



# TODAY'S BUSINESS

## LCMS South Wisconsin District 53<sup>rd</sup> Convention June 10-12, 2012

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Monday – Issue #2

June 11, 2012

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### WELCOME

To all delegates, official guests, and visitors to the 2012 South Wisconsin District Convention. We pray that the Lord of the Church would bless you and your service to Him during these days as we honor His Name and pray that His kingdom may be advanced.

### SCHEDULE

An up-to-date agenda for the convention has been printed on pages 3-4 of TODAY'S BUSINESS. Please refer to it for further information on the times of convention events and their locations.

### COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Communications Center is located in Room F017 (southwest of the meeting room). If you are expecting a phone call or need to reach someone at the convention please come to the Communications Center so we can assist you. You may call (262) 243-3400 to reach the Communications Center or call the main number of Concordia University (262) 243-5700 and leave a message.

The convention staff and volunteers will be delivering messages to your assigned tables. If necessary, messages will be

displayed on the projection screen in the convention hall.

### DUPLICATION SERVICES

The Communications Center is responsible for the duplication and distribution of **ALL** materials for the convention. Please stop by the office if you need something distributed or duplicated. A work order will be available at the center. ***No material may be distributed at the convention without authorization.***

The Information Technology Office of Concordia University has graciously provided computer and laser printing equipment. Digital Office Solutions, Wauwatosa, has provided the copier. If you would like information about the copier, please stop by the Caspian Technologies booth 39. We thank them for their assistance.

### WELCOME CENTER

The Welcome Center in the Field House lobby is able to answer general questions about the convention, give directions, and assist in finding other delegates. They will also be able to assist you in finding your seat on the convention floor.

## **REQUEST FROM BETHANY MILWAUKEE**

On behalf of the Bethany congregation at 2031 N. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, I am requesting that an announcement be made at the South Wisconsin District convention. Bethany is having a collection of metals including broken appliances. Bethany is having this collection in an attempt to increase its finances for necessary church repairs.

A dumpster will be placed inside the fenced in area behind Milwaukee Lutheran High School on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. I will be at the convention and would be happy to answer any questions about this fund raiser. I can also be contacted by phone at (262) 784-1652 or (414) 690-8617.

Thank you for taking this into consideration,  
Rita Whittow  
Bethany Stewardship Chairman

## **OUR HOST**

We praise God for the fine facilities and helpful staff of Concordia University Wisconsin who have contributed greatly to the preparation for this convention. If you have facility needs that require attention, please let us know.

## **THANK YOU**

Thanks to the South Wisconsin District Lutheran Church Extension Fund for the Convention tote bags. The tote bags are made available to voting and advisory delegates.

## **SPECIAL WELCOME**

We extend greetings to Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and Dr. Daniel Paavola, Concordia University Wisconsin.

## **CONVENTION OFFERING**

The offering gathered at the opening service of the convention will be distributed to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and Lutheran Deaf Mission Society.

## **EXHIBITORS' LIST**

A listing of exhibitors has been printed on pages 5-6 of TODAY'S BUSINESS. Please take advantage of the opportunity to view their products.

## **CONVENTION CHOIR**

If you would like to sing with the convention choir for the closing service, a special rehearsal will be held in the choir room (see map for location or check with hospitality desk) from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. on Monday. We welcome your participation.

## **E-MAILS**

Several computers are available in the communications office if you wish to check your e-mail.

## **HOST CONGREGATION**

The host congregation for the closing communion service will be St. John Plymouth. We also thank them for providing ushers for the opening service.

## **HELP NEEDED**

We are in great need of able-bodied help to lend support for 2-3 hours to take down equipment following the close of the convention on Tuesday. Please sign up in the Communications Center.

## **YOUR CONSIDERATION IS REQUESTED**

Because many of the exhibit areas are in the same area as the convention floor, please be considerate of the delegates and speakers by keeping conversation to a minimum in the exhibit area while the convention is in session. You may visit outside!

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LIFE FORGIVEN, LIFE TOGETHER

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT CONVENTION BIBLE STUDY #1

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 2012

Dr. Daniel Paavola

LIFE FORGIVEN—GRACE WHICH KEEPS US TOGETHER--AND APART

INTRODUCTION:

Personal Space: How close can you comfortably get?

Consider ordinary 5W-30 Pennzoil and a clearance of .002 of an inch.

On top of that, it's summer and it's getting hot!

What about humble Crisco and a 400 degree oven?

