

COASTAL CALIFORNIA LAESTADIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

a California nonprofit religious corporation

September 3, 2026

Via Email (info@llchurch.org; arvin.pirness@llchurch.org) and Certified U.S. Mail

Laestadian Lutheran Church
Board of Directors and 2026 LLC Congregation Delegates
c/o Arvin Pirness, Executive Director
212 West 3rd Street
Monticello, MN 55362

cc: Jeffrey Lambert, Esq., counsel for the LLC (jeff@lawyerlambertmn.com) and member congregations of the LLC, by email, whose delegates the Notice names as recipients of this response

Re: Response of Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church to the LLC's Notice dated July 22, 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Directors and Delegates:

I write as the Chairman of the Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church ("CCLLC"), in response to the letter of Arvin Pirness dated July 22, 2026 (the "Notice"), which states that a special virtual meeting of delegates has been called for October 1, 2026, to act on the expulsion of CCLLC from the Laestadian Lutheran Church ("LLC"), with a proposed effective date of October 10, 2026. The Notice requests any written response by September 4, 2026. This response is submitted under protest and with a full reservation of rights, for the reasons that follow.

One thing must be stated before all else, because it controls everything else: no lawful notice of the October 1, 2026 meeting has been given – not to CCLLC and, so far as CCLLC can determine, not to any member congregation. The defects are set out in Section II below. Because the Bylaws require written notice to all member congregations at least 30 days before any meeting, and that period has now run, no compliant notice can issue for October 1. The meeting cannot lawfully be held as noticed, and any action taken at it concerning CCLLC's membership would be void.

I. The Notice was not delivered; CCLLC first saw it on August 31, 2026.

The Notice, dated July 22, 2026, was transmitted by email only, on July 23, 2026, from Mr. Pirness to "undisclosed recipients." The copy directed to CCLLC was sent to the congregation's general mailbox – not to its Chairman – where the receiving mail system flagged the message as suspected phishing and quarantined it. It was first discovered on August 31, 2026, four days before the response date the Board arbitrarily selected. No copy was sent by mail. And no copy was sent to briar@triolawplc.com, despite the fact that in the same week the LLC's own counsel was corresponding with me at precisely that address, in letters marked "EMAIL ONLY: briar@triolawplc.com," with copies to Mr. Pirness

himself (letters of Jeffrey W. Lambert dated July 28 and August 5, 2026, responding to CCLLC's letters of July 23 and July 29, 2026 regarding its records request under *Minn. Stat. § 317A.461* – the exchange in which CCLLC's Secretary's Certificate of Incumbency, identifying me as Chairman, was delivered to LLC counsel). The LLC thus knew, and was actively using, the channel that reliably reached CCLLC's Chairman, and chose not to use it for the most consequential communication it has ever sent this congregation. The Notice and its transmittal email, the quarantine record, and the complete correspondence are attached as Exhibits A, B, and E through I.¹

Minnesota law permits termination of membership only “pursuant to a procedure that is fair and reasonable and is carried out in good faith,” and treats as presumptively fair a procedure that gives not less than fifteen days' prior written notice ***and the reasons therefor***, with an opportunity to be heard. *Minn. Stat. § 317A.411*. A notice that never reaches its addressee – while the sender is simultaneously corresponding with that addressee at a known, working address on other subjects – does not satisfy that standard, and a response window consumed almost entirely before discovery satisfies it less. Accordingly, CCLLC requests: (1) that the process follow the only sequence that makes the opportunity to respond real: first, the LLC provides the specific decisions, doctrines, and acts requested in Section III below; second, CCLLC is afforded not less than fourteen (14) days thereafter to respond in writing; third, CCLLC's written response is distributed in full to every member congregation and the congregations are given reasonable time to discuss the matter, each with its own delegates – the discussion and deliberation that was deliberately withheld from them before July 3; and only after that is any meeting convened to act. Reasons must precede the response, and the congregations' deliberation must precede any vote, or both opportunities are illusory; (2) that all future notices and communications in this matter be served by certified U.S. mail to CCLLC's address of record, with copies by email to the addresses below; and (3) that this response, like the Notice itself, be distributed in full to every 2026 delegate and to the board of every member congregation, with written confirmation of that distribution. This letter responds now, notwithstanding the defective service, so that no one may say CCLLC was silent.

II. The October 1 meeting cannot lawfully be held as noticed.

The July 22 letter is not merely a defective meeting notice; on its face it is not a meeting notice at all. By its own terms it “serves as written notice to CCLLC of the delegates' action and the reasons supporting the proposed consideration of your membership status” – notice of the July 3 action, addressed to CCLLC alone. Of the October 1 meeting it says only that one “has been called”: it states no time, no place, no link or other means of attending the “virtual” meeting, and no resolution or motion to be acted upon. *Minn. Stat. § 317A.435* requires that notice of a members' meeting be given not more than 60 days before the meeting. The Bylaws are explicit as to the minimum and the recipients: “Notification of both regular and special meetings of the LLC must be sent in writing to

¹

¹The email record at briar@triolawplc.com for this period is as follows: from Mr. Lambert to me, July 17, 2026 (his letter of that date), July 28, 2026, and August 5, 2026, each transmitting correspondence marked “EMAIL ONLY: briar@triolawplc.com” and copied to Mr. Pirness; from me to Mr. Lambert, July 23, 2026 and July 29, 2026, the latter attaching CCLLC's Secretary's Certificate of Incumbency. The Notice was emailed by Mr. Pirness on July 23, 2026 – the same day I wrote to Mr. Lambert from this address — to “undisclosed recipients,” reaching only CCLLC's general congregation mailbox, where it was flagged as suspected phishing and quarantined.

all member congregations at least 30 days prior to the meeting.” The July 22 letter was addressed to one congregation’s chairman, not to all member congregations; it states no time, no place, and no means of attending the “virtual” meeting; and it was dated 71 days before the meeting, outside the statutory window even had its contents complied. Indeed, Mr. Pirness’s transmittal email of July 23 itself stated that “[a]dditional communications will be provided before the October 1, 2026 meeting” – an acknowledgment that the Notice was not itself notice of the meeting. As of this writing, none has been received by CCLLC. Accordingly, no lawful notice of the October 1 meeting exists at all.

Nor may the meeting be held “virtually” as the Notice announces: Minnesota law permits a meeting of members to be held solely by remote communication only “to the extent authorized in the articles or bylaws and determined by the board,” *Minn. Stat. § 317A.450, subd. 2*, and the LLC’s Constitution, Bylaws, and articles contain no such authorization. The same section makes notice by electronic communication effective only where the member has consented to that form of notice, *id.*, subd. 5. CCLLC has given no such consent, and for good reason, given Mr. Pirness’s evident effort to avoid communicating with CCLLC’s Chairman at the email address through which the LLC’s attorney, copying Mr. Pirness, had been corresponding with him that same week. CCLLC requests that any meeting concerning its membership be held in person, at a designated place, where CCLLC may appear and be heard. CCLLC objects now, and will object at the outset of any meeting, that the meeting has not been lawfully called or convened, and does not waive that objection by appearing, responding, or participating by any means. See *Minn. Stat. §§ 317A.435, 450*. CCLLC further notes that under *Minn. Stat. § 317A.433* the business transacted at a special meeting is limited to the purposes stated in the notice of that meeting.

The defect does not concern CCLLC alone. The Bylaws’ command is that notice “be sent in writing to all member congregations” – the same notice, to every member. CCLLC therefore demands a copy of whatever notice of the purported October 1 meeting, if any, was actually given to the member congregations: its text, its date, its manner of transmission, and its recipients. If the congregations received a meeting notice that CCLLC did not, the LLC has discriminated among its members in the most basic incident of membership. If they received none, then no meeting has been noticed at all. Either way, the conclusion is the same: the October 1 meeting cannot legally proceed as noticed.

III. The Notice states conclusions, not reasons.

Article II, Section 9 of the LLC Bylaws permits expulsion of a member congregation only where the congregation “does not comply or act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws *and* fails to comply and obey the decisions made by the LLC.” Both elements are required. The Constitution, Section V, supplies the measure by which any alleged departure must be judged: “the Holy Word of God is the highest authority and only measure according to which all doctrines and teachings in said Corporation are to be examined and judged.” This should come as no surprise to Mr. Pirness or the LLC board. It is precisely what I told you in August 2022, and again in June 2023; both letters are attached (Exhibits C and D).

Against that standard, the Notice offers four bullet points that restate the conclusion in different words: that CCLLC “has publicly rejected the decisions” of Annual Meetings; “has sought to overturn

prior decisions”; conducts itself “in a manner that the delegates believe is inconsistent with the unity of faith and spirit”; and “is no longer acting in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and decisions.” Not one specific decision is identified nor how CCLLC has “publicly rejected the decisions,” or, for that matter, how “rejecting” or disagreeing with a decision (particularly one that broke the law) is grounds for expulsion under the Constitution and Bylaws. Not one doctrine of the Constitution from which CCLLC is alleged to depart is stated. Not one passage of the Holy Word of God is cited. Not one act of CCLLC is described. This comes as no surprise; it is Minneapolis/Wolf Lake Expulsion Version 2.0.

So that CCLLC may respond, and so that the delegates may vote on facts rather than labels, CCLLC requests that the LLC provide in writing (and provide CCLLC a fair opportunity to respond):

1. each specific decision of the LLC that CCLLC is alleged to have failed to comply with or obey, identifying the date, the adopting body, and the text of the decision, and the actions that equate to noncompliance or disobedience;
2. the specific doctrine of the Constitution (Sections V and VI) from which CCLLC is alleged to depart, together with the passages of the Holy Word of God demonstrating the departure – the Constitution’s own required measure; and
3. the specific statements or acts said to constitute “public rejection,” with dates and sources.

IV. On the merits, as far as the Notice permits a response.

A. Asking whether the LLC followed the law and its own Constitution is not “rejecting decisions.”

CCLLC has stated, in writing and on the floor of the 2026 Annual Meeting, that the 2022 removals of the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations were carried out without the notice, reasons, or opportunity to respond that Minnesota law and the LLC Bylaws require – a proposition the LLC has now conceded in practice by adopting precisely that procedure here (the very procedure I told you in 2022 that you were required to follow). Questioning whether an action complied with the law and the governing documents is not disobedience; it is the duty of a member, and it is a right Minnesota law protects. *“Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Cor. 14:40.* A membership terminated in retaliation for the good-faith voicing of a concern that the law has been violated by the LLC and its members is not a procedure “carried out in good faith.”

