

August 15, 2006

Dear Members, Delegates, and Friends of the Northwest District-LCMS,

This mailing contains the Minutes and Proceedings of the June 22-24, 2006 Convention of the Northwest District. Please place them behind TAB 13 in your Convention Workbook. Reproduce and share copies of significant Resolutions that were passed at our Convention. Track the plans and the results of this Convention. The Convention Workbook is not meant to be left on the shelf, but to be used as a resource, guide, and encouragement to put the Great Commission into practice.

Our Convention was the 61st Regular Convention of our District. The 1st Regular Convention of the Northwest District was held in 1899 at Zion Lutheran, Portland. Over the past 107 years, the Northwest District has developed a reputation, culture, and history of being a remarkably outreach-oriented, frontier-spirited District of the LCMS. The 22 Resolutions that were passed at the District Convention are significant steps in implementing our theme, "Fan into Flame the Gift of God" into the 21st Century. The Holy Spirit is leading the congregations, schools, agencies, and ministries of the Northwest District. We have set specific goals to assist our church body reach over 100 million people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the next 11 years. By the year 2017, the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the LCMS has set the goal of bringing Christ to 100 million people. In order to accomplish this spiritual goal, each man, woman, and child of the LCMS will need to reach forty (40) people with the Gospel! With 2.5 million members of the LCMS, each of us will need to assist with the strategy of reaching forty (40) people who currently do not have a saving knowledge of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are also partnering with our overseas sister church bodies. We are well on our way of being at 2% completion of our goal, having reached nearly 2 million people with the critical event of sharing the love of Jesus which leads to eternal life!

What is the Northwest District going to do about the lost and lonely in the Pacific Northwest? We are going to use every means to empower the laity and trained church workers to do a "book of Acts" work in the next triennium. The mission and ministry of the Northwest District will be accomplished by the Holy Spirit working with and through members, delegates and friends of the Northwest District. We are keeping track of each congregation's efforts of effective outreach. The Resolutions of the Northwest District Convention will be implemented with prayer, determination, enthusiasm, and mutual accountability.

According to the LCMS Handbook, Delegates are elected for a three (3) year term of office. Now that the 438 official delegates and 642 in total attendance participants have returned home, the real work of the 61st Convention begins. Everyone has arrived at THEIR mission field, each ready to follow the “tracks” of the Holy Spirit who “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies” the whole church on earth. Every community will be challenged by two questions:

1. What would you miss if the LCMS congregation were not in your community?”
2. What lasting good does the LCMS congregation do in your neighborhood and greater Christian community?”

If God is going to continue to bless us, God will need to effectively use each of our churches, schools, agencies and ministries to make a significant and obvious contribution.

The mission statement of the LCMS is:

“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of the LCMS is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world.”

Please take every opportunity to make the fact known that you are a Christian. Make the name of Jesus a daily topic in your work and your leisure life. God opens doors of sharing and witnessing in every relationship that you have with your friends, family, and new acquaintances. Simply developing a habit of letting people know that you are active in your congregation, community, District or national church body often leads to an opening for the Holy Spirit to plant the seed of faith.

For the next three years, your role as a member, delegate, or friend of the Northwest District-LCMS is that of an Ambassador for Jesus Christ. There are literally millions that need to know what you already have been graciously given by the Holy Spirit. Spread the free gift of faith. We have One Mission, we have One Message, we are One People.

Fan into Flame the Gift of God!



Warren Schumacher, President
Northwest District - LCMS

WS/jm

Section 13 (of the Convention Workbook)

**Minutes and Proceedings of the 61th
Northwest District LCMS District Convention**

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**MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 61TH CONVENTION OF
THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT LCMS**

**June 22 – 24, 2006
Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR**

