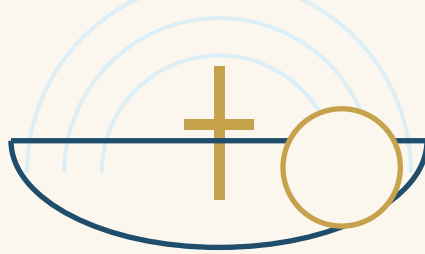


A PLAIN-LANGUAGE GUIDE



2026 LCMS Convention Briefing Booklet

For delegates, pastors, elders, and congregational leaders



Theme: Christ Is Risen Indeed

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Scripture anchor

1 Corinthians 15:20-22: But now Christ has been raised from the dead. He became the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since death came by man, the resurrection of the dead also came by man. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

69th Regular Convention of the LCMS | July 18-23, 2026 | Phoenix, Arizona

Version prepared May 19, 2026

Before You Read

Use this as a map, not as the territory.

Public-use note

This booklet is an unofficial orientation resource. It is designed to help LCMS delegates, pastors, elders, and congregational leaders read the official convention materials with more confidence. It does not speak for the LCMS, a district, a congregation, a floor committee, or any candidate. Verify procedures, overture wording, final resolutions, election details, and legal or institutional updates against official LCMS convention materials, Today's Business, the LCMS Handbook, and convention officers.

The official 2026 Convention Workbook says the delegate convention is the member congregations' chief means of governing the Synod, keeping the work tuned to the Synod's confession and aimed at its objectives. The Workbook also warns that some overtures contain diverse impressions and contested facts. That means faithful reading requires more than a highlighter and a strong coffee. It requires charity, precision, and the humility to check sources.

This booklet tries to do three things:

- Give a plain-language overview of the major issues.
- Show why faithful Lutherans may care deeply about them.
- Return the conversation to Christ, the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions, and the church's shared witness.

A verse for convention reading

1 Thessalonians 5:21: Test all things, and hold firmly that which is good.

Contents

A quick map for reading, teaching, and conversation.

1. The basics of the 2026 convention
2. How to read an overture
3. Two visions of Synod
4. What is driving the anxiety
5. Major issue map
6. Closer look: online false teaching and Stone Choir-related overtures
7. How to think, speak, and pray
8. Source and verification notes

Best use

Print this booklet for pre-convention elder meetings, delegate briefings, pastoral conversations, and congregational leadership discussions. It is not meant to replace the Workbook. It is meant to make the Workbook less likely to eat your afternoon whole.

Part One

The basics

What	69th Regular Convention of the LCMS
When	July 18-23, 2026
Where	Phoenix, Arizona
Theme	Christ Is Risen Indeed, 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
Scope	374 unique overtures across 10 floor committees, according to the official Workbook preface.

The convention is not a vague church conference. It is a legislative assembly of the Synod. It elects officers, receives reports, addresses doctrine and practice through resolutions, and can amend the Constitution and Bylaws according to the Synod's rules. That makes it consequential, but not ultimate. Christ rules His Church through His Word. The convention serves that confession.

Three things to understand before reading the issues:

- 1. This is a heavy convention.** The Workbook reports 464 on-time submissions and 374 unique overtures. Delegates should expect real disagreement, overlapping proposals, and amended floor-committee resolutions.
- 2. The dominant theme is identity.** Many overtures ask what it means to be a confessional Lutheran church body in 2026: how pastors are formed, how congregations worship, how institutions remain accountable, how doctrine and mission hold together, and how the Synod governs itself.
- 3. The practical impact is real.** Decisions can affect pastoral supply, university oversight, worship resources, recognized service organizations, dispute resolution, church-worker care, and mission priorities.

Do not panic, do not nap

Two errors are easy. One is panic, as though Christ forgot to check the convention calendar. The other is indifference, as though governance never affects people. Lutheran sobriety walks between them: pray, read, test, speak, vote, and trust Christ.

How to Read an Overture

A small toolkit for delegates and congregational leaders.

