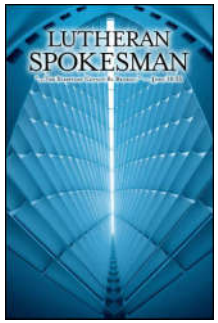
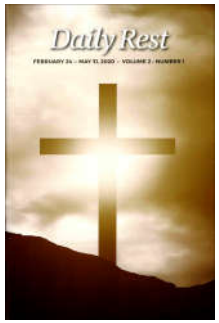
- **The "Daily Rest" Devotional** is published quarterly and features brief Bible devotions for each weekday. You may subscribe ($15/yr) through your local congregation or by writing to: Daily Rest, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701.
- **CLC Ministry by Mail** is a weekly publication of the CLC which offers the Gospel of Christ through printed sermons. Subscriptions are available by email (free), or by mail ($42/yr). Contact Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer at revpfei@gmail.com.



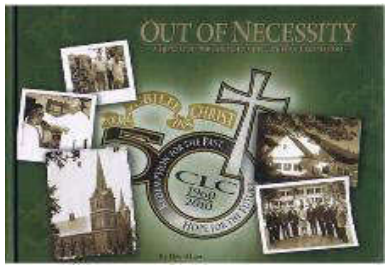




CLC LINKS and RESOURCES

Official online site of the CLC ..... www.clclutheran.org
Immanuel Lutheran College ..... www.ilc.edu
"God's Hand" Sunday school series ..... www.clclutheran.org/godshand.htm
CLC Missions Online ..... www.lutheranmissions.org
Statement of Faith and Purpose ..... www.clclutheran.org/library/SFP.pdf

For a complete history of the CLC, we recommend *Out of Necessity*, authored by the late Pastor/Professor David Lau, available from the CLC Book House.



CLC Book House..... www.clcbookhouse.org

An Introductory Guide to the

Church of the Lutheran Confession

By Missionary Bruce Naumann
©2012, 2024 by the CLC Board of Education and Publications
501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI, 54701

Revised July, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

A “synod” or denomination is a group of congregations that share the same beliefs and organizational structure. Our synod is the *Church of the Lutheran Confession*. The word “confession” is in the name because of our emphasis on “confessing” to the world only the true teachings of the Word of God. The CLC is dedicated to proclaiming the Good News of Christ crucified for sinners. It is made up of congregations throughout the United States and in Canada, as well as affiliated churches in other countries. Our teachings and practices conform to the Scriptures (the Holy Bible), since we bow to the authority of God's inerrant and inspired Word. The salvation won for all people through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the driving force behind our efforts as a confessional Lutheran church.

All CLC member churches confess that the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God. They confess the creeds of the Lutheran Church without qualification, as they are found in the Book of Concord of 1580. Scripture itself is the source and foundation of Christian teaching and faith, while the Lutheran Confessions faithfully set forth what the Bible teaches. The name of our church body is a witness to what we believe; it is a continual reminder of our responsibility to be truly Lutheran, and therefore Scriptural in our teaching and in our practice. This principle holds true among us: “If it is not scriptural, it is not Lutheran!”

FAST FACTS

- We have 70 member congregations in the CLC. A number of preaching stations also hold regular services.
- They are served by 59 active-duty pastors.
- We have about 6,000 total souls as members of our churches in the U.S. and Canada.
- Our sister churches in foreign fields have more than 135,000 members.
- We operate 21 Christian day schools in the U.S.
- We have two high schools; one is Immanuel in Mankato, MN; Immanuel Lutheran High School, College and Seminary is located in Eau Claire, WI.

How is My Mission Offering Used?

We are privileged to share in the work of God’s Kingdom with our sister congregations in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC).

Offerings that are designated for “Missions” are contributions to the General Fund of the CLC. These offerings support our mission of sharing the Gospel through Christian Education at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College and Seminary (Regents); supporting mission congregations and outreach in North America, Latin America, Asia, and Africa (Missions); supporting Christian Education and Publishing (Education and Publications); and funding the business expenses of our church body (Trustees).

Offerings to the CLC General Fund are budgeted for the various ministries that we have undertaken as a church body. The budgeted total offering revenue for this fiscal year (July 1, 2024 —June 30, 2025) is $1,312,993.



CLC PUBLICATIONS

- The CLC publishes a monthly devotional magazine, the ***Lutheran Spokesman***, featuring timely articles on Scriptural subjects as well as announcements concerning synodical matters. You may subscribe ($18/yr) through your local congregation or by writing to: Lutheran Spokesman, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701.
- The ***Journal of Theology*** is a quarterly publication featuring scholarly articles by CLC pastors and professors. Subscriptions are $20/yr. To subscribe, see www.journaloftheology.org/contact, or call 507-380-1068.

