



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*

Fantastic Outreach

June 24, 2006



RESCUE in Concert

With a mixture of upbeat and reflective and encouraging songs, the vocal group RESCUE delighted the Northwest Convention delegates and guests. Their energy abounded in the knowledge of being saved by the love of God with “So Excited/Amazing Grace.” “If you know the Lord, you know He is the God of ‘Rescue’” was the signature song/psalm of adoration for the evening.

The beautifully blended vocal sound from Jason Overstreet, Steve Cross, Brian Sell and Dustin Allen was accentuated with the vocal percussion of the “fifth” rescuer and highlighted in an amazing video of his talent.



RESCUE’s more reflective style came through with songs such as “Come as You Are” and “For You.” Encouragement for “when you feel you’ve been put upon a shelf and forgotten came through with the promise that “He Won’t Let You Fall from His Hands.”

As they ended with singing about the Prince of Peace whose death won the fight; the Lamb of God who is “The Way, the Truth, the Life” brought home that the music of RESCUE always points to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The evening ended with RESCUE’s powerful and moving rendition of “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Inspirational Presentation

Dr. Guy Doud, former National Teacher of the Year, spoke to convention delegates and a large contingent of visitors Friday evening.

Citing John 10:10, “I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly,” Dr. Doud spoke of one of the richest mission fields in our nation—the youth of America. “Satan loves to get our kids,” he said. Often the method Satan uses is to destroy a person’s sense of self worth.

Dr. Doud believes that every curriculum should answer two questions: 1. Who am I? And 2. What difference does it make? If young people could realize that God has a plan for their lives, that sense of worth might begin to flourish.

An important influence in the lives of young people are the adults in their lives. It’s import for those influences be positive; Dr. Doud gave numerous examples of positive and negative influential adults in his life.

Dr. Doud’s message to the many grey haired people he sees in congregations these days is, “Your job isn’t finished!” He went on to stress the importance of older adults establishing intergenerational relationships with young people. Again he gave examples of the power of such relationships upon youth.

Such people become the “Molders of Dreams.”



Concordia University Report

The first report of the second session came from Dr. Charles Schlimpert, President of Concordia University—Portland. His report, titled “Beacon of Hope,” focused on the plans which Concordia University has developed to address the need for hope which exists among so many people today.

To achieve a part of its continuing goal to share the gospel with its community, the University has designed a new campus plan. The new layout is intended to impact Concordia’s local community by including athletic facilities for the neighborhood and making the new library and learning center a place for community activity. On a broader scale, the new library will house the Center for Lutheran studies, a resource which will be accessible to church members everywhere.

Concordia continues to see its mission as a link with the Northwest District and the Church at large, and so strengthening that partnership continues to be a high priority.

VISIT THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT ON THE WEB WWW.NOWLCCMS.ORG

2009 LWML Convention

The convention officially approved hosting the 2009 National Convention of the LWML in Portland. After the unanimous acclamation, President Schumacher introduced Julia Riess who is the host chairman of the convention.

In her comments about this event the chairman spoke of three needs. First, she noted

the need for volunteers to work on the convention; secondly, she encouraged as many Northwest District people as possible attend the 2007 LWML convention to encourage to come to Portland in 2009; finally, she asked those in attendance to encourage their friends and relatives to attend the Portland convention.

Planners have set a goal to have 5000 people attending the 2009 LWML National Convention; achieving this goal would make this convention the largest LWML convention ever held on the west coast.



*LWML Tri-District Presidents
Left to Right: Elaine Nelson, WA/AK
Melody Rosenwinckel, ID/UT
Julia Riess, 2009 LWML
ConventionChairman*

"It's about Relationship"

Keith Eilers read questions from delegates for Dr. Nadasdy on everything from how to retain our youth after confirmation to the lawsuit against President Kieschnick and Vice-President Diekelman to how we get along with one another.

The lawsuit will soon go away. All of the plaintiffs will need to sign off on the agreement. Yet, Dr. Nadasdy emphasized there are differences among us, largely over Communion practice, the service of women, and worship styles ("wine, women, and song"). Still, we have a tremendous unity. While some churches argue whether Jesus rose from the dead, we agree on the basics.



The key to keeping our youth after confirmation is childrens' ministries that forge friendships early.

When asked how his preaching has changed in 25 years, Dr. Nadasdy said his sermons are now less academic and simpler, while focusing on relationship. Theological convocations can help us, but they need to go beyond surface issues.

In regard to relations with other churches, we should pray for and with other Christians. We are always ready to discuss theology with them.

