

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Welcome!

On behalf of the faculty and staff of WLC we are pleased to be serving as the host site for your 2018 SEW Convention, and hope you experience an edifying worship service as well as productive discussions and reporting sessions.

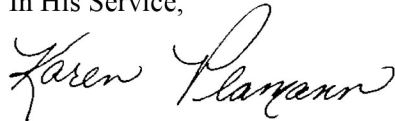
Although our event and conferences office and staff are responsible for the majority of the logistics required for your convention, we want to thank our Audio Visual and Information Technology departments, our facility management staff at Trinity Home Group, and our campus food service staff with Sodexo, 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Plamann".

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)





Arizona-California  
**DISTRICT**

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

June 4, 2018

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 11-13, 2018 at the Embassy Suites in Scottsdale, AZ. The theme of our convention is *Our Great Heritage*. Dr. Mark Paustian will deliver the keynote address, *Communicating Christ in the 21st Century*.

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

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Steven P. Gabb, secretary  
On behalf of the AZ-CA District

**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*



# Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

## *Dakota-Montana District*

June 5, 2018

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As the Apostle Paul greeted the saints in Philippi, so the congregations and called workers of the Dakota-Montana District greet you: *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel."* (Philippians 1:3-5) God's richest blessings as you meet in convention.

The Dakota-Montana District will convene June 12-14 on the campus of Great Plains Lutheran High School in Watertown, South Dakota. The theme of our 49<sup>th</sup> Biennial convention is "Press On To the Goal." In addition to the great blessings of worship and growth in God's Word, we look forward to a keynote presentation from Rev. Jon Hein titled "A Strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rural Ministry."

Thank you for your greetings extended to our District as we meet in convention and your prayers on our behalf.

We pray that the Word will strengthen you as you meet in convention. May God bless your study of His Word. May God also bless your convention sessions so that we may continue to bring glory to God forever in the best way possible and that the work of the Church in this world might be further blessed.

In service to Christ our Savior,

Rev. Ryan C. Wolfe, Secretary  
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June 5, 2018

Dear brothers of the WELS in Conference or Convention,

Greetings to you from the Michigan District! The 117<sup>th</sup> Pastor, Teacher, Delegate convention of the Michigan District will be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary - Saginaw, Michigan - June 11-13, 2018. The theme of the convention is: *Always be prepared to give an answer... 1 Peter 3:15*. Dr. Wade Johnston will present a paper entitled: *Apologetics in the Life of a Lutheran Christian*.

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 his 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,



Snowden G. Sims, Secretary  
Michigan District, WELS





THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT PRAESIDIUM  
*of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

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June 4, 2018

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 is meeting this week 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 bond together in Christ. Our convention convenes June 4-6 for it's 51st biennial convention at Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School in Waco, Nebraska, under the theme: *The Word Made Flesh and Proclaimed*. Pastor Jon Micheel will present a paper titled: *God in the Center, Excerpts from Martin Luther's Bondage of the Will*. Professor Emeritus John Brug will present a paper titled: *Luther's Doctrine of the Word – The Incarnate Word in the Written Word*.

In Christ,

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





WELS Northern Wisconsin District

Dear Brothers,

The Northern Wisconsin District sends its greetings as final preparations are made for the 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention of the district. The theme chosen for the congregation is a reminder that whatever we do as we serve our Lord is not in vain. When the delegates of the district meet at Manitowoc Lutheran High School on June 12 and 13, 2018 we will hear reports of the work being carried out in our name and the name of the members of the other districts of our synod. This is work carried with the intent and purpose of giving all glory to our gracious God as we work together to proclaim the message of our Savior. May we always remember that whatever we do in the Lord is not in vain, but that he graciously is pleased with everything we do to serve him.

In our Savior's name,

Rev. Ronald C. Szep

WELS NWD Secretary



# ***NORTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT***

*of the Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod*



31 May 2018

TO: The Assembled Districts of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Dear Brothers in Our Triune God,

Your fellow brothers of the North Atlantic District extend to you their greetings as you meet in convention during the month of June. It is our prayer that you will be refreshed in Word and Sacrament as you meet together to carry out the work of Christ's Kingdom.

The 18th Biennial Convention of the North Atlantic District will be held on June 5-6, 2018 at King of Kings Ev. Lutheran Church in Clifton Park, NY. The theme of our convention is **The Sower Sows the Seed**. Professor E. Allen Sorum (WLS) will present his paper entitled: "**Sowing the Seed in *Other Soil***". Prof. Sorum will focus on Jesus' restless, mission-committed heart. He will lead our delegates to consider how Jesus dealt with the challenges of ministry to plant the seeds of the Gospel.

