

THE 2025 BLACK MINISTRY FAMILY CONVOCATION

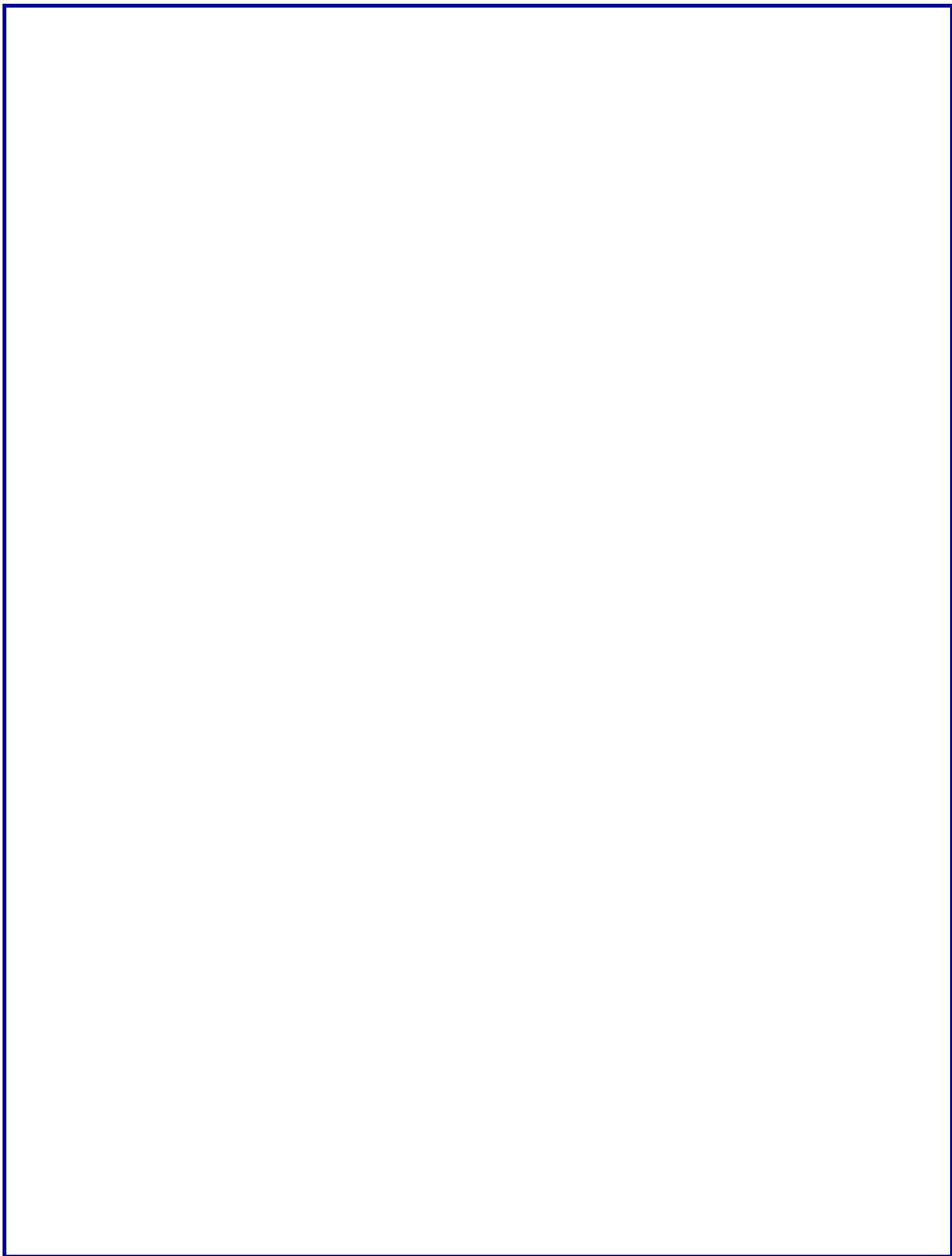
# EMPOWERING & ADVANCING THE NEXT GENERATION



**JULY 09-12, 2025 • ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH • DALLAS, TX**



[www. bcc-lc-org](http://www.bcc-lc-org)



# *Empowering & Advancing the Next Generation*

Dear Fellow Believers,

We at Saint Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy are thrilled to host the 2025 Black Ministry Family Convocation! Our team is already hard at work preparing to welcome you this summer to Dallas, Texas. Joyce, the Saint Paul family, and I have been, and will continue, praying for your safety as you plan your journey to join us for this special celebration.

We trust that your time at the convocation will be spiritually rewarding. However, we also recognize the sacrifices involved in attending, whether financial or time away from your jobs, homes, and churches. We thank God for your commitment, dedication, and determination to be with us.

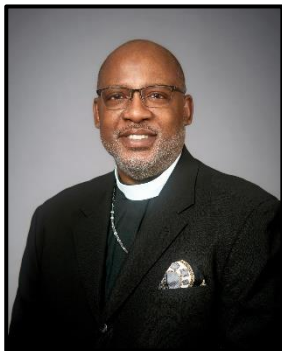
Our theme for this convocation is *"Advancing the Next Generation."* As parents and believers, we desire to see our children and future leaders grow beyond where we've been. Progress is not guaranteed—it requires intentional planning, prayer, and hard work. Together, we will explore how your church, ministry, and family can empower the next generation to thrive in the marketplace, in our communities, and for God's glory. Don't miss this opportunity to come, learn, and grow with us. We look forward to seeing you!

**Pastor Byron Ray Williams Sr. & First Lady Joyce Williams**

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
5725 South Marsalis Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75241



***"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Psalms 37:4***



**BCC PRESIDENT REV. STEPHEN WIGGINS SR.**

July 9, 2025

Greetings, in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Welcome to our 2025 Lutherans in Black Ministry Family Convocation! Our 2025 theme is "Empowering & Advancing the Next Generation!" based on Ephesians 4:11-12: "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

As God's faithful people, we gather in Dallas, Texas, to rejoice and fellowship around the promises of God with thanks and praises for His Means of Grace, His Word, and His Sacraments. We come together focused on reaching our youth and empowering them to reach generations to come. The Psalmist shared in Psalms 78:2-4, "I will utter hidden things, things from of old, 3 things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done!"

"Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation!" is critical to the present and future congregations in Black/African, Immigrant, and Hispanic ministries. It is our obligation to use God's gracious gifts of time, talent, and treasures to empower and advance the next generation by the power of God's Holy Spirit. We are facing a very challenging time in Black and Immigrant Ministries in the LCMS and the world, especially as we approach the 150-year celebration of Black Ministry in 2027.

I believe God has empowered us to take ownership of our work and direction in ministry. We have been blessed for such a time as this! I rejoice in all that God is going to do here in Dallas, and I look forward to celebrating the goodness of the Lord with you!

In The Master's Grip,

*Stephen Wiggins Sr.*

Rev. Stephen Wiggins Sr., Pastor  
BCC President



Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

July 2025

The Black Ministry Family Convocation  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Dallas, Texas

Dear Friends,

Welcome! It is such a joy to be the host district for the Black Ministry Family Convocation. We praise God that you are part of this wonderful gathering, and we rejoice in the fellowship, restoration, and blessing that will result from our time together. Under the theme, "Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation," our prayer is that you are inspired and equipped to pray diligently and be in action energetically to lift up a new generation of leaders for Christ's beloved Church.

We thank the Lord for our host congregation, St. Paul Lutheran Church, and for St. Paul's outstanding servant-leader, Pastor Byron Williams. Pastor Williams and the dear people of St. Paul never fail to offer the best hospitality and a warm and welcoming environment for friends and guests. We also give thanks for the dedicated planning committee. You will experience firsthand the fruit of their faithful and caring preparation.

May the Lord Jesus embrace each of us with His Spirit of insight, love, and strength to glorify Him and to shine His light of life and hope to all. God bless you as you enjoy your time in the Texas District of the LCMS!

Yours truly,

Rev. Michael W. Newman  
President, Texas District, LCMS

Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





**Office of the President**

The Reverend Doctor Matthew C. Harrison  
President of the Synod

Wednesday of Pentecost IV, A.D. 2025  
July 9, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you gather to celebrate God's love in Christ Jesus, to rejoice in the fellowship you share in His love, and to encourage each other to "Empower and Advance the Next Generation," may Paul's words in Ephesians 2 echo in your ears, your minds and in your hearts: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved" (Eph. 2:4-5).

