



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 22, 2006
Portland, Oregon

WELCOME

Look around you and you'll be impressed at the magnificent facility we are privileged to be meeting in to share faith with our sisters and brothers here at this convention. Greetings and welcome to the 61st Convention of the Northwest (NOW) District! Our theme, "Fan into Flame the Gift of God," urges us to "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16). While you here at the Oregon Convention Center, you will be on display to a very busy world. While at this convention we will have an opportunity to "practice what we preach" as we interact with those who serve us in the restaurants, hotels, and convention center.

Our scheduled FANTASTIC events on Friday afternoon and evening will be opportunities to share the Good News in a variety of ways.

We are here in Portland, Oregon, yet our Northwest District spans three time zones here in the continental United States, and we link over 6,000 miles with our Pacific Rim ministries and preaching stations in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Hanoi. We are organized to train and equip laity and professional church workers to reach the lost in our communities and neighborhoods throughout this vast geographical region.



Our LCMS Mission statement was adopted eight years ago. In the 1998 Synodical Convention, the Synodical President, Dr. Alvin Barry proposed the following mission statement. Many minutes

of convention time were consumed by the debate of whether or not to add the word "vigorously." I'm encouraging each of you to take a vigorous attitude to "Fan into Flame the Gift of God" which is the faith that God has given to us through the blessings of the Holy Spirit. Here's the Mission Statement:

*"Fan into Flame the Gift of God"
2 Timothy 1:6*

"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."

This is a vigorous welcome to the 61st Convention of the Northwest District!

Dr. Warren Schumacher, President

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RESCUE Group is Inspiring and Fun!

You will want to hear the group called RESCUE sing on Friday evening. You will want to invite people to come hear them sing!

RESCUE, a national recording group draws listeners of all ages with their fresh and exciting sound. Their unique, captivating and contemporary a cappella style brings people into a worshipful and entertaining arena.

Touring internationally, RESCUE is regularly featured on television and radio.

As the Lord continues to open doors of opportunity, they look forward to further sharing their music in every corner of the globe.

Since founding RESCUE in 1997, Jason Overstreet, Director, continues to invest his time writing and arranging RESCUE's music and overseeing all aspects of RESCUE in order to maintain stability and consistency of music ministry. Jason also sings with the group at select concerts.

God has bestowed incredible musical ability upon the other vocalists Brian Sell, Dustin Allen, and Steve Cross who also have a tremendous passion for Him.



FIND US ON THE WEB AT WWW.NOWLCMS.ORG



Guy Doud Keynote Speaker on Friday Evening

You will want to be sure to hear Guy Doud speak on Friday evening. People who come to hear him because of your invitation will thank you for inviting them!

As a high school language arts teacher in Brainerd, MN, Guy received the highest award that the education profession offers: he was chosen from more than two and one-half million teachers as the 1986

National Teacher of the Year (TOY) for the United States of America, and was honored at a ceremony at the White House by then President Ronald Reagan. This position thrust Guy into the national spotlight.

Guy has addressed hundreds of groups since being chosen America's TOY. In 1989 he was a main platform speaker for the Million Dollar Roundtable and was rated as one of the top speakers of all time. He has addressed the national conventions of the Rural Electric Association, the National School Board Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, to name a few. He was a keynote speaker for a recent LC-MS NOW District All Workers' Conference. We welcome Guy back!

Triennium Mission Project Blessed by the Holy Spirit!

The 2003 District Convention voted to have Tracking the Spirit as the triennium mission project. The Lord has blessed this mission project. Just read what the Spirit accomplished:

Between 2003-2006:

- A 36' mobile home has been donated to aid in travel and accessibility of the Tracking the Spirit (TTS) team
- Over \$160,000 has been raised. \$72,500 obtained through grants and private donors helped to conduct TTS throughout the District free of charge to congregations, ministries, and groups
- Over 100 TTS Discovery sessions and leadership meetings have been held throughout the District
- Over 600 participated in TTS Discoveries
- Over 80 Sharing Jesus workshops have been held (separate from those held in conjunction with TTS)
- Over 4,000 have participated in Sharing Jesus workshops
- Over 100 "Trackers" have been commissioned: coveting to intentionally open their eyes and hearts to share the Gospel with those the Holy Spirit places in their paths each day.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

As a result:

- Prayer for the lost and misdirected has increased substantially - and hearts are opening to the Good News
- More congregations have begun prayer ministries and held prayer workshops
- There are now close to 600 prayer partners actively praying for concerns received by the District office
- Prayer requests are being received at the District office from all over the world!
- Over 100,000 people have heard the Gospel in caring and relational ways - and these are only the ones that have been reported -there are many more that we have not heard about
- Fifty-five Pastors, church workers, leaders, and ministry representative attended an advanced Tracking the Spirit training in October 2005; with 90% signing covenants to be actively involved in Tracking the Spirit
- The Synod agrees, through the efforts of Tracking the Spirit, that congregations are the gathering of many small churches and churches are where two or three are gathered together with Christ as the center for the purpose of reaching those who don't know him
- Relational Gospel sharing is happening everywhere in creative ways and producing disciples that make disciples



In the last quarter of 2005 alone - over 16 churches (where two or more are gathered) have sprouted throughout the District with more than 20 that are beginning to take root. For the first time in many decades, the NOW District LCMS reports growth rather than decline.



