



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
2009 Synod Assembly**



The 2009 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was held June 6-7, 2009 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin under the theme, AND GOD SAID THAT IT WAS...

Assembly Session I

Bishop Bruce Burnside led the assembly in the Order of Service for the Opening of a Synod Assembly.

Lynn Kroger greeted the members of the assembly on behalf of the Hospitality Committee.

Credentials Report #1

Joel Bradtke presented the first report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	88
Lay Female	118
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>92</u>
Voting Members	298
Visitors	42

Parliamentary Overview

David Moore, the assembly parliamentarian, provided a parliamentary overview and explained the importance of the rules used for good order at the assembly.

Adoption of Assembly Rules

SA09.06.01 Assembly rules approved

VOTED to approve the assembly rules for the Synod Assembly as outlined by the Synod Council secretary.

ADOPTED

Approval of Agenda

SA09.06.02 Agenda approved

VOTED to approve the assembly agenda as presented in the assembly book.

ADOPTED

Ratification of Assembly Committees

Synod Council secretary Mary DeYoung brought the assembly committees to the floor.

SA09.06.03 Assembly Committees approved

VOTED to approve the assembly committees as presented with the following chairs:

Credentials Committee – Joel Bradtke

Elections Committee – The Rev. John Froiland

Resolutions Committee – Eric Peterson

ADOPTED

Privileges of the Floor

Mary DeYoung, Synod Council secretary, explained the privileges of the floor for voting members and for others who were afforded voice at the assembly.

Resolutions Procedures

Eric Peterson, chair of the Resolutions Committee, brought the initial report of the Resolutions Committee to the floor. He explained that resolutions are the means of communication not only with each other but the Churchwide body as well. Resolutions are statements of policy, concerns, and/or actions. Mr. Peterson reported that six resolutions were submitted of which four were printed in the assembly book. Resolutions five and six will be distributed at the tables.

The initial deadline for submitting resolutions was April 1, 2009. That deadline was extended to April 27 after the Churchwide Council made recommendations concerning the Human Sexuality Social Statement and actions related to the financial crisis. Resolutions from the floor will be accepted at the Synod office at the Assembly until noon on

Saturday, June 6, 2009.

Mr. Peterson explained that Resolution 2 was submitted as background information for Resolution 1 and will not be brought to this assembly as it was acted on at the 2008 Synod Assembly. The order of the resolutions has been grouped by like subjects. The resolutions will be taken in the order of: Resolution 3 – Growing in the Use of the Means of Grace at Our Lord’s Supper; Resolution 5 – Grace Matters – It Really Does! A Memorial to 2009 Churchwide Assembly; Resolution 1 – Memorial for Future Action Regarding ELCA Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners; Resolution 4 – A Memorial Concerning Human Sexuality From the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and Resolution 6 – A Memorial Concerning Requirements for a Super-Majority to Change Ministry Policies.

Nominations

Bishop Burnside presided as Synod Vice-President, Connie Kilmark, brought nominations to the floor.

Synod Council - Clergy

The Rev. Robert Carlson
The Rev. Hans Floan
The Rev. Steve Kottke
The Rev. Elisa Brandt

Synod Council – Female Lay

Carolyn Butts
Linda Boettcher

Synod Council – Male Lay

Nathan Timm
Steve Biedermann
Calvin J. Williams
Eric Peterson

Consultation Committee – Female Lay

Winifred Brown
Teresa Palumbo

Consultation Committee – Male Lay

Peter Gunderson

Consultation Committee – Clergy

The Rev. Nicholas Utphal
The Rev. Jeff Jacobs
The Rev. John Twiton

Discipline Committee – Clergy

The Rev. Robert Moberg
The Rev. Laura Sutherland

Discipline Committee – Male Lay

Gene Gray

Discipline Committee – Female Lay

Maureen Oostdik

Synod Council - Youth

Kristofer Rhude

Bishop Burnside asked for further nominations from the floor as none were brought forward he declared nominations closed. The Bishop asked the Synod Assembly to vote by acclamation for those positions that can be filled without a ballot.

SA09.06.04 Consultation Committee – Clergy

VOTED

to approve by acclamation the Consultation Committee – Clergy as presented:

The Rev. Nicholas Utphal

The Rev. Jeff Jacobs

The Rev. John Twiton

ADOPTED

SA09.06.05 Consultation Committee – Female Lay

VOTED

to approve by acclamation the Consultation Committee – Female Lay as presented:

Winifred Brown

Teresa Palumbo

ADOPTED

SA09.06.06 Consultation Committee – Male Lay

VOTED

to approve by acclamation the Consultation Committee – Male Lay as presented:

Peter Gunderson

ADOPTED

SA09.06.07 Discipline Committee – Clergy

VOTED

to approve by acclamation the Discipline Committee – Clergy as presented:

The Rev. Robert Moberg

The Rev. Laura Sutherland

ADOPTED

SA09.06.08 Discipline – Male Lay

VOTED

to approve by acclamation the Discipline Committee – Male Lay as presented:

Gene Gray

ADOPTED

SA09.06.09 Discipline Committee – Female Lay

VOTED

to approve by acclamation the Discipline Committee – Female Lay as presented:

Maureen Oostdik

ADOPTED

SA09.06.10 Synod Council – Youth

VOTED

to approve by acclamation the Synod Council - Youth as presented:

Kristofer Rhude

ADOPTED

Keynote Speaker

Bishop Burnside introduced Dr. Barabara Rossing, professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology-Chicago, as the keynote speaker of the Synod Assembly. The keynote address “The Rapture Exposed” was based on Revelations 21-22.

