

**Arizona - California District Pastors Conference
October 22-24, 2013
King of Kings Lutheran Church, Garden Grove, California
Proposed minutes**

TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 22, 2013

The opening service began at 10am.

A copy is included in the secretary's file. Based on 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, and with the theme, "Hope Unlike the Rest", we were reminded that through faith in Jesus' powerful resurrection and God's promise of salvation through him, we are not susceptible to hopelessness in the face of any disaster, even when confronted by death. However, as the world, or just their corner of it, begins to sink into the depths of despair, there are people who are wondering, who need to know, "Is there any hope?" We who have an eternal hope, who know and rely on God's power in Christ, must be ready to hear that appeal and provide the witness that answers, "Yes!"

The conference was called to order at 11:30am.

- A motion was made, seconded, and carried that we approve the agenda, as presented online. (A copy is included in the secretary's file.)
- A motion was made, seconded, and carried that we approve the 2012 Arizona-California District Pastors Conference minutes, as presented online. (A copy is included in the secretary's file.)

The role call was taken.

Present: 95 pastors, (active and retired), two vicars, and one staff minister.

The chairman called for nominations for the conference chairman.

- Pastor Fred Casmer was nominated. The nomination was seconded.
- There being no other nominations, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to declare the nomination an election.

The chairman called for nominations for the conference vice-chairman.

- Pastor Aaron Mueller was nominated. The nomination was seconded.
- Pastor Adam Mueller was nominated. The nomination was seconded.
- It was moved, seconded and carried that the nominations be closed.

Announcements

- The election process for vice-chairman will take place after lunch.
- Members of the body should start to consider how to designate the worship service offering.
- Gloria Dei, Belmont, is the default site for the 2014 conference in Northern California.
- The Mountain View Circuit will be responsible for presenting the 2014 devotions.
- The conference officers are seeking essay recommendations. They may be written down in the three ringer binder placed on the book stand in the narthex.
- Active pastors are asked to remit \$10 as conference dues. The strongbox and sign-off sheet are on the card table in the narthex.
- Pastor David Clark distributed and highlighted information pertaining to the Pastoral Institute scheduled for January 20-21, at Grace Lutheran, Glendale, Arizona. The subject will be an exegesis of Philippians.

The conference recessed for lunch.

Hymn 616, "Feed Your Children, God Most Holy," was sung as the lunchtime prayer.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 22, 2013

In the absence of Fred Casmer, Vice-chairman Aaron Mueller reconvened the conference at 1:25pm. Blank ballots for the election of conference vice-chairman were distributed and the members present asked to write either “Adam Mueller,” or, “Aaron Mueller on the ballot they were given. The ballots were collected and counted.

Pastor Jeff Enderle was called forward to deliver his exegetical essay, “1 Timothy 2:8-15. A copy is included in the secretary’s file.

Before the conference was recessed for its afternoon break, it was announced that Pastor Aaron Mueller was reelected to serve as conference vice-chairman.

At 2:45pm, the conference was recessed for a fifteen minute break.

At 3:00pm, the conference was reconvened.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to add thirty minutes to the time allotted for the essay’s presentation and discussion.

Discussion followed the presentation of the essay. Discussion focused on

- Gratitude that the essay did not merely address public worship,
- the need for men to think about and to pray more, to take up their role in the “praying business in every place,”
- The desire to see a fuller examination of the historical context of the worship false deities, which worship, centering on the goddess Diana and gnostic beliefs was strong and rampant in Ephesus because such an examination would help us gain a better understanding of the congregational / societal dynamics that Timothy had to confront,
- The desire to see “authentain” and the etymologies behind it more fully discussed in respect to establishing its use by Paul to express legitimate authority as opposed to assumed authority, which desire was referred to the bibliography of the essay where sources were listed that could address that desire,
- The desire for a fuller examination of the historical background to 1st Timothy, in respect to the heresies present at that time and the disturbing societal trends, as well,
- Gratitude for the “meaty“ exegesis prepared so well in the context of a fulltime parish ministry,
- Gratitude because the essay addressed the “spirit” we should seek to impart to our people, as opposed to a listing of “do”s and “don’t”s,
- Gratitude for the reinforcement provided by the application points, but a disappointment that those were not included in the body of the written paper and only presented on power point slides, and a desire to see them reproduced somewhere so that they can be copied and considered,
- Gratitude for the effort put forth in compiling the essay, and a question regarding the negative behavior that Paul was trying to circumvent by emphasizing “holding up holy hands,” however, there was no immediate answer to that question.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to thank Pastor Enderle for his essay.

