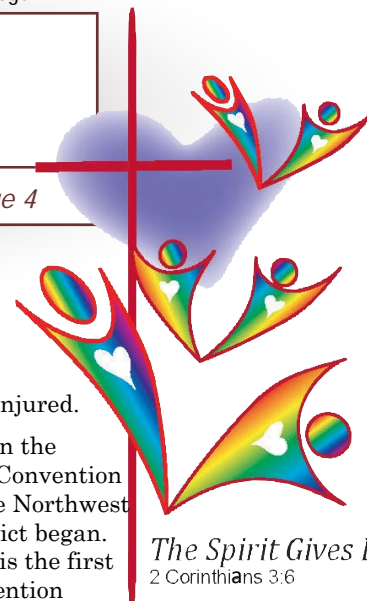


# The Spirit Gives Life

## 2 Corinthians 3:6

NOW LCMS 62nd District Post-Convention Newsletter

Volume 1: Issue 4



*The Spirit Gives Life.*  
2 Corinthians 3:6

## 62nd Convention Opens with Theme Song & Prayer



*Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher*  
Retiring NOW District President

Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher introduced the theme song, written and composed by Kelly Dobbin, to set the stage for the convention. Kelly Dobbin briefly explained how the writing process itself brought her to a new realization of how God's Spirit "gives life to all." The song expresses that



*Kelly Dobbin*

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn, but to save.

Then, Warren, taking the gavel in hand, spoke of how a gavel can be used as an instrument of order and freedom. He then explained how this was his intent for the process of the convention.

Rev. Pete Peterson was called on to start the convention in prayer. In his prayer, he acknowledged Jesus as our head, and asked God to breathe on us His Holy Spirit to equip us, unite us and enable us. He also acknowledged that Jesus is the head while we are part of his body, brothers and sisters in Christ. He also prayed for a delegate, Bill, who

was injured.

Then the 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the Northwest District began. This is the first convention

where the Convention Workbooks were digital rather than printed and mailed...saving the District significant money.

Warren recognized his wife Judy and Rev. Dr. Erhart Bauer. He also introduced, Jenny McIvor, Susan Lorenz, Father Joseph Browne who would serve as convention Parliamentarian and Rev. Paul Linnemann, District Secretary.

The convention began with 306 voting delegates - 139 Clergy and 167 Lay Delegates.



## Rev. Paul Linnemann—President-Elect for NOW District of LCMS

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Convention of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has elected as their new District President, Rev. Paul Linnemann who won on the first ballot by a 53.6% margin of the 343 voting delegates (194 clergy, 149 lay).

Retiring District President Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher, who served as District President for 15 years, declared him to be the President-Elect. Rev. Linnemann asked for the prayers of those in the District. "The greatest blessing of all of this: I consider you to be brothers and sisters in Christ and friends and colleagues in the ministry." His answer reflected humility and grace, "God is faithful. God has always seen me through. He will see me through again. I ask for your prayers."

His wife Cindy was recognized along with Paul on the platform. His installation service will be held Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at Zion Lutheran Church, Portland at 3:00 p.m.

The results of the election for District President were: Eric Lange (Redeemer, Gresham, Or) 49 votes (14.8%), Paul Linnemann (Our Redeemer, Tigard, OR) 178 votes (53.6%), Kerry Reese (Shepherd of the Hills, Snohomish, WA) 39 votes (11.8%), Jonathan Rocky (St. John, Palmer, AK) 44 votes



(13.3%), and Tony Schultz (Prince of Peace, Battle Ground, WA) 22 votes (6.6%).



*Rev. Paul Linnemann*  
Northwest District President-Elect

# Northwest District Election Results

Following the election of Rev. Paul Linnemann on the first ballot as Northwest District President, six vice presidents were elected to serve with him on the District Presidium.

The vote for 1st Vice President included five candidates and went to a fourth ballot. After Kerry Reese, Keith Eilers and Eric Lange were subsequently removed for receiving the lowest number of votes. The final ballot came down to Jonathan Dinger and Jonathan Rockey, who tied on both the first and second ballots. Rev. Jonathan Dinger (Grace, Pocatello, ID) was ultimately chosen as 1st Vice President with 57.2% of the vote.

In Alaska, Joseph Baumgarten and Jonathan Rockey were the candidates. Rev. Jonathan Rockey (St. John, Palmer, AK) received 76.5% of the vote and is the 2nd Vice President.

In the Puget Sound, Keith Eilers and Ted Werfelmann were joined by Kerry Reese who was added to the slate of candidates by a motion from the floor but received the lowest number of votes on the first ballot. Rev. Ted Werfelmann (Light of Christ, Federal Way) received 59.2% on the second ballot and is the 3rd Vice President.

In Oregon, Dennis Bohren and Mark Hoelter were the candidates. Rev. Mark Hoelter received 53.0% of the vote and is the 4th Vice President.