The 2025 Black Family Convocation is an important gathering for our Synod. Each of you is loved and treasured by our Savior and by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I pray your time together is a blessed time of fellowship and joy, and may your work result in many hearing the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your theme verse is Ephesians 4: 12, which ends with the phrase, "for building up the body of Christ." Paul's words in Ephesians 4: 13 is my prayer and our hope in the Synod, "until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God." I rejoice that we find our unity and our fellowship in the gracious love of our God poured out for you and for me in our Lord's death and resurrection. May His Gospel be on our tongues as we empower and advance the next generation in His Word and in His ways.

In Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MCH", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison  
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# *Empowering &*



## **ADVANCING THE** *NEXT* **GENERATION**



### **CONVOCATION THEME SCRIPTURE PASSAGE**

"So, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastor and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" Ephesians 4:12(NIV)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTERS OF WELCOME.....	2-3
GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT DALLAS DISTRICT.....	4
GREETING FROM LCMS PRESIDENT.....	5
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	7
KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY .....	8
ADULT AGENDA.....	9-11
WORKSHOPS & PRESENTERS.....	12
PRE-K AGENDA.....	14
YOUTH AGENDA.....	15
TEEN AGENDA.....	16
SISTERS IN THE SPIRIT & YOUNG ADULTS AGENDA .....	17-18
BIOGRAPHIES.....	20-23
WEDNESDAY OPENING DIVINE SERVICE.....	24-32
SATURDAY MEMORIAL SERVICE.....	33-40
FAITHFUL DEPARTED.....	41
REMEMBERING SELMA .....	42
LIFE TIME HONOREES.....	43-44
HEADED TO GREENSBORO.....	45
EXECUTIVE BOARD.....	46
THANK YOU.....	47
ACKNOWLEDGES.....	48
NOTES.....	49







## **2025 BLACK FAMILY CONVOCATION'S**

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Rev. Dr. Byron Williams Jr.**

**Dr. Byron Williams was appointed Head of Middle School at St. Francis Episcopal School on June 1, 2022.**

**Dr. Williams brings more than 20 years of ministry, teaching, and leadership experience at independent and public schools and local churches. He spent 11 years at The Kinkaid School, where he served as eighth grade dean, middle school history teacher, and admissions pod leader. Previously, he was with Burbank Middle School where he chaired the social studies department and taught middle school history.**

**A creative and collaborative leader, Dr. Williams offers a wealth of knowledge in curriculum alignment, new teacher mentorship, professional development, and technology integration. He loves helping students and adults reach their full potential and believes that he has a lot to learn from them.**

**"When students perform on stage, succeed in the classroom, or get their hearts broken, they feel real happiness, gratitude, and pain. They're not preparing for real life, they're living it," he says.**

**Dr. Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Xavier University of Louisiana and a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A lifelong learner, he earned his doctorate in education with a focus on curriculum and instruction from Texas A&M University. He received The Kinkaid School's Columbian Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2016 and was named Burbank Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2008.**

**Whether the audience has thousands of students, hundreds of parishioners, a handful of Bible Study attendees, or a couple of professors, Dr. Williams ministers with passion, creativity, and compassion.**

**Rev. Dr. Byron Williams Jr. is married to the beautiful Mrs. Christy Williams and is blessed with two daughters, Gabrielle and Olivia.**

**Dr. Williams loves poetry, cool quotes, sports, hip-hop, and history, so expect a heavy dose of each of those in nearly all of his messages.**

# ADULT AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 09

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

### 4:00pm- 6:00pm Registration & Greetings

- Community Groups
- NAACP, Red Cross,
- Veterans Administration
- Chamber of Commerce, TX

### 6:30 pm Opening Divine Service

Theme: "Empowered" Ephesians 4:12

BCC President Rev. Stephen A. Wiggins Sr.

Peace Lutheran Church- Jacksonville, Fl.

### 9:00 pm Presidential Reception (Host)

Texas District Pres. Mike Newman

## THURSDAY, JULY 10

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

### 7:00am-8: 00am Registration

Continental Breakfast (Hote)

### 8:00am-9:00am Opening Devotion

Theme:

Rev. Byron R. Williams Sr.

St. Paul Lutheran- Dallas, TX.

### 9:00am-9:40am Welcomes

BCC Pres. Rev. Stephen A. Wiggins Sr.

Host- Rev. Byron R. Williams

## THURSDAY, JULY 10

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

### Welcome-City, County, Official

- Welcome -LCMS President  
Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
- Welcome-Texas District President  
Mike Newman

### 9:40am-10:40am Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Byron R. Williams Jr.

Principal- St. Francis- Houston, TX.

### 10:40 am-11:00 am

### Q & A with Key Note Speaker

### 11:00 am-11:15 BREAK

(Sisters' In Christ & Youth dismissed)

### 11:15am-11:45am THRIVENT

Miko Tisdale-Thrivent Texas Willie Ervin Jr (St.Paul)

### 11:45 am-1:00 pm -LUNCH

### BCC Executive Session Lunch

### 1:00 pm-1:30 pm Announcements & Welcomes

Chamber of Commerce-Desoto, TX

### Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Dr. Kristi Kirk – Pres-Concordia University Texas

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, MISSION EXECUTIVES

(In Sanctuary)

## THURSDAY, JULY 10

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

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**1:30 pm-2:30 pm "LIFEWISE ACADEMY"**  
**Churches Educating Public School Students**

Mrs. Rebecca & Pastor Terry Tieman

**2:30 pm -2:45 pm Break**

**2:45 pm-3:45 pm Introduction Mission &  
Vision**

BCC Executive Dir. Rev. Dr. ST. Williams, Jr.

Los Angeles, CA

- Communication
- Ministry Focus
- Ownership
- Recruitment
- Revitalization
- Partnership Development

**3:45 pm-4:00 pm Q & A**

**4:00 pm- 4:10 pm Greetings**

**4:10 pm- 5:00 pm Video- First Rosa**

**5:00 pm Closing Devotion**

Theme

*Rev, Lloyd D. Gaines Sr.*

Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

(Food Trucks Available)

**7:00 pm-9:00 pm "GOT TALENT"**

Talent Showcase 2025  
(Youth & Adults)

## FRIDAY, JULY 11

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

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**7:00am-8:00am Registration**

Continental Breakfast (Hotel)

**8:00am-9:00am Opening Devotion**

Chaplain- Rev. Gregory T. Manning

Theme:

Broadmoor Community Church  
New Orleans, LA,

**9:00am-9:30am Welcomes & Greetings**

**Review Agenda**

- Introduction of Honored Guest
  - Greetings -Ministry Partners
  - Pastoral Leadership Institute
  - Lutheran Hour Ministries
- Concordia Theological Seminary

Ft. Wayne, In

**9:30am-11:00am Special Presentation**

**BCC Ownership & Advancement**

Rev. Dr. Martin Lee

Church Organizer Foundation  
Palisades Lutheran Church, California

**11:00am-11:15am BREAK**

**11:15 am-12:00noon (In Sanctuary)**

**Christian Education Reaching the  
Next Generation**

Concordia University Texas

Pres. Kristi Kirk

**12:00noon-12:15pm Q &A**

**12:15 pm-1:15 pm LUNCH**

( Food Trucks Available)

**BCC Executive Session Lunch**

## FRIDAY, JULY 11

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

### 1:15 pm-1:45 pm GREETINGS

- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo
- Multi-Asian Gathering
- Hispanic Convention
- Set Apart To Serve LCMS
- Office of National Mission LCMS
- B.L.A.S.T.( Concordia HS Alumni)  
Fort Wayne, IN

### 1:45 pm-2:45 pm WORKSHOPS

- Pastoral Leadership Institute
- BLACK Ministry Think Tank
- Church Organizer Foundation(Sanctuary)

### 2:45 pm-3:45 pm WORKSHOPS

- LifeWise Academy (Sanctuary)
- Lutheran Hour Ministry  
Set A Part To Serve LCMS

### 3:45 pm-4:15 pm DISCUSSION

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of BLACK Ministry in the  
LCMS, Greensboro, NC, July 2027

### 4:15 pm CLOSING -DEVOTION

Rev. Jeffrey Howell Sr.

