



# 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*

Post-Convention Issue

### The Flame Burns Brightly

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and our Northwest District has a bright future if the youth who attended our convention have anything to do with it. Full of spirit and with a great deal of humor, the youth shared their own view of the conference and even had a resolution of their own – that the church continues to grow by the Word, built on love, and the need for a single spark of love. The Northwest District had the largest gathering of youth representatives in the Missouri



Synod. They had a great deal of fun and found out that sharing their faith can be a great deal fun also having spent an afternoon at the mall sharing the love of Christ – being the Christ with skin on. And they are very much aware of the challenge before them as they noted the gray of the adult representatives. They closed by thanking the DCEs and their individual congregations for the privilege of attending the convention.

### Bible Study #3

“How God builds a missional church” is the theme of the Bible study led by LCMS Third Vice-President Dean Nadasdy. In the third installment of the convention Bible study, Nadasdy said that God builds a missional church through people who are intentional and focused, and who care more and do more to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Missional churches make sending a part of their worship, he said. In Acts 13:3, Paul and Barnabas were sent on their missionary journey in the context of a time of worship. Woodbury Lutheran Church, Woodbury, MN, served by Pastor Nadasdy, formally sends people several times each month for ministries and service in their community and the world.

Missional churches settle conflicts. Conflict in the church takes up precious resources, time and energy that detract from the mission.

Missional churches tell stories. The book of Acts and the letters of Paul are full of stories about the work of the spirit through missionaries and evangelists. Paul likes to boast about the work of young Timothy (2 Cor. 7:13-14).

Missional churches pray for Christ’s mission. Every Sunday, our churches can pray for an aspect of mission and outreach in the world. Eutychus is lifted up by Paul as one who was “always wrestling in prayer.” (Col. 4:12)

After delegates were given an opportunity to share their mission stories at their tables, Nadasdy shared the final missional

characteristic: be in mission for the long run. St. Paul saw opposition to his ministry as a reason to continue in ministry, and not to run away (1 Cor. 16:8).



*Dr. Dean Nadasdy gives the convention a send off with Pres. Warren Schumacher at his side.*

## Resolutions Committee #3: Synodical Administration

Floor Committee #3, chaired by Rev. Ty Miles, began on Saturday morning by recommending approval of two overtures generated from Committee #3 itself—Overtures 3-06 & 3-07.

**Resolution 3-06:** *To Support Ministry To Military Personnel, Families And Congregations.* The resolution was carried unanimously, followed by prayer for our military troops and chaplains.



**Resolution 3-07:** *To Commend And Support The Ministry Of Ongoing Ambassadors For Christ (O AFC).* After encouraging the delegates to read the accompanying report, the resolution was passed unanimously, followed by the singing of the doxology.

**Resolution 3-01:** *To Revise Bylaw 3.2.4 Changing The Term Of All Elected Officers Of Synod From Three To Six Years.* A motion to amend so that three-year terms would be retained and each congregation would be given one vote was defeated. The resolution failed.

**Resolution 3-02:** *To Memorialize The Synod To Revise The Selection Of National Synod Convention Floor Committees.* The resolution passed.

**Resolution 3-03** *To Petition Synod To Broaden Representation In Church Issues.* This resolution recommended a new formula for giving commissioned ministers wider voting status at conventions. After a postponement due to the orders of the day, lengthy discussion of the overture resumed on Saturday morning with concerns about “over representation” of professional church workers. However, the resolution passed 161 to 118.

**Resolution 3-04:** *To Accept Reports.* The resolution passed.

**Resolution 3-05A:** *To Respectfully Decline Overtures.* Committee #3 recommended that Overtures 3-04, 3-05, 3-06, 3-09, 3-10, 3-11, 3-12, and 3-15 be declined. Various amendments to take Overtures 3-12, 3-09, 3-11 & 3-05 off of the list of declined overtures were defeated. Resolution 3-05A then passed.

The convention then addressed two overtures previously referred back to Committee #3 under the former reference Overtures 3-07 & 3-08.

**Resolution 3-08:** *To More Closely Reflect Our Synod’s Polity And Protect Our President’s Reputation By Giving Every Voting Member Of Synod A Vote.* The resolution was defeated.

**Resolution 3-09:** *To Revise The Election Of The President And First-Vice President Of Synod.* After an amendment to allow each congregation a pastoral and lay vote was defeated, the resolution was defeated.

## Resolutions Committee #1: Mission and District Ministries

Floor Committee #1 chairman, Rev. Bill Warren, began with some “leftover business” at the Saturday morning session as the convention dealt with Resolution 1-07A (*To Utilize Graduates of LAP*) which had been postponed due to the orders of the day. An amendment was submitted to require that all male



LAP graduates be ordained, rostered, and no longer denied a “regular” call. After much discussion and a failed attempt to amend the amendment, the amendment failed along with a second amendment that addressed the word “utilize”. Resolution 1-07A passed. Resolution 1-08 (*Support for Pacific Rim Outreach Society*) then was passed overwhelmingly.



