

Today's Business

Dr. Kieschnick speaks

One Mission, One Message, and One People was the theme of President Gerald Kieschnick's address to the convention. His speech was presented as a video in order to ensure that the same message was delivered equally to all thirty-five districts of the LCMS. Doctor Kieschnick began his presentation by stressing that problems that were originally thought to be just a problem of the secular world have begun to creep into the church. Alcohol and drug abuse along with pornography addiction are some of the evils that now affect our churches. Unfortunately, many members of the church are under the false impression that nothing can be done. This in turn makes our members apathetic to the problem.



President Kieschnick stressed that how we respond to these problems will define the LCMS into the twenty-first century. That is why, according to the President, we will respond with hope. Like the Israelites long ago, we are living in a modern day Babylon. That is why if we are to bring Christ to those that do not know him we must first seek the welfare of the cities we live in. President Kieschnick used an example of Memorial Lutheran Church in Katy, Texas which runs a clinic to give medical help to those who have no insurance. Through this ministry they are able to serve both the body and the soul.

President Kieschnick then announced that the 2010 Synodical Convention will focus on "One People... Forgiven". He then reiterated the goals of the Ablaze movement which includes 100,000,000 people who have had the Gospel shared with them, 2,000 new congregations and 2,000 revitalized congregations. The movement also includes increasing both missions and support for our thirty partner churches around the world.

The presentation was concluded with a look at Saint John Lutheran Church in New Hall, Iowa. The pastor of the church

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*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy. He has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV*

Thought For The Day

*"Be joyful in **hope**, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."*
Romans 12:12 NIV

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Rev. Greene reports for LCMS Task Force



Rev. Robert Greene, chairman of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance, addressed the convention during the Friday afternoon session, after being introduced by Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick,

President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

He was assisted by Dr. Diekelman, First Vice President of the LCMS, in giving a presentation based on concerns that have been received from people in the

congregations. Rev. Greene said, “We are looking for serious feedback. We want to know what people like and don’t like.”

There was a time for questions and answers from the floor, and they were recorded so they can be evaluated.

He said, “We have visited with all the district boards twice, attended all the district conventions, visited with the Council of Presidents, the Synodical Board and met with 250 lay, clergy and commissioned workers.”

The information will be posted on the LCMS website by clicking on the green box “Walking Together.” Anyone will be able to go to the site and return comments and ideas via email.

An evaluation sheet was handed to everyone in attendance.

Mission work highlighted during morning session

Pastor Mark Willig read through resolution 1-01 to continue partnership with Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. (Copy can be found on pages 331-332 of District packet.) The resolution passed 145-2 for the resolution.

Bishop Tswaedi and Mr. Masibi were introduced and recognized before the conference. Members of the SID task force were brought forward, introduced and recognized for their work.

On March 1st Bishop Tswaedi will speak at Our Savior in Carbondale at the 4 p.m. Chinese worship service.

Bishop Tswaedi spoke briefly about partnership with Lutheran Church in South Africa, praising God for all that has happened and praying for further work to be done, including work with the Seminary in South Africa

LCMS WORLD MISSION—Dr. Daniel Mattson spoke about the Seminary in South Africa over the years, since the 1980’s. He mentioned we all have opportunities to spread the “good news” for all people and it is our responsibility to be involved in that mission.

Brief highlights of LCMS World Mission

- India first foreign mission field (First LCMS home mission field was to American Indians),
- LCMS Mission has set goals (in line with Ablaze) sharing gospel of Christ with 100 million worldwide
- Start 2000 mission churches in the United States
- Revitalize 2000 existing congregations

How will we do this?

Find entry points into the lives of people worldwide so that we may ultimately share the gospel; ex. In China we find entry point through education by starting schools. Put people in place around the world – missionaries (both career and short term) chaplains, Armed Forces Ministries, international educators. We also create partnerships with local congregations, schools, groups, etc.

Join with LCMS World Missions

- Learn – lcmsworldmission.org
- Pray
- Tell – be a mission advocate
- Send – encourage members to serve
- Give – adopt a mission
- Celebrate

Today's Business Staff

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Picture not available.

LCMS President, Dr. Kieschnick, left, and SID President Mueller, right, welcome the new church professionals that signed the synod's constitution as members of the Southern Illinois District at this convention. The new pastors are Stephan Manz, Matthew Clark, Joshua Theilen, Scott Niermann, John Taggatz, Thomas Kramer, Matthew Gehrke and Jeff Hemmer. The new commissioned ministers are Michelle Hines, Doreen Bergelin, Cori Bair, Amanda Bell, Sharon Zilm, Sarah Schultz, Beth Boester, Roxanne Taggatz, Lindsey Pfanstiel, Debbie Jurchen, Molly Kohn, and Melissa Waldie. We welcome these new servants of Christ's Word into The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and our Southern Illinois District!

