



St. Mark's LUTHERAN CHURCH

7869 Kingswood Drive | Citrus Heights, California 95610 | (916) 961-7891 | www.StMarksLutheran.com

Thursday, September 4, 2014

Dear Brothers of the WELS Arizona-California District:

[St. Mark's in Citrus Heights](#) is pleased to host the Arizona-California District Pastoral Conference on October 21-23, 2014. This letter provides some basic information for our fall conference.

Travel

[Sacramento International Airport](#) (SMF) is approximately 30 minutes away from St. Mark's (in good traffic). We recommend that you book your flight into Sacramento, since any other airport will be a substantially longer drive to and from Citrus Heights.

Hotel

We have blocks of rooms reserved at the [Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast](#), located near the Madison Avenue exit on I-80 (one of two exits you can take to get to St. Mark's). The nightly rate is \$89 per room. The hotel is newly renovated and offers very comfortable accommodations that we hope you will enjoy while you are visiting. We encourage you to stay at the Crowne Plaza since we have committed to a minimum number of rooms to obtain this rate, and we were able to secure a rate that is \$20 less per night than the normal group rate because we made arrangements for this conference in calendar year 2013. These rates will also be available to you on the days immediately before and after the conference should you choose to stay longer. If you call to make your reservation, make sure to request the group rate for St. Mark's Lutheran Church. You can also make your reservation online at [this link](#), which will give you our group discount rate.

Here is basic location and booking information:

Address: 5321 Date Avenue; Sacramento, California 95841

Telephone: 916-338-5800

Reservation Deadline: Monday, October 6, 2014

We have reserved 15 rooms for Monday night, 50 each for Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and five for Thursday night. If you have any difficulty obtaining the group rate, the hotel's senior sales manager, Metkeo Keomany, invites you to contact her directly at the above telephone number (extension 159) and she will remedy the situation. If you have any other questions or special requests regarding your stay at the Crowne Plaza, feel free to contact her about those matters as well.

Meals

Those who stay at the Crowne Plaza can get breakfast at the hotel's restaurant for the reduced rate of \$10 per morning *per room*, up to four occupants (in case anyone brings his family). Lunches will be on your own; there are a few restaurants near the hotel and many near the church from which to choose, and several are within walking distance. In addition to snacks and refreshments throughout the conference, dinner will be provided by members of St. Mark's in our gym on Wednesday evening of the conference.

Hymn Festival

St. Mark's has been celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of our Schantz pipe organ this year with a [series of concerts and other events](#). The final event in this series is a hymn festival concert scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Aaron Christie, who is also one of our conference essayists, will be the guest organist for the hymn festival. If you were in the district in 2006, which was the last time St. Mark's hosted this conference, you might recall the hymn festival that was included on the second night of the conference. The previous hymn festival was very well received, and we hope to offer another equally meaningful presentation of the gospel in song at the 2014 conference.

In addition to the choir and musicians of St. Mark's congregation, we would like to gather a pastors' choir to participate in the hymn festival. The pastors' choir will sing two anthems familiar to many graduates of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary:

- Arnold Lehmann's setting of *The Church's One Foundation* ([score](#), [audio](#));
- Carl Schalk's setting of *Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See* ([score](#), [audio](#)).

If you would like to preview the music before the conference, you can use the links above to do that. For *The Church's One Foundation*, note that the recording uses the words for stanzas 1,3,5, but the pastors' choir will be singing stanzas 2,4 in the hymn festival. Also note that the recording and music score for *Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See* are copyrighted; you may use these files before the conference to learn the music, but you cannot use the files or save their content after the conference is over. We will provide copies of the music for all singers at the conference.

Contact Information

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to send an email or call the church office and speak to our secretary or one of the pastors. The church phone number is 916-961-7891. Our phone extensions and email addresses are:

Jason Schmidt	ext. 105	jschmidt@stmarkslutheran.com
Johnold Strey	ext. 104	jstrey@stmarkslutheran.com

May God give you safe travels to and from our conferences, and may our time spent in his Word further increase our faith, enrich our fellowship, and enable us to be faithful servants in Christ's kingdom!

Blessings in Christ,



Pastor Johnold Strey

Directions for the 2014 Pastoral Conferences at St. Mark's in Citrus Heights, California

[Click here for Conference Map on Google](#)

Sacramento Airport to St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

- Take I-5 South to I-80 East (toward Reno).
- Exit at Greenback Lane. Turn right off the exit and travel 3.3 miles.
- Turn right at Birdcage Street.
- The church will be on your left side on the corner of Birdcage and Kingswood.

You can also arrive at St. Mark's by exiting I-80 one exit earlier at Madison Avenue, but the traffic flow on Greenback is generally faster and the northeasterly angle of the freeway will place you closer to St. Mark's if you exit at Greenback. If you are going directly to the hotel from the freeway, then you should exit at Madison, head east, move into the left lane as quickly as possible, and turn left onto Date Avenue. The hotel will be on your left.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church to Crowne Plaza Hotel:

- If you leave from the Birdcage entrance, turn left, then turn left again on Kingswood Drive. If you leave from the Kingswood entrance, turn left.
- Turn right on Sunrise Boulevard.
- At the second light, turn right on Madison Avenue and travel 4.5 miles.
- Turn right on Date Avenue (just before I-80). The hotel will be on your left.

