

**WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
66TH BIENNIAL SYNOD CONVENTION, JULY 26–28, 2021
Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.**

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society offered a virtual presentation of flags of countries in which WELS is actively participating in the sharing of the gospel. The LWMS was thanked for its partnership and its virtual presentation.

Rev. Mark Schroeder, WELS president, called the 66th Biennial Convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to order at 8:19 a.m. Rev. Mark Luetzow, Michigan Lutheran Seminary president, led the opening devotion, which was based on 1 Peter 3:15,16, "Here we stand with humility." The hymn, "If God Himself Be For Me," was sung. Luetzow was thanked for his devotion.

President Schroeder introduced Rev. Matthew Crass, Luther Preparatory School president, who welcomed all in attendance. He shared a history of the Watertown campus and emphasized that the school continues to share the Word of God in its truth and purity.

Rev. Mark Schroeder, WELS president, welcomed special guests attending the convention: Rev. Glenn Obenberger, president, Evangelical Lutheran Synod; Rev. Paul Tiefel, Church of the Lutheran Confession; Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, president, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, director of information, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, second vice president, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, director of information, Lutheran. The guests were welcomed with a round of applause.

Rev. Jon Buchholz, chairman of the Steering Committee, presented the report of elections, all of which had taken place prior to the convention.

First Vice President James Huebner took the chair. President Mark Schroeder presented the President's Report. Rev. Michael Seifert, chairman of Floor Committee #1, President's Report, presented Report 01-01 and Report 01-02. Resolution 01-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. President Schroeder and Committee #1 were thanked. President Schroeder resumed the chair.

First Vice President James Huebner and Recording Secretary Robert Pasbrig accepted their re-elections and asked the almighty God to bless their work in his name.

Mr. Kyle Egan, WELS chief financial officer, presented the ministry financial plan for 2021–23. Rev. Daniel Balge, chairman, Floor Committee #7: Ministry Financial Plan, presented the committee's written report. Resolution 07-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried unanimously. Egan and the committee were thanked.

Rev. James Huebner presented a report for the Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee. He was thanked for his presentation.

At 9:54 a.m., a break was declared. The morning session resumed at 10:23 a.m.

Prof. James Danell, chairman, Commission on Inter-Church Relations, presented the committee's printed report. Rev. Kurt Schaser, chairman of Floor Committee #3: Commission on Inter-Church Relations, presented the committee's printed response. Danell, the commission, and the floor committee were thanked for their work.

Rev. Glenn Obenberger, Evangelical Lutheran Synod president, addressed the convention presenting fraternal greetings from the ELS. He mentioned the sudden passing of President Moldstad in January 2021. He commented on the convention theme and encouraged WELS to continue to take a stand on God's Word. A gift of a book printed on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary was presented to President Schroeder. Obenberger was thanked for his presentation.

Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), addressed the convention, the first time in many years that an LCMS president has been in attendance at a WELS convention. He expressed thanks for the ongoing discussions being held with WELS and thanked the synod for the discussions. President Schroeder was presented a gift. President Schroeder responded that he is looking forward to ongoing discussions with the LCMS. There was a round of applause.

Rev. Glenn Schwanke, chairman of Floor Committee #18: Constitutional Matters, presented the committee's resolutions:

Resolution 18-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 18-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 18-03 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority.

Resolution 18-04 was moved and supported. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 18-05 was moved and supported. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 18-06 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority.

Resolution 18-07 was moved and supported. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 18-08 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority. The committee was thanked for its work.

Rev. Nathan Sutton, chairman of Floor Committee #2: Conference of Presidents, presented Report 02-01 and Report 02-03. Memorial 2021-01 was read; the committee did not recommend acceptance of this memorial. Memorial 2021-02 was read. Resolution 02-03 was moved and supported. The motion carried.

Rev. Steven Hillmer, chairman of Floor Committee #6: Synodical Council, read Report 06-01, Report 06-02, and Report 06-03. The committee was thanked.

Suggestions for the designation of the opening service offering were requested.

Rev. Justin Cloute, chairman of Floor Committee #5: Communications, offered Report 05-01. The committee was thanked.

The morning session adjourned for lunch at 11:54 a.m. President Schroeder led the delegates in the common table prayer.

The afternoon session was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by President Schroeder.

Rev. John Braun spoke about the convention theme, "Here we stand." A video, "Here we stand," was viewed. A Bible study that goes with the video was described. The Bible study will be available in September.

Rev. Earle Treptow, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary president, presented the convention essay: "Here we stand: Imitating Luther's faith."

At 2:51 p.m., a break was declared. Ice cream was served, a gift of Northwestern Publishing House. The afternoon session resumed at 3:19 p.m.

The essay was discussed. President Treptow was thanked, and a round of applause followed.

President Schroeder explained the reason for the bylaws' use of the new term, "ministry" certified rather than "synod" certified.

A vote was taken to determine the recipient of the service offering: Vietnamese/Hmong outreach, Christian Aid and Relief, or "Equipping Christian Witnesses." Vietnamese/Hmong outreach received the most votes.

Rev. Paul Prange, administrator, and Rev. Duane Rodewald, chairman, of the Board for Ministerial Education, reported, emphasizing a task force studying, among other things, the instruction program for non-traditional students.

Rev. Richard Gurgel, Martin Luther College (MLC) president, brought greetings from MLC and presented the "Equipping Christian Witnesses" campaign. A video was shown. To date, about \$7,500,000 has been received toward this campaign. Rev. Steven Pagels, chairman of Floor Committee #10: Ministerial Education, presented Report 10-01. Resolution 10-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 10-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried. The presenters and the committee were thanked for their work.

Mr. William Ziche, president of Northwestern Publishing House, presented his report. Rev. Steven Daley, chairman of Floor Committee #16: Northwestern Publishing House and Publication Coordinating Commission, reported for the floor committee. Report 16-01 and Report 16-02 were read. Resolution 16-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. The committee and the presenters were thanked.

Teacher Benjamin Schramm, chairman of Floor Committee #14: Support Services, shared the Report 14-01. Resolution 14-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. The committee was thanked.

At 5:04 p.m. the afternoon session adjourned. There was no evening session, but fellowship was celebrated with refreshments following the evening meal.