

PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION



**CATCHING UP** — Rev. David Ludwig, pastor emeritus of Prince of Peace-Orlando (left) with Richard Neubauer, Florida-Georgia Executive for Finance and Administration and Lutheran Church Extension Fund Vice President. □

**DISTRICT PRESIDENT** Gerhard Michael was recognized for his 40 years in the ministry during the Convocation. District First Vice President Jim Guelzow led a group in serenading the President, with assistance from other participants to sing the chorus of an original composition for the occasion. "For 40 years, President Mike has had a heart for mission," Guelzow said. "He has dedicated his life and ministry to that end ... focused on touching hearts and lives with the joy of the Gospel. We are blessed as a District to have his evangelical leadership." Convocation Chairman Tim Hartner presented President Michael with a book of cards, letters and good wishes commemorating the anniversary. In his response, President Michael first thanked his wife, Joan, "a real partner. Together we stay on task, keeping our focus on Jesus," he said. He also thanked the District staff and leaders for their partnership before extending his gratitude to the gathering of professional workers. "To be teamed with all of you, knowing that we've joined in a ministry, is a joy," he said. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the ministry we share in Jesus Christ." □



**LOOKING AHEAD** to February's Outreach Summits? Pastors Greg Walton (left) and Dennis Glick confer during the convocation. Walton heads Faith-Marietta, GA, and Glick leads St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL — two of the sites for next year's Outreach Summits. Walton serves the District as second vice president, and Glick is the pastoral representative for the Board of Directors for Region IV. □



**THIS CONVOCATION** participant took advantage of one of the comfortable couches in the conference center to catch up on sleep between sessions. □



**FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT FIRST LADY** Joan Michael provides door service for grandson Luke Droegemueller. One of the youngest Convocation attendees, Luke is the son of Pastor Tim and Susan Droegemueller of Grace-Jacksonville and the brother of Jacob. □

## Festive Worship Celebrates being "Rooted in Christ"

"Christ is the one who is more than sufficient for your roots — and when your roots are in Him, they thrive and prosper."

So said Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael Jr. in his sermon at the festive communion service of the President's Convocation. Speaking to some 1,000 worshipers filling First United Methodist Church in downtown Orlando, he encouraged all to "focus on what your roots are planted in, for when our roots are sunk in Christ, they are more than sufficient whatever storms come to us."

Said President Michael, "Our roots are anchored in the One who conquered death. He's more than sufficient for your every need. Our future is wide open. Jesus is the one you can sink your roots into and not be disappointed."

"As you sense the all-sufficiency of your Christ, give it away, pass it on!" President Michael exhorted worshipers. "We will set people free to live life the way it was meant to be lived."

Serving as presiding minister at the Thursday evening worship was Convocation Chaplain Rev. Chris Bodley, pastor of Our Savior Lutheran-Orlando. Members of Trinity Lutheran-Orlando, the host congregation for the evening, served as crucifer, torch bearers, lectors, ushers and communion assistants. David Ludwig Jr. and James Marriott were the organists, with Alicia Crespo, Anita Durst, Jean Gillis and Laurie Hartner the cantors.

The choir of Emmanuel Haitian Lutheran Mission-Delray Beach, FL,

under the direction of Sylvian Hileire offered special music. Choir members from local congregations were joined by Convocation participants in singing other special music. Instrumentalists from area congregations helped lead the worship.



The Convocation worship offering of more than \$5,580 was designated to support workers of the Southern District who were impacted by Katrina.

The original intent had been to donate the offering to the three Southern District congregations which the Florida-Georgia District has been asked to assist in Katrina recovery. However, "there were no problems for the workers in the three congregations assigned to us," said David Weidner, Florida-Georgia's Executive Director Congregational Services. "The dollars will go into a general fund in the Southern District that will be used to cover payrolls of congregations unable to do so." □



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