



53rd CONVENTION
To The Ends Of The Earth

MAY 29—30, 2025
MARRIOTT SOUTH PARK MEADOWS - LONE TREE, CO

SECTION I

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CONVENTION FORWARD

53rd District Convention Greetings

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! When we say those ancient words, it is not hard for us to find ourselves with the disciples staring up into heaven still pondering in our hearts two millennia later on yet another ascension day what all of this meant. And just what does it mean that we should be His witnesses "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"? (Acts 1:8)

Reflecting on what "the end of the earth" means or "all nations" as in Luke's Gospel is fitting for us as a movement is afoot within our synod to embrace doctrines of white supremacy. "These things ought not be so." Never should "we curse people who are made in the likeness of God." (James 3:9-10) We are instructed by our Lord to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth so that by His grace when we gather someday before the throne and before the lamb clothed in white robes with palm branches in our hands we may behold a "multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages!" (Revelation 7:9) Thank you in advance to Rev. Warren Graff for helping us to think rightly on these things during our time together as we mediate upon our Lord's mission to seek and save the lost because there are many within the boundaries of our vast District who are lost. Please find Pastor Graff's Abstract and Presentation handout in Section I beginning on Page 9.

It is no secret that the Rocky Mountain District is the second largest geographical district in our synod, but I would argue it is one of the more culturally diverse as well. When Jesus says to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations, we see that in our own backyard! (Luke 24: 47). There are many people who still need to know that Jesus has died and risen for them, and I am humbled that the bulk of our overtures are focused on this topic! Some of the rationale for two of these, Overtures 1-02 and 1-03, is provided by the Mission Rethinking Committee found in Section IV on Pages 3 and 4.

Lastly, to further emphasize our push for mission work, please find the Board of Directors approved job description for the future Mission Executive in the Rocky Mountain District in Section I Pages 12 and 13.

I pray that our time together will be blessed. I am excited for what God has in store for us in the future as we walk together in our effort to carry our Lord's life-giving Gospel to the ends of the earth!

Christ's richest blessings,



Rev. James B. Maxwell
President
Rocky Mountain District
Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

CONVENTION OFFERING



April 24, 2025

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

The 53rd Rocky Mountain District Convention will be held May 29-30. It's a time to gather for worship, learning from God's Word, conducting the business of the Church, and enjoying fellowship with delegates from other congregations around the District.

The Rocky Mountain District is privileged to offer scholarship grant opportunities for future church workers, ordained or commissioned. Through generous gifts of private donors, endowments and other gifts, these scholarship grants offer students studying at one of the LCMS seminaries or Concordia Universities, an opportunity to continue their studies with financial support. The RMD Scholarship Program is this year's Convention offering and we are asking each congregation to bring a special gift toward this offering.

As stewards of scholarship funds, we seek to provide as much grant money as possible to all applicants. To that end, students who receive grant funds that choose to change majors that do not eventually lead to becoming a future church worker, are kindly asked to return grant funds so that they may be used for another applicant.

Thank you for remembering the Rocky Mountain District church workers in your prayers! Thank you for sharing this opportunity with your congregation in support of this ministry in a special offering during the 53rd Rocky Mountain District Convention.

In His service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.B. Maxwell', is written over the printed name.

Rev. James B. Maxwell

President

Rocky Mountain District

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

HOTEL INFORMATION

Denver Marriott South at Park Meadows

10345 Park Meadows Drive
Lone Tree, Colorado 80124
303-925-0004

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/denms-denver-marriott-south-at-park-meadows/overview/>



Our Denver hotel is surrounded by a plethora of prominent Denver destinations, **Denver Marriott South at Park Meadows** helps take the stress out of travel. From going on a shopping spree at Park Meadows to having a day full of fun in the city's Entertainment District, you'll find everything you need within just moments of our doorstep. Our on-site Starbucks® provides the ideal opportunity to get your morning off on the right foot with a fresh cup of coffee and delectable pastry. Tantalize your taste buds with an unforgettable meal at Sonoma's Grill, our restaurant offering various Colorado-inspired cuisine for dinner in a casual atmosphere. When you need a moment to yourself, there's no better place to unwind than in the serenity of our spacious accommodations featuring a blend of high-tech and high-touch amenities such as marble bathrooms, flat-panel TVs and scenic views of the Rocky Mountains.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Check-in: 3:00 PM
Check-out: 12:00 PM

