

2021 NORTHERN REGIONAL PASTORS' CONFERENCE INDIANA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Where: Oakwood Resort, 702 E. Lake View Road, Syracuse, IN 46567
(www.oakwoodresort.com)

When: Monday, May 10 and Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Moving forward through the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic

As Lutheran pastors, we hold the Office of the Ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the functions of that Office lies at the center of our vocation. But for more than a year, the pandemic has changed the way we perform Word and Sacrament ministry. We have each individually done our best to continue serving through societal shutdowns, social distancing, mask wearing, restrictions on visiting in hospitals and institutions, our own members' reluctance to gather, differences in opinion on how best to approach COVID-19 precautions, and more. Now things are beginning to reopen and we are looking forward to a time, likely later this year, when we will be less encumbered by an active pandemic.

Yet as the threat of COVID-19 recedes our communities have been changed. Our congregations have been changed. And we have been changed as well. We have all learned new skills and adapted our ministry in some way. And the question now is: how do we move forward? What have we learned which can be profitably used in the coming years? What are we happy to leave behind? What new skills will we need and what new concerns will we face in a post-pandemic world? This is the focus of our 2021 North Region Pastors' conference, where we will gather for two days to discuss the positive and negative changes we've experienced through the COVID-19 pandemic, and how we might faithfully move forward as Lutheran pastors and congregations today.

We will have four sessions, with a presentation and time of discussion to help us move forward:

Session 1) Mental, spiritual, and emotional health: ministering to those affected by isolation, anxiety, and depression

Session 2) Self-care: recognizing and dealing with the burden Covid-19 has placed on pastors

Session 3) The role of technology in congregational life: aiding, not replacing, Word and Sacrament ministry

Session 4) Coming back to church: encouraging our people toward faithful reception of the Lord's gifts

It's time for the annual Northern Regional Pastors' Conference of the Indiana District, held once again at Oakwood Resort in Syracuse, IN.

Please register **online or fill out** the attached registration form and return it to the District offices no later than **Monday, April 12, 2021**. Please make checks payable to: **Indiana District LCMS (memo: Northern Region Pastors' Conference)**. You may pay online or mail your registration form and payment to: LCMS—Indiana District Office, attn: Lisa Slack, 1145 South Barr St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

Because this is an official conference of the Indiana District, the District asks that **each congregation pay the registration fee**, even if the pastor does not attend the conference or if the congregation is vacant.

If your status is as an inactive member (candidate or emeritus) of the Northern Region, we would like to offer you the opportunity to attend the conference free of charge. While you will still be responsible for your own hotel accommodations, the committee wanted to make sure that conference cost would not be a factor keeping you from attending. If your wife is planning on attending we do ask that you pay the \$60 fee for her meals. Please use the Inactive Registration Form (paper) or mark accordingly for online registration.

Conference attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. The hotel has set aside a block of rooms for our conference. All rooms are \$85.00 per night (plus applicable taxes and fees). **Any rooms unreserved in this block will be released 30 days prior to the start of the conference. That means the deadline is APRIL 10.**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: If you are interested in serving on the conference planning committee, please notify Rev. Joe Ferry no later than Friday, May 7. His contact information is: joe@southwestlutheran.org or (260)436-4474.

Thanks for your support of the Northern Regional Pastors' Conference. We look forward to seeing you in May!

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES E.D.T.):

Monday, May 10

10am – Opening Divine Service
Shepherd By the Lakes
7449 E 1000 N
Syracuse, IN
11:00 a.m. – Conference registration begins
12:00 p.m. – Lunch (downstairs)
1:00 p.m. – Welcome
1:05 p.m. – Session 1
2:35 p.m. – Break
2:45 p.m. – Session 2
4:15 p.m. – Vespers (chapel)
4:45 p.m. – Break
6:00 p.m. – Dinner (downstairs)
7:30 p.m. – Fellowship on your own
9:00 p.m. – Compline (chapel)

Tuesday, May 11

Breakfast on your own
8:00 a.m. – Matins (chapel)
8:45 a.m. – Session 3
10:15 a.m. – Greetings from Visitors & Break
10:45 a.m. Conference & District Business
11:45 a.m. – Brief Noontime Prayer Office
(conference room)
12:00 p.m. – Lunch (downstairs)
1:30 p.m. – Session 4
3:00 p.m. – Itinerarium (conference center)
Supper on your own