

The Proceedings of the 1918 Convention

A brief look at what the 1918 proceedings tell us about what happened at the first convention...

Schedule

The 1918 convention lasted seven days, from a Wednesday through a Tuesday, with four full worship services, an opening service on Wednesday, a full communion service Sunday morning with two sermons, an English service on Sunday evening, and closing worship service in German on Monday evening. Three morning sessions were devoted to the discussion of the essay. Seven other sessions were focused on the business of the convention.

Roster

The roster of pastors and teachers of the district, as well as all of lay delegates who attended this convention, is reproduced on pages 22-26 of this section. Please turn to those pages for more information about things to discover in that roster. Altogether, 75 pastors, 17 teachers, and 45 lay delegates attended the first convention.

District President's Report

President Buenger's report includes many things we see in presidents' reports today, including...

- References to events that would have been on the minds of the delegates, including the recent 400th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, the continuing "thunder of war" in Europe, and the changes that had been made with the merger of the synods and the division into districts
- A report of the elections and appointments that took place when the district organized itself after the joint synod convention that approved the division into districts and a reminder that new elections would be held at this convention for those offices.
- A report of some of the situations that had received the attention of the president and vice-presidents since they had begun their work the previous October, in addition to the usual counsel they provided to congregations facing vacancies.
- A listing of the business that would come before the convention, including the essay, reports from synod schools, commissions, institutions, and agencies, reports from district boards and committees, the reception of new pastors and congregations into the district, and the selection of delegates for the joint synod convention the following year.
- A reminder of the other worship services being held during the convention.
- This closing prayer, "May God the Lord direct and guide us with his Holy Spirit, so that what we do may be pleasing to him according to the will of Christ, our Savior."

The "Growth" (Wachstum) of the District

This list of ordinations (two), pastor installations (three), teacher installations (six), calls to other districts (three), a resignation, and several anniversaries and various dedications that looks very similar to, although quite a bit shorter than, the Membership Changes report at today's conventions.

The Business of the Convention

- The reception of new pastors (two), teachers (two), and congregations (Zebaoth, Messiah, and Mount Lebanon).
- The election of the district officers (see pages 14-21), a constitution revision committee, and a "Reisepredigtkommission," the predecessor to the current District Mission Board
- The assignment of the number of delegates to the next Joint Synod convention that would come from each of the five conferences (Milwaukee City, Southern, Eastern, Dodge-Washington, and Arizona) and from the teacher's conference. Altogether our district would be represented by ten pastors, four teachers, and eight lay delegates.

Major Reports to the Convention

- The Reisepredigtkommission Report, which is very similar to District Mission Board reports today, including reports from each of the district's ten mission fields: the Tuscon area; the Phoenix area; the Kenosha area, including St. Luke's, Bethany, and Winthrop Harbor, Ill.; Corlitz, Wis.; Divine Charity; Zebaoth; Nain; Lannon; Christ, Pewaukee; and several not-yet-organized gatherings of believers that would become Messiah, Timothy, and St. James congregations.
- Reports from each of the worker training schools, Northwestern College, the "teacher-seminary" and prep school at New Ulm, Minnesota, the "preacher-seminary" at Wauwatosa, and the prep school at Saginaw, Michigan
- A report from the "Altenheim" (home for the elderly) at Belle Plaine, Minnesota
- Reports from the synod's "Indianmission" and Joint "Reisepredigtkommission" committees, the predecessors of our current Boards for World Missions and Home Missions.
- A report from Northwestern Publishing House, listing the number of copies printed of each of their publications in the biennium, including Gemeindeblatt and Northwestern Lutheran.
- A report from the presidium of the Joint Synod
- A report from the Constitution Revision committee, which at that time was still working through several issues regarding how the new Joint Synod would be organized, including the formation, make-up, and responsibilities of several key boards and commissions
- Detailed financial reports for just about every report as well as from the general treasury
- Statistical reports for each congregation, including questions about the use of English
- A detailed list of offerings to the synod from each from each congregation of the district.

Other Reports

The last pages of the proceedings include many other reports and announcements, including reports from the Army/Navy Board, a committee on the "Waukesha Matter," and the Children's Friends Society (predecessor of WLCFS); and announcements about the celebration of the Seminary's 25th anniversary, a presentation on the Indian Mission by Missionary Alfred Uplegger before the closing service, and a special collection to compensate the members of the host congregation for lodging costs. The concluding business of the convention included the report of the excuse committee, a motion to thank the essayist and the host congregation, and announcements that convention reports would be sent to the delegates and published in the synod's magazines, that the proceedings would be published, and that the time and place of the next convention would be announced by the president. The convention closed with "Lass mich dein sein und bleiben," ("Let me be yours forever.")

Conventions of the District

Date/Place

Essay(s)

Sermon(s)

The first four conventions of the district were each seven days long. There were full worship services for the Opening and Closing services, as well as full worship services both Sunday morning and Sunday evening.

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|---|--|---|
| 1) July 10-16, 1918
St. John, Burlington | (Ger) The Despising of Grace is the Death of the Church
Prof. August Pieper | (Open) Pres. Carl Buenger (John 8:31,32)
(Sun AM) Pastor Martin Plass (Ps 119:176)
Pastor George Denninger (Rom 6:12-19)
(Sun PM) Pastor Heinrich Diehl (Acts 19:23-40)
(Close) Pastor Carl Otto (1 Pe 2:9,10)
(Devotions) Pastor Rudolph Pietz |
| 2) July 7-13, 1920
Friedens, Kenosha | (Ger) Joy in the Holy Spirit
Pastor Otto Hagedorn | (Open) Vice Pres. Henry Bergemann (1 Peter 4:7)
(Fri PM) Pastor Christian Gevers (1 Jn 1:9)
Pastor John Jenny (Rev 2:1-11)
(Sun) (Eng) Pastor Heinrich Wojahn (1 Cor 2:2)
(Ger) Pastor Carl Lescow (Mt 5:20-26)
(Close) Pastor Paul Brockman (Jn 17:9)
(Devotions) Pastor Carl Lescow |
| 3) July 5-11, 1922
First, Racine | (Ger) Is the teaching of our Church in one time
sufficient in our time?
Prof. William Henkel
(Eng) Revelation 1-3
Pastor Emil Schulz | (Open) Pres. Carl Buenger (Philippians 1:3-11)
(Sun AM) (Ger) Pastor Herm. Fleischer (Lk 6:36-42)
(Eng) Pastor Walter Keibel (Lk 14:28-33)
(Close) Pastor Otto Heidtke (Neh 4:17)
(Devotions) Pastor Philip Koehler |
| 4) July 9-15, 1924
Trinity, Waukesha | (Ger) Some features from Elijah's life - for our time
Pastor Heinrich Gieschen, Sr.
(Eng) Christian Giving
Pastor Walter Keibel | (Open) Pres. Carl Buenger (Luke 19:41-48)
(Sun AM) (Ger) Pastor Rudolph Pietz (Lk 6:36-42)
(Eng) Pastor Otto Nommensen (He 10:23)
(Close) Pastor Philip Koehler (Mt 9:1-8)
(Devotions) Pastors Herman Knuth
Rudolph Pietz |

