



Pacific Northwest DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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Dear brothers in the Pacific Northwest, the time is quickly coming when we will all be together for this year's PNW District Convention on June 4-5. We wanted to get this information to you early so you can start your necessary planning. The convention will begin with a communion worship service at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4. Plans are to conclude on Wednesday, June 5, by 5:00 p.m. A tentative agenda is included with this email.

Please read below, and then copy/share this information with all pastors, male teachers, lay delegates, and other interested individuals in your churches.

Location — Evergreen Lutheran High School at 7306 Waller Road East, Tacoma, WA 98443.

Presentation — Rejoicing in our Savior's victory, Prof. Joel Russow of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will present on three areas of strengthening relationships and extending Christlike love to lonely and hurting hearts. "In this world you will have trouble." We live in a world of death, mourning, crying, and pain. The bruising troubles of this life and the heavy barrage of the devil's attacks leave hearts, relationships, and homes lonely and hurting. But Jesus also said, "Take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

RTTD — (Report to the Twelve Districts) Each congregation will receive one printed copy of the report by late May. The report will not be mailed to individual called workers. A full electronic version will be available online in the first week of May. Please review the online material before the convention, so you are informed on discussions that may take place at the convention. Additionally, Floor Committees are being assembled to divide up the RTTD for

summary and celebration at the convention. Because the level of anticipated discussion on areas of ministry is unknown at this time, Floor Committees and their spokesmen will be shared in later May.

† Bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington †

Aside from elections, growth in God's Word, and celebrating the work we do together in WELS we are not anticipating any big decisions or debates that will call for action or memorials.

District Dues — Since *“all expenses of the district convention... shall be paid by the membership of the district”* (Sec. 3), your dues help cover convention expenses and provide modest travel equalization subsidy for those serving in the outer regions of our large district, as well as provide counseling for our called workers in the PNW. We have gone away from collecting dues at Convention and will continue to send invoices for your dues in August. Please be prompt in getting these dues in.

Delegate Attendance and Credentials — Article VIII of our Synod's Constitution for the Districts states the following about district conventions: *“Every pastor, professor and male teacher of the district shall be required to attend full time unless he is excused. Each congregation of the district shall be represented by a lay delegate, who shall be certified to the secretary of the district by his congregation”* (Sec. 2). At this biennial convention (we are required to convene at least once, Sec. 1), each congregation seats one male lay delegate to represent your church and to vote. We need to make an attempt to make sure that there is no confusion as to who is a voting delegate and who is a visitor. For that reason we ask that you would provide your delegate the proper materials and the credentials ([Online Delegate Form](#)) from the congregation they represent. Non-voting observers are welcome to attend, but they will not be seated as voting delegates. Pastors, staff ministers and male teachers are voters by virtue of their call into the district. No additional credentials are required for them. **Excused absences** — in the unfortunate event that a called worker (or your lay delegate) is unable to attend this year's convention, he may excuse by letter, phone/text or email to me and District President, John Steinbrenner, by May 17.

Hotel Information — Because we know some schools commute, get Airbnbs, or select different hotels, we do not have any blocks reserved. But we would recommend the [Hampton Inn and Suites](#) or [Fairfield Inn and Suites](#). Both are located in Puyallup and are across the street from each other (6 miles from ELHS). There had been a request for people who live locally or have a vehicle, to possibly offer to pick up or drop off those staying at the hotels to help with transportation.

Travel subsidy — Our Pacific Northwest District would like to support congregations who send delegates from further distances to help offset the higher cost of travel to attend the District Convention. While our budget does not allow us to completely offset this higher cost, we hope to help “take the edge off” this cost with a Travel Equalization Reimbursement. The amounts given out will depend upon the number of applications we receive. Special considerations will be taken for hardships as noted. ([Form](#) to be submitted.)

The distribution will happen for applications received in the following priority:

1. Alaska congregations + Idaho Falls (650 miles+ to Evergreen Lutheran High School)
2. Idaho congregations + Spokane (300-650 miles to Evergreen LHS)
3. Under 300 miles from origin to Evergreen Lutheran High School

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Materials for Convention — All district materials for our reports will be done electronically. Here is form link to submit your request. ([Material Form](#)) This is already open for you to start your requests. Don't wait until the last minute, it may not be available then. Reports will be shown on a video screen and will be able to be accessed by attendees on their devices. Please bring your laptop, tablet, or smart phone.

In Closing – what you need to do now?

- reserve these convention dates on your calendar;
- identify your congregation's lay delegate, share this information with him, register him;
- make necessary travel and lodging arrangements so you can join us;
- read through the links and forms in this letter;
- watch for future updates regarding RTTD, Floor Committees and Final Agenda.

May God bless your upcoming Holy Week celebrations.

In Christ,

Ryan Schmeling