Musical Presentation

Jacob’s Well presented a musical interlude.

Treasurer's Report

Robert Gorsuch, the Synod treasurer, commented that the most recent financial audit dated June 30, 2008 was a certified audit and unqualified opinion that the Synod finances are in good order. Internal controls in the Synod are adequate. The Synod fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. He reported that for the year ended June 30, 2008, benevolence was down \$8,000 from last year. Mr. Gorsuch also noted that in the eleven months of this fiscal year congregational benevolence is down approximately \$100,000 and this is reflected on the spending plan that was developed for the next fiscal year. The Synod has less than one month's operations in reserve. Mr. Gorsuch also noted that decreased congregational benevolence not off effects the Synod by Churchwide as well.

Spending Plan

Mr. Gorsuch presented the 2009-10 Spending Plan to the assembly. The adoption of the plan comes later in the agenda. The Percentage giving to ELCA in the 2009-10 spending plan has dropped to 55% which is the minimum ELCA is asking all synods to give.

Report of the Secretary

Mary DeYoung, the Synod Secretary brought her report to the assembly. She reminded congregations that are going to make changes to their constitutions to get them to her prior to presenting them to their congregations for approval.

Compensation Guidelines

Connie Kilmark brought before the assembly the 2010 Compensation Guidelines for rostered clergy and rostered lay ministers. Ms. Kilmark directed the assembly to the opening paragraph of the 2010 guidelines. She explained that the guidelines were developed with five percent cost of living adjustment (COLA). The guidelines are passed by the Synod Council in advance of the Synod Assembly. The COLA is determined by the Social Security administration. The COLA that is used to develop the guidelines lags by two years so the 2010 compensation guidelines were based on the 2008 COLA. Ms. Kilmark reminded the Synod Assembly that these are guidelines and serve as a framework to compensate our leaders. The guidelines are developed to assure some uniformity and fairness across our church.

SA09.06.11 Compensation Guidelines adopted

VOTED to approve the 2010 Compensation Guidelines as presented in the assembly book.

ADOPTED

Vice-President's Report

Ms. Kilmark addressed the members of the assembly by reminding them that they are voting members until the next assembly is seated. She thanked congregations for their faithful service and support not only to the Synod but also for the wonderful things going on in congregations.

Mission Moment – Sugar Creek

The Rev. Gerry Peterson shared the role of Sugar Creek Lutheran Church in world mission. He talked about supporting ministry in Japan as well as previous adult ministry and family resource center programs. Rev. Peterson stated that even though the congregation's revenue has decreased they continue to support benevolence. Sugar Creek uses special offerings to support world mission. In addition the church begins it budget process by increasing benevolence each year by one percent and then developing the rest of their budget after increasing benevolence

Credentials Report #2 and First Ballot

Joel Bradtke presented the second report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	128
Lay Female	134
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>106</u>
Voting Members	368
Visitors	59

Bishop Burnside explained the rules for balloting. Ballots will only be distributed in the voting area and only to persons wearing a white name tag. The Rev. Peter Heide reported on behalf of Linda Boettcher to withdraw her name from the ballot due to personal reasons. Bishop Burnside offered a prayer prior to the voting. At the completion of the balloting, the Bishop declared the first ballot closed.

Report of ELCA Churchwide Representative

Leslie Weber, Associate Executive Director in the ELCA's Church in Society Unit, brought greetings from Bishop Mark Hanson and the ELCA. Mr. Weber used the ELCA emblem, name, and tagline to highlight some of the activities happening in the world because of the work of the Church.

Campus Ministry

Mike Yeutter, Rachel Zeman, Adam Erickson, and Kristine Fryer talked about their campus ministry experiences and the value of campus ministry for college students.

Bishop Burnside recessed the assembly for lunch.

Session II

Musical Presentation

Jacob's Well presented a musical interlude.

Bishop Burnside called session II to order.

Report of the Elections Committee

Bishop Burnside presided as the report from the first ballot was brought by the Rev. John Froiland (names in bold are elected). There were 352 ballots cast with no invalid ballots so a majority of 178 was needed.

Synod Council – Clergy (2 needed)

The Rev. Robert Carlson - 207

The Rev. Hans Floan - 93

The Rev. Steve Kottke - 204

The Rev. Elisa Brandt - 193

Bishop Burnside declared the election of the Rev. Robert Carlson and the Rev. Steve Kottke.

Synod Council – Female Lay (1 needed)

Carolyn Butts - 323

Linda Boettcher - 9

Bishop Burnside declared the election of Carolyn Butts.

Synod Council – Male Lay (2 needed)

Nathan Timm - 156

Steve Biedermann - 145

Calvin J. Williams - 186

Eric Peterson - 198

Bishop Burnside declared the election of Eric Peterson and Calvin J. Williams.

Bishop Burnside declared that no further elections would be needed.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Barbara Rossing presented a second keynote address "Healing Affluenza: Creative Care and the Bible" based on Mark 10:17-27.