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
<p><i>Starting with the fifth convention in 1926, the convention schedule went down to five days, Monday through Friday, eliminating the Sunday morning and evening worship services.</i></p>		
5) June 28-July 2, 1926 Bethel, Milwaukee	(Ger) John the Baptist Pastor Christian Sieker (Eng) The Doctrine of the Call to the Public Ministry of the Keys Pastor Heinrich Diehl	(Open) Vice-Pres. Hermann Ebert (Rom 1:13-17) (Close) Pastor Carl Bast (John 20:21-23) Pastor Heinrich Wolter (Acts 15:8-11) (Devotions) Pastor Martin Plass
6) June 25-29, 1928 Bethesda, Milwaukee	(Ger) The Staatsidee (concept of the state) in the light of Holy Scripture Pastor Hermann Gieschen (Eng) Scripture Passages Dealing with Men Hardening Their Hearts against the Word and Will of God Pastor Victor Brohm	(Open) Vice-Pres. Hermann Gieschen (Gn 32:21-30) (Close) Pastor Solomon Jedele (Heb 12:24) Pastor Theodore Volkert (Jn 17:14-17) (Devotions) Pastor William Sauer
7) June 23-27, 1930 Jerusalem, Milwaukee	Augsburg Confession Professor John Meyer Luther's Catechism Pastor Henry Gieschen Article VII and VIII of the Augsburg Confession Pastor Paul Bergemann	(Open) Pres. Carl Buenger (John 4:35) (Close) Pastor F Gundlach (Luke 15:2) Pastor Otto Hagedorn (1 John 4:16-21) (Devotions) Pastor Gotthilf Bradtke
8) June 27-July 1, 1932 Gethsemane, Milwaukee	(Ger) Examples of Faith in Hebrews 11 Professor Friederich Brenner (Eng) Observations and Impressions of Church and Religious Life in European Countries Pastor John Jenny	(Open) Vice-Pres Heinrich Diehl (Mt 28:18-20) (Close) Pastor Hermann Ebert (Luke 5:1-11) (Devotions) (Eng) Justus Ruege (Ger) Gotthilf Bradtke

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
9) June 25-29, 1934 St. John, West Bend	(Ger) The Main Difference between Lutheran and Calvinist Professor August Zich (Eng) Christ in Genesis Pastor Arthur Halboth	(Open) Vice-Pres William Sauer (Is 40:26-31) (Close) Pres. Carl Buenger (Ps 122) (Devotions) (Eng) John Jeske (Ger) Gotthilf Bradtke
10) June 22-26, 1936 St. John, Wauwatosa	(Ger) The Words of Christ, Luke 12:49-53, an Earnest Sermon against Today's Unionism Efforts Professor August Pieper (Eng) Conservative Lutheran Order of Service, with a view toward the present-day liturgical innovations Professor Max Lehninger	(Open) Pres. Paul Bergmann (1 Cor 15:58) (Close) Pastor Ed. Blakewell (1 Cor 10:16) (Devotions) (Eng) Heinrich Diehl (Ger) Arthur Halboth
11) June 27-July 1, 1938 St. John, Burlington	(Eng) The Doctrine of the Divine Call with Reference to Present Day Abuses Professor August Zich (Ger) Exegesis of Judges 2:1-14 Pastor Gerald Hoenecke Presentation on the Apache Indian Mission Missionary Alfred Uplegger	(Open) Pres. Paul Bergmann (1 Cor 3:9) (Close) Pastor Richard Buerger (Jn 7:37,38) (Devotions) Pastor Edmund Sponholz
<i>(The essays in 1940 were delivered in English with excerpts prepared beforehand in German)</i>		
12) June 24-28, 1940 Zion, Hartland	The Meaning and Import of Ordination Pastor Carl Buenger An Exegetical and Homiletical Study of 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Pastor Edwin Jaster	(Open) Pres. Paul Bergmann (Ps 46:1-3) (Close) Pastor Luther Voss (Mt 23:8) (Devotions) Pastor Erwin Scharf

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
<i>(Starting in 1942, the convention schedule was reduced to four days. 1942 was the last year proceedings were published in both English and German)</i>		
13) June 22-25, 1942 Theological Seminary	(Ger) The Doctrine of Justification in the Light of Present-Day Controversies Professor Adalbert Schaller (Eng) Civil Government and Christian Citizenship Pastor Waldemar Sauer	(Open) Pres. Richard Buerger (Mt 28:18-20) (Close) Pastor Herman Cares (Num 6:22-27) (Devotions) Pastor A Schaewe
<i>(The Seminary could not host the 1944 convention because classes for the "accelerated program" were being held on campus that summer.)</i>		
14) June 26-29, 1944 St. Matthew, Milwaukee	(Ger) The Station of the Christian in the Natural World Order Pastor Adolph von Rohr Sauer (Eng) Sanctification Pastor Heinrich Diehl	(Open) Vice-Pres. Philip Koehler (Mk 16:15) (Close) Pastor Gerhard Schmeling (1 Cor 15:58) (Devotions) Pastor Louis Karrer
15) June 24-27, 1946 The Seminary	The Essence of Calvinism and its Menacing Impact on American Lutheran Theology and Practice Pastor E. Arnold Sitz	(Open) Pres. Arthur Voss (Jn 14:12) (Close) Prof. Carl Lawrenz (1 Cor 12:27) (Devotions) Pastor Armin Schuetze
16) June 21-24, 1948 The Seminary	The Scriptural Meaning of "Koinonia", its Manifestations and Restrictions Pastor John Dahlke	(Open) Pres. Arthur Voss (Lk 19:37-44) (Close) Pastor Melvin Schwenzen (Mk 16:15) (Devotions) Pastor William Holzhausen
17) June 19-22, 1950 The Seminary	The Absolute Authority of the Word of God in Matters of Faith and Life Professor Carl Lawrenz	(Open) Vice-Pres. Herman Cares (1 Cor 15:58) (Close) Pastor Allyn Schuppenhauer (Mt 11:28) (Devotions) Pastor Martin Plass Pastor Erdmann Pankow

