



# The Spirit of Southern

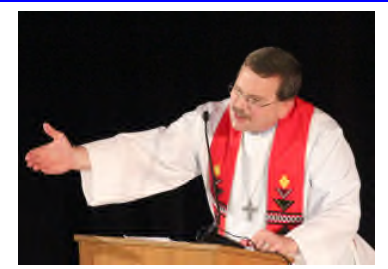
## The Southern District – Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 2015 Convention Edition

Under the theme “Hope: Jesus Changes Everything,” based on 1 Peter 3:15, delegates and guests to the 74<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Southern District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod met at Concordia College Alabama in Selma, AL. Concordia College staff and students warmly welcomed their guests June 4-5, 2015.

### WORSHIP



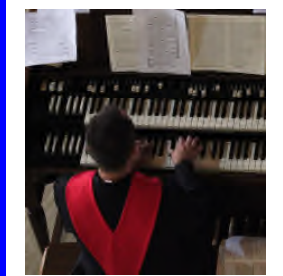
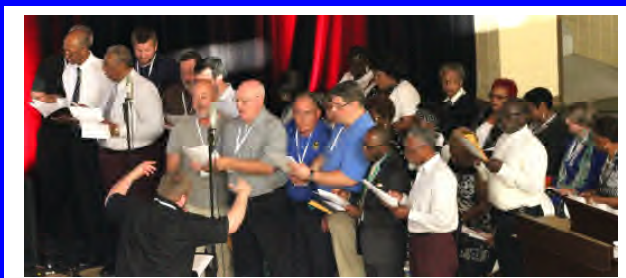
The convention began with Opening Communion Worship. Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, LCMS First Vice President spoke on the theme “We Would See Jesus,” based on John 12:17-26. The Liturgist was Rev. Dr. Tilahun Menedo, President of Concordia College Alabama, and the Celebrant was Rev. Steven Washington, Pastor of Trinity – Selma, AL.



The Friday evening Memorial Worship Service remembered the lives of those pastors and teachers who had died during the past triennium. Preacher for the service was Rev. Cliff Helmers, Emeritus, Hoover, AL, and the Liturgist was Southern District President Kurtis D. Schultz.

A brass ensemble and choirs of men’s and mixed voices contributed to both services.

The convention offering of over \$5000 was designated for Concordia College Alabama.





**Mueller**



**Maier**



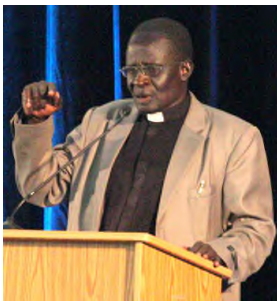
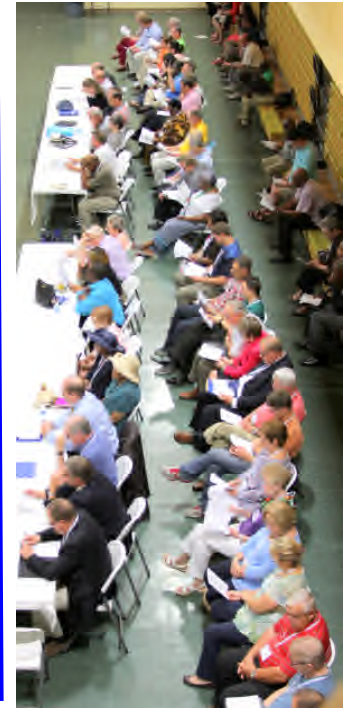
**Wohlrabe**

## SPEAKERS

Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller Jr., LCMS First Vice-President, presented the Synod President's Report, and Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr., LCMS Second Vice-President, presented the Synod Bible Study. Both hosted question and answer sessions.

Michigan District President, Rev. David P. Maier, presented the Key Note Address.

Representatives of Concordia College Alabama, two LWML districts, Lutheran Counseling Services and others spoke to the Convention of their activities and services.



## TORCH BEARER OF HOPE

In keeping with the "Hope: Jesus Changes Everything" theme, President Schultz announced the formation of an award to recognize those who have been "Torch Bearers of Hope" to those in need of help and hope. Recognized at this convention were:

- ✘ Living members of Concordia College AL family who participated in the voting rights moment.
- ✘ Camp Restore in New Orleans, for its 10 years of work with over 25,000 volunteers in its ministry of hope and restoration after Hurricane Katrina.
- ✘ Shepherd's Heart Ministry in Gardendale, AL for its disaster response team which responds with disaster teams bringing hope to victims throughout the US.



## ELECTIONS

Delegates elected President Kurtis Schultz to his fifth term on the first ballot. Congratulations and God's blessings to President Schultz as he leads our district for the next triennium.

