



Our Great
HERITAGE

SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES

64th Biennial Convention of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



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THE CONVENTION

You have been chosen to serve our Lord and his church as a delegate to our synod's convention. The synod in convention is the legislative body of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). It establishes, reviews, and amends the policies and the direction of WELS as we pursue our mission. You have accepted a high privilege and a solemn responsibility.

THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the synod convention is

- to meet as a delegate synod to carry out the responsibilities of the legislative body of WELS,
- to celebrate God's blessings on our ministry in the past,
- to nurture our faith, and
- to set in motion an agreed-upon plan of ministry for the future.

YOUR ROLE

You are one of about 400 voting delegates who represent our churches, missions, and schools from around the world. You should be an informed decision maker who learns the views of those you represent and then prayerfully ponders and votes on what WELS should be doing for the Lord.

THE CONVENTION

PRE-CONVENTION PREPARATION: The primary source of the convention's business is the *Book of Reports and Memorials* (BORAM), which contains various departmental reports as well as formal petitions to the synod convention called "memorials." A memorial outlines a particular item of business for consideration by the delegates. The BORAM will be sent to you before the convention.

It is essential that you read the BORAM to get the big picture of the synod's work and the issues facing the convention. You will be assigned to a floor committee whose responsibility will be to react and respond to an assigned portion of the BORAM. When you know your committee assignment, carefully study your committee's section—you may make notes in the BORAM as it is your copy.



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There will be another copy of the BORAM in your binder at the convention.

The BORAM will be posted online along with other convention-related materials at wels.net/2017synodconvention. Check the website often for updates.

Since you are the representative from your geographical area, you are asked to know the views of those you represent and are responsible to make sure those views get heard. Please attend district, conference, or circuit meetings where the BORAM will be discussed. (Your district president will inform you of the dates. Most districts hold their meetings in late May or in June.)

DELEGATE ORIENTATION: An orientation session for all delegates will begin at 4 p.m. on Monday, July 31, in the school gymnasium. During this session, the synod's second vice president, Rev. Joel Voss, will review the convention flow and explain how delegates can prepare for the rest of the week.

WORSHIP: An opening communion service will be held on Monday, July 31, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 215 N. 6th St., in Watertown. Bus transportation between Luther Preparatory School and St. Mark's will be provided. Each morning the convention will open with a devotion. The closing service will be held on Thursday, Aug. 3, at no later than 2 p.m., at Luther Preparatory School.

FLOOR COMMITTEES: Committees will meet to organize and plan their work immediately following the opening service.

Each committee is assigned a section of the BORAM and is asked to evaluate its content and/or recommendations; to react to it; and, in most cases, to present a formal resolution(s) or report to the convention regarding it. A chairman and a secretary for each committee are appointed prior to the convention. Synodical advisory delegates will be available for consultation.

GENERAL SESSIONS: General sessions will begin at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1. All general sessions will be held in the Luther Preparatory School gymnasium. Delegates are assigned a seat on the convention floor according to committee. All certified delegates are eligible to speak and vote on every issue before the convention.



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GUESTS: Guests may watch the proceedings from the mezzanine in the gymnasium. (Only delegates will have access to the convention floor.) Access to the mezzanine is by staircase only. A limited number of chairs will be available in the rear of the gym for guests who cannot maneuver stairs. Please check with the Help Desk if your guest requires special assistance.

ELECTIONS: An important duty of delegates is to elect synodical officers and board members. A brief biographical sketch of each nominee will be posted online and provided in the convention binder. Please read the candidate biographies ahead of time so you are prepared when the elections begin.

REPORTS: During the convention, you will receive reports about WELS ministry. Make notes about the reports given and read those not presented orally. All of this information will help you in making important decisions about the Lord's work in WELS.

AGENDA: A tentative agenda can be found beginning on page 9. The first half of the convention includes an essay, elections, oral reports, and floor committee meetings. Floor committee reports and recommendations will generally be heard and voted on in the last half of the convention.