Consider what grace can do to the nearness and destructive heat that approaches us.

In our Life Together, we risk being too close to each other. We become too hot and too irritating. We need a cushion between us, and between us and God.

OUR LACK OF PERSONAL SPACE: CONSIDER THESE VERSES

The frightening nearness of God: Genesis 3:8-10: And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

The searing closeness of God: Exodus 3:4-6: When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

The fearful holiness of God: And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." <sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. <sup>5</sup> Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

PERFECTION WELCOMES FAILURE!

And yet, there is in grace a surprising accommodation even of complete opposites:

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Hebrews 4:14-16: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

*BUT WE BETTER NOT RUN OUT! A FOUR QUART SUMP AND A NEW CAN OF CRISCO*

*Grace transforms the nearness and fear of a fallen Eden into a new re-creation:*

Romans 5:15, 20-21: But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. <sup>20</sup> And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup> that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*THE EFFECT OF GRACE ON OUR LIFE TOGETHER:*

1 Peter 1:22-23: Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, <sup>23</sup> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and abiding word of God.

Galatians 6:2-3: Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

John 13:34: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

How does the essential cushion of grace work when we are pressed together?

*When two congregations or ministries are too close together*

*When two ministries have to share the same space, budget, and volunteers*

*When one ministry is growing while its nearest neighbor is struggling*

1 **RESOLUTION 3-03A**

2 **TO TRANSFER CAMP LUWISOMO PROPERTY**

3 Overture 3-03 [CW p. 14] and Unpublished Overture 3-03B

4

5 WHEREAS, Camp LuWiSoMo has been operating under the control and ownership of the South Wisconsin  
6 District; and

7 WHEREAS, the South Wisconsin District currently owns approximately 420 acres of property currently  
8 utilized by Camp LuWiSoMo; and

9 WHEREAS, this property was originally donated by the Lutheran Layman's League to the South Wisconsin  
10 District for the specific purpose to operate a youth camp; and

11 WHEREAS, the Lutheran Layman's League originally stipulated that if the camp property was sold, the  
12 District would be responsible to pay a financial sum back to the Lutheran Layman's League; and

13 WHEREAS, and the South Wisconsin District's legal opinion has determined this payment is no longer required;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Camp LuWiSoMo currently has plans to set up a separate tax exempt entity without District  
16 control and the new corporation will have a structure with a new board of directors that will  
17 govern the operations; and

18 WHEREAS, the South Wisconsin District has experienced operational concerns and financial losses from the  
19 camp; and

20 WHEREAS, the District convention of 1997 directed the District as follows: "Support for the Camp will be  
21 included in the budget of the SWD..."; and

22 WHEREAS, the South Wisconsin District board has indicated a desire to discontinue budgeted support of the  
23 camp and has shown interest in dissolving the outdoor ministry operations if financial goals are  
24 not met. Therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, that the entire Camp LuWiSoMo property – all assets and liabilities be turned over to the new  
26 Camp LuWiSoMo Corporation when corporate filings and tax exempt filings are completed; and  
27 be it further

28 RESOLVED, that prior to the transfer of the property, the Camp LuWiSoMo Corporation shall have been  
29 received as a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;  
30 and be it further

31 RESOLVED, that the Camp LuWiSoMo Corporation be responsible for the costs of transferring ownership to  
32 the new camp corporation, including title insurance and the Wisconsin transfer tax; and be it  
33 further

34 RESOLVED, that at closing of the transfer to the new camp corporation, the camp corporation shall pay to the  
35 SWD the outstanding loan indebtedness related to the camp, owed by SWD to LCEF; and be it  
36 further

37 RESOLVED, that all restricted funds related to Camp LuWiSoMo, unless redirected or released by the donors,  
38 shall be utilized only for the restricted purposes and shall not be utilized for payment in the  
39 transfer of the property; and be it further

40 RESOLVED, that the transfer of the property from the District to the new Camp Corporation shall be completed  
41 prior to January 31, 2015. Prior to such transfer the camp operations shall remain under the  
42 direction and control of the SWD board of directors; and be it finally

43 RESOLVED, that should the present LuWiSoMo Board or the new LuWiSoMo Corporation be unable to secure  
44 the 501(c)3 status from the Internal Revenue Service, the required Recognized Service  
45 Organization (RSO) status from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or obtain the necessary  
46 funding to complete this transaction as specified, the SWD Board of Directors is empowered to  
47 sell or transfer the ownership of the Camp property as necessity may dictate .