In the Inland Empire, Dan Kunkel and Toby Joeckel were the candidates. Rev. Dan Kunkel (Faith, Oroville; Hope, Tonasket; Immanuel, Havillah) received 61.3% of the vote and is the 5th Vice President.

In South Idaho, the sole candidate was Rev. Phil Bohlken (Grace, Caldwell) who was elected by acclamation and is the 6th Vice President.

<b>District President</b>	Rev. Paul Linnemann
<b>1st VP</b>	Rev. Jonathan Dinger
<b>2nd VP &amp; Alaska Regional VP</b>	Rev. Jonathan Rockey
<b>3rd VP &amp; Puget Sound Regional VP</b>	Rev. Ted Werfelmann
<b>4th VP &amp; Oregon Regional VP</b>	Rev. Mark Hoelter
<b>5th VP &amp; Inland Empire Reg VP</b>	Rev. Dan Kunkel
<b>6th VP &amp; S. Idaho Regional VP</b>	Rev. Phil Bohlken
<b>District Secretary</b>	Rev. Langdon Reinke
<b>Board of Directors-Lay</b>	Linda Borecki
	Julia Riess
	Dave Schilling
	Scott Wolfram
<b>Board of Directors-Commissioned</b>	Linda Kuhlmann
<b>District Nominating Committee-Lay</b>	Jim Cullen
<b>Dist Nom Committee-Commissioned</b>	Bob Fossum
<b>District Nominating Committee-Clergy</b>	Rev. Bruce Rumsch
<b>Synod Nominating Committee</b>	Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher
<b>Board of Regents-Lay</b>	Jack Menashe
	Terry Wilson
<b>Board of Regents-Commissioned</b>	Bob Fowls
<b>Board of Regents-Clergy</b>	Rev. Bruce (Max) Biesenthal
<b>Circuit 1</b>	Gary Clark
<b>Circuit 2</b>	Wilbur Gehrke
<b>Circuit 3</b>	Peter Pagel
<b>Circuit 4</b>	Terry Merrill
<b>Circuit 5</b>	John Luttmann
<b>Circuit 6</b>	Eric Lange
<b>Circuit 7</b>	Richard Kiessling
<b>Circuit 8</b>	Tony Schultz
<b>Circuit 9</b>	Michael Warmbier
<b>Circuit 10</b>	Robert Cutler
<b>Circuit 11</b>	Baldwin Camin
<b>Circuit 12</b>	Jerry Reinke
<b>Circuit 13</b>	Allan Johnston
<b>Circuit 14</b>	Mark Adams
<b>Circuit 15</b>	Stephen Brehmer
<b>Circuit 16</b>	Steve Nickodemus
<b>Circuit 17</b>	Jeffry Berndt
<b>Circuit 18</b>	Kyle Heck
<b>Circuit 19</b>	August Lubkeman
<b>Circuit 20</b>	Ernie Lassman
<b>Circuit 21</b>	Roger Dallman
<b>Circuit 22</b>	Ray Hagan
<b>Circuit 23</b>	Richard Peterson
<b>Circuit 24</b>	Mario Ancira
<b>Circuit 25</b>	Dennis Morner

*Thanks to Rev. John Schmidt of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tacoma, WA for the color photos taken during convention, published herein.*

## President Schumacher's Report

THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY began in the summer of 1994 when the Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher took office as the eleventh President of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. "I started with 800 prayer requests, a Bible, and a laptop," he said as he addressed the Convention assembly on Thursday evening during Session 2. His road map was, is, and always will be the book of *Acts*, from which he has grown from a parish pastor into one of our most cherished leaders in the church. His favorite passage from Acts 28:28-31 chronicles the mighty acts of the Holy Spirit not

only in the first century church but in our 21st century version of it as well.

At the beginning of his report Dr. Schumacher called on each of his current Board of Directors to stand before the delegates to the 62nd NW District Convention, noting that six of the seventeen were retiring along with him. "So, what's next?" he asked out loud. Switching our attention to a global picture on the screen, he pointed out that the Pacific Northwest Rim had become the center of the world, and had the most in common with the Mediterranean world of the first Christians. While it is true that the church has

become a sanctuary for fatigue and failure, it is from there that Christians must move outside its walls into the big-time public square. He emphasized that our Synod, that is, our meeting together, needs to meet this challenge.

The Rev. Carl O. Fisher, his vicarage supervisor, taught Dr. Schumacher how to love people. From here the Rev. Phil Meyer's story was highlighted as an example of how the Lord opened doors along his journey into ministry. From a layman to a Commissioned Minister to a DCE to a Licensed Deacon to

an ordained Minister as of June 12th, this man illustrated the President's point.



*Jenny McIvor*  
Administrative Assistant to Rev. Schumacher

The journey included all the Knott House staff as well: Jenny McIvor, Susan Lorenz, Steve Henderson, Martha Conboy, Shirley Bentson, Brynn Harteloo, Denny Langston, Dick Weniger, Ryan McIvor, Susan Olson, Denny Lorenz, Patti Maggiora, Bob Fowls, Laurie Bredehoft, Vicki Knutsen, and Martha Weniger.