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
18) June 23-26, 1952 The Seminary	Trust in One's Self, an Obstacle to Trust in Saving Grace Pastor Raymond Huth	(Open) Pres. Arthur Halboth (Jn 10:27,28) (Close) Pastor Edgar Knief (Jn 8:31,32) (Devotions) Pastor Alfred Nicolaus Pastor Paul Behn
19) June 21-24, 1954 The Seminary	What is the Church's responsibility with regard to the secondary education of its youth? Pastor Heinrich Vogel Christian Stewardship with special reference to tithing, percentage giving, etc. Pastor Gerhard Schmeling	(Open) Pres. Arthur Halboth (Acts 16:25-35) (Close) Pastor Paul Behn (1 Tim 4:16) (Devotions) Pastor Gerhard Schmeling Pastor Adolph Fischer
<i>(All the district conventions were delayed in 1956 so that they could react to a report from the committee tasked with "evaluating any further developments" regarding the Missouri Synod that would be presented at a recessed session of the 1955 synod convention scheduled for August 1956.)</i>		
20) July 16-19, 1956 Siloah, Milwaukee	Scriptural Confessionalism in our Witnessing for Christ Professor Max Lehninger	(Open) Pres. Arthur Halboth (Acts 1:8) (Close) Secretary Adolph Buenger (Lk 19:17) (Devotions) Pastors Arnold Schroeder William Fischer, Ray Wiechmann Herman Cares, John Jeske, Waldemar Sauer
21) June 23-26, 1958 Friedens, Kenosha	How can we make the musical parts of our church services more a living Gospel-centered experience? Pastor Kurt Eggert The work of the pastor and teacher as an exercise of sanctification Pastor John Jeske	(Open) Pres. Arthur Halboth (Luke 15:1,2) (Close) Pastor Fredrick Naumann (Acts 1:8) (Morning Devotions) Pastors Carl Leyrer, Waldemar Pless, Herman Cares (Afternoon Devotions) Pastors Paul Gieschen, William Schink, H.Marcus Schwartz, Friedel Schultz

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
22) June 20-23, 1960 Wisconsin LHS	Principles of the Bible on Divorce Pastor Frederic Gilbert	(Open) Pres. Arthur Halboth (Eph 1:19ff) (Close) Pastor Ray Wiechmann (Lk 17:5ff) (Morning Devotions, Vice-Pres Herman Cares Synod Pres. Oscar Naumann Vice-Pres. Adolph Buenger (Afternoon Devotions) the four visitors
<i>(Beginning in 1962, the convention schedule was reduced to three days.)</i>		
23) June 12-14, 1962 Wisconsin LHS	The Layman, a Witness for Christ Pastor Erhard Pankow	(Open) Vice-Pres Adolph Buenger(1Chr19:13) (Close) Pastor Robert Voss (Acts 4:20) (Devotions) Pastors Richard Balge, Richard Seeger, Harold Eckert, Robert Krause, Lyle Hallauer
24) June 15-17, 1964 Wisconsin LHS	Martin Luther and Our Bible Translations Professor Frederic Blume The Christian Citizen in His Community Pastor Arnold Schroeder	(Open) Dr. Paul Peters (1 Pe 5:5ff) (Close) Prof. Robert Voss (Ps 50:14,15) (Devotions) Pastors Frederic Tabbert, R.W. Brassow, Marvin Volkmann Waldemar Pless, Norman Barenz Robert Krause, Herman Cares
25) June 21-23, 1966 Wisconsin LHS	Systematic Christian Instruction and Training in the Congregation Beyond Confirmation Pastor Mentor Kujath	(Open) Pres. Adolph Buenger (Jn 11:54) (Close) Pastor James Schaefer (Lk 16:29) (Devotions) Pastors Robert Krause Melvin Croll, Robert Voss Roland Ehlke, Friedel Schultz

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
26) June 11-13, 1968 Wisconsin LHS	Faithful Christian Witness in the Space Age Society Part One: In Our Church Activities Pastor George Boldt Part Two: In Our Job or Business Mr. Walter Bunge Part Three: In Social and Civil Relationship Professor Melvin Burk	(Open) Pastor Norman Berg (Ac 14:26-28) (Devotions) Pastors Siegfried Fenske, Arnold Schroeder, Robert Kleist Mentor Kujath, Win. Nommensen, Robert Krause
27) June 16-18, 1970 Wisconsin LHS	Government Aid to Churches Pastor William Fischer	(Open) Vice-Pres Waldemar Pless (1 Co 1:4-9) (Devotions) Prof. Irwin Habeck, Theodore Olson, Richard Seeger John Murphy, Gordon Snyder Robert Zink
28) June 13-15, 1972 Wisconsin LHS	Scriptural Principles with Respect to the Church's Mission and Christian Welfare Work Professor Armin Schuetze	(Open) Vice-Pres Win. Nommensen (Lk 10:2) (Devotions) Pastors A.T. Kretzmann, D. Kuehl, Philip Janke, Herman Cares, Robert Schumann Harold Wicke
29) June 11-13, 1974 Wisconsin LHS	The Holy Spirit and the Charismatic Renewal Professor Joel Gerlach Person to Person, Face to Face Evangelism by Lay People Pastor Reuel Schulz	(Open) Pres. George Boldt (Eph 2:8-10) (Devotions) Pastors Erwin Schewe, Paul Manthey, Reginald Pope, Herbert Lichtenberg, Fredrick Kosanke, Reinhardt Kom, Robert Johnston

