

2014 Western Wisconsin District Conference

June 2-3 • Luther Prep School, Watertown, WI

Monday, June 2

- 9:00am The convention began with a communion service in the LPS chapel. Prof. Joel Otto of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary preached on 2 Timothy 2:1-2 under the theme “Be Strong in the Grace of Christ to Proclaim the Grace of Christ.”
- 10:35am District President Prahel called the convention to order with the invocation and prayer. He then explained the theme and direction of the conference: “On the Road to the Reformation: Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus.” This year the focus is on Sola Gratia.
- 10:38am Pastor James Huebner, Second Vice President of the synod, gave the synodical report on behalf of President Schroeder. He thanked the lay delegates, the pastors and the teachers for their service in the cause of the gospel.
- 10:47am Nominations for district president were handed out. According to the synodical constitution district presidents and vice presidents must be pastors active in the parish ministry.
- 10:50am Prof. Joel Otto presented on the 150th anniversary of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. A video on the seminary anniversary was shown.
- 11:12am The nominations for district president were announced and ballots were handed out. Four pastors were nominated: Jerry Ewings, Michael Jensen, Bruce McKenney, Herbert Prahel.
- 11:16am Second Vice President Jerry Ewings gave a historical introduction to the Augsburg Confession.
- 11:38am Pastor Phil Moldenhauer presented The Doctrinal Content and Impact of the Augsburg Confession.
- 12:10pm Pastor Prahel thanked Pastor Ewings and Pastor Moldenhauer for their presentations. The meeting was adjourned for lunch with the common table prayers.
- 1:35pm Pastor Prahel called the convention back to order and opened with prayer.
- 1:36pm Pastor Mike Jensen introduced the Report to the Twelve Districts to the delegates.

- 1:37pm Pastor Ken Ewerdt reported that Pastor Herb Prah1 was re-elected to a two-year term as district president. Nomination ballots were handed out for the position of first vice-president.
- 1:43pm Several synodical reports were given. Mr. Sean Young, the WELS Joint Mission Officer, reported on behalf of World Missions. He showed a DVD highlighting WELS mission work around the world.
- Pastor Nathan Strutz, DMB chairman, reported on behalf on behalf of Home Missions. The Lord of grace is blessings mission work around our district. He encouraged the delegates to attend the Missions Conference to be held in the Dells on October 27-28, 2014. The goal of starting one new church per year in our district is almost a reality.
- Pastor John Braun reported on behalf of the Northwestern Publishing House. NPH continues to produce Christ-centered, biblically-sound, confessional Lutheran material for our synod and beyond. More and more digital resources are becoming available. Major projects in the works include a new hymnal, a revised catechism and items created especially for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
- Nominations for first vice president of the district were announced: Pastors Jerry Ewings, Michael Jensen, and Bruce McKenney. Ballots were also handed out.
- Pastor Matt Crass, president of LPS, reported on behalf of the two WELS prep schools: MLS and LPS. The MLS dorm renovation is almost complete. Enrollment remains steady at MLS. LPS's enrollment has increased from 330 to 430 over the past six years. On November 15, 2015 there will be a special celebration of 150 years of ministerial education on the Watertown campus. Mr. Bill Pehrul, MLC's public relations director, reported on behalf of that school. He stressed the importance of encouraging young men and women to consider gospel ministry.
- 2:46pm Pastor Ken Ewerdt announced that Pastor Mike Jensen was re-elected to the position of district first vice president. Nomination ballots were handed out for the position of district second vice president.
- 2:52pm Pastor Joel Gaertner reported on behalf of the Lutheran Home Association. TLHA shares eternal hope in two areas: senior care facilities and Jesus' Cares ministries.
- 2:57pm The convention was adjourned for break and circuit meetings.

- 4:20pm Ballots for district second VP were handed out. On the ballot were pastors Walter Davidson, Jerry Ewings, Roy Hefti, Bruce McKenney, and Galen Riediger.
- 4:25pm Pastor Jon Hein presented on behalf of the Commission for Congregational Counseling (CCC). The purpose of CCC is to help congregations assess ministry and make any necessary adjustments to make sure they are doing everything possible to put the gospel to work.
- 5:03pm Pastor Ken Ewerdt reported that Pastor Jerry Ewings has been reelected to serve as the district's second VP. Nomination ballots for the position of secretary were also handed out.
- 5:05pm A few rapid reports were given. Several announcements were made.
- 5:15pm Pastor Don Buch led the closing devotion based on John 1:16-17 under the theme "Christ: The Embodiment of Grace."
- 5:35pm The convention was adjourned for the evening.

Tuesday, June 3

- 8:36am Pastor Prahm called the convention to order and spoke the opening prayer.
- 8:37am Pastor Ken Ewerdt announced the nominees for district secretary: Pastors Bruce McKenney, Daniel Sims, and James Strand. Ballots were handed out.
- 8:42am Pastor Prahm gave the district president's report. He strongly encouraged the delegates to work hard at recruiting young men and women for the gospel ministry. He thanked the circuit pastors for their help in taking another look at CMO, and the congregations for their prayerful consideration of increasing CMO.
- A motion was made and supported to accept Good News Lutheran Church in Mt. Horeb into membership in the district. The motion passed.
- A motion was made and supported to give the convention offering of \$1,939.50 to the Western Wisconsin District Scholarship Fund.
- According to longstanding tradition "For All the Saints" was sung in thanks to God for the lives of those from the district who have recently been called home to heaven.

- 9:01am Pastor Ken Ewerdt announced that Pastor Daniel Sims was re-elected as the district secretary.
- 9:02am At the encouragement of Pastor Don Buch, the delegates sang the Common Doxology in thanks to God for the ministry of the district presidium. He then explained the ballot for district elections. A motion was made and supported to accept the ballot. The motion passed.
- 9:15am The convention adjourned for the Bible study on *Sola Gratia* by circuits.
- 10:16am Pastor Prahll called the convention to order.
- 10:17am Mr. Art Tessman spoke on behalf of Synodical Council, highlighting the structure and ministry of the SC. The synodical debt will be eliminated in 2019.
- 10:39am Mr. Joshua Peterman, director of the WELS Benefits Plans Office, gave an update on VEBA and the work of BPO.
- 10:50am Mr. Jim Holm reported on behalf of the WELS foundation.
- 10:59am Pastor Kurt Lueneburg reported on behalf of the Ministry of Christian Giving.
- 11:07am Pastor Michael Schultz updated the delegates on the new hymnal project. The timetable for the project is to release a new hymnal with many supporting resources about 30 years after the 1993 release of *Christian Worship*. Transparency is important for this project. The website, welshymnal.com, will help with this. Field testing will begin soon. Technology is also an important aspect of the new hymnal. There will be a physical book, but there will also be many electronic resources.
- 11:20am Pastor Brett Brauer reported on behalf of the Translation Liaison Committee. More info can be found at wels.net/tlc.
- 11:33am Mr. Mark Vance reported on behalf of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. A video was shown highlighting this important work.
- 11:45am A number of rapid reports were given.
- 12:02pm Ken Ewerdt gave the final report for Floor Committee 1 – Elections. A motion was made and supported to ratify the elections. The motion passed.
- 12:12pm A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed. Following adjournment Pastor James Werner led the closing devotion

based on Ephesians 2:8-10 and the district officers were installed by Prof.
Matt Crass.

Convention Offering: **\$1,939.50**

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Daniel Sims
District Secretary