

Wisconsin Federation of
Lutheran Altar Guilds
56th Annual Meeting - April 22, 2017
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sheboygan, WI

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

President Ben Seidler welcomed all those attending, and Daryl Jaeger of Our Savior's greeted us, providing a warm welcome.

Pastor James Schulz led us in the worship service based on 'The Grateful Altar Guild,' focused on reverent and blessed celebration of Lord's Supper. The Sheboygan Lutheran High School Choir enhanced the worship with beautiful renditions of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," "Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers," and "Almighty Father Bless the Word." President Ben Seidler and Pastor Thomas Schmidt assisted in the readings and in the celebration of Holy Communion.

After the service, Pastor Schroeder opened the meeting with prayer, and President Seidler thanked Our Savior's for hosting our meeting. He welcomed new churches who had joined us for this meeting, including the first member from Michigan. Secretary Judy Weber read the 2016 minutes and Vice President Daryl Jaeger read the Treasurer's Report since Gail Siewert could not be with us. These reports were approved as read. We also read 'thank you' messages from Camp Luther and the World Lutheran Deaf Outreach, recipients of last year's donations of \$100.00 each.

Nominations from the floor were entertained for offices of president and treasurer. Since none were forthcoming, we voted to suspend by-law 2a in order to allow our current two officers to continue in their positions, and they were voted into office by unanimous voice vote. Pastor Thomas Schmitt of St. John's, Glendale was introduced as our new Advisor. Pastor Schroeder was recognized for his many years as our enthusiastic and faithful leader with a gift.

President Seidler asked for suggestions on churches to host our 2017 and 2018 conventions. Daryl Jaeger expressed willingness to help organize the next convention.

A donation of \$100.00 each was unanimously voted to be sent to the Sheboygan County Chaplaincy Program (South Wisconsin District) and to Camp Luther to assist in a north camp (North Wisconsin District). In addition, we agreed to send \$100.00 to support the Lutheran High School Choir.

This year we added an email program from our website provider. We have 316 churches plus some individuals represented and have used the process several times with good results. In addition to be an information resource, we want to facilitate a Q & A forum, with survey results sent back to participants.

An excellent lunch was provided by the women of the Our Savior Altar Guild, supported by Fleck's Curbside Grill. It was very much enjoyed and appreciated.

After lunch, three presentations took place. First, Pastor Jim Schulz led an interesting, informative, and humorous contest of "Name that Sacred Vessel (and other altar appointments)" which included serious conversation on the joy we have in providing what is needed so that to our fellow members can receive Lord's Supper.

Our second presentation was made by John Stemper of T H Stemper Co, which is located in Milwaukee. The history of the company, the services and products provided, and the fact that Stempers has a consignment area which can be visited if you are in need of statuary, candlesticks, and other church equipment or want to place an item your church no longer uses. He also provided a large display of products and catalogs.

The third presentation was on safety and security measures in church and at home. The Sheboygan County Sheriff gave us good tips on being alert to our surroundings, on keeping valuable areas locked; and on self defense – all with good humor.

As part of open forum, a request was made that we carry our email and website addresses on convention materials. They are: www.wflag.org, and altarquilds@wflag.org. Also at this time, Pastor Schroeder gave a short farewell, and promised he is not going to forget our organization. Of course, we received that three word reminder: “Ask Your Pastor!” At the end of the forum, names for door prizes were drawn. T.H. Stemper was kind enough to give us five \$50.00 gift certificates for their store, plus several boxes of individual plastic communion cups, so quite a few churches went home with gifts.

After entertaining any other questions, and acknowledging Thrivent for providing us with \$250.00 toward the expense of providing a learning experience, we closed our meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Weber
WFLAG Secretary