Resolution Addition

Eric Peterson brought Resolution 7 before the assembly and explained that it had been received after the noon deadline as outlined in the assembly rules. In order for the resolution to appear before the assembly there would need to be a 2/3 vote by the assembly to receive and consider the resolution. The Resolution committee determined that the resolution was in proper form with the correct number of submitters. The committee moved to suspend the assembly resolution rules to bring forward Resolution 7 – God Says It Is Good Sunday.

SA09.06.12 Suspend resolution rules – 2/3 vote required

VOTED to suspend the resolution rules to allow the assembly to receive and consider Resolution 7 – Good Says It Is Good Sunday.

ADOPTED

The Bishop declared Session 2 closed.

Session III

Musical Presentation

Jacob's Well presented a musical interlude.

Bishop Burnside called session III to order.

Representative Ecumenical Partners – Wisconsin Council of Churches

Peter Bakken from the Wisconsin Council of Churches spoke on behalf of partnership ministries. Lutherans & member of other churches in the state can do more things together and more powerfully. The Wisconsin Council of Churches provides educational and leadership development for clergy and laity. Mr. Bakken stressed the importance of partnership ministries in difficult, financial times.

Resolutions

Eric Peterson, chair of the Resolutions Committee, reviewed the rules for speaking to resolutions. Speeches must be made from the microphones and are limited to four minutes. The Bishop will call on alternating positions to the resolution so Mr. Peterson reminded the assembly to bring either their green or red card to the microphone. Amendments must be put in writing and two copies must be provided.

Resolution – Growing in the Use of the Means of Grace at Our Lord's Supper

Eric Peterson presented the resolution regarding Growing in the Use of the Means of Grace at Our Lord's Supper. Resolutions Committee recommends approval

MOVED Growing in the Use of the Means of Grace at Our Lord's Supper

SA09.06.13 Growing in the Use of the Means of Grace at Our Lord's Supper

VOTED WHEREAS the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has published *The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament (1995)*, and has already adopted it for guidance and practice, and

WHEREAS, Principal 34, lifts up the relationship between the proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the sacramental meal, and these are intimately connected as to form one act of worship, and

WHEREAS, Principal 35, encourages each congregation to celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly, yet many congregations in our own synod, let alone our nation, still refrain from conducting the weekly sacrament, and

WHEREAS, many congregations in our own synod, let alone our nation, withhold children from receiving Our Lord's Supper, until they fulfill educational requirements; yet Principal 37 states, *Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of our Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized* thus allowing for the local congregations to determine based on mutual conversation with the pastor, the parents and child along with proper catechesis to communion the baptized at any age; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin draw upon *The Use of the Means of Grace* to educate the laity on the history of Lutherans in North America that led to the irregular and infrequent use of Our Lord's Supper, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will draw upon The Word of God rising out of The Book of Faith Initiative, to provide the scriptural foundations for regular use of the means of grace in our Lord's Supper, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin will draw upon the Book of Concord, to explore the common theological underpinnings on the Lord's Supper that we share with our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters, namely, that the use of the means of grace at Our Lord's table should be administered to all the baptized, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, drawing upon all these resources, will explore the faith value of ongoing catechesis for families and children, so the sacrament of Holy Communion might be administered weekly welcoming all to the table from the time of baptism in accordance with *The Use and Means of Grace*.

ADOPTED

The Rev. Carol Johnson (Grace Lutheran, Darlington) raised a concern that the Synod would unwillingly diminish the training children would receive for communion. Eric Peterson reminded the assembly that this resolution does not set policy and require all congregations to follow it. The resolution is not a mandate on practice.

Resolution – Grace Matters-It Really Does: A Memorial to 2009 Churchwide Assembly

Eric Peterson presented the resolution regarding Grace Matter. This memorial stems from the Grace Matters radio show's cancellation and to continue funding for the program. If passed by the Synod Assembly it will go to the Churchwide Assembly in August. The Resolutions Committee recommends approval

MOVED Grace Matters-It Really Does: A Memorial to 2009 Churchwide Assembly

SA09.06.14 Grace Matters-It Really Does: A Memorial to 2009 Churchwide Assembly

VOTED

WHEREAS, outreach and evangelism are essential to the growth of faith and the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ, "Grace Matters" and its predecessor "Lutheran Vespers" have a long history of just such outreach and evangelism, and

WHEREAS, much "Christian" radio is slanted toward a fundamentalist and conservative understanding of faith and Bible, "Grace Matters" has served as an effective balance, bringing in our ELCA voice that is centered on the fact that "Grace Matters", and

WHEREAS, many who cannot attend weekly worship find "Grace Matters" one of the few sources of Lutheran emphasis they can receive on a weekly basis, and that much of the material and stories provided by "Grace Matters" cannot be found anywhere else, and that through the webcast, these stories are available 24/7, this is a very accessible source of solid faith issues, and

WHEREAS, the mans by which this mission was cancelled did not seem to have any broad discussion or broad attempts at other funding, or attempts to refashion the mission to make it more

cost effective; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA will memorialize to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly asking for a one-year extension of “Grace Matters” during which time:

- **Funding sources will be explored; and**
- **Input from all interested parties will be included in determining the best way of proceeding with this vital ministry.**

RESOLVED, a review will be made on how this decision was made with improvements on the decision process so in the future the interested parties will have the opportunity for input.

