

THE FIFTY-FOURTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
THE MINNESOTA DISTRICT OF WELS

Martin Luther College
June 9-10, 2026

SESSION ONE

- OPENING President Dennis Klatt called to order the The Fifty-fourth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District of the WELS in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- OPENING DEVOTION Pastor Gary Bode led the opening devotion with a message from Galatians 2:15-21.
- COMMITTEE 1 Pastor Marques Nelson, from the Credentials and Membership Committee, presented his report. Resolution #1 regarding credentials was adopted. Resolution #2 receiving new pastors and teachers into membership in the district was adopted.
- GREETING MLC President Richard Gurgel welcomed the delegates to the campus of Martin Luther College.
- COMMITTEE 14 First Vice President Nate Scharf gave instructions from the Convention Steering Committee.
- COMMITTEE 6 Pastor Jeff Bovee reported for Media Relations Committee.
- COMMITTEE 13 Second Vice President Matthew Pfeifer gave instructions for submitting reports to 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 district.
- ELECTIONS Pastor Adam Manian gave instructions regarding our voting procedure for electing district officials.
- MLC REPORT President Richard Gurgel reported for Martin Luther College.
- BME REPORT President Gurgel also gave the report from the Board for Ministerial Education.
- MRC President Gurgel introduced Pastor David Russow as a new Ministry Recruitment Counselor.

WELS REPORT Pastor Joel Voss, 1st Vice President of WELS, reported on behalf of synod.

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

HOME MISSIONS Pastor Matt Brown gave a report for the WELS Board for Home Missions.

WLS Mr. Sean Young, the new mission advancement director for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, reported for WLS and the Compelled campaign.

CLOSING Announcements were shared and session one closed at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION TWO

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| DEVOTION | Session 2 of the Fifty-fourth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 1:15 p.m. with a devotion by Pastor Brian Schmidt, who spoke about the means of grace based on Isaiah 55:1-11 |
| 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 announced that Pastor Nathanael Scharf has been reelected as 1st Vice President. He also directed us to the nomination ballot for 2nd Vice President. |
| PRESENTATION | MLC Professor Luke Thompson gave a presentation on what it means to be human in the age of artificial intelligence. |
| ELECTIONS | Elections chair Adam Manian announced the ballot for 2nd Vice President. It has three names: Rev. Matthew Pfeifer, Rev. David Barkow, Rev. Brian Kom. |
| WLC | Pastor Wayne Shevey reported from Wisconsin Lutheran College. |
| COMMISSION REPORTS | Pastor Stephen Schmiel reported for the District Mission Board, |
| ELECTIONS | Elections chair Adam Manian announced that Pastor Matt Pfeifer has been re-elected as 2 nd Vice President. The nominating ballot for district secretary is now open. |
| COMMISSION REPORTS | Mr. David Gartner reported as the District Schools Coordinator. Pastor Ryan Wolfe reported from the Commission on Discipleship. |
| KINGDOM WORKERS | Pastor Gerald Geiger reported for Kingdom Workers. |
| ELECTIONS | Pastor Manian invited delegates to complete the ballot for District Secretary. It contains four names: Rev. Eugene DeVries, Mr. Michael Vlieger, Rev. Adam Manian, and Rev. James Roecker. |
| COMMISSION REPORTS | Pastor Joel Gawrisch reported from the Commission on Worship, Pastor Martin Bentz from Legislation and Pastor David Peters from Constitution. |
| ELECTIONS | Pastor Manian announced that Pastor Eugene DeVries was reelected to serve as District Secretary. |
| GRACE IN ACTION | Mr. Todd Russ reported for Grace in Action. |

CLOSING

Announcements were made and Pastor Dennis Klatt closed session
2 with prayer at 4:52 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION THREE

