

Memorial Service

Newly reelected Missouri District President Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan and Rev. Mike Fieberkorn led the morning with a Memorial Service. President Hagan's sermon discussed how we suffer in this life as a result of the fall. Yet Christ is the cure for all that ails us, and we believe and hope for the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. We are, above all, loved by God.

The service included reading the names of church workers from 2018-2022 who now await the resurrection of all souls on Christ's return. A bell was rung in memorium. A full list of names was published in Monday's Today's Business, which can be found online at mo.lcms.org/district-convention. The service can be viewed on the Missouri District's Facebook page.



Above: President Hagan and Rev. Fieberkorn.



Left: Youth volunteers served as pages to assist the Convention. A special thanks to Jack Hagan; Anika, Britta, and Christian Slayton; Abigail Humphrey; Aly Huckabay; Jonathan Morris; and Dan Kreienkamp and Hannah Knehans for leading them.

Essayist Part Two

Rev. Dr. Kiessling, LCMS Youth Ministry Director, offered Part II of his convention essay, “Tell the Next Generation” on Tuesday morning. Returning once more the convention’s theme verse, Ps. 78:6-7, the essayist introduced the practical “how-to’s” of teaching young people. Data collected from LCMS Youth Ministry, including: demographics, baptismal and confirmation rates, and retention practices, intended to impress upon on the delegates the practical ways in which parents may catechize the next generation. The data assisted the LCMS office in forming “Seven Best Practices of Youth Ministry.” Though references in the essay refer to youth, Rev. Kiessling informed the delegates the practices developed from the data, are helpful for young people of any age. The essayist stressed two main points from the data:



Engaged Parents-Parents, and all caregivers, are honored when they are engaged with the children, giving very high priority to corporate worship, prayer, and teaching the faith; and complemented by pastors and church workers. *Actively* engaging with faith lives is the most essential work set before parents.

Supportive Adults-Data suggests young people need a minimum of five supportive adults in their life to maintain retention. These adults invest time, sometimes organically, toward building trust and presence with young people. Intergenerational relationships are very valuable. If possible, long-term relationships are highly encouraged.

Rev. Kiessling listed the factors affecting retention of Millennials in the church. They form the practical side of points one and two above.

- Worship participation;
- Regular Bible reading;
- Praying with parents;
- Seeing parents, at least one, active in church leadership;
- Good relationships with parents, especially the father;
- Open discussion on personal challenges;
- Open discussion on issues of faith;
- Parents comfortable with open discussion of spiritual doubt.

The essayist concluded with the reminder that the time required by parents and supportive adults, in home and church, learning to teach and building trust, is a long-term investment, not a quick return.

President Harrison Gives an Overview of the LCMS

President of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison gave a report on the state of the Synod. The report started with acknowledging the blessings and challenges to come out of COVID-19. Though COVID dropped the in-person attendance of churches throughout the Synod, it was found that many began listening to and watching church services for the first time in their lives by way of online services. And while there were (and still are) many conflicts between medical experts and theology experts, the LCMS is recovering well from it.

Harrison commented on several programs including “Doxology”, the 7-03 Task Force CUS regarding Lutheran identity and mission. And he summarized the beneficial changes being made within the Concordia University system, citing individual changes made within programs at each university and reported on his investigation into critical race theory at Concordia University Wisconsin. He also reported on our seminaries and stated that there is always a need for more pastors and deaconesses. Though, he noted the surge in LCMS church worker recruitment.

Another part of his report included LCMS relations with other Lutheran churches throughout the world as well as the Office of International Mission, international church planting, and the need for missionary support. “The Gospel is following the travel immigration mind through Afghanistan and into Iran,” notes Harrison. He gave an update on how each of our international seminaries are thriving, including those in the Dominican Republic, Taiwan, and Africa.

Additional ministries included how Life Ministries within the LCMS are coping with the political changes regarding life issues throughout the United States. Harrison also reported on resources for rural and small town ministries, as well as a summary on child protection and abuse prevention resources.

Harrison also noted that, financially, this is the best shape the LCMS financial state has been in for over 30 years. Millions were given in support of the seminaries and Lutheran schools within the last several years.

If you would like to watch President Harrison’s report, you can find the playback of our livestream on our YouTube or Facebook channels.

“We have nothing but
Christ and the resurrection
ahead of us.”