STREAMING THE CONVENTION: The entire convention will be streamed live at wels.net/2017synodconvention. Those making statements at the microphones during the convention automatically give their permission to stream their comments. Remember that many people may be watching, so phrase your statements carefully.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE: Please attend all convention sessions and take an active part in discussions. Remember that the business conducted here establishes the program of the synod for the next two years and beyond. You help shape the vision and set the direction of our synodical family under God by how you perform as a delegate. Your input is valuable, and your vote counts. When issues are debated and presented for a vote, vote what you feel is best for the Lord's mission based on the input you received. May God bless your efforts.



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ON CAMPUS

POST-CONVENTION: As a representative of your church, school, and district, we want you to take the messages of the convention back to your congregation and your district. Consider giving a presentation in your congregation. You can also contact your congregation's circuit pastor and offer to share your experience with other congregations that you represented from your district. Share what you learned about WELS and its work around the world. Inform fellow WELS members about the important decisions made at the convention and the future direction that you helped shape. Highlight ministry work and how congregations and their members can support it through their gifts and prayers.

WELS Communication Services will help you. The synod convention website, wels.net/2017synodconvention, will include resolutions, election results, pictures, articles, some presentations, and more. Daily editions of *Together*, the synod's e-newsletter, will highlight important decisions and cover major events at the convention. Video updates will feature interviews with convention delegates and synod leaders. Social media posts will bring up-to-the minute updates. And a synopsis of all the news will be put into an easy-to-use bulletin format and distributed at the end of the convention for you to use at your home congregation and in your district. If you need further help, contact WELS Communication Services at csc@wels.net.

ON CAMPUS

PLACE: Luther Preparatory School (LPS)
Website: lps.wels.net
1300 Western Avenue
Watertown, WI 53094
Phone: 920-261-4352
Fax: 920-262-8118

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: All convention delegates must register online. Access the online form at wels.net/2017synodconvention. Specific questions regarding the convention should be addressed to Carla Martin at carla.martin@wels.net or 414-256-3202. For technical questions, contact the WELS Help Desk at support@wels.net or 414-259-4357.



REGISTRATION COSTS: The delegate fee of \$275 helps to offset the cost of the convention. It is intended for this fee to be paid by your congregation. In order to register, you will be required to submit the payment via credit card.

ON-CAMPUS CHECK-IN: Upon arrival, you should visit the registration tables in the student union located just inside of the upper gymnasium entrance.

Check-in hours will be between noon and 4 p.m. on Monday, July 31. If you are staying in the dormitory, plan to arrive no later than 3 p.m. so that you have time to settle in before the delegate orientation begins at 4 p.m. If you need to arrive outside of check-in hours, please visit the Help Desk in the gymnasium upon your arrival if prior to 8 p.m. If your arrival is delayed later than 8 p.m., please contact Luther Preparatory School to make arrangements.

ON-CAMPUS LODGING: Unless you make other arrangements, you will be assigned a room in the LPS dormitories. (There is no charge to stay on campus.) We will try to give each delegate his own dorm room, but, if necessary, up to two persons will be assigned per room. You have the option of indicating a preferred roommate on your convention registration form. You will receive your dorm room assignment when you check in on campus.

Delegates will be provided with pillows, blankets, linens, and towels. You will need to bring all other items such as soap, shampoo, clothes hangers, alarm clock, portable radio, etc. LPS dormitories are not air-conditioned, so you might want to bring a fan if possible. If you are flying to the convention, be sure to check restrictions for liquids and gels set by the TSA (tsa.gov).

OFF-CAMPUS LODGING: If you prefer staying off-campus at your own expense, we've provided some suggestions for hotels in the Watertown area on page 12. You will be responsible for making your own reservations as well as paying all off-campus lodging, food and beverage, and transportation costs.

PARKING: A campus map showing parking areas will be included in the June mailing. Since parking space is limited, LPS will not be able to provide accommodation for RV parking anywhere near the school.



