



SECTION I

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Greetings and Welcome
Tentative Daily Schedule
Facility Floor Plans
Map to Convention Site
Standing Rules
Floor Nomination Form



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
The Lutheran Church
- Missouri Synod**

**58th CONVENTION
March 6 & 7, 2015**

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:



This passage, Matthew 16:18b, is frequently misapplied to underscore the church's defensive posture in guarding ourselves against the wiles of Satan and the devil. What it in fact calls us to is to go on the offense. The promise is that as we storm the gates of hell, the world and our flesh with the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, nothing can stand against the saving work the Holy Spirit wills to carry out through the Gospel

The Northern Illinois District IS the 215+ 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 President Matthew Harrison 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, **Matthew 16:18b**. 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 PRESENTATIONS

A presentation from district staff will update delegates on current activities and trends in our work together in northern Illinois. Materials will be provided to allow delegates to share this information in their congregation.

CONVENTION DEVOTIONS AND BIBLE STUDY

Convention devotions and Bible studies will develop our theme, "Breaking Through," from Matthew 16:18b. Leaders for these times of reflection from God's Word include: Synod President Matthew Harrison and NID North Region Vice President Kris Whitby.

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 and the Oak Park/River Forest rooms also in 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.ni.lcms.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.

FLOOR COMMITTEES

There are three Floor Committees for this Convention: 1) Witness, 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 21 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 members for the 2016 Synod Nominations Committee and the 2018 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.

Please remember that every voting delegate to this district convention will also be asked to cast a vote for Synod president prior to next year's Synod convention. Providing that you have properly registered for this convention, you will be receiving much information from our Synod office on procedures for this. Please keep this in your prayers also.

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, storming the gates of hell.***

Rev. Dan P. Gilbert, President