SUPPORTING THE CLC

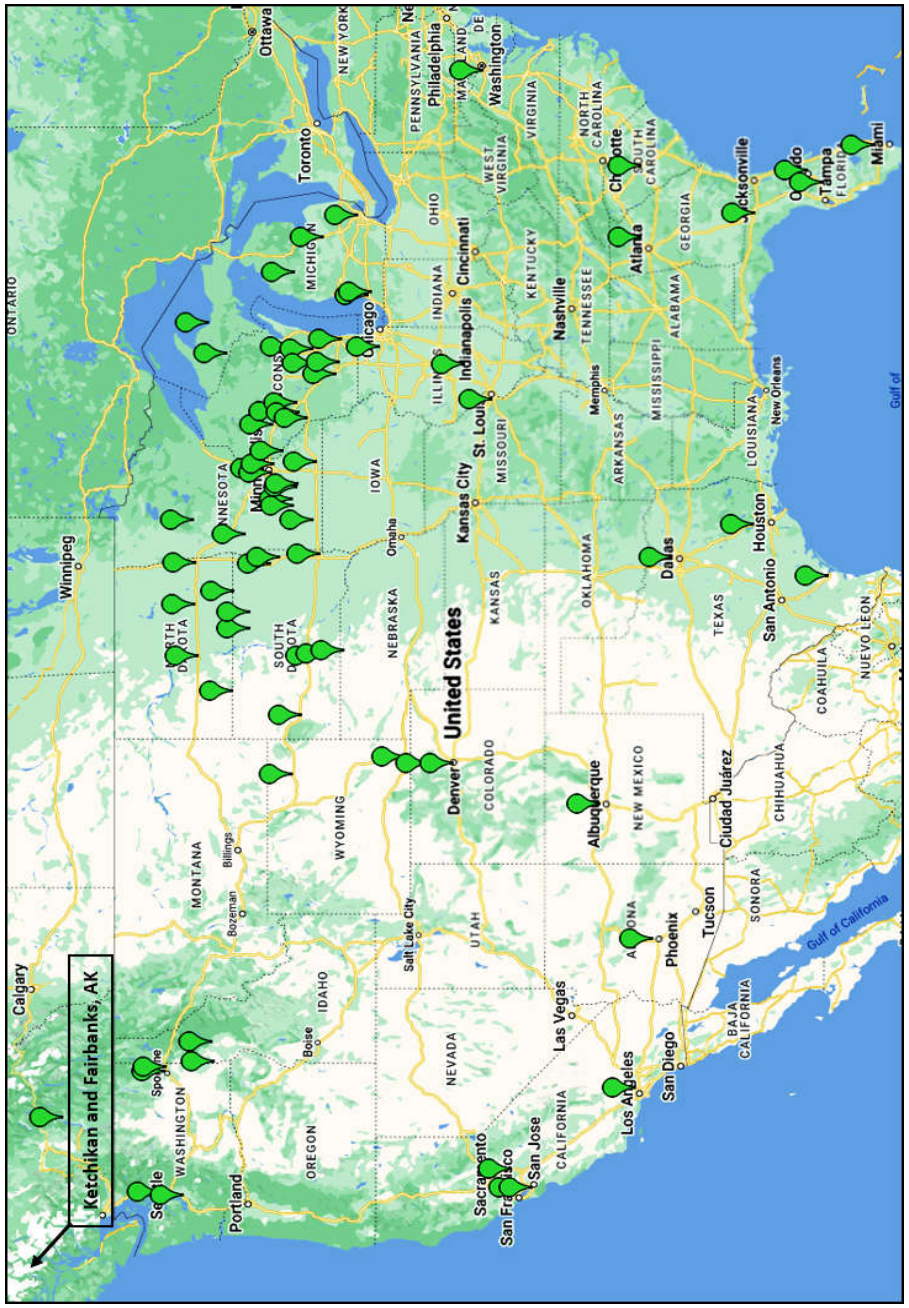
- The majority of the work of our church body is done through contributions to the CLC General Fund. Each year, congregations estimate their monetary contributions to the General Fund. This is called the "Cooperative Budget Plan," or CBP. Each board sets its budget according to this plan (How these funds are used is shown in the diagram on page 15).
- The CLC also has four auxiliary funds to which CLC members can contribute:
    1. The **ILC Improvement Fund** (IIF), which provides capital improvements to our campus at Immanuel, Eau Claire. Also in this category is the **ILC Building Fund**, which is receiving contributions toward a new campus athletic facility;
    2. The **Mission Development Fund** (MDF), which funds special projects in our overseas and U.S. missions;
    3. The ILC **Student Aid Fund** (SAF), which provides loans, grants and scholarships to students attending Immanuel High School, College, and Seminary;
    4. The **Church Extension Fund**, which provides loans to CLC churches and institutions for building projects. (As of this writing, the CEF is not actively seeking donations.)
- There are also several endowment funds: The Student Aid Fund Endowment, the CLC Foundation, the ILC Scholarship Endowment, and the Public Ministry Preparation Endowment.
- CLC members most often contribute to these funds through their local congregational offerings. Your offering envelope may have several of these funds listed, or you can write on your envelope to direct contributions to a particular fund. Contributions can also be mailed directly to:

