

Daily FRI 7-2-21 DECLARER

Newsletter of the 21st Regular Convention of the Mid-South District, LCMS • July 1-3, 2021 • Memphis, TN



Uplifting Opening Worship Sets Tone for Convention

"Declare His Marvelous Works!" With the words of the psalmist David as recorded in 1 Chronicles, the 300 people in attendance at the Opening Service of the 21st Regular Convention of the Mid-South District boldly declared the Lord's glory, praising God for His marvelous works, much like the apostles who, as LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison pointed out in his sermon, "couldn't shut up" about their Savior's miraculous deeds.

The Psalms were found throughout the service: in confession, in absolution, in prayer, in thanksgiving, and in the beautiful choral music directed by Chris Cardona and accompanied by Martha Israel on piano and organ, and enhanced by a brass quartet. As the congregational delegates brought forward their offering—designated to go toward the Scholarship Fund for Pastors and Commissioned Church Workers who are burdened with significant educational debt—the choir declared "let every tongue on every shore, proclaim the glory of the Lord!"

In addition to President Harrison as proclaimer, Senior Pastor Chuck Neugebauer of CTK served as celebrant and Associate Pastor Mark Goble served as liturgist. Assisting with Communion were the Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Rev. Michael Croom, Rev. Clayton Sellers, and Rev. Sawyer Meyers. The organist for the congregation was Michella Novy.

The service was preceded by a seated dinner, underwritten by Lutheran Church Extension Fund and the Mid-South District, in the new Fellowship Hall at Christ the King. Coordinated by CTK member Natalie Martin and staffed by amazing CTK volunteers, the dinner was delicious and efficiently delivered. The beautiful table décor included fresh flowers from local florist Lynn Doyle Flowers. Caterers were Natalia and Chris Lee.

The worship service was live-streamed and may be watched on-demand at:

<https://ctkmemphis.com/live-video-streaming>.



Photos Courtesy of Caroline Johnson

Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola!

| Pos. | Name | Votes | % |
|--------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| 1 | Roger C. Paavola | 89 | 65.44 % |
| 2 | Lane B. Reuter | 47 | 34.56 % |
| Required Majority: | | 69 | |
| Votes Cast: | | 136 | |

By a convincing majority vote of 89-47, cast by 136 convention delegates, incumbent president Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola won a fourth term as the Mid-South District President, defeating Rev. Lane Reuter of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nashville, Tennessee. The two will, however, be working closely together as Pastor Reuter was elected to serve as First Vice President on the District's Board of Directors.



President Paavola Shares Encouragement in Report to Delegation

Mid-South District President Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola shared his report to the Convention delegation on Thursday afternoon. His address combined both a retrospective look at what has been accomplished in the District and the vision for what can be done for God's Kingdom in the years to come. In the vision, President Paavola reflected on the challenges COVID-19 has presented for our personal lives and within the Church. He also mentioned the continuing challenges in filling pastoral vacancies, as the financial aspect is a huge barrier that was amplified by this past year's trials.

President Paavola offered an optimistic outlook as to how we can continue strongly in sharing the Gospel, despite these obstructions. In particular, he emphasized tools such as the Congregation Assessment Resource (C.A.R.) helping to improve ministry effectiveness and efficiency. Additionally, he shared the District resource's mission through COMPASS, which offers strategic directions of missions and ministry for our partner congregations. President Paavola's emphasis on being saved by grace through faith is sure to carry the encouraging energy throughout this year's Convention.

WHO'S HERE THIS YEAR?

71 PASTORS
71 LAY DELEGATES

37 ADVISORS
69 GUESTS



The pleasure of your company
is requested at the

President's Reception

6-8 p.m.

Southeast Ballroom

Friday, July 2, 2021

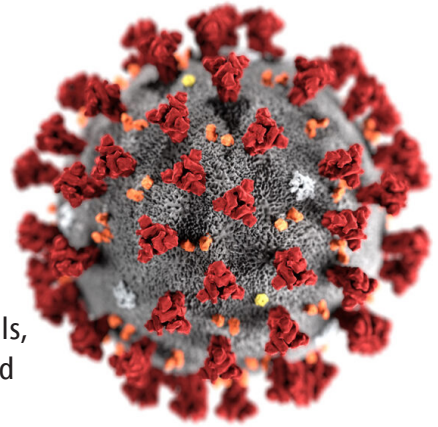
Food~Drinks~Fellowship

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Get Creative to Weather Pandemic Storm

Special to the Daily Declarer, by Allen Piepenbrink-District Education Executive

All ten of the district elementary schools have been able to stay open in face-to-face format during the COVID pandemic. There have been some short-term closures of classrooms, but not entire schools. There are ten elementary schools, two of which have high schools: Avilla Christian Academy in Alexander, AR, and Heavenly Host Lutheran School in Cookeville, TN.



