



National Multi-Site Conference



## National Multi-Site Conference for WELS Churches

November 14-16, 2016 • Tucson, Arizona

*The National Multi-Site Conference is for WELS members and ministers with or without multi-site experience. Whether a church is just exploring multi-site ministry or excelling in it, this is an opportunity to learn and share about a strategy that tells the good news of Jesus to more people in more places.*

### Background

Work has been underway for the past two years so that WELS multi-site churches could collaborate better with each other. Significant research was gathered and a variety of initial conversations took place at an open conference with 17 pastors representing 14 WELS multi-site churches. The exchange of information was written down and presented to WELS Home Missions. The positive response and growing number of requests for multi-site material triggered this effort to offer a national conference.

## What is multi-site?

Multi-site is a strategy for gospel ministry and mission work. The working definition for this conference is: a single entity, worshiping and carrying out gospel ministry at more than one physical location, created for the primary purpose of expanding gospel outreach, specifically focused on reaching more of the lost.

## What are the benefits?

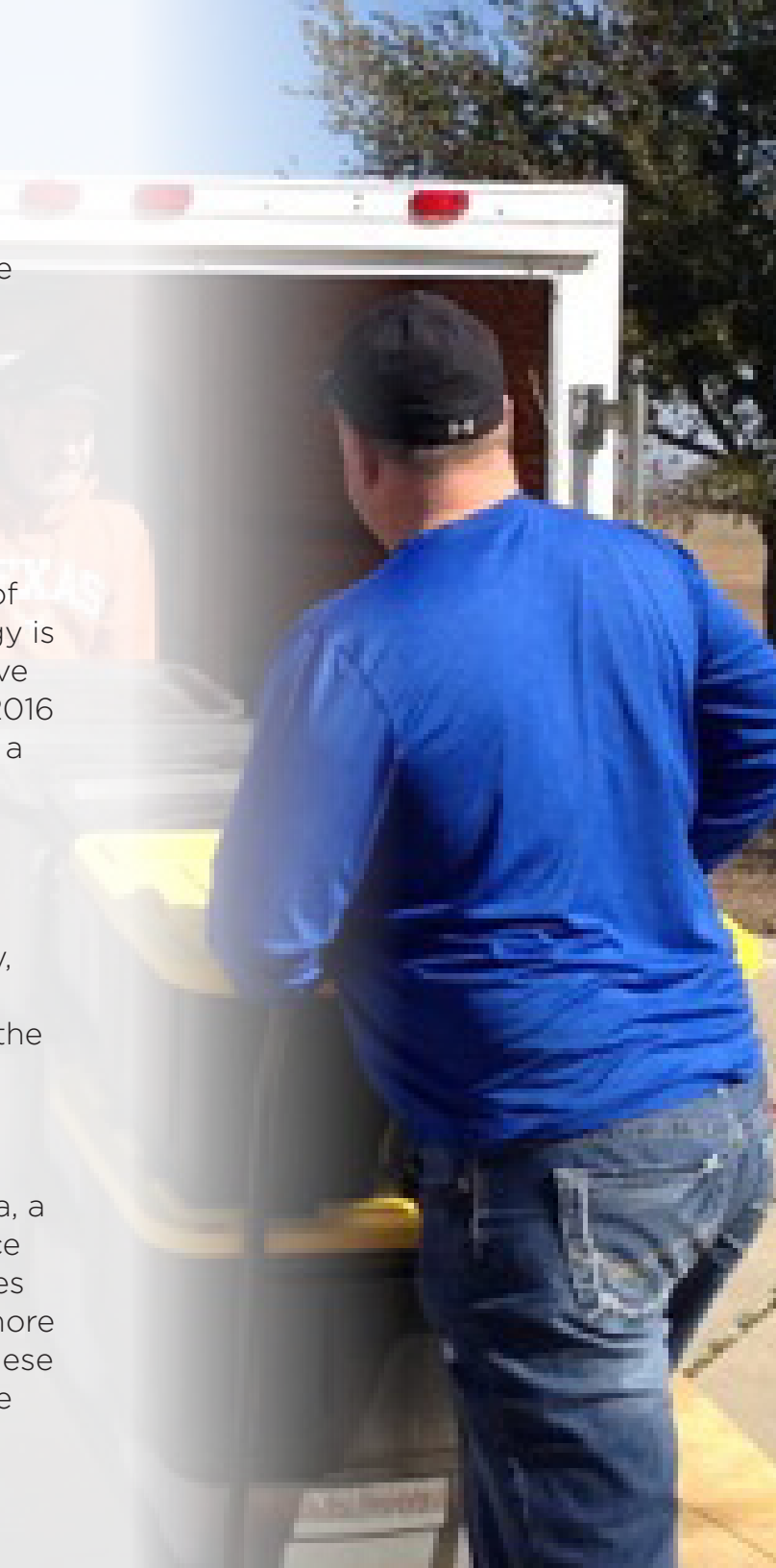
The potential for this relatively new strategy among WELS churches is tremendous. In addition to simply positioning churches to share Jesus with more people, there can be other benefits such as shared resources, efficient organization, cost effective programs, and more. This conference will provide a venue for networking and building relationships with the growing number of WELS people who are investing in this work. Also, while the multi-site strategy is just one of many ways to expand mission work, it is significant to note that five of the eight new mission starts authorized by WELS Home Missions in April 2016 have a multi-site component. This seems to indicate the multi-site strategy is a good fit with WELS beliefs and values that have stood the test of time.

