



2024 Pacific Northwest District Missionaries Conference
at
Faith Lutheran Church
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Our PNW District Mission Board would like to invite you to attend the 2024 Pacific Northwest District Missionaries' Conference at **Faith Lutheran Church, Anchorage, Alaska, from Tuesday to Thursday, February 6-8, 2024.**

Speakers

Pastor Nathan Nass. Nathan is a 2013 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. In addition to his vicar year in Sharpsburg, GA, he served a one-year emergency call in Houston, TX, along with congregations in St. Peter, MN, and Green Bay, WI. He currently serves at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Tulsa, OK. Nathan and his wife Emily are blessed with four children: Isaiah (12), Samuel (8), Josiah, (5), and Faith (3). Emily is expecting their fifth child on Christmas Eve 2023.

Nathan will be presenting an exegesis on Colossians 2:16-17 under the theme "The Reality is Found in Christ" with specific application to worship. We'll explore the fullness of Christ as laid out in the book of Colossians, understand how many of the Old Testament worship practices were merely shadows of the coming Christ, see how the Lutheran confessions applied Colossians 2:16-17 to worship in their day, and apply Paul's words about the reality of Christ to worship in the WELS in 2023. The goal will be to highlight how Lutheran worship is a matter of substance – the reality of Christ – over style.

Pastor Matt Vogt. Matt is from Las Vegas, NV, and currently serves as our PNW district mission counselor. He will be presenting on the topic "Developing a Path of Discipleship: A Proven Process for Congregational Membership and Leadership Development." This presentation/workshop is intended to help you design an intentional and strategic step-by-step process unique to your church's ministry which helps people (by the Spirit) move through the stages of spiritual development. Implementing this process will address common church issues, such as struggles with prospect follow up and nurture, lack of volunteers, poor member care, and lack of spiritually mature leadership.

Schedule

The conference will begin on Tuesday, February 6th, at 1:00 pm and end on Thursday, February 8th, at 12:00 pm. However, since the amount of daylight in Alaska at this time of year is limited, we're going to try something new with the schedule. We're going to shift the Wednesday afternoon schedule to Wednesday evening and give you approximately 4-5 hours of free time in the afternoon in order to maximize the daylight for sight-seeing purposes. (In Anchorage, in February, sunrise is about 9:10 am and sunset is around 5:15 pm).

Sight-Seeing

Everything in Anchorage is "about 20 minutes away." Kincaid Park, Flattop (Anchorage overlook, depending on road conditions), Peace Lutheran Church in Eagle River (which has the absolute best view of any WELS church in the nation) are just a few ideas. Faith congregation will provide bag lunches for you to grab and eat on your way if you choose to explore the area.

Flights

If you book your flight with Alaska Airlines, they are giving us a "Group Discount Code" (ECMK142) which will give you a 7% discount off the price of your flight. To use the Discount Code, go online to www.alaskaair.com and input the Discount Code ECMK142 when searching for flights. The discount will be applied to your flight. By clicking the "?" next to the discount code box after entering the code, you can view a detailed description of the rules. You can also use the Discount Code by calling Alaska Airlines Group Desk. However, a \$15.00 per person service fee will apply. Once you book your ticket, please send me your ticket number. Alaska Airlines asked me to keep track of ticket numbers for the group contract. Thank you.

Lodging

Our District Mission Board has arranged for a block of rooms at the Comfort Suites, 2919 W International Airport Rd, Anchorage, AK, 99502 • Phone (907) 243-8080 . Discounted room rates are available at **\$109/night**. Breakfast is included. They also offer a free shuttle to/from the airport. Here is the booking link for our group: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/RO10H3>. Rooms must be booked by **December 22, 2023** to receive the group discount. (The group name is "**PNW Winter Pastors' Conference**." The group code is **RO10H3**).

Meals

All the conference sessions will be hosted at Faith Lutheran Church in Anchorage. 5200 Lake Otis Parkway, Anchorage, AK, 99507. 907-563-3499. You will be provided with two meals (dinner on Tuesday and lunch on Wednesday). You will be responsible for dinner on Wednesday and lunch on Thursday. As mentioned above, the Comfort Suites does include free breakfast if you stay there.

Registration & Fees

The conference fee this year remains at **\$150.00** per attendee, not per congregation. The fees are used to cover the cost of flights and lodging for our speakers and the cost of food and other refreshments during the conference. You can register for the conference and pay your \$150 registration fee at our district website: welspnw.weebly.com. In order to keep it simple, all registration fees will be paid online this year at our website, not with cash or check.

Reports/Updates

Finally, if you would like to give a report or update on a certain area of ministry in our district or in the WELS (e.g. worship, evangelism, schools, synodical council, mission board, etc), please let me know by January 15th how many minutes you will need on the agenda. After that date, there is no guarantee I can include your report/update at the conference.

Let me know if you have any questions. Serving Christ with you,

Pastor Kevin Schultz
PNW DMB Chairman