The journey beyond his 15 years of service will require vision not seen since the first century. Recent pictures from the Hubble telescope into outer space as well as amazing discoveries from the Genome Project into inner space of over 25,000 genes in human DNA (deoxyribo-nucleic-acid) reveal huge challenges for the church of our modern world. The President said that we must now learn how to be the people of God on our journey. Our travel will take us to every ethnic group in the world. And, he concluded, let us pray for God to protect us. Amen.



*Pastor Phil Meyer signing the application for membership in the Synod*

## Report from Concordia University

On the opening night of the convention, Dr. Charles Schlimpert, president of Concordia University Portland, addressed the gathering enthusiastically, announcing that now into his twenty-seventh year at Concordia, "it's just starting to get fun!" Among the reasons for his excitement, he reported on the construction progress of the George R. White Library & Learning Center. Emphasizing "it's not the building that's important but what happens in the building," he noted programs like the

Concordia Teacher Corp, which serve not only the college campus, but also the surrounding community. This 74,000 square foot facility will house the Art and Carol Wahlers Center for Applied Lutheran Leadership (CALL), a developing centerpiece of the special partner-



*Rev. Schumacher and President Schlimpert*

ship the university has with the Northwest District. Celebrating that partnership, President Schlimpert closed by awarding District President Warren Schumacher the University's Christi Crux Award for 2009, which the convention welcomed with a standing ovation.

## Friday Worship Service

Friday morning worship began with the Trinity Bell Team gathering delegates, families and friends into the sanctuary. Rev. Bruce Rumsch, service leader, called the Body to worship with Word and sound declaring the Spirit's life-giving work. To crackling dry bones and chimes, the Creator Spirit of Genesis 1 and Ezekiel 37 was proclaimed and received among God's people in Christ – a full house!

Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, LCMS President, preached from Titus 3:3-8 on *The Hope of the World*. Drawing from his own life experiences in ministry, he told of a 13 year old girl who took her own life, leaving a message on the mirror: "Life is just so overwhelming." Many in our world today, he said, share this girl's experience in life, including people in our churches, schools, and homes. Yet the Holy Spirit works to bring God's grace of forgiveness, life and hope to people in our world, "to anyone, anywhere," he said.

President Schumacher later acknowledged ordained and commissioned workers celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in ministry. President

Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Erhart Bauer, standing for them all, was especially honored with his extended family in attendance.



From the joint District choir's *How Great Thou Art* to the Nunc Dimittis, the communion service focused on the Spirit's life-giving work to the praise of God and the joy of his people in Christ.



Trinity Bell Team

## Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick Address & Welcome

As part of his greeting to the Northwest District, Synodical president Rev. Dr. Jerry Kieschnick took the time to welcome and invite the District President-elect Paul Linnemann and his wife to the council of presidents.



President Kieschnick shared a report about our Synod;

specifically how there is more that unites us than that which divides us. We, unlike many churches, have more things in which we agree than things in which we disagree.

This opening was a prelude to the conclusion of his presentation where

Kieschnick explained why he was high on the future of LCMS. Throughout his travels he sees "incredible lay leaders," "wonderful pastors" serving in a challenging time, "wonderful Commissioned Ministers" in our Synod, who are "committed and faithful." Our church, as a body, understands the Law-Gospel tension and the tension between sin and grace. This understanding draws people to us. He stated, we may "wrestle with how to encourage one another," and "the need is great" but the "opportunity is phenomenal." Our future is bright because we are "making the love of Christ known in Word and Deed."

Although there is a growing bias against Christianity in our culture and societies' values and attitudes contradict and clash with the Word of God. The biggest deception is that nothing can be done.

This is a defining moment for our Synod. In a video presentation, the

assembly saw churches that were putting faith into action. In Katy, Texas, a Lutheran Church operates a free health clinic. In Wisconsin, a strong Hales Corners Lutheran Church is teaming with struggling churches in Racine and Milwaukee to help these churches grow. Rural ministry was also modeled in Newhall, Iowa, where the church adopted a new mission to "find lost sheep" and where the members are learning to share their faith.