An overture is a request that the convention take a particular action. It usually includes "whereas" clauses, which give the rationale, and "resolved" clauses, which state the proposed action. The resolves matter most because they are what the convention would actually adopt, amend, refer, or decline.

- 1. Find the committee and issue cluster.** A single overture often belongs to a larger family of proposals.
- 2. Separate diagnosis from action.** A rationale may be persuasive while a proposed remedy is too broad. Or a remedy may be useful even if the rationale needs tightening.
- 3. Ask what binds whom.** Does the overture encourage, request study, direct an agency, amend bylaws, establish a mandate, or discipline a practice? These are different animals. Do not pet the rhinoceros.
- 4. Check the sources.** Look for Scripture, Confessions, Handbook provisions, reports, data, and whether claims are verified or contested.
- 5. Test the scope.** Is the proposal narrow enough to solve the problem without binding consciences beyond Scripture and the Confessions?
- 6. Look for unintended effects.** Good intentions can create bad governance, and good governance can become heavy-handed if written poorly.
- 7. Return to Christ.** Ask whether the action clarifies the Gospel, strengthens faithful practice, protects the vulnerable, supports congregations, and serves the church's witness.

The delegate posture

Strong conviction and teachable humility belong together. The delegate is not a detached spectator, a factional gladiator, or a rubber stamp. The delegate listens, tests, speaks, and votes for the good of Christ's Church.

Part Two

Interpretive lenses

Many debates make more sense when you recognize two recurring lenses. They are not party labels. They are not accusations. They are ways faithful Lutherans often weigh the same question differently.

Lens One: Synod as a voluntary association of congregations

This lens emphasizes the congregation, local pastoral accountability, and the Synod as serving and advising its member congregations.

It values the LCMS constitutional guardrail that the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising coercive power over congregations in matters of self-government.

Common instincts: preserve local responsibility, resist over-centralization, avoid treating human arrangements as divine mandates, and keep mission close to local altars and neighborhoods.

Lens Two: Synod as an institutional church body

This lens emphasizes common confession, doctrinal accountability, recognized supervision, and the need for clear structures in a time of cultural and institutional pressure.

It sees stronger oversight as protection for congregations, church workers, schools, and the people in the pews.

Common instincts: protect doctrine and practice, strengthen institutional accountability, clarify supervision, and prevent drift in shared Lutheran identity.

Both lenses can serve the church when they are governed by Scripture and the Confessions. Both can become distorted. Lens One can become isolation without accountability. Lens Two can become control without trust. The healthiest LCMS life holds local responsibility and common confession together.

Confessional guardrail

Augsburg Confession VII teaches that the true unity of the church is found in agreement in the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments. That does not make practice meaningless. It does mean human practices must not become new confessional tests.

What Is Driving the Anxiety?

Fear can reveal what people are trying to protect.

Policy debates often carry deeper fears. Naming those fears helps us read with compassion instead of suspicion. A pastor, elder, delegate, or congregation pressing hard for a position may be trying to protect something real, even when their proposed solution needs correction.

Fear of liberalism	Concern that doctrinal compromise may enter schools, agencies, worship, pastoral formation, or public teaching.
Fear of losing Lutheran identity	Concern that distinctively Lutheran doctrine and practice may be absorbed into generic American Christianity.
Fear of cultural decay	Concern that families, schools, and congregations are being pressured by moral and ideological claims contrary to Scripture.
Fear of shrinking churches	Concern that congregations without pastors, young families, workers, or resources will not be able to continue.
Fear of irrelevance	Concern that the church may speak clearly but fail to engage actual neighbors and public questions.
Fear of over-control	Concern that a stronger national structure may treat congregations as branches rather than members joined in confession.
Fear of disorder	Concern that too much local freedom may make Lutheran doctrine and practice unrecognizable from one place to the next.

The right fear

The right fear is the fear and love of God. When that fear is in the proper place, lesser fears shrink to their proper size. We can then speak truthfully without panic and charitably without mush.