CLC Treasurer
501 Grover Rd.
Eau Claire, WI 54701



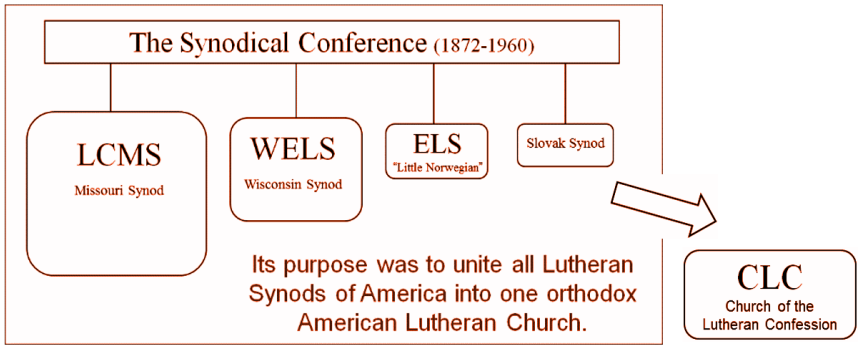
"See that you abound in this grace also."
2 Cor. 8:7

MAP OF CLC CONGREGATIONS



For more info: www.clclutheran.org/maps/church-map

A SHORT HISTORY



From 1872 until about 1961 there were various conservative Lutheran synods that made up a larger federation called the "Synodical Conference." Originally this included the Missouri Synod, the Wisconsin Synod, the Norwegian Synod, and the Slovak Synod. Organizationally these synods remained separate from each other but were in fellowship together, and thus were able to exchange pastors and teachers and commune in one another's churches.

This fine arrangement for like-minded Lutherans was spoiled, however, because of unscriptural doctrine and practice that grew in the Missouri Synod throughout the 1940s and 50s. Among other things, the Missouri Synod abandoned its Scriptural position concerning lodges and Scouting, and at one point declared its agreement with the liberal American Lutheran Church. Over many years the Wisconsin Synod protested these and other departures from Scriptural doctrine and practice in the Missouri Synod, but things grew worse instead of better.

At its 1955 Convention, the Wisconsin Synod identified the Missouri Synod as a false-teaching church body. The right thing to do at this point would have been to withdraw from fellowship with Missouri, as well as from the Synodical Conference. This would have been in simple obedience to the instructions that God has given us in Romans 16:17 to *"note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them."* The WELS and ELS repeatedly failed to do so, however. Many who were conscience-bound to remain true to the Scriptures founded the CLC in 1960.



Students and Teachers of the Himalayan Bible Institute, Nepal



Pastor Thang, Myanmar



Pastor Monotosh in Bangladesh with his wife Elizabeth and son Wilson



CLC overseas missionaries Peter Evensen, Bruce Naumann, and Todd Ohlmann

- Through Project KINSHIP, CLC members provide monthly contributions to support overseas orphans, along with support for more than 300 students in two schools in Kenya. Sponsors also provide for the education of 123 seminary students. KINSHIP general funds provide aid to the widows of pastors, as well as disaster relief when storms devastate our sister churches.



Students and teachers of the CLCI Seminary, India



Students and teachers of Wittenberg Seminary, Tanzania

Some assume that the CLC is still a separate church body because we felt that the WELS and ELS should have separated sooner than they did. In point of fact, it was not an issue of timing. Instead, the central issue was—and still is—a doctrinal difference about the reason why a separation must take place. When the WELS and ELS did sever their fellowship with the LCMS, the reason given was not the fact of false teaching within the LCMS, but because they had become convinced, in their own human judgment, that further admonition would not be productive. This was a new and unscriptural fellowship principle.

