



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

This letter will serve as the formal announcement of what most of you in the Northwest District already know. God willing, I intend to retire from the office to which you called me in 1994 as your District President following the 2009 District Convention. These 15 years of service and leadership have been filled with daily blessings and challenges. God has given me a glimpse of His purposes for us, and He has accomplished His will through our human efforts and His divine goodness through our Northwest District ministries. On Thursday, June 18, 2009, the Northwest District Convention will open at the Oregon Convention Center, and one of the first orders of business will be the election of officers and a new District President-Elect.

Our District Secretary, Rev. Paul Linnemann, has put together the nomination forms. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny McIvor in our office (503-288-8383 or JennyM@nowlcms.org) and she or Paul will help you with this process.

The District will follow the usual protocol of the national LCMS elections and transition process of selecting the President-Elect, who will actually take office in late August or early September 2009. An Installation Service will be scheduled at the convenience of the newly elected President and the Northwest District Board of Directors. I can remember a "hot August afternoon" in 1994 when President-Emeritus Erhart Bauer installed me at a service at Trinity Lutheran, Hillsboro, Oregon. My wife Judy reminds me that it was on August 21st, our 30th Wedding Anniversary, and that we had over 50 leaders over for dinner that night following the service. It's been sort of a blur and bus trip ever since, but it's been a tremendously fulfilling ride for both Judy and me. We thank you for your confidence and encouragement over these past 15 years, and we ask that you give to the President-Elect the same sort of support that you have given me and our previous District Presidents, Rev. Dr. Emil Jaech and Rev. Dr. Erhart Bauer. These two predecessors of mine have been close colleagues, mentors, spiritual guides and friends. I thank God for the evangelical leadership that this Northwest District has passed on, from one generation to the next!

In my "From the President's Office" column in the Summer, 2008 Northwest Passage, I shared these words:

“And then there’s retirement! While the Scriptures are pretty silent on the topic of retirement, those of us who live in this marvelously blessed nation enjoy planning and preparing for retirement. That joy awaits us as we contemplate our eternal home with Jesus, but even now many of us are blessed to contemplate a little touch of heaven this side of eternity as we think about an active and spiritually fulfilling retirement with our remaining years. Judy and I are looking forward to God’s gracious care that He has showered on us over the past years of work, service, and ministry...”

What God has in store for our future, after retirement, is in His hands. At the age of 68 years old, I’ve already been graciously allowed to serve longer than the traditional “retire at 65” goal of many Americans. These have been generous and fulfilling years...

1963-1964	Trinity, Bellingham WA vicarage with “Bishop” Carl Fischer;
1965-1967	New Mission start at St. Matthew’s, Holt (Lansing) MI;
1967-1988	Trinity, Mount Vernon, WA;
1988-1994	Trinity, Hillsboro, OR;
1994-2009	Northwest District-LCMS

Throughout the coming years, both Judy and I pray that we’ll have some additional time to pursue family and friendships and some deferred hobbies and projects. But mostly, we pray that we’ll have the thoughtful and intentional time to pause and praise our God with even more awe and wonder. The thoughtful life requires the quality time to deepen our walk with Jesus, bask in His presence, and meditate on His Word. Psalm 130 encourages me to pause and pray – and I wait on the Lord’s presence and favor. You can be assured that my prayers will continue for us in the Northwest District, a place that I’ve called home for the past 45 years!

To God be the Thanks, To God be the Glory.

Together in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher, President
Northwest District – LCMS

Ps 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
2 O Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?
4 But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
6 My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
8 He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

