75 |
| Howard, St. John | 286 | 3,000 | 4,264 | 3,000 | 14.91 | 10.49 |
| Madison, Our Savior | 298 | 5,300 | 6,611 | 5,300 | 22.18 | 17.79 |
| Wentworth, St. Peter | 150 | 6,300 | 6,800 | 8,270 | 45.33 | 55.13 |
| White, Zion | 119 | 4,800 | 5,005 | 5,529 | 42.06 | 46.46 |
| Circuit E Totals | 1,532 | \$50,680 | \$57,090 | \$54,207 | 37.27 | 35.38 |
| Circuit F—Black Hills | | | | | | |
| Black Hawk, Divine Shepherd | 238 | 7,500 | 7,755 | 7,020 | 32.58 | 29.50 |
| Creighton, Emmanuel | 54 | 00 | 00 | 2,165 | 00 | 40.09 |
| Custer, Our Redeemer | 119 | 6,000 | 6,764 | 5,886 | 56.84 | 49.46 |
| Deadwood, Grace | 116 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 21.55 | 21.55 |
| Hill City, Our Savior | 17 | 1,500 | 2,417 | 1,500 | 142.16 | 88.24 |
| Hot Springs, Bethesda | 284 | 5,000 | 4,625 | 5,000 | 16.29 | 17.61 |
| Philip, Our Redeemer | 115 | 00 | 250 | 00 | 2.17 | 00 |
| Rapid City, Bethlehem | 645 | 23,205 | 23,205 | 22,740 | 35.98 | 35.26 |
| Rapid City, Our Redeemer | 131 | 1,000 | 1,438 | 1,008 | 10.98 | 7.69 |
| Rapid City, Peace | 609 | 20,800 | 20,748 | 18,419 | 34.07 | 30.24 |
| Rapid City, Zion | 1,136 | 24,000 | 24,050 | 23,050 | 21.17 | 20.29 |
| Spearfish, St. Paul | 343 | 22,620 | 22,620 | 20,220 | 65.95 | 58.95 |
| Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel | 51 | 675 | 675 | 650 | 13.24 | 12.75 |

| City, Congregation | Comm. Members | 2008 Intention | 12 Months 2008 * | 12 Months 2007 | Avg/Per Comm. 2008 | Comm. 2007 |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Wall, First | 242 | 1,700 | 1,650 | 1,720 | 6.82 | 7.11 |
| Circuit F Totals | 4,100 | \$116,500 | \$118,697 | \$111,878 | 28.95 | 27.29 |
| Circuit G—Chamberlain | | | | | | |
| Chamberlain, Zion | 430 | 12,500 | 11,127 | 12,608 | 25.88 | 29.32 |
| Clearfield, Redeemer | 32 | 00 | 120 | 120 | 3.75 | 3.75 |
| Draper, St. Paul | 42 | 00 | 1,251 | 500 | 29.79 | 11.90 |
| Gregory, St. John | 307 | 00 | 2,715 | 1,350 | 8.84 | 4.40 |
| Hamill, Zion | 108 | 00 | 1,000 | 750 | 9.26 | 6.94 |
| Midland, St. Peter | 35 | 00 | 4,331 | 4,651 | 123.75 | 132.89 |
| Murdo, Messiah | 132 | 2,600 | 1,800 | 2,649 | 13.64 | 20.07 |
| Norris, St. John | 72 | 00 | 1,900 | 1,670 | 26.39 | 23.19 |
| Presho, Zion | 127 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 11.02 | 11.02 |
| Reliance, Trinity | 38 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 15.79 | 15.79 |
| Rosebud, Rosebud Mission | 00 | 00 | 2,290 | 2,800 | 00 | 00 |
| Winner, Christ | 147 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 10.20 | 10.20 |
| Circuit G Totals | 1,470 | \$18,600 | \$30,034 | \$30,598 | 20.43 | 20.81 |
| Circuit H—Mitchell | | | | | | |
| Armour, Redeemer | 229 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 39.30 | 39.30 |
| Delmont, Zion | 192 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 14,500 | 78.13 | 75.52 |
| Dimock, Immanuel | 167 | 18,000 | 21,456 | 22,858 | 128.48 | 136.87 |
| Mitchell, Zion | 715 | 28,600 | 27,000 | 25,000 | 37.76 | 34.97 |
| Parkston, Faith | 215 | 12,000 | 13,724 | 10,574 | 63.83 | 49.18 |
| Plankinton, St. Paul | 193 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 38.86 | 38.86 |
| Tripp, Emmaus | 172 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 8,500 | 52.33 | 49.42 |
