



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
North Dakota District
59th Convention
Fargo, ND

Following is a brief summation of the 59th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod North Dakota District for churches and delegates to be shared with their congregations in total or in part:

The 59th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod North Dakota District theme was: **“Rejoice in the Lord Always! Rejoice!”** taken from Philippians 4:4-9: **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4-9 ESV)

Opening Divine Service

Convention was opened with the Divine Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo. Rev. Bernard Worrall and Rev. Steve Schulz served as liturgists. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, proclaimed the Word of *Rejoice! Rejoice in the Lord Always!* based on the convention theme verses. Convention offering to benefit Wittenberg Chapel was collected during the service in the amount of \$17,941.55.

Synod Representation

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison presented a report on the Synod. He was available during the convention for conversation and fellowship. Synod Regional Vice President Rev. Nabil Nour, was also present for the entirety of our convention. English District President Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy was the convention parliamentarian. Rev. Dr. Jon Vieker, Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Dean of the Chapel at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, was the essayist “On the 13th Day of Christmas: Singing and Understanding the Hymns of Epiphany” entitled “Origins, Scripture, and Themes of the Season of Epiphany.”

District President’s Report

President Bertsch’s report was based on the theme verses from Philippians, citing the many reasons the district has to rejoice in the Lord. As part of his report, President Bertsch shared the results of his study of hymns versus songs used in the congregations of the North Dakota District and pledged to work with congregations and pastors to refrain from using songs with false theology.

Recognition of New Members to Synod

Five new members have been admitted to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the North Dakota District. The chair introduced each pastor to the assembly. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison welcomed the new members to the Synod. Each new member present signed The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Constitution.

New members to Synod recognized:

Rev. Brian Doel
Rev. Brock Schmeling
Rev. Brian Shane
Rev. Justin Woodside
DCE Susanna Danner

Nominations:

District President: Rev. Arie Bertsch

1st Vice President: Rev. Steve Schulz

2nd Vice President: Rev. Kirk Peters

District Secretary: Rev. Daniel Voth

District Treasurer: Mrs. Kay Kreklau

Board of Directors-Ordained: Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek and Rev. Lester Wolfgram

Board of Directors-Lay: Mr. Marty Visto, Mr. Thomas Langer, Mrs. Tana McKenna, Mr. Eric Poppinga,
and Mr. Scott Pfennig.

Nomination Committee-Ordained: Rev. Philip Beyersdorf and Rev. Clark Jahnke

Nomination Committee-Lay: Mr. Robert Wurl, Mr. Jonathan Buchop, Ms. Susan Corwin, and
Mr. Greg Nelson

Circuit Visitors:

NW Circuit: Rev. Brandon Woodruff

NE Circuit: Rev. Michael Suelzle

Central Circuit: Rev. Paul Preus

East Circuit: Rev. Chris Waldvogel

SW Circuit: Rev. Jonathan Walla

SE Circuit: Rev. Matthew Tooman

Resolutions Adopted:

1-1 “North Dakota District Encouragement for Shepherd’s Hill”

1-3 “Encouraging Continuation of Message in the Pew”

2-01 “Christ Care of Children/Kenya”

2-02 “To Continue International Mission Opportunities in Santiago, Chile”

2-03 “To Explore an Ongoing Ministry Partnership Between the North Dakota District and Lutheran Family Services”

3-1 “Constitution Bylaw Resolution”

3-2 “To Update the LCMS North Dakota District ByLaws”

3-3 “Support Historic Communion Practice of the Synod Affirmed”

3-4 “To Adopt the LCMS North Dakota District Guidebook and Resources”

All Omnibus Resolutions

Blessings and REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS! REJOICE!

Rev. Arie Bertsch

LCMS ND District President