

## Monday Afternoon, June 9, 2014

The convention began at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tempe, AZ with an opening communion service at 11:00 am. Pastor Steven Hillmer served as the liturgist and Professor Richard Gurgel of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod served as the preacher. Professor Gurgel's sermon was based on 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and had the theme, "Claim God's Promise of Wisdom and Power!" The offerings given totaled \$1,743.13. The bulletin and sermon are printed in the Proceedings. Following the service, refreshments were offered to the delegates by the ladies of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

At 1:32 pm, at the Chaparral Suites in Scottsdale, Arizona, District President Jon Buchholz, called to order in the name of the Triune God, the 31st biennial convention of the Arizona-California District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

District Secretary Pastor Dan Schroeder gave an announcement concerning some housekeeping items.

President Buchholz yielded the chair to the district first vice-president, Pastor Steve Degner, for the District President's report. President Buchholz read his District President's report. The corrected report is in the Proceedings. There was discussion. It was moved, seconded, and passed to thank District President Buchholz for his report.

President Buchholz took up the chair again.

Elections Chairman Pastor Paul Schulz came forward and sought nominations for the office of District President and explained the rules for the election. Delegates cast their nominations on written ballots.

The District Constitution Committee secretary, Pastor Josh Stahmann, presented Resolution 2014-06-01, "District Membership of New Congregations." It was moved and supported. The motion passed. The new congregation welcomed into the district were: River of Life - Goodyear, AZ; Cross of Christ - Las Cruces, NM; Korean Fellowship - Las Vegas, NV; Peace - Gilbert, AZ. The delegates welcomed the new congregations with a round of applause.

President Buchholz introduced Professor Richard Gurgel of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, the keynote speaker. Professor Gurgel delivered part one of his keynote address entitled, "Reclaiming Our Christ-Centered Lutheran Devotional Heritage." He was thanked for his presentation.

Pastor Paul Schulz came forward with the nominations for the office of District President. The four nominees were: Pastor Jon Buchholz, Pastor David Clark, Pastor Ross Else, Pastor Adam Mueller.

Pastor Joel Gaertner of the The Lutheran Home Association in Belle Plaine, MN spoke about his groups work. He invited the delegates to go to the hospitality suite for Schwan's ice cream during the break.

Announcements were made and a break was taken at 3:15 pm.

At 3:36 pm President Buchholz called the convention back into session.

Pastor Paul Schultz came forward for elections. Pastor Jon Buchholz was announced as having been elected District President. Nominations were sought for the office of first vice president of the district.

WELS first vice president Pastor James Huebner was introduced and came forward to address the convention. He referred to the Ad Hoc Commission 2 report located in the convention files. He also referred to the Conference President's Report in the Report to the Twelve Districts. Pastor Huebner spoke words of thanks to the delegates and the various ways they proclaim and serve our Lord. He was thanked for his report.

Professor Gurgel came forward and presented part two of his keynote address.

Pastor Schulz came forward for elections. The nominees for district first vice-president were: Pastor David Clark, Pastor Steve Degner, Pastor Daniel Solofra. Ballots were cast.

The WELS World Missions showed a DVD. Pastor Howard Mohlke came forward to present the WELS World Mission report. President Buchholz thanked Pastor Mohlke for his report.

Pastor Schultz returned for elections. He announced that Pastor Steve Degner was elected as first vice president of the district. Nominations were sought for second vice president of the district.

Pastor Stephen Hein presented the Board for Ministerial Education report. He presented the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary report and introduced Prof. Gurgel to speak on the 150th anniversary of the founding of our seminary. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Hein introduced Prof. John Schmidt to speak about Martin Lutheran College (MLC). Prof. Schmidt directed delegates to the MLC brochure in the convention folder. He commented on the importance and value of pastors encouraging our youth to consider public ministry. He also provided updates on goings-on at Martin Luther College. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Hein additionally provided updates on our synod prep schools, i.e. Michigan Lutheran Seminary and Luther Preparatory School and also on how Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary have benefitted from generous financial gifts from WELS members. He further reminded the body to encourage WELS members to continue to support our synodical worker training schools. President Buchholz thanked Pastor Hein for his report.