B. Making motions is participation, not violation.

CCLLC submitted proposed new business by the published deadline; the Board refused to place the items on the agenda because it disagreed with them; CCLLC then presented the same items as motions from the floor, exactly as the meeting chair directed. Motions asking the body to affirm its own Constitution and to follow the law of the state of incorporation cannot be grounds for expulsion. That no delegate seconded them is an enlightening fact about the delegates, not a transgression by CCLLC, and only serves to elucidate the government-by-fear established by the LLC board, where no member dares say anything but “my spirit answers to the LLC” for fear of spiritual abuse and retaliation. This

is documented ad nauseam, particularly in the past decade, and it finds its precedent in the aggressive and abusive “caretaking” meetings of the 1980s.

C. CCLLC confesses the Constitution without reservation.

CCLLC affirms Sections V and VI in their entirety: the Holy Word of God as the highest authority and only measure; the Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian creeds; the Unaltered Augsburg Confession; the Small and Large Catechisms of Luther; and that the Kingdom of God is one and indivisible. No one – not the Board, not any delegate, not the Notice – has identified any teaching of CCLLC contrary to these. At the July 3 meeting, the only standard actually articulated was that CCLLC’s testimony “doesn’t answer to any of our spirits.” That standard appears nowhere in the Constitution, the Bylaws, or the Word of God, and the Constitution forbids substituting it for the measure it prescribes. CCLLC believes according to the LLC Constitution. Do the LLC’s Executive Director, Board of Directors, and members?

If the LLC truly believes that CCLLC “believes differently,” there is an honest way to say so: amend the Constitution to strike the confessions the LLC no longer holds, and remove “Lutheran” from the corporate name. Then we may all agree that we believe differently. Until that day, CCLLC professes exactly what the Constitution professes, word for word.

D. Article II, Section 1 governs admission, not expulsion.

The Notice again invokes Section 1’s “unity of faith and spirit” language. As CCLLC has pointed out in writing since June 1, 2023 (once again without any response), Section 1 sets the conditions for admitting new members. The expulsion standard is Section 9, and its only grounds and elements are addressed above.

V. The purported October 1 special meeting.

A. The Notice mischaracterizes the motion adopted on July 3.

The meeting was recorded and it is (together with an unofficial transcription) available at laestadianrecord.org. The motion actually adopted was, verbatim: “From this body of delegates, we would encourage the LLC board and staff to move forward with whatever steps are necessary for the expulsion or expelling of Coastal California Congregation . . . ” – an encouragement to the Board, made by the delegate of the Prescott Valley congregation and seconded from Phoenix, after the Southwest representatives stated that “the intent was never to bring forward a motion today to intentionally expel the congregation.” The Notice recasts this as a motion “presented” by the Phoenix congregation “pursuant to Article II, Section 9.” The recording is available to any delegate who wishes to verify it. The LLC’s own counsel described the motion the same way CCLLC does: “at the Annual Meeting the Delegates approved a motion to begin the expulsion of CCLLC” (Exhibit E), a motion to begin a process, not the Section 9 expulsion motion the Notice now claims was “presented.”

B. The process was engineered to avoid prior notice and deliberation.

Correspondence of April 22, 2026, among the Southwest Area Mission Committee and LLC leadership records a deliberate decision to keep this matter off the Annual Meeting agenda, because advance notice “could raise a number of question[s] in congregations.” LLC leadership, including Mr. Pirness, thought it better that the member congregations’ delegates arrive at the meeting with no prior notice that a motion to proceed with expulsion would be raised. Mr. Pirness and the LLC board then refused in writing CCLLC’s timely request to place related items on the agenda – again, items that would have called attention to the concerns raised by CCLLC at the 2026 Annual Meeting. A process designed so that member congregations could not discuss the matter before being asked to act on it has not been “carried out in good faith” from its inception, whatever procedures are now appended to its end. Why the need for such deceit? *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.” Eph. 5:11–12.*

C. Written demand to inspect the members’ list.

Pursuant to *Minn. Stat. § 317A.439*, CCLLC hereby makes written demand, before the meeting, to inspect and copy the alphabetical list of members entitled to notice of and to vote at the October 1, 2026 meeting, showing each member’s address and voting power, for the purpose of communication with other members concerning the meeting.

D. Requests concerning the purported special meeting.

CCLLC requests: (1) the provision of the Bylaws authorizing expulsion of a member congregation by a special virtual meeting of delegates, and a copy of the notice of that meeting given to the member congregations, with the date and manner of its giving; (2) a notice complying with *Minn. Stat. § 317A.435* and the Bylaws’ 30-day requirement, stating the date, time, and means of attending the meeting; (3) the exact text of the motion to be voted upon at the meeting; (4) confirmation that CCLLC will be afforded the opportunity to be heard orally at that meeting, as *Minn. Stat. § 317A.411* contemplates; and (5) the audio recording and minutes of the July 3, 2026 Annual Meeting and the vote-tally records reflecting the count reported in the Notice (61 in favor, 1 opposed), which was not announced at the meeting.

VI. The dues pretext.

Mr. Lambert’s letter of July 17, 2026 (Exhibit E) asserts that “CCLLC is currently not a voting member of the Congregation based upon a delinquency in the payment of their dues.” The assertion fails on the law, on the facts, and on the LLC’s own conduct. First, Minnesota law does not permit the suspension of a member, or of any membership right, except through the same fair-and-reasonable procedure (fifteen days’ prior written notice stating the reasons, and an opportunity to be heard) that governs expulsion; chapter 317A contains no exception for dues. *Minn. Stat. § 317A.411*. No notice concerning dues has ever been given; no suspension has ever occurred. Second, under the Bylaws the annual membership fee is “determined by the members or their Delegates at the Annual Meeting,”

computed under the LLC's own Uniform Practice from the number of voting members a congregation reports – a rate and computation only the LLC can state. CCLLC has asked what dues were claimed and in what amount; the LLC has never answered. A party that withholds the number may not be heard to complain of nonpayment. Third, the LLC's conduct refutes its counsel: on July 3, after CCLLC's records request, and two weeks before Mr. Lambert's letter, the LLC seated CCLLC's delegate, addressed him as such throughout the Annual Meeting, solicited seconds for his motions, and counted his vote; and on July 22 the Notice itself certified the resulting tally, sixty-one in favor and "1" opposed. The LLC counted the vote of the very congregation its counsel now says could not vote. Either that tally is valid and CCLLC is a voting member, or it is not – the LLC may choose, but it may not have both. CCLLC renews its request for a written statement of any dues or assessments claimed, with the rate and computation. CCLLC reserves all rights with respect to any amount so claimed, including the right to contest it and the right to notice and a hearing under § 317A.411 before any membership right is affected, and it does not concede that any sum is owed.

VII. The records request and CCLLC's corporate status.

By letter of July 2, 2026, CCLLC requested inspection of records under *Minn. Stat. § 317A.461*, and renewed the request by letters of July 23 and July 29, 2026, records that bear directly on the matters now noticed for a vote. The LLC, through counsel, has declined to produce any record until CCLLC obtains a certificate of revivor in California, citing CCLLC's administrative suspension by the Franchise Tax Board (Letter of Jeffrey W. Lambert, Aug. 5, 2026) – while simultaneously prosecuting this expulsion on the LLC's own timetable. Three points ought to be considered regarding this stonewalling. First, the suspension is an administrative tax matter, not a dissolution: CCLLC's revivor application has been in process and its tax-exemption filings submitted for more than half a year, and more importantly, the suspension says nothing about CCLLC's membership, its confession, or its rights as the subject of this proceeding. Franchise Tax Board personnel have stated that processing would be expedited if CCLLC were to file litigation against the LLC. CCLLC finds the prospect wholly distasteful and unnecessary, and requests, therefore, that the LLC follow the law and produce the records that Minnesota law requires it to produce. That is all: follow the law. Indeed, the LLC's counsel put the condition in writing at the outset: "It is my understanding that a Special Meeting will take place within the next sixty to seventy-five days for the purpose of voting on the expulsion of CCLLC. In the event the Delegates do not vote to expel CCLLC, we can then discuss a response to your request." (Exhibit E.) The records a member needs in order to respond to its proposed expulsion are to be "discuss[ed]" only if the expulsion fails. That is not a records position; it bears directly on the question of the good faith of this entire proceeding, stated plainly.

Second, *Timberline* (the case the LLC's lawyer cites) addresses a suspended corporation's capacity to prosecute or defend an action in a California court – one that provides for staying such litigation pending resolution of such capacity; it **does not** relieve a Minnesota nonprofit corporation of its own statutory obligations to a member, and it certainly **does not** permit a process in which the accused is denied the very records needed to respond. Third, the sequence speaks for itself on the question of good faith under § 317A.411: reasons withheld, records withheld, and a response deadline that expired four days after actual notice. CCLLC renews its records request and asks that the requested records

be produced before any vote is taken. Should the LLC fail to promptly produce the records it is legally required to produce, and instead attempt to rush through an expulsion meeting to avoid doing so, CCLLC will be forced to ask a court to grant immediate injunctive relief and cause the LLC to comply with the law.

The core question for all members of the LLC's member congregations is plain: why does the LLC fear and what does the LLC have to hide? *"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops."* Luke 12:2–3.

VIII. Conclusion.

The Constitution to which every member congregation subscribes confesses that the Word of God is the highest authority and only measure. CCLLC asks for nothing else: state the doctrine, show it from the Word, identify the decision and the act – or acknowledge that there is nothing to state. CCLLC remains willing, as it has been at every stage, to meet with the Board or with any congregation, openly and in love. "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth." Eph. 6:14.

It is the LLC, not CCLLC, that has departed from the standard – from the law of the State under which it is incorporated, from the Constitution and Bylaws it wrote and bound itself to, and from the Word of God that its own Constitution names as the only measure. "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" Matt. 15:3. There is still time for the LLC executive director, board, and delegates to follow the law, the LLC's Constitution, and the Word – and CCLLC lovingly calls on them to do so. *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."* Prov. 28:13.

Because the LLC attempts to take the legal action of removing the CCLLC as a member of its organization, all rights of CCLLC and its members under the Constitution, the Bylaws, and Minnesota law, including *Minn. Stat. §§ 317A.411 and 317A.461*, are expressly reserved.

