



## Agenda and Information Booklet

Biennial Convention 2016

The ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

PROVERBS 18:15

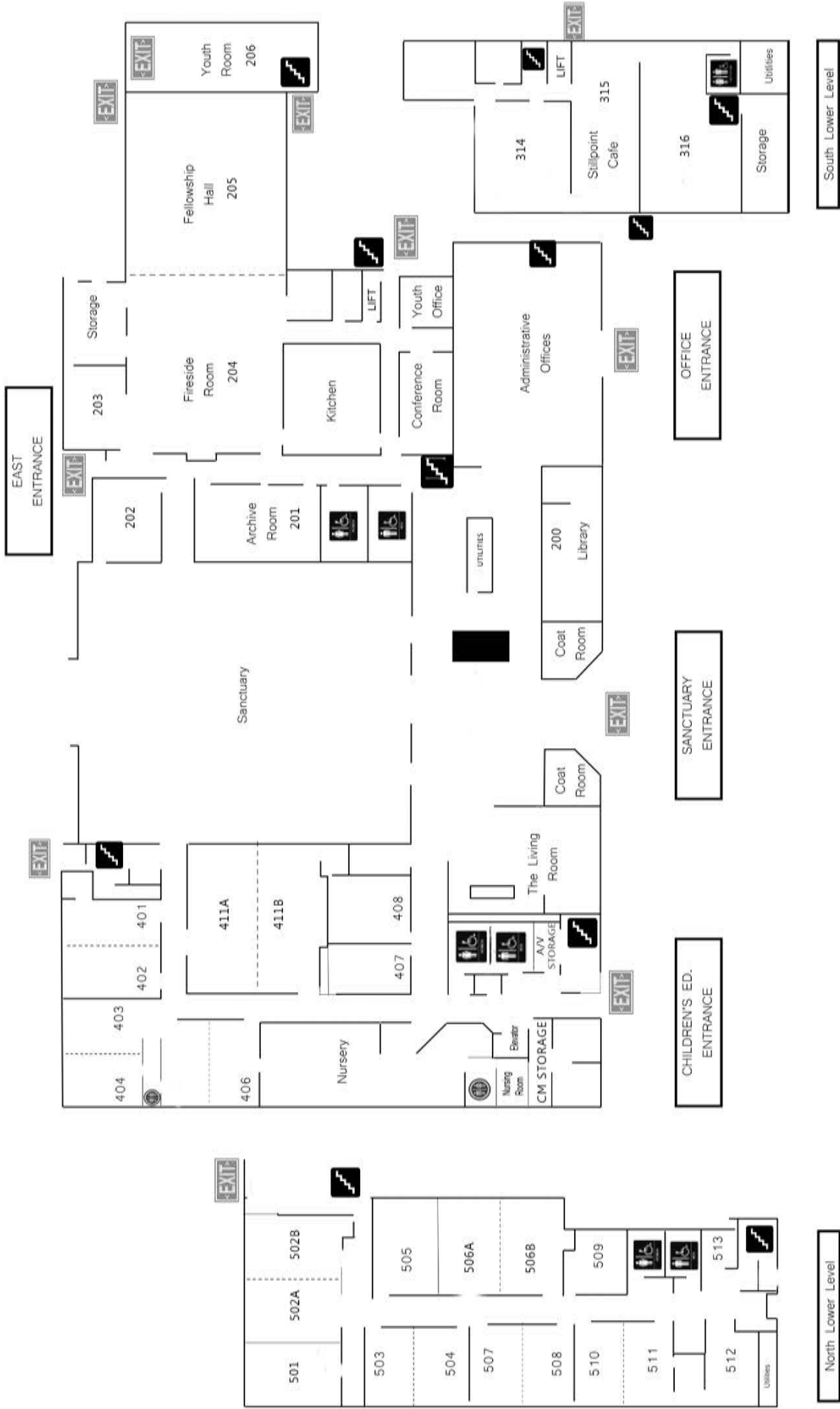
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# Bethel Lutheran Church



North Lower Level

South Lower Level

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WORKSHOP: ANN MARIE STENBERG****BETHEL 503/504**

In this workshop participants will be guided through a step-by-step process on how to put on a Children's Christmas Program in either small or large churches using either prerecorded music (CD) or with live piano accompaniment. Through the use of reasonably priced programs from Cathy's Music, time-proven steps will be shared including teaching the children basic theological principles through song as well as hearing and acting out the Nativity story. Participants in the workshop will leave with confidence that putting on a Children's Christmas program is doable with or without live music, or even a good singing voice, and that it is a great outreach tool for their church.

