



# LUTHERAN LIFE

*Ablaze*  
Igniting the World with Christ's Love

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## District to Meet in Convention June 9-11

Delegates to the 29<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District will elect new leaders and consider various resolutions to determine the course of ministry and outreach for the next triennium when they meet June 9-11 in Lake Mary, FL.

The theme for the gathering — *Ablaze! In the Light of the Lord* — is taken from Ephesians 5:8,

"For at one time you were darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord."

Opening devotions will precede the call to order on Friday evening. Planned agenda items for the opening session include the report from District President Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr., who will host a reception after the close of business that evening.

Bible studies throughout the convention will focus on different aspects of being "Ablaze in the Light of the Lord," including witness, Christian education, stewardship and worship. Serving as Bible study leaders will be Rev. Dr. Dennis Glick, a member of the Florida-Georgia Board of Directors and senior pastor at St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL; Rev. Adolfo Borges, pastor of Principe de Paz-Orlando; Rev. Stephen Wiggins Sr., pastor of Christ-East Point, GA; and Rev. Tim Hartner, pastor of St. Paul-Weston, FL.

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick will attend the convention. He will address the delegates and guests on Saturday afternoon, a session that will conclude with a question-and-answer segment. He will also be the preacher at the Sunday morning communion worship.

Rev. Ron Biel of Marco Island, FL, Lutheran will serve as convention chaplain. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer-Sanford and its pastor, Rev. James

Timmons, will act as host congregation and pastor. Rev. Dr. William J. Hassold will be the parliamentarian, and Rev. Dr. David Mulder of Ascension-Casselberry the convention

Kenneth Schamens of Gainesville, FL, Robert Steinke and Pat O'Brien, the incumbent.

The District's Board of Directors is comprised of a pastor and two laypersons from each of

human care and hurricane recovery efforts. Resolutions addressing Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod matters will also be addressed.

Among the resolutions being brought to the floor will be several to establish outreach goals and encourage congregational participation in the national LCMS *Ablaze!* effort.

If passed, a resolution titled "Thailand Mission Support" will continue District support of Synodical efforts for work in Thailand. This support would have the District recommit to another five-year partnership with LCMS World Missions, with \$100,000 in support designated to Thailand work.

A resolution "on whole life stewardship" encourages such a focus for the District's confirmed members, congregations and the District itself. A resolution dealing with the District's capital campaign — *Forward Together-Servants in His Mission* — thanks all who have contributed to date and extends the campaign until the Florida-Georgia Convention of 2009.

One of the resolutions submitted by the District's Board of Directors is crafted to "grant franchise to commissioned ministers and make provisions for their voting at convention." At this time, commissioned ministers are restricted to serving as advisory delegates at conventions. □

*Ablaze*  
In the Light of the Lord

manager. Elections will be conducted under the leadership of Rev. Michael Heidel, pastor of Grace-Key West.

### Nominations for District Offices

The only name on the ballot for District President is the incumbent — Gerhard Michael Jr. He is completing his third term in that office.

Delegates will choose two vice presidents — one from Florida, one from Georgia — from a slate of eight. Nominated are Revs. Richard Engel of Jacksonville, FL; T. Kent Fuqua of Hudson, FL; Dennis Glick of Boca Raton, FL; Pat O'Brien of Clearwater, FL; Dean Pfeffer of Plant City, FL; Robert Steinke of New Port Richey, FL; Gregory Walton of Marietta, GA; and Randy Winkel of Venice, FL.

Three nominees are on the slate for District secretary: Revs.

the four regions as well as three commissioned ministers. Delegates will elect a new Board as well as a District committee for nominations. Circuit counselors will be chosen as well.

Nominations may be made from the floor to supplement the prepared slate for all positions except District President and Vice President as long as the person is willing and guidelines are met regarding available information.

### Resolutions and Reports

Reports and resolutions will focus on various aspects of ministry and mission in Florida-Georgia, including outreach; Lutheran schools and the Concordia House of Studies; funding the mission, Lutheran Church Extension Fund and *Forward Together-Servants in His Mission*, the District's capital campaign;

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## District Forges Partnership with Special Ed Ministries

Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr., president of the Florida-Georgia District, and Dr. Roger DeMeyere, president/CEO of Lutheran Special Education Ministries, on February 1 signed a consortium agreement that will open the doors of schools

and volunteer Sunday school and Bible school teachers to provide resources to assist children with special learning needs in congregations.

"Once again we realize God's perfect timing as Lutheran Special Education Ministries

through our ministry, Lutheran Special Education Ministries serves to enable children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education." This statement will "continue to be the foundation on which to serve children in the Florida-Georgia District and beyond," DeMeyere continued.

Founded in 1873, Lutheran Special Education Ministries has helped thousands of children to know Jesus and lead fulfilling lives, according to DeMeyere.

"But there are tens of thousands yet to be served," he emphasized, "and that number continues to rise."

Mark Brink, District Executive Director for School Ministries, has expressed that

the need for such services in Florida-Georgia is great, and the opportunities are numerous.

LSEM and the District plan to begin special education services in Florida-Georgia partnership schools in the 2006-2007 academic year. The consortium agreement will remain in effect through June 30, 2009. According to both partners, the intention is to continue the services to special learning children with the execution of a new agreement every three years.

Additional information regarding LSEM is available from the organization's national office at 888-488-LSEM (5736) or online at [www.luthsped.org](http://www.luthsped.org). □



Lutheran Special Education Ministries

"Enabling children with special learning needs to receive a Christian education since 1873."

and congregations to children with special learning needs.

LSEM will work with District schools to establish and administer special education programs and services. LSEM will also work with pastors, directors of Christian education

reaches out to children with special learning needs in the Florida-Georgia District," said DeMeyere.

LSEM's statement of ministry is "With the knowledge of God's love and the desire that God's love be revealed