



February 22, 2016

Dear Delegates, Visitors, and Volunteers:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

On behalf of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church we are delighted to welcome you to Coquitlam and the 2016 British Columbia Synod Convention!

The theme of our convention is "Liberated by God's Grace" which is also the theme chosen by the Lutheran World Federation for the worldwide celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. As the LWF website says, these are "words at the heart of the Lutheran tradition [which] provide an opportunity to affirm the work of the Church and to make a commitment to its constant renewal". So may our time together in convention be one of both celebration for the good work we've accomplished and commitment to renewing our mission.

And speaking of our mission we are excited about a new format we are experimenting with this year. We are designating Saturday of the convention as a Learning Day, during which our guest speaker, Dr. Craig Van Gelder, will inspire us with his insight into what it means to be a missional church. We are also hoping to be joined by visitors that day to take in this excellent opportunity.

Coquitlam is a vibrant city with excellent amenities, an abundance of parks and green space, a number of arts and cultural venues and numerous recreation facilities. It has a population of more than 140,000 with a wide ethnic diversity. This year is Coquitlam's 125th anniversary and the city has planned a wide range of activities. Please feel free to do some exploring in your free time. The city's website (coquitlam.ca) has information on tourist opportunities.

While Good Shepherd is the host congregation for this convention, all the sessions will be held at the beautiful and comfortable Executive Plaza Hotel. Good Shepherd will be hosting you for all the worship services and two meals. Transportation plans are in place to facilitate transfers between the hotel and our church building. The hotel also offers some wonderful amenities such as a heated outdoor pool, hot tub, steam room and fitness center.

To make the environment as comfortable as possible for everyone please consider using scent-free products.

If you require more information you may contact Kimberly Bortnak at Synod Office: 604-524-1318; email: kbortnak@elcic.ca or Good Shepherd church office: 604-936-2939.

We look forward to your arrival and our time together as we meet in convention. May God's Spirit inspire and empower us all as we come together Liberated by God's Grace.

Partners with you in Mission.

Eric Krushel, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Dawn Nieman, Local Arrangements Committee Co-ordinator