St. Paul Lutheran Church (Washington D.C.)

### 7:00 pm BANQUET

Inspiring Body of Christ (IBOC)  
7701 S. Westmoreland Rd. Dallas, TX  
*Pastor Rickie Rush*

## SATURDAY, JULY 12

*Empowering & Advancing the Next Generation*

### 7:00 am-8:00 am Continental Breakfast (Hotel)

8

### 8:00 am-8:30 am Introduction of Host Committee Presentations & Announcements

### 8:30am-9:30am Youth Presentations Closing Reflections

### 9:30 am-11:30 am

### CLOSING MEMORIAL SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray

Executive Dir. BLACK Ministry (Retired)

### CIRCLE OF PRAYER & BENEDICTION

Sending back into the Mission Fields  
of the United States, Canada, Africa, Haiti  
Caribbean and Latin America

## SUNDAY, JULY 13

### 10:30 AM HOMECOMING SERVICE-St. Paul

Rev.Dr. Roosevelt Gray

Cookout after service.



## WORKSHOP & PRESENTERS

### LIFEWISE ACADEMY 1:00-2:00PM

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Rebecca Tieman & Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman  
**TITLE:** Education for Public Schools Students  
**DESCRIPTION:** Educating Public School Students in the Lutheran Church.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2:00-3:00PM

Introduction of the Mission and Vision by the Black Clergy Caucus Executive Committee.  
**PRESENTERS:** President and Executive Dir.

- Ministry Focus, Revitalization, Recruitment, Communication
- Advancement/Ownership: Advancement Advisor
- Future/Recruitment: Youth Advisor
- Questions, Answered, and Registration of volunteers to carry the Vision in preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Black Ministry, Greensboro, NC, July 2027

### THE LUTHERAN HOUR 2:00PM-3:30PM

**PRESENTER:** Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
**TITLE:** Equipping the Next Generation for Spiritual Conversations.  
**Description:** Join the conversation and help equip the next generation to authentically share what's most important with wisdom and grace.

### SISTERS IN THE SPIRIT THUR-FRI

**PRESENTER:** DCE Michelle Pitts  
**TITLE:** Generational Blended Spiritual Sharing  
**Description:** Discussions and sharing wisdom and stories to enrich this opportunity for the community.

### THRIVENT 3:00-3:30PM

**PRESENTER:** Miko Thomas Tisdale  
**TITLE:** Your Best Investments  
**DESCRIPTION:** Getting the best for your investments & resources that work for you.

### OWNERSHIP FRIDAY 9:00-11:30PM

**PRESENTER:** Rev. Dr. Martin Lee- OWNERSHIP  
**TITLE:** BCC OWNERSHIP  
**DESCRIPTION:** BCC.INC BEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPLETE OWNERSHIP AND INCREASED RESOURCES.

### CONCORDIA UNIV TX 1:45-2:30PM

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Kristi Kirk-  
**TITLE:** Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
**DESCRIPTION:** Educating Children in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology & Christian Environment

### THINK TANK FRI-1:45-2:45PM

**PRESENTERS:** Nikki Rochester  
Shirley Jackson-  
**TITLE:** Are You Making A Difference(YOU Can)  
This workshop challenges participants to recognize and address factors in their congregational life that might be limiting the commitment of CURRENT members as well as outreach to the NEXT generation.

### OTHER WORKSHOPS

- Lutheran Hours Ministries-Classroom 1
- Pastoral Leadership Institute- Sanctuary
- Set A Part To Serve LCMS- Classroom 2

*Matthew 25:45*



REV BYRON R. WILLIAMS, SR.,  
HOST

# The Next Generation



# PREK-5<sup>TH</sup> AGENDA

## 2025 BLACK MINISTRY CONVOCATION

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 09

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00 am-4:00pm	REGISTRATION
4:00 pm-6:00 pm	MEET & GREET DINNER
6:30 pm-9:00 pm	OPENING SERVICE
9:00 pm	CONVOCATION RECEPTION

### THURSDAY, JULY 10

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

7:00am-8:00am	REGISTRATION (Talent Show Sign-up)
8:00am-9:00am	Group Room
9:00 am-11:45am	ACTIVITY <u>ALL GOD'S CREATION-ZOO</u>
11:45 am-1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 pm-1:30 pm	Group Room
1:30 pm-1:45 pm	BREAK
1:45 pm-4:00 pm	Group Room
4:00 pm	CLOSING DEVOTION
5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Dinner ( On Your Own)
7:00 pm	Talent Night

### FRIDAY, JULY 11

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00am-9:00am	Opening Devotion
9:15 am-4:30 pm	Fun Day for YC2025
5:00 pm	Closing Devotion
5:30 pm-7:00 pm	Dinner (On Your Own)
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Game Night for YC2025

### SATURDAY, JULY 12

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00 am-8:30 am	OPENING DEVOTION
8:30 am-9:30 am	Large Group Room
9:30 am-11:30 am	CLOSING DIVINE MEMORIAL SERVICE

### SUNDAY, JULY 13

10:30 am	HOMECOMING SERVICE- St. Paul <u>Rev.Dr. Roosevelt Gray</u>
	Cookout after service.

# YOUTH AGENDA GRADES 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

## 2025 BLACK MINISTRY CONVOCATION

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 09

#### *Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00 am-4:00pm	REGISTRATION
4:00 pm-6:00 pm	MEET & GREET DINNER
6:30 pm-9:00 pm	OPENING SERVICE
9:00 pm	CONVOCAION RECEPTION

### THURSDAY, JULY 10

#### *Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

7:00am-8:00am	REGISTRATION
8:00am-9:00am	OPENING DEVOTION
9:00am-9:30am	WELCOME ICE BREAKER
9:30am-9:40am	BREAK
9:40am-10:40am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER
10:40 am-11:00 am	Q &A with KEYNOTE SPEAKER
1100am-11:15am	BREAK
11:30 am-11:45 am	LARGE GROUP TEACHING (Who Are We, Why Are We Here)
11:45 am-1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 pm-4:00 pm	SERVICE PROJECT
4:00 pm	CLOSING DEVOTION (Back to Sanctuary)
5:30 pm-7:00 pm	DINNER ON YOUR OWN
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	TALENT SHOWCASE

### FRIDAY, JULY 11

#### *Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00am-9:00am	OPENING DEVOTION
9:15 am-4:30 pm	FUN DAY YC2025
5:00 pm	CLOSING DEVOTION
5:30pm-7:00pm	DINNER
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Youth Explosion-Guest Speaker Mr. Melvin Adams- <u>Harlem Globetrotter</u>

### SATURDAY, JULY 12

#### *Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00am-8:30am	OPENING DEVOTION
8:30am-9:30am	CY25 CLOSING
9:30 am-11:30 am	CLOSING DIVINE MEMORIAL SERVICE Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray

### SUNDAY, JULY 13

#### *Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

10:30 am	HOMECOMING SERVICE- St. Paul Rev.Dr.Roosevelt Gray
	Cookout after service



## TEEN AGENDA- GRADES 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>

### 2025 BLACK MINISTRY CONVOCATION

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 09

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00 am-4:00pm	REGISTRATION
4:00 pm-6:00 pm	MEET & GREET
6:30 pm-9:00 pm	OPENING DIVINE SERVICE
9:00 Pm	CONVOCATION RECEPTION

#### THURSDAY, JULY 10

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

7:00am-8:00am	REGISTRATION
8:00am-9:00am	OPENING DEVOTION
9:00 am-9:30 am	WELCOME ICE BREAKER
9:30am-9:40am	BREAK
9:40am-10:40am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER Rev.Dr. Byron Williams
10:40 am-11:00 am	Q &A with Keynote Speaker
1100am-11:15am	BREAK
11:30 am-11:45 am	Large Group Teaching (Who Are We, Why Are We Here)
11:45 am-1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00 pm-4:00 pm	SERVICE PROJECT
4:00 pm	CLOSING DEVOTION (Back to Sanctuary)
5:30 pm-7:00 pm	DINNER ON YOUR OWN
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	TALENT SHOWCASE

#### FRIDAY, JULY 11

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00am-9:00am	OPENING DEVOTION
9:15 am-4:30 pm	FUN DAY YC2025
5:00pm	CLOSING DEVOTION
5:30pm-7:00pm	DINNER

