



# FANtastic NEWS

## 61st Convention of the Northwest District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God,  
which is in you through the laying on of my hands."  
2 Timothy 1:6*

June 23, 2006

### Northwest District 61st Convention Fans the Flame!

The theme of "Fan into Flame the Gift of God" permeated the Thursday evening worship service, led by Pastor Pete Luedemann. An eclectic mix of traditional hymns and contemporary songs made for a fine blend of worship led by the Beautiful Savior (Portland) worship team.

Third Vice-president of the LCMS, Dean Nadasdy, delivered the sermon, basing his message from 2 Timothy 1:6-7. Dr. Nadasdy reflected on how it is difficult to maintain passion and interest in all aspects of life, including the faith and ministry God has given us.

St. Paul's words for Timothy, a young pastor losing his passion, are also words for us. Paul reminds us that the passion for ministry is emboldened with the assurance of prayer and the encouragement of God's Word. Also, the heritage of church and the foundations of our family and faith help give courage to "times of timidity."



Dr. Nadasdy gave sound direction in the face of fear. "Don't pray to be safe; pray to be dangerous." Be dangerous with the blessings of God's power, his love, and the spirit of self-discipline. What does it take for God to fan into flame your gift? God gives us everything we need in the all-sufficient cross of Christ. "Seek your particular gift, and fan it into flame."

Following the celebration of Holy Communion, the service concluded with a bidding prayer based on three themes of self-discipline, love, and power with each prayer theme followed by a song of praise. The benediction based on Psalm 67:1-2 served as a fitting close and sending for

God's people of the Northwest District: *"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that His ways may be known on earth, His salvation among all nations."*

### Nadasdy Gives Synodical Report

The 61<sup>st</sup> Regular Convention of the Northwest District of the LCMS gave a homecoming welcome to 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of Synod, Dr. Dean Nadasdy, who brought official greetings to over 400 delegates and guests. Dr. Nadasdy, a former pastor of Grace, Eugene, represented Synodical President Kieschnick.

He began with Dr. Kieschnick's traditional greeting of, "The Lord be with you," and also encouraged the convention with an example of President Kieschnick's personal commitment to witnessing the Gospel in every day situations. Nadasdy reassured the delegates that maintaining Bible-based teaching and values, while having a deep desire for reaching the lost, is not an either/or but a both/and commitment of our Synod. He stated, "What

motivates us is so much stronger than what divides us."

Under the visioning theme, "One MISSION, One MESSAGE, One PEOPLE," the convention then viewed the first part of a video by President Kieschnick that listed a number of exciting goals which Synod and individual members and congregations have set, including the Ablaze challenge of reaching 100 million people throughout the world by 2017.

Featuring "on the street" interviews, it became apparent that a pluralistic society has little knowledge of Jesus Christ or of the Missouri Synod, but there are plenty of seekers who want to know more if we are willing to share that knowledge with them.

## 61st Northwest Convention Opens

To open the 61st Convention of the Northwest District of the LCMS, President Schumacher read the Convention theme from 2 Timothy 1:5-6, emphasizing the idea of fanning into flame the gift of God.

Kelly Dobbin, of Hillsboro, led in singing the theme song she composed, "Fan into Flame the Gift of God," and helped to set the tone of the convention.

At the beginning of the convention, Secretary Paul Linnemann reported that there were a total of 355 voting delegates including 167 clergy and 188 lay delegates.

Approval of the proposed schedule and of the Ground Rules were moved and adopted. To help make sure that everyone was somewhat familiar with the ground rules, President Schumacher had everyone read them responsively.

A skit by DCE's UmaShankar Kanagasabi and Darcy Barnhart emphasized the theme of the convention by pretending that they were seeking a flame convention, but decided to stay for "Fanning into Flame" the gift of God.

Vests worn at the Convention are: maroon for Board of Directors, blue for District staff, and green for the pages.

Before the election for District President, Rev. Herb Hoefler prayed that God would raise up a servant for us.



## Special Convention Guests Introduced

As the sixty-first convention of the Northwest District began, President Warren Schumacher introduced special guests in attendance.



Dr. Dean Nadasdy, third Vice President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, representing the office of the President of Synod, is attending with his wife, Susie. Their visit is actually a return to familiar surroundings since Dr. Nadasdy served as a parish pastor in the Northwest District.

Also present were two former Northwest District Presidents and their wives: Emil and Myrtle Jaech, and Erhart and Anita Bauer. Both former presidents continue to be active in the work of the Church.

President Schumacher also introduced Lee and Loraine Wendland. Lee formerly served as special assistant to the District President.

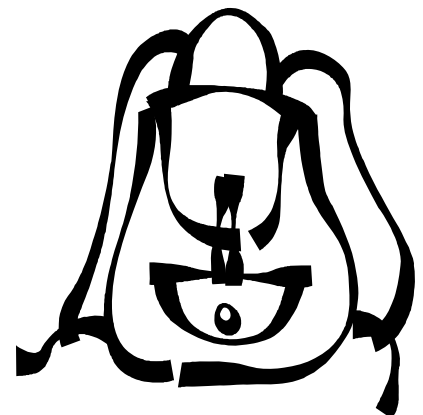
Father Joseph Browne is acting as convention parliamentarian. He has fulfilled this role for the Northwest District in the past.

## Donations Fuel the Fire

Sparks are flying into roaring flames as donations of backpacks, school supplies and contributions are received from throughout the District. Your generosity will help needy students at, but not limited to, Shepherd's Door, Public Schools, and Habitat for Humanity.