Part Three

Major issue map

The following issue summaries are intentionally brief. They do not replace the overtures, the floor-committee reports, or Today's Business. They give leaders a map of where the big conversations are likely to happen.

How to use these pages

For each issue, ask: What is being protected? What is being changed? Who is affected? What does Scripture and the Lutheran confession require? What belongs to Christian freedom? What would make the proposal clearer and more faithful?

1 Pastoral Formation and SMP

Plain-language summary. This is one of the largest and most consequential clusters. Overtures debate residential seminary formation, the Specific Ministry Pastor program, online or hybrid routes, academic requirements, supervision, age restrictions, and pastoral supply.

Why it matters. The outcome could shape who is available to serve congregations, how pastors are formed, how small or rural congregations receive care, and how the Synod protects both doctrinal depth and pastoral access.

Watch-for concerns

- Do not treat residential formation and mission need as enemies.
- Watch whether proposals solve real supervision concerns or simply close needed pathways.
- Watch whether innovation language preserves AC XIV and the regular call.

Questions to ask.

- What problem is the proposal actually solving: quality, access, supervision, shortage, or institutional funding?
- Does it preserve the office of the ministry while serving congregations that lack pastors?
- Is the proposed route accountable, teachable, and genuinely Lutheran?

Closing Gospel frame

Christ gives pastors to feed His sheep. The question is not whether the flock needs shepherds. The question is how the Synod forms, examines, calls, and supervises them faithfully.

2 Worship, Hymnal, and Practice

Plain-language summary. Several overtures address worship, including hymnal preparation, a possible hymnal supplement, the Commission on Worship, use of Synod-approved agendas and hymnbooks, examination of new

worship practices, children's sermons, the chalice, and every-Sunday Communion.

Why it matters. Worship is where doctrine is sung, prayed, heard, and received. Decisions here affect congregational life immediately and emotionally.

Watch-for concerns

- Avoid reducing worship to preference, style, or nostalgia.
- Avoid treating every local custom as a confessional crisis.
- Ask whether a proposed mandate is needed or whether teaching and encouragement would serve better.

Questions to ask.

- Does the practice teach Christ clearly?
- Does the proposal encourage unity without binding consciences beyond Scripture and the Confessions?
- Does it protect the weak, instruct the young, and strengthen reverence for Word and Sacrament?

Closing Gospel frame

The Divine Service is not a performance of Lutheran identity. It is where Christ serves sinners with His gifts. Good order matters because the Gospel matters.

3

Closed Communion and Pastoral Care

Plain-language summary. Overtures address reaffirming closed Communion, restoring faithful Eucharistic practice, and studying pastoral exceptions. The debate is not whether the altar confesses unity. It is how that unity is taught, guarded, and applied pastorally.

Why it matters. Pastoral practice at the rail is one of the most visible expressions of confession. It affects visitors, members, pastors, and congregations every week.

Watch-for concerns

- Do not use exceptions to erase the rule.
- Do not use the rule to erase pastoral care.
- Watch language that turns pastoral discretion into either open Communion or mechanical gatekeeping.

Questions to ask.

- What does the proposal teach about the Lord's Supper?
- How does it protect communicants from harm and pastors from isolation?
- Does it distinguish emergency pastoral care from ordinary public practice?

Closing Gospel frame

The Supper is Christ's true body and blood, given and shed for sinners for forgiveness. The rail is not a trophy line. It is a confession and a gift.

4

Sexuality, Marriage, and RSOs

Plain-language summary. Several overtures address Recognized Service Organizations, human sexuality, cohabitation, marriage, pastoral care for families, and institutional alignment with LCMS doctrine.

Why it matters. These questions now arrive at parish doors, school offices, counseling conversations, and board tables. The Synod must speak truthfully and pastorally.

Watch-for concerns

- The doctrine is not vague: marriage, sexuality, body, and vocation are governed by God's Word.
- Watch whether proposals pair truth with concrete pastoral care.
- Watch whether RSO rules are clear, enforceable, and not merely symbolic.

Questions to ask.

- What action is actually proposed for RSOs?
- How does the overture protect doctrine while caring for sinners?
- Does it avoid both silence and cruelty?