ADOPTED

Dave Stansfield spoke to the resolution and noted that Grace Matters is also on the Internet and is heard in many countries. He feels that the program is economical and does a service for shut-ins and people in other countries. The Rev. Mark Gruner stated that Grace Matters is the Lutheran voice out in the world.

Resolution – God Says It Is Good Sunday

Eric Peterson presented the resolution regarding God Says It Is Good Sunday. This resolution stems from the Bishop’s report. The Resolutions Committee recommends approval

MOVED God Says It Is Good Sunday

WHEREAS, we are people with an unyielding trust in a loving God who continues to sustain us in body and in spirit so that we may do amazing things in Christ’s name; and

WHEREAS, the churchwide organization and this synod have felt the economic impact of a global economic decline which has resulted in limiting the very mission to which Christ calls us; and

WHEREAS, we are wholeheartedly committed to our mission through the churchwide organization and the synod; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA proclaim Reformation Sunday 2009 as “God Says It Is Good” Sunday (with All Saints Sunday as an alternate date); and be it further

RESOLVED, that each congregation will welcome an offering designated solely for the mission of our churchwide organization with a goal of \$1 per baptized member; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Bishop Burnside appoint a team to facilitate and promote “God Says It Is Good” Sunday; and be it further

RESOLVED, the congregations of the synod will pray to our listening Lord asking the Holy Spirit to stir us in generosity and to lead us in faithful stewardship.

The Rev. Dave Berggren informed the Assembly that the Bishop’s report inspired the writers of the resolution and challenged them to be a church to respond to a need. ELCA has made over \$6 million dollars in cuts in mission support and the intent of the resolution is to collect an offering for Churchwide that is not designated but to be used as they feel best in their ministry and mission.

The Rev. Roger Elliott moved to amend the second resolve to include *through EOCM*.

AMEND Resolved, that each congregation will welcome an offering designated solely for

The missions of our churchwide organization *through EOCM* with a goal of \$1 per baptized member, and be it further

The Rev. Dave Berggren spoke against this amendment and stated that the intent of the resolution was that there would be no strings about how the money would be spent. The Synod would entrust the ELCA to make the decision about where the money would be most needed and how it should be used.

VOTED Resolved, that each congregation will welcome an offering designated solely for The missions of our churchwide organization *through EOCM* with a goal of \$1 per baptized member, and be it further

DEFEATED

Return to resolution as originally presented

SA09.06.15 Good Says It Is Good Sunday

VOTED

WHEREAS, we are people with an unfailing trust in a loving God who continues to sustain us in body and in spirit so that we may do amazing things in Christ's name; and

WHEREAS, the churchwide organization and this synod have felt the economic impact of a global economic decline which has resulted in limiting the very mission to which Christ calls us; and

WHEREAS, we are wholeheartedly committed to our mission through the churchwide organization and the synod; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA proclaim Reformation Sunday 2009 as "God Says It Is Good" Sunday (with All Saints Sunday as an alternate date); and be it further

RESOLVED, that each congregation will welcome an offering designated solely for the mission of our churchwide organization with a goal of \$1 per baptized member; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Bishop Burnside appoint a team to facilitate and promote "God Says It Is Good" Sunday; and be it further

RESOLVED, the congregations of the synod will pray to our listening Lord asking the Holy Spirit to stir us in generosity and to lead us in faithful stewardship.

ADOPTED

Resolution –Memorial for Further Action Regarding ELCA Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners

Eric Peterson presented the resolution regarding the Memorial for Further Action Regarding ELCA Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners. Mr. Peterson explained that this resolution is a memorial to the Churchwide Assembly and if passed at Churchwide then ELCA would present this to the ELCA Board of Pensions. The Resolutions Committee recommends approval.

MOVED Memorial for Further Action Regarding ELCA Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners

WHEREAS the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin adopted the "Resolution on ELCA Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners" at its 2008 assembly (document attached), and

WHEREAS economic impacts have only worsened in that time, and

WHEREAS the ELCA Board of Pensions has not changed its policy of unjustly preventing

unmarried partners to “unbundled” pensions from other parts of the program, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the 2009 Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call on the ELCA Board of Pensions to change the policies of the Pension and Other Benefits Program to more justly support domestic partners by allowing them to “unbundle” pension from other benefits; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Bishop of this synod report to our 2010 assembly of how the President and Trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions have responded to our concern.

The Rev. Timothy Hansen spoke to the Assembly that the intent of this resolution is to communicate with the Churchwide Assembly about this issue. The Rev. Geoffrey Hoy asked for a point of clarification to explain to the Assembly what “unbundled” means. Eric Peterson explained that currently the board of pension does not allow rostered people with domestic partners to opt out of health insurance. A congregation is required to pay for both health and pension. This memorial would separate the two and rostered leaders with domestic partners would be able to take the health insurance out of the package and the congregation would not be responsible for it.

The Rev. George Carlson moved to amend the first resolve.

AMEND To amend the first resolve by replacing “to unbundle pension from other benefits” with “to opt-out of health benefits as current policy allows for married participants”.

