

game against the Minnesota Twins. Game time is 7:10 p.m. The Brewers created a poster to assist congregations in promoting the game to their members.

"Thousands of WELS members have enjoyed an evening of baseball, fun, and fellowship the last three times we held this event," says Lee Hitter, director of WELS Communications. "Since the Brewers are playing the Twins, it seemed only appropriate to highlight MLC, our college of ministerial education located in New Ulm, Minn., in the pre-game festivities."

The Brewers are again offering WELS members up to 50 percent off the price of tickets. Seating will be along the first base line and in a block for WELS members. The pricing is Field Outfield sections 106 – 109 for \$21/ticket, Loge Outfield sections 206 – 208 for \$17/ticket, or Terrace Reserved sections 409 – 412 for \$9/ticket. The ticket service fee will be waived for groups of 20+ if you contact Greg Souza at 414-902-4492 or Greg.souza@brewers.com. The deadline to purchase tickets is Aug. 3, 2017.

Buy tickets online at brewers.com/wels.

Did you know...

WELS has a Facebook page?
facebook.com/welslutherans

WELS has Twitter?
twitter.com/welstweets

WELS has Instagram?
instagram.com/welslutherans

WELS has an app?
WELS offers a mobile application for the iOS and Android cell phone platforms. Get the WELS Mobile app at iTunes and Google Play.

TOGETHER



April 18, 2017

2017 spring meeting of the Conference of Presidents

The Conference of Presidents (COP) met for its regular spring meeting on April 3-5 at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis.

Some of the items discussed or decided by the Conference of Presidents include:

- The COP discussed various matters of doctrine and practice and adopted several guidelines to assist district presidents as they advise congregations in these matters.
- The COP is continuing to work with the Commission on Lutheran Schools to finalize a study of how the church can make use of the talents and skills of women in administrative roles while remaining faithful to the biblical principles of authority and headship. The study will be completed in the coming months.
- Last year the COP held a meeting with the faculty of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to discuss areas of mutual interest. Since the first meeting was viewed to be beneficial and productive, a second such meeting will be held in May and is likely to become an annual event.
- The COP is working with Martin Luther College and the Commission on Lutheran Schools to develop ways to identify and train teachers to serve as principals in our Lutheran elementary schools. The goal is to have a training system in place that, in the near future, will make it possible not to assign candidates as principals.
- The COP received a report from Rev. Paul Prange regarding recent discussions about how to provide a sufficient number of qualified teachers to serve in urban schools. The committee addressing this matter will continue its work.
- The COP agreed with the area Lutheran high schools that pastors serving on the faculties of high schools be eligible for divine calls in the same calling window that applies to teacher-trained faculty members. The calling window assures schools that faculty members will not be called to another school in the middle of a school year, creating staffing problems for the schools they currently serve.
- The COP continued its discussion about the importance of having voters' assemblies in congregations. While the COP recognizes the benefit



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and value of having voters' assemblies, it also recognizes that how the voters' assembly functions can vary from congregation to congregation. District presidents will continue to provide guidance and counsel to congregations as they consider these matters.

- Each district president will be featured in a video presentation to his district highlighting the blessings that God is granting to our synod's mission and ministry and encouraging congregations to support this work with growing Congregation Mission Offerings. The COP also reviewed plans for establishing a WELS Mission and Ministry Sunday in the fall of each year.
- The COP has been working with WELS Communications to develop ways to better inform and prepare delegates to the synod convention.

The COP extended the following divine calls:

- Professor David Sellnow as director of discipleship (serving the Commission for Youth and Family Ministry and the Commission on Adult Discipleship).
- Scott Wagner, Rev. Philip Gieschen, and Rev. Randall Johnson as Christian giving counselors.
- Rick Kneser as a Christian giving counselor (provisional call renewed for one year).
- Rev. John Graf, Mr. Gerry Heckmann, Rev. Michael Dietz, and Rev. Steven Staude as Christian giving counselors (semi-retired).

As it does at each meeting, the COP also reviewed the number of pastor and teacher vacancies in preparation for the May assignment meetings. As the vacancy list grows, the district presidents will continue to be encouraging congregations and individuals to encourage young people to consider preparing for the ministry.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder 

Irvine worship conference site canceled

In observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the WELS Commission on Worship had planned a regional worship conference in Irvine, Calif., in addition to the main conference at Kenosha, Wis. Unfortunately, registrations for Irvine are at such

a slow pace that planners have decided to cancel the event.

Experience from previous worship conferences suggests that the slow registration trend will not lead to a viable conference. While planners regret the need to make this decision, they have also made

arrangements for those who have already registered for Irvine to be able to attend the event in Kenosha.

In contrast to the slow registration pace for Irvine, the pace for the Kenosha conference is significantly faster than in the past, possibly leading to a record attendance of well over one thousand people.

Rev. Bryan Gerlach, director of the Commission on Worship, says, "In celebration of our Lutheran heritage, we had hoped that in adding a second event more people who live farther away from Wisconsin would be able to attend a worship conference. We regret any inconveniences this has caused to those planning to attend the Irvine event. But we're also anticipating record attendance in Kenosha, which will bring WELS Lutherans together from around the United States to learn about and celebrate our Lutheran traditions of edifying worship to our Lord."

There is still time to register for the worship conference in Kenosha. Register as soon as possible. Registrations after May 5 carry an additional \$25 fee. The worship conference offers "something for everyone." It is not only for pastors and musicians. Opportunities at the conference include presentations, concerts, and recitals. The plenary address will be "A Reformation Perspective on Worship" led by Rev. Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project. Singers are still encouraged to apply for the Festival Choir, Children's Choir, or Honor Choir.

Learn more and register online at wels.net/worshipconference. 

MLC quartet to sing national anthem for WELS Night at Miller Park

The Milwaukee Brewers have selected four students from Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., to sing the national anthem for the fourth annual WELS Night at Miller Park on Aug. 10.

The quartet members of "Four Times the Charm" include Nic Gartner, Carl Boeder, Luke Dorn, and Jacob Ungemach. Each of the young men had a similar reaction to performing in front of more than 40,000 people. "Honestly, the idea of singing in front of so many people is terrifying, but at the same time, I couldn't be any more excited to use my God-given singing ability to praise him, as well as salute this country," says Nic Gartner.

Jacob Ungemach adds, "I was so excited when I found out we were selected. It is an amazing opportunity to represent our school and use our musical gifts, and I'm looking forward to standing out on that field and singing in front of that crowd. It's gonna be nerve wracking, but it will be amazing to sing in front of all those fans."

In addition to the quartet, Prof. Steve Thiesfeldt, vice president at MLC and former MLC baseball coach, will throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Organize your group and plan to join us for the Milwaukee Brewers'