Closing Gospel frame

Law exposes sin. Gospel forgives sinners in Christ. A faithful church does both, without winking at sin and without sneering at the wounded.

5

Concordia Universities and Institutional Oversight

Plain-language summary. Overtures address the Concordia University System, prior approval, Lutheran identity, governance, and institutional accountability. Some propose structural changes. Others seek stability in the existing system. Some public discussion also concerns ongoing institutional and legal disputes.

Why it matters. The Concordias shape future teachers, church workers, families, and leaders. They also raise questions about how a voluntary church body preserves institutional fidelity when assets, governance, and mission are intertwined.

Watch-for concerns

- For public use, avoid treating unresolved legal allegations or litigation as settled fact.
- Verify all institutional updates against official LCMS sources and current court records.
- Distinguish doctrinal accountability from operational micromanagement.

Questions to ask.

- What does the proposal change structurally?
- Who becomes accountable to whom?

- Does it protect Lutheran identity while preserving workable governance?
- What are the financial and legal implications?

Closing Gospel frame

Schools serve the church best when they confess Christ clearly, teach faithfully, and remember that institutional survival is not the same as Gospel faithfulness.

6

Women's Roles in the Church

Plain-language summary. Several overtures revisit women as lectors, woman suffrage, and the role of women in the church. The LCMS position on the office of the holy ministry remains unchanged: the Synod does not ordain women. The debate concerns adjacent practices.

Why it matters. The language used here will affect congregational peace, women who serve faithfully, pastoral practice, and how the Synod teaches the order of creation and the body of Christ.

Watch-for concerns

- Do not pretend these issues are emotionally neutral.
- Do not collapse every auxiliary role into the pastoral office.
- Do not use pastoral concern as a fog machine for avoiding biblical teaching.

Questions to ask.

- What practice is actually under review?
- What Scripture and confessional material are cited?
- Is the proposal correcting real confusion or reopening settled matters without sufficient cause?

Closing Gospel frame

Christ gives gifts to His whole body. Order is not contempt. Service is not lesser. The Church needs both clarity and gratitude.

7

Race, Nationalism, and Public Theology

Plain-language summary. A cluster of overtures addresses Christian nationalism, racial ideology, antisemitism, Positive Christianity, racial quotas, justice language, and Stone Choir-related concerns.

Why it matters. This cluster will shape public witness in a polarized moment. It also tests whether the Synod can reject errors on the left and the right without turning the Gospel into a factional tool.

Watch-for concerns

- Do not let one concern cancel the other.
- Reject racial idolatry, antisemitism, and ethnic pride without importing secular ideological frameworks.
- Use biblical categories with care: creation, sin, neighbor, nation, body of Christ, baptism, and the new creation.

Questions to ask.

- Does the overture speak with theological precision?
- Does it name false teaching without caricature?
- Does it preserve the distinction between the Church and civil politics?

Closing Gospel frame

Revelation 7:9: After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could count, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

8

Public Witness and Martyr Language

Plain-language summary. Several overtures address whether and how the Synod should recognize a contemporary public figure as a martyr or establish a day of prayer for faithful witnesses. The question is not only personal honor. It is theological vocabulary.

Why it matters. The word martyr carries ancient Christian weight. The Synod should be careful that grief, politics, and admiration do not outrun theological precision.

Watch-for concerns

- A day of prayer and formal declaration of martyrdom are not the same action.
- Avoid partisan canonization.
- Ask whether the motive for death is clearly hatred of Christ and His confession, not merely political hostility.

Questions to ask.

- What does the overture ask the Synod to say?
- What precedent would it set?

- Is the language prayerful, theological, and careful enough to age well?

Closing Gospel frame

The Church honors faithful witnesses best when it keeps Christ, not the culture war, at the center.

9

International Lutheran Fellowship

Plain-language summary. Overtures address fellowship relationships with Lutheran church bodies abroad, including recognition, admonition, protest, clarification, and reconsideration.