8:00am-9:00am	OPENING DEVOTION
9:15am-4:30pm	FUN DAY YC 2025
5:00pm	CLOSING DEVOTION
5:30pm-7:00pm	DINNER

7:00pm-9pm	Youth Explosion- Guest Speaker
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*Mr. Melvin Adams –Harlem Globetrotter*

#### SATURDAY, JULY 12

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00am-8:30am	OPENING DEVOTION
8:30am-9:30am	CY25 CLOSING
9:30 am-11:30 am	CLOSING DIVINE MEMORIAL SERVICE Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray

#### SUNDAY, JULY 13

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

10:30am	HOMCOMING SERVICE- St. Paul Rev.Dr.Roosevelt Gray Cookout after service
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# SISTERS IN THE SPIRIT AGENDA

## YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-25

### 2025 BLACK MINISTRY CONVOCATION

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 09

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

8:00 am-4:00 pm Registration

4:00 pm-6:00 pm Meet & Greet

6:30 pm Opening Divine Service

9:00 pm Texas District President's Reception

#### THURSDAY, JULY 10

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

Do The Issues John 16:33

7:00am-8:00am Registration

8:00-9:00 am Opening Devotion

9:00am-9:20am Prayer  
Review BCC 5 Point Vision

Communication, Ministry  
Focus, Ownership,  
Recruitment &  
Revitalization  
SIS Workshop Rules  
Theme and Purpose, SIS  
Schedule, ICE Breaker

9:20am-10:05am Brief Review  
Generations Video

Generation  
Breakdown  
Group Discussion on

#### THURSDAY, JULY 10

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

10:05am-10:20am Reflection Generational Chart

10:20am-11:20am Music Video  
Small Group Definitions of  
" Living Your Best Life"

Whole group discussion on " Living Your Best Life."

How can living your best Christian life compare  
to living your best secular life.?

11:20 am-11:40 am Small Group Discussion

11:40 am-12:00 noon: Reflection

12:00noon Lunch

1:30pm TBA

# SISTERS IN THE SPIRIT AGENDA

## YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-25

### 2025 BLACK MINISTRY CONVOCATION

#### FRIDAY, JULY 11

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

*Do you want to be healed? What is your response?*  
John 5:5 and Romans 8:31

8:00am-9:00am                      Opening Devotion  
  
Prayer  
  
9:00 am-9:20 am                      Review BCC 5 Point Vision  
Communication, Ministry Focus,  
Ownership, Recruitment & Revitalization

9:20 am-10:10 am                      Brief Review- Video Clip and  
Discussion ("Parenthood")

#### ICE BREAKER

10:10am-10:20am                      Reflection Break  
  
10:20 am-10:45 am                      "Video- Black Panther" Examples  
Activity Challenge  
  
10:45 am-11:00 am                      What does all this mean?  
  
11:00 am-11:15 am                      Small Group: How do we as  
Christians, invite God to fight for us?

#### FRIDAY, JULY 11

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

11:15 am-11:45 am                      Large Group discussion  
  
11:45 am-12:00 noon                      Close and Prayer  
  
12:00noon                      Lunch  
  
1:00pm                      TBA  
  
7:00pm-9pm                      Talent Show or Banquet

#### SATURDAY, JULY 12

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

*Share the Story! Go and do likewise. Luke 10:37*

8:00 am-8:20 am                      Small Group Sharing and Reflections  
  
8:20 am-8:30 am                      Recap and Participant Evaluation Forms.  
  
8:30am-9:00am                      Youth Presentation  
  
9:30 am-11:30 am                      Closing Memorial Service  
  
11:30 am                      Closing Reflections, Prayer and Sending

#### SUNDAY, JULY 13

10:30 am                      HOMECOMING SERVICE –ST PAUL  
*Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray*

Cookout after service.

# EMPOWERING & ADVANCING THE NEXT GENERATION





# BIOGRAPHIES



**Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray Jr. Dir, BLACK MINISTRY (RETIRED)**

Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray Jr. served as director of LCMS Black Ministry. Gray previously served as assistant to the president for missions/evangelism in the LCMS Michigan District, beginning in 2001; pastor of Faith Lutheran Church and Lutheran City Ministries in Detroit from 1997 to 2001; director of admissions, recruitment and vicarage at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., from 1994 to 1997; and pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church,. Gray will also served as a liaison to the churchwide Black Clergy Caucus and oversee the development of resources to support Black Ministry throughout the Synod.

Gray graduated in 1988 with a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., and in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in printing production and management from Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, Ala. Gray received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 2015 from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



**Rev. Jeffrey P. Howell Sr.- Pastor St. Paul Lutheran Church-Chicago. III  
Acting Secretary BCC**

Reverend Jeffrey P. Howell is the youngest of six children born to Janet and Wesley Howell, Jr. in Maywood, IL.

Rev. Howell attended Washington Elementary in Maywood, IL and later transferred in fifth grade and graduated from St. John Lutheran School, Forest Park, IL; graduated from Walther Lutheran High School, Melrose Park, IL, Concordia University, Seward, NE and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

Rev. Howell is currently serving his 36th year in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He has served in Detroit, MI; St. Louis, MO; and Chicago, IL as a teacher, principal, Director of Programs and Services for Lutheran Special Education Ministries in Farmington Hills, MI; and currently, serving in his 14th year as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, 7621 S. Dorchester Avenue, Chicago, IL.

Rev. Howell and his wife Andrea have been married 43 years, and from this union God has blessed them with three children and seven grandchildren. Rev. Howell and his wife reside in Lansing, IL.



**Shirley Jackson- Think Tank  
Transfiguration Lutheran Church-St. Louis, Mo**

Shirley attends and donates numerous service hours to volunteer training and community engagement. Her pursuit of growth in ministry is captivating, motivating, and challenging.

Shirley's "boots on the ground" attitude is evident by her frequent presence and participation in LRJ, WML/St North Zone, Think Tank, Grill2Glory, TLC Properties Board, Village of Moms, Lutheran Foundation, and many more.



**Rev. Dr. Martin Lee**  
**Executive Director & Chief Investment Officer of Church Organizer Foundation**  
**lack Clergy Caucus, Inc. Financial and Ownership Advisor**

Martin's adventure in bi-vocational ministry started with his first Call out of the Seminary in August 1997, to Trinity Lutheran Church, Montclair, California. In this ministry context (cradled into Pomona, California) Martin learned about the scarcity many churches and church workers face. He learned to see God's hand in all things and developed an appreciation for measurable and meaningful stewardship in frontline ministries. In 1999, Martin became a UBS PaineWebber Financial Advisor in Riverside, California. Prior to his service at Church Organizers Foundation, Martin was a branch manager at LPL Financial, the largest independent broker dealer in the United States at that time (based on assets under management). Martin has been an investment advisor for 24 years and a securities principal for 21 years. Martin has focused on understanding the financial and economic needs within the nonprofit community. He has had direct fiduciary oversight of \$50 million in endowment and private client investments on platforms at UBS PaineWebber, LPL Financial, and Charles Schwab-TD Ameritrade. Concurrently, Dr. Lee has served the Council of Presidents of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) in pastoral ministry for 25 years. Martin has extensive experience in practical theology, parish administration, congregational stewardship, and church finance, having served eleven congregations in five Districts of the LCMS. He received a Doctorate in congregational stewardship from Concordia Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts in communications and classical languages from Concordia University.



**Rev. Gregory G. Manning-Pastor Broadmoor Community Church**

The Rev. Gregory Manning graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in theater and religion from Wabash College and went on to earn his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Manning believes firmly that everyone's life has a story. This present chapter of his life includes a strong commitment to the ministry of Broadmoor Community Church, community organizing and a consistent fight to dismantle systemic institutional racism on all fronts. This is accomplished through his involvement as co-moderator for Justice and Beyond, a coalition of activists and organizations that advocate for equity and justice. Manning is also the founder and chairman of the Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition.