## Who should attend?

Attendance is open to everyone: pastors, teachers, staff, and members. This conference is designed for churches that are already doing multi-site ministry, as well as churches that are just getting started or merely considering it. The conference workshops offer a wide selection of presentations that will meet the needs of everyone regardless of their level of experience.

## A little more about Grace in Tucson...

The conference will be hosted by Grace Lutheran Church of Southern Arizona, a WELS multi-site church in Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson, and Vail. The conference will take place at Grace's downtown Tucson campus. Grace began adding sites five years ago with a new mission start in Vail. Two years ago, Grace added more sites through a cooperative effort with two existing WELS churches. While these circumstances may be unique, the wide range of experiences at this multi-site church will benefit all conference participants.



# AGENDA

## Monday, November 14

- 6:00 p.m. Social hour and conference registration at church  
*Light appetizers served.  
Opening conference devotion.  
Register and receive conference materials as you exit.*
- 8:00 p.m. Free time  
*Enjoy downtown Tucson. Catch up with friends.*

## Tuesday, November 15

- 8:00 a.m. Hot breakfast at church
- 8:45 a.m. Devotion
- 9:00 a.m. Keynote: "Why Multi-Site?"  
*Pastor Rick Johnson (Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Corona, Riverside, and Yucaipa, CA)*
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. The Past, Present, and Future of Multi-Site in the WELS  
*Pastor Caleb Schoeneck (Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in College Station, TX and South Central District Mission Board Chairman)*
- 11:15 a.m. Workshops
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch at church
- 1:30 p.m. Workshops
- 2:45 p.m. Break

## Tuesday, November 15 (continued)

- 3:00 p.m. Virtual Tour of a Multi-Site Church  
*Pastor Ron Koehler (Grace Lutheran Church in Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson, and Vail, AZ)*
- 4:00 p.m. Workshops
- 5:15 p.m. Break  
*Return to hotel*
- 6:15 p.m. Conference Dinner at Gentle Ben's Brewing Co.  
*Dress casually. Enjoy a relaxing meal within a block of the hotel. Cash bar available.*
- 8:30 p.m. Free time

## Wednesday, November 16

- 8:00 a.m. Hot breakfast at church
- 8:45 a.m. Devotion
- 9:00 a.m. What's Next?  
*Strategies for what you'll take home from this conference.  
Pastor Daron Lindemann (Holy Word Lutheran Church in Austin and Pflugerville, TX)*
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Workshops
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch  
*Eat in or carry out.*
- 12 Noon Depart

## PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Brief summaries of the presentations and workshops are below. A more detailed description is available to download and print [click here](#). Make your final selections when registering online. Participants can attend all the presentations and up to four workshops.

### Presentations

#### **Keynote: Why Multi-Site?** (Pastor Rick Johnson)

The strategy may be a new phenomenon, yet at its heart it is as old as the Church itself. How can we use it to reach more people with the Gospel?

#### **The Past, Present, and Future of Multi-Site in the WELS** (Pastor Caleb Schoeneck)

It is important for pastors, congregations, missions, and missionaries to know about the support that multi-site ministry has in the WELS, especially from synod partners and leaders.

#### **Virtual Tour of a Multi-Site** (Pastor Ron Koehler)

The conference host will show firsthand how their multi-site congregation functions and carries out its mission while highlighting both the common and unique ministries on each campus.

### Workshops

#### **Multi-Site Variations #1 Targeting a Specific Program** (Pastor Mark Henke)

Bethany, Appleton, WI, successfully uses a multi-site strategy to reach a specific audience (parents with preschool age children) with a specific ministry program at a specific site.

