

# Proceedings of the 49<sup>th</sup> Biennial Pacific Northwest District Convention

## Held at Evergreen Lutheran High School, Tacoma, WA

### June 12-13, 2014

#### Convention worship

The opening Communion service for the conference was held at 8:30 a.m. MLC Prof. Paul Koelpin preached the sermon from Hebrews 12:1-3 under the theme ***Run the Race Set before You***. Pastor Joel Nitz served as liturgist. Offering gathered was \$ 651.00.

#### Invocation

District President Ted Lambert opened the convention at 10:34 a.m. in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

#### Reports

Attendance -

Excused: Pastor Mark Cares, Nampa, ID  
Pastor Matthew Kimmel, Spokane, WA  
Pastor Howard Mohlke, Messiah, Nampa, ID  
Pastor Jim Oldfield, Faith, Anchorage, AK  
Principal Jeffrey Dolan, Salem, OR  
Principal Bryan Schneck, Faith, Anchorage, AK

Unexcused: Staff Minister David Malnes, Nampa, ID  
Teacher Anthony Natalie – ELHS

Visitors to the District Conference: Pastor Mark Schroeder, WELS president  
Prof. Paul Koelpin, MLC  
Pastor Don Patterson, SC president, presenter  
Mr. Jim Holm, WELS Foundation  
Pastor Tim Flunker, Hispanic Outreach Consultant  
Dr. Dan Johnson, WLC president  
Pastor Peter Kruschel, PNW mission counselor  
Pastor Joel Gaertner, Lutheran Home Asso./Jesus Cares  
Mr. Bill Ziche, NPH

New members to the district: Pastor Raymond Beckmann, Good Hope, Ellensburg and Good Faith, Cle Elum, WA  
Pastor Geoff Cortright, Saviour of the Nations, Vancouver, B.C.  
Pastor Edward Frey, Messiah, Nampa, ID  
Pastor Joel Hoff, Divine Peace, Renton, WA  
Pastor Joseph Johnson, Amazing Grace, Portland, OR  
Pastor Scott Mews, Beautiful Savior, Hillsboro, OR  
Pastor David Salinas, Grace, Yakima, WA  
Pastor Kevin Schultz, St. Matthew, Spokane, WA  
Principal Shu-Ting Lai, Grace, Yakima, WA  
Teacher Phillip Kurbis, Faith, Tacoma, WA  
Teacher Perry Lund, ELHS, Tacoma, WA

Pastor Lambert presented his DP report. During his report, it was moved and seconded that Saviour of the Nations, Vancouver, B.C. be accepted as a member of the Pacific Northwest District of WELS. Carried. Also, during his report the convention rose to sing three verses of *“For All the Saints”* in memory of the called workers who passed away during the past biennium.

Delegates rose and introduced themselves to the group. Pastor Fred Voss was recognized as completing his chaplain certification.

Pastor Andrew Schwartz, chairman of the Elections Committee, opened nominations for district president. After nominations were closed, the convention voted.

WELS president Mark Schroeder addressed the convention and answered questions.

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor John Steinbrenner was elected to be district president by a super majority. Nominations were opened and then closed for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, and a vote was taken.

### **Break for lunch**

The conference reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

The Nominating Committee reported the Pastor Joel Nitz was elected 1<sup>st</sup> vice president by a super majority. Nominations were opened and then closed for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, and a vote was taken.

Mr. Bill Ziche presented a report from Northwestern Publishing House.

Prof. Paul Koelpin presented a report on Martin Luther College.

Pastor Don Patterson began his presentation called ***The Passion of Christ***. Part 1 dealt with Christ's passion for us, and our resulting passion for him. The convention was divided into discussion groups after the initial presentation.

The Elections Committee announced that Pastor Jeremy Schulz was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president. Nominations were opened and closed for district secretary, and a vote was taken.

Pastor Joel Gaertner presented an update on The Lutheran Home Association / Jesus Cares Ministry.

The Elections Committee announced that Pastor Mark Schewe was elected district secretary. Nominations were opened and closed for lay member of the Synodical Council, and a vote was taken.

Mr. Jim Holm gave an update on WELS CEF and Investment Funds.

The Elections Committee announced that Mr. Warren Ehlke was elected as the PNW lay member on the Synodical Council. Nominations were opened and closed for a pastoral member to the DMB, and a vote was taken.

**Break** – During the break, circuits met to elect circuit pastors.

Circuit pastors: Geoduck Circuit – Todd Goldschmidt  
Rainier Circuit – David Birsching  
Alaska Circuit – Jim Oldfield  
Sonshine Circuit – Bryan Schwarz  
Idaho Circuit – Dan Kramer  
Oregon Circuit – Jay Blum

The Elections Committee announced that Mr. Ted Weiss was elected as the lay member of the PNW DMB. Nominations were opened and closed for a pastoral member of the PNW DMB, and a vote was taken.

Don Patterson presented Part 2 of ***The Passion of Christ***. This dealt with passionate leadership in our congregations. A breakout discussion time was held afterward.

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor Jim Turriff was elected as pastoral member of the PNW DMB. Nominations were opened and closed for district worship committee, and a vote was taken.

A world mission update was given via DVD presentation.

Pastor Jeremy Schulz outlined the WELS Hymnal Committee report.