Why it matters. Altar and pulpit fellowship is not diplomatic friendliness. It is a public confession of doctrinal unity, with practical consequences for preaching, communion, missionaries, and international partnerships.

Watch-for concerns

- Do not reduce fellowship to institutional mood.
- Watch whether evidence of doctrinal drift is clear and current.
- Ask whether admonition, protest, study, or termination is the appropriate action.

Questions to ask.

- What doctrine or practice is at issue?
- What has the partner body officially taught or done?
- What action best serves truth, patience, and repentance?

Closing Gospel frame

Christian unity is received in the truth of Christ. It is not manufactured by ignoring error or preserved by needless suspicion.

10 In Vitro Fertilization and Life

Plain-language summary. Overtures address IVF, the sanctity of human life, embryos, and pastoral care for couples experiencing infertility.

Why it matters. Many families have faced or will face these questions. The church must speak clearly about human life while caring tenderly for those who grieve infertility, loss, and difficult decisions.

Watch-for concerns

- Do not treat embryos as property or medical leftovers.
- Do not treat grieving couples as theological problems to be solved.
- Watch whether a proposal distinguishes immoral practices from morally constrained medical care.

Questions to ask.

- Does the proposal protect every human life from fertilization?
- Does it offer pastoral guidance for those already entangled in painful situations?
- Does it speak with both courage and mercy?

Closing Gospel frame

Christ received children, healed the suffering, and gave Himself for sinners. Life teaching must be both firm and tender.

11 Governance and Constitutional Order

Plain-language summary. Overtures address presidential elections, term limits, convention cycles, the title Bishop, electoral circuits, the Commission on Constitutional Matters, dispute structures, and review of past restructuring.

Why it matters. Governance decides how decisions are made. It can either support trust or quietly train suspicion. Small bylaw changes can produce long-term cultural effects.

Watch-for concerns

- Process questions are theological when they affect confession, accountability, and care for congregations.
- Watch for proposals that solve frustration by creating chaos.
- Watch for proposals that protect order by insulating leaders from accountability.

Questions to ask.

- Does the proposal fit the LCMS Constitution?
- Does it build trust through clarity and accountability?
- Does it improve the Synod's ability to serve congregations?

Closing Gospel frame

Good order is not the Gospel, but disorder can obscure the Gospel. Governance should serve confession, mission, and neighbor-love.

12 Dispute Resolution and Clergy Misconduct

Plain-language summary. A major cluster addresses dispute resolution, ecclesiastical investigations, clergy misconduct or abuse, transparency, due process, and public trust.

Why it matters. These matters affect wounded people, accused workers, congregations, district presidents, and the credibility of the church's public witness.

Watch-for concerns

- Protect victims and the vulnerable.
- Protect due process and truth.
- Avoid secrecy that looks like protection of institutions over people.
- Avoid procedures that treat accusation as conviction.

Questions to ask.

- Does the proposal clarify who must act, by when, and with what accountability?
- Does it honor both truth and mercy?
- Does it prevent repeat harm?

Closing Gospel frame

The Church disciplines not to win institutional arguments, but to call sinners to repentance, protect the vulnerable, and restore where restoration is possible.

13 Mission Priorities and Congregational Sustainability

Plain-language summary. Overtures address whether to sunset, retain, narrow, revise, or replace the Synod's mission priorities. Related overtures address campus ministry, church planting, revitalization, and sustainability of smaller congregations.

Why it matters. Budget priorities reveal practical priorities. Mission language can inspire, but it can also become branding if not tied to clear Gospel proclamation and actual support for congregations.

Watch-for concerns

- Do not make a mission emphasis a confessional test.
- Do not use confessional language to avoid mission urgency.
- Watch whether funds, staff, and accountability match the stated priorities.

Questions to ask.

- What work would this priority actually fund?
- How does it help congregations proclaim Christ?
- Is it measurable without becoming managerial nonsense in a clerical necktie?

Closing Gospel frame

The risen Christ sends His Church. Mission priorities should help congregations speak Christ crucified and risen to real people in real places.