#### **Multi-Site Variations #2 A Federation of Churches** (Pastor Jon Hein)

Beautiful Savior, Summerville, SC, envisions multi-site ministry as churches united by one federation but each campus is separate and operates their own ministries and budgets.

#### **Multi-Site Variations #3 Video Venue**

(Pastor John Parlow)

St. Mark, De Pere, WI, works with a live streamed presentation of their worship service at a second site. This has been successfully done in other churches, but does it work in a WELS setting?

#### **Multi-Site Variations #4 Strategic Mergers**

(Pastor Peter Kruschel)

Like many denominations we have a long history of combining two or more small or struggling congregations. Could a multi-site strategy create a vibrant, outreach oriented ministry at these campuses?

#### **Multi-Site Challenges #1 Staffing & Administration**

(Pastors Joe Fricke, Jeff Mahnke, Daron Lindemann)

A multi-site ministry involves many people: called workers, support staff, lay leaders and volunteers. This also complicates roles and responsibilities. How do you keep everyone on the same page?

#### **Multi-Site Challenges #2 Communication**

(Pastors Nathan Strutz, Kevin Schultz)

Communication often becomes more complicated when more people are involved across multiple sites. How can healthy communication be established and maintained?

#### **Multi-Site Challenges #3 Mission & Vision**

(Pastors Matt Hennig, Mark Kom, David Bivens)

How do you keep the essential congregational “DNA” intact while allowing for flexibility and adaptability between sites? And, is it necessary for each site to have its own fulltime facility?

#### **Multi-Site Challenges #4 Finances & Budgeting**

(Pastors Rick Johnson, Steve Koelpin, Colin Rieke)

This issue can be answered in a variety of ways. How do you create a budget? Is it best to have a unified budget? How are offerings distributed? How do you keep finances in perspective?



## LODGING

Lodging is provided for Monday and Tuesday nights, November 14 and 15 as part of the conference fee. This requires two people per room. Roommate preferences may be submitted on the registration form. A limited number of single rooms are available for an added cost of \$70, and this needs to be indicated on the registration.

The conference hotel is:  
**Tucson Marriott University Park**  
**880 E 2nd St Tucson, AZ 85719**  
**520-792-4100**

Conveniently located within two blocks of Grace Lutheran Church, the Marriott offers swimming pool, whirlpool, and its own restaurant and lounge in a downtown setting. Free wifi is available in the lobby, and for a small fee in the room. On site parking costs \$13 per day. For much more helpful information from the hotel website [click here](#).

Those wishing to arrive early or stay late may contact conference coordinator Kathy Kolander directly for additional room reservations and rates [PlannerPro@tds.net](mailto:PlannerPro@tds.net) or 920-831-0688 CST).

## TRAVEL

Conference participants are responsible for their own travel and costs, including transportation from the airport to the hotel. The hotel does not provide airport shuttle service. Our downtown Tucson conference location is 8 miles from Tucson International Airport and 100 miles from Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix. Shared ride van services throughout the Tucson region are provided by Arizona Stagecoach, which has a counter in the baggage claim area of the Tucson International Airport (estimated cost \$24 one way). Taxi service is also available (estimated cost \$30 one way). For more information from the airport website [click here](#).

## MEALS

All of the following meals and snacks are provided as part of the conference fee, unless otherwise specified. On Tuesday and Wednesday a catered hot breakfast and a catered lunch will be served at church. Wednesday lunch can easily be carried out. There is coffee, but no complimentary breakfast at the hotel. On Monday evening light appetizers and nonalcoholic beverages will be served as part of the social hour. On Tuesday evening all conference participants will be treated to a relaxing dinner at Gentle Ben's Brewing Co. a block from the hotel, where a cash bar will be available to purchase alcoholic beverages at your own cost. Water, coffee, and snacks will be available throughout the conference.

## COST AND REGISTRATION

A conference fee of \$89 per participant is paid when registration is submitted on or before September 15, and is nonrefundable. The conference fee includes lodging, meals, and all conference presentations and materials. Participants are responsible for their own travel. Registration will continue to be open after September for a conference fee of \$99 per participant, also nonrefundable. Registration closes on October 25.

Register online only [click here](#).

## FACT SHEET

A printable conference fact sheet is available [click here](#).

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Pastor Daron Lindemann at [daron@holyword.net](mailto:daron@holyword.net) or 512-808-6052 CST.