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
<i>(Beginning in 1976, the convention schedule was reduced to two days. The first day included an evening session. 1976 is also the first year that minutes appear in the proceedings.)</i>		
30) June 15-16, 1976 Wisconsin LHS	Consistent Applications of the Scriptural Injunctions concerning the Role of Women in the Church Pastor Keith Kruck	(Open) Pres. George Boldt (1 Pe 2:9,10) (Devotions) Pastors James Berger, Kenneth Lenz, Arnold Schroeder, Richard Ziesemer, Armin Schuetze
31) June 13-14, 1978 Wisconsin LHS	Millennialism: A False Hope and Formidable Threat Pastor Robert Zink	(Open) Vice-Pres. Dietrich Kuehl (1 Cor 15:58) (Devotions) Pastors Elton Huebner, Harold Wicke, Roland Ehlke, William Fischer, James Schaefer
32) June 10-11, 1980 Wisconsin LHS	Is the Book of Concord the Last Word? Pastor Robert James Voss	(Open) Prof. Joel Gerlach (1 Ki 8:56ff) (Devotions) Pastors Paul Kelm, John Ibisch, Daniel Deutschlander, Edgar Greve, Wayne Borgwardt
33) June 8-9, 1982 Wisconsin LHS	The Leadership Role of the Pastor in the Congregation Pastor Paul Eckert	(Open) Vice-Pres Robert Zink (1 Cor 15:58) (Devotions) Pastors Paul Hartwig, Howard Kaiser, Robert J Voss, James Westendorf, Kurt Koeplin
34) June 12-13, 1984 Wisconsin LHS	Universal Justification Professor Siegbert Becker	(Open) Pastor Kurt Eggert (1 Pe 3:18) (Devotions) Pastors Robert Otto, Roger Schultz, John Ibisch Roger Fleming, Richard Balge

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
35) June 10-11, 1986 Wisconsin LHS	History of Fellowship in the Wisconsin Synod Professor Wayne Mueller	(Open) Prof. Armin Schuetze (1 Cor 11:26) (Devotions) Pastors Michael Engel, Roland Zimmerman, Edwin Fredrick Alfred Walther, Roland Zimmerman
36) June 7-8, 1988 Wisconsin LHS	The Theology of Lay Ministry Pastor Ronald Roth A Lay Perspective of Lay Ministry Mr. Kent Raabe	(Open) Vice-Pres. David Rutschow (Gn 32:10) (Devotions) Pastors Robert Pasbrig, John Schroeder, Richard Weeks
37) June 12-13, 1990 Wisconsin LHS	Worship in the WELS: Changeless Principles Prof. Mark Braun Worship in the WELS: Changing Practices Pastor Mark Jeske	(Open) Prof. Edward Lindemann (2 Tim 2:1,2) (Devotions) Professors David Kuske, James Westerndorf, David Vallesky, James Tiefel, Wayne Mueller
38) June 10-11, 1992 Wis Luth Seminary	The Philosophy for Cross-Cultural Ministry Pastor Harold Hagedorn (<i>withdrawn</i>)	(Open) Vice-Pres. David Rutschow (2 Co 5:14) (Devotions) Pastors Roger Zehms, Glenn Schwanke, Snowden Sims, Ray Kimbrough, David Tetzlaff
<i>(In 1994, the Communion Service was moved to the evening and the evening session eliminated)</i>		
39) June 7-8, 1994 Wis Luth Seminary	The Priesthood of All Believers and the Ministry Professor John Brug	(Eve) Professor John Jeske (Devotions) Pastors Peter Kruschel, John Kurth, Robert Hartmann, Wayne Mueller

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
40) June 11-12, 1996 Wis Luth Seminary	(Bible Study) Encourage One Another to Share the Promise of God's Unchanging Word in Our Changing World Pastor James Huebner (Essay) Encourage One Another to Share the Promise of God's Unchanging Word in Our Changing World Pastor Ronald Heins	(Eve) Pastor Wayne Mueller (Devotions) Principals Wayne Baxmann, Joe Archer, Neil Scriver, Ned Goede
41) June 9-10, 1998 Wis Luth Seminary	A Bible Study and Discussion Guide Centering on the Person, Importance, and Impact of Jesus Christ Professor Forrest Bivens	(Eve) Pastor Joel Gerlach (Devotions) Pastors Steven Stern, Robert Fleischmann, Robert Michel
42) June 6-7, 2000 Wis Luth Seminary	Building Lay Ministry and Lay Leadership Teacher Philip Leyrer	(Eve) Pastor James Huebner (Nu 11:16,24-29) (Devotions) Pres. David Rutschow, Staff Ministers Rod Bollinger, Robert Erdmann, Hans Metzger
<i>(in 2002, the communion service was moved back to the morning of the first day)</i>		
43) June 11-12, 2002 Wis Luth College	Attracting New Members Pastor Donald Patterson	(Open) Prof. Paul Wendland (Lk 15:11-32) (Devotions) Drs. John Bauer, Gregory Schulz, Pastor Nathan Strobel
44) June 8-9, 2004 Wis Luth College	The Spirit Called Pietism: Historical Analysis and Contemporary Concerns Professor John Brenner	(Open) Prof. David Valleskey (1 Tim 2:4-6) (Devotions) Pastors Rolfe Westendorf, James Aderman, Kenneth Gawrisch

