

Welcome to Worship

This convention appropriately begins with worship. May the Lord bless us as we praise his name and proclaim his gospel to one another, gaining strength as Christ works in us through Word and sacrament that Christ may continue to work through us in the world.

There are restrooms to the left and right in the commons as you leave the chapel.

Our Worship's Theme

This year's convention theme is "Christ through us." We take the opportunity to look back over 175 years of WELS history and marvel at the work the Lord has accomplished through us, often in spite of us. But before we can speak of Christ's work through us, we must lay the foundation of Christ's work for us. "Christ for us" is more than a motto. It's the heart and core of the gospel.

This evening's opening service will center convention attendees in the "for us" of Christ, his person, and his work.

The daily devotions this week will then unfold the theme of Christ "through us" in the core areas of our synodical work (publications, worker training, and missions).

Our closing service will give thanks to God for past blessings as we look to the future with confidence. Only because Christ is decidedly for us, can we be confident that God has been our "help in ages past" and remains our "hope for years to come."

The Orders of Service

The worship materials for this year's convention make use of five orders of service in *Christian Worship* 2021:

- The opening service utilizes "The Service: Setting II" (pp. 172–187). Setting II was composed with musical versatility in mind. Tonight's service will feature both the contemporary liturgical ensemble and the organ/brass settings. Both packets of musical accompaniments are available for download at nph.net.
- The morning devotions use orders from the "Daily Devotions" section of the hymnal (pp. 235–258). These short orders originate from the ancient *daily office*, which was prayed in monastic and other ecclesiastical communities. Each brief service includes a psalm, a hymn, the Word of God, and prayer. Congregations may consider using these services for school chapels, meetings, retreats, and Bible studies.
- The closing service uses the "Service of Word and Prayer" (pp. 266–269). This flexible service highlights the proclamation of the Word and provides the assembly with opportunities to respond through psalmody, hymnody, and prayer.

The Music

A wide variety of psalmody, hymnody, and liturgy demonstrates the musical bandwidth of *Christian Worship 2021*. It is hoped that convention participants will benefit from exposure to these materials whether their home parishes have already moved to the new hymnal or are still going through a period of study and building consensus.

The opening service intentionally features a wide variety of vocalists and instrumentalists. While most WELS parishes may not have access to such a broad range of musical resources, the takeaway is that festival services can be truly *festive*, regardless of the local context. Parishes and schools can plan to utilize the many and varied gifts God has given them for significant services throughout the year.

Worshipers should note how the choir is integrated into the opening service. The convention choir will function as a *liturgical choir*. In most WELS churches, choirs tend to focus on an anthem, often at the expense of the other musical elements in the service. *A liturgical choir seeks to support the assembly in praying the liturgy*. Note how the choir actively participates in singing the Gloria, provides musical commentary by singing the Psalm and Gospel Acclamation, and lends musical texture and meaning to the Hymn of the Day. The choir will sing an anthem during the distribution of the Lord's Supper. Historically, this is the way that Lutheran choirs functioned in worship. The new *Christian Worship: Psalter* aims to help WELS choirs revive that ancient choral tradition.

The daily devotions and closing service will be more typical of worship in many of our churches with musical leadership provided by organ and cantor. Simplicity does not mean second-rate worship. Confessional Lutheran parishes strive for a faithful proclamation of the gospel and a thoughtful use of the gifts God provides, whether those gifts be many and varied or few and familiar.

As a synod, WELS has much for which to pray, praise, and give thanks. He who reconciled us to the Father has committed to us the message of reconciliation! May the Christ who is for us be pleased to work through us in this our day.

Prof. A. Christie Mequon, Wisconsin The Second Sunday of Pentecost 2025

Convention Offering



Offerings from the convention worship services will go toward the synod's 175th **Anniversary Fund** to support worker training and North American and international ministry.

You can give online throughout the convention.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Preservice Music

Jerusalem

Mark Sedio © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Choral varié, sur le thème du Veni Creator, op. 4

Maurice Duruflé Durand Editions

Processional Hymn

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation | 624

Setting: Carl Schalk (1929–2021) MorningStar Music Publishers (MSM–60–9003)

As the hymn is introduced, stand and face the processional cross in the back of the chapel. Follow its path to the chancel, where it serves as a symbol of the focus of Christian worship.



