

THE FIFTY-THIRD BIENNIAL CONVENTION
THE MINNESOTA DISTRICT OF WELS

Martin Luther College
June 18-19, 2024

SESSION ONE

- OPENING President Dennis Klatt opened the The Fifty-third Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the name of the Triune God at 9:00 a.m.
- OPENING DEVOTION Pastor Nathanael Scharf led the convention in a devotion focused on Matthew 11:25-30
- COMMITTEE 1 Pastor William King, from the Credentials and Membership Committee, presented his report. Resolution #1 regarding credentials was adopted.
- GREETING MLC President Richard Gurgel welcomed the delegates to the campus of Martin Luther College.
- COMMITTEE 17 Vice President Schone welcomed everyone and invited the delegates to bring questions to the help desk table.
- COMMITTEE 16 First Vice President Wayne Schoch gave instructions from the Convention Steering Committee.
- COMMITTEE 6 Pastor Jeff Bovee reported for Media Relations Committee. Delegates are invited to share their photos.
- COMMITTEE 15 Second Vice President Matthew Pfeifer reported for the Copy Review Committee.
- COMMITTEE 3 Pastor James Panning reported for the Nomination Committee. He described the biographies available for the nominees on the ballot. It was moved and adopted to accept the nomination ballot.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT District President Dennis Klatt presented his report to the Minnesota District. It was moved and adopted to ratify the position appointments detailed in the President's Report.
- ELECTIONS Elections Chair, Pastor Adam Manian, gave instructions regarding our voting procedure for electing district officials.
- REPORTS The convention viewed a video from the WELS 175th Anniversary Committee. Pastor Phil Spaude introduced a video from the WELS Foundation about charitable gift annuities.
- MLC REPORT President Richard Gurgel reported for Martin Luther College.

HOME MISSIONS

Pastor Mark Gabb gave a report for the WELS Board for Home Missions which included a short video.

WORLD MISSIONS

Pastor Larry Schlomer introduced a video from the WELS Board for World Missions and described our mission work around the world.

ELECTIONS

Pastor Manian reported that Pastor Dennis Klatt has been re-elected to serve as District President.

CLOSING

Announcements were shared and session one closed at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION TWO

- DEVOTION Session 2 of the Fifty-third Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 1:15 p.m. with a devotion by Pastor Joshua Olson, who reminded us of God's will for husbands and wives recorded in Ephesians 5:22—6:4
- MINUTES Secretary Eugene DeVries read the minutes of Session 1. It was moved and adopted to accept the minutes from Session 1.
- ELECTIONS Elections chair Adam Manian directed us to the election ballot for 1st Vice President. The ballot contains three names: Rev. David Barkow, Rev. Brian Kom, and Rev. Nathanael Scharf.
- PRESENTATION MLC Professor Keith Wessel began his presentation on the doctrine of Christian Vocation.
- ELECTIONS Elections chair Adam Manian announced a runoff election for 1st Vice President.
- ELECTIONS At the conclusion of Professor Wessel's presentation, Pastor Manian announced the results of the runoff election. Pastor Nathanael Scharf was elected as 1st VP. Pastor Manian called for nominations for 2nd VP.
- COMMISSION REPORTS Pastor Steven Waldschmidt reported from the District Mission Board. Pastor Matt Ewart reported from Discipleship. Pastor Stephen Meyer gave the Evangelism report.
- ELECTIONS Elections chair Adam Manian directed us to the election ballot for 2nd Vice President. The ballot contains the names of six pastors: the incumbent Rev. Matthew Pfeifer, Rev. David Barkow, Rev. Johann Caauwe, Rev. Craig Engel, Rev. Jeremy Glowicki, and Rev. Rob Guenther.
- COMMISSION REPORTS Pastor Patrick Feldhus reported from Special Ministries and the Care Committee for Called Workers.
- ELECTIONS Pastor Manian announced a run off election for 2nd VP.
- COMMISSION REPORTS Pastor Joel Gawrisch reported from the Commission on Worship.
- ELECTIONS Pastor Manian announced that Pastor Matthew Pfeifer has won re-election to serve as 2nd Vice President. Nominations were opened for District Secretary.
- COMMISSION REPORTS Pastor Martin Bentz reported for the Legislation Committee. Mr. David Gartner reported for the Commission on Lutheran Schools.

ELECTIONS Pastor Manian announced the ballot for District Secretary. The ballot contains three names: the incumbent Pastor Eugene DeVries, Teacher Michael Vlieger, and Pastor Steven Waldschmidt.

COMMISSION REPORTS Pastor David Peters reported for the Constitution Committee.

ELECTIONS Pastor Manian announced that Pastor Eugene DeVries has won re-election as District Secretary.

NOMINATIONS Pastor James Panning presented the list of delegates to the 2025 synod convention. It was moved, seconded, and adopted to approve this list.