*Throughout his travels he sees "incredible lay leaders," "wonderful Pastors" serving in a challenging time, and "wonderful Commissioned Ministers" who are "committed and faithful."*

	<b>Northwest Convention 2009 Resolution Results</b>	
<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Convention Action</b>
<b>1-01a</b>	To Allow Ministers Of Religion–Commissioned To Serve As Delegates At Conventions	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
<b>1-02a</b>	To Support The Work Of The Blue Ribbon Task Force On Synod Structure & Governance	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
<b>1-03a</b>	To Retain Licensed Deacon Program	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
<b>1-04</b>	To Memorialize The Synod To Revise Bylaw 4.3.2	
<b>1-05a</b>	To Realign Alaska Into Two Circuits	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
<b>1-06a</b>	To Recognize Synod Trained Church Workers Not On Synod’s Roster For IRS Purposes	<b>Omnibus A</b>
<b>1-07</b>	To Accept Reports A-L	
<b>2-01a</b>	To Continue “Tracking The Spirit” as an Effective Movement of Outreach for the 21st Century	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
<b>2-02a</b>	Resolution Regarding End of Life Issues	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
<b>2-03a</b>	To Minister To Youth In A Post-Church, Post-modern Culture	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
<b>2-04</b>	To Utilize Graduates Of LAP	<b>combined with 1-03</b>
<b>2-05</b>	To Encourage Intentional Outreach To The Older Generation	<b>Adopted</b>
<b>2-06a</b>	To Memorialize The Synod To Include Disabilities Awareness Ministry Training In The Curricula Of Synod’s Seminaries & Universities	<b>Adopted as amended</b>
<b>2-07</b>	To Work With Other Christians To Reach Those Who Do Not Know Christ And Memorialize Synod To Do The Same	
<b>2-08</b>	Stewards Of Creation	<b>Adopted</b>
<b>2-09</b>	To Encourage Operation Barnabas Training Seminars	<b>Adopted</b>
<b>2-10</b>	To Thank The Lord Of The Church For Blessing President Schumacher With Gifts Of Leadership & To Recognize His Use Of Those Gifts In Dedicated Service To The District & To The Church	<b>Adopted with resolved "president emeritus" be granted</b>
<b>2-11</b>	To Accept Reports M-Z	<b>Adopted</b>
<b>Omnibus Resolution A</b>	Overtures 1-05, 1-06, 1-11, 1-13	<b>Adopted as amended, replaced 1-13 with 1-06a</b>
<b>Omnibus Resolution C</b>	Overtures 1-04, 1-07, 1-09, 1-10	<b>Sent by convention back to committee</b>

## Dearly Departed



The triennial commemoration of the faithfully departed was lead by Rev. Laurence Meyer, assisted by Linda Trier. A scriptural narration accompanied

the naming of the departed with the solemn words, “Husband, father, pastor, teacher,” followed by descriptions of their ministries. Noting their faithful work in preparing God’s people for service (Eph 4), Rev. Meyer expressed the thanksgiving and praise of the District for their entry into the Church Triumphant (Rev 7). President Schumacher then honored these people with special words commemorating the life and service of President Emeritus, Emil Jaech, who entered God’s victory in Christ this past year. He later stood at the side of Emil’s wife, Myrtle, during the chaplain’s prayer which closed with the words “Well done, good and faithful stewards.”

## “Competent Letters of the Law”

Rev. Phil Brandt laid the foundation for the District Convention with a compelling examination of the convention’s theme verse: “[God] has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Cor 3:6). Professor Brandt first placed the verse within Paul’s ministry to Corinth and then wrestled with the baffling “epistolary pun” the verse contains.

Writing with a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness, Paul seeks to reestablish his ministry with the people of Corinth asking the question, “Do I need letters of recommendation?” Answering his own question he asserts that they are his letter of recommendation (3:1-2). Yet the theme verse declares that the

letter kills. Are the Corinthians murderers?

Professor Brandt displayed a school crossing sign asking for the context. Typically it appears over a sign reading “Speed limit, 20”. The letter of the law is simple, “Don’t drive above 20 MPH”; while the spirit is also simple, “Don’t hurt these little ones.” Driving under 20 and hitting a child fulfills the letter but not the spirit and results in judgment.

So also Law without Gospel results in judgment; yet the Gospel does not trump the Law. It lies underneath as the foundation. To be Paul’s letter of recommendation, the people of Corinth, you and I must live with and under this dialectic of the faith. As we are in the world we are such written letters even as we are writing letters through our witness.



## Rev. John Nunes—President Lutheran World Relief

“The Spirit gives life through water, and we who have been splashed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are called to go through the storm to meet all kinds of people.”

After a day of convention business, Rev. John Nunes, President of Lutheran World Relief (LWR), brought the delegates just what they needed: inspiration and laughter. Recalling how the disciples encountered physical danger and cultural discomfort when they sailed with Jesus to “the other side” of the Sea of Galilee, Rev. Nunes thanked the district for “going to the other side” with LWR to bring justice, dignity, and peace in the name of Christ to people different from ourselves. “We do it,” he said, “with joy, justice, and Jesus.”

Thanking President Schumacher for his cheerful participation on the LWR Board of Directors, Rev. Nunes joked that “we all know what Warren’s teeth look like!”

Such joy is possible, he noted, because what we do “is bigger than ourselves.” Bringing justice to others sometimes requires the simplest of things, like water. “Just give us water,” said one man in Mali. “Then *we* can feed our children.”

“Jesus did amazing things with water,” Rev. Nunes noted. “The Spirit gives life through water,” he said, “and we who have been splashed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are called to go through the storm to meet all kinds of people.”