The Elections Committee reported that Pastor Daniel Lange has been elected as district worship coordinator. Nominations were opened and closed for Youth and Family Ministry coordinator, and a vote was taken.

David Resinger gave an update on Calvary Academy.

### **Closing devotion**

Pastor Joel Nitz closed the day's session with the afternoon devotion based on Ex. 31:1-11: ***Passion in Christian Calling.***

A brief program followed to honor outgoing district president Ted Lambert and to present him with a gift from the district.

## **Friday, June 13, 2014**

### **Opening devotion**

Pastor John Steinbrenner opened the conference shortly after 8:30 a.m. He led a devotion based on John 20:19-23 called ***Passion in the Ministry of the Keys.***

The Elections Committee announced that Andrew Schwartz was elected Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator. Nominations were opened and then closed for Coordinator of Lutheran Schools, and a vote was taken.

Pastor Jeremy Schulz gave the district Worship Coordinator report.

The Elections Committee announced that Principal Patrick Cortright was elected Coordinator of Lutheran Schools. Nominations were opened and then closed for district Special Ministries Coordinator, and a vote was taken.

### **RTD Reports**

Pastor Tom Gumm gave the district Special Ministries report and summarized pp. 20-25 in RTD.

The Elections Committee announced that Pastor Tom Gumm was elected Special Ministries coordinator. Nominations were opened and then closed for district Nominating Committee chairman, and a vote was taken.

Mr. Warren Ehlke reported on the WELS Ad Hoc Committee. Work is going well and moving forward with this committee.

The Elections Committee announced that Pastor Rob Guenther was elected chairman of the district Nominating Committee. Nominations were opened and then closed for district Nominating Committee members, and a vote was taken.

Pastor Dan Kramer updated the convention that Howard Mohlke's wife has been discharged from the hospital.

### **RTD Reports**

Pastor John Steinbrenner summarized pp. 67-78 in RTD.

Pastor Don Patterson presented Part 3 of ***The Passion of Christ***, called “*Passionate Churches*.”

## **Break**

Don Patterson continued Part 3 of ***The Passion of Christ***, called “*Passionate Churches*.” A breakout discussion time was included.

The Elections Committee announced that Pastor Fred Voss and Teacher Ryan Holper were elected to the Nominating Committee as members from AK. Nominations were opened and then closed for a district Nominating Committee member from OR. Pastor Scott Mews, the only candidate, was unanimously voted in. Nominations were opened and then closed for a district Nominating Committee member from WA, and a vote was taken.

Pastor Tim Schwartz gave a report as the district Evangelism coordinator.

Pastor Jim Turriff announced that next year’s Winter Missionary Conference will be January 26-28, 2015 at Hood River, OR.

The Elections Committee announced that Principal Shu-Ting Lai was elected as Nominating Committee member from WA. Nominations were opened and closed for a Constitution Committee member, and a vote was taken.

## **RTD Reports**

Teacher Patrick Cortright highlighted RTD, pp. 93-111.

The Elections Committee announced that Pastors Gary Kraklow and Thomas Voss were elected to the district Constitution Committee.

## **Lunch break**

Board for Home Missions – Pastor Peter Kruschel addressed the convention. Hispanic Missionary Consultant Tim Flunker addressed the convention.

The Elections Committee opened nominations for called workers to serve on the district board of appeals. Nominations were closed, and a vote was taken.

Board for Home Missions – Pastor Craig Wasser, chairman of PNW BHM, reported to the convention. Mr. Ted Weiss, president of the PNW chapter of WKW, addressed the convention.

The Elections Committee reported that Pastors Joel Hoff, Rob Guenther, Chris Ewings, and Tim Schwartz were elected to the district Board of Appeals. Nominations were opened and closed for a layman to serve on the same committee, and a vote was taken.

The convention watched the DVD commemorating the 150th anniversary of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

The Elections Committee reported that Dennis Twenge was elected as a layman representative to the district Board of Appeals.

New DP John Steinbrenner took over as presider over the agenda.

Mark Leitzke reported as chairman of the district Youth and Family coordinator.

Matt Zimpelmann reported as new district contact for the Ministry of Christian Giving.

### **RTF Report**

Joel Nitz reported on pp. 113-132 of RTF and showed a video from WELS Christian Aid and Relief.

Mark Schewe noted the PNW delegates to the 2015 Synod Convention. A vote was taken to designate the \$651 offering from the opening service to the Alaska family with the daughter in need of a kidney transplant.

Thad Bitter, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented the resolutions from his committee on thanks to the presenter, thanks to Evergreen Lutheran High School, and thanks to our outgoing DP. Seconded. Carried.

Stan Bauer presented information on the Evergreen Lutheran High School capital campaign.

Geoff Cortright thanked the Lord for his guiding hand at Saviour of the Nations, and mentioned that startup costs are still a reality, if congregations would like to contribute.

Nathan Seiltz gave a report on Evergreen Lutheran High School.

President Lambert declared that the 49<sup>th</sup> biennial PNW District Convention was now closed.

### **Closing**

DP Ted Lambert delivered his last devotion as district president, closing the convention. It was based on 1 Timothy 1:12-17, ***Passion in the Gospel***. The district presidium and circuit pastors were installed.