Mr. Kurt Rosenbaum presented on Arizona Lutheran Academy (ALA). His PowerPoint presentation is included on the district website. President Buchholz thanked Mr. Rosenbaum for his report.

Pastor Schulz returned for elections. The nominees for district second vice-president were: Pastor David Clark, Pastor Ross Else, Pastor Daniel Solofra. Ballots were cast.

Teacher Andrew Aguilar presented on California Lutheran High School (CLHS) and gave an oral presentation of highlights and information about the high school. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Greg Bork came forward to present an oral report on Apostles Lutheran School's high school program that was started three years ago. President Buchholz thanked him for his report.

Pastor Schultz came forward for elections. It was announced that Pastor David Clark was elected as second vice president of the district.

President Dr. Dan Johnson, president of Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), came forward and presented a report and video for WLC. Dr. Johnson was thanked for his report.

District Secretary Schroeder made some announcements about the resort and fellowship time.

Professor Gurgel closed the Monday afternoon session at 6:06 pm with a prayer. The delegates enjoyed supper, floor committee meetings, and fellowship together in the evening.

## **Tuesday Morning, June 10, 2014**

At 8:30 am Pastor Guy Marquardt led the opening devotion worship. The theme of the devotion service was, "Meditation" Pastor Marquardt's devotion was based on Psalm 119:9-16.

Announcements were made by the district secretary that we had saved about \$5,200 this year by using a digital format for the convention reports and materials. Because of the savings from Pastor Curt Grube donating sound equipment and the work of the convention house committee, the district saved about \$7,700. The announcement was met with an applause of thanks.

Pastor Paul Schultz came forward for elections. President Buchholz explained the requirements of the district secretary. A nomination ballot was taken for district secretary.

A motion was made, seconded to thank Pastor Dan Schroeder for his work as district secretary over the last five years. He recently accepted a call to be an editor at Northwestern Publishing House. The motion was passed with a round of applause.

Professor Richard Gurgel came forward to continue his keynote address. Professor Gurgel was thanked for his presentation with a round of applause.

Pastor Schulz came forward for elections. Nominations for District Secretary were: Pastor Aaron Boehm, Pastor Ross Else, Pastor Steve Gabb. Ballots were cast.

Pastor Steve Degner came forward to present for the District Board of Support and for the proposed District Help Team. He referenced his reports in the district convention files. He also explained some aspects of the District Help Team program. Questions were addressed. He was thanked for his report.

Announcements were made and a break was taken at 9:58 am.

At 10:18 am President Buchholz called the session to order once again.

Pastor Matt Vogt came forward to present the AZ-CA District Mission Board report and the WELS Home Mission Report. He referenced his written report in the district convention files, showed a PowerPoint, and referred to the Home Missions report in the Report to the Twelve Districts. President Buchholz thanked him for his report.

Pastor Schulz presented the nominations for district secretary: Pastor Aaron Boehm, Pastor Ross Else, Pastor Steve Gabb. Ballots were cast.

Pastor Richard Kogler came forward to present the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving report. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Schultz announced that there was a run-off needed for the office of district secretary. The two finalist were Pastor Ross Else and Pastor Steve Gabb. A ballot was cast.

Mr. Steve Hansen, the AZ-CA Synodical Council Lay Representative, presented the Synodical Council report. A PowerPoint presentation was used, which is in the district convention files.

Pastor Paul Schulz came forward for elections. He announced that Pastor Steven Gabb had been elected to be the new district secretary. He announced the ballot for the election of district officers and asked for nominations from the floor. It moved, seconded and passed to accept the slate of candidates as presented. Ballots were cast.

Announcements were made to the delegates. Pastor Guy Marquardt led the delegates in prayer, closing the morning session. The delegates broke for lunch at 12:01 pm.

## **Tuesday Afternoon, June 10, 2014**

At 1:31 pm, Pastor Dan Solofra led the afternoon devotion. The theme of the devotion service was, "Prayer." Pastor Solofra's devotion was based on Psalm 119:33-40.