As facilitator for Coalition Against Death Alley, he has been deeply engaged in the fight against the petrochemical industry's poisoning of river parishes. Criminal justice reform is a passion for Manning, and he serves on the steering committee for the Peoples DA Coalition to elect a progressive district attorney for New Orleans. Manning also enjoys serving on the Board of Directors of The Greater New Orleans YMCA, The Lighthouse of Louisiana, The Salvation Army, Rebecca's Garden of Hope and Step Up Louisiana. Manning is also one of the co-founders of the Louisiana Just Recovery Network, which was established to ensure a just recovery for all people and not just the privileged. Manning considers it to be a special blessing to be an international speaker who has had the privilege of speaking as far north as Norway and as far South as Australia. His message is one of hope and peace in times of struggle as he shares his faith that nothing is too hard for God.



**Dr. Kristi Kirk- CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY- AUSTIN, TEXAS  
PRESIDENT & CEO**

On November 1, 2024, Dr. Kristi Kirk became the 10th leader in Concordia Texas history. With over 30 years in higher education, she has advanced access through initiatives like reducing the published tuition by 40% and securing a \$2.71 million grant to improve outcomes for students from underserved communities. Starting as an admissions manager in 1993, Dr. Kirk is committed to fostering a Christ-centered higher education that reflects Concordia Texas' core values.



**DCE MICHELLE PITTS**

Michelle Pitts has served as a Director of Christian Education and Outreach in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for 14 years and holds a master's degree in professional counseling. She has also worked with children in the Gwinnett County Schools for 9 years. Currently, she is the facilitator of Sisters in the Spirit (SIS), where she uses her Christian Education, counseling and caring skills to inspire and encourage participants in their faith journeys. She invites others to engage in workshop discussions and share their wisdom and stories to enrich this opportunity for communion.



**Nikki Rochester Think Tank  
(Berea Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD)**

Nikki serves as convener for the Black Ministry Think Tank and Information Coordinator for the Southeastern District Coalition of Lutherans in Black Ministry. She is the author of the CPH publication "Harvest Waiting: Reaching Out to African Americans".



**Mrs. Rebecca & Rev. Terry Tieman**

Rebecca Tieman is the Program Director for LifeWise Academy in Cordova, TN. She and her husband, Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman, have been doing ministry together for over 40 years.

Rebecca has a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Concordia Teachers College, Seward, NE and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She has taught various grades in K-8 Lutheran Schools in Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Tennessee. She also taught Intensive English for Internationals at the University of Memphis for 12 years and ESL in the public schools in Memphis for the past 10 years.

This past year, after retiring from teaching, she began serving as the program director for LifeWise Academy at Grace Celebration Lutheran Church, creating logistical plans with local schools and principals, securing transportation and drivers, hiring teachers, and registering students in order to share the Gospel with their community. Currently, over 80 students from 4 area schools (covering Grades 1-12) are receiving Bible education during the school day through LifeWise Academy.



**Miko Thomas Tisdale**  
**Assistant Manager, Engagement South Central Advisor Group**  
**President – Thrivent Member Network Texas Region**

Miko Tisdale works as an Engagement Leader at Thrivent, which is an Insurance company with an estimated 4,000 employees; and founded in 1902. She is part of the Customer Experience team within the Marketing Department Miko is currently based in Austin, TX.



**Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigle**  
**The Lutheran Hour Ministries**

Michael began serving as Speaker of The Lutheran Hour in October 2018. Prior to that, he served as a pastor in St Louis, Missouri. Before becoming a pastor, he served as an aircraft maintenance officer in the Air Force. Michael grew up in a military family, moving eleven times before he finished high school. He graduated from the U. S. Air Force Academy in 2001 with a general engineering degree and served 5 years in the Air Force. He left active duty in 2006 to prepare to be a pastor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, completing a Master of Divinity in 2010 and a Ph.D. in 2014. He continues to serve part-time as an Air Force Reserve officer at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and as a guest instructor at Concordia Seminary. Michael and his wife, Amy, have four children. Amy is a Lutheran educator by training and works with local refugees and immigrants to connect them with Christian communities. She enjoys being a catalyst for events aimed at strengthening bonds between family and friends.



**Rev. Dr. S T Williams Jr.**  
**BCC Executive Director**

Rev. Dr. S T Williams, Jr. is the retired Senior Pastor of St. Paul, Grace and St. Philip Lutheran Churches in Los Angeles, California. He served as a Region 1, Vice President, Pacific Southwest District-LCMS and President of the Black Clergy Caucus of the LC. Currently, he is serving as the Executive Director of the Black Clergy Caucus. Dr. Williams is a retired Commander in the US Navy where he served as a Chaplain for 23 years.

Dr. Williams is actively serving Veterans in various ways at the Department of Veterans Affairs of Greater Los Angeles, Volunteers of America of Los Angeles Veteran Services Program, Goodwill Veteran Service Program, South Bay Workforce Investment Board and a host of other partnerships relating to Veterans.

Dr. Williams received a BA from Taylor University, Upland, IN, his MDiv. Degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN., his D.D. from Concordia University, Irvine, CA. He joined the US Navy Chaplain program while at the seminary in 1989. He has a passion for building relationships across cultures/ethnic groups and has supported the leadership development of men and women from many other international church bodies.

Dr. Williams has lived in Los Angeles for 20 years, where he serves his church and community in many ways, including as the Chaplain of Ronald Reagan American Legion Post 283, Palisades, CA. Dr. Williams is a grandfather of 6 beautiful grandchildren and a father/mentor to many pastors, church leaders and international church bodies worldwide.



# **THE 2025 BLACK FAMILY CONVOCAION WORSHIP SERVICES**



# **BLACK Ministry Family Convocation**

## **Divine Service, Setting One**

**July 10, 2025, + 7:00 pm**

**Pre-Service Praise Music**

**St Paul Mass Choir**

### **Procession: We've Come This Far By Faith**

*Stand*

We've Come This Far By Faith, Leaning on the Lord. Trusting In His Holy Word.  
He's Never Failed Us Yet. OH, Oh- Oh- Can't Turn Around, We've Come This Far By Faith.

We've Come This Far By Faith, Leaning on The Lord. Trusting In His Holy Word.  
He's Never Failed Us Yet. OH, Oh- Oh- Can't Turn Around, We've Come This Far By Faith.

Don't Be Discouraged with Troubles In Your Life. He'll Bear Your Burdens  
And Move All Discord and Strife

Oh! We've Come This Far By Faith, Leaning on The Lord. Trusting In His Holy Word.  
He's Never Failed Us Yet. OH, Oh- Oh- Can't Turn Around, We've Come This Far By Faith.

Just Remember the Good Things He Has Done. Things That Seemed Impossible.  
Oh, Praise Him for The Victories He Has Won. He Has Won!

We've Come This Far By Faith, Leaning on The Lord. Trusting In His Holy Word.  
He's Never Failed Us Yet. OH, Oh- Oh- Can't Turn Around, We've Come This Far By Faith.

Just The Other Day I Heard A Man Say, He Didn't Believe In God's Word.  
But I Can Truly Say the Lord Will Make a Way. Because He, He's Never Failed Me Yet.

We've Come This Far By Faith, Leaning on The Lord. Trusting In His Holy Word.  
He's Never Failed Us Yet. OH, Oh- Oh- Can't Turn Around, We've Come This Far By Faith.

Oh, Oh- Oh- Can't Turn Around,  
We've Come This Far By, This Far By Faith!

## WELCOME

## INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C Amen.

## YOUTH PRAYER

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Most merciful God.

- C. **The great love of your mercy shines into the dark corners of our lives and shows us our sins. Sins that are too heavy to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. Clean up and forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgement.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P. Here in the mercy of the present, set us free from the past which we cannot change.  
C. **Open to us a future in which we can be changed and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. Through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.**

- P. People of God, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce to you that God has forgiven your sins because of the sacrifice of His Son Christ Jesus, who died for us and was raised again. He gives the power to become the children of God to those who believe Him and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord, unto us all.

- P. Jesus said: Everyone who confesses Me before others, the Son of Man will also confess before the angels of God.

- C. **But everyone who denies Me before others will be denied before the angels of God.**

- P. Let us confess our baptismal faith in the words of the **Nicene Creed**:

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;**

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**[Seated]**

## THE WORD



Old Testament Reading

Psalms 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.  
Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.

P. THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD

New Testament Reading 2 Timothy 3:10-17

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, [11] my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. [12] Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

P: THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD



## LITURGY DANCE

St. Paul's Youth

**[STAND]**

**SING:** *Majesty, worship His majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise. Majesty, Kingdom authority flow from His throne unto His own.; His anthem raise. So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Majesty, worship His majesty; Jesus who died, now glorified. King of all Kings.*



THE

ACCORDING TO : Luke 10:1-20

C. GLORY TO YOU, O LORD

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. [2] And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. [3] Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. [4] Carry no moneybag, no knap sack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. [5] Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' [6] And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. [7] And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. [8] Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. [9] Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' [10] But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, [11] 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' [12] I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. [13] "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. [14] But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. [15] And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. [16] "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me. "[17] The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" [18] And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. [19] Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. [20] Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

P. THIS IS THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

C. PRAISE TO YOU O, CHRIST



## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who ascended above the heavens and, sitting at Your right hand, poured out on this day as He promised the Holy Spirit on the chosen disciples. At this, the whole earth rejoices with exceeding joy. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee:  
Holy Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy ! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky,  
and sea: Holy Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

P. Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal. In the beginning, You formed the Heavens and the earth and You created us in Your likeness. You made us guardians of Your good creation and left the earth in our care.

C. Now You are here!

P. You, the image of the invisible God is here!

C. You, the Firstborn over all the creation is here!

P. Your Crucifixion is here.

C. You Resurrection, is here.

P. You Ascension, is here.

C. You, Spirit-Medicine of Life- is here.

P. Now, Lord give us kinship and fellowship.

C. With Mary, the mother of our Lord.

P. With our ancestors and the elders of the community.

C. With all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### LET US PRAY

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

## THE BLESSINGS OF



## THE SACRAMENT

**P.** On the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me".

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes

**C. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

P. Send, we pray, Your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine, that we who share this meal may become a Holy Communion, the body of Christ in the world. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say Amen!

**C. Amen, Through Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

**P. THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU.**

**C. AND ALSO WITH YOU**

*[Sign of Peace]*

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF



## THE LORD'S SUPPER

**CHOIR and Communion Hymns (I know It was the Blood, Just As I Am)**

### I KNOW IT WAS THE BLOOD

I know it was the blood, I know it was the blood, I know it was the blood for me.  
One day when I was lost He died upon that cross, I know it was the blood for me.

They nailed Him to the cross, they nailed Him to the cross, they nailed Him to the cross for me.  
One day when I was lost He died upon that cross, they nailed Him to the cross for me.

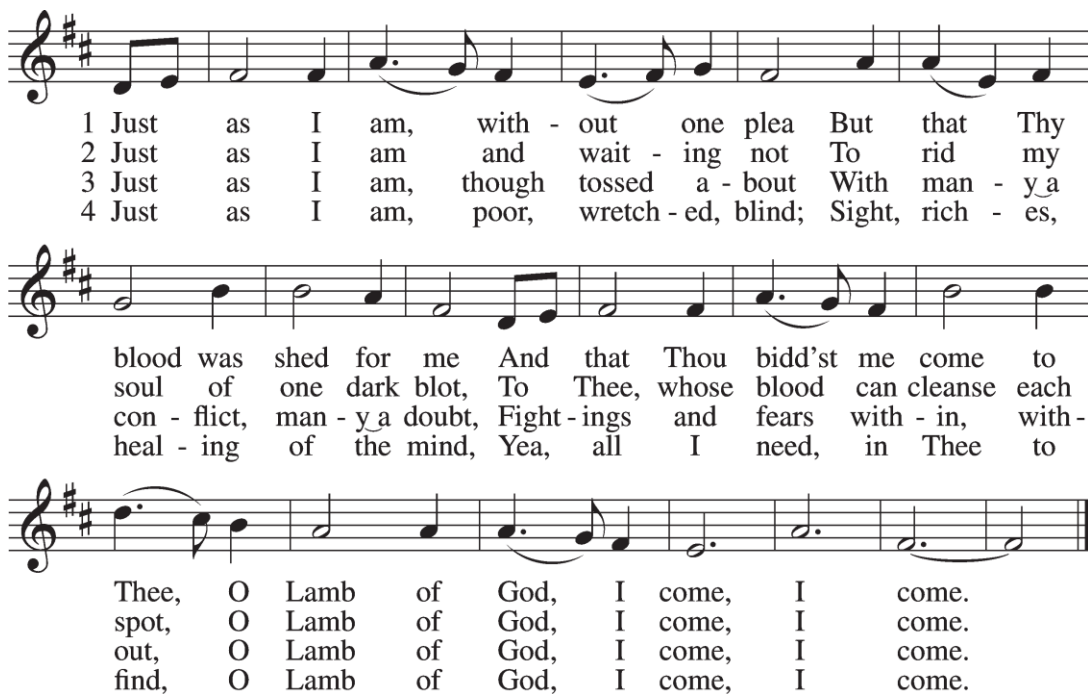
They pierced Him in His side, they pierced Him in His side, they pierced Him in His side for me.  
One day when I was lost He died upon that cross, they pierced Him in His side for me.

He hung His head and died, He hung His head and died, He hung His head and died for me.  
One day when I was lost, He died upon that cross, He hung His head and died for me.

He rose up from the dead, He rose up from the dead, He rose up from the dead for me.  
One day when I was lost, He died upon that cross, I know it was the blood for me..

He's coming back again, He's coming back again, He's coming back again for me.  
One day when I was lost He died upon that cross, He's coming back again for me.

## JUST AS I AM



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,  
blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to  
Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down; Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## Post-Communion Collect

### LET US PRAY:

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## THE OFFERING- CHOIR

### SOLO

### THE SERMON

### CHOIR

### RITE OF BAPTISM

**Rev. Stephen A. Wiggins Sr.**  
*St. Paul Lutheran Jacksonville, Fl.*

**Saint Rayson Arvie**  
*St. Paul- Dallas, TX*



## PRAYERS

**Rev. Byron Williams Sr.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE BENEDICTION

**Men:** We do not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes from God. May the Word of God be upon your lips and written on your heart.

C. Amen.

**Women:** The Word that goes out from God does not return empty. May the word bear fruit, accomplishing its purpose in you.

C. Amen.

**Youth:** May your mind be set on things above, where Christ is seated at God's right hand.

C. Amen.

### RECESSIONAL HYMN- LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift ev'ry voice and sing 'Til earth and heaven ring Ring with the harmonies of Liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise High as the list'ning skies Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod Bitter the chastening rod. Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.  
Yet with a steady beat. Have not our weary feet. Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path, through the blood of the slaughtered..  
Out from the gloomy past ' Til now we stand at last. Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years God of our silent tears .Thou who has brought us thus far on the way..  
Thou who has by Thy might .Led us into the light. Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand May we forever stand. True to our God .True to our native land.

### CONVOCAATION MUSICIANS

Organist:	Sylvester Bailey
Key Board:	Alberta Williams
	Lorenzo Wheeler
Percussionist:	Gabriel Langley
Guitarist:	Jimmy Nichols

**THE 2025 BLACK FAMILY  
CONVOCATION MEMORIAL SERVICE**

## Black Ministry Family Convocation Memorial Service

Divine Service, Setting One  
Without Communion July 12, 2025, 9:30 am

### Hymn of Invocation: AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace--how sweet the sound--  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.

*stand*

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

*LSB 744*

Text: John Newman 1725-1807. Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829  
Cincinnati, 1929 Text and tune: Public dom 1961

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father  
Almighty, maker of heaven and  
earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our  
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was  
buried. He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the  
dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian  
Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of  
sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  
everlasting. Amen





# SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit-SPOKEN

Psalm 27

Pastor Jeffrey Hesterman

P. The LORD is my light and my salvation;\*

**C. whom shall I fear?**

P. One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek\*

**C. that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.**

P. For in the day of trouble he will keep me  
safe in his dwelling\*

**C. he will hide me in the shelter of his  
tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.**

P. Then my head will be exalted above the  
enemies who surround me, \*

**C. at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts  
of joy. I will sing and make music to the  
Lord.**

P. Then my head will be exalted above the  
enemies who surround me. \*

**C. at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts  
of joy, I will sing and make music to the  
Lord.**

P. Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your  
heart take courage;\*

**C. Wait for the Lord!**

P. Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*

**C. and to the Holy Spirit;**

P. as it was in the beginning, \*

**C. is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P. The Lord is my light and my salvation\*

**C. whom shall I fear.**

## **Kyrie-SPOKEN**

P. In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy**

P. For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy**

P. For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord have mercy.**

P. For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord have mercy**

P. Help, save comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C. A.....men**

*Sit*

## **First Reading: Revelation 7:9–17**

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"Therefore they are before the throne of God,  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst  
anymore; the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their  
shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living  
water, and God will wipe away every tear from their  
eyes."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

1 John 3:1–3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

*Stand*

GOSPEL Verse- Majesty

***Majesty, worship His majesty; unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise. Majesty, Kingdom authority flow from His throne unto His own.; His anthem raise. So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Majesty, worship His majesty; Jesus who died, now glorified. King of all Kings.***

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him..