In the name of the Father and of the ♥ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \maltese Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



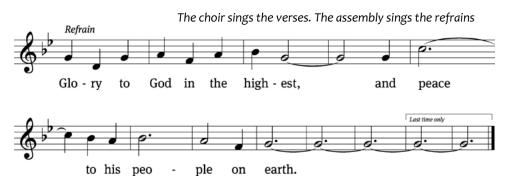
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Glory to God in the Highest



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

The Word

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear his call and follow him by faith that we may feast with him forever in his kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading Genesis 3:8–15

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

"And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

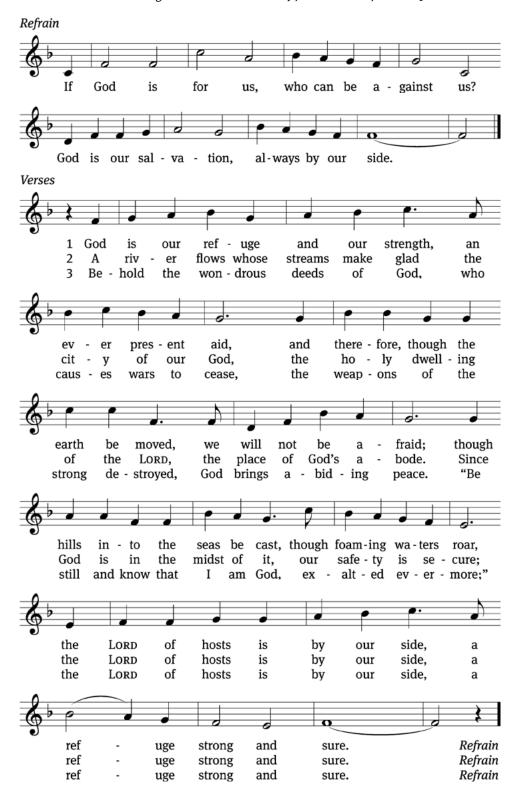
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Text and Music: James Chepponis GIA Publications, Inc. (G-5948)

The choir sings the refrain. All repeat the refrain and sing it again as indicated.

The choir sings verses 1-2. The assembly joins the choir for verse 3.



Second Reading Ephesians 1:3–14

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

2 Timothy 1:10

The choir sings the refrain. All repeat the refrain before and after the verse.



Choir: Christ Jesus has destroyed death

and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Refrain

Gospel

John 1:9–14

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth | 571

Arrangement: Alfred Fedak Northwestern Publishing House (2806173E)



Sermon John 1:9–14

"Are you kidding me?!"

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregations. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition.] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering

Church Sonata in E-flat Major, K.67

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Offerings from the convention worship services will go toward the synod's **175th Anniversary Fund** to support worker training and North American and international ministry. Online giving information is included on page 4.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ♣ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my № blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

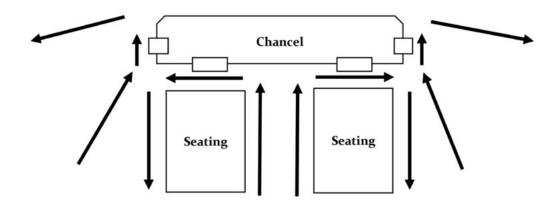
Jesus, Lamb of God



Be seated

Distribution

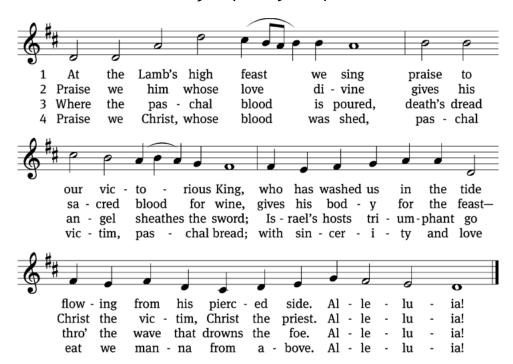
The Lord's Supper will be served in tables. At the direction of the ushers, form a line at the chancel step. Those seated in the center pews will commune in the front of the chancel. Those seated to the sides will commune at their respective side of the chancel.