Pastor Jon Buchholz, district president, gave the district president’s report. A copy of the template for an article on “Marriage and Human Sexuality” was also distributed. Copies are included in the secretary’s file. Discussion followed focused on

- The COP’s goal to provide help for those who are involved in and/or addicted to pornography, not simply to remove them from the public ministry, although if a given individual’s involvement becomes a public scandal then, of course that may result in removal from that individual’s call,
- The need to include the template article for, “Marriage and Human Sexuality” in a WELS’ congregation’s constitution and bylaws, -the Pacific Justice Institute recommends that is should be,

WELS legal counsel argues that it is not necessary at this time- is a given congregation's decision, not a mandate from the WELS,

- The threefold purpose of WLS' 150th anniversary offering, to provide scholarship funds, to subsidize funding for vicars, to insure program maintenance,
- The need for WELS personnel in charge of determining retirement age and benefits to be more proactive in discussing with the general pastorate of the WELS any revision of the same, as well as the possibility of asking those same personnel to reconsider the recent decision to increase fully invested retirement age to 67 which decision may have had a negatively impact on those who already had made plans to retire at 66,
- The fact that the WELS Pension Fund is now underfunded and thus there was a need to take immediate action to preserve the integrity of the fund's ability to serve all those vested in it.

Pastor Buchholz was thanked for his report.

Pastor Aaron Boehm was called forward to present his practical essay, "21st Century Challenges to God's Design of Marriage." A copy is included in the secretary's file. Discussion followed that focused on

- Gratitude for the thoroughness of the essay and the fact that in California nearly anyone can be certified by the state to perform a legally binding marriage,
- Our higher standard for granting such status based on our approach to marriage as a sacred institution established by God,
- The need to emphasize marriage in congregational settings, Bible studies, sermons, more than we do, so as to provide positive reinforcement of the blessings God grants through marriage, as well as bring to the table discussion regarding the difficulties that all married couples might confront, enabling them to reconcile the issues rather than divorce,
- The abundance of resources that focus on marriage and premarital counseling one may find in any Christian bookstore,
- The parallel between the fear that we are "loosing all our kids" and how a given congregation might react to that fear, and the fear that too many young marrieds are pursuing divorce and leaving the church, because in both cases sometimes the failure to listen to parents and/or pastors will lead to straying sheep learning the "hard way" that parents/pastors knew what they were talking about, so, lesson learned, we need to be ready to welcome them back, as much as be proactive in seeking to give them wise counsel,
- The surprise that pornography was not included among those issues that are challenging, that is, negatively impacting on an individual's ability to maintain the integrity of the marriage vows,
- When the time comes, the need for a "divorce recovery" support group or Bible study for those damaged people who suffer from divorce and could be helped by a legitimate Gospel ministry directed at them,
- The need to find a balance between proactively celebrating marriage in congregational settings, as well as providing comfort for those individuals recovering from divorce,
- The recommendation of a book, "How the West Was Really Lost", which describes how the disintegration of the family unit is one of the major causes for the deteriorating moral climate in the West,
- The way to manage the discovery that a couple is getting divorced after the fact by utilizing sound law and gospel principles of counseling, integrating them into any opportunity to address the couple or one of the individuals seeking a divorce, or already divorced, and trusting that God's power can still work repentance in one or both,

A motion was made, seconded and carried to thank Pastor Boehm for his essay.

The chairman called for nominations for conference program coordinator.

Jon Bauer was nominated and the nomination was seconded.

There being no other nominations, a motion was made, seconded, and carried that the nomination be declared an election.

Following the election, Pastor Steve Hilmer gave the District Evangelism report. A copy is included in the secretary's file. He

- Gave a brief power point presentation promoting an outreach "community event" 4-6 one session per week course based on Timothy Keller's book, "The Meaning of Marriage," which comes with a 50 page workbook, power point slides, and promotional flyers at a cost of \$75, all of which may be downloaded from the Synod's website in the near future,
- Reported that there are over 100 WELS lay people enrolled in six different School of Outreach courses scattered across the WELS nation, thanks to Mike Hinz' initiative to train men in each district to teach the course.

