



District President's Report – Part II



THANK YOU!
Danke Schoen!



Purpose of a District Convention

“Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. They are the principal legislative assemblies, which amend the district’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, consider and take action on reports and overtures, and handle appropriate appeals.” (Synod Bylaw 4.2.1)



Behold Your God!

Isaiah 40:9



61st Convention of the South Dakota District-LCMS

April 19–21, 2018



For your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called. (Isaiah 54:5)

The Bride in Sorrow



ST. PAUL - SENECA

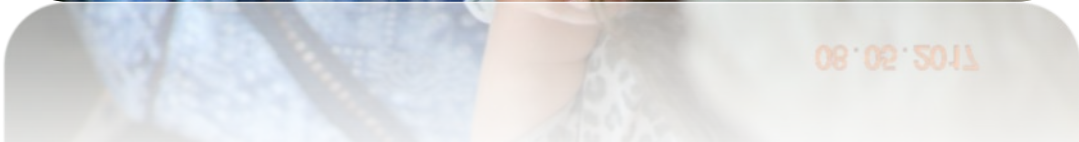
The Bride in Sorrow



ZION – DELMONT

May 10, 2015

The Bride Rejoices



ZION – DELMONT

August 5, 2017

The Bride Rejoices



The Bride Rejoices



The Bride Rejoices

All 9 circuits
had
celebrations.

3,000 to 4,000
attended.



REFORMATION
2017 It's *Still* All About
Jesus

Reformation 500

Yankton Circuit



Pierre Circuit



The Bride Serves and Speaks

That every congregation, ministry, school, and individual of The SD District be encouraged to faithfully, intentionally, and consistently extend Christ's ministry of mercy to their communities, in order to proclaim Law and Gospel to those who do not yet know "the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." *2015 SD Res. 2-01*



The Bride Wonders about Her Future
(BUT SHE KNOWS WHO HOLDS THE FUTURE!)



In about one generation...

In 1994, the average LCMS congregation in South Dakota had:

302 baptized members

231 confirmed members

115 in worship

The average congregation in 2016



Going *Forward in Hope*



**Strategizing with our congregations
about their future and their
opportunities for witness and mercy.**

Going *Forward in Hope*



**Equipping our lay people,
including young adults, to lead.**

Facts

**IN COMMUNITIES WITH
< 10,000**

85 of our 107 congregations

**IN MULTIPLE – POINT
PARISHES**

71 of our 107 congregations

28 DUAL parishes

5 TRIPLE-POINT parishes

Facts – Worship Attend.



49 of our congregations have fewer than 50 in worship;

30 have 50 - 99 in worship;

17 have 100 - 199 in worship;

5 have 200 - 299 in worship; and

6 have 300 - 399 in worship. (2016 stats)

Going *Forward in Hope*



Seizing the opportunities to reach the unchurched and the de-churched.

Facts – Church Worker Availability



½ of LCMS pastors are 55 years old and older!