For more than 60 years since that time, the CLC has been a separate Lutheran church body, maintaining its own churches, schools, and publications. While we do not remain separate for the sake of being separate, we are convinced that the joint exercise of our faith should be reserved for those with whom we are agreed on all the teachings of the Bible.

"Our right of existence as a church body has been established by our Lord's commission to 'preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16:15). Therefore we are committed to say with the Apostle Paul: 'I am determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified' (1 Corinthians 2:2)." From the CLC *Statement of Faith and Purpose*

HIGHER EDUCATION

- From the start of the CLC, the members realized that there would be no future for the church body without a college and seminary. This was first established at Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. The Mankato school soon outgrew the available facilities.
- Property became available in Eau Claire, WI. By God's grace, the 85 acres of the former Ingram estate, along with the existing buildings and furnishings, were sold to the CLC for $85,000. Immanuel Lutheran College was relocated to Eau Claire the very next school year (Immanuel-Mankato has continued its grade school and high school up to the present).
- Since that time, Immanuel Lutheran College (ILC) has been improved with dormitories, a gymnasium, a commons and cafeteria, and most recently our new Academic Center.

- ILC has a faculty of 12 full-time professors, as well as a number of part-time teachers. At the start of the 2023-24 school year ILC had 103 enrolled in the high school, 21 in the college, and 1 in the seminary.
- ILC has been essential to our church body, having provided fully trained pastors and teachers for our pulpits and classrooms, as well as soundly educated church members, for more than 50 years.



Ingram Hall: seminary and college classrooms.



The Academic Center: classrooms, library, and administrative offices.

CLC MISSIONS

- The CLC *Statement of Faith and Purpose* declares: *"It is our single purpose to be a Christian church which strives to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible, by which alone man can know the true God and the way to eternal life."* In order to carry out our Savior's Great Commission, the CLC has active stateside and overseas mission programs.
- There is one mission congregation, Living Hope in Appleton, WI, that receives a monthly synod subsidy. This financial subsidy decreases over time so that new missions can be added. Our "Committee on Domestic Fields" is actively working to assist our churches in the area of church planting and outreach.
- The CLC's "Traveling Vacation Bible School" sends teams to promote and teach VBS in CLC congregations.
- We have sister church bodies in India, Nepal, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Zambia. Additionally, we assist an individual congregation in Mexico.
- There are more than 135,000 members in our sister churches overseas, where approximately 120 men are being trained for pastoral ministry, with hundreds more attending monthly pastoral seminars.
- The CLC calls and supports three full-time missionaries – one in West Africa, one in East Africa, and our visiting missionary.
- The main emphasis of our overseas mission efforts is on the training of local men for the pastoral ministry. We support seminaries and Bible Institutes in Nigeria, Togo, Tanzania, Nepal, the DR Congo, and two areas of India. We also focus on providing Bibles and Luther's Catechism in local languages.
- For a number of years the CLC "Mission Helper Program" has taken groups of CLC members from the U.S. to teach and evangelize among our sister churches overseas. Such trips have served our fellow believers in India, Nepal, and in East Africa.

HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

- Christ Jesus is the head of His Church. Therefore all matters of teaching, as well as all practices which are governed by Scripture, are decided by the Word of God.
- In all other matters, the style of church governance is *congregational.* This means that congregations govern their own local affairs including calling their own pastor(s) and teachers.
- The CLC is divided into five area conferences: Great Lakes, Minnesota, Pacific Coast, Southeastern, and West Central. Each conference elects a "Visitor," who serves as a pastor to the pastors and is available to help with disputes at a congregation's request.
- Each congregation may elect two delegates (along with pastors and male teachers) to attend the CLC Convention that meets every other year.
- At the CLC Convention, officers and board members are elected to conduct the synod's work. The Convention is the final authority (in matters not bound by the Word of God) for all of our mutual business for God's kingdom. The President is responsible for doctrinal supervision, among other things.
- Between conventions, members of the various CLC boards attend to their various areas of service. Representatives from each board meet twice yearly as the Coordinating Council, along with synod officers.
- It is worth noting that the CLC provides salaries for only a few administrative positions. All CLC officers, as well as members of boards and committees, are unpaid for their work. This service is a labor of love for the Savior who bought us and has commissioned us to proclaim His Word. *[Photo: Some of the delegates of the 2024 CLC Convention]*