Prior to the start of the convention, regional caucuses were held for the election of the four Southern District Regional Vice Presidents. The order of the four was determined by convention delegates. Vice Presidents are: **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall (Mobile/Montrose, AL); **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Rev. Dr. McNair Ramsey (Emeritus: Vredenburgh, AL); **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:** Rev. Stewart Marshall (DeRidder, LA) and **4<sup>th</sup> Vice President:** Rev. Warren Pellom (Southaven, MS).

Elected Board of Directors members are: **Secretary:** Rev. Keith Ringers; **Treasurer:** Mr. Stanley Weir; **Ordained Members At-Large:** Rev. Randal Ehrichs, Rev. Allan Hudspith, Rev. Kevin Kieschnick; **Lay Members – Regional and At-Large:** Mr. John Heine, Mrs. Nancy Kaul, Mr. Thomas M. Noon, Mr. Robert Meyers, Mr. Woody Kiem, Ms. Laurie Ninke, and a vacant position from Circuit 5 to be appointed; **Commissioned Minister Representative:** Mr. John Price.

**Circuit Visitors:** In earlier circuit caucuses, the following Circuit Visitors (formerly Circuit Counselors) were nominated and ratified by the convention:

**Circuit 1** – Rev. Ken Babin

**Circuit 4** – Rev. Louis Boldt

**Circuit 6** – Rev. Charles Miller

**Circuit 8** – Rev. Steven Schrader

**Circuit 10** – Rev. David Robatzen

**Circuit 12** – Rev. Steven Washington

**Circuit 14** – Rev. Gary Weier

**Circuit 2** – Rev. Rich Rudnik

**Circuit 5** – Rev. Perry Culver

**Circuit 7** – Rev. James Holowach

**Circuit 9** – Rev. David Moerbe

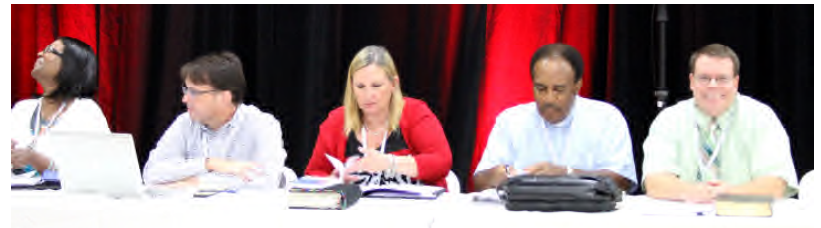
**Circuit 11** – Rev. William Parsons

**Circuit 13** – Rev. James Endrihs

**Circuit 15** – Rev. Kevin Wendt



**Additional elections** were held for members of the Concordia College Alabama Board of Regents, the Church Extension Fund Board, the Committee for 2018 Southern District Convention Nominations, and the Synod Committee on Nominations for the 2016 Convention.



## RESOLUTIONS

Delegates adopted resolutions that included:

- ◆ Acknowledgement of the value and contributions of Directors of Christian Education (DCEs) to the service of the Synod and specifically the Southern District. The resolution encourages the district's congregations to evaluate needs and resources to consider calling DCEs for future staffing needs.
- ◆ Encouragement for Synod to educate and advocate for persecuted Christians in hostile countries. The resolution calls for LCMS publications and social media outlets to provide information about these persecuted Christians and ways to send funds and to extend sympathy, especially to those in the Middle East.
- ◆ Establishment of a task force to study and suggest possible Southern District Bylaw changes concerning term limits for the district's elected officers and committees members.
- ◆ Delegates also adopted a resolution forwarding the following priorities to the Synod for its consideration:
  - Work toward the elimination of poverty and hunger within the United States
  - Increase and improve multicultural relations within the LCMS
  - Strengthen and support African-American ministry efforts
  - Actively engage in keeping Concordia College Alabama viable as a LCMS mission
  - Support Dr. Rosa J. Young's legacy and the development of Rosa J. Young Academies



## INFORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

- ◆ All in attendance enjoyed opportunities to visit with friends, old and new. Food and fellowship were the highlights of a Friday evening reception hosted by Southern District CEF and a Saturday jazz buffet lunch hosted by Thrivent and the Southern District.
- ◆ Convention attendees previewed showings of "The First Rosa," an LCMS documentary on the mission work of Dr. Rosa Young in Alabama during the early 20th century. The film's director, Rev. Dr. Ardon Albrecht, and the Rev. Roosevelt Gray Jr., director of LCMS Black Ministry, were on hand to introduce and to talk about the production. The film is scheduled to be released in September.
- ◆ The convention schedule allowed time for attendees to visit historical sites in the Selma area.
- ◆ Displays by ministries within and outside of the Southern District proved to be informative, as well as gathering spots for conversation.



## The Spirit of Southern

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