Conventions of the District

Date/Place	Essay(s)	Sermon(s)
45) June 6-7, 2006 Wis Luth Seminary	Part One: Money Is the Problem Part Two: Talking Money with God's People Pastor Ron Muetzel	(Open) Professor Keith Wessel (Jn 14:25-27) (Devotions) Pastors William Carter, Ed Ungemach, James Huebner, Philip Schupmann
46) June 10-11, 2008 Wis Luth Seminary	Reflecting Christ to the World Professor Paul Wendland	(Open) Professor Mark Zarling (Is 60:1-6) (Devotions) Pastors David Pagel, Terry Laabs
47) June 8-9, 2010 Wis Luth Seminary	Grow in Grace Professor Richard Gurgel	(Open) Pastor Ed Schuppe (2 Pe 3:14-18) (Devotions) Pastors Robert Hein, Stanley Weinrich
48) June 5-6, 2012 Wis Luth College	Christ Bless Our Leadership Professor E. Allen Sorum A Study of Bible Translation Professors Paul Wendand, Kenneth Cherney	(Open) Pastor Charles Westra (Rev 5:6-8) (Devotions) Pastors David Waterstradt, Peter Prange, Joel Jaeger
49) June 10-11, 2014 Wis Luth College	Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word Pastor Paul Prange	(Open) Prof. Paul Wendland (1 Pe 1:23-25) (Devotions) Pastors Paul Jansen Steven Neumann, Michael Helwig
50) June 14-15, 2016 Wis Luth College	Embracing the Cross: A Reformation in the Pastor's Study Pastor Peter Prange	(Open) Pres. David Rutschow (Devotions) Pastors Christian Winkel, Nathan Cordes, George Ferch

Presidents of the District



Carl H. Buenger (1917-1934)

Born: March 15, 1875, New Ulm, Minnesota

Died: October 21, 1948, Kenosha

Ordained: June 27, 1887

Served:

1887-1902 St. Matthew, Town Maine, Illinois

1902-1948 Friedens, Kenosha

First elected when the district organized itself after the 1917 synod convention that changed the federation of synods into a merger and created the three Wisconsin districts

Also served on the Northwestern College Board of Control (1919-1929)

Played pivotal roles in the Protest'ant Controversy, both as a member of the NWC board, and also as the president of the district responsible for suspending Professor Koehler

Served for two years with and then was succeeded by his son, Adolph, at Friedens. Adolph would also serve as a president of the district.



Paul J. Bergmann (1934-1940)

Born: July 29, 1886, Milwaukee

Died: January 26, 1941, Milwaukee

Ordained: July 26, 1914

Served:

1914-1923 St. Peter, Fond du Lac

1923-1924 Redeemer, Milwaukee

1924-1941 Christ, Milwaukee

Succeeded his father, Henry, as pastor at Christ, Milwaukee

Served as the district recorder and German secretary (1928-1934)

Also served on the Church Union Committee, on the Synodical Conference Negro Mission Board, and on the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Children's Home

Died of a sudden heart attack at the age of 54 serving private communion at a member's home

Presidents of the District



Richard O. Buerger (1940-1944)

Born: January 31, 1882, Sterling, Nebraska

Died: November 22, 1950

Ordained: August 5, 1906

Served:

1906 - 1908 Bloomer, Wisconsin

1908 - 1923 Waukegan & Libertyville, Illinois

1923 - 1950 Gethsemane, Milwaukee

Also served as a circuit visitor, as chairman of the Milwaukee City Conference, and as second vice president of the district (1944-1946), after his terms as president)



Arthur P. Voss (1944-1948)

Born: May 19, 1899, Bay City, Michigan

Died: October 19, 1955, Thiensville

Ordained: First Sunday in Advent, 1921

Served:

1921-1954 St. James, Milwaukee

1954-1955 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Was the first resident pastor at St. James, Milwaukee

Served as first vice-president of the district (1940-1944)

Also served as chairman of the Board of Trustees, as a member of the Intersynodical Committee on Hymnal and Liturgy, as our synod's representative on the Synodical Conference's Inter-synodical Relations Committee, and as an associate editor of the *Northwestern Lutheran*

Taught Church History, Dogmatics, and Homiletics and served as Bursar at the Seminary for a little more than a year before his sudden death of a heart attack at his home. He had attended meetings of the General Synodical Committee on campus the day before his death.

Presidents of the District



John C. Dahlke (1948-1950)

Born: June 13, 1907, New Prague, Minnesota

Died: July 30, 1974

Ordained: July 7, 1935

Served:

1935-1950 Jerusalem, Milwaukee

1950-1957 St. Paul, Tomah

1957-1974 St. Peter, Weyauwega

Also served as a member of the synod's Doctrinal Commission, as a vice-president in the Western Wisconsin district (1952-1958) and as the president of the Northern Wisconsin district (1962-1968)

The youngest president at the time of his election (41)

The only president to take a call out of the district while serving as district president



Arthur F. Halboth (1950-1962)

Born: June 23, 1894, Accident, Maryland

Died: January 27, 1988, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Ordained: August 11, 1918

Served:

1918-1920 Peace Hills/Brightview, Alberta, Canada

1920-1926 New Holstein/Chilton, Wisconsin

1926-1973 St. Matthew, Milwaukee

A graduate of Concordia Lutheran Seminary

Served as first vice-president of the district (1948-1950)

Became president when his predecessor, John Dahlke, accepted a call to Tomah in February 1950

Also served on the District Mission Board, on the board of the Lutheran Home for the Aging, and on the Lutheran Radio Committee

Longest-lived president (93 years, 7 months)

Presidents of the District



Adolph C. Buenger (1962-1972)

Born: November 14, 1909, Kenosha, Wisconsin
Died: July 25, 1982, Port Washington, Wisconsin
Ordained: 1936
Served: 1936-1946 St. John, Milwaukee
1946-1978 Friedens, Kenosha

Son of the first district president, Carl Buenger. Served with his father at Friedens (1946-1948)

Only president to have served in all the other district offices: secretary (1946-1950); second vice-president (1956-1960); first vice-president (1960-1962)

Also served as secretary of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Board of Control and as a member of the synod's Pension and Investment board

Instrumental in starting St. Matthew, Port Washington in his retirement.