**ONLY FOR THE CONFLICTED: PHIL HEISER AND WARREN GERAGHTY****BETHEL 506 A/B**

It is like air...conflict is everywhere! It is in our lives, families and churches! Come to learn more about conflict's origin, the Gospel's remedy, helpful peacemaking resources for you and your church and a vision for a denomination-wide reconciliation ministry. Will conclude with Q/A for those having bodacious issues.

**HOW PEOPLE DO CHURCH TOGETHER: DAVID VEUM****BETHEL 507/508**

How we might better manage change, identify health problems and develop healthier relationship patterns in subsystems of a congregation.

**TALKING TO STRANGERS: ERICK SORENSEN****BETHEL 316**

Who are these people? What are their fears? What are their desires? Where do they find hope? What are their idols? The job of the missionary and church planter is to answer these questions and to contextualize the gospel message of Jesus Christ in a meaningful way for the people they are trying to reach. Rev. Erick Sorensen explores the process of exegeting your context. He offers simple tools that can be used in rural towns as well as major urban centers.

**LIVING WATERS: DAN VENBERG**

**BETHEL 411 A/B**

Living Waters is a ministry of Lutheran Brethren International Mission. It incorporates the physical installation of water wells with an ongoing commitment to evangelistic ministry. Join Dan Venberg as he discusses the strategy of meeting physical needs... so that we might quench spiritual thirst.

**TECHNOLOGY, LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND THE CHALLENGE OF THE GOSPEL: BRUCE HILLMAN**

**BETHEL SANCTUARY**

In a world of posts, blogs, fast news, tweets, snapchats and online media, language is important. For perhaps the first time in history, most of us are known predominately through text—whether that be an online presence or a facetime call. As electronic connectedness increases, the power and use of language takes on ever more important consequences for cultural change. In this lecture we'll look at the effect of language, political correctness and electronic media on culture. We'll trace some of the ways technology has shaped culture to produce a society of anxiety, inwardness and "spirituality." And we'll evaluate how the Gospel intersects and departs from the current zeitgeist and offers a way forward and an opportunity for the Church to fulfill her mission."

**WINSOME WARRIORS: TAKING GOD'S LOVE TO THE SPIRITUAL BATTLEFIELD: CAROLYN McELETRICK**

**BETHEL 502 A/B**

The conscience of America is increasingly controlled more by political correctness and emotion than by God's Word. How do we, as Christians, determine our role in a changing society and be authentic "light in the darkness" to a rapidly deteriorating culture?

**GOD'S HEART FOR THE DISABLED IN EAST ASIA: ELIZABETH CHRISTENSON**

**BETHEL 502 A/B**

Elizabeth along with her husband, Dr. Joel, are missionaries in East Asia. She will share her vision for reaching out in compassion to the disabled of her country. Presently an effort is underway, motivated by the love of Christ, to train caregivers and to provide support for families whose children suffer. Women's Ministries-Church of the Lutheran Brethren has made this outreach their Focus Project for the coming year.