## Convention Press Room

Thanks to this team who documented the events and photo opportunities throughout the convention to bring you the news contained here.

### Press Room Chair and Editor



*Rev. Glenn Zander*

### Photographer

*Rev. John Schmidt*

### Reporters

*Rev. Jim Beck*

*Rev. Matt Henry*

*Rev. Langdon Reinke*

*Rev. Jerry Reinke*

*Rev. Paul Gossman*

*Rev. Tom Hirsch*

*Rev. Craig Kellerman*

*Rev. Daniel Faragalli*



*Convention banner crafted by Laurie Bredehoft*



*Pictured to the right are reporters Rev. Paul Gossman and Rev. Daniel Faragalli.*

## Credits—Thanks to This Convention Team ....and to all our Volunteers!!!

### Visual Aids & Video Techs

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

### Host Congregation Pastor

*Pastor Bruce Rumsch*

### Host Congregation, Communion, Worship, Worship Choir details

*Trinity Hillsboro*

### Keyboardist & Convention Song Author

*Kelly Dobbin*

### Fabric Artist, Convention Banner Designer

*Laurie Bredehoft*

### Accommodations, Receptions, and Press Room

*DoubleTree Hotel, Lloyd Center*

### Staff of the Northwest District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*Rev. Warren Schumacher*

*Martha Conboy, Business Office*

*Steve Henderson, Asst to President*

*Dr. Denny Langston, Exp Ministries*

*Rev. Dennis Lorenz, Exp Ministries*

*Ryan McIvor, LCEF*

*Dick Weniger, Education*

*Shirley Bentson, Receptionist*

*Laurie Bredehoft, Education*

*Bob Fowls, Education*

*Brynn Harteloo, Business Office*

*Vicki Knutsen, IT*

*Susan Lorenz, Presidents Office*

*Jenny McIvor, Presidents Office*

*Patti Maggiora, Exp Ministries*

*Susan Olson, LCEF*

*Martha Weniger, Education*

### 2009 District Convention

**Committee** in addition to above staff

*Curtis Boeder*

*Kelly Dobbin*

*Bob Fossum*

*Robin Fossum*

*Chuck Hewitson*

*Rev. Richard Keissling*

*Rev. Grant Knepper*

*Rev. Paul Linnemann*

*Rev. John Luther*

*Rev. Larry Meyer*

*Elaine Nelson*

*Edie Norris*

*Rev. Richard "Pete" Peterson*

*Rev. Jim Pressnell*

*Julia Riess*

*Rev. Bruce Rumsch*

*Judy Schumacher*

*Kanagasabai "Uma" Umashankar*

*Dr. Mark Wahlers*

*Rev. Glenn Zander*

## Consultation to Clergy

Rev. Warren Schumacher introduced Rev. Philip Streufert as the new Director of Consultation to Clergy, the 40 year joint ELCA-LCMS ministry that began during the era of District Presidents Gib Fellman (LCA), Clarence Solberg (ALC) and Emil Jaech (LCMS).

As Director of Consultation to Clergy, Rev. Philip Streufert is called to minister to church professionals and their families, especially those dealing with challenges and leadership development. Working alongside Rev. Streufert are various Bishops in 4 Synods of the ELCA namely, Bishop Chris Boerger (NW Washington Synod), Bishop Rob Hofstad (SW Washington Synod), Bishop David Brauer-Reike (Oregon Synod), Bishop Martin Wells (Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod), and now President-Elect Rev. Paul Linne-mann, (Northwest District, LCMS).

## What a Way Program

Speaking for Rev. Dean Hemplemann, Rev. Langdon Reinke of St. John's Lutheran Church in Salem, OR, introduced a video presentation on the *What a Way* program. It's a coordinated project of the Board of Pastoral Education with the Concordia and Seminary campuses.

Representatives of these facilities encouraged congregations to identify, inform, and develop a new generation of professional church workers.

Resources are available by mail and online for opening young people to opportunities for service as ordained, commissioned, or lay leaders.



Rev. Philip Streufert  
Consultation to Clergy

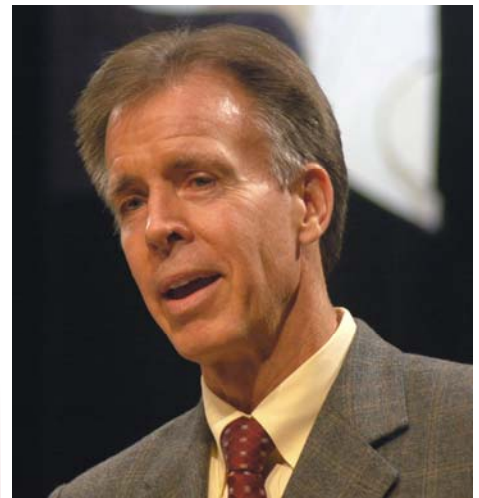
*What a Way* helps people called by God to find their way into full-time service of his church and world.