Pastor Hilmer was thanked for his report.

Announcements followed that report.

An additional offering boosted the conference worship service offering to \$715.

St. Mark's, Citrus Heights, has extended an invitation to the conference to host the 2014 conference.

The Mountain View Circuit will be responsible for the 2014 conference devotions.

Essay recommendations and payment of dues may continue throughout the course of the conference.

The floor was given to Pastor Paul Schroeder to lead the conference in the closing devotion.

Based on 1 John 1:8-9, we were taught that the "cover-up" is worse than the crime, that trying to hide our sin, or pass the blame for them on to someone else is sinful deception on our part and only adds sin to sin. Such cover-ups can take a toll on marriages, friendships, and careers. Not because we are perfect, but in the knowledge of our Heavenly Father's perfect unconditional love for us, we can confess our sins openly to him, and even to one another, relying on the grace and forgiveness that will be declared to those who repent and rely on the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin.

The conference chairman declared the conference in recess until 9:00am Wednesday morning.

WEDNESDAY MORNING - OCTOBER 23, 2013

The morning session began with a devotion based on Psalm 145:3-5. Using that text, Pastor Joshua Hanson reminded us that the wonder, amazement, and awe we might experience in considering the great things God has done, from enjoying his natural wonders to the birth of a child, pales in comparison to the wonder, amazement, and awe that we experience in the great thing God has done in sending his only Son to redeem us, to take away our sins. It is a sin to fail to appreciate this marvelous salvation, to take it for granted, and fail to passionately view its presentation and preservation in the remnant of believers with whom God interacted throughout history to insure the fulfillment of his promises. Rather, even as David commended God's "mighty acts" to his generation in inspired lyrics set to music, so the music of our souls should sing out to our generation the wonder, amazement, and awe in the declaration, "You shall not die; your sins are forgiven."

The Wednesday morning session was called to order.

The chair called for nominations for the position of conference secretary/treasurer. Bill Herrmann was nominated and the nomination was seconded. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to declare the nomination an election.**

Pastor Mark Zarling, president of Martin Luther College presented his report. Copies of all material distributed are included in the secretary's file. He noted that

- In the light of previous years' low enrollment and the high retirement numbers soon to be seen as the "Baby Boom" generation approaches retirement age, recruitment is vital and we should pray for increased enrollment in both the teacher training track and the pre-seminary training track,
- In the light of increasing student debt, 83% of the student body averaging \$22,000 in debt upon graduation, that we should pray for increased donations in support of student tuition assistance,
- The Early Childhood Ministry training center is operational and an amazing gift to our worker training efforts as ECMs have surpassed the number of LESs,
- A Special Education major has been added to MLC's program, with eight students already enrolled, and a goal of encouraging it as part of a double major so that graduates of that major might become not only a resource for the school they serve, but also a resource for schools in the area in which they serve, trained to see and diagnose any special ed needs among out schools' populations,
- The nationwide pilot project of new teacher mentoring for two years, is up and running,
- Mandarin is a permanent non-biblical language course available to both teacher track and preseminary track students,
- An Urban Ministry minor will be offered as soon as a coordinator for such a course can be called and set in place,
- That study abroad will be encouraged as a means of surrounding a student with the culture and language being studied, German students studying in Berlin, Spanish students in Peru, and Mandarin students in Hong Kong, and always close to a WELS outreach effort,
- That such study abroad is costly, \$12,000-13,000 a year, with \$1,000 going to MLC to manage the program, and at a loss of \$6,000 in tuition to MLC while that student is studying abroad.

Discussion followed the report. It was noted that

- Operating the study abroad program during the summer months could be explored, but that most students need to seek gainful employment during the summer in order to pay for MLC tuition, board, and fees,
- That due to California's requirements for certification of a teacher as a preschool director preclude our MLC graduates from serving in that position, usually due to a lack of practical experience in the field,
- That the COP has asked MLC to provide a written response addressing that issue, but that the prerequisite of 1-3 years of teaching experience is a difficult requirement to provide in the 4 to 5 year program offered there,
- That current MLC tuition, board, and fees amounts to \$17,400 per year,
- That teacher burnout is being addressed by the introduction of the teacher mentoring program which

will provide a “Barnabus net” for teachers,

- That the Early Childhood Center should soon be fully funded,
- That while our concern for the burgeoning number of teachers achieving retirement age, our enrollment at MLC in that track is 154, while in the parallel program of the LCMS which is six times larger than our WELS there are only 178 students enrolled in that track, so we are keeping pace with the need in our circles.