We thank you for your greetings extended to our District as we meet in convention and your prayers on our behalf.

Although our conventions may be far apart, may our gracious Lord enable us as Districts of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to continue to walk together as we sow the seeds of the gospel throughout the world confident that our gracious God will bless our efforts to his glory!

Yours in our Triune God,

*Rev. Peter J. Korthals*

Rev. Peter J. Korthals  
Secretary of the North Atlantic District (WELS)

## **North Atlantic District Officers**

***Rev. Donald Tollefson***  
*President*

***Rev. Mark Johnston***  
*1st Vice President*

***Rev. Timothy Ehlers***  
*2nd Vice President*

***Rev. Peter Korthals***  
*Secretary*





# Pacific Northwest DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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June 4, 2018

Dear brothers in Christ,

Greetings to all of you from the Pacific Northwest District of the WELS. We pray that God will bless all of you as you meet in your district conventions. May the Lord strengthen your faith, the bond that connects us all in Christ, through your study of the Word. May the Lord's name be praised through all that you say and do, as you carry out his work with his wisdom and through his providence.

The 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial PNW District Convention will be held on June 12-13 at Evergreen Lutheran High School in Tacoma, Washington. Our Convention Theme is: "The Seed Sprouts and Grows." For our refreshment in the Word of God, WLS Professor E. Allen Sorum will present to us on cross-cultural outreach. He will share four silver bullets for successful urban cross-cultural gospel outreach in the Pacific Northwest.

At this year's convention we will also celebrate with joy the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pacific Northwest District giving thanks to God for the blessings he's given and the promises he's made these past 100 years!

Thank you for your greetings extended to our District as we meet in convention and your prayers on our behalf.

May Jesus our Savior be with you, guide you in all your decisions, and bless the work he has given you to do. May he use all the ministries of our districts for his glory to spread the saving faith until the great day arrives when we will see him face-to-face!

Your brother and servant in Him,

Pastor Rob Guether  
Secretary of the Pacific Northwest District of WELS





## Southeastern Wisconsin District

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June 9, 2018

Brothers in Christ:

In John 8:31,32, Jesus tells those who believe in him that it is indeed the truth of God's Word that makes us free. It is holding on to Jesus' teachings in that Word that also makes us brothers, fellow disciples of our Lord. As you gather at your conventions this month to hear and learn more of his truth and to discuss the work we do together as his disciples, 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 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention Tuesday and Wednesday, June 12 and 13, at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. We will convene under the theme,

*"Looking Back... at a Century of God's Grace;  
Moving Forward... with Prayer and Resolve."*

As the theme suggests, our convention will acknowledge God's grace and commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first convention in several ways. Our opening service and devotions will make use of rites and musical settings that were available to the Church a century ago. President David Kolander will base his sermon in the opening service on those familiar words from John 8:31,32, the same text that his 1918 counterpart, Carl Buenger, preached on in the first opening service.

Vice President Joel Leyrer will also lead us in a study and discussion of the essay that Prof. August Pieper delivered in 1918, "The Despising of Grace Is the Death of the Church." Prof. Pieper's essay contains some very specific exposition of God's Law and some very beautiful insights into the nature of God's grace that we can expect will lead us, as it did the delegates in 1918, to appreciate even more our Savior's incomprehensible love for us and strengthen our resolve to faithfully proclaim his truth to the people of our time.

May God bless everything you do, brothers, both at your conventions and in your congregations and communities, to continue to hold onto and to proclaim his truth.

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Billy Carter*

Pastor Billy Carter, Secretary  
WELS Southeastern Wisconsin District



# WELS WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT



May 31, 2018

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 you carry out his work under his guidance and care.

The Western Wisconsin District is meeting at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI on June 4-5, 2018. Because of the many rural congregations in our district, our theme for this year is, *Rural Evangelism: To Every Town and Village*. We will focus our thoughts on three presentations:

- *Evangelism in Rural Ministry*, by Rev. Andrew Schultz
- *Vocational Evangelism Applied to the Small Town*, by Rev. Joseph Fricke
- *New Churches Bring Jesus to New People*, by Rev. Nathan Strutz

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 PRESIDUM

**PRESIDENT: REV. MICHAEL JENSEN**  
**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: REV. BRETT BRAUER**  
**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: REV. JEFF SEELOW**  
**SECRETARY: REV. GALEN RIEDIGER**