In God's Peace,

Briar Siljander

Chairman, Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church

Exhibits:

A – Notice of July 22, 2026

B – Quarantine record (screenshot) of the July 23, 2026 email

C – Letter of B. Siljander to the LLC Board of Directors and member congregations, August 3, 2022

D – Letter of B. Siljander re improper expulsion, June 1, 2023

E – Letter of J. Lambert, July 17, 2026

F – Letter of CCLLC to J. Lambert, July 23, 2026

G – Letter of J. Lambert, July 28, 2026

H – Letter of CCLLC to J. Lambert, July 29, 2026, with Secretary's Certificate of Incumbency

I – Letter of J. Lambert, August 5, 2026

EXHIBIT A

Notice of July 22, 2026



LAESTADIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

212 West 3rd Street, Monticello, MN 55362
763-479-2422 | info@llchurch.org | www.llchurch.org

July 22, 2026

Dear Chairman of Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church,

At the July 3, 2026, LLC Annual Meeting, the Phoenix Laestadian Lutheran Church, an LLC member congregation from the Southwest Mission Area presented a motion pursuant to Article II, Section 9 of the LLC Bylaws regarding the continued membership of Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church (CCLLC) in the Laestadian Lutheran Church (LLC).

The motion stated that from the body of delegates, LLC board and staff are encouraged to move forward with the steps necessary to expel CCLLC from LLC and enlist counsel as necessary. The delegates voting in favor of the motion were 61. Motion opposed by 1.

The proposed action is based upon the statements that CCLLC is no longer acting in accordance with the LLC Constitution, Bylaws, and decisions of the LLC. It is stated that the congregation no longer shares the unity of faith and spirit described in Section VI of the Constitution and has not complied with decisions made by the LLC as contemplated by Article II, Section 9 of the Bylaws, including, but not limited to the following:

- has publicly rejected the decisions of the LLC Annual Meetings;
- has sought to overturn prior decisions of the delegates regarding membership matters;
- continues to conduct itself in a manner that the delegates believe is inconsistent with the unity of faith and spirit described in Section VI of the Constitution and Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws; and
- is no longer acting in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and decisions of the LLC as described in Article II, Section 9.

The following are the proposed events to come:

1. This letter serves as written notice to CCLLC of the delegates' action and the reasons supporting the proposed consideration of your membership status.
2. CCLLC is provided an opportunity to submit a written response to the LLC Board of Directors and 2026 LLC Congregation Delegates. The Board requests any response be received no later than **September 4, 2026**.
3. The Board of Directors has called a special virtual meeting of the delegates on **October 1, 2026**, to act on the motion regarding CCLLC's membership in the LLC pursuant to Article II, Section 9 of the LLC Bylaws.
4. In the event the motion to expel the CCLLC, is approved, the effective date of the expulsion will be October 10, 2026.
5. At any time, CCLLC can voluntarily disband or remove themselves as a LLC member congregation.

Above all, we continue to pray that God could awaken the lost and straying to a place of individual repentance.

On behalf of Laestadian Lutheran Church Board of Directors and 2026 LLC Annual Meeting Delegates,
Arvin Pirness, LLC Executive Director

EXHIBIT B

Quarantine record (screenshot) of the July 23, 2026 email

[2] Letter of Notice to CCLLC and 2026 LLC Annual Meeting Delegates

From  Arvin Pirness <arvin.pirness@llchurch.org>

☆ 🕒 Jul 23

To Undisclosed Recipients

⚠️ Our system flagged this as suspicious. If it is not a phishing or scam email, mark as legitimate. [Learn more](#)

Mark legitimate

🗑️ 🗑️ 📁 🏷️ 🔍 ...

↩️ ↩️ ↩️

Plesse see the attached communication regarding the action expressed by delegates to begin removing CCLLC as a member congregation in the LLC.

Additional communications will be provided before the October 1, 2026 meeting.

As expressed in the letter, above all, we continue to pray that God would awaken the lost and straying to a place of individual repentance.

God's Peace

Arvin

--

Arvin Pirness

Executive Director, Laestadian Lutheran Church

763-479-2422, 713-822-5772c

www.llchurch.org

From  Arvin Pirness <arvin.pirness@llchurch.org>

☆ 🕒 📧 Jul 23

To Undisclosed Recipients

⚠️ Our system flagged this as suspicious. If it is not a phishing or scam email, mark as legitimate. [Learn more](#)

Mark legitimate

🗑️ 🗑️ 📁 🏷️ 🔍 ...

↩️ ↩️ ↩️

Plesse see the attached communication regarding the action expressed by delegates to begin removing CCLLC as a member congregation in the LLC.

Additional communications will be provided before the October 1, 2026 meeting.

As expressed in the letter, above all, we continue to pray that God would awaken the lost and straying to a place of individual repentance.

God's Peace

Arvin

--

Arvin Pirness

Executive Director, Laestadian Lutheran Church

763-479-2422, 713-822-5772c

www.llchurch.org

148.00 KB 1 file attached

⬇️

 Letter of Notice to Coastal California Laestadian Luth... 26.pdf 148.00 KB

EXHIBIT C

Letter of B. Siljander to the LLC Board of Directors and member congregations,
August 3, 2022

Briar Siljander

[redacted]ive
[redacted]

August 3, 2022

Via Email Only

Laestadian Lutheran Church
212 West 3rd Street
Monticello, MN 5536
Attn: Jim Jurmu, Chairman

[redacted]

[redacted]

arvin.pirness@llchurch.org

[redacted]

Alaska Laestadian Lutheran Church
Brainerd Laestadian Lutheran Church
Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church
Cokato Laestadian Lutheran Church
Detroit Laestadian Lutheran Church
Dunblane Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Elk River
Flagstaff Laestadian Lutheran Church
Flathead Valley Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Florida
Gillette Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Glendale
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Illinois
Ishpeming Laestadian Lutheran Church
Lethbridge Laestadian Lutheran Church
Longview Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Menahga
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Monticello
Outlook Laestadian Lutheran Church
Pelkie Laestadian Lutheran Church
Phoenix Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Prescott Valley
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Roaring Fork Valley
Rockford Laestadian Lutheran Church
Rolla Laestadian Lutheran Church
Saskatoon Laestadian Lutheran Church
Seattle Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Spokane
Laestadian Lutheran Church Toronto
Ulster Park Laestadian Lutheran Church
West Barnstable Laestadian Lutheran Church
Williston Laestadian Lutheran Church

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

chairman@llcer.org

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

info@llcofglendale.org

[redacted]

ishpemingllc@gmail.com

[redacted]

info@llc-longview.org

mkskog@llcmenahga.org

general@llcmchurch.org

chair.ollc@gmail.com

[redacted]

information@pllchurch.org

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

chair.saskatoonllc@gmail.com

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Dear Jim, Members of the LLC Board of Directors, Members of the LLC, and Delegates to the 2022 Annual Meeting:

I write with great sorrow after hearing of the events that transpired at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Laestadian Lutheran Church (LLC) on July 2, 2022. There, as you note in your letter, “delegates voted to formally remove [the Minneapolis Laestadian Lutheran Church and Wolf Lake Laestadian Lutheran Church] as member congregations of the LLC.” Outgoing chairman, Jim Frantti, and other board members encouraged the act. The act is wrong, both by man’s law and by God’s law.

The LLC is not the Kingdom of God. As you know, it is a nonprofit corporation created and governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota. It is, as such, subject to the State’s laws – in particular, the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act.¹ Part of that law states: “A member may not be expelled or suspended, and a membership may not be terminated or suspended except pursuant to a procedure that is fair and reasonable and is carried out in good faith.”² The law further provides:

A procedure is fair and reasonable when it is fair and reasonable taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances. In addition, a procedure is fair and reasonable if it provides:

- (1) not less than 15 days’ prior written notice of the expulsion, suspension, or termination, and the reasons for it; and
- (2) an opportunity for the member to be heard, orally or in writing, not less than five days before the effective date of the expulsion, suspension, or termination by a person authorized to decide that the proposed expulsion, termination, or suspension not take place.³

As you know, no prior notice of expulsion was provided. Expulsion of the member congregations was not included on the meeting agenda or otherwise communicated to all member congregations, as Jim Frantti stated at the meeting (nevertheless encouraging the delegates that they “could freely make [the decision to expel member congregations] today”). Many delegates at the annual meeting did not have instruction from member congregations about how to vote on an expulsion of these congregations. Nor were the bases for expulsion provided to the expelled congregations, in writing or otherwise. Further, no opportunity was given to members to be heard at least five days before the expulsion.

Other irregularities also should give pause. No vote was recorded. The decision to expel these members was made by show of hands with no count or record as to who voted in favor and against the motion to expel, or whether, for example, non-delegates voted and were considered in the vote. Additionally, prior to the vote on the motion to expel, another motion was made, but was rejected by Mike Jurmu, the moderator.

More troubling is the alleged basis, or lack of basis, for expelling these members. The LLC Constitution, to which each member of the LLC agrees to adhere, states that the LLC:

¹ Minn. Stat. 317A.001 *et seq.*

² *Id.* at 317A.411.

³ *Id.*

shall be composed of congregations in the United States and Canada who confess that living faith which is founded on the Holy Word of God in the books of the Old and New Testaments in which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone. This faith is also expressed in the oldest creeds of Christendom (Apostle's, Nicene, and Athanasian) which are consistent with the Holy Word of God and in the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Small and Large Catechisms by Martin Luther. Said Corporation holds that the Holy Word of God is the highest authority and only measure according to which all doctrines and teachings in said Corporation are to be examined and judged. . . . [T]he members of said Corporation firmly believe that the instructions and teachings of the Holy Bible are the only authority and rule for deciding all matters.

Section 9 of the LLC Bylaws, to which all members agree to be bound, provides:

If any member congregation in the LLC does not comply or act in accordance with the Constitution and the Bylaws and fails to comply and obey the decisions made by the LLC, such a congregation may be expelled from the LLC by a quorum of Delegates at the Annual Meeting or at a special meeting, upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, or by action initiated by a quorum of Delegates at the Annual Meeting or a special meeting of the Delegates.

This means that any action by the LLC to expel a member may only be made if such member “does not comply or act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws” *and* “fails to comply and obey the decisions made by the LLC.” At the annual meeting, it was not alleged that the Minneapolis congregation or Wolf Lake congregation failed to comply or act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws. The action, therefore, is in violation of Minnesota law.

Much more importantly, the basis for expelling the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations is contrary to God's Word. While it is evident that private grudges have long fueled much of the push to divide, the LLC board and its officers, and many board members, speakers, and delegates from member congregations, have made clear by their words and conduct that they believe: 1) the LLC – the earthly organization – *is* God's Kingdom, 2) the LLC, being God's Kingdom, cannot err; and 3) the decisions of a majority, whatever they be, are inspired, made, and endorsed by the Holy Spirit. This is what the catholic church believed and taught and it is wrong.