Pastor Zarling was thanked for his report.

The floor was given to Pastor Mike Schultz, the director of the WELS New Hymnal by 2024 Project, to lead the body through his essay, “The Shaping of the Next WELS Hymnal,” (a copy is included in the secretary’s file) working through pages 1-5, part I, “General Matters“, in the mid morning session, and seeking feedback from the body relative to the material presented in those pages.

In the feedback given, it was noted that

- Providing hymns in non-English languages was not tasked to the project work force,
- There may be a need not only for Spanish language hymns, but also for lyrics in “simpler” English,
- That there is a need to recognize that smaller congregations do not have access to the same number and quality of musicians, that some congregations that may not even have a choir of any size, or even a keyboard, and to supply them with resources that can provide them with quality reproduction of the music accompanying the lyrics of any hymns, psalms, and songs chosen for the new hymnal,
- That “Hymnsoft” is ready for presentation as a completed product, Carl Nolte will be displaying it to a teacher’s conference in the near future, and anyone may now purchase the produce,
- That a high percentage of AZ-CA district congregations do utilize, if not rely on, digital music,
- That there is a need to produce a product that recognizes the “me” in every congregational setting, lesser gifted singers or musicians, and music that is not only able to be performed by larger congregations with superior organs and/or recording devices,
- That part of the plan for the new hymnal is to provide electronic resources that will reproduce the more complex arrangements that might be found in the new hymnbook,
- That over the course of the next ten years, the project committees and coordinator are aiming at a continuous release process of introducing the new materials that will allow the quality materials to “rise to the top,”
- That interfacing of all the new resources is a necessity, since many of the CW resources did not interface very well,
- That there should be an expansion of Psalms and psalm arrangements available for use in congregational settings,
- That the LCMS philosophy of language utilized in the development and production of their new hymnbook is different from that of the WELS and we should not go back to Elizabethan word forms and usages,
- That a Spanish language hard cover hymnal is desired by pastors in Mexico, and that stateside Hispanic mission pastors want a digital hymnal format,
- That text with accompanying music is “on the list” of things being considered by the project committees and coordinator,
- That there is a committee looking at all merely textual material, such as the Lord’s Prayer and the Creeds to determine the best way to present them in the new hymnal,

Pastor Mike Schultz, the director of the WELS New Hymnal by 2024 Project, continued to lead the body through his essay, “The Shaping of the Next WELS Hymnal,” working through part II, pages 6-11, “Of Rites, Psalms, Verses,” in the late morning session, and seeking feedback from the body relative to the material presented in those pages.

At 11:45am, the floor was given to Pastor Richard Kogler who gave his report as the Planned Giving counselor for our district. He noted

- His gratitude for the gospel motivated giving that he has been pleased to direct to mission and ministry,
- His gratitude for pastoral leadership in teaching Christian stewardship to congregations,

- His gratitude that the Lord continues to move His people towards Christian giving,
- The celebration of WLS 150 years in its DVD production, “Heritage of Hope,” a DVD that may be used in a variety of congregational settings, as well as the updated amount of money received in thankful response to this celebration, \$310,000,
- The planned giving workshops he has given in several congregations throughout the district,
- His gratitude for the hospitality of the pastor and his wife in each congregation,
- The training and promotional materials available on the display table set up for this conference,
- The training material, “Heart in Focus” that is available, but also under revision with a new version coming out soon,

Pastor Kogler was thanked for his report.

The chairman recessed the body for its lunch break. The body sang the hymn, “When All Thy Mercies, Oh, My God,” as its lunchtime prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 24, 2013

The chairman reconvened the body at 12:55pm.

