

Greetings LCMS Delegates, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The 2010 LCMS Convention has the potential to be a “watershed” event for this church we know and love. The importance of this convention and the decisions you will be called on to make will determine the direction of the LCMS for years to come. Perhaps most important among your decisions will be the election of leaders. Be assured that we, and other LCMS members, will be praying for you as you accomplish your duties as a delegate.

Those of us who are sending you this letter believe that President Gerald B. (Jerry) Kieschnick is the best qualified of all those who will be arrayed before you for the office of President. Let us tell you why. President Kieschnick has proven to be a man of God, a visionary leader of unquestioned integrity, a member of the LCMS with almost 20 years of experience as either District President or President of the LCMS. Theologically rock-solid with a thorough commitment to confessional Lutheran identity, he is imbued with a spirit of humility and compassion. He has a servant’s heart.

President Kieschnick has set before the LCMS a comprehensive vision—**“One Mission, One Message, One People”**. He has demonstrated superb executive level leadership in the pursuit of that vision. Through prayer and the development of unprecedented teamwork (with congregations, districts, universities and national entities, complemented by partner churches and deployed missionaries), individual members of the LCMS have been called on to re-focus on the mission which our Savior clearly assigned to each of us: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”* (Matt 28:19-20). President Kieschnick has urged us toward this ministry in the clear words and intent of the LCMS Mission statement: “... vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world.” He has ignited a fire for Mission in the hearts of Missouri Synod members across the church body and around the world.

These last 9 years have not been easy years for our nation or for our church. On the national level, President Kieschnick guided the LCMS through the horrific 9/11 tragedy, through disasters like Katrina, Rita, the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. In these days our President has given exemplary leadership in dealing with the recent decisions of the ELCA which support same sex marriage and clergy who practice a homosexual life style. He speaks with courage and with truth against these aberrations in accordance with God’s eternal Word on behalf of our Synod. We are grateful to God for this strong leadership from President Kieschnick.

President Kieschnick’s vision—**“One Mission, One Message, One People”**—is a simple but comprehensive challenge to energize our beloved Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to be totally, irreversibly committed to this mission. We believe that President Kieschnick is the right man for the right time for the LCMS. By his re-election, you will position the LCMS for the challenges of the future.

The Lord Jesus has called us into His Church through the power of the Word and Sacraments. What a privilege we have now to tell people the world over of the Savior who lived, died, and rose again to bring all people to Himself for eternity. We pray for the Spirit’s blessing upon our church and we thank God for President Kieschnick whose leadership strengthens us for this task.

May God bless you at the 2010 Convention of our Synod and in all that you do in His Name.

Those whose names are listed have agreed to and join in this effort:

Rev. Dr. William H. Ameiss, Past President Northern Illinois District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Erhart Bauer, Past President, Northwest District
 Rev. Dr. David Belasic, Past President Eastern District, LCMS
 Rev. Ronald Bergen, Past President Ohio District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Leroy Biesenthal, Associate Evangelism Executive LCMS (ret)
 Mrs. Marie Biesenthal, Meeting Planner LCMS (ret)
 Dr. Richard Bimler, Consultant, Speaker, Writer,
 Past President Wheat Ridge Ministries
 Rev. Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, President Emeritus, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
 Rev. Dr. John Brunner, Past President Eastern District, LCMS
 Dr. Elaine Richter-Bryant, Past Executive Director LCMS World Relief/ Human Care (ret)
 Rev. Dr. David Buegler, Fifth Vice President, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod,
 Past President Ohio District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Steven Carter, Past President CEO Concordia Publishing House (ret)
 Dr. Merle Freitag, Past President Lutheran Church Extension Fund, LCMS (ret)
 Dr. Jean Garton, Member of Commission on Theology and Church Relations,
 Member, Board for Human Care Ministries, LCMS
 Founder and Past President of Lutherans for Life
 Past Chair of President's Commission on Women
 Past Member, Board of Directors, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
 Rev. Eugene Gierke, Past President Nebraska District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Robert Greene, Past Executive Director Lutheran Social Services of the South (ret)
 Rev. Paul A. Hartman, Past President Oklahoma District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. John Heins, Past President Michigan District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Loren Kramer, Chairman LCMS Commission for Theology and Church Relations,
 Interim President Concordia University, Irvine (2009-2010)
 Past President Pacific Southwest District LCMS
 Rev. James Linderman, Past President Texas District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Arleigh Lutz, Past President North Wisconsin District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier, Second Vice President, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
 Rev. Dr. Ronald Meyer, Past President South Wisconsin District, LCMS
 Rev. Orval Mueller, Past President Southern District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael, Past President Florida-Georgia District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Fourth Vice President, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
 Rev. Dr. Norbert Oesch, Past Executive Director Pastoral Leadership Institute (ret) and
 Executive Director Pastoral Leadership Institute International
 Rev. Dr. Glenn O'Shoney, Past President Texas District, LCMS,
 Executive Director LCMS World Mission (ret)
 Rev. Dr. Howard Patten, Past President Kansas District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Donald Sandman, Past President New Jersey District, LCMS
 Rev. Timothy E. Sims, Past President Indiana District
 Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher, Past President Northwest District, LCMS
 Rev. Dr. Walter Tietjen, Past President California Nevada Hawaii District, LCMS
 Dr. LeRoy Wilke, Past Executive Director LCMS District Congregational Services (ret)
 Mrs. Jane Wilke, Administrator of Communications Lutheran Senior Service, St. Louis
 Rev. Dr. Orville Walz, Past President Concordia University Seward (ret)
 Rev. Dr. Steve Wagner, Executive Leader, Pastoral Leadership Institute
 Rev. Dr. Thomas Zehnder, Executive Director LCMS World Mission
 Past President Florida-Georgia District, LCMS
 Mrs. Jacquelyn R. Zehnder