

# WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Welcome!

On behalf of the faculty and staff of WLC we are pleased to be serving as the host site for your 2022 SEW Convention, and hope you experience an edifying worship service as well as productive discussions and reporting sessions.

Although our event and conferences office and staff are responsible for the majority of the logistics required for your convention, we want to thank our Audio Visual and Information Technology departments, our facility management staff at Trinity Home Group, and our campus food service staff with Sodexo, for their assistance in preparing our campus to serve you at the highest possible level.

We hope we've accommodated your planning committee's wishes for all of today's and tomorrow's activities.

If you are interested in seeing more of our campus, please speak with the event worker stationed at the information center in the REX lobby.

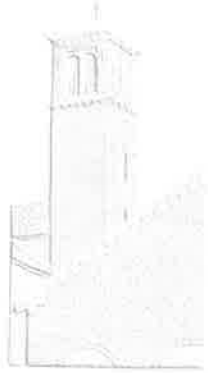
Again, welcome to our campus. May the Lord bless your convention, your fellowship, as well as your safe return home.

In His Service,



Karen Plamann  
Director of Events and Conferences

PS: Please feel free to send any feedback on this year's convention including suggestions for improvement to me at [karen.plamann@wlc.edu](mailto:karen.plamann@wlc.edu)



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Office of Campus Events





# Arizona-California DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

May 10, 2022

Brothers in Christ-

*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).*

Greetings from the Arizona-California District! We cherish the bond of faith that unites us together in Christ, along with our partnership in the Gospel. It is our prayer that the Lord edify each and every one of you through worship and study at your upcoming conventions.

The Arizona-California District is planning to meet June 13-15, 2022 at the Embassy Suites in Scottsdale, AZ. The theme of our convention is *Rejoice in the Lord Always*. Prof. David Scharf (professor of theology at Martin Luther College) will deliver the keynote address, *Giving to God Our All, Our Best*.

May the Lord bless your time together. And may we all honor God in our district and local ministries for the good of His kingdom!

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Steven P. Gabb  
Arizona-California District Secretary

## **AZ-CA District Officers**

Rev. Jon D. Buchholz  
*District President*

Rev. David R. Clark  
*1st Vice President*

Rev. Aaron D. Boehm  
*2nd Vice President*

Rev. Steven P. Gabb  
*Secretary*



## The Dakota-Montana District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

June 2, 2022

Dear brothers in Christ:

Christ said during one of his visits to Jerusalem, *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink"* (John 7:37). As we prepare for Pentecost, we see how the Lord keeps this promise. We come to him where he promises to be – words and sacraments – and he gives us a water of life and says, you *"will never thirst"* (Jn 4:14). While many people think of District Conventions as a place where we conduct business, it is also a fountain overflowing with this living water. We gather around Jesus, and he refreshes us.

Your brothers in the Dakota-Montana District greet you. We pray that the Lord bless you as you meet and quench your thirst with the good news that Jesus became your sin so that you can be his righteousness.

The Dakota-Montana District meets for its 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention on June 14-16 at Great Plains Lutheran High School. The theme of our convention is *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come."* We intended to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a District in 2020, but events prevented us from gathering in person, so we postponed that celebration until this year.

Our devotions will turn our hearts and minds to the help and hope that comes from God. Our Convention Divine Service reminds us that a district that spans over 1,200 miles (and made up of sinners born hostile to God) is one in Christ and has been for over one hundred years. Pr. Michael Enderle, our District's 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, will preach on Isaiah 6:1-9a.

Our anniversary celebration will continue with our essays. Pr. Justin Dauck looks to our District's past as we see how God has taken care of us and guided us. Pr. Jonathan Werre will look to the future and remind us to trust in the God who takes care of us and guides us no matter how things change (or stay the same).

God be with you!

Your servant in Christ,

*Benjamin J Tomczak*

Pr. Benjamin J. Tomczak, Secretary  
WELS Dakota-Montana District

**Pr. Douglas L. Free  
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# Michigan District

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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Pastor David A. Voss 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
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Pastor Thomas A. Westra 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
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Fairfield, OH 45014-4427

Pastor Jason E. Baldwin, Secretary  
1119 W. Walnut St.  
Saint Charles, MI 48655-8749

June 5, 2022

Dear brothers of the WELS in Conference or Convention,

Greetings to you from the Michigan District! The 120<sup>th</sup> Pastor, Teacher, Delegate convention of the Michigan District will be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary - Saginaw, Michigan - June 6-8, 2022. The theme of the convention is: *"Confession and absolution are good for the soul"* - Based on 1 John 1:9 / John 20:23. Prof. Dan Westendorf will present a paper entitled: *Speak as the Lord Commands: Confess and Proclaim His Forgiving Grace*.

We plan to be about the business of our Savior God to serve the people entrusted to our care. We plan to digest the reports which have been shared by our Synod through the Report to the Twelve Districts and discuss them as a body of believers.