If you have donations of items, please bring them to the Lloyd Center theater parking lot – during FANtastic Discoveries – near the Cross Country Mission Society Truck. To drive from the Doubletree Hotel parking lot—exit left then turn right on 10th—right again on Multnomah—go just past 13th—enter the theater lot —pull up near the truck area and there will be people to help you unload your donations.

AND pack a backpack; build a planter box; learn how to juggle – maybe even climb a wall of rocks!



## Election Returns

Warren Schumacher was re-elected as President of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod on the first valid ballot by receiving 245 of 355 possible votes, or 69% of the votes. Jeff Pulse and Eric Lang were also on the ballot. The assembly learned a lesson on decorum when the first ballot was invalidated; 350 people voted and only 342 were registered. It was later learned that some delegates who had come into the assembly had simply found their own materials, name tags and other registration materials, and entered. They had not been properly registered and by doing so caused an unregistered number of voters.

The results of the first ballot for First Vice President were not announced before the session closed.

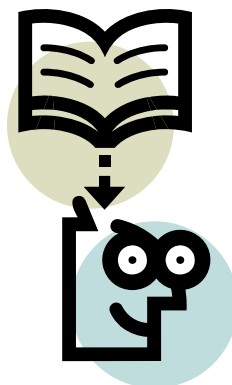


*Dr. Dean Nadasdy shares a Bible Study with convention attendees.*



*Election procedures and the do's and don'ts are presented by Northwest District Board member Bob Kaestner.*

**Don't forget the Exhibits & Vendors Located on Lower Level D meeting rooms.**



## A Youthful View

*This article is written by one of our youth delegates, Alexandra Clark, to help us to understand the youth's perspective on the district convention. The youth began the convention with a short meeting with Dr. Dean Nadasdy, the Third Vice-President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Dr. Nadasdy told the youth that the LCMS is the second largest denomination of Lutheranism in the United States, with approximately 2.5 million members, second only to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. He also shared a little bit of information about himself and his role in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.*

Dr. Nadasdy expressed his pleasure in being able to attend various conventions around the country.

After this briefing, the youth joined the rest of the delegates for the first session of the Convention. For the worship service which took place after dinner, several of the youth were involved in various duties. Some ushered and handed out bulletins, while others helped collect the offering. After a meaningful worship time led by Dr. Nadasdy and Rev. Pete Luedemann, Beautiful Savior, Portland, the youth headed to Concordia University for a debrief and devotion time, and to prepare for the next day's activities.

## First Day Photos



The opening 2006 Northwest District ceremonies were a busy time with registrations, introductions, and movement with the Holy Spirit. *Fan Into Flame the Gift of God* started with a humorous skit and then led into the re-election of our District President Warren Schumacher.



### **THE FLAME WILL NOT GO OUT**

The Convention remembered those who “fanned the flame” as pastors and lay ministers. Since we met three years ago 21 pastors of the Northwest District have finished their work in the church on earth and now have entered the church triumphant. Eighteen of these servants of God were ordained pastors and three were commissioned ministers. They shared their various gifts from district responsibilities to little churches that would not have been served.

These faithful ministers have now left us a legacy to be remembered and a task to be completed. They came from all walks of life, some served a few years, some served for many. The message that they shared was the same: Jesus is the Savior of the world and the world needs what we have to share. They leave us a faithful witness and challenge to keep the flame going. We thank God for their gifts and their service.

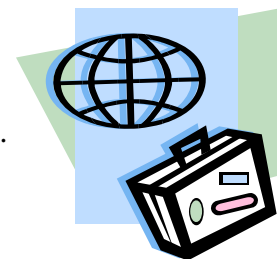
**The Numbers Are In —**  
**167 clergy**  
**188 lay**  
**355 total**

**Were registered voters at the beginning of the first business session.**



### **Remember to Use An Early Checkout Saturday!**

If you are staying at the Doubletree Lloyd Center Hotel you must be out of your rooms before the end of convention Saturday at noon. Make use of the hotels early checkout and store your luggage with them until you can retrieve it. They are happy to accommodate your requests.





# CREDITS

**Vicki Knutsen, Ryan McIvor, Dick Weniger & the Convention Center Technicians**

*Visual Aids & Video Techs*

**Rev. Pete Luedemann**

*Host Congregation Pastor*

**Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
Portland, Oregon**

*Host Congregation*

*Communion*

*Worship*

**IKON**

*Donation of copiers*

**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**

*Convention Backpacks & Lanyards*

**Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**

*Convention Sponsor*

**Church Mutual Insurance Company**

*Convention Sponsor*

*Coffee Break Sponsor*

**Concordia University, Portland, OR**

*Water Bottles*

*Housing Youth Delegates*

**Mrs. Kelly Dobbin**

*Keyboardist*

**DoubleTree Hotel, Lloyd Center**

**The Staff of the Northwest District  
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

*Rev. Warren Schumacher*

*Martha Conboy*

*Dr. Denny Langston*

*Rev. Dennis Lorenz*

*Ryan McIvor*

*Dick Weniger*

*Martha Weniger*

*Shirley Bentson*

*Nikki Goettle*

*Brynn Harteloo*

*Vicki Knutsen*

*Jenny McIvor*

*Chris Miller*

*Susan Olson*

*Kathy Swithers*

**2006 District Convention Committee**

(in addition to above staff)

*Darcy Barnhart*

*Kelly Dobbin*

*Dr. Herb Hoefler*

*Robert Kaestner*

*Rev. Paul Linnemann*

*Rev. Pete Luedemann*

*Rev. Larry Meyer*

*Rev. Ty Miles*

*Edie Norris*

*Julia Riess*

*Rev. Jerry Scansen*

*Judy Schumacher*

*Kanagasabai "Uma" Umashankar*

*Dr. Mark Wahlers*

*Loraine Wendland*

*Rev. Glenn Zander*