The Rev. George Carlson explained that domestic partners can not opt out of health benefits while married participants can opt out of health care if their spouse has health benefits. Peggy Barseth stated that part of the reason benefits are bundled is to subsidize the cost of benefits for congregations that can not necessarily afford them, The Rev. David Berggren noted that health insurance rates are variable yet everyone is covered equally although the rates vary. He also stated that many married pastors have already unbundled their health insurance through their spouses. The ELCA requirement is that all pastors have insurance. Tom Fenton spoke to the fact that in his private industry company they have a policy that if a spouse has health insurance benefits then they have to opt out of the company health insurance policy.

The Rev. Robert Schaefer offered a friendly amendment to insert “in the same fashion” before “as current policy allows for married participants”. The Rev. George Carlson accepted this change even though he felt that the phrase “current policy” already said this. The friendly amendment was added to clarify the understanding that this option would be available for married and domestic partners. Amendment to “opt out of health benefits in the same fashion” passed.

VOTED **RESOLVED, that the 2009 Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call on the ELCA Board of Pensions to change the policies of the Pension and Other Benefits Program to more justly support domestic partners by allowing them to opt out of health benefits in the same fashion as current policy allows for married participants.**

ADOPTED

Return to resolution as amended.

SA09.06.16 Memorial for Further Action Regarding ELCA Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners

VOTED

WHEREAS, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin adopted the “Resolution on ELCA Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners” at its 2008 assembly (document attached), and

WHEREAS economic impacts have only worsened in that time, and

WHEREAS the ELCA Board of Pensions has not changed its policy of unjustly preventing unmarried partners to “unbundled” pensions from other parts of the program, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the 2009 Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to call on the ELCA Board of Pensions to change the policies of the Pension and Other Benefits Program to more justly support domestic partners by allowing them to opt out of health benefits in the same fashion as current policy allows for married participants; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Bishop of this synod report to our 2010 assembly of how the President and Trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions have responded to our concern.

ADOPTED

Mission Moment

The Rev. Dan Bohlman, Yellowstone Lutheran Church, Argyle, related to the Assembly about the 140 years of his congregation ministering to the community and through the Synod to the world. Rev. Bohlman spoke of his congregation's involvement in proportionate giving by increasing benevolence to the Synod by one percent a year. To date they have increased their benevolence by six percent. They have been able to do this by intentional prayers for foundational peace and praying for the activities that are going on in the church. As a small rural church they also take part in the ELCA Global Barnyard as they have an affinity with other congregations in the world.

Anniversary Recognition of Congregations and Ordination

Vice-president Connie Kilmark recognized the following anniversaries of congregations and ordination:

150th Anniversary

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Hustisford

St. John Lutheran Church, Leland

St. John Lutheran Church, Richland Center

125th Anniversary

Blanchardville Lutheran Church, Blanchardville

Christ Lutheran Church, Spring Green

Peace Lutheran Church, Belmont

100th Anniversary

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Merrimac

75th Anniversary

Trinity Lutheran Church, Blanchardville

West Middleton Lutheran Church, Verona

50th Anniversary

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie

55th Anniversary of Ordination

The Rev. J. Philemon Anderson

The Rev. Peter Kjeseth

50th Anniversary of Ordination

The Rev. Vernon Awes

The Rev. Vern Holtan

The Rev. Ronald Massen

The Rev. Russell Miller

The Rev. Edward Paape

The Rev. William Redman

The Rev. Kenneth West

25th Anniversary of Ordination

Muriel Arms (AIM)

Bruce Bengtson

The Rev. Roger Elliott

The Rev. Thomas Groth

The Rev. Deborah Ohrtman

The Rev. Ted Lindquist

Recognition of Endowment Grants

The Rev. Sara Yotter reported on the endowment grants for 2009. The following seven grant requests were approved:

St. Luke's, Middleton: \$2,000 for their "Whistle Stop at 6:00" Project /Sunday eve worship;

Our Savior's, Sun Prairie: \$2,000 for their Sunday School Rotation Workshop;

SCSW Synod: \$500 for money to rent a truck to transport Health Kits from the Assembly;

SCSW Synod: \$3,000 for Center for Congregational Leadership;

Our Savior's, Beloit: \$1,500 for Podcasting Ministry;

Faith, Cuba City: up to \$5,000; and

Bethel, Madison: \$6,000 for their Latino Ministry.

The Assembly closed for the day at the conclusion of Worship with Holy Communion.

Session IV

Musical Presentation

Jacob's Well presented the gathering music.

The session began with Worship with Holy Communion. The Bishop led the installation of elected leaders and synod staff.

Bishop Burnside called session IV to order.

Credentials Report #3

The Rev. Joel Bradtke presented the third report of the Credentials Committee.

Clergy	137
Lay Female	136
<u>Lay Male</u>	<u>106</u>
Voting Members	379
Visitors	66

Mission Moment

The Rev. Richard Johnson and two of his members from All Saints, Fitchburg, presented their stewardship message in song. The stewardship success at All Saints is based on thanking people for what they do, sharing results of what has been done in the church for outreach and stewardship, and dreaming about how they can share Christ's love with others.

