



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

63RD REGULAR CONVENTION

LOCATION:
July 14-19, 2007
George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, TX

CORRESPONDENCE:
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May 25, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

As the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod approaches, it is my prayer that you will continue to be nourished, comforted, fed and fortified with the wonderful gifts of forgiveness, grace, mercy, peace and assurance of eternal life from our Lord through His precious Word and Sacraments!

The greeting above is the same greeting I shared with the delegates to the 62nd Regular Convention of the Synod. As I ponder the worship, nurture, inspiration, business and information sharing that lies ahead in Houston, July 14-19, it is apparent that a filling with the means of grace and gifts of God prayed for above remains essential for every delegate to this convention. After all, our task is not mere worldly business. Nor do we perform our duties as mere worldly people. Instead, we are holy people called to be about our Father's business. For such labor, we require the spiritual nurture that comes through Christ.

The theme for this convention amplifies our calling and purpose: ONE Message—*Christ!* In Christ, we are justified by grace through faith. In Christ, we are sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ, we love one another as he has loved us. In Christ, we recognize that the church we represent is His Church. In Christ, we make decisions guided by His Word. In Christ, we witness to the world that He alone is Savior and Lord. There is ONE Message—*Christ!* The task of this convention is vigorously to make that message known.

Thus, I invite you to pray with me that a spirit of wisdom, knowledge, and fear of the Lord will mark this convention. Pray with me that all malice and wiles of the devil will be removed far from us as we receive the love of Christ, embracing it and one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Pray with me that the Lord's will be done and His kingdom come as a result of our actions and time together.

We have many important decisions ahead that will impact the work of the kingdom of God through our beloved Synod. In every resolve, we must remember that this Synod is not our own. It belongs to God who allowed it to be formed and to exist in service to Him for now 160 years. We have been blessed through the Synod's ministry in Christ's name and pray we will continue to be a blessing to others in Christ's service.

Dear friends in Christ, as ONE People, be filled with the grace and the gifts of God – His Love Is Here for You! Be messengers of the Gospel, *Ablaze!* with hearts on fire, in ONE Mission to the people of the world around us so they will know – His Love Is Here for You! Be filled with the sure knowledge of salvation and certain hope of eternal life that is revealed and received in the ONE Message—*Christ!* His Love Is Here for You!

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:9-11

Sincerely in Christian love,

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

HIS LOVE IS HERE FOR YOU

1 John 4: 9-11