In the district 20 early childhood centers are currently open. Several of them have had Covid-19 related restrictions which have caused a reduction in the number of students allowed in classrooms. Six of the centers are at full capacity and four of those are considering adding another classroom. We have had two early childhood schools temporarily close due to the current pandemic (Emmanuel Lutheran Hermitage TN, and St. Paul Lutheran Wartburg TN). We are hopeful that they can reopen this fall.

There are many opportunities available for sharing the Gospel. There were 21 baptisms associated with the schools in 2020. 70 of the students in the early childhood centers are Lutheran, 571 are non-Lutheran, and 273 have no church affiliation. 191 of the students in the elementary schools are Lutheran, 469 are non-Lutheran, and 152 have no church affiliation. We pray that the Lord guide the teachers in sharing the Good News to all their students.

Ascension Lutheran Church in Madison, TN has begun a relationship with The Edison School to serve children with learning differences and support families in need. The Edison School will operate the school using the church's facilities while maintaining the church's values in doctrine and LCMS practices. Please pray for Pastor Bauch and his congregation as they accept this ministry opportunity.

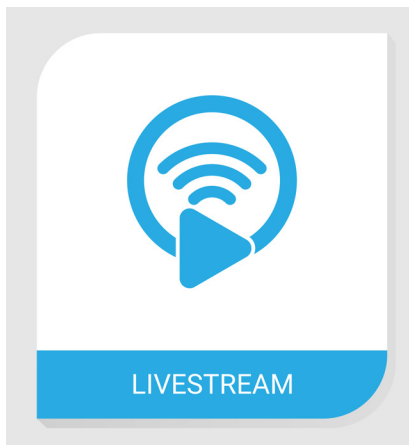
Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Jonesboro, AR has begun work toward opening a Classical school. The church and school are in the process of changing the name to All Saints Lutheran. They will begin serving children this coming fall. The Rev. Andrew Lehman will serve as assistant pastor/teacher and headmaster of the school. We pray that Pastor Leigeber and his congregation have a blessed beginning of their school.

The Mid-South District has had great success in maintaining a face-to-face relationship during this pandemic between teachers and students. We continue to pray that the Lord guide all our administrators, teachers, students, and parents as the Gospel is shared.

The Mid-South / Southern Elementary Teachers' Conference will be held at Pickwick Landing State Park on November 21-23, 2021. A conference for early childhood teachers will be held at Heavenly Host Lutheran in Cookeville, TN on Saturday, September 18th. An early childhood conference for this summer/fall in the Memphis area is being planned.

Please continue to pray for and recruit students for ministry service as pastors, teachers, and DCE's.

The Mid-South District Convention Is LIVE STREAMING



mid-southlcms.org/conventionlinks

Type the above URL directly into the address bar of your search engine (Google, Explorer, Safari, etc.) to access the live stream links for each convention session (July 1-3).

In Good Company: Districts Convening in 2021



Across Synod, the pandemic caused many of the 35 districts to postpone their triennial conventions for one year. In fact, the Synodical convention originally planned for 2022 will be delayed to 2023. However, the following districts, like the Mid-South District, voted to proceed with their planned 2021 events:

- **South Dakota District (convening Dec. 2021)**
- **Texas District (convened June 2021)**
- **Wyoming District (convened May 2021)**
- **New Jersey District (convened May 2021)**



Since the theme of the Mid-South District Convention is taken from the psalmist David as he prepared a song to be sung daily upon entering the new temple, it was only fitting that the Convention dinner preceding the worship service was held in Christ the King's (CTK) new facility, a 20,000+ square foot addition boasting a state-of-the-art Fellowship Hall. CTK'ers will definitely feel like singing once they move into the new offices and spacious Bible Study classrooms. Other features include a large Nursery, an impressive two-story rotunda, and a huge youth room. Christ

the King members are looking forward to expanding their **Room In The Inn-Memphis** ministry, as well as reaching out to the community in a number of creative ways. The \$6.3 million facility was designed to be energy-conscious and ADA-compliant.

Hord Architects of Memphis provided the design for the expansion, and Grinder Taber Grinder was the general contractor. On Sunday, August 1, Christ the King will gather to dedicate the new building and sing together, "Sing to the Lord, all the earth!"