Professor Richard Gurgel came forward to continue his keynote address entitled, "Reclaiming Our Christ-Centered Lutheran Devotional Heritage." There was discussion. He was thanked with applause.

Pastor Ryan Cortright presented a resolution from Floor Committee #6. He directed the delegates to Memorial 2014-01. The memorial was moved and seconded as Resolution 2014-01, "The Chiricahua Circuit." The resolution was adopted.

Pastor Cortright presented Memorial 2014-02. The memorial was moved and seconded as Resolution 2014-02, "The Mountain View Circuit." The resolution was adopted. He was thanked.

Mr. Terry Brown of Logos Bible Software demonstrated the Logos Bible Software to the delegates. He informed them he would be offering a workshop Tuesday evening from 8:00-9:00 pm for those interested. He was thanked for his presentation.

There was a break taken at 3:15.

At 3:38 pm Pastor Aaron Boehm came forward to present the District Adult Discipleship report. He referenced his report in the convention files. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Jason Schmidt presented for the District Youth Discipleship report. He referenced his report in the convention files. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Jonathan Bauer came forward to report on the WELS Hymnal Project. His report is in the convention files and was referenced. Questions were taken. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Johnold Strey presented for the District Commission on Worship report. He referred to his report in the convention files. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Paul Schulz came forward to report on the results of the Elections Committee from the election of district offices. The report is in the district convention files. He was thanked for his report.

President Buchholz gave an explanation about the role of the circuit pastor. The delegates convened to their respective circuits for fifteen minutes for the election of circuit pastors.

Pastor Steven Hillmer presented the District Commission on Evangelism report. He referred to his report in the convention files. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Jonathan Kehren came to the podium to present the District Commission on Special Ministries report. He highlighted the eight areas where Special Ministries is involved and is helping congregations. His written report is in the district convention files. He was thanked for his report.

Teacher Rendy Koepfel presented the District Commission on Lutheran Schools report. He referenced his report in the district convention files. He was thanked for his report.

There were announcements made to the delegates.

Pastor Dan Solofra led the delegates in a closing prayer of the session.

The delegates enjoyed fellowship, the Practical Evangelism presentation, and the Logos Workshop in the evening.

## **Wednesday Morning, June 11, 2014**

At 8:30 am Pastor Aaron Mueller led the morning devotion worship. The theme of the devotion service was, "Testing." His devotion was based on Psalm 119:65-72.

An announcement was made by the district secretary about the convention evaluation sheet.

Pastor Allen Schroeder came forward to present the District Ministry of Christian Giving report. He referenced his report in the district convention files. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Joshua Stahmann presented the District Constitution Committee report. He referenced his online report. President Buchholz referenced items in the report that the delegate should note and the great work the Constitution Committee has done. Pastor Stahmann was thanked for his report.

President Bill Ziche, president of Northwestern Publishing House (NPH), came to the podium to give a report to the delegates about the work of NPH and showed brief videos about ChristLight and NPH materials. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Ken Pasch, the field coordinator for WELS mission work in Thailand, was called upon to give an oral report. He brought greetings to the convention. He introduced three pastors from Thailand to the delegates. He was thanked for his impromptu report.

Teacher John Sebald addressed the delegates on the Arizona Tax Credit.

An announcement was made about the convention survey and an encouragement was given to complete it in order to evaluate the convention.

Pastor Ryan Cortright presented Floor Committee # 6. He referred to and read from the floor committee report. He then read Resolution 2014-06-02, "Arizona-California District Help Team," and moved adoption. The motion was seconded. There was discussion on the resolution. The resolution was adopted. It was moved and supported to thank the committee for their work. The motion passed.

Nominations were taken by written ballot for a Help Team chairman, an active or retired parish pastor. The delegates took a standing break for about eight minutes to submit names for the Help Team chairman.

Pastor Roger Sprain came forward to present for Floor Committee #1 - World Missions. He read comments by the floor committee about the WELS World Missions. There was a round of applause in thanks for the 50th anniversary of the Puerto Rico mission work. He read Resolution 2014-01-01, "Increasing Support for WELS World Missions among District Congregations," and moved adoption. The motion was seconded. There was discussion to the resolution. The resolution was adopted. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to thank Floor Committee #1.