George W. Boldt (1972-1983)

Born: November 28, 1918, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Died: June 10, 1983, Flint, Michigan
Ordained: 1943
Served:
1943-1948 St. John, Lannon
1948-1951 St. Peter, Theresa
1951-1955 St. Paul, Roscoe, South Dakota
1955-1983 Jerusalem, Morton Grove

Served one term each as second vice-president (1968-1970) and first vice-president (1970-1972)

Served as the synod's second vice-president (1973-1979) and first vice-president (1979-1983)

Died of a sudden heart attack while still in office while visiting family in Flint, Michigan

Presidents of the District



Winfred B. Nommensen (1983-1992)

Born: January 31, 1924, Oshkosh, Wisconsin
Died: February 26, 1997, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Ordained: 1948
Served:
1948-1950 Northwestern College, Tutor
1950-1959 Grace, Sugar Bush/Emanuel, Maple Creek, Wis
1959-1992 Salem (107th), Milwaukee

Served as second vice-president (1970-1972) and first vice-president (1972-1983)

Also served on the Board of Directors of Wisconsin LHS and WLCFS, and as co-director of the Lutheran Youth Encampment at Camp Bird

Became president at the death of his predecessor, George Boldt

The oldest president at the time he began his service (59 years, 4 months)



David N. Rutschow (1992-2016)

Born: October 29, 1944, Winona, Minnesota
Ordained: 1970
Served:
1970-1977 Beautiful Savior, Marquette Heights, Illinois
1977- Good Shepherd, Downers Grove, Illinois

First resident pastor at Good Shepherd, Downers Grove

Served as second vice-president (1986-1988) and first vice-president (1988-1992)

Also served as a circuit pastor, as chairman of the WELS Commission on Evangelism and vice-chairman of the WELS Board for Parish Services, as a member of the Feasibility Study Committee and as a COP representative on the Synodical Council

Longest serving district president (24 years)

Presidents of the District



David P. Kolander (2016-)

Born: April 5, 1957, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin
Ordained: 1983
Served:
1983-1985 Northwestern College, Tutor
1985-1991 St. Paul, Saginaw, Michigan
1991-2001 St. John, New Ulm, Minnesota
2001- Christ the Lord, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Served as second vice-president of the Minnesota District (1998-2001) and as second vice-president of our district (2004-2010)

Also served on the WELS VEBA Pension Committee

Other Officers of the District

First Vice President

Henry Bergemann	1917 - 1924
Hermann Fleischer	1924 - 1926
Hermann Ebert	1926 - 1928
Heinrich Diehl	1928 - 1934
William Sauer	1934 - 1936
Justus Ruege	1936 - 1938
Heinrich Diehl	1938 - 1940
Arthur Voss	1940 - 1944
Philip Koehler	1944 - 1948
Arthur Halboth	1948 - 1950
Herman Cares	1950 - 1960
Adolph Buenger	1960 - 1962
Waldemar Pless	1962 - 1970
George Boldt	1970 - 1972
Winfried Nommensen	1972 - 1983
Robert Zink	1983 - 1988
David Rutschow	1988 - 1992
James Huebner	1992 - 2012
Joel Leyrer	2012 -

Second Vice President

Walter Hoenecke	1917 - 1922
Hermann Fleischer	1922 - 1924
Hermann Ebert	1924 - 1926
Hermann Gieschen	1926 - 1928
William Sauer	1928 - 1934
Heinrich Diehl	1934 - 1936
Arthur Voss	1936 - 1940
Philip Koehler	1940 - 1944
Richard Buerger	1944 - 1946
Henry Diehl	1946 - 1948
Herman Cares	1948 - 1950
Henry Diehl	1950 - 1956
Adolph Buenger	1956 - 1960
Waldemar Pless	1960 - 1962
Herman Cares	1962 - 1964
Frederic Tabbert	1964 - 1968
George Boldt	1968 - 1970
Winfried Nommensen	1970 - 1972
Dietrich Kuehl	1972 - 1978
Robert Zink	1978 - 1983
Wayne Mueller	1984 - 1986
David Rutschow	1986 - 1988
Robert Zink	1988 - 1990
Joel Gerlach	1990 - 1992
Mark Jeske	1992 - 2004
David Kolander	2004 - 2010
Joel Leyrer	2010 - 2012
Jonathan Kolander	2012 - 2017
Michael Woldt	2017 -

Other Officers of the District

The early constitutions of the district call for three positions that are now rolled into the secretary's duties, Secretär, Schriftführer (recorder), and Kassierer (treasurer).

The Secretary was responsible for recording and publishing the minutes and proceedings of the business of the conventions, as well as maintaining a membership list, conducting the correspondence of the district, and publishing notice of conventions in Gemeindeblatt and the Northwestern Lutheran.

The recorder was responsible only for recording and publishing the minutes and proceedings of the instructional portion of each convention. Later on this position was referred to as the Essay Recorder.

From 1932 to 1942, when the district proceedings were published in both English and German editions, the Secretary was called the English Secretary and the Recorder was called the German Secretary.

Secretary		Recorder	
Henry Gieschen, Sr	1917 - 1928	Wilhelm Nommensen	1917 - 1920
		Edmund Reim	1920 - 1922
		Walter Keibel	1922 - 1928
Walter Keibel	1928 - 1944	Paul Bergemann	1928 - 1934
		Edmund Sponholz	1932 - 1942
Gilbert Thiele	1944 - 1946	Gervasius Fischer	1942 - 1946
Adolph Buenger	1946 - 1950	Edwin Jaster	1946 - 1950
Heinrich Vogel	1950 - 1972	Walter Nommensen	1950 - 1954
		Herbert Kuske	1954 - 1958
		Armin Schuetze	1958 - 1962
Mentor Kujath	1972 - 1990		
Robert Pasbrig	1990 - 2006		
William Carter	2006 -		

Cashier (Treasurer)

Mr. Charles Werner	1917 - 1944
Mr. G. W. Sampe	1944 - 1966
Mr. Duane Kuehl	1966 - 1970

Financial Secretary

Mr. Raymond Maas	1958 - 1962
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Attendance at 1918 SEW District Convention

Reproduced on the following pages is a roster of all the pastors and teachers who were members of the new Southeastern Wisconsin district in 1918, along with a list of all the lay delegates who attended the 1918 convention.

The pastors and teachers are listed alphabetically. Their addresses are also listed. Sometimes you can figure out which congregation they served by the address. In other cases, the address points to the parsonage or teacherage of a congregation that longer exists.

