



The 60th Convention of the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, 2022

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

There is much on our minds these days and some of it is not good. There is much chaos, confusion, and concern inside and outside of the Church. Our congregations and ministries are not unaffected. You and I face more opposition from secular forces and the Devil himself. We recognize apathy and in many cases decline. The pandemic has been tough on us, caused division, and its end is uncertain.

What will the future hold? What should we do? Should we give up or get desperate and give into the decadent world? Shall we go on the attack and attack each other? Or despair and give up? “The good old days are over and there is no future.” Have you heard that or thought that lately?

Our great power and hope is in the Word of God! Our greatest asset is the Word and the Word made flesh, Jesus! **Like Jesus, the Bible is full of grace and truth! (John 1:14-18)**

This year’s convention is drawn from input gathered in from the Mission Clarity Process we did in the fall of 2019. Over 100 congregations were represented and we had over 200 participants. One great gift and need is to be more fully in the Word. Our strength is found in the Lord and His Word. It seemed appropriate that this 60th Convention of the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be focused on the life and renewal given in the Word.

Hence, **“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly”** (Colossians 3:16) is our theme and focus. We are invited to be more deeply in the Word in public worship, Bible study, small groups, and in personal study. The Word is rich for us sinners for it brings the treasure of Jesus and Eternal Life.

We will be in the Word, return to an essay/presentation as a part of our convention by two NID pastors, and we will be challenged to regain momentum by a fuller life of discipleship through the Word of God. *“For the union of the Word and the Holy Spirit is perpetual; as a result, wherever the Word is, the Holy Spirit is present also.”* (John Andrew Quenstedt, Lutheran Church Father) Every congregation, school, family, and individual will be blessed by being more deeply in the Word. **Let’s start together, and let’s start now!**

Being in the Word will bless our life together and our witness to the world, and that is why we have conventions like this one.

Welcome to the Northern Illinois Convention Workbook.



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WORSHIP

We will begin the time for the 60th Convention of the NID in the Chapel of Our Lord at Concordia University Chicago. We will have a service of the Word with President Matthew Harrison as our preacher. In addition, children from our “Stirred to Love” program will sing for the service. This program links schools from urban areas to other NID schools. At the service, we will recognize two new congregations since the 2018 convention. We will give thanks to God for the anniversaries in service for NID called church workers who have reached milestones in service. Devotions for the convention will focus on the centrality and power of the Word of God. We thank the staff at the Chapel of Our Lord for their assistance in planning worship and each pastor leading devotions.

BIBLE STUDY AND CONVENTION PRESENTATION

Rev. Dr. Scott Bruzek (St. John, Wheaton) and Rev. Bill Yonker (Immanuel, East Dundee) will present twice for our edification and growth on our convention theme passage, Colossians 3:16. They will present jointly and model our work together as the people of God in this place, for we are “in this together.” Other devotion leaders are Rev. Michael Stein (St. Paul, Beecher), Rev. Jeffery Howell (St. Paul on Dorchester, Chicago), and Rev. Alex Merlo (San Pablo, Aurora). Our conference chaplain will be Rev. David Fleming, Executive Director for Doxology. He will be available for confidential pastoral care for all in attendance.

CALLED TO GLORY

At 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2022, we will remember those ordained and commissioned workers who have gone to be in the nearer presence of Jesus since the 2018 convention. We have invited family members, and there will be a special luncheon with them in the Alumni room.

FACILITIES

Convention sessions will be held in the main gym at Concordia University Chicago, located in River Forest, Illinois. Convention displays will be located in the small gym adjacent to the convention hall. Boxed lunches are provided in the main cafeteria of the Koehneke Center at the times indicated on the convention schedule. There is no housing available on-site at Concordia. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Holiday Inn in Hillside for anyone who may want housing. Arrangements are on your own. Directions to Concordia are on the District’s website (www.nidlcms.org) if needed. Parking is free; access to the parking garage is on Bonnie Brae Street on the east side of campus.



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FLOOR COMMITTEES

There are four Floor Committees for this Convention: 1) Word, 2) Wellness, 3) Witness, and 4) Elections. Members of the Floor Committees have been appointed from those who were registered as convention delegates at the time, as required by Synod Bylaw 3.1.7 (c) (16 weeks before the start of the convention).