1) The Kingdom of God is Not the LLC and is Not a Physical Kingdom

God's Kingdom – His church and congregation – is not an earthly, physical organization. It is not bound, as the papists believe, to a legal entity, physical building, or any other earthly organization. It is spiritual. As Luther says:

“I believe that there is one holy Christian Church on earth, *i.e.* the community or number or assembly of all Christians in all the world, the one bride of Christ, and his spiritual body of which he is the only head. . . . This Christian Church exists not only in the realm of the Roman Church or pope, but in all the world, as the prophets foretold that the gospel of Christ would spread throughout the world, Psalm 2[:8]; Psalm 19[:4]. Thus this Christian Church is physically dispersed among pope, Turks,

Persians, Tartars, but spiritually gathered in one gospel and faith, under one head, i.e. Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

[I]t is clear that the holy church is not bound to Rome; rather, it extends to the end of the earth, assembled in one faith, a spiritual and not a physical assembly. For what is believed is neither physical nor visible. All of us see the external Roman church. That is why it cannot be the true church, which is believed and which is a community or assembly of the saints in faith. But no one can see who is holy or who believes. . . . Not Rome or this or that place, but baptism, the sacrament, and the gospel are the signs by which the existence of the church in the world can be noticed externally. Wherever there is baptism and the gospel no one should doubt the presence of saints—even if they were only children in the cradle.⁴

Many at the Annual Meeting spoke of “God’s Kingdom,” and of how the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations were “battling against God’s Kingdom” as if the term were synonymous with “LLC.” This is an alarming mantra, but one that has unfortunately been actively and passively reinforced by leadership at the LLC. The LLC’s outgoing chairman, Jim Frantti, encapsulated this wrong understanding in his comments at the Annual Meeting when he said:

It somehow seems to be a wrong understanding of some of these [people] of the doctrine of the congregation. And we’ve heard speaking, speeches that seem to separate the Word of God from the congregation and place the Word above the congregation in some way. But our understanding is that the Word and the congregation are inseparable.⁵

This subtle equivocation of Christ’s congregation to the LLC, and the assertion that the Word of God is not above the congregation, *i.e.*, the LLC, is a false and dangerous teaching. It is the same teaching upon which the pope in the catholic church relied,⁶ and, were it true, it would mean that God, Himself, is not above the congregation because the Word is inseparable from God. Indeed, the Word *is* God. As Apostle John writes: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”.⁷ The Word of God, and not the LLC, is, as the LLC constitution professes, the “highest

⁴ LUTHER’S WORKS, Vol. 37: Word and Sacrament III, 367; LUTHER’S WORKS, Vol. 39: Church and Ministry I, 75.

⁵ 2022 LLC Annual Meeting Recording at 1:58.

⁶ See, e.g., *Luther’s Works, Vol. 36: Word and Sacrament II*, 184–185 (“First, they throw up to us the secret mass, which they call the canon. In it there are the words: ‘these gifts, holy and unspotted sacrifices,’ and further on: ‘a holy offering, a pure offering and an unspotted offering, etc.’ But to bring that up is simply to cry: fathers, fathers, canon law, canon law, church, church—which is their customary procedure whenever they wish to lead us from the Word of God to human words and doctrine. But if in return one shoves the Word of God under their noses, they cry out with their ears plugged tight: You do not understand it correctly; one must believe the interpretation of the fathers. Thus under the name of the fathers they eradicate the Word of God. Therefore we also say and cry out just as steadfastly: gospel, gospel, Christ, Christ. Why should we not rely as much on Christ and his gospel as they rely on the fathers and the canon law and appeal to them?”).

⁷ *John 1:1*.

authority.” Similarly, the LLC is not the Kingdom of God nor the congregation of God. That congregation, as Luther states, is found wherever baptism, the gospel, and sacraments are heard and believed.

2) The LLC Can Err and Has Erred

Many leaders, even those anointed by God, erred and sinned. King David, the man after God’s own heart, did. Solomon did. Apostle Peter did.⁸ Yet, based on the false equivocation of the LLC to the Kingdom of God, many preachers, board members, and others in the LLC assert that the LLC cannot err. Luther laments of this wrong understanding, writing:

It is a shame that the devil should deceive and mislead the church of Christ with such childish foolishness. Yet by it he advances his own enterprise with such earnestness among the saints of God. He has succeeded to such an extent that the papists dare to say: The church cannot err; as if Christ were lying when he says that the elect (who alone are the church) are to be led astray [Matt. 24:24]; or as if the church were not the church because it happened to sin or err, when indeed Christ is daily cleansing it of its sins and errors, like the branches of the vine [John 15:2]; or as if the faithful and holy ones never sinned. O you hard-hearted, foolish, blind men! This mischievous devil had no other intent in this sham-fighting than that the works of love which are commanded by God should be suppressed and scorned, and human commandments and laws be held in high honor, awe, and repute.⁹

Luther continues:

Even today many are misled by their claim that the church does not err. But you answer them thus: “Oh, yes, the church does err and can err and be mistaken. You cannot collect the church into one spot or into one compact group. The Christian Church is catholic, dispersed over all the world and often found in a place where one would least expect it. Therefore Christ alone is infallible. But the Christian Church is fallible.”¹⁰

The wrong understanding that the LLC is unerring is at the root of the confusion and divide.

3) The Decisions of a Majority Are Often in Error and The Spirit Underlying Such Decisions is Not the Holy Spirit

The Bible cautions each believer: “[b]elieve not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”¹¹ Luther teaches, in no uncertain terms, what this means:

⁸ *Gal. 2:11-14.*

⁹ LUTHER’S WORKS, Vol. 36: Word and Sacrament II, 193–194.

¹⁰ Martin Luther, *Luther’s Works*, Vol. 22: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 1-4, 258.

¹¹ 1 John 4:1.

O unhappy Christians that we are! We seize upon the legends and examples of the saints, without recognition of the spirit. We rely upon human doctrine and wandering spirits, putting God's Word last and scorning the advice of the Holy Spirit, who says through Paul [1 Thess. 5:21]: "Test everything; hold fast what is good." And Peter says [1 Pet. 4:11]: "Whoever speaks, let him speak it as the word of God. Whoever has an office, let him render service by the strength which God supplies." He wishes nothing to be said among Christians except that which we hold with certainty to be the Word of God. Nothing is to transpire or be done unless it is certain that God is the author and doer of it. This is what Paul intends in Rom. 12[:6]—"If any one has the gift of prophecy, let him prophesy in accordance with the faith"—that the words of all men are to be valued and judged according to faith. And in Rom. 15[:18], he ventures to speak nothing except what Christ has wrought in him.

Yet we poor creatures leave God's Word and follow our own opinion. We order, we institute, we bid and forbid, we do and omit whatever pleases us. Then we say: The church has done it, and the church cannot err, for it is ruled by the Holy Spirit. So in the name of the church we fill the whole world with mighty error and downright lies. Would to God that I had the time to cleanse the legends and examples, or that somebody else with a higher spirit would venture to do it; they are full, full of lies and deception.

Luther's Works, Vol. 36: Word and Sacrament II, 194–195.

In Luther's words are a prescient warning: do not go running about boasting that you hold this conviction or make that decision by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for you may be sorely deceived. He writes:

Christ does not want to give you the right to run to and fro in search of the Spirit, to lose yourself in reverie and say: "I have this by inspiration of the Holy Spirit." Actually, it may be the devil who inspired you! Thus they alleged in the edict issued at the Diet of Augsburg: "The church is holy; therefore it follows that its proclamations are holy and given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit." Christ does not recognize such inspiration. He binds us solely to His Word. He does not want to see the Holy Spirit divorced from His Word. Whenever you hear anyone boast that he has something by inspiration of the Holy Spirit and it has no basis in God's Word, no matter what it may be, tell him that this is the work of the devil. Christ does not bind you to anything but His mouth and His Word. He does not want to leave you wandering aimlessly about; He wants you to hear His Word. He declares: "The words which I speak are spiritual. Therefore if you want to obtain the Holy Spirit, you must adhere to My words; for they are spirit and life."

* * * * *

God has so ordered it that the Holy Spirit ordinarily comes through the Word. Christ Himself states this here. Therefore whenever you are faced by anything, even though it appears so attractive and holy that you imagine it to be an angelic being, take it, and hold it in the light of God's Word. Examine it to see whether it is founded on Holy Writ, whether or not God has commanded and ordered it. If it is a mere fancy, a token

of particular zeal, or a pious thought, but lacks God's Word, spit on it. Unless it happens that God chooses to enlighten you particularly, as He did Moses, beware! Since God has confirmed the ministry of preaching, be on your guard against any such devotion or fancies as the devil may well suggest to you, even though they are sweet enough to induce you to weep large troughs full of tears.¹²

This is precisely what has happened at the LLC and it is at the crux of the division that you seek to cement. It is easily discerned, you say, that there are "two spirits," that there is unity with many but not with some and therefore those some do not have the Holy Spirit, that some criticize the LLC and therefore do not have the Holy Spirit, that some vote against selling a church building and are therefore in a wrong spirit, and that while they profess to believe the same Word of God that you do, they do not have the same spirit. You reach this conclusion only by asserting that you, together with the other member congregation delegates voting for expulsion, are the sole arbiters and possessors of the Holy Spirit and that the decision is made by the Holy Spirit and not by sin-corrupted men raising their hands to support a motion made by another sin-corrupted man.

Yet, despite all of the talk of these two spirits at the Annual Meeting and in previous meetings, there was not once a clear statement of how those whom you attempt to forcefully separate from your organization believe contrary to the Word of God. There is no desire to test the spirit that leaps to such conclusions. It must, then, be, no matter how well-intentioned, a spirit of the devil.

Look how successful the devil has been in fostering discord! By engendering within the LLC a confusion about what the Holy Spirit is and creating doubts that studying God's Word might cause one to lose faith, he has convinced a majority that they must sever ties with those who desire to hear and believe the Word of God. This is not the work of the Holy Spirit.