14 Publishing, Confessions, and Resources

Plain-language summary. Overtures address access to the Lutheran Confessions, sustainable Bible translations, CPH resources, shipping and cost concerns, and publishing priorities.

Why it matters. Lay access to the Confessions matters for catechesis and identity. Publishing decisions shape what congregations read, teach, sing, and hand to the next generation.

Watch-for concerns

- Free access and sustainable publishing both matter.
- Do not pit lay catechesis against the health of faithful publishing.
- Watch for proposals that sound simple but carry copyright, editorial, and financial consequences.

Questions to ask.

- What text or edition is in view?
- Who bears the cost?

- How does the action strengthen congregations and members in the faith?

Closing Gospel frame

The Confessions do not replace Scripture. They help the Church say clearly what Scripture teaches, especially when many voices claim the Bible while meaning different things.

15

AI, Mental Health, Immigration, Security, and Other Emerging Issues

Plain-language summary. Other overtures address artificial intelligence, AI-generated sermons, mental health, worker wellness, immigration, school security, COVID-era reflection, parental authority, and a commissioned male diaconate.

Why it matters. These topics may not form one neat category, but they show the Synod wrestling with ministry in a changed world.

Watch-for concerns

- AI can assist administration and study, but the sermon is not content sludge from a holy vending machine.
- Mental health care should support, not replace, pastoral care.
- Public-policy issues need pastoral clarity without partisan reflex.

Questions to ask.

- What is the real ministry problem?
- Is the proposal realistic and enforceable?
- Does it preserve pastoral office, human care, and Gospel proclamation?

Closing Gospel frame

New tools and old troubles still meet the same Christ. The Church need not fear the future, but it must test spirits, tools, systems, and slogans by the Word.

Closer Look

Online false teaching and Stone Choir-related overtures

The Workbook includes Overture 4-20, "To Condemn False Teachings of Stone Choir," within a wider cluster on Christian nationalism, Positive Christianity, race, antisemitism, and racial idolatry. This public booklet avoids repeating inflammatory claims beyond what is needed for pastoral recognition. The point is not to drive traffic to false teaching. The point is to help leaders recognize patterns and return the conversation to Christ.

Why the issue matters: online spaces can catechize lonely, angry, or disoriented people faster than a pastor can schedule coffee. False teaching often arrives wearing familiar vocabulary. In this case, the concern is that Lutheran terms may be used to smuggle in racial pride, antisemitism, authoritarian political fantasies, contempt for neighbors, and contempt for the visible fellowship of the church.

Pastoral recognition signs

- Watch for language that treats race, ethnicity, or bloodline as a theological rank above baptism.
- Watch for contempt toward Jewish neighbors or Black Christians.
- Watch for fascination with authoritarian "Christian prince" rhetoric as though the Gospel requires political domination.
- Watch for Lutheran vocabulary being used to excuse hatred, cruelty, or pride.
- Watch for young men being disciplined by outrage instead of by Word, Sacrament, and faithful Christian fellowship.

How not to respond: do not argue on the false teacher's preferred ground. Do not make the conversation a contest of online clips. Do not sneer at those who were drawn in. The goal is repentance, rescue, and clearer confession.

Bring it back here

- Baptism: the Christian's identity is in Christ, not bloodline.
- Body of Christ: the Church is not an ethnic project.
- Neighbor-love: hatred of neighbor is not courage.
- Repentance and absolution: those caught in false teaching are not helped by cowardice or cruelty.
- Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Another Scripture anchor

Ephesians 2:14: For he is our peace, who made both one, and broke down the middle wall of separation.

Part Four

How to think, speak, and pray

Most overtures do not pass as written. Floor committees combine, refine, substitute, refer, and rewrite. The final resolution may be much better, much narrower, or very different from the original overture. Do not overreact to the existence of an overture. Read what actually comes to the floor.

Conventions are biblical in the sense that the Church has always gathered to address contested matters. Acts 15 records the apostles and elders gathering in Jerusalem over a doctrinal and pastoral dispute. Acts 15:28 says: For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these necessary things.

