



Inviting  
Conversations -  
Empowering  
Words

John 17:20

*Pacific Southwest District ~ LCMS*  
*Leadership Equipping Conference ~ June 26-28, 2009*  
*District Convention ~ June 28-30, 2009*  
**Daily Newsletter**

Monday,  
06/29/09  
Issue 2

About the

Convention Logo

"God's Word is our great heritage," the hymn writer reminds us. The Convention Logo invites us to reflect on God's Word and Sacraments. The chalice logo depicts the bread and wine of Holy Communion and how God's Spirit comes down to speakers and hearers. It is in our 'Inviting Conversations' that the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of those who hear and our 'Empowering Words' invite others to faith."

**JUBILATION!!**

**We praised God for the faithful service of many of the Lord's servants. We recognized Ordained & Commissioned Ministers that have been dedicated servants for 25 years, 40 years, and then - Praise God! - 50+ years in the Lord's service.  
HALLELUJA!!**

We started our Sunday afternoon gathered and ready to get to our District business. Our Convention Chaplain, Rev. Roger Sonnenberg, opened our convention gathering with devotion. We then joined together for singing and rejoicing with hymns.

We were given a report by Rev. Glenn Lucas, Registrar. There had been 244 attendees total at the Equipping Conference. At the time of his reporting participant numbers, the Delegate report was as follows: 125 Pastoral delegates and 133 Lay delegates, totaling 258 voting delegates in attendance. Present were 61 Advisory delegates and 55 guests.

We then followed with the "Report of the President". The Pacific Southwest District is currently at 300+ congregations and 200+ schools. We reviewed the Missions Statements for both the LCMS and for PSD.

Pastor Stoterau reminded us of our theme texts - John 17:20, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message." And then also John 4:39-41, the story of the conversation Jesus had with the woman at the well.

In part 1 of Pastor Stoterau's report, which was mailed out previously from the convention, he reported on some of the activities of the past 3 years. He referenced the planting of new churches and the starting of new missions. He touched on District staffing over the past 3 years and the reductions that have unfortunately, become necessary. He commented on the retirement of one of our deployed District staff members, Jerry Kosberg and then culminated with a discussion on Mission Development.

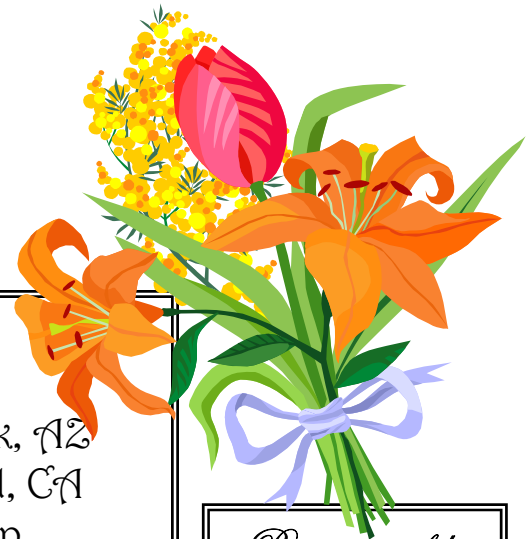
We watched together some sobering video clips from, The American Church in Crisis by Dave Olson. Key points: The church is stagnating. It is staying the same. While the population in our country is in fact growing, the church is not. 14 churches from the Southern California District which were begun in the -1920s are still in motion today. 152 churches planted in the 1920s-1965 are still going and then 74 planted in the years 1965-2000 as well. From the year 2000 to today, we have planted 30 new churches - of many different ethnicities.

The unfortunate statistics include the fact that half of our congregations worship less than 100 people on a Sunday morning. 10% of them worship over 400 people. Of our 300+ congregations approximately 70 of them have a service in a second language. 19 of our congregations cannot afford a fulltime pastor. To look towards the future: We aim for more congregations partnering - for more Covenant Congregations. We are proud of the Teacher Colloquy Program's successes. We are using alternative routes to ordination, watching the Center for Hispanic Studies do wonderful things and examining more cross cultural training. We pray that God bless us as He seeks to fulfill His will for us.

We entertained and then passed a Motion to adjust our Convention schedule to allow for a 10 minute speech followed by a 20 minute Q&A period from the Presidential candidates. This Motion passed by 61%.

"You know you're a **Contemporary Lutheran** if ... You don't feel dizzy or off-kilter when walking into a sanctuary with more than one aisle. And recently, as you sat and watched an episode of Star Wars, you seemed to have no control over yourself when you heard the words "May the Force be with you" ... you automatically replied, " ... and also with you."

# Welcome New Congregations!!



Christ Lutheran Church, Vail, AZ  
Our Lutheran Church, Safford, AZ  
Grace Community Lutheran Church, Rimrock, AZ  
Palabra de Dios Lutheran Church, Maywood, CA  
Medhanialem Ethiopian Lutheran Fellowship,  
San Diego, CA  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Norwalk, CA  
Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Long Beach, CA  
Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, La Mirada, CA  
One Faith Korean Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA  
Centro Cristiano Hispano Lutheran Church,  
Santa Paula, CA  
Oromo Lutheran Church, Beverly Hills, CA  
Peace Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV  
Living Water Lutheran Church, Buckeye, AZ  
Light of Life Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, CA

## Recognition of the Faithful Departed

Robert Bentz  
Earl Bielefeld  
Ken Christensen  
Raymond Fellers  
Calvin Fiege  
Stuart Firnhaber  
Paul Guebert  
Ken Fuerbringer  
Roger Hedstrom  
Vern Hinz  
Ralph Juengel  
Martin Keck  
Jack Keenan  
Glenn Koch  
Soo Min Lee  
Martin Mayer  
Robert McMiller  
Paul Meyer  
Robert Mittelstaedt  
Elmer Reimnitz  
Victor Rico  
Robert Schaller  
Richard Schinnerer  
Ed Westcott Jr.  
George Winterstein  
Orlin Wraalstad  
Edward Zimbrick

Memorial and Jubilarian Service of Evening  
Prayer - Message from Rev. Dr. Jerry Kieschnick,  
President of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

He brings greetings from our LCMS brothers and sisters in Christ from throughout the Synod. "May God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you. May they fill your heart in ways that not only fulfill your daily needs, but surpass your needs." The text chosen for this evening is Titus 3:3-8 *At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.* Let the light and life of Christ reflect from the city on the hill into our lives. Our schools, seminaries, and all areas, in everywhere we go. This that people might see what it is that gives us hope. This even when life is just "so overwhelming". God bless us all!

## Presidential Election Results:

Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau = 66.5%    Rev. Dr. Kevin Wyssmann=33.5%

## Today Don't Miss This!

8:35 President  
Kieschnick's Report  
10:35 Elections  
1:35 School Ministries  
2:10 & 3:30 BRTF on  
Synod Structure &  
Governance  
4:30 Ablaze!  
Fan into Flame  
5:00 Elections  
5:30 LCEF Rep  
6:00 L.L.L.