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Sixth Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Senior Assistant to the President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Rev. Dr. Jon D. Vieker St. Louis, Missouri

SED Convention Essayist

The Rev. Dr. Robert J. Scudieri Naples, Florida

Southeastern District President 1994-1997

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Rev. Dr. Roy A. Maack and Mrs. Ann Maack Oviedo, Florida

Southeastern District President 1997-2003

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Representing Mid Atlantic Lutherans in Mission

The Rev. Dr. Arthur W. Scherer and Mrs. Linda Scherer Baltimore, Maryland

Southeastern District President 2003-2012

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Rev. Dr. Jon T. Diefenthaler Columbia, Maryland

Southeastern District President 2012 – Present

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Rev. Dr. John R. Denninger and Mrs. Connie Denninger Springfield, Virginia



We give thanks for those District Presidents Emeriti who could not travel to be with us today

Southeastern District President 1970-1978
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
The Rev. Dr. Charles S. Mueller, Sr. and Mrs. Audrey Mueller
Bloomingdale, Illinois

Southeastern District President 1978-1994
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
The Rev. Dr. Richard T. Hinz and Mrs. Deanna Hinz
Fredericksburg, Virginia

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Mrs. Elfrieda R. Ramsay Our Savior Lutheran Church Laurel, Maryland

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The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, Indiana

Representing North Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith, Bishop Salisbury, North Carolina

Representing Carolinas Mission District, North American Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. J. George (Gil) Gilberts, Assistant Dean Newton, North Carolina

Representing Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

Ms. Kristy Herring, Manager for Congregational Outreach Baltimore, Maryland



Parliamentarian

Mrs. Barbara Volk Hendersonville, North Carolina

Conference Chaplains and Worship Leaders

The Rev. David J. Guelzow The Rev. David W. Ziehr St. Stephens Lutheran Church Hickory, North Carolina

Our Host Congregation

St. Stephens Lutheran Church Hickory, North Carolina

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Mr. Kyle McClure, Minister of Music Concordia Lutheran Church Conover, North Carolina

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Concordia Plan Services Ms. Kim Hoover and

Ms. Dawn Crosno

Concordia Publishing House Mr. Paul Brunette

Concordia Seminary Mr. Roger Dow and

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Concordia Theological Seminary The Rev. Mark Steiner

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Paychex, Inc. Mr. Nicholas Russell

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Southeastern District Gift Consultant Mr. Robert J. Schulze

Southeastern District Spiritual Life Team Dcs. Roberta S. Hillhouse

Southeastern District Worker Care Team The Rev. Kevin W. Martin



GREETINGS

March 26, 2018

President John R, Denninger Southeastern District, LCMS

Dear John,

Audrey and I are honored by the invitation to attend the 38th convention if the Southeastern District. It brought back a flood of memories of desperate times which our nation and our Synod faced in the 60s and 70s. By the grace of God and the determination of dedicated people and parishes of the Southeastern District it not only survived that "stormy present" but has prospered. What better proof of that than the 38th convention's positive, get-up-and-go, future oriented theme, "Let's Go Fishing".

To my eyes that theme a wonderful extension of the District's determination at its founding nearing 80 years ago. Because it went fishing then with little more than a wooden pole, some string and a safety pin shaped into a hook — and kept at it across subsequent generations of parishes, pastors and people — it is what it is today. President Ressmeyer in days of yore urged on the District he led saying, "...the work of the church is being everlastingly at it." Under a succession of District leaders, not the least of whom are the servant leaders of today, "being everlastingly at it" has been a recognized and continuing goal.

Audrey and I regret that while nearing our 90th birthdays we don't venture far from our own Illinois fishing hole. But from afar we will pray for and admire today's generations as they, rod and reel in hand, follow in the footsteps of founding SED mothers and fathers who, made Peter's announcement, "I am going fishing" (John 21, 3) their own.

So go for it. We were licensed to fish in our baptism. Let's catch all that we can.

Charles S. Mueller, Sr