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

CHOIR

St. Paul Mass Choir

**Sermon**

**CHOIR**

*St. Paul Mass Choir*

**For All the Saints ( video) and MEMORIAL CANDLELIGHT**

( Memorial candle lighting in memorial of the departed saints)

**Lord's Prayer**

**C    Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed  
      be Thy name, Thy kingdom  
      come,Thy will be done on earth as it  
      is in heaven; give us this day our  
      daily bread; and forgive us our  
      trespasses as we forgive those  
      who trespass against us;  
      and lead us not into  
      temptation, but deliver us  
      from evil.  
      For Thine is the kingdom  
      and the power and the glory  
      forever and ever. Amen.**

**Offering  
Offertory**

***Sung* Thank you, Lord, Thank you LORD, Thank you LORD, I just want to thank you LORD.  
You've been so good, You've been so good, You've been so good. I just want to thank you,  
I just want to thank your Lord.**

***Stand***

**Prayer of the Church**

**Benediction**

**Pastor Jeffrey Hesterman**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace

**C. Amen.**

**Hymn to Depart:**

**I'll Fly Away**

**St. Paul Mass Choir**

**Some glad morning when this life is o'er  
I'll fly away  
To a home on God's celestial shore  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

**[Chorus]**

**I'll fly away, oh glory  
I'll fly away (In the morning)  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

**When the shadows of this life have gone  
I'll fly away  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

**[Chorus]**

**I'll fly away, oh glory  
I'll fly away (In the morning)  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

**Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joy shall never end  
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**



# The Faithfully Departed

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Johnny May Abner  
Barbara Bodley  
Rev. Dr. Simon Bodley Jr.  
\*Rev. Arthur Bodley  
Dr. James V. Brown, Jr  
\*Edwina Brown.  
Rose Campbell  
Lillie Celestine  
Matthew Clancy  
Leo Clancy  
LaJewel Ellen Davis\*  
Rev. Venice C. Douglas  
Stanley Engram Jr.  
Rev. Stanley Engram Sr.  
Alvin Foster  
Charles Galloway  
Rev. Duane Geary  
Leola Gilbert  
Samuel Gray  
Leon Gray  
\* Rev. Dr. Williams H. Griffin Sr.  
Lisa Hemphill  
Alice Holmes  
Michael Howell  
William Cullen Jefferson, Jr.  
Violet Johnson  
Lula Johnson  
Mary Kant  
William Rufus King  
Ronald Kirk  
Gwendolyn Laurent  
Rose Lewis  
Marie Likely  
\*Rev. Willie Lucas  
Carolyn Marsh  
Andrew Marshall  
Minnie Marshall

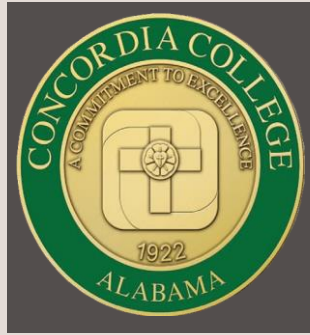
Betty Ruth Marshall Alfred Marshall

\*Tony Martin-SMP

Horace Miles  
Naomi Millender  
Dr. Doreen Moyo  
\*Prof. John Moss  
Rev. Orval D. Mueller  
James Neely  
Mary Nye  
Rev. Dr. Frazier Odom  
\* Ida Odom  
Eva Parker  
Marilyn E. Porter  
Estelle Purnell  
Mattie L (Anderson) Russ  
Mabelean Dale Scott  
Iri Skinner  
Deacon Edgar Spencer  
Frederick Dwayne Stallworth  
\*Sarah Stevens  
Robert Anthony Paul Taylor  
Oris Griffin Terry  
Phyllis Tillman  
Rev. James Tyler  
Lavern Walker  
\*Rev. Edward Watson  
Thomas J. Whitfield, Jr.  
Deborah Clay Wiggins  
Katie Wiggins  
Rev. James Wiggins, Jr.  
Mary Elizabeth Williams  
Rev. Edgar Williams  
George Wise

\*2022-2025





## — REMEMBERING — CONCORDIA COLLEGE ALABAMA

### ALABAMA LUTHERAN ACADEMY AND COLLEGE, LATER CONCORDIA COLLEGE ALABAMA

Selma, Alabama: The rapid expansion of the Alabama mission fields and the lack of teachers available for the 30 schools and 35 congregations started in Alabama under the leadership of Dr. Rosa J. Young and Rev. Nils J. Bakke, and the growing number of schools and congregations nationwide, prompted and necessitated the founding of this institution of higher education. Professor Rev. O.R. Lynn opened the school with 10 Lutheran female students on November 13, 1922. The first class consisted of Evie Dale, Mary Bodley, Carrie Gullett, Emma Dukes, Julie Jenkins, Grace Smith, Gertrude McBryde, Fannie Ramsey, Carrie Stallworth and Irma Dulaney, with Prof. Otho R. Lynn as president and Mrs. Nettie Moore as teacher and Rosa J. Young as matron. The first four graduates (on June 1, 1926) were Gertrude McBryde, Carrie G. Stallworth, Lela M. Young and Grace H. Smith. Under President Lynn's leadership, the Academy-College grew to support the mission work and schools of LCMS Black ministry throughout Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi, ultimately serving black Lutheran congregations throughout the nation.

As the mission field of witnessing to African Americans grew for the LCMS and the need for missionary church workers expanded across the nation, Alabama Luther Academy and College became Concordia College Alabama, under its longest-tenured president and leader, Rev. Dr. Julius Jenkins. Of the presidents and leaders of Alabama Luther Academy and College, none was as prolific in serving the academy and college as Rev. Dr. Julius Jenkins. Under Jenkins' leadership, the college grew in students, facilities, curriculums, athletics, student financial support and community collaborations. Jenkins retired July 31, 2007. In 2018, the college closed its doors for good because of finances, an unfortunate move especially because of the great need of Gospel proclamation among growing ethnically diverse groups of Americans.



## LCMS BLACK MINISTRY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



### A Memorial HONOR for Rev. Dr. William H. Griffin Jr.'s Faithful Years of Service.

**Rev. Dr. Williams H. Griffin Jr.** born in 1929 in Kannapolis, North Carolina. In 1951, William Griffin was the sole student in his graduating class at Immanuel Seminary. Rev. Griffin's first ministry was in Wilcox County, Alabama. He served at Holy Cross, Camden; Our Savior, Possum Bend; and Redeemer, Long Mile. Griffin preached at three churches every Sunday and, with Rev. Richard Dickerson, also recorded sermons for a radio station in Monroeville. Rev. Dr. William Griffin Jr. served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Selma, Alabama, in 1952, where Rosa Young was also a member and godmother to Griffin's son. In 1954, Rev. Griffin accepted a mission call to Grace Lutheran Church in Montgomery, Ala., just two blocks from the church of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Dexter Avenue Baptist Church). The Griffins hired Rosa Parks for drapery work in their new home in Montgomery. In 1954, Griffin received a call from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King to participate in the infamous bus boycott. Griffin assisted by using his 1954 Chevy to help with transportation during the boycott.

In 1968, after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Griffin and other BLACK Lutheran pastors met and decided to form the Black Clergy Caucus. Dr. Griffin taught at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois, and at Concordia St. Louis. He earned his Master's of Divinity in 1951 from Immanuel Lutheran College, and in 1968 a Master's Degree in Education from Concordia University, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Concordia Seminary. Griffin was also a Director of the Deaconette Program at Concordia University, River Forest. Rev. Dr. Williams Griffin also served at two Chicago churches before retiring in 1983. Griffin also served as a Wheat Ridge Ministries representative and vacancy pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Chicago.