Apostle John describes the office of the Holy Spirit, writing that the Holy Spirit "shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that He shall speak." *John 16:12*. Luther expounds:

Here Christ makes the Holy Spirit a Preacher. He does so to prevent one from gaping toward heaven in search of Him, as the fluttering spirits and enthusiasts do, and from divorcing Him from the oral Word or the ministry. One should know and learn that He will be in and with the Word, that it will guide us into all truth, in order that we may believe it, use it as a weapon, be preserved by it against all the lies and deception of the devil, and prevail in all trials and temptations. For there is, after all, no other way and no other means of perceiving the Holy Spirit's consolation and power, as I have often demonstrated from Holy Writ and have often experienced myself. For I, too, am a half-baked theologian. This I say lest I exalt myself over the great minds who have long ago ascended into the clouds beyond all Scripture and have nestled under the wings of the Holy Spirit. But experience has taught me all too often that whenever the devil catches me outside Scripture and sees that my thoughts are rambling and that I, too, am fluttering toward heaven, he brings me to the point of not knowing where God is or where I am. The Holy Spirit wants this truth which He is to impress into our hearts to be so firmly fixed that reason and all one's own thoughts and feelings are relegated to the background. He wants us to adhere solely to the Word and to regard

¹² *Luther's Works*, Vol. 23: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 6-8, 173.

it as the only truth. And through this Word alone He governs the Christian Church to the end.

Here Christ defines the Holy Spirit's office and points out what and about what He is to teach. He constantly keeps in mind the false spirits and preachers who boastfully claim to have the Holy Spirit as well as others do and allege that what they say has emanated from the Holy Spirit. That is what the pope persuaded the entire world to believe. Thus the Holy Spirit establishes a wide difference among teachers and gives the right rule by which the spirits are to be tested. He wants to say that there are two kinds of teachers. There are some who speak on their own authority; that is, they evolve their message from their own reasoning or religious zeal and judgment. The Holy Spirit is not to be that kind of preacher; for He will not speak on His own authority, and His message will not be a human dream and thought like that of the preachers who speak on their own authority of things which they have neither seen nor experienced and, as St. Paul says in 1 Tim. 1:7, talk "without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions." "No, His message will have substance; it will be the certain and absolute truth, for He will preach what He receives from the Father and from Me. And you will be able to recognize Him by the fact that He does not speak on His own authority—as the spirit of lies, the devil, and his mobs do—but will preach about what He will hear. Thus He will speak exclusively of Me and will glorify Me, so that the people will believe in Me."

In this way Christ sets bounds for the message of the Holy Spirit Himself. He is not to preach anything new or anything else than Christ and His Word. Thus we have a sure guide and touchstone for judging the false spirits. We can declare that it surely does not indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit when a person proclaims his own thoughts and notions and begins to teach in Christendom something apart from or in addition to what Christ taught. No, that betrays the presence of the loathesome spirit of lies, the devil, of whom Christ declares in John 8:44: "When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature," that is, what he himself has fabricated.¹³

I witnessed first-hand how the devil has worked. Prior to moderating a discussion between the LLC board and the Wolf Lake congregation in December 2019, I corresponded with the respective chairmen, Jim Frantti and Pat Lake. The LLC had voiced concerns over some comments made by members of the Wolf Lake congregation at a Board Members' Workshop in April 2019 and desired to meet. The Wolf Lake board asked on multiple occasions that the LLC board tell them in advance the topics of concern so that they might have time to understand and discuss the concerns with the congregation prior to meeting. Unfortunately, the LLC board never provided specifics.

In my correspondence with Jim Frantti and Pat Lake, I requested that the discussion focus on one doctrinal topic or concern at a time, and that each be discussed in full so that they could have an actual dialogue and not a series of speeches. My observation was (and still is) that it is difficult to have meaningful discussions when speaking turns are long and unrestricted in subject matter, with no opportunity for dialogue.¹⁴ For reasons I still do not understand, Mr. Frantti instead proceeded to

¹³ LUTHER'S WORKS, Vol. 24: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 14-16, 362–363.

¹⁴ See Emails re LLC – Wolf Lake Meeting, attached.

open the discussion by introducing a lengthy list of topics that he said had caused or were causing confusion and division, insisting that he set out his full list in one speaking turn instead of beginning a discussion on just one of those issues at a time, as requested. Still more confounding: if this full list of issues existed prior to the meeting, why refuse to share these topics with the Wolf Lake congregation so they might discuss and ponder them before the meeting? This approach unfortunately undermined the ability for any of those issues to be properly discussed.

At the same meeting, many members of the Wolf Lake congregation requested that members of the LLC board state whether they believed the Wolf Lake congregation's speakers, Darwin Lake and Phil Alajoki, preached wrong doctrine and why they had been disinvited from previously-scheduled speaking turns at other congregations. No one at the meeting stated he believed Darwin Lake or Phil Alajoki preached incorrectly – only that there was a cloud over them. While, for example, Jon Bloomquist stated he did not believe that either of the Wolf Lake congregation's ministers preached incorrect doctrine, he believed a cloud nonetheless hung over them because the Wolf Lake congregation's board was "adversarial" towards him and the LLC board. Keith Waaranemi stated, too, that he felt the Wolf Lake board seemed to see itself as more enlightened than members of the LLC board and staff. No one stated that the Wolf Lake congregation believed incorrectly or that its preachers preached incorrect doctrine. Indeed, Jim Franti affirmed that he believed the same way about birth control as Darwin Lake, seeming to put to rest the issue that seems to have begun the discord – a sermon given by Mr. Lake at summer services in 2015. Nonetheless, despite the LLC board maintaining they had concerns about the Wolf Lake congregation, the meeting concluded without discussion about actual doctrinal differences between the LLC board and Wolf Lake congregation and without discussion of how the members of the LLC board believed on any of those topics.

Through the date that the LLC excommunicated the Wolf Lake and Minneapolis congregations, no clear statement was ever provided as to how the faith of those congregations' members differed from the faith of any other member congregation's members. Being so sure that there are "two spirits" and proclaiming that expulsion of the Wolf Lake and Minneapolis congregations was the ultimate act of love, not one LLC board member or delegate who spoke or voted in favor of the expulsion tested the spirits to see if they were of God. "Mark Christ's word well," Luther says,

"It is the Spirit that gives life," for these words leave us neither in doubt nor in error. Shortly after uttering these words He explains the meaning of the word "spirit." He says: "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit." This He does that we might beware of being misled by the treacherous preachers who come and boast about the Spirit, claiming to feel the compulsion of love and the spirit to preach. Indeed, they still say today: "I mean well with you; I am sincere when I say this; God in heaven knows that I would be willing to give my soul to save you." But tell them: "Go preach to the geese. You are a devil. Don't molest and confuse me with your spirit. Christ does not want me to listen to you." He declares: "It is the Spirit that gives life." Where do you and I come in? "The words that I have spoken to you," Christ says, "are spirit. If you take hold of My words, you have it."

Perhaps you are tempted to ask: "Where does the Spirit give life? Or by what means? Where will I find the Spirit?" The reply is: "Hold to My words and speech. If you do that, you have the Spirit." Thus the words are spirit in him who preaches and teaches, and also in him who hears and believes. A man is spirit in proportion to how much he

adheres to the Word. On the other hand, he is flesh in proportion to his flesh and unbelief.¹⁵

The practice of removing and withholding ministers, and of ostracizing, excommunicating, and, finally, expelling member congregations on the basis of this vague, intangible “different spirit,” is contrary to God’s Word. Beware, lest you find yourself, as Saul of Tarsus or as the councils of the holy catholic church, persecuting children of God in full belief that you are doing God’s work. Beware that you do not, in your zeal for peace and unity, banish the true, unadulterated Word and Spirit from your buildings and your hearts. May God have mercy on us all.

God’s Peace,
Briar Siljander

Enclosure(s)

¹⁵ LUTHER’S WORKS, Vol. 23: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John: Chapters 6-8, 173–177.

From: [Patrick Lake](#)
To: [Briar Siljander](#)
Subject: RE: Re: LLC - Wolf Lake Meeting
Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019 8:02:21 AM

Briar, God's Peace.

I think your all suggestions are good, and will be helpful in our discussion. We can provide an official recording.

I also join in the prayer that God will bless our discussion.

God's Peace,
Patrick Lake

From: [Briar Siljander](#)
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 11:38 PM
To: [Jim Frantti](#)
Cc: [redacted]; rherrala@lchurch.org; [Joe Wuollet](#)
Subject: Re: LLC - Wolf Lake Meeting

Jim, God's Peace.

I understand the letter from April 23 to be from you and Randy on behalf of the LLC board - I was not under the impression that it came from you personally and my reference was to the letter you sent on behalf of the board.

As I indicated in my last email, I reviewed some of the correspondence between you (and when I say you, I do recognize you are communicating on behalf of the LLC board, just as Pat Lake is communicating on behalf of the Wolf Lake congregation) and the Wolf Lake congregation. In the April 13 letter, you state that many on the LLC board have asked what can or should be done. In the course of the correspondence, the Wolf Lake congregation requested on more than one occasion that you help them understand what the concerns of the LLC board were so that they might have time to reflect on your concerns and be prepared to discuss them more fully. They also expressed that they have both felt and sensed frustration because of a lack of progress from prior discussions. At the April 13 board members' workshop, one of the board members requested formally that believing brothers from Finland participate in a discussion between the LLC board and the Wolf Lake board or congregation. From the correspondence, it is apparent that the Wolf Lake congregation believes the disunity felt by the LLC board and the Wolf Lake congregation arises from a lack of direct discussion about the spiritual and doctrinal topics and, perhaps more specifically, about where the LLC board believes that speakers and/or board members of Wolf Lake err in doctrine.

It is for this reason, I believe, that the Wolf Lake congregation has asked that the discussion be focused so that further confusion can be avoided. They have not requested that any specific topic not be discussed - in fact, they have requested that any topics of concern be brought forward for discussion - they only asked that each of the topics be discussed one at a time so

that a full discussion could occur on each topic.

I do not think it is wrong that the Wolf Lake congregation asked someone from outside of their congregation and the LLC board to moderate the discussion. As you know, for several years now the boards of the LLC and Wolf Lake congregation have been meeting, with mutual feelings of an inability to resolve apparent differences or, for that matter, to specify with any clarity what the differences are. I appreciate that neither you nor the board has any reservation toward me. I intend, as I indicated, to try to encourage a direct and focused dialogue on one issue at a time so that the specific concerns of the LLC board can be conveyed to the Wolf Lake congregation and then be directly responded to by the Wolf Lake congregation. In this way, each can hear and understand the other and, if God wills, resolve the differences or perceived differences that afflict.

Regarding recording, while I certainly appreciate your sentiment for we are all weak in words, I view recording as a way of ensuring that words are accurately recounted and cannot be taken out of context. If one speaks incorrectly, that can be shown to him clearly and he can correct or clarify what he intended to say. The board members' workshop is such an example: concerns were raised about comments of the brothers from Wolf Lake. The opportunity to discuss the concerns about those comments is only now occurring, nearly eight months later. Fortunately, those comments were recorded and may be revisited with clarity. Concerns can be specified and corrections or clarifications can be made. I also believe that recording and making these discussions available, particularly when they relate to the doctrinal issues being discussed across Zion, convey a clear message that all are open and free in their discussion. This openness fosters trust. If some wish to use recordings for nefarious purposes, that is to their own detriment.