Parking

Complimentary on-site parking

HOTEL INFORMATION

DIRECTIONS

**10345 Park Meadows Drive
Lone Tree, Colorado 80124
303-925-0004**



Directions from Denver International Airport

- This hotel does not provide shuttle service

From Pena Blvd take the E-470 toll way South/E-470 S. exit 6A toward I-70. Merge onto E-470 S. (Portions toll). Take the I-25 exit 1A toward Colorado Springs/Denver. Merge onto I-25 S. via the exit on the left toward Colorado Springs. Take exit 193 / Lincoln Ave from I-25 S. Turn Right on Park Meadows Dr .he hotel driveway will be on the right at 10345 Park Meadows Dr. (32 Miles)



DINING OPTIONS AT THE HOTEL

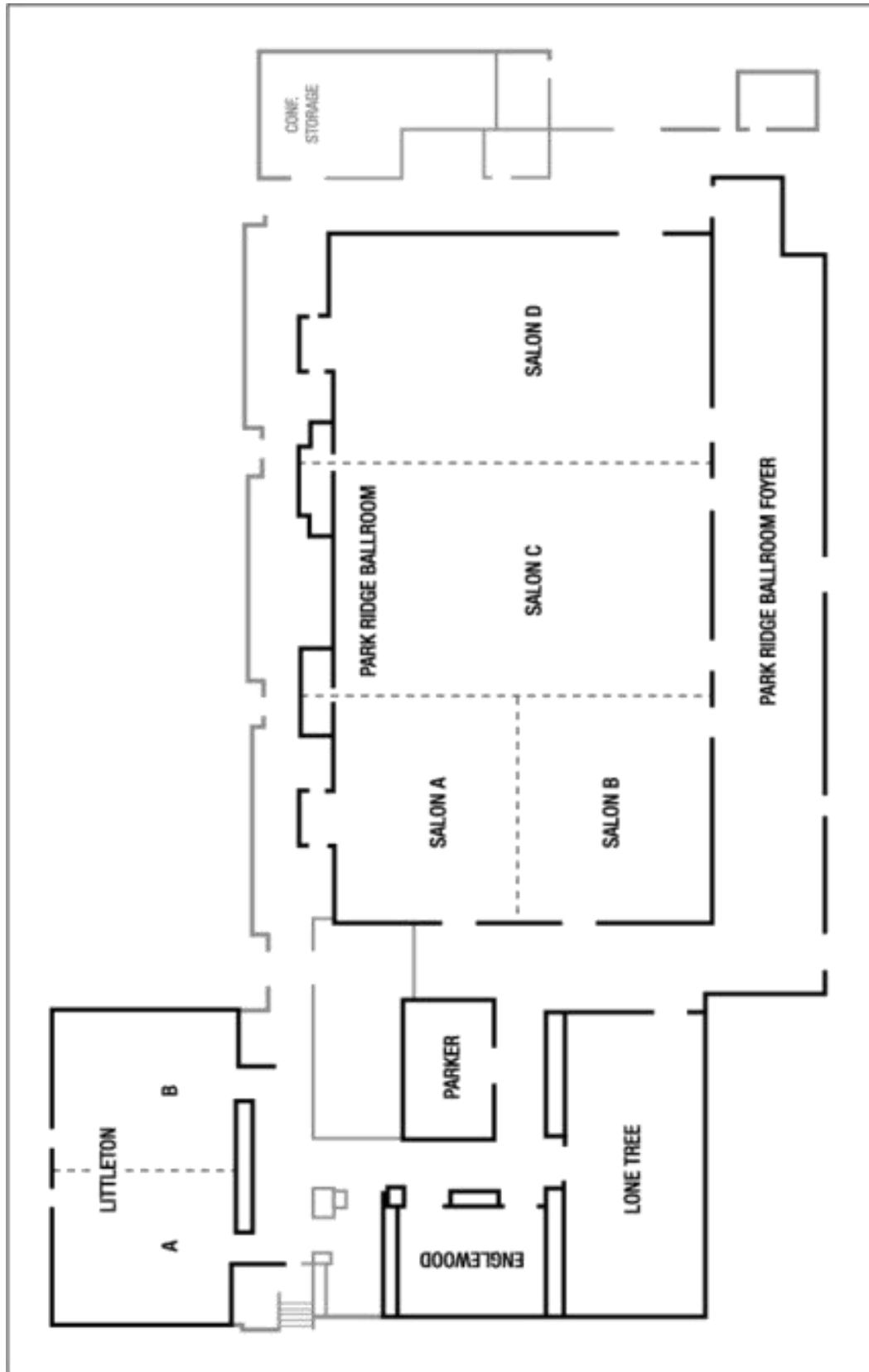
Sonoma'z Grill

Starbucks®

NEARBY RESTAURANTS

• Chili's Grill & Bar	0.5 Miles
• Chipotle Mexican Grill	0.9 Miles
• Clock Tower Grill	2.0 Miles
• Cranelli's Italian Restaurant	0.7 Miles
• Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar	4.0 Miles
• Five Guys	0.6 Miles
• Great Divide Brewery & Roadhouse	1.0 Miles
• Hacienda Colorado Mexican Restaurant	2.0 Miles
• Heidi's Brooklyn Deli	0.7 Miles
• John Holly's Asian Bistro	1.0 Miles
• Mad Greens	2.0 Miles
• Maggiano's Little Italy	4.0 Miles
• Miya Moon Chinese Restaurant	2.0 Miles
• Panera Bread	1.5 Miles
• Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant	1.0 Miles
• Sazon Mexican Restaurant	1.3 Miles
• Via Baci Italian	1.2 Miles
• White Chocolate Grill	2.0 Miles
• Yogurtini	2.0 Miles

MEETING ROOM MAP



GUEST SPEAKER

REV. WARREN GRAFF



Rev. Warren W. Graff received his M.Div. from Concordia Seminary St. Louis. While serving his first call at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Harrison, MI, he completed his S.T.M. in Old Testament Theology with a thesis on "The Intercession of the Prophet," and his interest in the intercession of Christ for the justification of the sinner continues. He has delivered conference papers on subjects such as *The Anthropology of Baalism*, *The Liturgy Delivering the Gospel*, *Ideology in the Church*, and others.

