LAESTADIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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July 7, 2022

Dear LLC Congregations: God's Peace!

On July 2, 2022, the delegates at the LLC Annual Meeting made several decisions that seemed important to share with our membership in a timely manner. These items are as follows:

(Note: a complete Annual Meeting synopsis will be provided at a future date).

LLC Summer Service Dates - The proposal to change the date of our LLC Summer Services generated good discussion, with both options supported (Option A, to leave our Summer Service date unchanged; or Option B, to move our Summer Service date to always be the week after the SRK Summer Services in Finland). During the discussion, it was noted that in 2024, 2025, and 2026, our LLC Summer Services will be the week after SRK's Suviseurat as currently scheduled. The delegates voted to move the 2023 LLC Summer Services to be a week later, to July 6-9, 2023, at Silver Springs, in Monticello, MN. The motion also indicated that the matter would be discussed again at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Bylaw Revisions - The proposed Bylaws revisions and realignment of Mission Areas were approved. This requires a realignment of Area Mission Committees, which will be coordinated by LLC Office staff. Another result of this is that the LLC Board assigned the Board position vacated by Jim Frantti from the Eastern Area to the new Southwest Area. The Southwest Area will schedule a meeting to discuss this item and bring a recommendation for consideration by congregation delegates at a future date.

Spiritual Division - After these new business items were discussed, the delegates and meeting attendees had a long discussion that was free, open, and heartfelt regarding the spiritual division in the North American Zion. Many speeches by delegates expressed a loving call to repentance to restore unity. A different spirit was plainly evident in the speeches from Minneapolis and Wolf Lake delegates and guests. Delegates then discussed whether it is God's time to formally acknowledge that the Minneapolis and Wolf Lake congregations do not travel together in unity of spirit with the North American Zion, and to formally remove Minneapolis and Wolf Lake as member congregations of the LLC. This was presented as a motion and seconded, followed by prayerful and sober discussion. Comments noted that this is a formal acknowledgement of the spiritual division that has been openly acknowledged and has persisted for a number of years. After the long discussion period, where the loving call to repentance went unheeded, delegates overwhelmingly approved the motion to formally remove Wolf Lake and Minneapolis as member congregations in the Laestadian Lutheran Church. The LLC will take actions as needed to implement this Annual Meeting decision.

While we sorrow for those who have battled against the North American Zion, we live in hope and prayer that they would yet find a place of repentance. We also pray that this decision would provide clarity and peace. May God preserve each of us as humble children in His kingdom.

God's Peace, on behalf of the LLC Board,

Jim Jurmu LLC Board Chairman
Sam Roiko LLC Board Secretary
Arvin Pirness LLC Executive Director