May the Lord bless your time together as brothers working for Jesus, our head. May he guide your discussions and season them with love. May he bless your decisions for his kingdom.

*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)*

In service to Christ,

Jason E. Baldwin, Secretary  
Michigan District, WELS



June 1, 2022

**“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.” (Colossians 4:3)**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings from the Minnesota District. We pray that you are well and that the Lord of the Church has blessed your labors. May all your plans and purposes glorify his name! In a time of division and factions, our hearts rejoice in the unity we have with you through the glory of our Savior Jesus.

The Minnesota District will meet in convention June 7-9, 2022 at Martin Luther College. Our theme will be, “When God Opens a Door, Proclaim Christ” Professor Luke Thompson will give a presentation titled “Open Doors for a Closed Culture.”

May the Lord increase our faith and make us willing to suffer all things, even death, rather than fall away from his grace. We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God, but Jesus has given us peace.

Yours,

Eugene DeVries  
Minnesota District Secretary

Minnesota District Officers  
President Dennis Klatt – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Wayne Schoch – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Matthew Pfeiffer  
Secretary Eugene DeVries



## THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT PRAESIDIUM

*of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

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June 2, 2022

Dear brothers,

We are grateful for the joy of calling you fellow members of the body of Christ and thank God for the encouragement of having coworkers in the Gospel! The blessing and peace of Christ be with and in you. The Holy Spirit fit you for service and do beautiful things with your labors in your district conventions!

We really appreciate the greetings you've sent and prayers you've offered for us.

Our district will meet June 6 to June 8 in Thornton, Colorado to be informed and carry out the purposes of the District, to do the work of the Church in our part of the world and by grace, be bonded together in Christ. The convention will gather under the theme: "Serving Jesus in a World that Wants to Serve Itself". Professor emeritus Mark Braun (Wisconsin Lutheran College) will lead us in a presentation based on a commentary he's writing on the book of Judges: What Should We Do with the Book of Judges?

In Christ,

Tyler Peil, on behalf of your brothers in the Nebraska District



June 2, 2022

Dear brothers in Christ,

The Apostle Paul reminded the elders of Ephesus *"I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God."* He then committed them *"to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."* (Acts 20) As recipients of God's Word, we rejoice in our opportunity to proclaim the whole will of God to God's people; and are encouraged that you share the same joy in hearing and proclaiming the whole will of God to God's people.

The North Atlantic District sends their greeting to you. We continue to lift you and your work before God's throne of grace. We ask that he continue to strengthen you to proclaim the whole will of God.

The North Atlantic District will convene their 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention on June 7-8, 2022 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Chesapeake, VA. We will ponder Paul's words to the Ephesian elders with the convention theme "Proclaim the whole counsel of God." Professor Paul Koelpin will present on Antinomianism: Appeal and Antidote. He will explore with us both the appeal of antinomianism as well as provide Scriptural guidance for the place of the law in our teaching and preaching.

May the grace of God continue to be with you.

In Christ,

Rev. Jonathan Fischer, Secretary

North Atlantic District

### **District Officers**

**Rev. Donald Tollefson**  
President

**Rev. Timothy Ehlers**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Rev. Michael Seifert**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**Rev. Jon Fischer**  
District Secretary



# Northern Wisconsin District Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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Rev. Ronald Szep, Secretary  
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June 9, 2022

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

As the Northern Wisconsin District prepares to meet in convention we rejoice in the fellowship we enjoy with you as you carry out the work before you in your districts. We keep you in our prayers as you deliberate matters pertaining to kingdom work in your individual districts and as you make decisions to help guide our church body when the synod meets in convention in 2023.

Our convention theme, “Words of Eternal Life,” are a reminder of the message our Lord has given his people to share as they carry out his command to make disciples of all nations. May he bless the work you carry out in your district conventions and may he bless the work of our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod as we walk together to take those precious words to the ends of the earth.

In Christ,

Rev. Ronald C. Szep  
WELS Northern Wisconsin District secretary



# Pacific Northwest DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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May 23, 2022

***"Do everything in love."***

— Corinthians 16:14

Dear brothers,

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest District!

We treasure the unity of faith, the joint labor of sharing the gospel and the dedication to the New Command we all have in common. God richly bless your District Convention!

Our District Convention will be held at Evergreen Lutheran High School on June 7-8. Prof. Ken Cherney of our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will help us dig into God's Word to find help and hope in a world where there is much suffering and confusion. The message of Job that we will consider is: "I Will Hope In Him."

As you gather as brothers, our prayer is that the Lord richly blesses your time together in his Word and much good comes from your meeting together.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus!

In Him,  
Pastor Dan Kramer

# SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT



May 30, 2022

***"I am praying [...] for those who believe in me through their message. <sup>21</sup> May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me" (John 17:20-21).***

In the spirit of unity for which our Savior prayed, greetings dear brothers, fellow workers in the harvest fields! From your fellow laborers in the South Atlantic District, we pray God blesses and preserves you all in the mission and ministry in which God has graced us to serve.

