

2015 NWD Convention Report

The 51st North Wisconsin District convention began June 7th, 2015 with opening worship at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. A sermon of hope was shared by Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. He used the convention theme HE'S BY OUR SIDE, stating that God has been and will continue to be with us and His church.

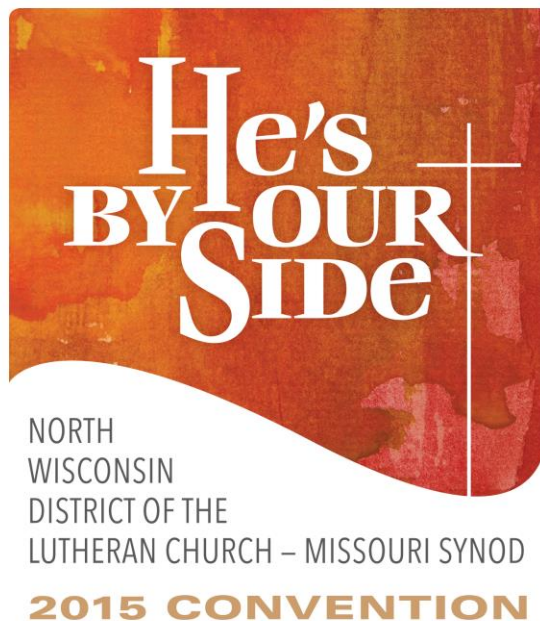
Later at the conference center, President Lueck gave his report to the convention, stating the district vision and priority of healthy workers in healthy congregations doing missions. Pres. Lueck emphasized the critical basics that must continue – preach the word, administer the sacraments, teach the catechism and confessions, and get the members of our congregation into God's word. He emphasized our need to encourage each other, from the district office, the congregation level, and the circuit level. Lueck reminded the assembly that the District Resources team is here to encourage, network and equip our congregations for ministry. It takes all of us – both the church worker and lay person working together, congregation and district working together. In conclusion, Lueck stated: *"He's by our side ...with His good gifts and Spirit.* God has given us the gifts to vigorously make known the love of Jesus Christ within our churches, communities, and the world. ... What an exciting time to be the people of God. "

A point of emphasis begins in 2016. The North Wisconsin District will be 100 years old. Lueck plans to put a task force together to celebrate the District's centennial.

LCMS President Matthew Harrison also shared with those assembled at the Convention Center about things going on in the synod. He especially talked about the international mission field and how well the LCMS is getting more missionaries to these foreign places, an instruction from the last Synod convention. He also took the time to address questions from delegates.

Ohio District President Terry Cripe was the essayist also focusing in on the convention theme. After a humorous top ten list of Things We Didn't Know About President Lueck, President Cripe outlined examples of historical struggle and hardship, from the old testament to today, and our reliance on Almighty God and the love of Jesus to equip and encourage us for our calling.

Camp Luther shared about ministry at camp, as well as their new campaign "Filled with the Spirit" to raise \$5.5 million to address some major needs, with a new dining hall at the top of the list. More details will be shared in the near future.



A video of Peruvian culture and mission work in Peru was shared. President Lueck described ministry taking place in four communities around Lima, and the district support the past two years, as encouraged in the 2012 NWD Convention. He also announced that a mission trip will be taking place early this next year, filled by interested people from the district.

Finally, the District delegates passed the following resolutions:

- To support the pro-life position at both the beginning and end of life, not supporting euthanasia.
- Congregations of the district be encouraged to establish a Disability Ministry Task Force as many church facilities have physical and attitudinal barriers faced by the disabled.
- Circuits 15 & 20 were combined to form one circuit – Circuit 15 and the new circuit will select a new Circuit Visitor in the next couple of months.
- The convention requested that the Council of Presidents review the pastors' PIF form and possibly change wording in it about "liturgical" and "theological" positions of pastors as well as how pastors can review their PIFs.
- Support for President Harrison in his role as Synod President.
- Additional funding was approved for congregations that request financial assistance from the district to support their pastor's participation in PALS.

One resolution was tabled concerning the LCMS CCM opinion that was given earlier in the year about LMCS Bylaw 3.8.3. The resolution wished to memorialize the Synod at the next convention to amend Synod Bylaw 3.8.3 and allow congregations, RSOs, etc., to be able to call and send missionaries to the international mission field.

The convention concluded early evening on Monday June 8, 2015 with a video of ministry in the North Wisconsin District. Churches are encouraged to share the video with their congregations, located on the District Resources website, with other convention items.