



COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

P.O. BOX 13528
AUSTIN, TX 78711-3528

April 27, 2005

RECEIVED

MAY 02 2005

**WELS
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Nancy L. Gittel
Financial Services
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
2929 North Mayfair Road
Milwaukee, WI 53222-4398

Dear Ms. Gittel:

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is exempt from Texas **franchise tax** as a religious organization effective March 14, 2005, and from Texas **sales and use tax** and **the state portion of hotel occupancy tax** effective September 1, 1975.

We have assigned **Texas taxpayer number 13908420840** to the organization. Please reference this number in correspondence with us. The assignment of the taxpayer number does not mean the organization is permitted to collect or remit Texas taxes. Exempt organizations must collect taxes on most of their sales. Please give our Tax Assistance section a call at 1-800-252-5555 if you need a sales tax permit.

The sales tax exemption extends to goods and services purchased for use by your organization. The exemption does not apply if the purchase is for the personal benefit of an individual, or is not related to the organization's exempt purpose. For more information, please see our publication # 96-122, *Exempt Organizations – Sales and Purchases*.

The sales tax exemption certificate can be issued instead of paying tax when buying taxable items related to the exempt purpose of the organization. The exemption certificate does not need a taxpayer identification number to be valid, but you may provide your taxpayer number if the seller requests it.

Employees of the organization may issue a hotel exemption certificate in the name of the organization when traveling on official business, in lieu of paying the state portion of the hotel occupancy tax. Individuals or groups of individuals who are not employees of the organization may also issue a hotel exemption certificate in the name of the organization when traveling on official business, but, for the hotel tax exemption to apply, payment must be made with the organization's funds.

The hotel may require a copy of your exemption letter or other verification, such as a printout from the Comptroller's list of exempt entities, showing the organization is exempt from hotel tax. This allows the hotel to accept the exemption certificate in good faith.

Exemption certificates are enclosed. Make as many copies of the exemption certificates as you need.

Changes to the organization's registered agent and registered office address must be filed with the Texas Secretary of State. The changes can be made online at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/sosda/index.shtml> or you can download the forms and

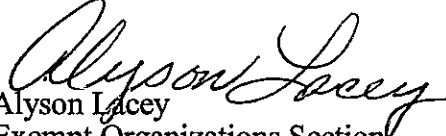
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instructions from <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/nonprofit.shtml>. You can also contact them at corpinfo@sos.state.tx.us or by calling (512) 463-5582. It is important to maintain current registered agent information, because this is how we will contact you if we have reason to believe that your organization no longer qualifies for exemption.

Our goal is to provide you with prompt, professional service. Please take a moment to complete the enclosed survey. If it is more convenient, you may complete our on-line survey at <http://aixtcp.cpa.state.tx.us/surveys/tpsuv/>.

If you have any questions, write to us at exempt.orgs@cpa.state.tx.us, or call us toll-free at 1-800-531-5441, extension 34230. Also, our publications, exemption certificates and other helpful information are online at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/exempt>.

Sincerely,


Alyson Lacey
Exempt Organizations Section