| White Lake, Trinity | 125 | 6,000 | 8,774 | 7,269 | 70.19 | 58.15 |
| Circuit H Totals | 2,008 | \$105,100 | \$111,454 | \$105,201 | 55.51 | 52.39 |
| Circuit I—Yankton | | | | | | |
| Alcester, Peace | 143 | 8,000 | 10,084 | 8,709 | 70.52 | 60.90 |
| Avon, Zion | 150 | 3,600 | 4,680 | 4,047 | 31.20 | 26.98 |
| Centerville, First English | 123 | 2,500 | 2,525 | 2,491 | 20.53 | 20.25 |
| Dakota Dunes, Holy Cross | 80 | 16,167 | 16,201 | 13,682 | 202.51 | 171.03 |
| Fairfax, Trinity | 121 | 3,000 | 3,500 | 2,000 | 28.93 | 16.53 |
| Hurley, Zion | 82 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 30.49 | 30.49 |
| Springfield, Our Savior | 56 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 1.79 | 1.79 |
| Tyndall, St. John | 150 | 00 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 8.67 | 8.67 |
| Utica, Martinus | 42 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 23.81 | 23.81 |
| Vermillion, Concordia | 158 | 00 | 3,300 | 3,300 | 20.89 | 20.89 |
| Wagner, St. John | 281 | 8,000 | 7,750 | 8,000 | 27.58 | 28.47 |
| Yankton, St. John | 978 | 38,500 | 38,500 | 37,400 | 39.37 | 38.24 |
| Circuit I Totals | 2,364 | \$83,367 | \$91,440 | \$84,529 | 38.68 | 35.76 |
| Circuit J—Sioux Falls | | | | | | |
| Brandon, Blessed Redeemer | 256 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 10,500 | 42.97 | 41.02 |
| Sioux Falls, Christ | 171 | 00 | 1,081 | 11,260 | 6.32 | 65.85 |
| Sioux Falls, Faith | 503 | 20,500 | 22,500 | 18,375 | 44.73 | 36.53 |
| Sioux Falls, Lord of Life | 304 | 17,240 | 17,240 | 17,240 | 56.71 | 56.71 |
| Sioux Falls, Memorial | 541 | 30,000 | 43,714 | 38,409 | 80.80 | 71.00 |
| Sioux Falls, Our Redeemer | 399 | 20,500 | 24,793 | 18,226 | 62.14 | 45.68 |
| Sioux Falls, Resurrection | 200 | 10,600 | 12,105 | 8,855 | 60.53 | 44.28 |
| Sioux Falls, Trinity | 46 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 10.87 | 10.87 |
| Sioux Falls, Zion | 451 | 48,000 | 48,000 | 45,785 | 106.43 | 101.52 |
| Circuit J Totals | 2,871 | \$158,340 | \$180,933 | \$169,150 | 63.02 | 58.92 |
| Circuit K—Freeman | | | | | | |
| Alexandria, St. Martin | 141 | 00 | 351 | 500 | 2.49 | 3.55 |
| Canistota, Zion | 230 | 00 | 1,425 | 3,049 | 6.19 | 13.26 |
| Emery, St. John | 47 | 1,700 | 1,766 | 2,034 | 37.57 | 43.28 |
| Emery, St. Peter | 95 | 6,000 | 6,911 | 7,210 | 72.74 | 75.89 |
| Freeman, St. Paul | 360 | 00 | 12,553 | 17,205 | 34.87 | 47.79 |
| Hartford, Trinity | 182 | 7,300 | 1,421 | 9,361 | 7.81 | 51.43 |
| Marion, Bethesda | 117 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| Menno, Immanuel | 114 | 5,500 | 6,640 | 6,548 | 58.25 | 57.44 |
| Montrose, St. John | 93 | 00 | 1,720 | 2,174 | 18.50 | 23.38 |
| Parker, First English | 63 | 2,200 | 2,155 | 2,666 | 34.21 | 42.32 |
| Scottland, St. Paul | 70 | 3,000 | 3,010 | 3,679 | 43.00 | 52.56 |
| Spencer, Trinity | 87 | 00 | 3,553 | 2,939 | 40.84 | 33.78 |
| Tea, Risen Savior | 36 | 5,275 | 4,555 | 4,173 | 126.54 | 115.92 |
| Circuit K Totals | 1,635 | \$30,975 | \$46,059 | \$61,538 | 28.17 | 37.64 |
| GRAND TOTALS | 24,416 | \$844,902 | \$980,822 | \$954,886 | 40.17 | 39.11 |

Comm. Members = Communicant membership as of Dec. 31, 2006, per LCMS Department of Statistics and Rosters
 * Includes remittance of \$1,073 from Concordia, Cresbard, for previous year (2007) intention.