



Southeastern Wisconsin District

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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 51st 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 100th 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