The S.A. District will meet at the Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor, FL, beginning Tuesday June 7 and wrapping up on Thursday June 9. The convention theme is "Send out your Spirit." Pastor Jon Bauer will be our guest presenter. He will present "The Blessings of Being Distinctly Lutheran."

For more information you can see our website here: <https://sa.wels.net/convention>

God grant you rich renewal in your time in the Word, and as you treasure the unity we have in our fellowship in Christ.

Jesus be your strength and your song,

N. Martin Mielke

## WELS South Atlantic District Officers

President Charles Westra ▪ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jon Schroeder ▪ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Duane Rodewald  
Secretary N. Martin Mielke



# South Central District

May 23, 2022

Brothers,

**“All the brothers here send you greetings” (1 Corinthians 16:20).**

The tradition of sending greetings reaches all the way back the first Christian congregations. Or, perhaps it would be better to simply say it reaches all the way back to the first Christians. It is intriguing to me that the Holy Spirit would inspire Paul to record that Quartus, in particular, sent greetings (Romans 16:23). Who? Good question. But, he was a real person, and perhaps the more significant insight was that his relationship with the Christians in Rome was real too.

Time and distance may keep us and the members of our districts from seeing one another, and many of us may never meet each other face to face. But, the gospel has created a relationship between us and our God that is stronger than any other. For that, we give thanks.

In the absence of being physically together with each other, we send our greetings to all of you. (Please forgive us if we refrain from also sending you a holy kiss.) However, you are welcome to hear about the gospel work that is taking place among us by visiting our convention website: [www.sc.wels.net](http://www.sc.wels.net).

We will be meeting in person on June 6-7, 2022, at one of our new mission: Divine Savior Church & Academy in Liberty Hill, Texas. Retired seminary professor James Korthals is our guest speaker. His essay is entitled *Still Bound by the Scriptures: Beyond Worms to the Wartburg and Wittenberg*, and it will be available for you to read online.

May Christ be with you and bless the time you gather together at your conventions. As the world in which we live seems to be more fractured and polarized than ever, my prayer is that God would bless the proclamation of the gospel at our conventions to bring an ever stronger unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace that we share with each other through Jesus.

We are forgiven!

Caleb Schoeneck



## Southeastern Wisconsin District

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June 1, 2022

Brothers in Christ:

When the apostle Paul was writing to his congregation in Thessalonica about the challenges all Christians will face as the Day of the Lord draws near, he encouraged that congregation to “encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). As you gather at your conventions this month to be encouraged by God’s Word and to discuss the work we do share that Word with our world, your brothers in the Southeastern Wisconsin District send you greetings and pray that the Lord would bless your time and work together.

The Southeastern Wisconsin District will hold its 53<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention Tuesday and Wednesday, June 14 and 15, at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. We will convene under the following theme that echoes Paul’s encouragement to the Thessalonian Christians:

*“Encourage One Another”*

The Word and sacrament in our opening service and our devotions will strengthen and encourage us for all the work God has for us to do as his people. Pastor Keith Free, who recently stepped away from his work as the synod’s administrator for Home Missions to accept a call to a congregation in our district, will preach the sermon for our opening service. Circuit pastors will lead the other convention devotions. He will encourage us to remember the great privilege we have in sharing the gospel with others. Because he has been much involved with the synod’s upcoming “100 Missions in 10 Years” emphasis, that will certainly be on our minds as we hear his message from God’s Word.

President Richard Gurgel from Martin Luther College will present a keynote address focused on the theme of the convention. He will share the importance of mutual encouragement and charity, as we navigate the kinds of difficult circumstances we have faced the past couple of years. His experience as a new college president during this time will provide a helpful context to his words.

May God bless everything you do, brothers, both at your conventions and in your congregations and communities, to encourage one another and to share the gospel with others.

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Billy Carter*

Pastor Billy Carter, Secretary  
WELS Southeastern Wisconsin District

WELS Western Wisconsin District



May 11, 2022

Dear brothers in Christ in WELS,

Please accept the greetings of your brothers in the Western Wisconsin District. God's blessings to your District as carry out His work under his guidance and care.

The Western Wisconsin District is meeting at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI on June 6-7, 2022. The words of Hebrews 10 provide the theme for our convention this year, *"Encourage One Another."* Three presentations will guide our discussions as we strive to spur each other on in worship, education, and care of souls.

May the Lord of the Church guide and keep all of you as you travel, meet, elect and study. May all we do in our Districts this year build God's Church and, above all, give Him the glory!

God's grace be with you all,

Rev. Galen J. Riediger  
Secretary, WELS Western Wisconsin District

#### **Western Wisconsin District Praesidium**

<b>President</b>	<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
Rev. Michael Jensen	Rev. Brett Brauer	Rev. Jeffrey Seelow	Rev. Galen Riediger