The lay delegates do not appear to be sorted in any way, either alphabetically or by conference, so it's possible they're just listed as they signed in when they arrived. Unlike the called workers, however, the lay delegates are listed with the name of the congregation they represent.

It's probably not surprising that there are many familiar surnames in this listing. What may be surprising is that the Arizona congregations were members of the Southeastern Wisconsin District and that there are also men with Michigan addresses on the roster of our district.

The following pages also fold out to reveal a large (33x7.5 inch) panoramic picture of the delegates who attended the 1918 convention. Thank you to the folks at St. John's, Burlington who arranged to have this photograph taken a hundred years ago. Thanks also to everyone there who decided not to throw it away whenever it got re-discovered in storage. And thanks also to the people at St. John's who told us they had this picture and found a way to get it scanned so we could share it with you.

We have not made any attempt to try to match names with faces on the picture. Perhaps some will recognize faces that appear in congregational histories or in old family albums.

Note: the (*) means Abwesend (absent)

Pastors and Professors

Baebenroth, A.	463 3 rd Ave, Milwaukee
Bast, C	R.R. 2, North Milwaukee
Beitz, W. (*)	543 E. 9 th St, Tuscon, Arizona
Bendler, A.	781 10 th St., Milwaukee
Bergfeldt, R.	36 Franklin St., Schleisingerville
Bergmann, H.	921 Greenfield Ave., Milwaukee
Blieferricht, F. (*)	R.R. 4, Hartford
Brenner, J.	814 Vliet St., Milwaukee
Brockman, P.	732 White Rock Ave., Waukesha
Buenger, C.	65 N. Ridge St., Kenosha
Buerger, R.	916 Belvedere Ave., Waukegan, Ill.
Burkholz, P.J.	R.R. 1, Thiensville
Burkholz, P.	R. 2, Cedarburg
Denninger, G.	R. 3, Mayville
Diehl, H.J.	1487 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee
Dornfeld, E.Ph.	164 Garfield Ave., Milwaukee
Duerr, E.	Lannon
Ebert, H.	1116 29 th St., Milwaukee
Fleischer, H.	428 Walworth St., Lake Geneva

Frey, Imm.	742 Fillmore St., Phoenix, Arizona
Gausewitz, C.	620 Broadway, Milwaukee
Gevers, Chr.	Elkhorn
Gieschen, Heinr.	91 Chambers St., Milwaukee
Gieschen, Herm.	Wauwatosa
Graeber, Fr.	3709 Sycamore St., Milwaukee
Grunwald, E.	1438 7 th Ave., Milwaukee
Guenther, Edgar (*)	Fort Apache, Arizona
Hagedorn, O.	404 Thomas Ave., Milwaukee
Hartwig, Theo.	Hartland
Heidel, H.H.	Stevensville, Mich.
Heidtke, O.	Morton Grove, Ill.
Hoenecke, A. (*)	557 71 st Ave., West Allis
Hoenecke, W.	622 24 th St., Milwaukee
Hoyer, Ed. (*)	805 Walnut St., West Bend
Huth, R.	303 Rusk Ave., Milwaukee
Jedele, S.	Wilmot
Jenny, J.	637 Mitchell St., Milwaukee
Kaiser, J.	1091 Harrison St., Milwaukee
Karrer, J.	1435 2 nd St., Milwaukee
Keibel, W.	4812 Beloit Rd., West Allis
Kehrberg, Aug.	Tawas City, Mich.
Kionka, M.	4616 Elm St., Milwaukee
Kneiske, P.	R.R. 4, North Milwaukee
Knuth, H.F.	1114 Chambers St., Milwaukee
Koch, F.	R.R. 14, Caledonia
Koch, J., em. (*)	801 Delaware Ave., Milwaukee
Koch, H.G. (*)	R.R. 9, Franksville
Koehler, Prof. J.	R. 2, Wauwatosa
Koehler, C.	R. 2, Wauwatosa
Koehler, Ph.	Iron Ridge
Kupfer, F.	414 Christian Lane, Milwaukee
Lange, H.	Alois
Lederer, C.A. (*)	Saline, Mich.
Lederer, A.	R. 2, Saline, Mich.
Lescow, C.	Woodland, Dodge Co.
Lieberum, C.	2018 Pease St., Milwaukee
Lutzke, P.	Douglas, Arizona
Mahnke, W.	Station D, R. 3, Milwaukee
Meyer, Prof. Herm.	28 Kenwood Ave., Wauwatosa
Monhardt, H. (*)	R.R. 2, South Milwaukee
Nommensen, B.P.	1231 Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee
Nommensen, O.	515 Milwaukee Ave., South Milwaukee
Nommensen, W.	Hustisford
Notz, Dr. T.W. em. (*)	543 Murray Ave., Milwaukee
Otto, C.A.	Brownsville

Petermann, A.	Newburg
Pieper, Prof. Aug.	R. 2, Wauwatosa
Pieper, Paul	507 Cudahy Ave., Cudahy
Pietz, R.	Lomira
Platz, M.	Oakwood
Ploneit, M. (*)	309 Collinsville Ave., Collinsville
Rader, L.	Mukwanago
Reim, E.	Bain and Selleck Ave., Kenosha
Rohr, Ad. von (*)	Hartford
Schaller, Prof. J.	R. 2, Wauwatosa
Schmidt, G.	East Troy
Schneider, H. (*)	425 Stewart Ave., Owosso, Mich.
Schoewe, G.	R.R. 11, Calhoun
Schrader, E.	784 Layton Blvd., Milwaukee
Schultz, A.	419 37 th St., North Milwaukee
Schulz, E.	763 46 th St., Milwaukee
Sieker, Chr.	495 Madison St., Burlington
Sonnemann, O.	317 4 th St., Manistee, Mich.
Stock, A. (*)	Neosho
Tacke, A.	1783 Port Washington Ave., Milwaukee
Thiele, G., Prof. em. (*)	1415 W. 24 th St., Milwaukee
Toepel, A.	R. 1, Iron Ridge
Toepel, J.	R. 2, Des Plaines, Ill.
Toepel, O. (*)	Bristol
Uhlmann, J.	R. R. 4, Hartford
Uplegger, Prof. F. (high school)	621 13 th St., Milwaukee
Uplegger, Alfred	Rice, Arizona
Volkert, Theo.	735 Grand Ave., Racine
Weber, W.	R. 1, Allenton
Weertz, F. (children's home)	Wauwatosa
Wille, H.	1114 Chambers St., Milwaukee
Wojahn, H. (*)	506 Oakland Ave., Waukesha
Wolff, R.	Slades Corners, Kenosha Co.
Wolter, H.	R.R., Lomira
Zuberbier, A.	Cibecue, Arizona
Herrmann, Prof. A.	720 Clinton Ave., Oak Park, Ill.