Pastor Steve Hein came to the podium to present for Floor Committee #3. He read and moved adoption of Resolution 2014-03-01, "Music Auditorium for Luther Prep School." The motion was seconded. There was discussion. The resolution was adopted. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to thank Floor Committee #3.

Teacher Joel Walker came forward to present for Floor Committee #4. He gave a PowerPoint report from the floor committee, giving an overview of the blessings of each part of the Congregation Ministry Service Group. He read Resolution 2014-04-01, "Vacant Director Positions," and moved adoption. The motion was seconded. There was discussion to the resolution. The resolution was adopted. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to thank Floor Committee #4.

Pastor Schulz presented for the Elections Committee. He read off the names of Pastor Ross Else, Pastor Bill Herrmann, and Pastor Steve Spencer as the ballot for the District Help Team. He read the nominations for the \$1,743.13 opening worship offering for Thailand Mission, Apache Mission Field, and Resurrection Lutheran Church - Phoenix, AZ. He was directed to put together a written ballot.

Pastor Tim Henning came forward to present for Floor Committee #5. He read a statement from Floor Committee #5, printed at the beginning of each of the two resolutions brought to the convention. He read Resolution 2014-05-01, "Mission Awareness," and moved adoption. It was seconded. There was discussion. The resolution was adopted.

Pastor Henning read Resolution 2014-05-02, "Congregational Mission Offerings (CMO) and the Mission of the Church," and moved adoption. It was seconded. There was no discussion. The resolution was adopted. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to thank Floor Committee #5.

Pastor Schultz announced that Pastor Ross Else was elected as the Help Team Chairman.

It was moved and seconded to divide the offering among the three nominations for the offering. Each of the nominees will receive \$581.04. The motion passed.

Teacher Matt Sonntag of the Registration and Excuses Committee came forward and presented his report.

Excuses were requested in writing in the future. The total number of delegates registered this year was 222 individuals. It was moved and seconded to approve the report with amendments that were noted. The motion passed.

Pastor Schultz came forward to present for the Election Committee. It was noted that the Help Team Chairman would be a six-year term and able to succeed himself once. Pastor Schulz presented the results of the district office election results and the terms of service of each. A copy of the report is in the Proceedings and in the convention folder. It was moved and seconded to adopt the Election Committee report. Corrections were noted from the floor and will be made in the final copy. The corrections were adopted by consent. The amended report was adopted.

Pastor Schulz presented the list of names of those who will be serving as delegates to the 2015 WELS Synod Convention. It was moved and seconded to adopt the report as amended. The report was adopted.

Pastor Schulz read the results of the circuit pastor elections. He then commented on observations of being an Election Committee chairman, since this was his final convention in that role. President Buchholz called forward Ella Schultz, Pastor Schultz's wife. He thanked the Schultzes for their service to the district at the convention over the years. The assembly thanked them with a standing round of applause.

District Secretary Schroeder made the following motion of thanks: The convention thanks those who served us as worship leaders; the keynote speaker, Professor Richard Gurgel; reporters, committee members, all those responsible for the smooth running of the 2014 biennial convention; Ella Schulz who served in the office; Arizona Office Technologies for donating use of a copier; Pastor Curt Grube for donating the use and operation of the audio equipment, which saved considerable money; The Lutheran Home Association for providing the ice cream break on Monday; and the staff of the Chaparral Suites Scottsdale for their help in making this a successful convention. The district secretary moved adoption of the note of thanks. It was seconded. The motion was passed with applause from the delegates.

President Buchholz thanked the delegates for their work, discussion, and their attention. President Buchholz encouraged the delegates to make use of the items presented at the convention for the benefit of their own ministries. He declared that the convention was closed. There was a motion to adjourn. It was seconded. The motion was adopted.

A closing service took place at 11:00 am. Pastor Fred Casmer served as the worship leader. The theme of the service was: Life in God's Word. Pastor Casmer's devotion was based on Psalm 119:169-176. Newly elected district presidium and circuit pastors were installed into their offices during the service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Daniel M. Schroeder  
AZ-CA District Secretary