



April 10, 2024

An Invitation to the Theological Convocations

Brothers,

Easter greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life!

As we bask in the resurrection triumph of our Lord over sin and death, I write to offer a brief word of encouragement to attend the forthcoming theological convocations.

While I journey all over the district visiting circuit meetings, I give thanks for how they are a place of mutual conversation and consolation. Each circuit has its own personality, just as each pastor does. Yet, we come together to hash out life and ministry in an age that is becoming ever more hostile to the faith.

To promote that fraternal encouragement and theological sharpening all the more, the MNS District is facilitating four theological convocations which are open to all church workers and laity. The intent is to provide the opportunity for robust theological conversation and fraternal encouragement as we engage in four topics of practical and theological interest.

Each convocation is being held in a local congregation within each respective region of the district. I will facilitate each convocation. The speakers are all pastors from within our own MNS District. Two speakers on the topics will offer perspectives with two respondents to follow. The goal is not to create sides of “us” vs. “them” but to fraternally engage and encourage one another in what we believe, teach, and confess.

The framework of engagement will be by way of three categories: absolutes, personal convictions, and preferences. Within their presentation, plenary speakers have been asked to identify what they believe to be binding nonnegotiable absolutes that we pledge ourselves to uphold and practice, while also identifying what may be personal convictions (which may or may not be rooted in an absolute) or simple preferences (which are not binding and, therefore, means we offer latitude and discretion to one another on the matter). Beyond that, speakers will be free to engage with attendees as they see fit. Respondents will provide a brief specific perspective in response. There will be break-out group discussions after the presentations, followed by plenary group discussion and Q & A, which I will moderate.

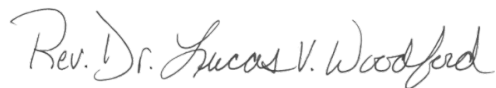
I encourage you to attend each and every one of these convocations, but at a minimum I request you at least attend the one in your region. They are open to all church workers and laity. You can register at [this link](#) that we might make sure we have food for you there.

The four different topics and locations are:

- Region One: Friday, May 31, 9:00 am - Noon at Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights
Topic: Ecclesiology and the Future of the LCMS
- Region Two: Friday, September 20, 9:00 am - Noon at Glory of Christ, Plymouth
Topic: Worship Theology and Practice
- Region Three: Friday, October 18, 9:00 am - Noon at Trinity, Rochester
Topic: Office of the Ministry and Routes to Ordination
- Region Four: Friday, October 25, 9:00 am - Noon at St. Paul, Fulda
Topic: Theology of the Practice of the Lord's Supper

Hope to see you there!

Your brother in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford
President, MN South District
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