I join you in prayer that God will bless the discussion.

God's Peace,
Briar

On Sun, Dec 1, 2019 at 8:12 PM Jim Frantti <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi, Briar.

I received your second email about the services in March. Saturday evening and Sunday morning should work fine for me. Thanks.

Then, regarding the meeting in Wolf Lake. The letter that was sent to Wolf Lake was not mine, as you cited. Rather it was from the LLC Board, More than one person participated in the writing of it, and all Board members reviewed it. The signatures on it were mine and Randy Herrala's only because we serve as the Board chairman and secretary.

The suggestion of the LLC Board was that our visit in Wolf Lake would be a brotherly discussion of any questions or concerns that exist. The Board has never met with the Wolf Lake congregation and felt that we should offer to do that. It is also the feeling of the Board that this visit does not require any special mediation or moderation but that we could simply choose someone from the Wolf Lake board or congregation or from the LLC Board to moderate. In fact, I made the

suggestion to Pat Lake that he serve as the moderator. It feels unusual to me that you have been asked to come to moderate. That is not because of any reservation that I or the Board would have toward you. It just doesn't seem necessary.

The hope of the Board is that discussion would not be limited to any one or two topics but that all could freely speak. I agree with your concerns about the number of participants and length of speeches. I also agree that it would be good if priority could be given to those in the Wolf Lake congregation and the LLC Board. It is always a challenge to try to limit the length of speeches.

On the matter of recording, it is always my preference to not record. Words are often weak on anyone's part, and some people can feel intimidated by the fact that everything they say is being recorded and can be spread widely. It has been especially troubling when some have recorded discussions or even conversations without knowledge of the participants and then shared these recordings. If the discussion is recorded, my hope is that there will be an official recording and that others will be asked not to record. That too is difficult to control.

My prayer is that we can have a brotherly discussion and that people will freely speak. May God help us and open the ears and hearts of all.

God's Peace.

Jim

On Dec 1, 2019, at 7:35 PM, Briar Siljander <[redacted]> wrote:

God's Peace Jim and Pat,

In prayer that God will guide, as He always does, I am reaching out to both of you prior to the discussion planned for December 7 to confirm some housekeeping matters.

I have reviewed the agenda for the discussion as well as some of the letters you have exchanged. I also listened to the Monticello board meeting referenced in letters from both the LLC Board and the Wolf Lake congregation. It is clear that the devil has sowed seeds of confusion and, aided by the weak flesh of man, has created much frustration and weariness. As the Apostle James writes: "[W]here envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

The first item on the agenda is the concern raised in Jim's letter of April 23 regarding the comments of Wolf Lake board members at the April 13 Board Members' Workshop at the Monticello church. I have attached to this email the transcripts of those comments and ask that you share them with the Wolf Lake congregation and the LLC Board, respectively. While all have had time, in subsequent months, to ponder and reflect on the workshop and the comments of the board members from Wolf Lake, it would be good if all could take the opportunity to review them so that concerns about them may be clearly voiced and discussed.

Even as God's children gather, the devil desires to confuse and embitter. To facilitate a fruitful dialogue, while I understand the meeting is open for all to attend, I will encourage members of the LLC board and Wolf Lake congregation to speak first, and will ask that others reserve their input until both the LLC board and Wolf Lake congregation have had an opportunity to fully discuss the concerns raised. Also, because even this smaller group numbers more than 60 people, I will suggest that everyone be mindful that 60 ten-minute turns would take us well into the evening, and that individual speaking turns should therefore be limited in time and to the subject matter being discussed. Many at the Board Members' Workshop acknowledged the challenge of several hours separating the time they requested to speak and the time they were able to speak - that often the discussion had moved to different points by the time they had the opportunity to speak. It is my hope that the discussion can take the form of a dialogue and not a series of speeches so that the issues can be discussed with clarity and directness.

It is also important that each of these topics be addressed fully and in turn. If discussion regarding the first agenda item lasts the entire day, the remaining topics and any new topics may be carried into future discussions. Similarly, if discussion on the first agenda item is not concluded by the end of the day, that discussion should continue as soon as you may gather again.

As noted in the initial letter, these spiritual questions have permeated North American Zion. Inconsistent recollections of some past meetings and discussions have engendered mutual mistrust. Therefore, I ask that the practice of recording meetings and discussions such as this be continued so that every word may be established and kept in context.

All in God's kingdom long for peace. God's Word teaches that this peace can come only through unity in His Word. May God, through his Spirit, open our hearts and minds to receive and believe His Word so that true unity of faith may be proclaimed and love and peace may be restored.

God's Peace,
Briar
<WL Speeches.pdf>

Jim Frantti Home: [redacted]
[redacted] Cell: [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted] or jfrantti@llchurch.org

EXHIBIT D

Letter of B. Siljander re improper expulsion, June 1, 2023

Briar Siljander

[redacted]ive
[redacted]

June 1, 2023

Via Federal Express Overnight Delivery

**Laestadian Lutheran Church
212 West 3rd Street
Monticello, MN 5536
Attn: Jim Jurmu, Chairman**

[redacted]
[redacted]
arvin.pirness@llchurch.org
[redacted]

Via Email to:

**Alaska Laestadian Lutheran Church
Brainerd Laestadian Lutheran Church
Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church
Cokato Laestadian Lutheran Church
Detroit Laestadian Lutheran Church
Dunblane Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Elk River
Flagstaff Laestadian Lutheran Church
Flathead Valley Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Florida
Gillette Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Glendale
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Illinois
Ishpeming Laestadian Lutheran Church
Lethbridge Laestadian Lutheran Church
Longview Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Menahga
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Monticello
Outlook Laestadian Lutheran Church
Pelkie Laestadian Lutheran Church
Phoenix Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Prescott Valley
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Roaring Fork Valley
Rockford Laestadian Lutheran Church
Rolla Laestadian Lutheran Church
Saskatoon Laestadian Lutheran Church
Seattle Laestadian Lutheran Church
Laestadian Lutheran Church of Spokane
Laestadian Lutheran Church Toronto
Ulster Park Laestadian Lutheran Church
West Barnstable Laestadian Lutheran Church
Williston Laestadian Lutheran Church
Suomen Rauhanyhdistysten Keskusyhdistys
Board of Directors
Attn: Valde Palola**

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
chairman@llcer.org
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
info@llcofglendale.org
[redacted]
ishpemingllc@gmail.com
[redacted]
info@llc-longview.org
mskoog@llcmenahga.org
general@llcmchurch.org
chair.ollc@gmail.com
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
chair.saskatoonllc@gmail.com
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
srk@srk.fi
valde.palola@srk.fi

Dear Jim, Members of the LLC Board of Directors, Members of the LLC, Delegates to the 2022 LLC Annual Meeting, and Board of the SRK:

Your silence is deafening. Since I wrote to you nearly ten months ago, I heard not a word from any of you – neither by way of correction or rebuke nor with a desire to understand how you might have erred. You have made Apostle Paul’s prophesy true: you will no longer endure sound doctrine, but after your own lusts have heaped to yourselves teachers who will preach not that which is the true Word of God, but that which your itching ears desire to hear. You have turned your ears away from the truth. You have turned to fables.¹

Instead of harkening to the cries of many that you strayed from the Word, you turned from them and hardened your hearts against them. You proclaimed heresy and prohibited your followers to greet them with the peace of God. You encouraged inquisitions to eliminate anyone who might dare to speak the truth. Might is not right. Neither is deception.

When I wrote to you last, I told you that your expulsion of the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations, members of your nonprofit corporation, was against Minnesota law. You did not respond to me. Instead, you propagated egregious misrepresentations about the law and your own organization’s governing documents.

In the January 2023 Voice of Zion publication, the LLC Board of Directors (Keith Waaraniemi, Sam Roiko, Rick Nevala, Peter Kuopus, George Koivukangas, Jim Jurmu, Petri Hotari, Randy Hillukka, Lauri Nevala, Michael Kumpala, David Edwards, Marv Wittenberg, Dean Simonson, Carey Simonson, and Roger Plough) all joined together in unity to say the following:

At the 2022 LLC Annual Meeting, delegates raised the issue of the spiritual division in the North American Zion and the danger of the harm and confusion it spread. . . . Delegates then made a motion to formally remove the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations as member organizations in the LLC. The motion was discussed at length and then passed with near unanimous approval. **The motion was in accord with the LLC bylaws which state that member congregations are required to ‘act in conformity with the same spirit and doctrine confessed by the other member congregations’ (Article II, Section I).**

Members of the Board, heed the words of Paul: “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.”² Your words are a lie. You have, quite knowingly, quoted only *part* of the complete sentence that you say supports your expulsion of two members of the LLC. Article II, Section I of the Bylaws says in full:

Only such congregations are accepted as members of the LLC whose applications have been approved and are legally registered and that act in conformity with the same spirit and doctrine confessed by the other member congregations in the LLC **as required in Sections V and VI of the Constitution.**

¹ 2 Tim. 4:3-4.

² Col. 3:9.

Moreover, as you know, the section of the Bylaws you cite does not even pertain to the expulsion of members. Rather, it applies specifically to *admission* of congregations as new members of the LLC. As I told you in my first letter on August 3, 2022 (five months before the Board of Directors' letter in the Voice of Zion), it is Article II Section 9 of the Bylaws that relates to expulsions. I quoted that section to you in my letter. Section 9 of the Bylaws states that a member congregation may be expelled from the LLC only if the member congregation "does not comply or act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and fails to comply and obey the decisions made by the LLC" This standard is quite different than that which you have proclaimed.

No one at the Annual Meeting asserted, and no one from the LLC Board or office has claimed, that the Minneapolis or Wolf Lake congregations did not "comply or act in accordance with the Constitution and the Bylaws and fail[ed] to comply and obey the decisions made by the LLC." And, lest you be tempted to mislead again, the basis for expulsion requires that a congregation have 1) "failed to act in accordance with the Constitution and bylaws" **and** 2) "failed to obey the decisions made by the LLC." One or the other will not do – you must have both. At the Annual Meeting, you had neither.