Dr. Nadasdy stressed the Northwest is a great mission field and the Northwest District is recognized nationally as pioneering in reaching the lost.

BIBLE STUDY # 2



“Every day is a gift of God to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” With those words, LCMS Vice President Dean Nadasdy concluded the second installment of the convention Bible study on Friday morning, underscoring the urgency of getting

the message out into the world. St. Paul encouraged the church to be “making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:16) “We take this seriously,” he said.

Nadasdy declared that having a sense of urgency is a mark of a missional church.

So also are the welcoming of strangers, creating intentional missional objectives, and seeking to break down walls and barriers.

Many congregations have a club mentality, focusing on “how good and right we are.” We need to turn people into missionaries and encourage intentional missional objectives for

every ministry of the church. When St. Paul told the Roman church to “practice hospitality,” he used the Greek word “philoxenia” meaning literally the “love of strangers.”

Nadasdy declared that having a sense of urgency is a mark of a missional church

In the table conversation following the study, a pastoral delegate

described watching strangers visiting church move through the pastoral greeting line, enter the narthex, look toward the Fellowship Hall and then to the exit door – and choose the exit. No one has welcomed or greeted them. “Look for the stranger,” Nadasdy reminded, and make hospitality an intentional practice.

ASAP (Always Say A Prayer)
 Convention chaplain Herb Hoefler brought the Friday morning session of the convention to a close with prayer. He prefaced the prayer by encouraging delegates to use materials from the tool kit packet they received at registration to share the Gospel, even during lunch. He cited statistics which demonstrate that there continues to be a majority of Americans who have little or no church affiliation.

OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

At the Friday morning session of the convention, District Secretary Rev. Paul Linnemann presented Omnibus resolutions for consideration by the convention.

Omnibus Resolution A referred Overtures 2-03, 2-08, 2-10, 2-13, 3-07, 3-08 and 3-17 to various boards, commissions or individuals that already are prepared and designated to deal with the issues presented in the overtures. After an amendment to refer Overtures 3-07 & 3-08 back to committee

was approved, the amended Omnibus Resolution A was adopted.

Omnibus Resolution B dealt with matters that had been previously considered or acted upon in previous conventions, including 2-02, 3-13, 3-14, and 3-16. After a motion to refer Overture 3-13 back to committee was defeated, Overture Resolution B was adopted. The lone overture of Omnibus Resolution E automatically was approved by consent, welcoming the 2009 National LWML Convention to Portland!

THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR LORD

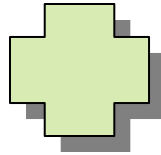
To the pleasure of those in attendance at the convention, tribute was given to those who have served our Lord for twenty-five years or more. The list of those who have served twenty five years (28 listed) to seventy seven years



(Louis Wetzel) was many. The group was also privileged to hear from former District presidents Erhart Bauer, who has

served forty seven years and Emil Jaech, who has served sixty eight years.

Emil Jaech, in addressing the convention, brought us back to his seminary graduation, in which he was advised that he should, above all things, learn to love the people in the congregation to which he was being called. Emil recalled how that advice has served him well through the years, so he encouraged all those in attendance to learn to do the same. Highlighting verses from 1 John, Jaech expressed that all who serve in the Lord's church would be well advised to, first of all, love those they serve.



Offering for Pages

Youth from three different congregations came forward and volunteered to help at our district convention. To thank them the Friday night offering was donated to the youth groups represented by youth from Sandpoint, ID, Portland, OR, and Hillsboro, OR.



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

FROM THE YOUTH



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 a capella group Rescue and inspirational speaker Guy Doud.

Resolutions Committee #1: Mission and District Ministries

Floor Committee #1, chaired by Rev. Bill Warren, introduced seven resolutions at the Friday morning session. The first six were approved and after lengthy discussion on the final resolution, Resolution 1-07A was postponed due to the orders of the day.

Resolution 1-01: *To Accept Reports.* The resolution was approved.

Resolution 1-02: *To Continue "Tracking the Spirit" As An Effective Movement Of Outreach For The 21st Century.* After amending the resolution to include the Bible passages in the original overture at end of the first whereas, the resolution was approved unanimously.

Resolution 1-3 *To Adopt A Special Triennium Mission Project (2006-2009).* After a motion was approved to dispense with the reading of "whereas" in subsequent resolutions, the resolution was approved unanimously. A check for \$80,000 also was presented by Thrivent Financial Services to begin implementation of this resolution, as well as a check for \$1, 082, 300 toward the building of homes in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity.