Faithful disagreement is part of confessional life. The goal is not to avoid every hard question. The goal is to let Christ's Word judge us, correct us, comfort us, and send us.

Conversation posture

- Affirm the real concern before critiquing the proposed solution.
- Narrow the claim. Do not let broad slogans do the work of careful theology.
- Cite Scripture, the Confessions, the Handbook, or the official report at issue.
- Propose better wording when possible.
- Keep the tone firm, fraternal, and useful.

Useful bridge language:

- I share the concern, but I think the wording binds more than Scripture and the Confessions require.
- I agree this needs attention, but I would prefer a study, referral, or narrower amendment rather than a mandate.
- Can we distinguish the doctrine, which is settled, from the practice question, which may need clearer pastoral guidance?
- This proposal may be trying to solve a real problem, but it could create a different one for congregations.
- How does this help the Synod confess Christ more clearly and support congregations more faithfully?

Prayer Guide

Bring the convention before the Lord of the Church.

For the delegates

Lord Jesus Christ, guide the delegates of the Synod with wisdom, courage, patience, and charity. Keep them faithful to Your Word, clear in confession, and humble before one another.

For floor committees

Gracious Lord, bless the floor committees as they read, combine, amend, and prepare resolutions. Protect them from factional pride and give them words that serve truth, clarity, and peace.

For pastors and congregations

Good Shepherd, provide faithful pastors for congregations, and sustain congregations that are weary, divided, small, grieving, or uncertain. Gather Your people around Your Word and Sacraments.

For schools and institutions

Lord of the Church, keep LCMS seminaries, universities, schools, agencies, and recognized organizations faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Give leaders courage to repent where needed and wisdom to govern well.

For those wounded by sin or misconduct

Merciful Father, protect the vulnerable, expose what is hidden, give justice where harm has been done, and give repentance and healing through Christ.

For those caught in false teaching

Holy Spirit, call back those entangled in pride, hatred, despair, or deception. Replace counterfeit courage with repentance, faith, and love born from Christ.

For the mission of the Church

Risen Lord, send Your people into the harvest with the good news that You died and rose for sinners. Keep the convention from becoming a distraction from Your Great Sending.

Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You are risen indeed. Keep Your Church in the true faith. Grant repentance where we are wrong, courage where we are timid, humility where we are proud, and joy where we are weary. Let all our words, votes, corrections, and plans serve the proclamation of Your death and resurrection for the life of the world. Amen.

Source and Verification Notes

Use official materials first. This booklet is a guide.

Primary source: LCMS 2026 Convention Workbook: Reports and Overtures. Used for convention theme, scope, floor-committee assignments, issue clusters, and overture references.

LCMS Handbook 2023: Used for constitutional and bylaw context, including confession, objectives, convention authority, congregational self-government, doctrinal review, recognized service organizations, and dispute processes.

LCMS 2026 Convention Bible Study: Used for theme framing around "Christ Is Risen Indeed" and 1 Corinthians 15.

Adapted source: A local pastoral briefing booklet supplied for adaptation. Local references were removed, the audience was generalized, the tone was adjusted for public use, and unresolved legal or institutional matters were summarized more cautiously.

Verification caution: Litigation, institutional actions, floor-committee decisions, candidate information, and Today's Business updates can change quickly. Verify current details before publishing, teaching, or making claims in public settings.

Suggested placement: On the Convention Field Guide website, place this under Guidance or Printable Guides with a disclaimer that it is an unofficial orientation resource.

Recommended official checks before final web posting:

- Confirm current floor-committee reports and proposed resolutions after they are released.
- Confirm final wording in Today's Business before making floor-specific claims.
- Confirm legal and institutional updates from official LCMS communications or court records.
- Confirm any quotations from the Lutheran Confessions against the edition being cited.
- Confirm Scripture quotation permissions if using a copyrighted translation in public distribution.



Christ is risen. The convention serves the Gospel, the church's confession, and the sending of Christ's people into the harvest.

Ego Hoc Fieri Lussi (Composed with AI).