

Pastor Brian's
Midweek Message
June 15, 2022

"LET'S GET TOGETHER"

The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. (Acts 15:6)

As the newly formed Christian Church began to spread throughout the middle east in the years after Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension back to the Father's right hand, and then the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, issues of doctrine and practice quickly flared up. This injected controversy and confusion into the fledgling Church. The 1st big issues arose over the demand that some of the Jewish Christians made that the Gentiles first needed to convert to Judaism, following the Law of Moses, including circumcision and the dietary laws before they could become Christian. In order to address this dispute the leaders of the Church convened a "Council" in Jerusalem. The Apostle Paul and Barnabas came from Antioch and reported on the great conversion of the Gentiles on their First Missionary Journey. After a great deal of debate the Apostle Peter stood up and addressed the Council speaking about the inability of the Jews to keep the Law and against the idea of placing the Gentiles under that untenable yoke. James the brother of Jesus, who had become the leader of the Church in Jerusalem issued a decision not to require the Gentiles to submit to the Law of Moses but rather to welcome them with joy into the Church simply through faith and trust in Christ.

Throughout the centuries since the Church has called and convened a number of councils to deal with other issues, typically heresies, that arose from within. With the Reformation of the 16th century and beyond, and the numerous denominations that have been born from it, general councils of the Church are no more, although the Roman Catholic Church continues to use them with the last one being the 2nd Vatican Council of the early 1960s.

We of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and all of its districts do not meet together in "councils", but we do regularly gather together in conventions every three years. Tomorrow, I leave for St. Augustine, Florida to represent Trinity Lutheran Church of Southwest Florida (along with our congregational president Ron Beaber) at the Florida-Georgia District Convention.



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District Convention • June 16-18, 2022

Hebrews 12:2; Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This year's District Convention is actually a year late in coming, due to the Covid-19 pandemic making it unsafe to gather together last year. Our convention will begin with worship and the Lord's Supper late tomorrow afternoon, followed by the opening of business. One of the first items on the agenda will be the election of a new District President who will lead us for at least the next three years. President Greg Walton has served honorably and diligently, but he now steps aside due to term limits. We have a slate of very qualified and faithful candidates to assume this position and I ask you to pray that the Spirit leads us to elect the man whom God has already chosen. There are a number of other important items that will come to before those of us who are gathered in St. Augustine. I plan to present a report on the proceedings following the worship service this Sunday, June 19th during the time that is typically set aside for Bible study.