

Wisconsin Federation of
Lutheran Altar Guilds
55th Annual Meeting - May 7, 2016
St. John Lutheran Church, Wausau, WI

The day began with registration, continental breakfast, and tours of the church and childcare facilities.

President Ben Seidler welcomed all those attending, and Dianne Rux of St. John greeted us, providing a warm welcome to all present.

Our Advisor, Pastor Ricky Schroeder, led the service, focusing on “Faith-Filled Women, Faithful God”. As we celebrate Mothers’ Day, we especially thank God for the special vocation given to mothers, as well as the gift of family relationships inspired by His great love for us and faithfulness to us as His children. President Ben Seidler assisted Pastor Schroeder in the readings and in the celebration of Holy Communion.

After the service, Pastor Schroeder opened the meeting with prayer, and President Seidler thanked the women of St. John for hosting our meeting. He welcomed new churches who had joined us for this meeting. He introduced the WFLAG officers – Treasurer Gail Siewert, and Secretary Judy Weber. Vice President Tim Baumann could not be with us due to a previous commitment. The current Treasurer’s Report and Minutes from 2015 were read and approved. We also read a ‘thank you’ message from Paul and Ali Federwitz, a Lutheran Bible Translator family to whom we donated \$200.00 last year.

Nominations from the floor were entertained for office of vice president and secretary. Daryl Jaeger of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Sheboygan was nominated for and elected as vice president. The current secretary, Judy Weber, and Kelly Jaeger were nominated for secretary and Judy was elected to a second term. Pastor Schroeder installed Daryl and Judy into their positions. Pastor Schroeder indicated his willingness to continue as our advisor; nevertheless, he stressed that if we know of other pastors who we would like to serve, we should not hesitate to ask them.

President Seidler asked for suggestions on churches to host our 2017 and 2018 conventions. Our Savior’s Lutheran in Sheboygan welcomed the opportunity to host in 2017. (Our Savior also brought the most participants to the 2016 convention!)

A donation of \$100.00 each was unanimously voted to be sent to the Lutheran Deaf Outreach, newly established in Janesville, and to Three Lakes Camp for their “Every Kid to Camp” promotion.

We reiterated our desire to use our email address to facilitate a Q & A forum on the website. We continue to review options. Several women offered their email addresses as contact points for their churches. Judy also has a number of Milwaukee area addresses to be used judiciously to keep churches informed of our activities. We still need to keep advertising in LCMS publications in mind - the websites of the districts, plus the Lutheran Witness.

Any recommendations or questions for the executive committee can be sent to our email address - altarquilds@wflag.org.

An excellent catered lunch was provided, supplemented by the women of the St. John altar guild. It was very much enjoyed and appreciated.

After lunch, our secretary, Judy Weber of St. John's Lutheran Church in Glendale, presented on the topic of individualized altar guild manuals. She pointed out the helpfulness of the Concordia Publishing House Altar Guild manual, and the extra information to be found in Gathered Guests, by Rev. Dr. Timothy Maschke. Nevertheless, the general nature of these books does not cover some of the elements to be found in a manual unique to each church. The major areas in which specificity is helpful are:

Learning tool for new members, Meeting aid for existing members, Point of reference for Pastors and other interested members, and as a Resource for elders, ushers, and acolytes.

The recommended process for establishing your own unique manual was:

Gather the materials you already have

Meet with guild members as a group

Meet with former guild members and /or other seniors for historic facts

Create a small committee

Review results with your pastor(s)

Take your time

Be prepared to revise as the need arises.

Our open forum, led by Pastor Schroeder, included his reminder that many issues may be considered to be adiaphora – issues that are not addressed in Scripture and therefore have no set answers. “Ask Your Pastor!” Among the topics were:

What to do with used wax candles from Advent that may still be ‘good’ but that have been replaced with new. (Use as a possible gift to smaller church/determine if congregation members can use/treat responsibly, but they are not ‘holy’)

Do we need a liquor license for the use of wine on a statewide basis? (Daryl Jaeger has been told that it is necessary. He will pursue and the information will be posted on the website.)

Can wine be poured back from individual cups if not used? (Yes, the body and blood of Christ are In, With and Under the wine as the supper is celebrated; Lutheranism differs from Catholicism in that we do not say that the wine changes into the blood, nor the bread into Christ's body.)

How soon can we prepare the materials for the Supper? (Preferably the same day – the day before would be acceptable.)

After entertaining any other questions, we closed our meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Weber
WFLAG Secretary