

Daily THURS 7-1-21 DECLARER

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



Welcome!

Greetings and welcome to the 21st Regular Convention of the Mid-South District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The theme chosen for reflection and guidance for this important event is, "Declare His Marvelous Works," from **I Chronicles 16:23-24**. After a year fraught with difficulties and challenges, this inspiring theme is a timely reminder that our loving God is always in control and always worthy of praise!

Many thanks are extended to our convention delegates as they share their time and consideration to glorify our Lord through their leadership. May they be blessed by their service over these next three days. While conducting important business will be the focus of the convention, may there also be moments to relax and enjoy the fellowship of friends from throughout the District.

Opening Worship Service

Hosted by Christ the King Lutheran Church & School

5:45-7:15 p.m.

DINNER in the
Family Life Center
Sponsored by LCEF & the District

7:30 p.m.

WORSHIP SERVICE
The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
Preacher

The offering at tonight's worship service will go toward the District's education debt fund to provide financial assistance to Mid-South pastors and commissioned church workers who are burdened with significant educational debt.

*Christ the King is located at 5296 Park Avenue, Memphis 38119. Bus transportation is available.
Please visit the Convention Office if you need to sign up for the buses.*

Something New: TODAY'S BUSINESS

The 2021 Mid-South District Convention will introduce a new way for delegates to stay informed and organized regarding the official business of the day. The new resource is called **TODAY'S BUSINESS** and it will be distributed by Pages as delegates enter the Convention hall each day. You don't want to miss this important packet of information as it contains not only a detailed schedule for the day, but also important announcements, devotion notes and hymns, and even spaces for delegates to record significant Convention statistics and voting results. Be sure to pick up your copy of **TODAY'S BUSINESS** as you enter the Convention hall!

MEET THE NOMINEES

for Mid-South District President



Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola

- District President
(2012-Present)



Rev. Lane Reuter

- Sr. Pastor, Our Savior
Lutheran Church
in Nashville, TN



To get to know our two District Presidential candidates and their perspectives a bit better, the *Daily Declarer* asked each for his guidance to a parishioner who expressed particular concerns. Below is one of the questions posed, and an excerpt from each candidate's response:

QUESTION: *In these troubled times, when more than half of U.S. citizens believe that Christianity's influence is decreasing, and church attendance is dramatically declining, how important is it for Christians to become involved politically; and how ought they do so in ways that will best serve to defend, preserve, and revitalize Christianity?*

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola Responds:

As churches, we support LCMS agencies and national affiliations to represent our interests in the ever-changing political realm. But, the Church's strength is not based on political power. The Church's strength is and always has been Almighty God. Yet, God calls us to be His witnesses to a dark and decaying world. God's Word calls all of His elect, through His means of grace, to be witnesses of the Gospel of Christ, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Pt 1:3-5).

The political realm in which the Church co-exists belongs to the Kingdom of the left. It doesn't hold power over the Kingdom of the Right - the Divine Kingdom of God, by His grace for His elect. However, "False christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect" (Mk 13:22). God's Word and our Lutheran Confessions reveal the nourishing Word that protects God's elect. It's incumbent on our churches to offer worship and studies that not only provide His Word for us to embrace, but also gives us the armament that goes with us as we give witness to Christ. Civil governments are God's agents of justice; "For he [the magistrate, the government's representative] is the

Rev. Lane Reuter Responds:

Christians have a vital role to play in our nation's trajectory. There is no place in Scripture that instructs us to be silent or to take a backseat on spiritual, moral, and ethical issues. For the last 60 plus years, the Christian principles our country was founded upon have been steadily chipped away. In many ways, we have been too passive and too unwilling to be as bold as we should. LCMS Christians especially should take the lead in standing up for religious liberty, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of human life, and the freedom of speech.

Having said this, it is important to remember that the government and the church have different roles and functions. The government's role is to preserve (the Kingdom of the Left), and the Church's role (the Kingdom of the Right) is to save. We are citizens of two kingdoms, but Heaven is our true, permanent home. Philippians 3:20 says, "But we are citizens of Heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior."