Prior to seminary, he received a B.S. in Economics from the University of Nevada, Reno, and his interest in economics and the theory of Ideology has continued.

Abstract: "All nations of men who dwell upon the face of the Earth."

Essay for the 2025 convention of the Rocky Mountain District, LCMS

The Apostle Paul proclaimed to the men of Athens, "And [the Lord of Heaven and Earth] has made from one blood all the nations of men to dwell upon all the face of the Earth." [Acts 17:26]

Our generation gives us increased attention to racial classification, and brings intensifying open antisemitism. We are presented with two ways of understanding mankind. On the one hand, we are given the way of modernism, or ideology. On the other hand, we have the way given to us in the language of the Prophets and Apostles.

This essay will survey where our culture has us, how we got here, and the jeopardy this brings to the Church, that is, the threat it brings to the proclamation of the justification of the sinner. As the Church, we may rejoice in our creation from Adam and Eve, and even more so, in the justification accomplished for all sinners of every nation by "the Lamb of God who bears the sin of the world." [John 1:19]

SPEAKER HANDOUT

Handout for essay: "**All Nations of Men Who Dwell on the Face of The Earth**"

Rev. Warren Graff (em.), M.Div., S.T.M.—Old Testament, Las Cruces, NM

A. Question for consideration: What is your understanding of human "races"?—how many races?
Where do you think this understanding of humanity originated?

B. Race? Or, Generation?

At 1 Peter 2:9 some translations (modern translations) have "you are a chosen *race*,"
other translations (older translations, NKJV) give "you are a chosen *generation*."

