



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**  
**The Lutheran Church**  
**- Missouri Synod**  
**59th CONVENTION**  
**March 9 & 10, 2018**  
**Concordia University Chicago**  
**River Forest, Illinois**

### **GREETINGS AND WELCOME**

As your district president, I welcome you to the Triennial Convention of the Northern Illinois District, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. We gather together under the theme:



In this convention's theme passage, John 15:16, Jesus says, *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit ...."* These words are rich in the promise that our salvation does not depend on us; it all depends on him. And his cross and empty tomb are proof of that. These words are also rich in direction: the Church is appointed and sent to bear fruit. We know the fruit in fact is produced by the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament in us; we also know that these words mean salvation isn't just for those of us who already have it; it's also for those who have not yet received it. The Lord doesn't need us to go with his Word, but he honors us by choosing and sending us with his authority and promise.

The Northern Illinois District IS the 210+ congregations, the Lutheran schools, the various agencies, the pastors and commissioned ministers, and all the girls and boys and men and women – believers in Jesus – who are members of NID congregations. We voluntarily join together as members of the Synod in order to guard our life and doctrine carefully and in order to carry out the Lord's mission diligently and vigorously. We gather in convention every three years for those two reasons.

During our time together we appreciate your patience and understanding. Convention time is short. Because of this format, there will be no agency presentations. Consequently you are

encouraged to visit the displays located in various areas in the South Gym, immediately next to our convention hall.

Once again we will make use of an electronic voting system. It's a similar system used at Synod Conventions and at our own past District Conventions. Instructions will be provided on Friday morning; please give careful attention to this. Advisory Delegates will be able to cast **an advisory vote** prior to the official action of the convention's voting delegates. This will not be used on elections, but will be used throughout the convention as Resolutions of the Floor Committees are acted on. This will give voting delegates a record of advisory votes to consider as they approach their own voting decisions.

Synod President Matthew Harrison and our regional Synod Vice-President Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe will present the Synod report as part of our convention. Delegates will have a Q & A time.

## **WORSHIP**

The convention will open with a Divine Service on Friday morning held in the chapel at Concordia University. Synod Regional Vice President Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe will bring the sermon and I will preside at the Lord's Table. The worship service and convention devotions have been planned to highlight the convention theme, **John 15:16**. We thank Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Leininger, Deaconess Betsy Karkan and Dr. Steven Wentz of Concordia University for all their work on the Divine Service; we also thank our devotion leaders.

## **DISTRICT MISSION PRESENTATIONS**

At various times throughout the convention our NID mission staff will report on some of the many new starts in our congregations and many new believers the Holy Spirit has brought to faith.

## **CONVENTION DEVOTIONS AND BIBLE STUDY**

Convention devotions and Bible studies will develop our theme, "Chosen, Appointed, Sent," from John 15:16. Leaders for these times of reflection from God's Word include: Synod Vice President Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe and the newly elected NID President.

## **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. Meals 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 any who may want housing. Arrangements are on your own. Directions to Concordia are on the district's website ([www.nidlcms.org](http://www.nidlcms.org)) if needed. Parking is free; access to the parking garage is on Bonnie Brae Street on the east side of campus.

## **NEW MEMBERS OF THE SYNOD**

To express our mutual joy, and to recognize those who are new to our fellowship in the Synod, Pastors and Commissioned Ministers who are new to the Synod and new congregations chartered since the last Convention will be acknowledged during the Divine Service. Also commemorated will be the faithful departed and special decade anniversaries of our rostered workers.

## **FLOOR COMMITTEES**

There are three Floor Committees for this Convention: 1) Witness/Mercy, 2) Life Together and 3) 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 24 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.**, Floor Committees 1 and 2 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 the Northern Illinois District office, 2301 South Wolf Road, Hillside, Illinois**

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.

## **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! Floor Committees 1 and 2 have two sessions each during the convention to present the resolutions in their area. We also have some issues before the convention which may generate much more discussion. **All speakers will limit their remarks to a “2-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).

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 2021 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 your heart and 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.

#### **PRAYER**

If you have specific prayer requests for our devotions, please make them in writing (PLEASE PRINT) and bring them to the District Secretary at the front table.

Now, may the Lord our God bless your attendance – and also our participation together. And remember...***There is not one congregation in the NID that is not capable of doing at least one new thing in outreach in their community chosen, appointed and sent by the Lord Jesus himself.***

*Rev. Dan P. Gilbert, President*