

VIII National Hispanic Convention - LCMS

July 28-31, 2026

Concordia University Irvine
1530 Concordia West, Irvine, CA

*Celebrate 100 years of LCMS
Hispanic Ministry in the USA*



*Registration
is open!*

100 AÑOS
celebraZion
MINISTERIOS HISPANOS LCMS
SALMO 145:4

HISPANIC
MISSIONARY
LEAGUE
HISPANOSLCMS.COM



www.hispanoslcms.com

Welcome!

Participants, Sponsors, and Exhibitors

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that we announce the VIII National Hispanic Convention-LCMS, celebrating 100 years of Hispanic ministry in the United States of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. July 28-29, 2026 in Irvine, California. **We rejoice in God's faithfulness** and confess with hope (Hebrews 10:23) His promise to save and gather people from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Revelation 7:9), as we labor together in His Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20).

Today, the LCMS includes 260 congregations, missions, schools, and mercy organizations serving Hispanic communities, supported by 228 church workers. The Hispanic convention brings together pastors, deaconesses, lay leaders, other church workers, congregations, and families from across the nation for worship, fellowship, encouragement, and vision-casting for the future of Hispanic ministry. **Some come as delegates from their congregation, but most are non-voting participants** who benefit from everything mentioned above and are also able to listen and join the discussions related to priorities and plans for collaboration. **This fully bilingual (Spanish and English)** convention will both honor the past and equip the Church for the future. Our website www.hispanoslcms.com toggles to English or Spanish and has a plethora of program and registration information available.

We desire entire families to attend. Our goal is 200+ attendees from Hispanic congregations and 50 additional participants from LCMS schools, universities, seminaries, and organizations. Time spent face-to-face among church workers in Hispanic ministry and their families is greatly needed, and many will be unable to attend without generous support. Because of this, I not only to invite you to join us in these days of growth and celebration, but also **invite you to partner with us through prayer, financial support, volunteer service, and/or encouragement:**

1. Pray for the planning, leaders, and all who serve in Hispanic ministry.
2. Sponsor or donate any support to assist with scholarships and event needs;
3. Volunteer in the numerous preparatory tasks at hand or during the convention itself
4. Encouragement of congregations and workers you know to pray for, celebrate, and participate in this centennial convention.

For the past century and still today, LCMS Hispanic church workers and congregations have labored faithfully in Christ's mission, often with great sacrifice, especially in recent years marked by complex challenges. **Yet the light of Christ continues to shine** through faithful Law and Gospel preaching, administration of the Sacraments, works of mercy, and steadfast commitment to proclaiming His saving grace.

Thank you for considering taking part in our convention and contributing in any way you can. It is a beautiful opportunity to strengthen and further inspire our service together in the mission of the Gospel. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or to discuss ways you and people you know might participate.

in Christ's service, the VIII National Hispanic Convention Board

Rev. Stephen Heimer, president
Rev. Rodrigo Fernandez, vice president
Deaconess Erica Jofre, secretary
Deaconess Perla Gil de Rodriguez, treasurer



Convention Theme

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."



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Our Theme "100 years - celebraZion"

combines the Spanish word
"Celebra" with the English word "Zion"

"Celebrate"

A call to remember and rejoice in the faithfulness
and grace of Christ throughout these 100 years
of Hispanic mission and ministry, forming...

"Zion"

...His church, the people of God, united in Christ,
from generation to generation.

Why do we use the Spanish "celebra" and the English "Z" for Zion instead of "S" in the Spanish word Sión?

It's a touch of Spanglish for our bilingual convention and centennial celebration! Since it's geared toward children, youth, and adults—all generations—we wanted to highlight the name Zion in English, the language of many of our children and grandchildren and brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the United States.



LCMS Hispanic Ministry in the USA

160
churches

225
workers

67
schools

22
organizations

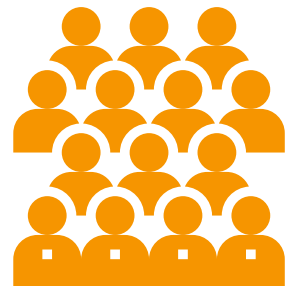


The National Hispanic Convention - LCMS is the principal national gathering of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations and ministers who are engaged in Hispanic ministry in the United States. Its main objective is for pastors, deaconesses, other leaders, church members, and families to gather and strengthen our collaborative work together. The convention convenes every three years.



In 2019, **the Hispanic Missionary League** was established as an independent 501c3 organization to serve as the convention's fiscal agent and as a means to gather, equip, and celebrate healthy Hispanic ministry throughout the US every year. It is in the process of applying for Recognized Service Organization status with the LCMS.