Teachers

Albrecht, Herm. (*)	438½ Herman St., Milwaukee
Backer, E. (*)	329 Locust St., Milwaukee
Brockmann, A. (*)	876 18 th St., Milwaukee
Curschmann, F.W. (*)	559 7 th Ave., Milwaukee
Dippmann, M.R.	R. 1, Rockfield
Eggebrecht, K.	741 25 th St., Milwaukee

Ehlen, L.	Crete, Ill.
Falk, F.C.	1537 Chambers St., Milwaukee
Gieschen, C. (*)	69 N. Ridge St., Kenosha
Gieschen, J. (*)	623 Garfield Ave., Milwaukee
Gimmler (*)	1199 28 th St., Milwaukee
Gurgel, H.	Burlington
Hagedorn, B. (*)	19 37 th St., Milwaukee
Hartmann, E.F. (*)	1412 North Ave., Milwaukee
Jaeger, Alex	1300 Richards St., Milwaukee
Jaeger, N.W.	235 Montana Ave., South Milwaukee
Jungkuntz, Carl (*)	807 Washington St., Milwaukee
Jungkuntz, P.A.	Milwaukee
Kirschke, Ed. (*)	821 Edward St., Kenosha
Kirschke, Wm. (*)	901 1 st St. Milwaukee
Kneyse, F. em. (*)	2726 Chestnut St., Milwaukee
Krause, E.F. (*)	Milwaukee
Lemke, C.F.	Stevensville, Mich.
Maas, Arthur (*)	2444 Vine St., Milwaukee
Martin, Herm.	897 Buffum St., Milwaukee
Mayer, Alb. (*)	275 N. Ridge St., Kenosha
Meyer, Heinr.	1119 29 th St., Milwaukee
Prahl, W.	1244 9 th St., Milwaukee
Reim, W.E.	Hustisford
Roloff, Emil (*)	179 Rice Ave., Kenosha
Sampe, Prof. E	1131 Island Ave., Milwaukee
Schnell, H. (*)	Station D, R. 3, Milwaukee
Schultz, Ferd. (*)	324 N. Ridge St., Kenosha
Steffen, G (*)	607 Dover St., Milwaukee
Timm, E.W. (*)	458 Sherman St., Milwaukee
Ungrodt, L.	944 5 th St., Milwaukee
Voss, Prof. C.	1153 27 th St., Milwaukee
Wachholtz, H.R.	988 Richards St., Milwaukee
Waterstraadt, H.M (*)	569 17 th Ave., Milwaukee
Wedekind, H.L. em. (*)	99 Lapham St., Milwaukee
Wetzel, B.J.	117 Center St., Milwaukee
Zautner, H.J. (*)	815 Walnut St., West Bend

Delegates from the Congregations

W.H. Graebner	St. Peter, Milwaukee
Chas. E. Werner	Grace, Milwaukee
Emil Hass, alternate	
F. Steinborn	Saron, Milwaukee
F.R. Saxmann	Bethesda, Milwaukee
August Wolff	St. Matthew, Milwaukee
Fr. Schroeder, alternate	
Joh. Reinemann	St. John, Milwaukee

Prof. E. Sampe	Jerusalem, Milwaukee
Otto Ruppert	Zion, South Milwaukee
John Grenzel	St. John, Slade's Corners
Aug. Schwanz, alternate	
Carl Klaehn	Friedens, Kenosha
Wm. Maas	First, Lake Geneva
Jacob Maas, alternate	
Carl Umnus	Friedens, Elkhorn
Franz Winkelmann, Sr.	Christ, Pewaukee
Walter Getzel	Gethsemane, Milwaukee
Friederich Keller	St. Jacobi, Milwaukee
Julius Engel	Trinity, North Milwaukee
Wilh. Degner	Zum Kripplein Christi, Tn. Herman, Dodge Co.
Robert Kramp	St. Paul, Stevensville, Mich.
R.W.E. Fritzke	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Otto Haase	St. Matthew, Town Maine, Cook Co., Ill.
Johann Zickuhr	Nathanael, Milwaukee
Ernst Frahmke	St. Thomas, Milwaukee
Wm. Ruthenberg	Christ, Milwaukee
Peter Joekel	Peace, Hartford
Wilhelm Benike	St. John, West Bend
Herm. Roecker	Kohlsville Parish
Herm. Behling	St. John, Wauwatosa
Eugen Gissinger, alternate	
Hermann Marquardt	St. John, Mukwanago
Franz Loppnow	St. Lucas, Milwaukee
Ferdinand Loehrke	St. Paul, Town Lomira
Friedrich Riemann	Peace, Wilmot
Eberhardt Roder	St. John, Root Creek
Wilhelm Schultz, alternate	
Wm. Henkel	St. John, Oakwood
Wilhelm Ehlke	David, Kirchhayn
Robert Freihube	Bethel, Burlington
Heinrich Gerboth	Redeemer, Milwaukee
Heinrich Frey	Salem, West Granville
Wm. Bensemman	St. John, Milwaukee
A. Weinsheimer, alternate	
Geo. Ballbach	St. John, Town Lake, Milwaukee Co.
Heinr. Roeder	St. John, Newburg
Herm. Gerlaff	St. Paul, East Troy
Herm. Fischer	St. Matthew, Iron Ridge
A.C. Frank	First, Racine
Alb. Ohrmundt	St. John, Lomira
Gustav Friedrich, alternate	
C.L. Karsten	St. Paul, Brownsville
Jul. H. Geweke	Jerusalem, Morton Grove, Ill.