PHONE CALLS: The LPS switchboard will be manned during normal office hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Telephone and fax numbers are listed on page 4.

Calls after hours or in an emergency should be directed to Pastor Tim Dolan, LPS dean of students. Contact information is on page 9.

LPS dormitories have no pay telephones. You are urged to bring a cell phone; otherwise you may visit the LPS office during normal business hours to make a call.

INTERNET ACCESS: LPS has a computer lab that will be open to delegates. Hours will be provided with your on-site materials. You will be able to access WiFi and use your laptop, tablet, or smartphone anywhere on campus. Log-in and access instructions will be provided.

If you plan to use your laptop for note taking during the convention, you will need to run off of battery power when you are on the convention floor. Limited outlet access is available in the classrooms during committee meetings.

DRESS CODE: There is no specific dress code for the convention. Some delegates dress in sport coats and ties, and others wear shorts and sandals. Please dress so that you are comfortable for summer weather in Wisconsin. Note: The gymnasium where the convention is held is air-conditioned.

Helpful tip: For added comfort, bring a seat cushion to the convention!

SMOKING: Smoking is not allowed in any of the buildings (including dormitories) on the LPS campus. Please smoke only in a designated area and properly dispose of the cigarettes.

FITNESS: LPS has a weight room, track, outdoor basketball hoops, and tennis courts available for your use.

MEALS: Delegates will be provided all meals beginning with Monday supper and concluding with lunch on Thursday (see the convention agenda for meal times). Guests and visitors may purchase meal tickets at the cafeteria entrance. If you have special dietary needs, please note them on the online registration form. No food and beverage expenses will be reimbursed.



REFRESHMENTS: Complimentary beverages will be available during the convention. Vending machines are available in the student union, and snacks will be available for purchase from the LPS canteen.

TRAVEL

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE: A reimbursement form is included in this mailing. Please remember to keep all of your receipts and attach them to the form when submitting it. Delegates and congregations who wish to donate convention costs should submit a reimbursement request with “donate” printed on the request. WELS will provide you with a donation receipt for tax purposes. Instructions for submitting the form are outlined on the form.

Although we do not expect you to pay all of your travel expenses to the synod convention, please proceed as if you were actually paying expenses yourself and exercise good stewardship. Some guidelines to follow:

- Do not drive if flying is more cost-effective.
- Consider flying out of a larger airport if driving to that airport is less expensive than flying out of an airport closer to home after adding the cost of gas and remote parking to the fare from the larger airport.
- Book your flight at least 8 weeks in advance, as the closer to the convention a flight is booked the more expensive it will be.
- If possible, have someone take you to the airport to avoid parking charges. If you must drive, park in the most cost-effective lot.
- If you are not sure which method is more cost-effective, use this calculator to decide: befrugal.com/tools/fly-or-drive-calculator
- Carpool with others when possible.

EXPENSES THAT WILL BE REIMBURSED:

- Cost of gasoline (with receipts) in lieu of mileage
- Economy air fare
- Economy train fare
- Any extra or unusual travel expenses other than those listed above must be approved in writing. These requests should be e-mailed to Carla Martin.



If requested, we will reimburse air/train fare prior to the convention, but these funds must be returned to the synod if for any reason you do not attend the convention.

EXPENSES THAT WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED:

- Food and beverage expenses. Meals are provided once you arrive on campus.
- Shuttles to/from your local airport (unless the shuttle is cheaper than airport parking)
- Ferries
- Rental cars
- Campground costs
- Travel insurance

Thank you for keeping convention expenses to a minimum. Please keep the reimbursement form included in this mailing to hand in with receipts at the convention or to mail after you've returned home. A reimbursement form can also be accessed at wels.net/2017synodconvention.