Reaching out to:



68 Million
people of Hispanic Heritage

45 Million
speak Spanish at home



**Ministry
Directory**

www.hispanoslcms.com





Gather
Equip

Celebrate

LCMS Hispanic Ministry
throughout the United States

Fiscal agent for and administrative partner of the National Hispanic Convention

- + National Hispanic Convention - LCMS
- + Regional Gatherings & Workshops
- + Pastoral Care for Hispanic Church Workers & Families
- + Directory of LCMS Hispanic Ministries
- + Inspiration, networking, mutual care and more...

Learn more at www.hispanoslcms.com





The Convention Program

CelebraZion - Plenary Presentations

Yesterday "One hundred years, a thousand stories: Traces of a Century"
Dr. Marcos Kempff & Rev. Stephen Heimer

Today "The Present In Flux"
Rev. Alfonso Prada & Deac. Naomi Guerra

Tomorrow "This Doesn't Hold Us Back"
Rev. Nelson Rodriguez & Rev. Rodrigo Fernandez

Always "United in Christ, in Mission" Roundtable Discussions

Breakout Sessions

"Church, A Place of Refuge and Hope"
Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez, Concordia Seminary St. Louis

"Raising Up Hispanic Church Workers"
Rev. Alex Merlo, Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, Aurora, IL & Escuela Misionera

"Discipleship in the Hispanic Community"
Rev. Jaime Gonzalez, Comunidad Cristiana Expansion

"Planning and Action" Developing your ideas into actionable plans
Rev. Lincon Guerra, LCMS Texas District, Mission and Ministry Facilitator Area A

on Forgiving the Unforgivable
Ted Kober, D. Litt, Senior Ambassador Emeritus for Ambassadors of Reconciliation

Worship & Devotions

Opening Communion Service - 100th Anniversary Commemoration

Preacher: Rev. Stephen Heimer,

National Hispanic Convention President; & Manager of LCMS All Nations Ministry

Service of Remembrance

Preacher:

Slide show remembering brothers and sisters in Christ who have entered heavenly glory since our last convention.

Morning Devotions

Convention Chaplain:: Rev. Miguel Sanabria Jr., Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brandon, FL

Music: Convention Worship Ensemble

Musicians from throughout the United States

Directed by Rev. Pedro Jofre, Trinity Lutheran Church, Sterling, CO

Music: Mariachi San Pablo

Directed by Miguel Muñoz,

Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, TX

Reports, Discussions, and Voting

Reports and overtures will be presented and discussed. Voting delegates from LCMS congregations engaged in Hispanic ministry will cast votes on ministry priorities and opportunities for collaboration in the next three years. Our next National Hispanic Convention board of directors will be elected.

Children and Youth

The program for children and youth begins after Wednesday and Thursday's morning devotions.

(Families will enjoy meals, worship services, devotions, free day activities, the Gala and dance together.)

Gala Banquet and Dance

Thursday evening dining and program in elegant attire followed by a dance.

Live dinner music: Mariachi San Pablo

This evening banquet is sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries with program and recognitions led by Rev. German Novelli, LHM Director of Hispanic Ministries"



Basic Schedule

Tuesday, July 28th

1:30pm - Registration, Housing Check-In, Meet and Greet, Exhibits are Open
(Exhibitors may begin setting up at 10am)

3:30pm - Convention 101 (in English)
4:30pm - Opening Worship
6:00pm - Welcome Dinner
7:30pm - CelebraZion 1

Wednesday, July 29th

7:00am - Breakfast
8:00am - Exhibits Open
8:30am - Morning Devotion
9:00am - Children and Youth programs begin
- Convention Report
10:00am - Break
10:30am - CelebraZion 2
- Exhibits are open
12:00pm - Lunch
1:00pm - Plenary of Delegates
- Exhibits are open
2:00pm - Children and Youth programs end
- Free time for rest of day
- Dinner on your own

Thursday, July 30th

7:00am - Breakfast
8:00am - Exhibits Open
8:30am - Morning Devotion
9:00am - Children and Youth programs begin
- Plenary of Delegates
- Exhibits are Open
10:00am - Break
10:30am - CelebraZion 3
12:00pm - Lunch
1:00pm - Plenary of Delegates
2:00pm - Workshops and Exhibits
2:15pm - Workshop Session 1
3:00pm - Break
3:15pm - Workshop Session 2
4:00pm - Break to change clothes and prepare for Worship Service and Gala
5:30pm - Memorial Service and Installation of New Convention Officers
7:00pm - Gala Banquet, Program, and Dance

Friday, July 31st

7:00am - Breakfast
8:00am - Exhibits Open
8:30am - Morning Devotion
9:00am - CelebraZion 4
10:30am - Break
11:00am - Final Business and Farewell
12:00pm - End of Convention

Lodging

We have reserved a block of residential units on the campus of Concordia University so that you can be near each other and be able to easily return to your room if needed throughout the course of each day. Lodging includes recreational areas, walking trails, sports courts, and courtyards for fellowship in the late afternoons and evenings. Details and reservations are available at www.hispanoslcms.com



Travel

Airport - The nearest and most convenient airport: to the convention is: Orange County/Santa Ana SNA (also called "John Wayne Airport") 11-15 minute drive to Concordia University Irvine

Driving and Parking Directions:

Set your map app to arrive at
Concordia University Irvine
1530 Concordia West
Irvine, CA, USA 92612

When you arrive, let the gate security know you are attending the National Hispanic Convention LCMS. Parking at the University is free of charge.