# 2016 COD NOMINATIONS

CLB

## COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Paul Larson 2018

### SYNODICAL SECRETARY

Phil Heiser\* 2016 Scott Dunsmore or  
Mark Nienow

### CLB CANADA

Bernie Foster 2016 Art Hundebly  
Jon Overland 2018  
Greg Butler 2018

### EASTERN REGION

Matthew DeKok 2018  
James Bossert 2016 James Bossert\*\*  
Brad Hoganson 2018

### CENTRAL REGION

Rich Iverson 2016 Rich Iverson\*\*  
Robert McElpatrick 2016 Noel Holtan  
Michael Swenson 2018

## NOMINEES FOR 2016 ELECTION

### WESTERN REGION

Ron Erickson 2016 Shawn Bowman  
Scott Skones 2016 Scott Skones\*\*  
Marvin Nelson 2018

### PACIFIC REGION

Jim Erickson 2018  
Warren Hall 2018  
Larry Fransson 2016 Marcus Goodman

\* Called as Regional Pastor

\*\* Incumbent

## NOMINATIONS FOR SECRETARY

**Scott Dunsmore:** Scott is Vice President of Training and Business Development at Lion Technology Inc., an EHS compliance training company based in Sparta, New Jersey. He has attended Hillside Lutheran Brethren Church since 1994. In 2008 Scott was ordained as elder at Hillside. He is currently serving as Chairman of the Congregation on the Church Council. Scott lives in Roxbury Township, New Jersey with his wife, Melissa. They have three daughters from ages 16 to 22.

**Mark Nienow:** Pastor Nienow is Lead pastor at Gethsemane LBC in Rochester, MN. Pastor Mark Nienow first began attending Gethsemane Lutheran Brethren Church in 2001 and served as a volunteer youth ministry leader with his wife, Andrea. He joined the staff at Gethsemane following graduation from Lutheran Brethren Seminary in Fergus Falls, Minnesota in 2007 and was ordained September, 2008. Pastor Nienow is a native of southeastern Minnesota, and a 1995 graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. In addition, he completed Tentmakers youth ministry training in 1995. His previous ministry work spanned six years, beginning as a Youth Director and then working as the Director of Discipleship Training at a suburban Chicago church. Pastor Nienow and Andrea have two young sons, Luke and Caleb.

## NOMINATIONS FROM THE EASTERN REGION

**James Bossert:** James is an ordained Elder and chairman of the Elder board at Bethany Lutheran Brethren Church in Staten Island New York. He has been a member of the Council Of Directors for one year now and serves on the Communications committee. For the past three years Jim has been the co-leader, along with Regional Pastor Warren Geraghty, of the Eastern District Pastors and Elders retreat at Tuscarora Conference Center in Pennsylvania. Jim is employed by the New York City Fire Department as a Battalion Chief in Brooklyn NY. He is married to Laura, has two adult sons and two grandchildren.

### NOMINATIONS FORM THE CENTRAL REGION

**Noel Holtan:** Noel is an Ordained Elder at Bethel LBC, Joice, IA. Nolan served in the United States Air Force and farmed near Leland IA along with serving as a substitute Rural Mail Carrier. He has been an active church member and has held office in the Winnebago County Farm Bureau. He is married to Joyce and has three adult sons, 5 grandchildren and they are expecting their 6th granddaughter in August.

**Richard Iverson:** Pastor Iverson is from Fergus Falls, MN. He was born and raised in Toronto, SD. Graduated from Seattle LBI (1982), Concordia College, Moorhead, MN (1984) and Lutheran Brethren Seminary (1990). Served as houseparents for the CLB in Jos, Nigeria, 1985-87. Served as Pastor at Bethesda Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI (90-93); Good Shepherd Lutheran, Buda, Texas (93-00); Hope Lutheran, Barnesville, MN (00-12); Associate Pastor Bethel Lutheran, Fergus Falls, MN (12- current). He is married to Karen since 1983, six children, one son-in-law, and one grandchild.

### NOMINATIONS FORM THE WESTERN REGION

**Shawn Bowman:** Pastor Bowman is Senior Pastor of Victory Lutheran Brethren Church, Jamestown, ND where he is known as “The Evangelist”. He was born and raised in North Dakota on a small farm near Maddock and received a Bachelor in Science specializing in Agricultural Education from North Dakota State University in 1993. He attended the Lutheran Brethren Seminary during the 1996-1997 school years and then worked as an agricultural consultant in Devils Lake, North Dakota and then returned to seminary in 2001 for continued training and graduated with a Master’s of Divinity in the spring of 2004. Shawn and his wife Suzanne have four sons.