**Installation of Board of Directors and other Officers**



*To help us to understand the youth perspective on the convention, here is a journal article by one of the youth delegates, Alexandra Clark, youth delegate from McMinnville, OR.*

The youth started out the morning with a delicious breakfast courtesy of the cooks at Concordia University. We traveled to the Convention center shortly thereafter and had a time of singing and devotions. Music was led by Darcy Barnhart, a DCE from St. Michael Lutheran Church. The devotion was an inspiring talk by Rev. Richard Peterson on how we approach God as our Heavenly Father. As a closing, he read a touching love letter written from our Heavenly Father to His children. After devotions the youth joined the rest of the convention delegates until after the fourth session when we departed for our FANtastic outreach. The event was organized as a race, scavenger hunt and outreach mission in one. Our mission field was Lloyd Center, with several obstacles to overcome. Some were physical, others more toward the spiritual. One youth ran around the ice rink, while another downed a large milkshake in three minutes and yet another handed out items from his “toolbox” to various cashiers with whom he came into contact. Comfort zones were stretched in some cases, with members of the group being almost forced to interact with people outside of Convention delegates. The event helped draw the group closer together and formed new friendships while also strengthening old ones. After dinner the group rejoined the convention for a great evening of worship with acapella group RESCUE and inspirational speaker Guy Doud.



# A TRIBUTE

Art Freitag has served on the Board of Directors of the Northwest District for forty two years. In 1964 he was nominated to serve on the board by the Neils family, who had been financially helpful to the Concordia system. He was able to accept the nomination even while working for the Navy because they had a policy of letting their personnel go to meetings if they had been elected to serve in their church. He really didn't expect to be elected because it would make him the youngest member of the board. But God was calling him into service.

In those days the District operated under a different system. The Board of Directors included a Board of Trustees who virtually served as the corporate officers of the district. Carl Losser was serving as president of the Trustees, G.C. Hilken was serving as treasurer and Art served as secretary. The responsibilities of the Trustees included managing parsonages as well as managing the Church Extension Fund of the District.

A lot of things have changed since then. There no longer is a Board of Trustees and the District got out of the parsonage management business. The Board of Directors of this district were the first in the Synod to extend a loan to a school when they offered a school in Anchorage, Alaska a one million dollar loan. This is what convinced the Synod that they could extend financial loans to schools.

Art recalls seeing God bless our District when the number of congregations blossomed and when the District became more efficient as they began operating as a policy setting board under the Carver model.

He would like to say to the new Board: "Thank the Lord. Sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done," and "God's blessings to you."

Art sees things as relatively peaceful now when compared to the 1970's. He is happy to see our District focused on sharing Christ.

When asked about the future, Art believes we have a great future. We have a president who is "on track about bringing the gospel to the lost." He proudly talks about a new mission in Silverdale, Washington he is personally interested in.

His advice to the new Board is "Keep the Faith. Give it away." He prays every morning that God will give him an opportunity to witness about Christ. He was quoted as saying this by Ozzie Hoffman in his book. Art believes in Small Group Ministry where people can be brought into the Christian community and nurtured in their relationship with Christ.



Art & Dorothy Freitag

Art was at one time seriously interested in becoming a pastor. His pre-seminary High School studies were interrupted by going into the service, but he believes that God has called him to serve as a lay person in ways that a pastor could not. He retired as the head of the design team for nuclear submarines, but he never retired from serving his Savior as a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Even now, he likes to always wear the LC-MS cross so that people will ask him about it so he can talk to them about Christ and his church.



## SATURDAY MORNING ELECTIONS

Linda Kuhlmann was elected to the Commissioned Minister position on the Board of Directors of the Northwest District LCMS.

Kalvin Waetzig was elected by acclamation to serve as Ordained Minister on the NW District Nominating Committee. Jeff Allen was elected by acclamation to served as the Commissioned Minister on the NW District Nominating. Sharlayne Buuck was elected by acclamation to serve as Lay Person on the District Nominating Committee.

Jonathan Dinger was elected to served as Ordained Minister on the Concordia University – Portland Board of Regents. Bob Fowls was elected to serve as the Commissioned Minister on the Concordia University – Portland Board of Regents. Terry Wilson was elected as Lay Member of the Concordia University – Portland Board of Regents.


## LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES PRESENTATION

Lewis Eilers introduced a video from Lutheran Hour Ministries in which Greg Lewis, president of the International LLL, spoke of a new effort to help people at all levels of our churches share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with billions of people in our world

develops a tailored measurable approach for evangelism training and media materials. This effort will partner with Ablaze! Last year 40 million people responded to LHM efforts with a request for materials. Learn more at [lhm.org](http://lhm.org).

# 2006 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



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