Pastor Mike Schultz, the director of the WELS New Hymnal by 2024 Project, received feedback from his presentation of, “The Shaping of the Next WELS Hymnal,” part II, pages 6-11, “Of Rites, Psalms, Verses.” The feedback cited

- The need to tie in historical context to the hymns
- That such context may be presented in an electronics file, if not actually provided in the same book and on the same page as a given hymn,
- That placing the rite of Holy Baptism in a more traditional location, later in the service rather than at its beginning should be a consideration,
- That a lot of what CW already offers is enjoyed and useful,
- That there is a need to help mission congregations utilize the vast number of communion hymns and that more of these communion hymns should be included in the new hymnbook,
- That it is yet to be determined whether the Lord’s Supper will be presented as something to be celebrated more frequently,
- That there may be a comparison made between the lectionary the LCMS developed for its new hymnbook, but that it will not be adopted for placement in the WELS’ new hymnbook,
- That consideration will be given to providing both hardcover hymnbook productions and electronic resources that will enable the entire service to be printed out in a bulletin format, or to be projected onto a screen via power point, so that each congregation can create its own approach to presenting the new hymnbook’s content,
- That alternatives to be the psalms should be considered,
- That there is a concern regarding what translation will be used for the Scripture sections / passages that may be included in the new hymnbook,
- That there is a need to recognize copyright issues, especially as they relate to separate sections of the psalms, (for example, the refrain is covered by one copyright, and the tone covered by another,) so that we focus on owning the whole copyright to any given text and accompanying music.

Pastor Mike Schultz, the director of the WELS New Hymnal by 2024 Project, continued to lead the body through his essay, “The Shaping of the Next WELS Hymnal,” working through part III, pages 12-26, “Hymnody,” seeking feedback from the body relative to the material presented in those pages.

In the process of doing so it was noted

- That some “LAPPY” songs are part of the core worship at one congregation and that four to five of that song / hymn supplement were also place in, “The Worship Supplement,”
- That we need to retain our “Heritage” hymns, but that, in some cases, the lyrics need to put to new, more “singable” music,
- That some “Heritage” hymns might be published as stand-alone texts,
- That demographic studies of congregational worship life could be utilized with regard to the selection of hymns, noting and including those most often used and most appreciated by the “audience” that will use the new hymnbook,
- That such a demographic study might be wise, but would not be easy to do, however anyone who has kept a record of hymn usage over the years should forward that record to the project coordinator,
- That we need to retain the “Heritage” hymns, especially for use in foreign mission fields where their use helps to confirm what it means to confess that we are “Lutheran,”

Having reached the end of the time designated for his presentation, a motion was made, seconded and carried that we extend the time for Pastor Shultz’ presentation.

Feedback continued and noted

- That, in the light of past gifting of hymnbooks for new confirmands as an encouragement to pursue a

personal devotional life, and in the light of current technology, developing a “personal digital hymnal” would be wise as it would allow for the encouragement and development of personal worship, as opposed to only focusing on corporate use of the new hymnbook,

- That it is important to focus on making all the hymns’ music, as well as its texts, simple and memorable,
- That, in the light of the YouTube, MTV, multi-media presentation age in which we live, thought should be given to providing any digital version with visual reinforcement (Bible in pictures, other spiritual visual presentations, and Scripture texts) as enhancements of hymn lyrics,
- That an archive should be established to “store” any products produced so that if and when technology changes, it will be easier to reacquire and adapt all resources to any new technology,
- That “old saints” suffering from mental dysfunctions of any kind, do respond to classic versions of the Lord’s Prayer, songs, hymns, and texts, and that such inclusions are as important consider as the consideration given to how the next generation of worshippers will react to given English texts.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to thank Pastor Schultz for his presentation.

The floor was given to Pastor Matt Vogt, chairman of the district mission board. He gave his report. A copy is included in the secretary’s file. He gave a power point enhanced summation of each district mission field, the details of which are well documented in his report. It was noted

- That the ongoing work and progress in all of our district’s home mission fields is encouraging,
- That \$600,000 or more will be available in the Spring for funding new mission starts,
- That the cost of summer student assistants is approximately two thousand dollars,

Pastor Vogt was thanked for his report.

The floor was given to Pastor Allen Schroeder to report on the Ministry of Christian Giving. A copy is included in the secretary’s file. It was noted that

At 74% remitted, our district’s remittance rate is keeping pace with the calendar year, now 75% past, Through September, an additional \$90,901.17 has been remitted through September 30, 2013, A 4% increase in CMO is needed in 2014 to keep pace with the work program of the Synod.

Pastor Schroeder was thanked for his report.

The chairman recessed the body at 2:45pm for its afternoon break.

The chairman reconvened the body at 3:00pm.