**Scott Skones:** Scott is an ordained elder, Licensed Lay Pastor, and has been part of the staff of Our Redeemer’s Church in Minot, ND, since 2004. Scott focuses most of his energy on leveraging technology to further the mission of Our Redeemer’s Church & Christian School. He also loves to teach, preach, and help people become more grounded in God’s word. Scott has served on the CLB Youth Convention Committee since 2010. He has been married to Angela since 2004 and they have two daughters.

### NOMINATION FORM THE PACIFIC REGION

**Marcus Goodman:** Marcus is an ordained elder and congregational president at Peace Lutheran Brethren Church in Olympia, WA. Marcus is both a leader and supporter of CLB regional and national ministry. He has served the past several years as chairman of our PNW LEAD (STEP) retreat held at Cannon Beach every spring. Marcus has been both a youth and adult Bible study leader at Peace LBC. Marcus works for the City of Olympia as a Storm/Sewer Operations Supervisor. He is married to Kim, and they have two daughters.

### NOMINATION FORM THE CLB CANADA/NOMINEE FOR LAYPERSON

**Art Hundebly:** Art is an ordained elder at Rock of Ages Lutheran Brethren Church in Saskatoon, SK. He served for three and a half years as the CLB Canada Regional Pastor and prior to this, for over twelve years as pastor at Rock of Ages, first as an associate and then as lead. Art is married to Connie. They have three children and ten grandchildren.

# BC16 AGENDA:

*All events at Bethel Lutheran Church unless noted differently*

## SATURDAY, JULY 16

Registration Open: 7:30 at Bethel and LBS

Women's Ministry Convention: 8:30–3:30

Day of Equipping: 8:30–4:00 at LBS

Opening Business Session: 11:30–11:50

- Opening Prayer
- Report of the Credentials Committee
- Call to Order
- Introductions of Staff and Materials
- Schedule Adopted
- Agenda Adopted
- Procedure Announcements
- Consideration of Speaking Rights
- Election of Convention Committees
- Recognition of Missionaries and Military Chaplains Present
- Recognition of Visiting Guests

Prayer Gathering: 6:30–6:50 in the Bethel Prayer Room

Opening Service 7:00–8:00 Chap Clark

- Refreshments following the Service – YC17

## SUNDAY, JULY 17

Morning Worship in CLB Congregations

Registration Open: 2:30–4:00 at Bethel

CLB Jubilee: 4:00–8:00 at Delagoon Park

## MONDAY, JULY 18

Registration open: 7:30–8:30 at Bethel

Coffee and Community: 7:30–8:30

Morning Light: 8:30–9:10

Convention Committees: 9:15–10:15

Break: 10:15–10:30

Business Session: 10:30–Noon

- Departmental & Committee Reports

Lunch: Lunch Truck or Restaurants

Pension and Benefit lunch • Pastors' Wives Lunch

Business Session: 1:15–2:30

- Nomination of Candidates:  
Secretary, Council of Directors, and Resolutions Committee
- Financial Year-end and Parochial Report
- Election:  
Secretary, Council of Directors, and Resolutions Committee
- Congregations Received as Members of the CLB
- Presentation of the New Budget
- Announcement of Election Results

Breakout Workshops: 2:45–3:40

Breakout Workshops: 3:45–4:40

Prayer Gathering: 6:30–6:50 in the Bethel Prayer Room

Evening Service: 7:00–8:00 Paul Larson – Commissioning

- Reception for those Commissioned

## TUESDAY, JULY 19

Lutheran Brethren Homes Annual Meeting: 7:00–8:15

Bethel Fellowship Hall: Breakfast

Coffee and Community: 8:00–8:30

Morning Light: 8:30–9:10

Business Session: 9:15–10:00

Final/Other Business, Disposition of Minutes and Adjournment

Break: 10:00–10:15

Songs of Worship: 10:15

Undone Mission: 10:30–Noon

- David and Sonja Narvesen
- President Paul Larson
- Church planter panel
- LOE vision
- Pray CLB
- Lord's Supper
- Benediction



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