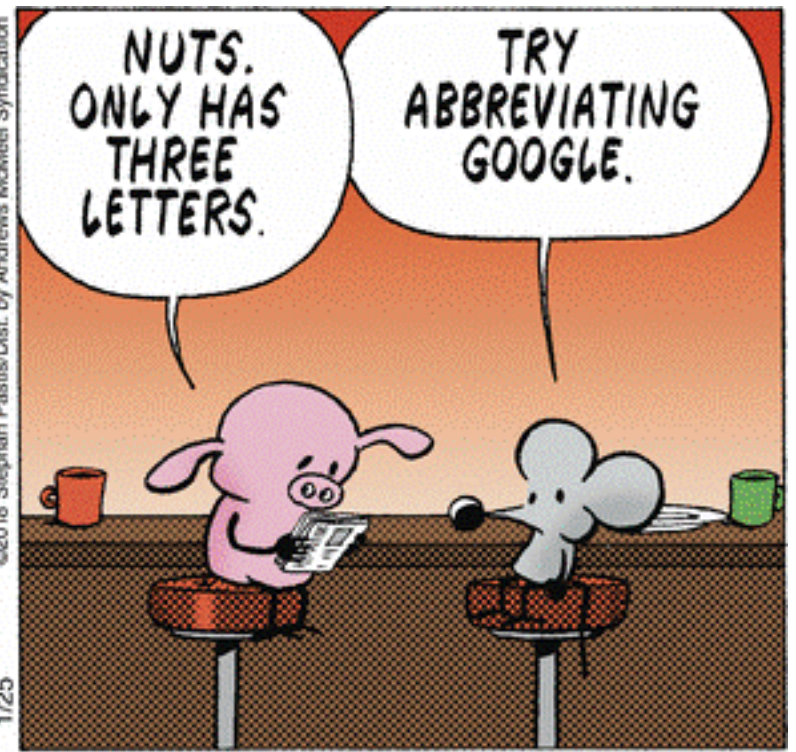
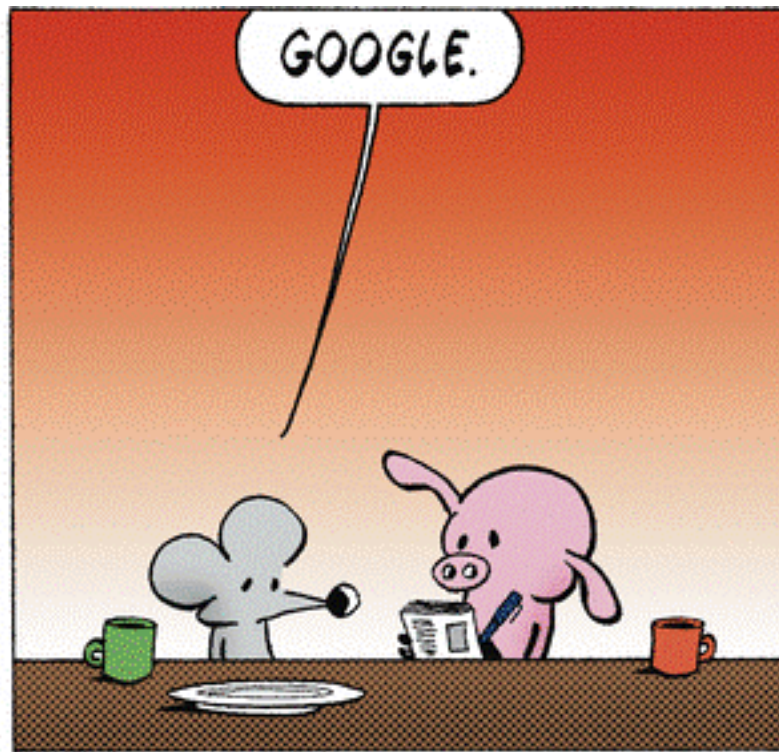
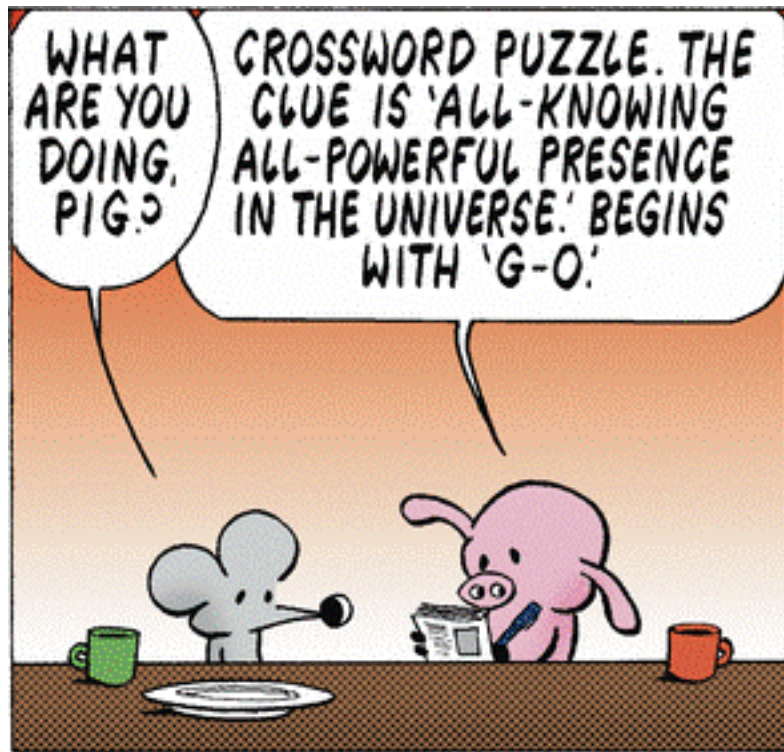
About 100 candidates available/year (2017 and 2018).

Going *Forward in Hope*



Recruitment of church workers.

Fact: Society Is More Secular



Fact: **We** Are More Secular



“...when one compares the LCMS to the US population overall, we are probably more culturally similar than dissimilar to the rest of the white population. Pew’s LCMS data, for example, shows that on issues such as abortion, homosexuality, and same-sex marriage, individual members of LCMS churches tend to reflect the attitudes of the rest of the country.” (Rev. Larry Vogel, “Mission USA: America’s Changing Demographic Landscape,” in the *Journal of Lutheran Mission*, 2016)

Going *Forward in Hope*



Bible Study. God grants spiritual life, discernment, and health through His Word.

The Bride Listens to Her Husband's Voice

“The grass
withers, the
flower fades, but
the word of our
God will stand
forever”

(Isaiah 40:8).



God's Voice from Isaiah

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (41:10).



God's Voice from Isaiah



“I am the Lord; I have called You in righteousness; I will take You by the hand and keep you; I will give You as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,...” (42:6).

**Fear not, for I
have
redeemed
you, I have
called you by
name, you are
mine...**



God's Voice from Isaiah
Isaiah 43:1b

God's Voice from Isaiah



“I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants” (44:3b).

The Bride Knows the Best Is Yet to Come

*Despite the
challenge of our
times, we know
that history has
been decided.
We know how
this ends for us!*

FOR GOD
SO LOVED
THE
WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL
NOT
PERISH
BUT
HAVE
ETERNAL
LIFE.

JOHN
3:16

3:16
JOHN

The Best Is Yet to Come!



**They shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,
for He who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.**

Isaiah 49:10