The floor was given to Pastor Bill Herrmann to present his essay, “Hell.” After a brief Q and A, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to thank him for his work. A copy is included in the secretary’s file. **In the discussion that followed it was noted that**

- A focus on the idolatrous practices of foreign nations -some of which recognize the presence of and even seek interaction with demons- diminish our awareness that similar demons can be active within our own more “advanced” society,
- In their interaction with Jesus, the “abyss” referred to by the demons named Legion might refer to either the coming final judgment or, just as likely, a harsher degree of punishment than they were currently experiencing,
- Paul wrote that the “sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons,” thus confirming the desire of demons to be worshipped by and enslave the human race,
- That there were other comments, but the author is not able to recall them, at this point, failing as he did to keep pen in hand during the Q and A.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to thank Pastor Herrmann for his essay.

The floor was given to Pastor Dan Rautenberg to report on the A.C.T.S. (Apache Christian Training School) report. A promotional brochure was distributed. A copy is included in the secretary's file. It was noted that

- Francis Lewis has completed his course of instruction is serving as an Evangelist,
- Kirk Massey, Jr., is working hard towards completion of his studies for the pastoral ministry,
- One hundred plus students are being trained for every level of Christian action, from simple confirmation to training as visiting elders to training for the pastoral ministry,
- That Pastor Rautenberg's salary is covered by WELS Missions, but
- That the operating expenses of the school are covered only by individual and congregational gifts of love for the work it is doing for the Lord.

Pastor Rautenberg was thanked for his report.

The floor was given to Pastor Kehren to give his report on Special Ministries. A copy is included in the secretary's file. During his report it was noted that

- Induction loops are a valuable aid to providing sound enhancement for those who have difficulty hearing or who have hearing aids,
- Sign language assistance is available through the website codabrothersintepreting.com
- That "Conquerors through Christ" is a relative new counseling service offered to those who are suffering from an addiction to pornography,
- A video introducing this counseling service and others that lead a person through the counseling that can break an individual free from that addiction is available,
- That there also is a website dedicated to this ministry.

Pastor Kehren was thanked for his report.

The chairman declared the body in recess until 9:00am Thursday morning.

The floor was given to Pastor Greg Hein to lead us in the closing devotion. He reminded us that unbelievers of every kind may think that we are stupid for believing in something as "ridiculous" as the Bible, and for hurting society by promoting its content through our preaching. Yet, though Paul himself probably knew how stupid he sounded to the "philosophers, wise men, and scholars" of his day, he was supremely confident in his proclamation of the Gospel. This confidence was not based on an intellectual grasp of the Gospel, but was the result of God's power at work in him through the Gospel. He knew that it was God's power in that Gospel that changed him and he was confident it could change others, as well. If and when we loose sight of that miraculous fact, we might become ashamed, overwhelmed by the "intellectuals" of our day and age and their amusement or even open hostility towards our message. We may begin to rely on our own creativity or bemoan the lack of it in presenting that Good News. So it is necessary for us also to recall how we were brought out of the darkness of unbelief into the wonderful light of God's grace and glory in the Gospel. If we can proudly proclaim our love for earthly issue that have no impact on anyone else, are not vital to their personal wellbeing (sports teams, recreational activities, personal achievements) then we should just as proudly proclaim the gift of God, eternal life through Jesus Christ, whereby the Holy Spirit can change their hearts and lives for eternity. It is our privilege to proudly go into all the world to proclaim the power of God that saves, the Gospel.

THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 24, 2013

The floor was given to Pastor Brady Coleman to lead us in the opening devotions. As under shepherds of Christ, he reminded us of how the horrors of the Civil War and the death of his own son drove Lincoln to despair. After hearing a well prepared, well presented sermon, he was asked how he reacted to the message. He responded that the sermon was well prepared, well delivered, but ultimately that the minister failed. Asked why, Lincoln responded, "I already know God loves the world; I needed to know that God still loves me. That is why the celebration of the Lord's Supper is such an important element in our worship services. In it, God's love is unpacked and distributed individually. It is such a personal presentation of God's grace that each of us could put our name into the words of distribution, "Given for 'me', poured out for 'me'. And though we do not know the day or hour of Jesus' return, until he does, we may celebrate what he accomplished for all of us, but especially for 'me' when we present ourselves at the Lord's Table to receive forgiveness, life, and salvation from Him.

The floor was given to Pastor Rich Kogler, Planned Giving Counselor, to present Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's 150th anniversary video, "Heritage of Hope," which profiled the life and learning that has taken place at the seminary for those 150 years.