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| DEVOTION | Session 3 of the Fifty-fourth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 8:00 a.m. with a devotion led by Pastor Martin Weigand. Based on Mark 8:34-38 he encouraged us to follow Jesus knowing that the cross leads to glory. |
| MINUTES | Minutes of Session 2 were read by Secretary Eugene DeVries. The minutes were accepted. |
| OFFERING | It was moved and adopted to give the convention offering of \$1803.00 to the MLC Scholarship Fund. |
| ELECTIONS | Pastor Adam Manian explained the ballot for committee positions in the district and the ballots for individual conferences. |
| CHRISTIAN GIVING | Pastor Steve Schmeling reported on behalf of the Ministry of Christian Giving. |
| LIMA | Pastor Brian Kom explained the work of LIMA, the Lutheran Institutional Ministries Association. |
| MVL | Dr. Tim Plath reported on the ministry of Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School. |
| SCLA | Mr. Brad Essig described the gospel work happening at Saint Croix Lutheran Academy. |
| WEST LHS | Mr. Dave Gartner gave his report on behalf of West Lutheran High School, which is coming up on its 50th anniversary. |
| WORLD MISSIONS | Pastor Larry Schlomer spoke about WELS World Mission work, highlighting opportunities in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America. |
| ELECTIONS | Pastor Manian directed delegates to the final ballot, a runoff election to fill two committee positions. |
| CAMPUS MINISTRY | Pastor Noah Hartmann reported for WELS Campus Ministry. |
| NPH | Northwestern Publishing House president Jeremy Angle spoke in a short video summarizing the work of NPH. |
| COMMITTEE 12 | Pastor Scott Oelhafen presented eleven reports from Committee 12 on Ministry Support. The reports were received with thanks. |
| RECRUITMENT | Pastor Joel Thomford described MLC's efforts to recruit students for the public ministry and invited delegates to join in that work. |

- AFFILIATES Becki Lonquist introduced the delegates to Branch Lutheran Schools in Haiti. Mark Krause explained how Christian Family Solutions helps people by providing mental health care and Christian counseling. The delegates watched a video from Brad Price with LMSG, the Lutheran Military Support Group.
- COMMITTEE 7 Pastor Jonathan Bourman shared six reports from Committee 7 on Home Missions. Committee 7 also presented a resolution concerning the 100 missions in 10 years effort. The resolution was adopted. The reports were received with thanks.
- COMMITTEE 8 Pastor David Barkow gave four reports on behalf of Committee 8 on World Missions. The reports were received with thanks.
- COMMITTEE 9 Pastor Jesse DeDeyne gave the report from Committee 9 on Ministerial Education. He presented a resolution which was adopted. The report was received with thanks.
- COMMITTEE 10 Pastor Brian Krueger reported from Committee 10 on Congregation and District Ministry. Their report was received with thanks.
- ELECTIONS Pastor Manian announced the report from Committee 5 showing the results of our convention elections. The report was accepted.
- CLOSING Announcements were shared and Pastor Weigand offered a table prayer before lunch. Session three closed at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION FOUR

DEVOTION

At 1:15 p.m., Pastor Brad Snyder opened Session four of the Fifty-fourth biennial Convention of the Minnesota District. His devotion based on 1 Timothy 4:6-16 urged delegates to watch their life and doctrine closely.

MINUTES

Minutes from Session 3 were read and adopted.

NOMINATIONS

Pastor James Panning presented the list of delegates from the Minnesota district to next year's synod convention. It was moved and adopted to accept this list.

COMMITTEE 4

Pastor Dan Walters reported from Committee 4. He presented one report and 11 resolutions regarding district membership, officers, offering, and thanksgiving. The resolutions were adopted, with one amendment that the convention offering be directed to the Congregational Partner Grant program.

COMMITTEE 2

Mr. Dave Gartner reported from Committee 2: Registration that 257 delegates attended the convention. His report was received with thanks.

COMMITTEE 11

Pastor Jeremy Glowicki reported from the Excuse Committee. Their report was received with thanks.

UNFINISHED

We adopted a resolution to hold the next convention on June 6-7, 2028.

MINUTES

The minutes of Session 4 were read. It was moved and carried to adopt the minutes.

CLOSING SERVICE

The convention closed with a service led by Pastor David Russow in the Chapel of the Christ. The convention adjourned at 2:13 p.m. on June 10, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene DeVries, Secretary