Adoption of 2009 Spending Plan

Treasurer Bob Gorsuch told the Assembly that the Finance Committee and the Synod Council have struggled with this budget. He explained that he was presenting a balanced budget which makes good fiscal sense. He stated that any recommendations to increase an expenditure item had to be offset with increased revenue or a reduction in expenditure. The spending plan is for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30 2010. Mr. Gorsuch reported first on the revenue side of the spending plan. He explained that the committee reduced congregational benevolence by \$161,000 from the last fiscal year as this year's benevolence has not been met. The ELCA is giving the Synod revenue of approximately \$79,000 for shared staff. In addition interest income is down significantly. The Synod also receives a \$10,000 grant from the Siebert Foundation that helps offset staff expenses. The Synod also receives \$300 a month for rent from the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW).

On the expense side of the spending plan Mr. Gorsuch reported that our benevolence to the ELCA has been reduced to fifty-five percent down from the fifty-seven percent in the last spending plan. Lutheran Campus ministry will be reduced from \$119,400 to same amount as the seminaries receive which is \$101,400. The Synod Council has approved campus ministry sponsoring a direct solicitation to congregations in their congregational areas for the next 2 years. Lutheran Planned Giving of Wisconsin was reduced from \$5,000 to zero. Salaries have not been increased but the budget for fringe benefits has increased. The communication budget was increased \$5,000 which will enable us to continue to update our website and maintain it. The Synod has made significant reductions in paper mailings. The rent increased \$5,000 but \$3,600 is offset from the rent received from LOPPW.

The Synod Council moves to approve the 2009-10 spending plan. The motion was seconded.

Discussion on the spending plan followed. Chris Boll stated that the budget is an act of faith and expressed a concern that reducing our estimated congregational benevolence lowers the bar and does not expect much out of our congregations. Mr. Gorsuch responded that the budget is what we are expecting to happen but we hope that it will be much greater than our expectations. He does not think the Synod will meet our budget figure for revenue for this year and while expenditures are less than budgeted our revenues are even less than we budgeted for last year. Carolyn Butts reported that the Synod Council struggled with developing this budget and did a lot of deliberation before making spending cuts.

The Rev. Kenneth Halstead expressed a concern about the considerable cutback to campus ministry. He stated that campus ministry is a vulnerable ministry and previously they have not been able to go out to congregations to ask for money. He also expressed a concern about the reduction to Lutheran Planned Giving in Wisconsin as this was a source of funding for them and he does not want to lose the people from there and the services they offer to our congregations and members. Mr. Gorsuch responded that nothing in the budget is reflected from Lutheran Planned Giving as that money is given to endowment funds and so far no endowments have been given to the synod. Lynn Tulley, a gift planner with Lutheran Planned giving asked for a point of information. She stated that Lutheran Planned Giving was surprised that the partnership would be eliminated. She reported that they have planned gifts starting in 2001 of over \$6 million designated for this Synod and/or congregations in the Synod. Rolfe Nervig stated that one of the difficulties of seeing the results of Lutheran Planned Giving's work is that much of it is behind the scenes and invisible. He stated that he often refers endowment requests on to Lutheran Planned Giving as they have the expertise to work with that.

Rebecca Alwin spoke about the budget as a statement of faith and our priorities. She asked every person at the Assembly to carry the story back to their congregations about the current situation – that giving is down and it affects ministry worldwide. She also stated that it is easy to assume that these budgets are someone else's problem when it is all of our responsibility. Naomi Garber stated that it was evident that campus ministry is critical for the future of the church asked congregations, Men in Mission, and Women of the ELCA to support campus ministry in the future.

SA09.06.17 Approve 2009-10 Spending Plan

VOTED

to approve the 2009-2010 Spending Plan as presented.

ADOPTED

The Lutheran

Michael Watson reported on The Lutheran and emphasized the stories that focus on issues of the day, the Bible study, special inserts & promotions, and the articles written by our church leaders to keep us informed.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Ryan Jones from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans shared a message of thanksgiving for service that congregations provide in the life of their communities. Thrivent is available to help Lutherans with their financial needs.

The Bishop closed Session IV so Assembly members could attend the workshops.

Session V

Musical Presentation

Jacob's Well presented a musical interlude.

Bishop Burnside called session V to order.

Resolution – Financial Support for NELC

Whereas, the entire South-Central Synod of Wisconsin is in a companion synod relationship with the Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, and

Whereas, walking together in the course of mutual exchange visits we have developed relationships with the NELC, and

Whereas, through these visits we have developed an understanding and empathy for each other's resources, needs and goals, and

Whereas, part of the gift we bring to this relationship is our disproportionate wealth, and

Whereas, the ministries of the NELC have many practical needs in order to keep growing and sharing the message of the saving grace in Jesus Christ, be it

Resolved, that financial support of \$10,000 for the NELC be included in the synod budget with annual evaluation eliminating the need for special fundraising campaigns each year, and be it further

Resolved, that this information be forwarded to the NELC and a formal policy and procedure for disbursement of these funds be mutually agreed upon by the SCSW and the NELC in accordance with the accompaniment model of the ELCA Global Mission, and be it further

Resolved that the NELC will apply for this funding through a grant proposal to determine which ministries will receive funds and then will report how the funds furthered their ministry.

MOVED Resolution for Financial Support for NELC be referred to the Synod Council with instructions to continue in dialogue with the Companion Synod Ministry Team and incorporate financial support for NELC into future spending plans.

Walt Meyer asked what the effect of this motion would be. Eric Peterson replied that the motion is a recommendation for the Synod Council and the Companion Synod Ministry Team to work together to incorporate financial support for NELC into future spending plans.