Reviewing the LLC Constitution, and particularly the sections that the LLC Board omitted in its false proclamation that it acted in accordance with the Bylaws, sheds light on perhaps why those sections (and reference to the Constitution altogether) were ignored. Section V of the Constitution states:

Said Laestadian Lutheran Church shall be composed of congregations in the United States and Canada who confess that living faith which is founded on the Holy Word of God in the books of the Old and New Testaments in which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone. This faith is also expressed in the oldest creeds of Christendom (Apostle's, Nicene, and Athanasian) which are consistent with the Holy Word of God and in the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Small and Large Catechisms by Martin Luther. Said Corporation holds that the Holy Word of God is the highest authority and only measure according to which all doctrines and teachings in said Corporation are to be examined and judged.

This Constitution was adopted by the LLC members on July 1, 2000, and those tenets of faith have been held by its predecessor, the American Association of Laestadian Congregations ("AALC") since the early 1970s. This statement of faith is adhered to by the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations. Do the LLC Board and other member congregations still adhere to and believe it? Do your beliefs align with the Apostle's Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed? Do you believe the words of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and the Small and Large Catechisms by Martin Luther?

I have not heard, nor have I heard it said, that the Minneapolis or Wolf Lake congregations do not adhere to or believe these creeds, confessions, and catechisms. What I have observed is criticism of the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations by the LLC Board, officers, and members, *because* members of the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations believe these writings and dare to recite from them in doctrinal discussions.

Section VI of the Constitution states:

The members of said Corporation believe that the Kingdom of God is one and indivisible. They also believe that there is only one saving faith, one baptism and one

Holy Christian Church, or communion of saints, wherein God dwells through His Holy Spirit, and wherein He causes repentance and the forgiveness of sins to be preached for the salvation of souls. They hold that the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins is the first and most important function of said Corporation.

I addressed to you in my first letter where I believe you have erred in confusing the LLC, an earthly organization, with God's congregation. I quoted from the writings of Luther, from which a portion of Section VI of the Constitution is derived:

"I believe that there is one holy Christian Church on earth, i.e. the community or number or assembly of all Christians in all the world, the one bride of Christ, and his spiritual body of which he is the only head. . . . This Christian Church exists not only in the realm of the Roman Church or pope, but in all the world, as the prophets foretold that the gospel of Christ would spread throughout the world, Psalm 2[:8]; Psalm 19[:4]. Thus this Christian Church is physically dispersed among pope, Turks, Persians, Tartars, but spiritually gathered in one gospel and faith, under one head, i.e. Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

[I]t is clear that the holy church is not bound to Rome; rather, it extends to the end of the earth, assembled in one faith, a spiritual and not a physical assembly. For what is believed is neither physical nor visible. All of us see the external Roman church. That is why it cannot be the true church, which is believed and which is a community or assembly of the saints in faith. But no one can see who is holy or who believes. . . . Not Rome or this or that place, but baptism, the sacrament, and the gospel are the signs by which the existence of the church in the world can be noticed externally. Wherever there is baptism and the gospel no one should doubt the presence of saints—even if they were only children in the cradle.³

I did not hear at the 2022 Annual Meeting or otherwise that the Minneapolis or Wolf Lake congregations did not believe and adhere to the words in Article VI of the Constitution. Do you, members of the LLC and LLC Board Members, believe and adhere to the words of Article VI? Or have you shifted, as Valde Palola, the chairman of the SRK board, describes some of the "bigger churches in the world" have, to believing that "everything has not been stated in the Bible, but in this sense God's revelation continues in the midst of the congregation"?⁴

To the SRK board: it is disheartening to see that you, also, have ignored calls for help from those in the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations, as well as many others from congregations across the United States and Finland who voiced concerns about the actions of the LLC board long before the expulsion of the congregations. You have permitted earthly bonds of human friendship and trust – no doubt strong bonds built over many years – to evaporate your desire to know and preach the truth. You chose a side and refused to listen to or discuss matters with those painted with the scarlet letter. You do not know how those in the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations believed or believe –

³ LUTHER'S WORKS, Vol. 37: Word and Sacrament III, 367; LUTHER'S WORKS, Vol. 39: Church and Ministry I, 75.

⁴ Palola, Valde, Siionin Lahetyslehti, July 2012.

you heard it only through “trusted brothers” from the LLC Board and office. From this alone you have judged, condemned, and ignored. Do you disagree with what I wrote in my first letter to the LLC Board and member congregations? Is it different than how you believe? If it is, how is it different? If it is not, why have you joined in the condemnation?

The chairman of the SRK Board of Directors, Valde Paolola, voiced support of the actions of the LLC, repeating the same false information spread by the LLC Board and office: “Based on discussion at the 2022 [LLC] Annual Meeting, the assembled delegates, based on the [LLC] bylaws, ultimately removed two member congregations from the central organization.”⁵ Again, it appears the SRK Board of Directors, or at least Valde Palola, has blindly trusted those “trusted brothers.”

It is clear that the LLC Board wanted a separation and long campaigned for it. Yet, in accomplishing it, the LLC Board and each member of the LLC who, through its delegates, voted in favor of expulsion at the 2022 LLC Annual Meeting, violated Minnesota law, the LLC’s Constitution, and the LLC’s bylaws.

Now we do not greet each other with the peace of God because you no longer believe as your Constitution says you believe. I still do, as do the members of the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations with whom I have visited. Since you have refused to acknowledge that your forceful separation was wrong and unlawful, we are left only with the recourse established by the same laws under which the LLC was created and exists. Those laws are enforced by the Attorney General of Minnesota and by the courts.

I am happy to discuss this matter with you should you wish. If I do not hear from you by June 8, 2023, I will presume you do not wish to resolve it properly and will pursue the remedies provided by the law. Because each of the member congregations approving the expulsion (and their delegates) are implicated, please ensure this letter is distributed to each of them.

Regards,



Briar Siljander

⁵ Paolola, Valde, Opening Remarks at SRK Speakers’ Meeting on January 7, 2023, available at www.llchurch.org/post/news-from-srk-work-areas

EXHIBIT E

Letter of J. Lambert, July 17, 2026

JEFFREY W. LAMBERT, P.A.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1000 TWELVE OAKS CENTER DRIVE
SUITE 100
WAYZATA, MN 55391

(952) 475-3435
FACSIMILE: (952) 475-0301
EMAIL: JEFF@LAWYERLAMBERTMN.COM

July 17, 2026

Mr. Briar Siljander
Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church ("CCLLC")
EMAIL ONLY: briar@triolawplc.com

Re: Records Request

Dear Mr. Siljander:

Laestadian Lutheran Church ("LLC") has asked me to respond to your records request dated July 2, 2026. At this time, they will not be providing any records responsive to your request for the following reasons: 1.) CCLLC is currently not a voting member of the Congregation based upon a delinquency in the payment of their dues; 2.) at the Annual Meeting the Delegates approved a motion to begin the expulsion of CCLLC from the Congregation; 3.) they do not believe your request is based upon a proper purpose; and 4.) they are concerned how these records will be used, especially based upon your conduct in the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake matters.

It is my understanding that a Special Meeting will take place within the next sixty to seventy-five days for the purpose of voting on the expulsion of CCLLC. In the event the Delegates do not vote to expel CCLLC, we can then discuss a response to your request.

Please let us know if this is agreeable. In the event you want to continue with your request, LLC will seek a protective order pursuant to the statute.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey W. Lambert

JWL/jl
Cc: Arvin Pirness

EXHIBIT F

Letter of CCLLC to J. Lambert, July 23, 2026

July 23, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jeffrey W. Lambert, Esq.
Jeffrey W. Lambert, P.A.
1000 Twelve Oaks Center Drive, Suite 100
Wayzata, MN 55391 (jeff@lawyerlambertmn.com)

Re: Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church — Member's Request to Inspect Books and Records (Minn. Stat. § 317A.461); Response to your July 17, 2026 letter

Dear Mr. Lambert:

I write on behalf of Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church ("CCLLC") in response to your July 17, 2026 letter declining to produce any records responsive to CCLLC's July 2, 2026 inspection request. The stated grounds do not support a refusal and are contrary to law. CCLLC asks that the LLC produce the records promptly. Please be advised that the request was made three weeks ago and, as I am sure you are aware, § 317A.461(7) provides that a wrongful denial will result in your client being liable for injunctive relief, damages, costs, and attorney fees.

As you are also aware, Minnesota Statutes section 317A.461(2) provides that "[a] member ... may inspect" the corporation's articles and bylaws, accounting records, voting agreements, and minutes "for any proper purpose at any reasonable time." The right is not limited to members with voting rights. Whatever the LLC's position on CCLLC's voting eligibility (a position the LLC has asserted but never substantiated, despite CCLLC's request for the basis and amount of any claimed dues delinquency), CCLLC remains a member of the LLC. Indeed, the LLC is presently attempting to expel CCLLC, which necessarily confirms that CCLLC is a member. A member's inspection right does not turn on whether the member may vote.

By your own account, the Delegates have only voted to begin an expulsion process, and a Special Meeting to consider expulsion will not occur for another sixty to seventy-five days. No final determination has been made. Until one is, CCLLC remains a member with full inspection rights. Your attempt to defer production until after the expulsion vote deprives CCLLC of the very records it needs to prepare a response to the LLC's attempted expulsion, and your efforts are clearly calculated to extinguish CCLLC's membership status before it can exercise its rights. That approach cannot be reconciled with the "fair and reasonable" procedure "carried out in good faith" that section 317A.411 requires before any member is expelled.

CCLLC's request identifies several purposes reasonably related to its interest as a member, including evaluating the stewardship and use of the corporation's funds, the reasonableness of insider compensation, the Board's compliance with its fiduciary duties, the basis for the asserted dues delinquency, and the corporation's litigation, legal exposure, and safeguarding practices. Each is a proper purpose under section 317A.461. A conclusory statement that the LLC "do[es]

not believe” the request is proper does not discharge the LLC’s burden. If the LLC contends a specific listed purpose is improper, please promptly identify it and state the basis, and we will address it.

Your fourth ground – concern about how the records will be used – is wholly unfounded. The records request is made for the purposes identified and is reasonably related to CCLLC’s interest as a member of the LLC. Moreover, as you know, this is addressed by section 317A.461(4), which restricts a member’s use of records to proper purposes and permits the corporation, upon application, to obtain a protective order to enforce that limitation *after* the member has gained access. Subdivision 4 is not authority to withhold records; it presupposes production. To ameliorate any legitimate concern, CCLLC agrees that it intends to use the records to which it is entitled for proper purposes under the statute. Should you wish to propose a stipulation to this effect, please provide it.

CCLLC again requests that the LLC promptly make the responsive records available for inspection and copying. Given the compressed expulsion timeline you have revealed, CCLLC needs these records well in advance of any Special Meeting in order to prepare its response, and cannot agree to defer the request until after a vote that the LLC intends to use to strip CCLLC of the very status on which its rights depend.