Rev. Langdon Reinke



## Rev. David Birner LCMS World Missions

Prior to the close of the convention, Rev. David Birner, Associate Executive Director of LCMS World Missions, addressed the delegates briefly to affirm our partnership in global outreach, observing that the fruits of our 150 years of working together are represented in the nearly 40 church bodies that today come together for the purposes of Lutheran world mission. He thanked the Northwest District for helping to establish these "foundations of what's coming ahead," especially noting our vital partnership in China and Vietnam.



The delegates applauded enthusiastically when hearing that our fourteen years of diligent groundwork in Vietnam have resulted in an invitation from the Vietnamese government to establish the first international Christian school in the country to be located in Hanoi. Observing that today's greatest challenge to Christian mission is "the rise of Islam and our response," Rev. Birner encouraged the congregations of the Northwest District to continue "fanning the flame" of the mission movement within our church in order to build the next generation of those who reach the world for Christ.

## St Martin of Tours Medal Awarded to Rev. Lance Jennings of Wasilla, Alaska



served over his career in many overseas locations, including England, Saudi Arabia and Africa. The bronze medal was placed upon Rev. Jennings to the reading of 1 Thessalonians 1:3: "We continually remember before our God and Father your

The St. Martin of Tours medal was awarded to Rev. Lance Jennings of Wasilla, Alaska. Speaking for Ministry to the Armed Forces, Rev. Bruce Rumsch acknowledged Rev. Jennings' 22 years of service as chaplain in the US Air Force. He is currently a Lieutenant Colonel serving with the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Unit in Alaska, having

work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." The medal is named after a Christian Roman officer who shared his cloak with a beggar and then saw Christ in a dream. Martin Luther is so named because he was baptized on the feast day of Martin of Tours.

# Youth Delegates at the 62nd NOW District Convention—Impact Portland

Saturday morning convention attendees viewed a PowerPoint presentation given by several of the youth delegates. Friday, after staying at Concordia University campus, the youth delegates attended the convention worship service, and then traveled by Max downtown to serve at four servant mission projects that aided the Portland community. See articles below from the youth perspective.

Response was positive among the youth to one resolution passed by the convention “to Minister to Youth in a Post-Church, Post modern Culture.” The resolution acknowledged that youth today have many more ways of communicating than previous generations. Youth delegates indicated they were glad that we were finally trying to keep up with their “gadgets.”



*Alex Drummond  
Youth Delegate*

## Experiences of the 62<sup>nd</sup> NOW District Convention from the Perspective of the Youth Delegate

As youth delegates we were all scared to get to know each other—not knowing what to say or do. After becoming acquainted, we learned that we have a lot in common—we’re all cool Lutheran kids.

As we walked into the convention hall we realized that we did not know much of what was going on in our church or about our leadership. We did think it was funny how technology was finally being used.

Friday Servant Events included:

### *St Francis Dining Hall*

The Dining Hall is in the lowest level of St. Francis Church. 300 hot meals are served daily to needy in dignity and



peace. The staff consists of the Director, two assistants and cook. Most other positions are held by volunteers. Many of these volunteers are

those who stay to have a meal because they are either homeless, jobless, under-employed, or at a time in their lives when they are down and out.

### *Bridgetown—Loving People Because People Matter*

This statement really sums up what our movement is about—desiring to show the Portland area what the love of Christ is all about. To be the church not just go to church. Our passion is to love on Portland the way we believe Christ would love on this city if He were physically with us. We want to bring out the God colors in our culture.



Maybe you are thinking that you are one of these kind of people. Well if that is so, then have a great time looking at their web site. While you are at it, why not come, and “Love on someone just because they matter.”



### *Father’s House*

What we’re about:

✦We are about YES!

✦Yes is not a word people associate with much of today’s organized religion or what some consider “church.” Most people associate church and faith with NO. No, you can’t do this. No, you should do that. No, you can’t be that.

✦We believe that YES! Is a central message in the Gospel of Jesus. At Father’s House, we affirm the YES! Of the Christian faith. We say YES!

### *Portland Rescue Mission*

#### *Mission Statement*

We share the Word of God and demonstrate Christ’s love to transform the



lives of homeless and addicted people.

### *Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness*

We address the root causes of homelessness and provide solutions to breaking the generational cycle of homelessness that keeps people on the streets.



Ending homelessness starts with a helping hand. That is why we offer emergency services for homeless men at our downtown shelter.

Emergency services alone will not break the cycle of homelessness. Therefore we have a range of programs to help men, women and children get off the street and into stable homes, jobs and families.

Youth sorted clothing into tubs for the homeless. One of the youth interviewed later said, “It was an awesome experience. I loved helping out. I learned that we have a lot compared with the homeless.”

And to finish the day...

### *Worship at St. Michael’s Church*

#### *Other Highlights:*

Meeting LCMS President Rev. Dr. Kieschnick and his wife, Terry.