What is the difference?

What might be the origin of this difference in translation?

When was "race" first used not for human *race*, but for *rac*es (plural)?

C. Current Culture, and Church under Attack.

—What are some of the current attacks on our Lord's Church and the proclamation
of the Gospel to all nations, as these attacks are posted on X and other social
media sites?

—Who might be most susceptible to the allure of this attack?

D. Survey of Origins of modernist Race Theory (Enlightenment Era and after).

—What was contributed to Race Theory by

John Ray
Carl Linnaeus
Immanuel Kant

—Karl Marx

How did Marx's class struggle and labor vs. capital affect Race Theory?
What is Marx's attack on the Jews, on the Church?

—John C. Calhoun

How do we see a fusion of Race Theory and Marxist categories on the
American scene with Calhoun's defense of slavery?

—Charles Darwin

What is the effect of Darwin's hierarchy of the races?

—National Socialism

How is Nazi "Aryanism" a fusion of modernist Race Theory with Marxist
categories (i.e., class struggle, labor vs. capital, etc.)?
How is antisemitism seen in the nationalist "German Christian" movement?
How is Race Theory/antisemitism an attack on the Article of Justification?

—Church's Response, Sasse and Bonhoeffer.

— Bethel Confession (August, 1933), Smalcald Articles.
—"Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit."

SPEAKER HANDOUT

E. The Words of the Prophets and the Apostles, Scripture.

- What is Scripture giving us with the word “nations” (eqnos)?
- What is Scripture giving us with the word “lineage” (genos)?
- In New Testament times, what did it mean to be a member of a “nation” or “people”?
I.e., at the time of the Apostles, what determined one’s “ethnicity”?
- What is the Prophet Isaiah (and replete throughout O.T.) giving us with the word “people” (e.g., “my chosen people,” Is. 43:20)?
- What is the Prophet Moses (and replete throughout O.T.) giving to us when he relates the promise sworn to Isaac’s *seed* or *descendants*, Gen. 24:7 (and replete throughout O.T.)?
- How is it that “Everywhere we go is a Noah family reunion”?

F. What is the difference in the way we are taught to speak of the “races” in our world under the influence of modernism and ideology vs. the way we are given to speak of our neighbor by the Prophets and the Apostles? (Typological vs. Genealogical.)

Summary Considerations:

- In our society, who might be most susceptible to the allure of Christian Nationalism, to categories of class struggle and Race Theory and antisemitism?
- How do the Church’s Confessions inform how we may assess modernism’s Race Theory?

God does not want to deal with us in any other way than through the spoken Word and the Sacraments. Whatever is praised as from the Spirit—without the Word and Sacraments—is the devil himself. [Smalcald Articles, III.VIII]

[Our churches] teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for 2 Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. 3 This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight. Rom. 3 and 4. [Augsburg Confession, Art. IV]

- Consider some of our fellow saints in Scripture and how this informs our view of our neighbor and our assessment of “Race Theory”: Ruth the Moabitess, Rahab the Canaanite, Naaman, etc.
- When we are confronted with worldly doctrines of materialism (modernistic doctrines such as race theory, class struggle, etc.), we do not despair or cower in fear. Where does the Church find her hope? (Consider, 1 Cor. 1:23-25; Eph. 6:12; Acts 17:26; 1 Peter 2:9-10; etc.)
- Consideration of RMD proposed resolution.



“FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS” – MATTHEW 17:20

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR MISSIONS

Position Description Overview
April 2025

PURPOSE:

To spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and His shed blood across the Rocky Mountain District by offering vision, leadership, and accountability in both development of new mission endeavors and cultivation of existing ministries engaged in community outreach. The primary goal of this position is to serve the pastors, circuits, and congregations of the District who express willingness to be challenged, stretched, and reinvigorated to reach unbelievers and the lost for Christ’s kingdom, through effective outreach initiatives and partnerships.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Active member of a LCMS congregation with pastoral recommendation
- Successful church Planting experience preferred
- Understands the systems, organization, polity, and diversity of LCMS congregations, schools, and other ministries
- Demonstrable training and experience that reflects ongoing personal and professional growth as a Christian
- Demonstrable self-initiative

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Mission Executive is directly responsible to the District President for carrying out these and other duties delegated as necessary. The Mission Executive will oversee the development and implementation of District mission advancement in the following areas:

♦ **DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Assist in the development and oversight a comprehensive communication program for telling the story of our congregations, schools and other ministries

MISSION EXEC

- ♦ **MISSION EDUCATION:**
 - Assist and support congregations in the identification and development of externally focused ministries
 - Develop and disseminate mission education materials
 - Serve as liaison between the District and other mission-related entities for resourcing and consultation, i.e. LCMS Office of National Mission
 - Lead presentations for congregations, RSO's, schools, chapels, and other gatherings
- ♦ **DISASTER RESPONSE:**
 - Oversee the work of the District Disaster Response coordinators and their teams for emergency readiness program implementation
- ♦ **CAMPUS MINISTRY:**
 - Oversee the implementation of a sustainable campus ministry plan
- ♦ **CHURCH PLANTING:**
 - Oversee the development, implementation, and evaluation of regional strategic approaches for church planting
- ♦ **MINISTRY REVITALIZATION:**
 - Develop, implement, and evaluate a strategic approach for church revitalization, multi-point parish arrangements, closures and mergers
- ♦ **RECONCILIATION:**
 - Assist in the oversight of Reconciliation team development, deployment and ongoing training
- ♦ **STEWARDSHIP:**
 - Develop and implement programs of biblical stewardship
- ♦ **FUND DEVELOPMENT**
 - Develop, implement, and evaluate a District fund-raising plan including donor support, donor development, and benchmarking

COMPENSATION:

Salary range: \$90,000 to \$110,000

Full Concordia Plan Benefits for entire family

Thank You!

- Lutheran Church Extension Fund
- Concordia University—Irvine, CA
- Ad Crucem

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At Concordia University Irvine, you'll have the freedom to grow in faith, pursue your interests, and use your talents to serve others. On our beautiful, sunny campus in Southern California, you'll be part of a caring Lutheran community and make relationships that last a lifetime.

Why Choose Concordia?

- Nationally ranked Lutheran university
- 60+ majors and minors
- Small classes with Christian faculty
- NCAA Division II PacWest athletics
- Mission trips and service projects
- LCMS church work scholarships

"The opportunity that I have had to teach my fellow students about Jesus is the biggest way that I have grown in my faith. Every day, I am in a fellowship of believers that supports me in many ways."

Sam H., '25



Explore Concordia

  @concordiairvine

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EXHIBITORS

We are pleased to welcome the following exhibitors to the 53rd Convention of the Rocky Mountain District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Please take time during the convention to greet and get to know these organizations.

Ad Crucem	adcrucem.com
Concordia Deaconess Conference	concordiadeaconessconference.org/
Concordia Plans - St. Louis, MO	concordiaplans.org
Concordia Publishing House - St. Louis, MO	cph.org
Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO	csl.edu
Concordia Theological Seminary - Ft. Wayne, IN	ctsfw.edu
Concordia University - Irvine, CA	cui.edu
Concordia University - Saint Paul, MN	csp.edu
Concordia University - Seward, NE	cune.edu
Hmong International Mission (HIM)	missionofchrist.org/lo/
LCMS Foundation	https://www.lcmsfoundation.org/
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces - St. Louis, MO	lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces
Lutheran Church Extension Fund - St. Louis, MO	lcef.org
Lutheran Heritage Foundation	https://www.lhfmissions.org/
Lutheran Hour Ministries - St. Louis, MO	lhm.org
Rocky Mountain District Life Ministry	rm.lcms.org/rmd-missions-ministries/ affirming-life
Scripture in Motion	Scriptureinmotion.com
University Lutheran Chapel - Boulder, CO	universitylutheranchapel.com

TECH SUPPORT

DJ Maestro

<https://www.djmaestro.com/>