

Getting Ready for the District Convention: Miscellaneous Information



- 1) **The South Dakota District—LCMS Convention is right around the corner: December 5-7, in Sioux Falls.** The business sessions are at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.
- 2) **Get ready by reading Paul's letter to the Colossians.** And pray! Pray for safe travel for all convention-goers and for final preparations for the Convention. Thank God for the prospect of good December weather, for the opportunity to hear God's Word and for the privilege of being involved in the work of His Kingdom. Thank God, most of all, that *"[The Father] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins"* (Col. 1:16-17).
- 3) **Opening Service:** Sunday, December 5, 7:00 p.m., at Sioux Falls Lutheran School. Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, will preach, and the SFLS high school choir will sing a couple of selections, including a rendition of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." The Lord's Supper will be served. LCMS members from throughout the region are encouraged to join us for worship, serving as delegates to the convention or not.
- 4) **No Session Monday Night:** Since the Synod President's report has been moved from Monday night to Monday, December 6, at 10:45 a.m., there is no Convention business scheduled for Monday evening. This is a change from the previously announced schedule.
- 5) **Delegate Attendance Prizes:** During the Convention, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is graciously giving away three **\$50 VISA gift cards** to voting or advisory delegates in attendance at the Convention. All voting and advisory delegates are encouraged to register for the drawings by December 3, at this link: <https://zfrmz.com/BoMWk3XfwNegjYwyMjpu>.
- 6) **Tours of Sioux Falls Lutheran School:** This school ministers to more than 400 children every day, sharing the Word of God and the love of Jesus with LCMS children, children of other Christian denominations, and some who have no church home. The school invites you to tour their beautiful facility before or after the Opening Service, or at another time you might want to arrange with the leadership of the school. Tour options, at the time of the Convention, are these:
 - between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., Sunday, December 5
 - between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., Sunday, December 5
 - after the worship serve (about 8:30 p.m.), Sunday, December 5
 - Monday evening, after the Third Session of the Convention
 - Tuesday evening, after the Closing Session
 - At an arranged time apart from the above options.

Please use [this online form](#) to sign up for a tour time by December 1, 2021.

- 7) **Caucuses:** It may be necessary for several Circuits to caucus to select or affirm the previous selection of their Circuit Visitors. This is due to the possible realignment of Circuits called for in Resolution 1-06 (To Realign the Circuits of The South Dakota District). The caucuses, involving the voting lay and pastoral delegates from these Circuits, will happen immediately following the Third Session, scheduled to end at 6 p.m. on Monday, December 6.

In a separate caucus following the Third Session, advisory ordained pastors (emeriti, missionaries, and SMP rostered pastors) will choose one pastor among them to attend the 2025 Convention of the LCMS (July 29 – August 3, 2025, in Milwaukee) as a nonvoting advisory delegate, and one pastor as an alternate nonvoting advisory delegate. SMP pastors may serve as voting delegates to District Conventions; they may serve as advisory delegates to Synod Conventions.

- 8) **Discounts from Concordia Publishing House (CPH):** While CPH is not going to be represented in the exhibit area, the publishing house is offering a 20% discount on their books and other products to convention-goers, excluding curriculum, confirmation, and LSB resources. When you order online via the CPH website (www.cph.org), enter the code **event2021** at check-out in the promo code field.
- 9) **Essayist's Books Available:** The President of the Texas District—LCMS, Rev. Michael Newman, will be the essayist at the Convention. He will deliver his essay, *Gospel DNA: Five Markers of a Flourishing Church – Learning from a Movement Called Missouri*, based on his book by the same name, Tuesday, December 7, 9 a.m. You are invited to come and listen in, delegate or not. Copies of three of Rev. Newman's books will be available for sale in the exhibit area on Tuesday, December 7, during the 10 a.m. recess. They are: *Gospel DNA: Five Markers of a Flourishing Church* (\$10), and both the adult and youth versions of his brand-new book published by CPH, *Getting Through Grief* (\$5). Cash or checks accepted (checks payable to SD District—LCMS). If you will not be attending the Convention, but would like one of Rev. Newman's books, contact me, and I'll see that you can receive a copy.
- 10) **Thank You:** Conducting a December convention is not ideal, especially a *church* convention! It's Advent! Christmas is coming soon! You'll recall that the District's Board of Directors, a year ago, decided to change the dates of the District Convention from April of this year, in view of the uncertainties brought about by the coronavirus. I think you can appreciate the concerns the Board had at that time. *So thank you!* Your understanding and your participation demonstrate the priority we must give to the mission of God in this fallen world: to bring the Good News of salvation, through Christ alone, to all people!

--Rev. Scott Sailer, President