

August 7, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are living in unusual times, leaving us to determine the best way to proceed with the upcoming school year. Some of us are facing a virtual year, some an in-person year, and some don't know yet what their plans are because everyday conditions are constantly changing.

As I was preparing for our parent orientation night, I contemplated our school theme for this year, which is based on Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always." When I first heard that theme, I wanted to laugh a little because of the craziness and uncertainty in our lives and world right now. What is there to rejoice about? But then I realized that I was being like Sarai, who laughed when she heard the news that she was going to give birth to a son. Sarai did not trust what God was telling her, yet a year later she gave birth to Isaac because God is always right.

As I thought more about the theme, I realized I have many reasons to rejoice. I have a God who watches over me at all times. I have a Savior who died for me. I have the Holy Spirit who is daily working to strengthen my faith. It is true that I may not know what tomorrow will hold. It is true that I may not know if we will finish the year with in-person education. It is true that I don't know if I will get sick or not. However, I do have all the promises of God that are recorded in the Bible. I know that my Redeemer lives; I know that he has prepared a place for me; I know that I will see him one day with my own eyes. Because of all these things I can say, "Rejoice in the Lord always."

After many meetings and much prayerful consideration, we have decided there is no way to host the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference safely this year. Instead of rushing to put a partial conference together that is not up to the quality that you're used to, we are putting our efforts into making sure that we can offer an excellent conference in fall of 2021, either in person or virtually.

However, this year we do have two options for you. First, we will provide all schools with a spiritual message and Bible study from Pastor Jeremy Mattek that will be available around conference time. We feel that an uplifting spiritual message will be beneficial for all, and we encourage you to use this tool together as a faculty.

Second, there is an opportunity for those who want more to register with the Minnesota State Conference. We will have more information about how you can do that on our website.

Finally, we want to stay on track and elect new program committee members. Voting will take place online as usual. Additionally, we will not be collecting any conference dues this year since we are not hosting the conference. However, some expenses came due before we knew what the fate of the conference would be. If you are so moved, you will be able to make a donation to the conference when you vote for program committee members. The money collected will be used for this year's expenses, and the rest will be put toward future conference expenses. More details to come at [www.wlstc.org](http://www.wlstc.org).

While this is not the news we were hoping to share with everyone, we are confident that the Lord will bless our efforts and our school year. As we go forward, we do so with the confidence that God will be with us and we will be able to say, "Rejoice in the Lord *always*."

In Christ,  
Justin Gut  
President of WLSTC