FLOOR COMMITTEE OPEN HEARINGS

On **Saturday morning, February 5, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, Floor Committees 1, 2, and 3 will be holding open hearings. These hearings allow convention delegates to speak to the resolutions of each committee. Delegates may bring information and insights or simply share their concerns. **These meetings will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1165 S. Westmore-Meyers Rd., Lombard, IL 60148.**

The Floor Committee session is not for debate, only for providing additional information to guide the Floor Committee in doing its work.

The Floor Committees study all **overtures** for action submitted to the convention by congregations, District boards, circuit forums, and pastors' and teachers' conferences. On occasion the Floor Committee will present as a **resolution** for adoption the overture just as it has appeared in the Convention Workbook. On other occasions the overtures will be combined, modified, amended, or declined. All voting or advisory delegates may speak to any of the resolutions on the convention floor by approaching one of the microphones and awaiting their turn to be recognized by the chair.

These Floor Committees will appear before the convention according to the daily schedule to offer resolutions to the assembly regarding their specific area of work. The convention assembly will then act on the resolutions presented.

In order to save additional time, **even though each “whereas” is technically part of the resolution, we have asked the Floor Committees (if it’s possible) to read only each “resolved” at their presentation. The assumption is that all delegates will individually and carefully review the entire overture.** The number of overtures is not overwhelming. We ask for your careful preparation.

We **sincerely thank the Floor Committees** for their diligence, their churchmanship, their flexibility, and their effort — and for doing it all in a timely fashion.



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PROCEDURES

Unless specific rules and procedures are indicated by the District Bylaws or Synod Handbook, “Robert’s Rules of Order” is followed throughout the convention. Most especially, we who are in this assembly are governed by the **“law of Christian love.”**

The chairman will try to see to it that the agenda and daily schedule are followed as closely as possible. That is sometimes very difficult. We will need the cooperation of everyone! Our Floor Committees will each have time on both days of the convention. We want to fulfill our work efficiently, to the Glory of God, as a clear and loving witness to the Church and the world, and so some discussion will take more time than other issues. **All speakers will limit their remarks to a “two-minute-or-less” time period.** To help further expedite things, after both sides of a question have been heard thoroughly, we invite any voting delegate to take his/her turn at the microphone to **“call the question.”** (Simply calling out “question” from the floor is not recognized.) The motion to “call the question” is simply a motion to stop debate.

It is not debatable, requires no second, and requires a two-thirds vote of the assembly. If carried, it ends debate and the motion in question goes to an immediate vote.

Discussion will be done in a pro/con mode. This means that those in favor of the resolution will go to the odd-numbered microphones and those opposed will go to the even-numbered microphones.

When you are ready to speak at one of the microphones, please state your **name** and the **name and location of your congregation** (or administrative unit).

Regarding **“substitute motions,”** the District operates with the so-called “Behnken Rule” as observed by Synod. If a substitute motion is offered, the convention will first decide by majority vote whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is adopted, the original motion fails; if the “substitute motion” does not receive favorable action, the original motion is again before the convention.

Please understand that all resolutions have been prioritized by the respective Floor Committees. Resolutions not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die (unless specially dealt with by the convention in another way).



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As you know, the purpose of all “parliamentary procedure” is to carry out the wishes of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner. Further, the procedures are to be used to expedite business and to ensure that the will of the majority will prevail. We know you will exercise your individual privileges faithfully, charitably, wisely, and well. Thank you for that.

ELECTIONS

Time will be spent at the convention in electing the District President, Vice Presidents, and Secretary, ratifying Circuit Counselors, and electing the members of the District’s Board of Directors, the Board of Regents of Concordia University Chicago, and the 2025 District Nominations Committee.

Since we will vote by electronic machine – and since time will be limited – we ask that you read and study the information on candidates before the voting session, spending time in prayer, and seeking that God’s will be done. You will find the information in **Section #3, “Elections” and Section #4, “Nominations” in your Convention Workbook**. You then will vote from your heart and with your conscience. May God bless us as we elect – and may God bless those who are elected.

EVALUATION

We are interested in your evaluation of this convention. Within several days of the closing of convention we will email a brief survey form to all delegates. You will be asked to rate various things and also have the opportunity to share your comments. We invited you to do this at past conventions, and we received many excellent and constructive suggestions. Thank you for taking the time to help make our next convention better.

OUR THANKS

Thank you to the SO MANY PEOPLE who have made such a great effort to cause this convention to be a blessing. At the risk of missing many, we would simply mention the devotion and Bible study leaders, staff, and musicians of Concordia, our Board of Directors, committees and staff of District ... and YOU.



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PRAYER

For Obedience to the Word (LSB p. 308)

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss, President