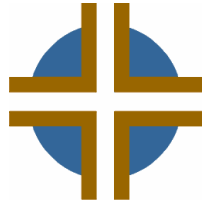


ATLANTIC DISTRICT



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National Lutheran Leaders Honored at “Witness in the Public Square” Benefit Luncheon

Bronxville, New York –October 28, 2009 – The Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS), hosted its annual "Witness in the Public Square" benefit luncheon on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at the New York Athletic Club. Honored for their exemplary Lutheran leadership were the Rev. Jonathan J. Coyne, Senior Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Menlo Park, California; Terry Lee Kieschnick, "First Lady of the LC-MS" and wife of Missouri Synod President, the Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick; Howard Crumb, a Senior Bank Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (retired) and member of the Board of Regents of Concordia College-NY, Bronxville; and Col. Michael J. Meese, a professor and head of the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy, West Point, and President of West Point Lutheran Ministries.

Witness in the Public Square was inaugurated in 2003 to honor Atlantic District President, the Rev. Dr. David H. Benke, for his public witness in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. In accepting his award, Col. Meese paid tribute to Dr. Benke's courageous leadership by illuminating the concept of witness. Discipline, he said, is knowing what is right to do and doing it when no one is watching. Witness is knowing what is right to do and doing it *while everyone is watching*.

Among the honored guests attending the luncheon was President Kieschnick, who, with his wife and mother Elda, joined in celebratory services on Sunday, October 18, at Dr. Benke's congregation, St. Peter's, Brooklyn. There he officiated at the installation of Rev. Sung Woo Leem as Korean Mosaic Pastor, helped welcome new members, and dedicated a new church bus and recently completed additions and renovations to the building.

Also attending the luncheon was the Vice President of the Missouri Synod, the Rev. Dr. William Diekelman, and Edwin Meese III, who served as United States Attorney General under President Ronald Reagan. Mr. Meese is a former "Witness Honoree" and the father of Col. Michael Meese.

Proceeds from Witness in the Public Square benefit the Atlantic District's Mission Society.

The mission and history of the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod(LCMS) has been to welcome and embrace each wave of immigrants and newcomers from around the world. Covering metropolitan New York, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, and the Capital Region, and supporting over 100 congregations, the Atlantic District is set in one of the most diversely populated areas on earth. The work of the Atlantic District is boundless, *"Engaging the World with the Gospel of Hope"* and bringing God's word and love to people from all walks of life. Among the many Atlantic District missions are ministries to Hispanic, African immigrant, Southern Asian and Deaf communities.

Learn more about the mission and ministries of the Atlantic District, LCMS, at www.ad-lcms.org

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