The floor was given to Pastor Matt Vogt, DMB chairman, to distribute a brochure describing the Hmong ministry efforts undertaken in our district and elsewhere. A copy of the brochure is included in the secretary's file.

- Funds are needed and encouraged to help support this valuable outreach ministry.
- Copies of the brochure are available on request.

The conference secretary/treasurer announced that,

- Including both the 2013 worship service offering of \$730, 2013 dues remitted thus far, \$530, and the balance accumulated over past years, \$1,744.77 (\$1,719.20 in checking, \$25.57 in savings as a means of avoiding fees,) there is a total of \$3,004.77 available for designation by the body,
- Recommendations for essays for next year's conference are being solicited,
- Dues may still be remitted.

The floor was given to Pastor Caleb Bassett to present his essay, "Toward an Ethic of Authorship - a positive approach to intellectual property in the Church." A copy is included in the secretary's file.

During the discussion that followed it was noted that

- Determining how copyright authority / ownership may or may not be violated is difficult to determine since the "letter of the law" of copyright is constantly violated and any question / challenge can only be answered on a case by case basis, if and when a given party decides to sue a second party based on that letter of the law,
- The ethics of honesty in the use / rewriting of sermon series developed by another pastor (ex.: Lenten sermon series) does not require that the original author be identified since permission to use the same is given when the published series is purchased and since most pastors heavily rewrite the sermons that are provided,
- The amount of income/profits generated by any given artist's or author's creative efforts often leads to adversarial relationships between the publisher and the artist/author, because the bulk of profit is not automatically redirected to the artist/author,
- Unless it is stipulated in the call document ("contract"), the pastor is the owner, i.e., holds copyright to any material created and produced / reproduced by the pastor,
- Though the copying of even one verse violates the "letter of the law," the language in Zondervan's fair use in copying passages stipulates a thresh-hold for the amount of material that may be copied for a given reason, however, a given individual may copy as much as he may elect to copy, as long as he is willing to defend his usage in a court of law
- It is unlikely that a major publishing house will pursue a suit against what amounts to Sunday morning bulletin copy of a given section of Scripture, but a bulk effort such as the inserts formerly produced by

NPH and “sold” as part and parcel of its bulletin cover service is more likely to be prosecuted.
A motion was made, seconded and carried to thank Pastor Bassett for his essay.

The floor was given to Pastor Jason Schmidt to give a report for the District Commission on Youth and Family Ministry. A copy is included in the secretary’s file. He highlighted

- The scheduled dates for Bible Camps,
 - ⇒ Tree of Life, July 20th-26th, 2014,
 - ⇒ Good Shepherd Bible Camp, July 13th-19th,
 - ⇒ Arizona Bible Camp, yet to be announced,
- That the return to Knoxville, Tennessee, for the International Youth Rally is a result of its setting as a superior venue for such a rally, and that the speakers lined up for the event are proximate to that campus.

Pastor Schmidt was thanked for his report.

The floor was given to Pastor Patrick Freese to give the California Lutheran High School report. It was a verbal report which noted

The generous offerings that continue to support the Christian secondary education curriculum of CLHS,
That CLHS exists to serve the constituency of the district by formally assisting the Christian education and training of its high school age members,
That dorms are available to supply affordable on-campus housing for students,
That two students from South Korea are currently enrolled in an adult instruction course,
That CLHS is working with MLC to establish a plan that will enable CLHS to better prepare and encourage youth to consider the pastoral or teaching ministry,
That there are currently eighty students enrolled at CLHS.

Pastor Freeze was thanked for his report.

District president Pastor Jon Buchholz asked for the floor to announce Arizona Lutheran High School’s participation in the, “Celebrate My Drive” high school competition. He noted that

- ALA has an opportunity to be awarded \$25,000 if it can be numbered among the top 50 schools,
- Points are scored and ranking is established by the number of people who register at the celebratemydrive.com website,
- Any given individual can register once a day each day for the next two days for every email address that that individual utilizes,
- That we should register “early and often.”

The floor was given to Pastor Aaron Boehm to give the Adult Discipleship report. He noted that

- The WELS is seeking to identify and promote “Marriage Building Churches” that are willing to be trained in holding and then to host seminars / workshops that not only draw in the community, but also strengthen any congregation’s married membership,
- Marriage enrichment weekends may be requested and scheduled by contacting the District Committee for Adult Discipleship.