SA08.05.07 Financial Support for NELC Resolution Referred to Synod Council
VOTED to refer the Resolution for Financial Support for NELC to the Synod Council with instructions to continue in dialogue with the Companion Synod Ministry Team and incorporate financial support for NELC into future spending plans.
ADOPTED

(A vote could not be determined by voice so Bishop Burnside asked the assembly to use their cards to vote.)

Resolution – Book of Faith Initiative

Eric Peterson reported that two resolutions were presented on the Book of Faith initiative, therefore a hearing was held and a substitute resolution was developed by those parties bringing the resolution forward. The Resolutions Committee recommended adoption of this resolution

MOVED Book of Faith Initiative

SA08.05.08 Book of Faith Initiative
VOTED Whereas pastors at their ordination vow to be diligent in their study of the Holy Scriptures;

Whereas all parents and sponsors covenant to place the holy scriptures in the hands of their children and nurture them in faith and prayer;

Whereas all the baptized when they affirm their baptism promise “to hear the Word of God” and “to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed”;

Whereas the ELCA has begun a Book of Faith Initiative inviting everyone to join the conversation, to make a commitment, and to become part of the initiative.

Be it resolved that we encourage all congregations to become a “Book of Faith” congregation, which will find expression by

- exploring new opportunities for engaging the Bible,
- sending sufficient numbers of members to synod events for training as Bible study leaders,
- including biblical study as an integral part of meetings and groups,

in order to become more fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture—that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Be it further resolved that the clergy of our synod commit themselves to living in and from the Word of God in their preparations to teach and preach, as well as personally in their daily devotional practices, so that as they commit themselves regularly and increasingly to hearing, reading, studying, sharing, and being engaged by God's Word, they lead by example in faithful service and holy living.

Be it further resolved that all voting members of this synod assembly covenant together to begin a regular practice of Bible study and prayer, gathering with others in their congregation and/or community to speak and hear the Word from one another;

Be it further resolved, that we become a "Book of Faith" synod, committing ourselves to live in and from the Word of God in our meetings, assemblies and events, so that as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by God's Word, we lead by example in faithful service and holy living;

Be it further resolved that the bishop of our synod—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church”—in coordination with the synod advocate lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with congregations of the synod;

Be it further resolved that we celebrate and continue to support and strengthen those places where Scripture is already taught and engaged, such as Women of the ELCA Bible studies, camping and campus ministries, Lay School of Ministry, congregational councils, Sunday school, and other congregational and synod groups.

ADOPTED

The Rev. Jim Bailey spoke to the process the Synod would undertake for the Book of Faith Initiative. He explained that it is a five year process to get congregations engaged in studying the Bible in ways they haven't before. There would be a Synod advocate who would attend ELCA training in August and would then work with a Synod leadership group of ten to twelve people. The ELCA's goal is to train 15,000 leaders churchwide.

The Rev. Clint Schneklath spoke in favor of the resolution. He asked the Assembly to think about how many people read scripture daily, if clergy are reading scripture devotionally, and if our young people are reading scripture. This resolution will help strengthen our scripture basis for all members of our congregations.

Rebecca Alwin expressed a concern about the word justify in the first resolve as it asks the ELCA to provide alternatives. She suggested changing the word justify in the resolution.

The Rev. Dick Blomker suggested changing justify to evaluate.

VOTED **to amend the second bullet in the resolve section from justify to evaluate.**
ADOPTED

One person stated that the spirit of the amendment was to look at market based alternatives.

Sue Reese suggested not just evaluation but to provide a list.

AMEND Provide a listing of health insurance alternatives and their specific coverage and evaluate its current program in light of market based alternatives which are available and to take such steps as are necessary to implement market alternatives for those congregations, agencies, and expressions of the church that wish to exercise their best judgment of justice and stewardship in making use of them.

The Rev. George Carlson spoke against the amendment as it represented a fundamental shift in the way the ELCA “bundles” benefits as they do not offer a menu of health care choices.

David Nelsestuen spoke against the amendment. He expressed concern that rostered members are portable and if they have health insurance coverage outside of the ELCA coverage they may lose that coverage if they move outside the insurance company’s area of business. He stated that it would be insurmountable for the ELCA to provide a list of private insurance companies as there are many different health care options and providers. He also questioned if the ELCA would be liable if they provided lists of insurance providers and the coverage was inadequate.

VOTED to amend the second bullet in the resolve section to begin with “Provide a listing of health insurance alternatives and their specific coverage and” before the word evaluate.
DEFEATED

The Rev. George Carlson stated that in the second whereas section the ELCA plan is far more than catastrophic coverage and would not like to indicate to the Board of Pensions that that is the only coverage wanted.

Walt Miner spoke against the resolution. He stated that the Assembly was wrestling with a problem that goes beyond wording and that this is a national problem that we are trying to address.

VOTED **to call the question on the debate on the “resolve” sections.**
ADOPTED

MOVED **to strike catastrophic in the second whereas section.**
ADOPTED

Vice-President Connie Kilmark informed the Assembly that the question was called on the resolves and a vote would be taken on the resolution unless there was another motion to amend the whereas sections.

The Rev. Ron Mach asked to speak to the resolution.