Resolution 1-4: *To Empower and Equip The Priesthood Of All Believers For Ministry.* After an amendment to change the word "empower" to "encourage" throughout the resolution was approved, the resolution passed overwhelmingly and was followed by an impassioned plea by Rev. Chris Reinke for the use of new methodologies in the training and involvement of lay ministers.

Resolution 1-05: *To Continue The Disabilities Awareness Task Force Of The Northwest District.* The resolution that thanked and extended the work of the Task Force was approved unanimously.

Resolution 1-06A: *To Continue And Support The Ethnic Ministries Task Force.* The resolution was approved. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution 1-07A: *To Utilize Graduates of LAP.* An amendment was to require that all male LAP graduates be ordained, rostered, and no longer denied a regular call. Action on the amendment and the resolution were postponed when time expired for Committee #1. Committee #2 Resolutions: Theology, Practice and District Administration

Resolutions Committee #2: Theology and Practice

Early on Friday afternoon the work of Committee #2 chaired by Rev. Phil Streufert concluded its work.

Resolution 2-01: *To Delegate To The District President To Initiate Professional Church Worker Gatherings.* Passed.

Resolution 2-02: *To Memorialize Synod To Allow Commissioned Ministers To Be A Congregation's Voting Delegate.* Passed in an amended form that would petition Synod to allow such ministers who are not serving in a commission to serve as congregational delegates.

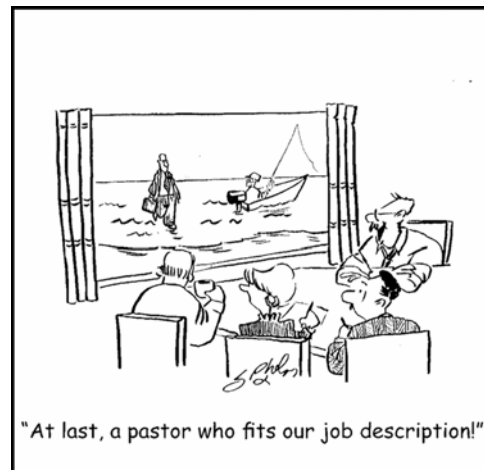
Resolution 2-03: *To Work Toward Fulfilling The Great Commission.* Passed.

Resolution 2-04: *To Memorialize The Synod To Revise Bylaw 4.3.2* An amendment specifically to encourage lay persons to serve as treasurer failed, but the resolution passed.

Resolution 2-05: *To Accept Reports.* Passed.

Resolution 2-06: *To Respectfully Decline Overtures.*

An amendment to remove Overture 2-07 from the bundle failed and the resolution passed.



61st NORTHWEST DISTRICT CONVENTION ELECTIONS

The election committee reported the results of the first ballot for First Vice-President. There was no majority vote cast for any of the 7 candidates. A second ballot was required. The four candidates remaining on the ballot were Eric Lange, Tyrus Miles, Clem Pera and Jeffrey Pulse.

A majority vote was not cast on the second ballot. Three candidates remain: Tyrus Miles, Clem Pera and Jeffrey Pulse

Clem Pera was elected with 50.15% of the votes on the third ballot.

Jonathan Rockey was declared Vice-President of the Alaska region by acclamation since he was the only candidate for that office.

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The ballot for the Inland Empire Regional Vice-President included two candidates: Toby Joeckel and Laurence Meyer. Laurence Meyer was elected with 60% of the votes.

Keith Eilers and Jeffrey Pulse were the candidates for the Regional Vice-President for the Puget Sound region. Keith Eilers was elected as the Vice-President from the Puget Sound region.

Michael Donnan was the only nominee for the Vice-President for the South Idaho region. His election was affirmed by the convention by acclamation.

Convention delegates cast a ballot to rank the Regional Vice-President. The results of this ballot follow: Second Vice-President of the NW District LCMS - Tyrus Miles; third Vice-President – Keith Eilers; fourth Vice-President – Laurence Meyer; fifth Vice- President – Jonathan Rockey; Sixth Vice-President – Michael Donnan.

The slate of Circuit Counselors nominated by the congregations of their individual circuits was affirmed by acclamation.

Rev. Paul Linnemann was the only nominee for the Secretary of the Northwest District. He was elected by acclamation.

Michael Haas, Chuck Hewitson, Bob Kaestner and Dick Mikkelsen were elected to six-year terms as lay members on the Board of Directors of the Northwest District. Julia Riess and Scott Wolfram were elected to three-year terms.

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