If the LLC persists, once again in violation of law, in withholding records to which CCLLC is entitled, CCLLC will pursue its remedies under section 317A.461(7), which authorizes a member wrongfully denied access to bring an action for injunctive relief to compel inspection and for damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees. Given the pending expulsion schedule, CCLLC will seek expedited relief.

Finally, this letter reaffirms CCLLC’s prior demand that the LLC, its Board, officers, committee members, and agents preserve all records and communications relating to the matters identified in the July 2, 2026 request, the use of corporate funds, and the removal or proposed removal of CCLLC, the Minneapolis congregation, and the Wolf Lake congregation.

CCLLC prefers to resolve this without the court involvement you have intimated. Please let me know by July 28, 2026, whether the LLC will produce the records. Nothing in this letter waives any right, position, or objection, all of which are expressly reserved.

Very truly yours,

Briar Siljander
Chair, Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church

EXHIBIT G

Letter of J. Lambert, July 28, 2026

JEFFREY W. LAMBERT, P.A.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1000 TWELVE OAKS CENTER DRIVE
SUITE 100
WAYZATA, MN 55391

(952) 475-3435
FACSIMILE: (952) 475-0301
EMAIL: JEFF@LAWYERLAMBERTMN.COM

July 28, 2026

Mr. Briar Siljander
Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church ("CCLLC")
EMAIL ONLY: briar@triolawplc.com

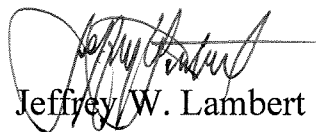
Re: Records Request

Dear Mr. Siljander:

I am in receipt of your letter dated July 23, 2026. We noticed you have signed the letter as "Chair." Can you please provide the corporate documents authorizing you to act as Chair?

It has also come to our attention that Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church is no longer a non-profit corporation in good standing in California. The records at the California Secretary of State indicate the corporation's status was suspended December 1, 2021. We will respond to your request once the Corporation is an active corporation and in good standing with the California Secretary of State.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey W. Lambert

JWL/jl
Cc: Arvin Pirness

EXHIBIT H

Letter of CCLLC to J. Lambert, July 29, 2026, with Secretary's Certificate of Incumbency

July 29, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Jeffrey W. Lambert, Esq.
Jeffrey W. Lambert, P.A.
1000 Twelve Oaks Center Drive, Suite 100
Wayzata, MN 55391 (jeff@lawyerlambertmn.com)

Re: Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church — Member's Request to Inspect Books and Records (Minn. Stat. § 317A.461); Response to your July 28, 2026 letter

Dear Mr. Lambert:

I write on behalf of Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church ("CCLLC") in response to your July 28, 2026 letter. It has now been nearly four weeks since CCLLC's July 2, 2026 inspection request. Your letter does not address the merits of the request, does not identify any purpose the LLC contends is improper, and does not commit to produce a single record. Instead, it raises, for the first time, two new grounds for refusal, neither of which appeared in your July 17, 2026 letter, and neither of which justifies withholding records from a member.

First, you ask that I provide "corporate documents authorizing" me to act as CCLLC's Chair. Nothing in section 317A.461 conditions a member's inspection rights on furnishing its internal governance records to the corporation, and the LLC – which has addressed its own correspondence, dues claims, meeting notices, and expulsion communications to CCLLC through me – knows perfectly well with whom it is dealing. I am the duly elected Chair of CCLLC's Board of Trustees and I have enclosed a certificate of incumbency from CCLLC's Secretary confirming as much (Enclosure). I also note that subdivision 2 of the statute expressly permits inspection by "the agent or attorney of a member," so the demand for proof of my office is, in any event, no basis for delay.

Second, you assert that the LLC will not respond until CCLLC is restored to active status with the California Secretary of State, citing a December 1, 2021 suspension. That is not a lawful basis for refusal. CCLLC's inspection right arises under Minnesota law from its membership in the LLC – a status defined by the LLC's own articles and bylaws – and nothing in section 317A.461 conditions a Minnesota member's rights on its administrative standing in a foreign state. Suspension does not terminate corporate existence; CCLLC exists and remains a member. Moreover, CCLLC's filings with the California Secretary of State are current and its reinstatement to active status with the Franchise Tax Board (relating to an exemption form processing with the FTB) is in process, pending final confirmation; upon issuance of a certificate of revivor, a corporation's intervening acts are validated retroactively.

Most tellingly, the LLC has treated CCLLC as a member throughout the entire period of the claimed suspension: it has claimed dues from CCLLC, noticed CCLLC for the 2026 Annual

Meeting, asserted that CCLLC is “not in good standing with respect to its membership obligations,” and commenced proceedings to expel CCLLC — proceedings that presuppose membership. The LLC cannot insist that CCLLC is a member for purposes of dues and expulsion while denying that it is a member for purposes of inspection.

The pattern across your three letters is difficult to miss: each abandons the previous justifications and substitutes new ones, while the expulsion timeline you have disclosed continues to run. Serial, shifting objections calculated to exhaust the calendar are not a good-faith response to a statutory demand. They are evidence that the denial is wrongful under section 317A.461, and they cannot be reconciled with the “fair and reasonable” procedure, “carried out in good faith,” that section 317A.411 requires before any member may be expelled. The LLC holds these records as steward for its member congregations, whose contributions fund it. It is difficult to understand why their corporation is spending those contributions to resist a member's statutory right to see how they are used.

Accordingly, unless by August 5, 2026, the LLC confirms in writing that it will make the records identified in CCLLC’s July 2, 2026 request available for inspection and copying on a date certain no later than August 14, 2026, CCLLC will be forced to commence an action under section 317A.461, subdivision 7, for injunctive relief compelling inspection and for damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees. Given the expulsion schedule the LLC has set in motion, CCLLC will seek expedited relief. CCLLC is retaining Minnesota litigation counsel for that purpose.

This letter again reaffirms CCLLC’s demand that the LLC, its Board, officers, committee members, and agents preserve all records and communications relating to the matters identified in the July 2, 2026 request, the use of corporate funds, and the removal or proposed removal of CCLLC, the Minneapolis congregation, and the Wolf Lake congregation.

Nothing in this letter waives any right, position, or objection of CCLLC, all of which are expressly reserved.

Very truly yours,

Briar Siljander
Chair, Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church

Enclosure: Certificate of Incumbency of Briar Siljander, executed by the Secretary of Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church

COASTAL CALIFORNIA LAESTADIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

a California nonprofit religious corporation

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE OF INCUMBENCY

The undersigned, Brita Siljander, hereby certifies as follows:

1. I am the duly elected, qualified, and acting Secretary of the Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church, a California nonprofit religious corporation (the "Corporation"), and in that capacity I am the custodian of, and familiar with, the corporate records of the Corporation, including the minutes of the proceedings of its Board of Trustees and of its members.
2. The Bylaws of the Corporation provide that the Board of Trustees, at its first meeting after the annual meeting of the members, shall elect from among its number a chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer.
3. At a duly noticed meeting of the Board of Trustees held on May 29, 2026, at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, Briar Siljander was duly elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Corporation in accordance with the Bylaws of the Corporation.
4. Briar Siljander has accepted such office, continues to serve in it, and is, as of the date of this Certificate, the duly elected, qualified, and acting Chairman of the Corporation. The action of the Board of Trustees electing him has not been amended, modified, or rescinded and remains in full force and effect.
5. As Chairman, Briar Siljander is authorized to act for and on behalf of the Corporation, including to execute and deliver correspondence, demands, and other instruments in the name of the Corporation and to exercise the Corporation's rights as a member congregation of the Laestadian Lutheran Church, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, including without limitation the Corporation's rights under Minnesota Statutes section 317A.461.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Certificate as of July 29, 2026.

Brita Siljander

Brita Siljander, Secretary

Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church

EXHIBIT I

Letter of J. Lambert, August 5, 2026

JEFFREY W. LAMBERT, P.A.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1000 TWELVE OAKS CENTER DRIVE
SUITE 100
WAYZATA, MN 55391

(952) 475-3435
FACSIMILE: (952) 475-0301
EMAIL: JEFF@LAWYERLAMBERTMN.COM

August 5, 2026

Mr. Briar Siljander
Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church ("CCLLC")
EMAIL ONLY: briar@triolawplc.com

Re: Records Request

Dear Mr. Siljander:

This is in response to your letter dated July 29, 2026. Thank you for providing us with a copy of the Secretary's Certificate of Incumbency. This issue was raised by your letter dated July 23, 2026, where for the first time you signed as "Chair."

The second, more important issue, is related to CCLLC's status as a suspended non-profit corporation in the state of California. This was also raised for the first time because it just came to the attention of the LLC board. Like every other member we assumed CCLLC was an active, non-profit corporation. The fact that it has been suspended by the California Franchise Tax Board and the California Secretary of State since December 1, 2021, came as quite a surprise.

My understanding, based upon a review of California statute and case law, and in particular, *Timberline, Inc. v. Jaisinghani*, 54 Cal. App. 4th 1361 (1997), that "except for filing an application for tax-exempt status or amending the articles of incorporation to change the corporate name, a suspended corporation is disqualified from exercising any right, power or privilege....[t]his means a suspended corporation may not prosecute or defend an action in a California court." 54 Cal. App 1361, 1365. Under California law, as long as it is suspended, the only activities CCLLC may engage in are filing for tax-exempt status and amending its articles to change the corporate name. According to *Timberline*, it doesn't appear CCLLC has the ability to exercise any membership rights, including the request for records.

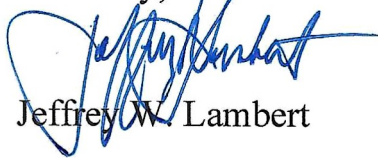
As I have stated from the beginning, LLC is also concerned about how these records will be used by CCLLC. We are especially concerned what will happen to

these records in the event CCLLC is expelled from the Congregation. One of the remedies available to LLC under Minn. Stat. 317A.461 is the ability to seek a protective order. Due to CCLLC's suspended status, it cannot be a party to court action, so currently we are unable to obtain a protective order.

Please advise us as soon as CCLLC has obtained a certificate of revivor. At that point you can renew your request for records and we will respond accordingly.

LLC expressly reserves all rights, defenses and objections available under Minnesota law, California law, its Constitution and Bylaws. Nothing in any of correspondence should be construed as a waiver of any of its rights.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey W. Lambert

JWL/jl

Cc: Arvin Pirness