It's NOT "Business as Usual"

Typically Missouri Synod conventions include business sessions where various reports are given, Bible studies are done, and resolutions are debated and voted on.

Not all of the business sessions of this convention will be "business as usual."

The task force that began meeting a little over a year ago to prepare for this convention decided to create a regular business session that would give the convention delegates the opportunity to actually *do* the mission of God's people: tell people about Jesus

Christ. The result of this planning is called FANTastic Discoveries.

All delegates received a registration packet that included the opportunity to sign up for one of several kinds of FANTastic Discoveries. Some FANTastic Discoveries are for the more extroverted delegates and include face-to-face conversations about Jesus Christ at the local Lloyd Center Mall. Some events are for the more introverted delegates. Whatever your own personality, there is a FANTastic Discovery event for you to participate in.

Have you signed up for an event? If not, it's still not too late to be a part of this special business session of the convention. Go to the

registration desk at the Convention Center and ask for more information about the FANTastic Discoveries events and how you can sign up.



“FAN INTO FLAME THE GIFT OF GOD” BANNER

Loraine Wendland, wife of Rev. Leland Wendland, made the banner based on a design drawn by Susan Olson, one of the Administrative Assistants working in the Northwest District office of the LC—MS. While making it, Loraine was struck by the symbolism in the logo. Here are her words explaining the logo as she understands it:

I have crafted the banner, viewing it with the knowledge that Christ first loved me and gave himself for me. It is with much joy, I present my view of the banner, showing the diversity of people and their walk in life. May we each rejoice in the power of the Spirit to “FAN INTO FLAME” the gift of our love for Christ.

The Cross is the symbol of our redemption in Christ’s love for us.

The descending dove, the most recognized symbol for the Holy Spirit, hovers above the flames.

The Holy Spirit breathes life into Christ’s Church, giving members direction, power, and desire to “FAN INTO FLAME” their love for the Savior. Christ’s followers are spurred into action through the fire of the Holy Spirit lighting their faith with enthusiasm and dedication, helping them share the forgiving love of Christ. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit in and through baptism to reach, to hold and uplift each of those around us, bringing them to the knowledge of Christ’s redemptive love.

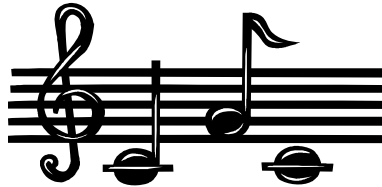
We “FAN INTO FLAME” the gift of the Spirit.



Loraine D. Wendland

Convention Theme Song Inspired by the Spirit

I was excited and a little nervous when Pres. Warren Schumacher asked me to write a theme song for the District Convention. I went to the meeting and heard the scripture that was the basis for the theme, 2 Timothy 1:1-9. I went home with many ideas running through my head and went to work bringing out my concordance and studying the scriptures with much prayer. I came up with a tune and some words, but they just seemed to lack punch. I couldn’t come up with anything else and so I just laid it aside and “tried” to “forget” it for a while. Well I kind of started worrying, knowing in my heart that God would be faithful and help me with this, but becoming real impatient because nothing was happening. One evening couple of weeks later, I awoke with this singing going over and over in my head “Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through Christ Jesus.” It was wonderful! I quickly wrote it down on a scrap piece of paper with a few notes drawn in so I wouldn’t forget when I awoke in the morning.



The next morning after getting my family off, I sat down and started writing the words. My mother has always had a strong influence on me. She has lived her life inviting people to come to church and telling them about her Lord and Savior. So this emphasis on personal evangelism has

always been a part of my life. As I have gotten older, I see more and more the emptiness that consumes many people today, and how they try to fill it with all sorts of things: drugs, sex, work, recreational hobbies etc. It doesn’t work! These people need a Savior! We have been put on this earth for one purpose only: to glorify God while we do His work. We must share from our hearts our story of how

Jesus has touched our lives, - to our family, our friends and neighbors, everyone - so that they too can know of the love of God which is in Christ Jesus and the joy and peace that passes all human understanding.

