



# Pacific Northwest DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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April 8, 2022

Dear brothers in the Pacific Northwest, here is the information that you have been eagerly awaiting in regard to this year's PNW District Convention on June 7-8. Along with this letter are the forms and other information you will need. The convention will begin with a worship service with Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 7. Plans are to conclude on Wednesday, June 8, no later than 5:00 p.m. A tentative agenda is included.

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

**Location** — Our District Convention will be held at Evergreen Lutheran High School at 7306 Waller Road East, Tacoma, WA 98443.  
[www.ELHS.org](http://www.ELHS.org)

**Presentation** — 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." Some thirty years ago, John Welwood coined the term "spiritual bypassing" to describe the tendency of believers in many faith traditions to use "God-talk" and spiritual practices as a defense mechanism. "Spiritual bypassing" is a dishonest approach to life with God, that allows problems to fester and causes us to miss opportunities for growth. Serious engagement with the message of Job is a perfect solution. Our sessions together during the PNW Convention will consider the Book of Job as God's unique tool to refocus us on God's "no-matter-what" love for his redeemed people!

**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.

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

**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 (cf. this 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 or email to me and District President, John Steinbrenner, by May 1.

**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 (dues also cover some emergency called worker expenses during the biennium, at the district president's direction, should they arise). Although travel subsidy isn't much, it assists those congregations who must pay higher prices to send their workers to conferences throughout the biennium. This year we will be adopting the practice of some other districts. **Invoices for congregations in the district will be sent to you and your treasurer annually in the Fall (September-October) to pay these dues.** Thank you in advance for your prompt attention in remitting these dues.

**Hotel Information** — Hampton Inn and Suites in Puyallup (6 miles from ELHS). It has a complimentary hot breakfast, wifi, a fitness center, indoor pool, and is newly renovated. Book by clicking this link (or link at bottom) will include the corporate discount code that you will need to book at the lowered rate. ([tinyurl.com/Hilton-WELS](https://tinyurl.com/Hilton-WELS)) The sooner you book your room the better your rate will be. If you would like to add a day before or after the convention at the lower rate, please contact me for assistance. **The deadline to book your room is May 9.** We realize that some groups in the past have rented Air BnBs. You are certainly free to pursue options other than the hotel noted above.

**Travel subsidy** — Travel subsidy will again be provided to congregations sending delegates over long distances. Mileage will be reimbursed at \$0.56 per mile with a maximum of 700 roundtrip miles (vehicle), less \$200 per qualified individual (delegate or called worker) traveling in your vehicle. Carpooling is encouraged where possible. Airfare is reimbursed at cost less \$300, with a maximum reimbursement of \$200. If you are requesting travel equalization subsidy, please complete the request form. **The deadline for submitting a travel equalization form is July 1, after which date no forms will be accepted.**

**Materials for Convention** — All district materials for our reports will be done electronically. **Please email all reports to me ([peaceinjesuspastor@gmail.com](mailto:peaceinjesuspastor@gmail.com)) by May 31.** Reports will be shown on a video screen and will be able to be accessed by attendees on their devices. Please do not bring hard

copies to the conference to be photocopied. Please bring your laptop, tablet, or smart phone.

**Meals for Convention** — The PNW District (meaning our churches through their annual dues) will provide 3 meals while you are attending our convention. Two lunches (June 7 and 8) and our dinner meal (June 7) will be prepared and served at Evergreen LHS. While there will be morning snacks and coffee available, if you enjoy a fuller breakfast you'll want to eat that on your own. Our host school, Evergreen, will work with the district to have evening fellowship available on site following our dinner meal on Tuesday.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus until we meet in June!

In Him,  
Pastor Dan Kramer

**Booking Link:** <https://group.hamptoninn.com/ztgwjr>

**Hotel:** Hampton Inn & Suites Tacoma/Puyallup

**Group Name:** WELS PNW 2022