Ms. Kilmark stated that the question had been called on the resolves and that ended debate.

The Rev. Paul Markquart raised a point of order as he did not believe that the Assembly understood that they were calling the question on the resolution without any further discussion.

VOTED **to appeal the original ruling to call the question and close debate.**
ADOPTED

Eric Peterson informed the Assembly that it was at the order of the day so the resolution would be take up in unfinished business during the next session.

Resolution to Review Health Care Options

Eric Peterson returned with the resolution that had been under discussion when the Assembly adjourned the previous day. He reviewed that the ruling of the chair regarding calling the question had been appealed and the Assembly was back in discussion of the main motion.

The Rev. Ron Mach spoke against the resolution as he noted that the main issue asks the Board of Pensions to do something that they can not do. He noted that congregations have three options to address this concern: hire full-time positions, share positions with another church, or offer their own health plan.

Walt Miner spoke against the resolution. He told the Assembly that the merger of the ELCA was almost derailed because of the pension issue. The LCA was made up of mostly larger congregations and had generous pension plans. The ALC had more rural, smaller congregations and therefore smaller pension plans. The merger was made possible because both churches agreed to a single plan that was between the two previous plans but somewhat toward the higher end as in the LCA.

VOTED **to call the question.**

ADOPTED

SA08.05.10 Review of Health Care Options

VOTED Whereas, the current health insurance package for rostered leaders and employees of the various ELCA expressions and its affiliated organizations has become a financial burden which threatens the financial health of member congregations to the point of diminishing mission in many congregations, and

Whereas, options which provide both adequate coverage and individual market choice are available in the marketplace at a total cost which is potentially lower than the current coverage, therefore be it

Resolved that the Synod Council communicate to the ELCA Board of Pensions the following:

- Review current coverage offered in the light of the availability of flexible programs under federal and state law such as Health Savings Accounts, employee directed benefit packages, and other choice and market based options;
- Evaluate its current program in light of market based alternatives which are available and to take such steps as are necessary to implement market alternatives for those congregations, agencies, and expressions of the church that wish to exercise their best judgment of justice and stewardship in making use of them.

And be it further

Resolved the Synod Council request a response to these concerns from the ELCA Board of Pensions.

DEFEATED

The Bishop explained that Robert's Rules of Order allows each individual to speak for ten minutes when discussing resolutions and he asked the Assembly if they would like to reduce the time allowed. The decision was made to limit comments to four minutes.

Resolution – Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners

Eric Peterson presented the resolution about the Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners. The report of the Resolutions Committee was to adopt the resolution as it does not change the policy of the church but speaks to a small benefit at the pension level.

MOVED Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners

SA08.05.11 Board of Pensions and Domestic Partners

VOTED

Whereas, God's call for justice in Scripture is extensively clear and without boundary (e.g. Deuteronomy 24:17-18; Psalm 10:17-18; Isaiah 42:1-4; Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23); and

Whereas, the ELCA's first Social Statement, *Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, affirms that "The gospel liberates from sin, death, and evil and motivates the church to care for the neighbor and the earth" and that "Faith is active in love; love calls for justice in the relationships and structures of society;" and

Whereas, that Social Statement further affirms that "As a reconciling and healing presence, this church is called to minister to human need with compassion and imagination. It strives to pioneer new ways of addressing emerging social problems;" and

Whereas, the ELCA economic Social Statement on *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, in seeking the support of stable families, calls for us to "commit ourselves as a church to:

- hire without discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, disabilities, sexual orientation, or genetic factors;
- compensate all people we call or employ at an amount sufficient for them to live in dignity;
- provide adequate pension and health benefits;" and

Whereas, many non-profit and for-profit corporations and many government departments on the state and local levels quite some time ago began to recognize domestic partnerships and make benefits available on the same basis as are available to those in traditional marriages; and

Whereas, the ELCA Board of Pensions Pension and Other Benefits program allows married partners to "unbundle" pension from other parts of the program but forbids this option for domestic partners; and

Whereas, the church is thereby not only failing to "pioneer" in this emerging social context, but is neglectfully lagging in justice; therefore be it

Resolved, that the 2008 Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin call on the ELCA Board of Pensions to change the policies of the Pension and Other Benefits Program to more justly support domestic partners by allowing them to "unbundle" pension from other benefits; and be it further

Resolved, that the Bishop of this synod contact the President and Trustees of the Board of Pensions to communicate our concern.

ADOPTED

The Rev. Nick Uthall spoke to the resolution to unbundle the pension from the insurance as it related to a staff issue at St. Stephen's in Monona. He related that the staff member did not have a married partner so he could not separate the pension from the insurance. If the staff member chose the other person's insurance, then he would lose his pension contribution with the ELCA.

M. L. Jacobson questioned whether or not the ELCA has recognized or approved domestic partners as an approved relationship.

Eric Peterson responded that the Board of Pensions currently allows domestic partners to have access under the insurance plan.

The Bishop turned the Assembly over to Vice-President Connie Kilmark so he could prepare for worship.

The Assembly concluded with a Global Worship with Holy Communion and the installation of elected leaders and Synod staff. The Bishop adjourned the Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Protocol Documents

2008 Synod Assembly Book
Rules Governing Elections
Report of Ballot Results
Substitute Resolution – Review of Health Care Options