Pastor Boehm was thanked for his report.

The floor was given to Pastor Johnold Strey to report for the district’s Commission on Worship. A copy of his report is included in the secretary’s files. He led the body through the report, highlighting

- The School of Worship that will be held in Tucson on March 1st and 2nd, 2014,
- That a School of Worship will be held in the Las Vegas area sometime during the winter of 2015,
- A correction to his report citing the new hymnal project deadline for registering as a participating congregation in the three year review process, November 15, 2013, not 2014,
- That although the goal of 200 congregations has been obtained, congregations are still encouraged to register for that part of the process,
- That pastors who are not “worship dudes” should also sign up for that three year review process as the

new hymnal project's committees and members are eager to learn how to serve those pastors who are not musically gifted and those congregations that do not have the musicians, sound systems, or facilities to perform at a superior level,

- That the 7th triennial WELS National Worship Conference will be held on July 22-25, 2014, at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin,
- That more information about the conference may be obtained from the site listed in his report,
- That musically gifted teens, middle schoolers as well, should be encouraged to attend in order to participate in the high school honor choir that will perform at the event, which experience in the past has had a very positive impact on those teens who attended,
- That a hymnal curriculum for elementary schools is being developed which may also be utilized by Sunday Schools and Youth programs,
- That "HymnSoft" is now available for purchase.

Pastor Strey was thanked for his report.

The chairman asked if there were any items of casuistry that needed to be brought to the floor. There were none.

The chairman asked for a motion to designate the \$730 conference worship service offering. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to offer the money to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in recognition of its 150th anniversary celebration.

The chairman noted St. Mark's, Citrus Heights' invitation to host the 2014 Arizona-California District Pastors Conference. He noted that St. Mark's already was scheduled to host the January, 2014, California State Pastors Conference. **A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept St. Mark's invitation.**

Tuesday, October 21, Wednesday, October 22, and Thursday, October 23, were set as the dates for the 2014 conference.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to enhance the conference worship service offering designated for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary by simply donating that amount in the current treasury that is over and above \$2,000 to WLS.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that the Arizona-California District Pastors Conference give praise to God and extend its personal thanks to

- the pastor and members of King of Kings Lutheran Church, Garden Grove, California, for hosting the conference, for their generosity and commendable stewardship in gathering a special collection to fund the expenses of hosting the conference, for obtaining both hotel accommodations and making transportation available where and when necessary, for their hospitality and warm welcome evident in their joyful presence and bright smiles, for organizing and providing delicious meals and snacks and refreshing beverages, for setting up for those meals and snacks, and for cleaning up after us, for the children, director, and accompanist of the elementary school choir who enhanced our opening worship with their song of praise,
- those who designed the opening communion worship service and our conference devotions,
- those who led us in worship and devotions, administering God's grace in word and sacrament,
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- those who provided musical accompaniment for our conference worship service and devotions,
- those who labored to research, write, and present the conference essays,
- our guest, Pastor Mike Schultz who provided valuable information for us to discuss and share,
- those who reported regarding the activity of their assigned area of district and/or synod ministry focus.

There being no further essays, reports, or business before the body, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the 2013 Arizona-California District Pastors Conference.

The floor was given to Pastor Scott Martz to lead us in the closing devotion. He reminded us of the pivotal nature of Romans 12:1 by briefly reviewing the focus Romans' first eleven chapters which chapters emphasized the depravity of the human race and the mercy of God as revealed in the fulfillment of his promise to redeem the human race. Those chapters bring the disciple to the opening of "part II" of Romans which provides sound instruction in how to live sanctified lives in thanksgiving to God who made us alive in Christ Jesus. Those last several chapters keep us mindful that as our coach, God, kindly toward us despite our slips back into sin, encourages us to give ourselves fully and completely into his service not only on Sunday mornings, but every single day of our lives. For God has given us new life in Christ so that, in daily service to Him, we might serve not only him, but our fellow believers and neighbors, as well. And God accepts that service as holy in his sight, for the sake of His Son. Therefore, we ought to go back to our separate callings encouraged by the word we have heard, the sacrament we have received, and the encouraging fellowship shared at this conference, so encouraged that we are willing to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to fulfill our Father's will.

Thus far the proposed minutes,
respectfully submitted for review,
corrections, additions, deletions.

Pastor Bill Herrmann