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison



2022 Circuit Visitor Installed

1. AltenburgRev. Dr. Paul Winningham
2. ArnoldRev. Jason Wagner
3. Cape GirardeauRev. Weston Wildauer
4. CarroltonRev. Glen Gutz
5. ColumbiaRev. Donaldo Sonntag
6. Concordia NorthRev. Mark Junkin
7. Concordia SouthRev. Jacob Mueller
8. FarmingtonRev. Kyle Castens
9. Jackson BootheelRev. Joshua Schmidt
10. Jefferson CityRev. Brian Whittle
11. Kansas City CentralRev. Gary Stolle
12. Kansas City NorthRev. Gregg Reiser
13. Kansas City SouthRev. Steven Andrews
14. Northeast MissouriRev. Jeffrey Dock
15. RollaRev. John Perling
16. St. CharlesRev. Ryan Taylor
17. St. JosephRev. Eamonn Ferguson
18. St. Louis AfftonRev. David Gruenwald
19. St. Louis EllisvilleRev. Douglas Chinberg
20. St. Louis KirkwoodRev. Scott Jonas
21. St. Louis NorthRev. Nathan Ruback
22. St. Louis OverlandRev. David Boisclair
23. St. Louis SouthRev. Matthew Clark
24. SedaliaRev. Jeremy Freeman
25. Southwest MissouriRev. Kyle Fittje
26. SpringfieldRev. Mickey Wilkey
27. Washington.....Rev. Mat Hayter
28. WentzvilleRev. Jeremy Klaustermeier

Resolutions Adopted Tuesday 6/14/22

*Denotes resolution was adopted as amended. See section “Resolutions Amended” for changes.

Floor Committee 3 – Theology, Church, & Culture

*3-02 To Encourage Synod to Develop Resources to Aid Congregations to Aid Congregations and Schools Regarding Gender Identity Issues

3-03 To Affirm Biblical Anthropology and Denounce Racism on Anti-Gospel Belief



Resolutions Amended

Resolution 3-02

To Encourage Synod to Develop Resources to Aid Congregations and Schools Regarding Gender Identity Issues
Overture 3-02, pp. 81-82

Whereas, before mankind’s fall into sin, God created Adam and Eve to be distinctly male and female (Gen. 1:27–28; Gen. 2:18–25); and

Whereas, after mankind’s fall into sin, Jesus affirms that in the beginning God created mankind “male and female” (Matt. 19:4); and

Whereas, our society includes many persons who are uncertain whether they are truly male or female, others who present themselves as a member of the opposite sex, some who participate in hormonal or surgical procedures in an attempt to change their ~~gender identification-God-given sex~~, and yet others who reject that there are only two genders; and

Whereas, congregations, schools, and individuals in our District are experiencing mounting pressures as a result of cultural changes and legal challenges on this topic; and

Whereas, many church workers and laity have asked for guidance in pastoral care for individuals and families struggling with matters of gender identity issues; and

Whereas, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has recently produced resources such as the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) document Gender Identity Disorder or Gender Dysphoria in Christian Perspective; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Missouri District in convention affirm and faithfully confess the biblical truth that God creates people as male and female; and be it further

Resolved, that the pastors, congregations, and schools of the District continue to deal compassionately with those who experience gender identity issues through the proclamation of the Law and Gospel, the sacrament of Holy Baptism, corporate and individual confession and absolution, and the proper administration of the Lord's Supper; and be it further

Resolved, that the pastors, congregations, and schools of the District continue to deal compassionately with the family, friends, and all others impacted by those who suffer with gender identity issues through the Means of Grace, and be it further

Resolved, that church workers and congregations in the Missouri District be encouraged to study and discuss Gender Identity Disorder or Gender Dysphoria in Christian Perspective, and be it finally

Resolved, that the Missouri District memorialize the LCMS in convention to direct the Office of National Mission, Concordia Publishing House, and the two seminaries of our Synod to continue to provide resources that enable the Church to confess the truth boldly and deal compassionately with those who struggle with gender identity issues as well as with those who care for them.

Closing Responsive Prayer Service

In the closing service of the Missouri District Rev. Mike Fieberkorn led the worship, while Rev. William Marler preached on the reading Psalms 78. In his sermon Pastor Marler said that we are doomed to fail and go to hell, but through Christ death we are gifted graciously eternal life. The peace of the Holy Spirit has helped the church grow in the past and continues to grow His church today; we should also share this hope of salvation with our children, and our families. The newly elected Circuit Visitors were installed nearing the end of the service.

When the service concluded, the Convention adjourned at 12:00p.m..



Left: Revs. Brian Thieme, Bill Marler, and Fieberkorn. Right: Circuit Visitors are installed in the closing service.