Rev. Dr. William H. Griffin Sr. inherited the work ethic "Ora et Labora" (pray and work) from his parents, Willie and Bessie.

Rev. Dr. William H Griffin Jr. retired a second time in 2009 to render full-time care to his wife, Ella Mae, who was called to glory in 2015. Griffin's two sons, Marvin and Mark(deceased) followed their fathers' footsteps and became Lutheran pastors. Griffin also has a Lutheran pastor son-in-law, Rev. Collins Parham, husband to Griffins' daughter Marie. The Griffins were also blessed with one other daughter, Millicent.

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## LCMS BLACK MINISTRY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



# Rev. Dr. James Wiggins Sr. HONORED FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE



**Rev. Dr. James Wiggins Sr.** is a native of Camden, Wilcox County, Alabama.  
The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Wiggins Sr.

Reverend Wiggins received his elementary education in the Lutheran School System of Wilcox County, Alabama. He attained his high school diploma from Alabama Lutheran Academy and College (Concordia College) in Selma, Alabama (1951). He received a bachelor's degree from Immanuel Lutheran College in Greensboro, North Carolina (1955).

In 1959, Rev. Wiggins graduated from Immanuel Lutheran Theological Seminary, Greensboro, North Carolina and took further extension courses from Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. He also took graduate courses in the area of sociology at Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama.

He served in the church on the district level in the following areas: Circuit Counselor, Mission Committee, Circuit Youth Advisor, Commission on Adjudication, Treasurer of the District Black Churchmen Conference and is presently serving as the Chairman of the Rosebud Memorial Project.

Congregations served: St. James Lutheran, Buena Vista, Alabama, Mt. Olive Lutheran, Hybert, Alabama and St. Andrews Lutheran, Sedan, Alabama. Those three congregations merged into Immanuel Lutheran in Vredenburgh, Alabama in 1969. He served as the vacancy pastor of St. Paul Lutheran, Oak Hill, Alabama, 1965-1976, Zion Lutheran in Bessemer, Alabama 1976-1983, and Trinity Lutheran in Montgomery, Alabama, 1984 - 1997. He retired in 1995 and relocated to Pensacola, Florida where he remains a faithful member of St. Matthews Lutheran Church.

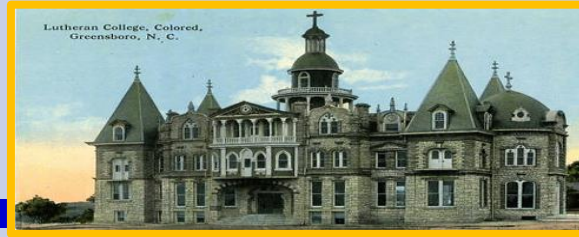
"When hearing of his honorary doctorate, it was," God is still gracious, even at 91."

Rev. Dr. James Wiggins Sr. is married to the late Mrs. Katie Ghaskin Wiggins and was blessed with four children- late Rev. James Wiggins Jr, Rev. Stephen Wiggins Sr., Felicia Thornton, and Karen Wiggins. He has nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

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## A HISTORICAL SEED OF 150 YEARS OF BLACK MINISTRY

IMMANUEL



LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Immanuel Lutheran College was founded at Concord, NC in 1903 by the Evangelical Synodical Lutheran Conference, moving to Greensboro in 1905. Operated by Germans, the school was created to meet "increased demand for God-fearing negro teachers and ministers." The school believed that "mental training without the Word of God to be of small value."

*Era of Progress and Promise* notes that in addition to a strong liberal arts course of study emphasizing English, German, Latin and Greek, Immanuel put a strong emphasis on music education and performance. Vocal music was obligatory, and students were required to sight read music. They were encouraged to master both the cabinet and reed organs. Not surprisingly, Immanuel offered music and dramatics as activities for students.

The *Greensboro Record* article noted that the college had four divisions—the academic division was a four-year high school; the theological division led to a Bachelor of Divinity degree. There was a regular junior college, and a one-year normal school.

At the time of closure, Immanuel Luther College averaged 110-115 students—50% of whom were from outside of North Carolina. The final graduating classes numbered nine from college and 13 from the high school. Following the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, enrollment fell to the point that the synod determined the school did not have a valid function. It closed in 1961.

Main building of Immanuel Lutheran College between 1905 and 1915, *North Carolina*

**Bricks and Mortar.** The Main Building of Immanuel Lutheran College was begun in 1905. It was on the north side of East Market Street in Greensboro at the intersection with Luther, in a thirteen-acre campus. By 1940, the campus contained four large granite buildings, two dormitories and a seminary building in addition to the main building. Apparently, the main building was modified. Early photos show a building with towers and turrets resembling a French Chateau. 1940 photos show the same building—now also serving as a men's dormitory—with the towers and turrets removed.

After the college closed, the campus became a part of North Carolina A&M College. The main building was razed. One of the last buildings—a dormitory gymnasium, was used by A&T until 2005 when it, too, was razed. A state monument marks the location of the former college.

School advertisements emphasize the importance of sports for personal development at the intramural level. However, a 1938 ad notes that "the faculty are enthusiastic for athletics and coach the students especially in basketball and baseball." Immanuel Lutheran fielded intercollegiate teams in basketball for both men and women from the 1930's until the close of the college.



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*Rev. Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab*

*DCE Michelle Pitts*

*Mrs. Shirley Jackson*

*Rev. Aubrey J Watson Jr.*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Greetings, Fellow Kingdom Workers in LCMS Black Ministry!

We are excited about the historic nature of this year's LCMS Lutherans in Black Ministry Family Convocation. Out of the conference in Memphis, Tennessee, with LCMS Black Ministry, Black Clergy Caucus, and Black Ministry Think Tank, a new vision emerged of how we are seeking to be 21st-century Lutheran missionaries in our congregations, among our members, deaconesses, educators, and pastors. That historic meeting brought a vision of collaborative partners of God's people around God's Means of Grace, through Word and Sacrament, lived out, daily proclaimed, and witnessed in making disciples for life as the disciples of Christ. The five objectives of that meeting brought forth a five-fold mission vision for the congregations in LCMS Black Ministry — a present and future vision of recruitment, revitalization, communication, ownership, and mission vision. This five-fold vision will be the future objective for Black Ministry congregations in **"Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation!"**

Our sincere appreciation and acknowledgment for the Black Clergy Caucus, its Executive Committee, the Local and Sub-Committees, and the Black Ministry Think Tank in their endeavor to think of creative ways to empower, encourage and engage God's people to be Lutherans for Life.. Our deep appreciation, thanks, and gratitude for St Paul Church and School for their willingness to host this new concept of gathering at our local congregations in Black ministry and utilizing a local team of congregations and leaders to host and help plan the convocation with Black Clergy Caucus, The local team under the leadership of Rev. Byron Williams Sr., St Paul Lutheran Church and First Lady of St. Paul, Joycelyn Williams, performed exceptionally in preparing of this 2025 Black Family Convocation.

As we make our way toward celebrating the LCMS Black Ministry Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) in 2027, let us always be mindful of God's continued work in our past, present and future, through three colleges, Luther College, New Orleans, La. (1904–1925), Immanuel Lutheran College and Seminary, Greensboro, N.C. (1903–1961), and Concordia College Alabama (1922–2018).

As we are reminded of our theme, "Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation" (Eph. 4:11–12), we look forward to the next Lutherans in Black Ministry Family Convocations in Greensboro, N.C. We gather as God's people around the promises of His Means of Grace, Word, and Sacrament, "that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." As the apostle Paul writes, "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Rom. 15:4–5).



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13).

Walking Together In Christ,

*Stephen Wiggins Sr.*

Rev. Stephen Wiggins Sr., President, Black Clergy Caucus of the Lutheran Church

## NOTES

[illegible]

# NOTES

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# OUR WORLD NEEDS JESUS

*Our prayer to the Lord of the harvest is that Christ raise up and empower and advance the next generation of present and future leaders in His church to proclaim to the world the good news about God's Son.*



## EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION!

[www.bcc-lc-org](http://www.bcc-lc-org)

BLACK Clergy Caucus of the Lutheran Church