Graduation Day at Immanuel

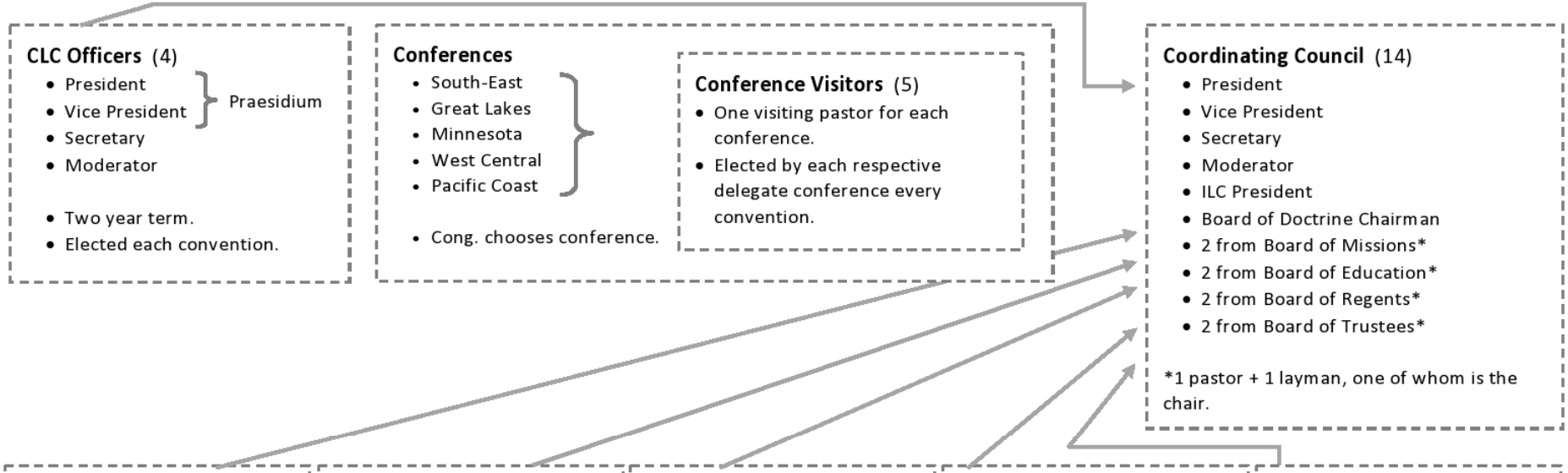


Overhead view of the ILC campus

"Nestled in the quiet beauty of the tall green pines,
God has set our Alma Mater,
guiding hearts and minds.
Built on Jesus' words of promise - - O Lord, bless her well!
Thus may e'er our Alma Mater be Immanuel!"

Formal Organization of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

CLC Convention: All pastors, male teachers and 2 laymen per congregation. Meets every two years.



Board of Doctrine (7)

- 7 members, at least one layman required.
- Two year term.
- Appointed by Praesidium + Conference Visitors
- Appointed each convention.

Helps formulate official doctrinal statements. Supervises doctrine of publications not already under supervision. Conducts colloquies. Represents the CLC at the request of the convention or president.

Board of Missions (4)

- 2 laymen + 2 called workers.
- Four year term.
- Two elected each convention.

Explores mission fields. Opens or terminates mission efforts. Supervises congregations and preaching stations receiving subsidy. Authorizes purchase of mission related properties in conjunction with the Board of Trustees. Studies needs and conditions in mission fields in order to counsel. Calls foreign missionaries.

Board of Education and Publications (4)

- Pastor, teacher, professor, layman .
- Four year term.
- Two elected each convention.

Assists in educational matters upon request by congregations, conferences, Coordinating Council or the CLC. Studies curriculums of CLC schools to help correlate their programs. Encourages educational establishment and expansion. Serves as the CLC publishing house. Oversees the CLC Book House and all official websites.

Board of Regents (4)

- 2 laymen + 2 called workers.
- Four year term.
- Two elected each convention.

Establishes policy and curriculum of ILHS/ILC/Seminary. Provides for the general welfare of faculty, students and staff. Sees to the proper maintenance of the campus.

Board of Trustees (4)

- 2 laymen + 2 called workers.
- Four year term.
- Two elected each convention.

Administers and invests money according to convention direction. Invests money for Foundation Board. Disburses money to boards as directed by the convention. Borrows money when needed. Informs the CLC of financial condition via biennial report given at convention.

Arranged according to the CLC Constitution - www.CLCLutheran.org/library/CLC_Constitution.pdf

Diagram by Pastor Caleb Schaller