

OUTREACH

LCMS Convention Preview

Delegates to Elect Leaders, Consider Wide-Ranging Resolutions

Delegates representing district circuits within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will chart the future direction of the church body during triennial convention, July 14-19 in Houston.

Nominees for Synod president (in the order of nominations received) are:

- Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, 64, incumbent LCMS president;
- Dr. John C. Wohlrabe Jr., 53, an LCMS military chaplain in the United States Navy based at Virginia Beach;
- Dr. Wallace R. Schulz, 62, of Augusta, MO, evangelist with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation;
- Dr. William R. Diekelman, 60, incumbent first vice president of the Synod;

- Rev. Daniel Preus, 58, of St. Louis, director of the Luther Academy.

On the ballot for first vice president (also in order of nominations received) are:

- Dr. William R. Diekelman;
- Dr. Wallace R. Schulz;
- Dr. John C. Wohlrabe Jr.;
- Rev. Charles S. Mueller Jr., 50, senior pastor of Trinity-Roselle, IL;
- Rev. Daniel Preus.

Nine convention floor committees are proposing a total of 97 resolutions for delegates to consider. Eight of those committees met in St. Louis in May. The ninth — for Convention Nominations — submitted their only resolution earlier.

The proposed resolutions primarily respond to 361 overtures from congregations, district conventions and boards of directors; church-worker conferences; circuit forums; and boards, commissions and other official entities of the Synod.

For the last Synod convention in 2004, floor committees proposed 115 resolutions.

In his report at the beginning of the floor committee

weekend, Kieschnick referred to the 2007 convention's theme of "One Message — Christ! His Love Is Here for You!" and to the Synod's "One mission — to be Ablaze! — our hearts on fire in seeking the lost for Christ ..."

"It is both my counsel to you and my prayer to God that every resolution you prepare for presentation to the convention of our Synod will reflect this theme and will enhance this mission connected to it, to the glory of God and for the salvation of many of the people of the world who do not now confess the

name of Jesus," Kieschnick said to floor committee members.

The floor committees' resolutions will be printed in the first issue of the daily convention guide, *Today's Business*. That issue is to be mailed by June 15 to delegates and congregations. The resolutions will be available at <http://reporter.lcms.org> and at <http://www.lcms.org/convention> (click on "Resolutions," then on "Today's Business").

NOTE: The August issue of *Lutheran LIFE* will include a complete report on convention activities. □

**LSF Named Finalist for Nonprofit Of the Year Award**

The *Tampa Bay Business Journal* has named Lutheran Services Florida one of the finalists for the 2007 Nonprofit of the Year Award.

This award recognizes Tampa Bay-based 501(c)(3) non-foundation, community organizations benefiting residents of Greater Tampa Bay who are fiscally responsible and accountable with regard to program outcomes.

Tampa-based LSF was one of almost 100 nonprofit organizations nominated for the award and was chosen

as a finalist based on its fiscal responsibility, management, mission, programming and impact in the community.

"During the past 25 years, hundreds of thousands of people in the Tampa Bay area — at-risk children, the frail elderly, refugees, immigrants, families in crisis, and survivors of natural disasters — have received assistance from LSF," said Jim Wells, President & CEO.

"We are proud of the positive impact Lutheran Services Florida has on the lives of

people in need and we want to increase public awareness about the agency's vital programs and services," said Joy Margolis, Director of Communications & Public Policy.

Lutheran Services Florida is dedicated to helping all people in need regardless of religious affiliation, age or national origin. Since 1982, more than 850,000 people in need throughout Florida have received assistance from LSF services, including Head Start, Child Care Food Program, Guardianship Programs, Refugee Resettlement, Employment, and Immigration Programs, Youth Shelters and Counseling Programs, Adoption, Foster Care, and Disaster Response Programs. □

Team Work

When you're ready to buy or sell your home, make established Boca Raton Realtors John List and Debra Watson part of your team.

This brother/sister partnership excels in real estate success for sellers and buyers from Fort Lauderdale to the Palm Beaches. John and Debra do it all: family homes, oceanfront estates, waterfront condominiums, retirement residences, investment properties — and they'll do it for you!

Known for personalized service, dedication to excellence and award-winning marketing, John and Debra consistently set the pace for sales success in South Florida.

Call today to put this winning team to work for you!



PLATINUM
ESTATE PROPERTIES

Royal Palm Place • 75 SE Third Street
Boca Raton, Florida 33432 • (561) 620-9393
www.PlatinumEstateProperties.com

Volunteer Training Event Set

Interested volunteers may request applications for an October 17-21 training event in Concordia, MO, for The 72 — Partners on the Road, formerly known as Harvesters for Christ.

The 72 is an outreach ministry of LCMS World Mission.

The training will equip volunteers for helping host congregations start, enhance

or expand outreach ministry in their communities. Applicants may be couples or individuals, according to Rev. Al Torhoehlen, director of The 72. He explained that while one married couple might serve as a congregation's "team," individuals make up three- or four-person teams.

Each volunteer team serves a congregation on-site for three or four weeks. The



host congregation covers the cost of its team's housing, transportation and meals.

When an application is submitted for The 72 training event, it must include a letter a recommendation from the applicant's pastor as well as information that would be necessary to complete a basic background check.

All expenses for new team-member training for The 72, including travel, will be covered by grant from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. □

or expand outreach ministry in their communities.

To request an application, call 800-433-3954, or send an e-mail to the72@lcms.org. Applications are not available online.

July 30 is the deadline for requesting applications.

Wheat Ridge Grants Available

Wheat Ridge Ministries invites Lutheran congregations to submit applications from July 1-September 30 for its Congregation Health and Hope Grant program.

The purpose of the grants is to facilitate the initial development of congregation-based health and wellness ministries. All Lutheran congregations — individually or in partnership with other congregations — are eligible for these grants.

The maximum amount per grant is \$2,000 for a single congregation and \$6,000 for collaborative efforts involving two or more congregations. The amount granted by Wheat Ridge must be matched dollar for dollar by the congregation. Approximately 20 grants will be awarded to congregational projects in November.

The focus of the Health and Hope Grant is on new congregation-based health ministries developed under the auspices of a congregation health committee or cabinet. Projects must support and promote the health and well-being of people in the congregation and local community.

Grant funds may be invested in health-related events and leadership development; staff training; planning; materials, resources or equipment directly related to program development; or contract services or new staff essential for program development. The grant is not to be used for existing staff salaries; congregation or school building programs; or general church or school expenses.

Congregations interested in applying for a Congregation

Health and Hope Grant can visit the Wheat Ridge website (www.wheatridge.org) to download a complete list of guidelines as well as the proposal format. Any questions may be referred to the Wheat Ridge office at 800.762.6748. Deadline for submitting applications is September 30.

Wheat Ridge Ministries is recognized throughout the world as an independent Lutheran charitable organization that seeds new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ. Currently, more than 100 ministries are receiving assistance through Wheat Ridge funding. In addition to funding grants, Wheat Ridge also connects and equips people, congregations and organizations with health and hope ministries. □