48  
49 Rev. Paul Munding, chair

Rev. Mark Wenzel, secretary

50

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**MINUTES**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the  
South Wisconsin District of  
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod  
June 10-12, 2012

**SESSION 1**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the South Wisconsin District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod was called to order in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit by the Reverend Dr. John C. Wille at 6:30 p.m. with the Secretary and Assistant Secretary present.

Convention Chair, the Reverend Nathan Meador opened with prayer.

**WELCOME AND GREETINGS**

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry welcomed the SWD Convention to the facilities of Concordia University Wisconsin

President John Wille welcomed the delegates and outlined the guidelines concerning the use of electronic devices and what was accepted and what was prohibited.

**CONVENTION COMMITTEE – Quorum**

The Reverend Nathan Meador, Convention Planning Committee Chair, addressed the assembly. He reported the presence of 367 voting delegates and declared a quorum.

A urgent request was made for female voices for the Convention choir.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND STANDING RULES**

President Wille directed the Assembly to the Convention Agenda, page 3ff of Today's Business #1. A motion was made seconded and passed to adopt the agenda.

President John Wille directed the delegates to Today's Business #1, page 8, and the standing rules for the convention. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the standing rules

A series of trial questions was conducted to familiarize the delegates with the electronic voting system

**COMMITTEE 1: NOMINATIONS**

Rev Chryst directed the delegates' attention to Convention Workbook pages 70 and following:

Floor nominations were requested for the office of District President.

Motion and second to add Rev David Paape

Floor nominations were requested for CE Region Vice President – none

Floor nominations were requested for SE Region Vice President – none

1 Floor nominations were requested for Secretary – none  
2 Floor nominations for Board of Directors, CE ordained – none  
3 Floor nominations for Board of Directors, SE ordained – none  
4 Floor nominations for Board of Directors, W ordained – none  
5 Floor nominations for Board of Directors, CE Commissioned – Brad Jentsch added by  
6 Committee  
7 Floor nominations for Board of Directors, CE Lay – none  
8 Floor nominations for Board of Directors, NE Lay – Myron Buss  
9 Floor nominations for Board of Directors, SE Lay – none  
10 Floor nominations for Board of Directors, W Lay – Ed Koss, added by Committee  
11 Floor nominations for CCN – District, CE ordained – none  
12 Floor nominations for CCN – District, W ordained – none  
13 Floor nominations for CCN – District, CE Commissioned – Sherry Scheid added by  
14 committee  
15 Floor nominations for CCN – District, W lay – none  
16 Floor nominations for CUW Regents, ordained – none  
17 Floor nominations for CUW Regents, commissioned – Dwayne Jobst  
18 Floor nominations for CUW Regents, lay – none  
19 Floor nominations for Camp LuWiSoMo, CE ordained – none  
20 Floor nominations for Camp LuWiSoMo, NE ordained – Richard Beck added by committee  
21 Floor nominations for Camp LuWiSoMo, W ordained – Mark Benning added by committee  
22 Floor nominations for Camp LuWiSoMo, CE or SE lay – none  
23 Floor nominations for Camp LuWiSoMo, At large – any – none  
24 Floor nominations for CCN-Synod, professional church worker – none  
25

26 **MOTION AND SECOND TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS. CARRIED**

27  
28 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

29 President Wille presented his report to the Convention. He emphasized the whole idea of  
30 *koinonia* oftentimes translated “fellowship” in the New Testament and the implications this  
31 fellowship has in and for the church and the churches of the Synod and the District.  
32

33 He spoke of the need for unity and the means through which that unity is demonstrated.  
34 But in all things Christ must be our center and focus. The manifestations of our disunity,  
35 gossip, slander and backbiting is evidence of our sinful nature. For these abuses against the  
36 body of Christ we need to come to the foot of the cross and express our repentance.  
37

38 Contrary to the claims of some the Word and its teaching does not bring division within the  
39 Church, but must be the unifying force, the central focus of what the church is and does,  
40

41 President Wille spoke of the Koinonia Project through which the members of synod may  
42 find a greater measure of harmony. SWD Vice Presidents will lead several groups dealing  
43 with key topics/issues – Rev. Raasch will lead a group to discuss worship and what  
44 Lutheran worship is. Rev Torkelson will lead a group discussion on the topic of the Lord's  
45 Supper and close(d) communion.  
46

