

2016 WELS ARIZONA PASTORS CONFERENCE
May 3 & 4, 2016
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Peoria, AZ

Tuesday, May 3

- 10:30 a.m. The conference opened with a worship service including the celebration of Holy Communion. Rev. John Ehlers of Cross of Glory, Peoria served as presiding minister, and Rev. Stephen Hein of Christ, Prescott Valley preached a sermon on a harmony of the Ascension accounts with the theme: "I will be with you always."
- 11:45 a.m. The WELS Arizona Pastors' Conference was called to order by Chairman Josh Stahmann. A motion was made, supported, and passed to adopt the proposed agenda.
Roll Call: 62 total participants, including pastors, staff ministers, retired pastors, and three guests were in attendance.
- 12:00 p.m. Following a prayer led by Rev. John Ehlers, the Conference recessed for lunch.
- 1:30 p.m. Rev. Brady Coleman presented his essay, an "Exegesis of Romans 13:1-7." This essay was discussed. A motion was made, supported, and passed to thank the essayist.
- 2:30 p.m. Jeff Weinstein, the WELS representative of ACSTO gave a report about the work this organization has done to help WELS Schools in Arizona. He reported that last year \$1,370,000 was given to WELS Schools in Arizona from 1,381 donors. He encouraged the use of the Tuition Tax program allowed by the state of Arizona.
- 2:40 p.m. Rev. Matt Vogt, the district mission board chairman for the AZ/CA district, gave an update on the many home missions and opportunities within our district, and our synod. There were eight new mission starts funded by our Synod, each of these is closely connected with a local church.
- 3:00 p.m. After asking for nominations for chairman, the Conference recessed for an afternoon break.
- 3:15 p.m. Nominations for chairman yielded an overwhelming majority for the incumbent. A motion was made, supported, passed that this nomination serve as an election. Rev. Josh Stahmann was re-elected chairman of the Arizona Pastors' Conference.
- 3:20 p.m. Rev. Seth Georgson presented his essay, "The Significance of the Lutheran Reformation in the History of the Relationship between Church and State." The essay was discussed. There were several connections made to modern day America and encouragement for pastors to remind members of the Biblical distinctions between church and state. A motion was made, supported, and passed to thank the essayist.
- 4:27 p.m. Rev. Jon Stern presented an update on the ministry of Christian Giving. Meanwhile, nominations were received for Vice-Chairman.
- 4:35 p.m. An election was held for Vice-Chairman. Rev. Nathan Kassulke was re-elected vice-chairman of the Arizona Pastors' Conference.
- 4:40 p.m. Rev. David Clark led us in a closing devotion based on 1 Timothy 2:1-4.
- 5:00 p.m. The conference was recessed for the evening.

Wednesday, May 4

- 8:30 a.m. Rev. David Parsons led us in a morning devotion based on John 18:36-37.
The morning's silent role call indicated 54 were in attendance for day 2 of the conference.
- 8:45 a.m. Rev. Korey VanKampen presented his essay: "Seek the Peace and Prosperity of the City" (An Exegesis of Jeremiah 29:4-9). The essay was discussed. This discussion included practical applications on how we "seek the peace" within our own country today. A motion was made, supported, and passed to thank the essayist.
- 9:52 a.m. The conference was recessed for break.
- 10:10 a.m. President Joel Petermann of Michigan Lutheran Seminary gave an update on our Ministerial Education system.
- 10:30 a.m. Rev. Martin Spaude presented his essay: "The Pastor and Politics, Church and State are separate." The essay was discussed. One recommendation was made to distill the main points of all the essays into a concise document for a pastor's use in his congregation. A motion was made, supported, and passed to thank the essayist.
- 11:35 a.m. Mr. Doug Meyer of Arizona Lutheran Academy gave an update about ALA. Nominations were received for Conference Secretary.
- 11:53 a.m. John Sprain gave an update for WELS Special Ministries.
- 12:00 p.m. A motion was made, supported, and passed to extend the session of the conference one hour to finish the business of the conference before lunch.
An election was held for Conference Secretary. Rev. Colin Rieke was re-elected Secretary for the Arizona Pastors' Conference.
- 12:05 p.m. Rev. Jon Bucholz delivered the District President's Report
- 12:20 p.m. A motion was made, supported, and passed to vote electronically to decide the direction of the conference offering (\$376). A majority voted to designate the conference offering to ALA's Gaining Ground campaign.
A motion was made, supported, and passed to accept Shepherd of the Hills' (Tucson) invitation for our 2017 Conference (May 2 & 3).
A motion of thanks for the host congregation and all involved in the planning and conducting of the conference was presented and approved.
- 12:45 p.m. Rev. Paul Schroeder led us in a midday devotion based on Philippians 3:17-21.
- 1:00 p.m. The WELS AZ Pastors' Conference was adjourned.

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