



## The Dakota-Montana District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

May 27, 2024

Dear brothers in Christ:

St. Peter tells us, *"We have the words of the prophets made more certain.... [M]en spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit"* (2 Peter 1:19, 21). As we enter the "long" Pentecost season, the half-year of the Church, it comforts us to know that the words we hear each week in our services did not come from the minds of men, but from God. And our God has a goal in mind: to make us certain. He removes our doubts as he shows what those prophets' words were about. They were about Christ our Lord and Savior!

Even though our District Conventions are the place where we conduct the business of our District's and their ministries, at the same time, it is a place where God speaks to us in his Word and continues his work of making us certain. So many delegates over the years spoke most highly not about resolutions and reports, but about the words they heard from God as we gather together.

Your brothers in the Dakota-Montana District greet you. We pray that the Lord bless you as you meet together in your conventions and hear God speak to you through his Word and make you more certain: Jesus became your sin so that you can be his righteousness.

The Dakota-Montana District meets for its 52<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention on June 11-13 at Great Plains Lutheran High School. The theme of our convention is *"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever."* Prof. Jacob Behnken, from Martin Luther College, will expand on this verse from Psalm 89 as we talk about the many and varied gifts our Lord has provided for us over the centuries through the use of hymns and hymnals. This topic comes to mind as 2024 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Lutheran hymnal.

Our Convention devotions and Divine Service will strengthen our certainty in our Lord's great forever love. What a gift that is to anticipate as we prepare to gather together the delegates of our District. May your district be so blessed!

God be with you!

Your servant in Christ,

*Benjamin J Tomczak*

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