A copy of the theme song is available in the “mp3” format at www.nowlcms.org > Convention 2006 > Theme Song. At the end of the CD listen for the special voices of faith from a mother as she sings *Jesus loves the little Children*, from a child as he sings *Jesus Loves Me*, a youth as she sings *It only takes a Spark*, and a grandfather as he sings *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. They end together singing *Here I am Lord*. Are you ready and willing to say, “Here I am Lord”?

We must fan into flame the gift of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Kelly Dobbin





Dean Nadasdy Bible Study Leader

Rev. Dean Nadasdy is not new to the Northwest District. From 1973 to 1981 he served as the pastor for Grace Lutheran Church in Eugene, Oregon. We welcome him to this convention as the Third Vice-President of our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and as our Bible study leader for the convention.

One of the gifts the Spirit has given Rev. Nadasdy is the gift of helping people get into God’s Scriptures. We look forward to Rev. Nadasdy’s Bible studies that will help us to discover more about what “Fanning into Flame the Gift of God” means for us personally.

Rev. Nadasdy earned his Master of Divinity degree from

Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1973 and was ordained and began his service as a pastor in Eugene.

He has also served Cross View Lutheran Church in Edina, MN from 1981 to 1997. From 1997 to 2000 he served as an Associate Professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in the homiletics department. Since 2000, he has served as the senior pastor for Woodbury Lutheran Church in Woodbury, MN.

His service has not been limited to the parish and the seminary. At the Synodical level, he served on the Student Life Commission, the Task Force for the Reorganization of Synod, and the Board for Communication Services.

You might have come across his name in several Concordia Publishing House Bible studies including three in the *LifeLight* series.

Rev. Nadasdy and his wife, Susan, have three children.

FLOOR COMMITTEES AT WORK

It is important that convention delegates understand the process involved in which resolutions develop for presentation to the delegates in convention. The following is offered to shed light on that process.

1. A Resolution to the District Convention ordinarily begins as an Overture that is submitted to the District Secretary by congregations, official Conferences, and Boards of the District.
2. Overtures are given to the District President for assignment to appropriate Convention Floor Committees.
3. Before assignment, the Overtures are examined for factual accuracy and for anything that may be considered legally inappropriate.
4. Once the Floor Committees of the Convention receives the Overtures, they meet to consider each Overture, study the content of the Overture and decide how best to deal with it for the sake of the Church of Jesus Christ, and the NOW District assembled in convention.
5. The work of the Floor Committees results in RESOLUTIONS that are as signed numbers and referenced to the particular Overture.
6. The Resolutions are then published for the delegates prior to the Convention.
7. Open Hearings of the Floor Committees are held just before the Convention at which time anyone may speak to the Committee's Resolution handling of an Overture. The Open Hearings are not for the purpose of debate between the Floor Committee and the speaker, but simply to allow expression of their views and opinions, perhaps share some new information, so that the Committee may give the additional information consideration.
8. After the Open Hearings, each Floor Committee has closed meetings to make any necessary wording changes or actions based on all the information at their disposal.



Rev. Bill Warren,
Committee 1, Chair

9. A Floor Committee may also bring a new Resolution on its own to the Convention floor. Floor committees are assigned to give attention to reports printed in the Convention Workbook and to receive, review and, perhaps, respond to the material, suggestions and recommendations in the reports. A Floor Committee may initiate a resolution that is based on things that have been shared in the reports in the workbook.
10. Overtures brought to the Floor Committee may result in a Resolution to the floor of the Convention or it may be placed into one of four Omnibus Resolutions or a Resolution to Decline. Omnibus Resolution possibilities include:
 - a. one on the basis that previous conventions have already dealt with the issue and nothing has changed to merit another convention's time; or
 - b. it may be something that needs to be handled by an other entity rather than the Convention, such as a particular Board; or
 - c. the resolution may assume the role of conveying thanks which will require no delegate response; or
 - d. the resolution may propose a non-controversial item to be accepted by consent.



Rev. Phil Streufert,
Committee 2, Chair

This is the process of convention handling of Overtures and Resolutions. May God bless us as we follow the Spirit to bring these resolutions to a God-pleasing conclusion within our District.



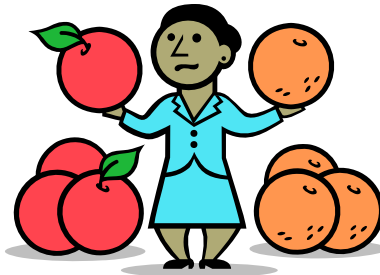
Rev. Ty Miles,
Committee 3, Chair

Not All Delegates Are the Same!