President's Questions and Answers.....

stressed numerous times in the presentation that, "It's all about the Lost Sheep." The church encourages its members to share their faith whenever it is possible. One member of the church commented that, "It can be just one simple thing that can bring someone to Jesus." President Kieschnick concluded his presentation by reminding the convention attendees that, "Above all else people need Jesus Christ as their Savior."

Before the questions, he also spoke about the trip to Washington, D.C. during the "March for Life" expressed sadness over President Obama's move to further the pro-choice movement. He encouraged all in authority.

Q. Is president aware of ideas/rumors concerning merging of parts of LCMS and ELCA?

A. Not really aware of! (President continued speaking about Lord's Supper –understanding of fellowship) Said it would take more study of scripture, more prayer before we could consider this issue further. Does not envision any merger between the two groups.

Q. Can individual congregations within SID participate with "Fan into Flame"? Are they prevented from participating?

A. Congregations are self-governing, they can

participate as they see fit. He encouraged each one of us to continue supporting world mission work through our Synod.

Q. Issues, Etc. – Why is Synod suing for rights to name?

A. NOT TRUE. No lawsuit of any kind. Dispute is over the trademark. Board of Directors will not restrict transfer of trademark.

Q. What is ultimate purpose of Task Force on Structure?

A. To do all possible to reduce complexity and inefficient organization of Synod. Includes redundancy of several boards; bringing them together to work together to improve mission of Church, both in local congregation and world. To practice faithful stewardship – restructuring is done so we use resources at hand more efficiently. The goal – enhancing mission and stewardship

Q. Any support for dealing with homosexuality? Synod is encouraged to develop support groups for those dealing with the issue.

A. Position of the Synod – homosexuality is a sin and we are called to minister to them as well as all sinners. President Kieschnick called for individual congregations, pastors and individuals to speak up whether in favor of or against decisions of Synod; doing so out of Christian love and caring.

Where You Can Meet With, Hear and Talk With Bishop Tswaedi and Mr. Masibi

Sunday, Feb. 22	Freeburg – 9 a.m. services and Bible class at Christ Our Savior Columbia – 3:30-5 p.m. Circuit Gathering at St. Paul, Columbia East St. Louis – Visiting Unity School
Monday, Feb. 23	Centralia – 9 a.m. & 7 p.m. services at
Wednesday, Feb. 25	Centralia – Christ Our Rock High School in the morning
Thursday, Feb. 26	Centralia - Joint school gathering with Hoffman & Hoyleton at Trinity, Centralia
Friday, Feb. 27	Centralia – Noon LWML Prayer Service, at Trinity
Saturday, Feb. 28	Chester – 6:30 p.m. service at St. John
Sunday, March 1	Chester – 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. services and Bible class, St. John Carbondale – 4:00 p.m. service with Chinese congregation at Our Savior
Monday, March 2	Murphysboro – Visit Immanuel Lutheran School in the morning
Tuesday, March 3	Chester – 8 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran School Pinckneyville – 10-3, Circuit Pastor's Meeting
Tuesday, March 3	Evansville - Mr. Masibi visiting Christ Our Savior Lutheran High and other schools in the area
Wednesday, March 4	Bethalto – 9 a.m. Men's Club Breakfast, 1 p.m. Mr. Masibi at the All School Assembly, Zion; evening service at Zion
Friday, March 6	Litchfield – 9 a.m. Mr. Masibi at Zion
Saturday, March 7	Nashville – 7 p.m. Saturday evening services at Trinity
Sunday, March 8	Nashville – 8 & 10:15 a.m. services and Bible study at Trinity



**Requests can be
brought to the
press room**

- For Dr. Kieschnick as he serves as President of the LCMS, as well as all officers of the Synod
- For a safe trip home for the guests from Africa

GIVE THANKS TO:

The Convention Planning Committee: Rev. Herbert Mueller, Harold Ebke, Godfrey; John Eggerding, Belleville; Jonathon Giordano, Glenn Carbon; Donna Kirst, Collinsville; Daniel C. Roth, Belleville; Roger Sprengel, Belleville; Rev. Martin Schultz, Wood River; Lee Suedmeyer, Nashville; Rev. Antonin Troup, Waterloo and Donna Wiesen, Belleville

Today's Business Online

To make the issues of *Today's Business* available to those who were not able to attend, it can be read by going to the Southern Illinois District website at www.sidlcms.org after the convention.

Events Around the District

March 7—Women's Day of Renewal, Good Shepherd Collinsville
 March 21—New Officers Orientation Day
 March 28—LWML Spring Retreat, Carlyle
 March 29—LLL Convention, St. John's, Red Bud
 April 28—Spring Pastors Conference, Camp Wartburg