Playing games and devotion with DCE, Zach Davis; watching the election of the next District President, Rev. Paul Linnemann; seeing the impact we had on others, and fun at the Lloyd Center.

### *Respectfully, Youth Delegates 2009*

## A Prayer Shawl—A Visible Reminder of “The Spirit Gives Life”

A prayer shawl was dedicated by the Convention Chaplain during the final prayer Saturday. Cheryl Ramirez, who created the prayer shawl, shared with attendees how God provided for each detail of the circumstances surrounding the shawl and its recipient – the family of the delegate who died following a fall at the Convention Center’s front door...



She also brought her needle and yarn to work on yet another prayer shawl – one for which there was no recipient – one that would be green and blue – colors representing comfort and healing.

Throughout the day Cheryl shared about the Prayer Shawl ministry. In between questions she continued to work on the shawl.

Cheryl came to the Northwest District Convention as a volunteer for one day. She was not sure what to expect but she was certain that God had called her there to be in the Prayer Tent area. This area was dedicated for those who desired to lift prayer requests received from convention attendees and exhibitors; join in corporate prayer; be prayed over; or to reflect and meditate in a quiet place.

That morning Cheryl packed her shawls – prayer shawls that had been dedicated and were to be given to specific recipients. They were to be examples.

She prayed over the stitches - **“Dear Lord, Please bless this needle of mine, that I may make a shawl of strength, faith, health and love... may the recipient be able to know that you are with them and they are not alone. That they are cared for and loved and prayed for, that your loving arms are around them, to protect them for whatever reason they should need...Lord, thank you for the blessings that this is given. Amen.”**

Later that day, as Cheryl was finishing

the shawl, God revealed who He had in mind to receive it. Until that time Cheryl did not know that one of the attendees at the convention had fallen upon his arrival and been hospitalized. She found out through a prayer request for the family which announced his death. The unknown was revealed. God had brought Cheryl to the convention to make the shawl for this man’s wife.

The shawl became a visible reminder of the convention theme “The Spirit gives life” – 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:6. Just prior, verse 3 states “And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” Cheryl, God spoke through you - not on stone but in the yarn of green and blue – given by Him as a “ministry of the Spirit of glory”. (vs. 8).

Our prayers are with Myrna Brackman and family on the death of her husband, Bill.

For more information about prayer shawl ministry: [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com)



David Sternbeck presenting decorative Makah paddle in thanks to Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher

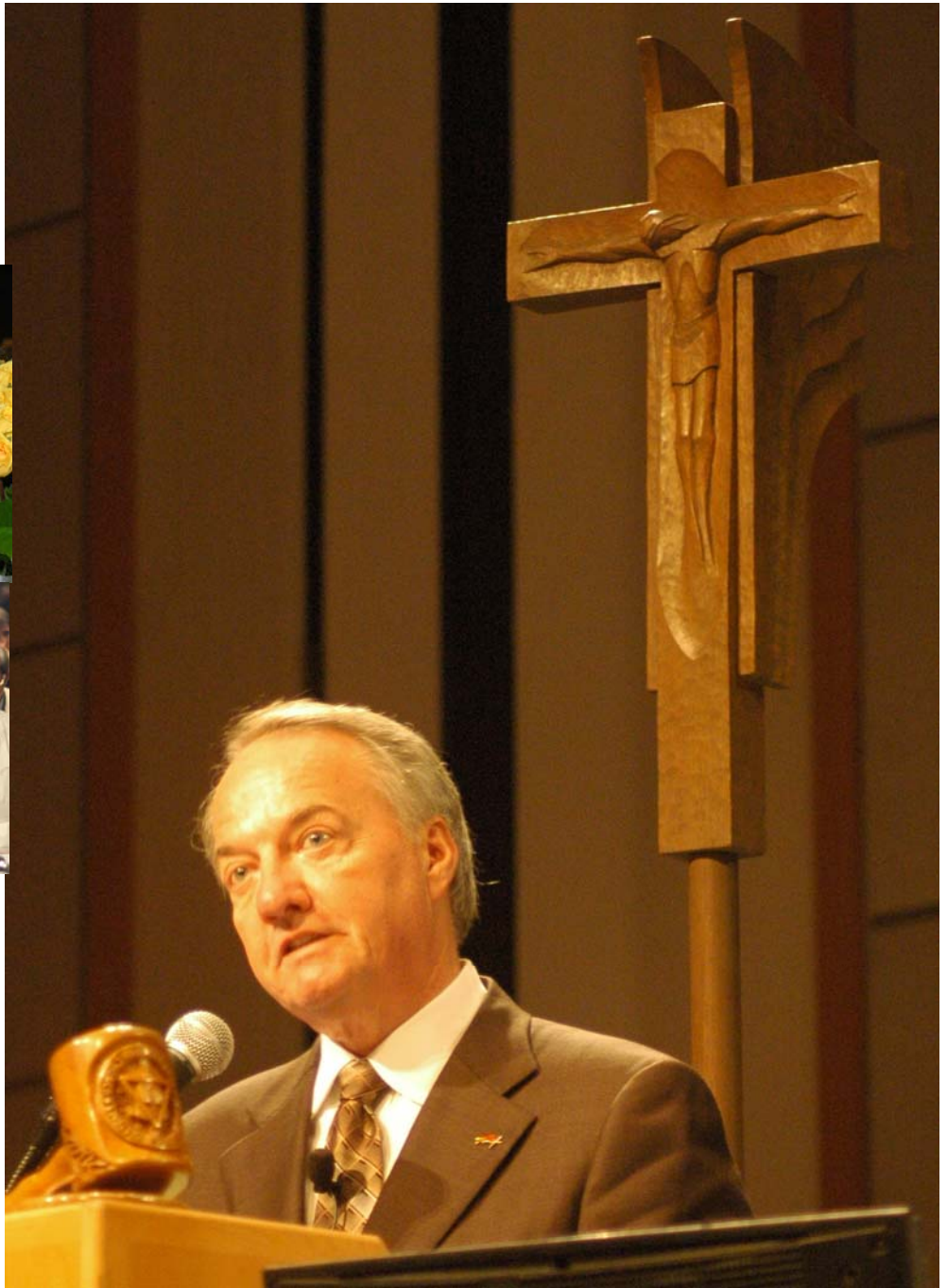
Rev. Mike Warmbier at microphone #4



## Walking Together— The LCMS Future

On Saturday morning, Pacific Southwest District President Larry Stoterau presented the comprehensive proposals of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG). Their work began three years ago and is the result of extensive efforts of Synod and district leaders as well as interviews of more than 1,000 people. Noting “it’s all a work in progress,” Stoterau fielded questions and comments and urged people to complete a survey and offer feedback. The full report is available at [www.lcms.org/lcmsfuture](http://www.lcms.org/lcmsfuture) and comments may be sent to [lcmsfuture@lcms.org](mailto:lcmsfuture@lcms.org).

The scope of the proposals represented a thorough overhaul of how the Synod is structured, represented, configured and even named. In a video address, President Kieschnick explained the changes are being proposed for two main reasons: enhancing mission and ensuring good stewardship. Noting structure must serve function, Kieschnick said, “Our mission is not to



create a perfect structure, but to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

When asked about the cost of not acting, Stoterau commented, “The cost of not doing anything is tremendous. We are at a point in our church body that we cannot function any longer as we are structured now. We are draining all our resources and something has to be done. That is why we come to you with a sense of urgency.”

The task force will complete their work in October and present it to the Synod President who will distribute it to all congregations. From December to February 2010, there will be nine re-

gional “open hearings” for all elected synodical delegates, plus the presidium of each district. Two days have been added to the convention in July to solely address structure and governance proposals that will come not as a whole, but in series. Such vast changes reflect a widespread hope and commitment to be missionally effective and financially efficient in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



*Youth delegates look to the future*



## Northwest District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod President-Elect, Rev. Paul Linnemann

After retiring District President Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher declared Rev. Paul Linnemann to be the President-Elect, Rev. Linnemann asked for the prayers of all in the District. “The greatest blessing of all of this: I consider you to be brothers and sisters in Christ and friends and colleagues in the ministry.” His answer reflected humility and grace, “God is faithful. God has always seen me through. He will see me through again. I ask for your prayers.”

Rev. Linnemann graduated from Concordia College, Portland, OR with a BA in Education in 1980. He graduated with an MA in Counseling Psychology from Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR in 1987 and an MA in Exegetical & Practical Theology from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO in 1994.

His work experience has included Lutheran School Teacher from 1980-1985, DCE at Trinity, Oregon City, OR 1985-1987, Director of Student Development & Asst. Professor of Psychology at Concordia, Portland from 1987-1992. He served as Counselor at Lutheran Family and Children Services of Missouri 1992-1994 and has served Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Tigard, OR since 1995.

Pastor Paul has served a number of positions within the District and Synod, as well as active community involvement. Some examples include—Circuit Counselor 2003-2004, NOW District Secretary 2004-present, Center for Prayer Renewal Leader 2004-present, Voting and Advisory Delegate to Synod Conventions, planning committees, task forces, boards, advisory positions, and ministries. He has also served as on call Chaplain at Meridian Park Hospital 1996-present.

Rev. Linnemann is humble and kind hearted. His sincere commitment to the Lord, his wife Cindy, his family, his Congregation, District and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are without question. We are blessed in the Northwest District to have him as our next District President.

His comments at the conclusion of the 62nd District Convention included that he would keep each of us in his prayers every day. He asked that we keep him in



*Rev. Paul and his Dad, Art Linnemann*

ours. He also asked us to pray for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Tigard, OR where he has served it’s members whom he loves very much for the past fourteen years.