One of the things about our Missouri Synod conventions that can be confusing at first is that we have two different kind of voting delegates (pastor or lay) and also “other” delegates. The “other” delegates are advisory delegates and usually consist of professional church workers such as teachers, directors of Christian education, and associate pastors who are on the membership roster of the Synod.

The reason for the difference in voting delegates goes back to the roots of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The founders of our Synod decided that the church leadership should not

be done solely by pastors (as was being done by some Lutherans in America at the time) nor solely done by the lay members. The result was to have the leadership consist of an equal division of pastors and lay members. At our district



convention each parish (more than one congregation served by the same pastor) has two voting delegates: one pastor and one lay delegate.

If a congregation has two pastors, only one of them can be a voting delegate. The other pastor can only be an advisory delegate. If a congregation has other professional church workers who are on the membership roster of the Synod, they are to be advisory delegates at the convention. Advisory delegates can speak to the convention on the issues that come before it, but they cannot vote on the issues.

In order to preclude confusion about who is eligible to vote and who is an advisory delegate, delegates are given different colored name tags. Voting delegates will have blue name tags while advisory delegates will have yellow name tags.

ATTENTION

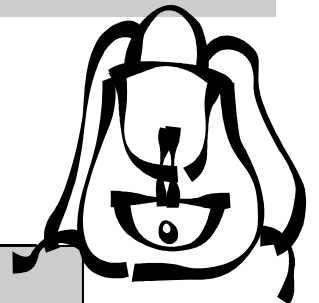
Policy re Distribution of Materials

“Only materials requiring convention action (e.g., resolutions, ballots) shall be distributed within the convention hall proper. There shall be no person to person distribution of such materials within the building except for the exhibits planned or approved by the convention committee. The President’s Office shall see that these provisions are carried out and that the standards of Christian Decency and constraint are maintained.”

Quoted from: Today’s Business Synod Convention 2004 page 6.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT DONATING YOUR BACKPACK, SCHOOL SUPPLIES OR CANNED FOODS? LOOK FOR THE COLLECTION BOXES

For a complete listing of school supplies and canned foods needed please refer to your workbook on pages 7-5 & 7-13. If you did not bring these items with you to convention but would like to donate, Safeway & Dollar Tree are close by—Ask for directions at the information table.



P A G E S

As you sit on the convention floor, you will see a number of young adults wearing green vests. They are the Pages for our convention. Among other activities, they will be distributing and collecting ballots for elections. Since they are volunteering their time to be here to serve you, you might take the time to learn your pages’ names and tell them “Thank you!” for their service.

- Cody Ceibler
- Jarrod Maenx
- Brittany Deshazo
- Sam Huffman
- Hank Huffman
- Andrew Langbehn
- Megan Braze
- Alex Kenyon
- Kelsea Miller

**Come Visit the Exhibits
Downstairs in the D Meeting
Rooms**

- Alaska Mission Committee
- Ambassadors of Reconciliation
- Chapel on the Avenue
- Church Mutual Insurance Company
- Concordia Plan Services
- Concordia Publishing House
- Concordia Seminary—St Louis
- Concordia Theological Seminary—
Ft Wayne
- Concordia University—Portland
- Cornerstone Stewardship Ministry
- Cross Country Mission Society
- Good Samaritan Society
- Good Shepherd Communities
- Hong Kong International School
- I-AM Youth Ministry
- Jay Musfeldt
- Laborers for Christ
- LCMS World Mission
- LCMS World Relief
- LCMS World Relief & Human Care
- Leadership Advancement Process
- LENS
- LLL—WA/AK—UT/ID—OR
- Lutheran Bible Translators
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- Lutheran Deaconess Association
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- Lutheran Latino Ministries, Inc.
- Lutheran Ministries Services NW
- Lutheran Social Services—Alaska
- Lutheran Vietnamese Ministry
- LWML WA/AK—UT/ID—OR
- Northwest District—LCMS
- Northwest District Ministry to Military
Personnel, Families & Congregations
- Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries
- Northwest District Archives
- Northwest District Youth Ministry Task
Force
- Portland Lutheran High School
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Lutheran Church
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★
An information table will be set up outside the
doors of the ballroom where delegates may
retrieve telephone messages from the message
board or get directions to local restaurants, shops, etc.
★ If we receive a message that is urgent, every effort will
be made to locate you at your assigned table on the con-
vention floor.
★ **NEED HELP? District Staff** is easily identified by their
blue vests. Board of Directors will be wearing **bur-
gundy vests. Pages** will be wearing **green vests.**
★ First Aid needs may be addressed at the information
table. They will have first aid kits and able to get
additional help if needed.
★ ★

YOUR PRESS ROOM

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