47 It's time for us to be confessional and caring.  
48

49 Events in the District



1 Magnify – Maximize – Multiply

- 2 • District dealing with reduced congregational receipts. Stagnant and declining  
3 revenue is leading to different means of staffing at the District Office and partnering with  
4 congregations to plant new missions.  
5 • Goal to increase commitment to Corporate Synod  
6 • Spoke of the District emphasis on ethnic mission work – Hispanic, Hmong Karenni,  
7 Russian  
8 • House of Corrections – South  
9 • Madison partnership in Campus Ministry  
10 • Dominican Republic mission

11  
12 District Staff

- 13 • Mark L'Heureux, School Exec has come on board  
14 • Rev. Daniel McMiller has taken position as Executive Director of the Luther  
15 Academy. (A call committee has been established, call for nominations will be forthcoming)

16  
17 COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS (*introduction of new congregations, pastors, and*  
18 *delegates serving new congregations since 2009*)

19 Rev. David Totsky, CCM Chair, introduced the new congregations to the District since the  
20 2009 Convention

- 21 • Grace and Truth, Oconomowoc  
22 • International Lutheran Church of Zion, Milwaukee  
23 • Living Savior, Ft. Atkinson

24  
25 COMMITTEE 1: NOMINATIONS

26  
27 President Wille relinquished the chair to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Randolph Raasch.

28  
29 Rev Chryst presented the slate for the office of President

30  
31 COMMITTEE 2: ELECTIONS (presidential ballot)

32 Rev. Eric Skovgaard, chairman of the Elections Floor Committee, was introduced to the  
33 assembly, and he explained the election balloting procedure.

34  
35 Ballot 1

36 David Paape 64 (22.3%)  
37 John Wille 223 (77.7) ELECTED

38  
39 President Wille resumed the chair.

40  
41 A request was made for a yes/no vote for uncontested offices.

42  
43 A motion was made and seconded to allow Yes/No balloting for uncontested elections

44 YES 289 98.6%  
45 NO 4 1.4%

46  
47 MOTION CARRIED

48  
49 SYNODICAL REPORT (part one)

1 President Harrison addressed the Convention regarding the financial situation of the Synod.  
2 The restructuring of the Synod has caused a great deal of change especially in staffing  
3 issues. Synod is in the black.

- 4 • spoke of the new relationship between CUW and CUA
- 5 • this is the Synod's time
- 6 • African and Asian churches are approaching the LCMS requesting fellowship
- 7 • spoke of the Wittenberg project
- 8 • thanked the delegates for their support of his testimony before Congress at which time President  
9 Harrison received a standing ovation from the assembly.
- 10 • thanked the District for its partnership in the Dominican Republic mission

11  
12 Q1 – Question regarding LWR and the relationship between LCMS-WR

13 A1 – The relationship has not been broken, joint military and hospital chaplaincy has  
14 been discontinued. "Headquarters to Headquarters" activities have ceased.  
15 Lutheran Malaria Initiative is in place

16  
17 Q2 – Question regarding the Benke ruling precedent and its standing. Can the LCMS  
18 president clarify this issue.

19 A2 – The entire era was unnecessarily divisive. The Synod is presently calm. Synod  
20 will correct this issue with time. He understands the concerns and will pray for  
21 wisdom to move forward.

22  
23 Q3 – What relations are there with the Mission Province in Scandinavia?

24 A3 – The Church of Sweden has become very active in driving out anyone who  
25 disagrees with its pro-homosexuality position. The LCMS is standing with those  
26 opposed to the Church of Sweden as much as possible.

27  
28 Q4 – Many mission congregations are being forced into "Worker-Priest" situations,  
29 how will we deal with this situation? Rather than working together, each group  
30 has their own Mission Society. What does the future hold?

31 A4 – The issue of Deaf Ministry has been an issue. It was suggested that the deaf  
32 congregations approach Bart Day and see what can happen.

33  
34 **COMMITTEE 6: MISCELLANEOUS**

35 Rev. Wayne Huebner was introduced to the assembly. He directed the assembly to  
36 Resolution 6-04: **TO COMMEND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR ITS STANCE ON**  
37 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN** [Today's Business,  
38 p. 19]

39  
40 Motion and second to adopt.

41  
42 Yes 263 98.1 %  
43 No 5 1.9 %

44  
45 **MOTION CARRIED**

46  
47 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

48  
49 **CLOSING DEVOTIONS** – Rev. Nathan Meador led the assembly in the closing devotion.

50 Recess until 8:00 a.m. Monday