Registration

VIII National Hispanic Convention-LCMS, July 28-31, 2026

Registration Type: (select one) Online registration at: www.hispanoslcms.com

- Individual (\$150) Married Couple (\$300)
 Family (\$350) Sponsor/Exhibitor Organization _____

Name (Rev, Deac, Dr., Mr, Mrs..., First, Last)

Address

State

ZIP

Email

Phone

Church you serve or are a member (Name, City, State)

Voting Delegate? Yes: No: I don't know:

Position at church (if applicable): Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, Vicar, Deaconess, DCE, Music Dir., Teacher...etc

Organization Name, City, State (if attending in association)

Position

Other people included in this registration: (note for sponsors: Fill out one form for each family unit)

Spouse Name (Rev, Deac, Dr, Mr, Mrs..., First, Last)

Spouse Phone

Spouse Email

Church he/she serves or is a member (Name, City, State).

Voting Delegate? Yes: No: I don't know:

Child Name (First, Last),

Age

Child Name (First, Last),

Age

Child Name (First, Last),

Age

Child Name (First, Last),

Age

(Add additional children on the back of this page)

Dietary Restrictions _____

Housing Reservation at Concordia University Irvine (optional)

Number of Units : _____ (3 nights; 4 twin-size beds in each unit, \$600 total, \$50 deposit due now for reservation)

I will arrange lodging elsewhere.

Registration \$ _____ + Housing Deposit \$ _____ = Total \$ _____

Mail with payment by June 15th. Make Checks payable to: "Hispanic Missionary League"

Mail to: Hispanic Missionary League, c/o Deaconess Perla Gil de Rodriguez,
18220 Upper Bay Rd., Houston, TX 77058

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Sponsorship and Exhibits

Sponsorship is more than support for this event—it creates lasting impact for everyone present and for those we serve in the years to come. Your partnership strengthens this gathering and highlights your organization’s ongoing work. All sponsorships and registrations help cover the cost of the convention and fund future efforts to gather, equip, and celebrate Hispanic ministry in the United States. Thank you for considering one of these sponsorship levels.

The exhibit area is located adjacent to the space where all plenaries will take place and between it and where meals will be served. Participants will pass through the exhibit area as they arrive and move from plenaries to meals and to workshops. This is your opportunity to connect, promote your services, and build lasting partnerships. An exhibit table and various numbers of convention registrations are included with each of the sponsorship levels described below.

Please register your sponsorship and exhibit by June 15th

	PLATINUM \$10,000+	DIAMOND \$7,500	GOLD \$5,000	SILVER \$2,500	BRONZE \$1,000	PARTNER \$500
NAMED AS SPONSOR OF A PLENARY SESSION OR GALA	●					
FULL PAGE AD IN PRINTED PROGRAM	●	●				
GREET PARTICIPANTS AT BEGINNING OF PLENARY	●	●	●			
HALF PAGE AD IN PRINTED PROGRAM			●	●		
LOGO IN PRINTED PROGRAM AND WEBSITE	●	●	●	●	●	
TABLE SPACE IN EXHIBIT AREA	●	●	●	●	●	●
CONVENTION REGISTRATIONS	6	4	4	2	2	1

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
Lk 10:2.



Sponsorship Pledge



Mail this form by June 15th:

Hispanic Missionary League,
c/o Deaconess Perla Gil de Rodriguez
18220 Upper Bay Rd., Houston, TX 77058

An online version of this pledge form is available at:
<https://www.hispanoslcms.com>



Sponsor Contact Information

Name	Company/Organization	
Address	State	ZIP
Email	Phone	

Sponsorship Selection

Sponsorship Level	\$ _____ Amount
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Payment

Thank you for your sponsorship! We will send an invoice upon receipt of this completed form.

Checks will be made payable to the Hispanic Missionary League, as fiscal agent for the National Hispanic Convention - LCMS

Questions

Please contact Rev. Stephen Heimer 314-709-1193
league@hispanoslcms.com

or

Deaconess Perla Gil de Rodriguez 713-894-6148
treasurer@hispanoslcms.com