CLOSING Announcements were made and Pastor Dennis Klatt closed the session with prayer at 4:55 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION THREE

DEVOTION	Session 3 of the Fifty-third Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 8:30 a.m. with a devotion led by Pastor James Panning. Based on 1 Peter 2:11-17 he encouraged us to submit to governing authorities for the sake of Christ.
MINUTES	Minutes of Session 2 were read by Secretary Eugene DeVries and approved as read.
NOMINATIONS	Pastor James Panning let the convention know about additions to the ballot for district committee positions.
ELECTIONS	Pastor Adam Manian explained the ballot for committee positions. Time was allowed for delegates to fill out the ballot.
CHRISTIAN GIVING	Pastors Peter Sulzle and Steve Schmeling reported on behalf of the Ministry of Christian Giving.
LIMA	Pastor Brian Kom reported on the work of the Lutheran Institutional Ministries Association. Mr. Zuber Shaw described how LIMA supported his family through his daughter's illness.
KINGDOM WORKERS	Pastor Gerald Geiger reported on the work of Kingdom Workers.
MVL	Principal Dr. Tim Plath reported on the ministry of Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School.
SCLA	Mr. Nate Kallies summarized the blessings and struggles God has given to Saint Croix Lutheran Academy.
WEST LHS	Mr. Dave Gartner showed a video and gave a report on behalf of West Lutheran High School.
ELECTIONS	Pastor Manian invited delegates from Saint Croix, Southern, and Redwing Conferences to fill out special ballots.
WLC	Pastor Wayne Shevey reported for Wisconsin Lutheran College and showed a video.
NPH	Mr. Jeremy Angle described the mission and work of Northwestern Publishing House.
SYNODICAL COUNCIL	Mr. Kurt Sames explained how the Synodical Council functions as a board of directors for the WELS.
ELECTIONS	Pastor Adam Manian presented his report of the final elections results.

COMMITTEE 12

Pastor Darren Green reported from Committee #12 Special Matters. It was moved and supported to adopt their resolution. The resolution was adopted.

RECRUITMENT

Pastor Joel Thomford described MLC's efforts to recruit students for the public ministry.

AFFILIATES

Emily Helmen shared a video and presentation about Branch Lutheran Schools in Haiti. Brad Price explained how the Lutheran Military Support Group helps WELS and ELS soldiers, veterans, and their families.

CLOSING

Announcements were shared and Pastor Panning closed session three with prayer at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION FOUR

DEVOTION

At 1:15 p.m., Pastor Roger Rockhoff opened Session four of the Fifty-third biennial Convention of the Minnesota District. His devotion was based on Ephesians 4:7-16. God has appointed to each believer a fitting place in the body of Christ.

MINUTES

Minutes from Session 3 were read and approved.

COMMITTEE 14

Pastor Greg Tobison reported from Committee 14, Ministry Support. The committee's report was received with thanks.

COMMITTEE 11

Pastor Nathan Cordes reported from Committee 11, Congregational Services. The report was received with thanks.

COMMITTEE 7

Pastor Steve Schmiel reported from Committee 7, Home Missions. Their report was received with thanks.

COMMITTEE 8

Pastor Nathanael Scharf reported from Committee 8, World Missions. Their report was received with thanks.

COMMITTEE 9

Pastor Rob Guenther reported from Committee 9, Ministerial Education. Their resolution regarding the recommendations of the Ministry Recruitment Task Force (MRTF) was adopted.

COMMITTEE 10

Pastor James Grabitske reported from Committee 10, Congregational and District Ministry. The convention moved and adopted an amendment to Committee 10's Report No. 1. With that amendment, the report was received with thanks. Committee 10's resolution in support of the plan to change the synod bylaws on how we elect synod officers was adopted with two amendments.

COMMITTEE 1

Pastor Billy King's resolution from Committee 1 was adopted.

COMMITTEE 2

Mr. Dave Gartner reported from Committee 2, Registration. The report was received with thanks.

COMMITTEE 13

Pastor Jeremy Glowicki submitted his reported from the excuse committee. It was received with thanks.

COMMITTEE 4

Pastor Matthew Rauh presented his committee's response to the District President's report. The report was received with thanks. The resolution (1) regarding synod delegates was adopted. Resolution (2) regarding conference presidents and secretaries was adopted. Resolution (3) regarding circuit pastors was adopted. Resolution (4) regarding district officers was adopted. Resolution (5) regarding the designation of the offering for LIMA was adopted. Resolution (6) regarding thanks was adopted.

UNFINISHED

We adopted a resolution to hold the 2026 Convention on June 9-10, 2026.

MINUTES

The minutes of Session 4 were read, and it was moved, supported, and carried to adopt the minutes.

CLOSING SERVICE

The convention closed with a service led by Pastor Mark Reike in the Chapel of the Christ. The convention adjourned at 3:03 p.m. on June 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene DeVries, Secretary