At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 675

Setting: John Leavitt GIA Publications, Inc. (G-2980)

1: All 2: Choir 3: All 4: Choir 5: All 6-7: Choir 8: All



- Mighty Victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie. You have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- **Anthem**
 - Jesus, Sun of Life, my Splendor,
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
 At your feet I cry; my maker,
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven,
 For our good, your glory given.

- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 newborn souls in you to be.
 Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

Jesus, Sun of Life, My Splendor

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) Arrangement: Paul Bunjes

Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray you, Let me gladly here obey you. By your love I am invited, Be your love with love requited; By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure. Through the gift of grace you give me As your guest in heav'n receive me.

With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord | 658

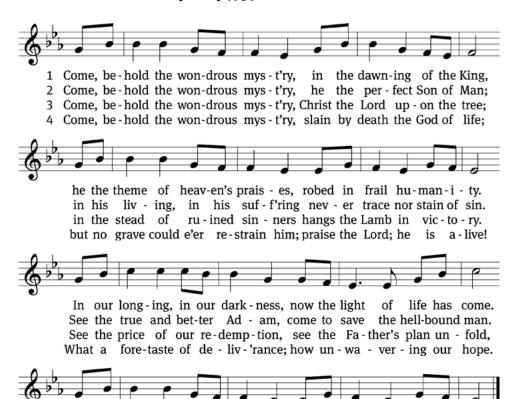
Organ stanza: Jacob B. Weber



Jesus, My Great High Priest | 538



Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery | 535



Look to Christ, who con-de-scend-ed, took on flesh to ran-som us. Christ the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law; in him we stand. bring-ing man - y sons to glo - ry, grace un - mea-sured, love un - told. Christ in pow - er res-ur - rect - ed as will we be when he comes.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ₱ give you peace.

Amen.

Setting: Charles Schram Jr.



Postlude

Finale from Symphony no. 1, op. 14

Louis Vierne Durand Editions

Serving at Worship

Preacher: Rev. Mark Gabb, administrator for WELS Home Missions

Presiding minister: Rev. Mark Schroeder, WELS president

Cantor: Rev. James Huebner, Grace, Milwaukee, Wis.

Director: Prof. Adrian Smith, MLC **Choir:** Area WELS/ELS members

Organ/Choir accompanist: Benjamin Foster

Trumpet: Jason Horn, Josiah Smith

Trombone: Grace Foster, Rivers Nelson

Percussion: Zachary Scharlemann

Guitar: Aaron Spike

Electric bass: Dave Urness

Oboe: Ella Wurster

Violin: Eden Carlovsky, Nathaniel Carlovsky, Jamis Martens, Lydia Meyer, Sebastian Smith, Bethany

Spike

Viola: Sebastian Smith

Cello: Isaiah Smith, Dave Urness

String bass: Leah Menzel

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from *Christian Worship*

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation. Text: Latin, c. 8th cent., abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, abr., alt. Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–1695, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain.

Lord, Have Mercy. Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Glory to God in the Highest. Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

Psalm 46E. Text: James Chepponis Tune: James Chepponis. Text and tune: © 2004 GIA Publications, Inc.

Gospel Acclamation. Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc.

O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth. Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt. Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918 Text: © 1967 Lutheran Council in the USA, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Tune: Public domain.

Holy, Holy, Holy. Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing. Text: Latin, c. 4th-10th cent., alt. 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt. Tune: Kirchengeseng, Ivancice, 1566. Text and tune: Public domain.

With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord. Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553 Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Tune: Public domain.

Jesus, My Great High Priest. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt. Tune: Roger R. Ross, 1817-1899. Text and tune: Public domain.

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery. Text: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Michael Bleeker, b. 1977 Tune: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Michael Bleeker, b. 1977 Text and tune: © 2013 McKinney Music, Inc. /Getty Music Hymns and Songs/Getty Music Publishing/Love Your Enemies Publishing, admin. MusicServices.org, Inc.

O Lord, We Praise You. Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter, alt. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Tune: Public domain.

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CHRIST THROUGH US

SYNOD CONVENTION 2025

68TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION of the WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

JULY 21-24, 2025

The Chapel of the Christ

Martin Luther College | New Ulm, Minnesota



Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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