Romans 13 discusses how God preserves the world through government, and John 3:16 explains how He saves it. We as Christians live in both Kingdoms, and God is King over both! However, the Church should not endorse any person or party, but should instead always remain on the side of Truth! Jesus and the teachings from His Word are that Truth! Although we live in an ever-changing world, God and His great message of

Meet the Nominees, *continued on back*

ENJOY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
at the

Pastors' Wives Luncheon

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021 @ NOON

*Pastors' Wives —
Please gather in
“Directors 3” for
this special event*



See Y'all in the Exhibit Hall

Be sure to visit some of the many exhibitors in attendance at the 2021 Convention:

- AMRO Music
- Comfort Dogs Ministry - Christ the King
- Concordia Historical Institute
- Concordia Plan Services
- Concordia Publishing House
- Concordia Theological Seminary, - Fort Wayne
- Concordia Seminary - St. Louis
- International Lutheran Council
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund
- LCMS Foundation
- Lutheran Federal Credit Union
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- Lutheran Hour Ministries
- Lutheran Laymen's League
- Lutheran Legacy Foundation
- Lutheran Women's Missionary League
- Ministry Focus
- Ministry of Armed Forces
- Sharing Script
- Thrivent - Jack Ficken
- Trinity HOPE

A Word of Advice & Perspective ~ The Importance and Function of **ADVISORY DELEGATES**

Special to the Daily Declarer, by Rev. John Gierke-District Secretary

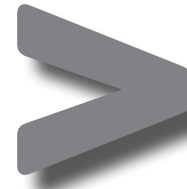
“Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information.” This is how Bylaw 4.2.1 begins—before addressing the role of conventions as the “principal legislative assemblies.” As the delegates from member congregations gather for fulfilling these purposes, they reflect the 2nd reason for forming a Synodical union listed in the Constitution’s Preamble: “Our Lord’s will that the diversities of gifts should be for the common profit. 1 Corinthians 12:4-31”

Just as the whole body is incomplete with only one or two parts, and an eye can’t say to an ear that it’s unnecessary, Advisory Delegates are integral to fulfilling the convention’s purpose by representing the gifts God has given the Church. So who are Advisory Delegates? Advisory Delegates are all commissioned ministers and ordained ministers not presently serving as voting representatives of congregations, who are members of the Synod within the district. Additionally, a multi-congregation parish’s congregation which does not supply the voting lay delegate may send an advisory lay delegate to have an additional voice. [LCMS Constitution Article XII.10.b] They provide a greater perspective as church workers and laity come together and go back to the mission field. They provide advice and counsel to the deliberations and debate. They may also serve on floor committees with voice and vote to provide their perspective. God Bless the combined wisdom and gifts of all who walk together joining their voices and votes to Declare His Marvelous Works!

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola Responds (continued):

[the magistrate, the government's representative] is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer" (Rom 13:4). But, it's a limited authority, granted by God. God's authority and His grace is given to the Church. We're not only asked to DO church, but to BE the Church to our neighbor. St Peter explains, "Put away malice and deceit, and hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good... You, like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people..." (1 Pt 2:3-8).

Witnessing, defending, preserving, and revitalizing our local congregations within our Confessions is our privilege and responsibility. St Paul says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might... stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6). God's grace is our protection; His Word is our strength.



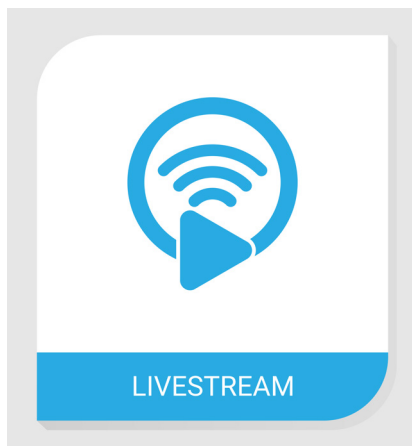
**Hear from both
candidates on
Friday morning!**

Rev. Lane Reuter Responds (continued):

Salvation through Jesus Christ alone have not changed! We as the Christian Church must continually keep this foremost in our minds as our guiding compass.

Do we need more Christians to run for office? Absolutely! Do we need to be the salt and light in our communities with the love and life-changing power of Jesus Christ crucified and risen? Absolutely! Do Christian values need to be taught to our children at home and at school? Absolutely! Jesus has called us to be in the world, but not of the world. We must have the mentality of missionaries through the power of the Holy Spirit; we do not leave our faith in Christ at the church building on Sundays! We must take our faith with us everywhere we go, bearing witness to our Lord. The Church and the message of the Gospel is the world's only hope.

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).

AMRO MUSIC 100th ANNIVERSARY 1921 - 2021

*Amro Music is proud to provide the organs for the
LCMS Mid-South District Convention.*

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