SHUTTLE SERVICE: LPS will coordinate shuttle service to and from General Mitchell International Airport (MKE) in Milwaukee and Dane County Regional Airport (MSN) in Madison. Please check these airports for the most cost-effective flights as each can differ substantially depending on your connections.

LPS will also provide shuttle service to and from the Columbus and the Milwaukee airport Amtrak stations.

If you require shuttle service from the airport or Amtrak station, please plan to arrive no later than 2 p.m., on July 31. This will help in the shuttle coordination.

Delegates requesting a shuttle on their registration form will receive information from LPS in early July that will include a shuttle schedule, pick-up locations, and cell phone contact numbers.

QUESTIONS OR CHANGES?

KEEP US INFORMED: If you notice an error in any of the convention information you receive (your name, address, convention arrangements,



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TENTATIVE AGENDA

floor committee assignment, etc.) or if any of the information changes after you have provided it to us, please contact Carla Martin (contact information below) so that she can make corrections.

If for any reason you are unable to attend the convention, please contact Carla Martin as soon as possible. Please do not find your own replacement, as all convention delegates must be certified by their district secretary.

We are available to answer any questions you may have.

FOR CONVENTION INFORMATION:

Carla Martin, secretary to the WELS president
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

Phone: 414-256-3202
Fax: 262-522-2800
E-mail: carla.martin@wels.net

FOR CAMPUS HOUSING AND AIRPORT SHUTTLE QUESTIONS:

During LPS business hours:

Cindy Krause or Bonnie Kuerth
Luther Preparatory School
1300 Western Avenue
Watertown, WI 53094

Phone: 920-261-4352
Fax: 920-262-8118
E-mail: kraused@lps.wels.net
bkuerth@lps.wels.net

After LPS business hours:

Rev. Timothy Dolan, dean of students
Luther Preparatory School
1300 Western Avenue
Watertown, WI 53094

Phone: 920-988-2849
Fax: 920-262-8118
E-mail: dolandt@lps.wels.net

TENTATIVE AGENDA

MONDAY, JULY 31

Noon-4:00 p.m. Registration/dormitory check-in
3:00 p.m. Training session for committee chairmen/secretaries
4:00 p.m. Delegate orientation
5:00 p.m. Dinner



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- 6:30 p.m. Opening worship service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church
8:00 p.m. Floor committees meet
9:00 p.m. Evening fellowship

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

- 8:00 a.m. Morning devotion in convention hall
10:00 a.m. Break
Noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Afternoon session begins
3:00 p.m. Break
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Mission presentations
8:30 p.m. Evening fellowship

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

- 8:00 a.m. Morning devotion in convention hall
10:00 a.m. Break
Noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Afternoon session begins
3:00 p.m. Break
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. New Martin Luther film screening
8:30 p.m. Evening fellowship

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

- 8:00 a.m. Morning devotion in convention hall
10:00 a.m. Break
Noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Closing service and installation of officers
2:00 p.m. Dismissal
Noon-5:00 p.m. Open house at the Center for Mission and Ministry,
including the new visitor center and archives

This agenda is subject to change.

A more detailed agenda will be included in the June mailing.



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**OPEN
HOUSE**

TOUR THE CENTER FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

Join us for an open house at the Center for Mission and Ministry following the conclusion of the synod convention. Stop in on your way home to tour the synod's international headquarters, including the brand-new visitor center and archives facility. Learn about our synod's history and the work that is conducted from the building to support the synod. Guides will be available to answer questions and provide information on the areas of ministry. Light refreshments will be served.

Center for Mission and Ministry open house

Thursday, Aug. 3

Noon to 5 p.m.

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive

Waukesha, WI 53188

cmmtours@wels.net

If you can't make the open house but would like to schedule a tour on another day, contact us at cmmtours@wels.net.



AREA HOTELS AND MOTELS

Note: We will coordinate shared ride and shuttle service between LPS and the Super 8/Holiday Inn Express. More information on this service will be outlined in the June delegate mailing.

Blocks of rooms are reserved at the following hotels:

SUPER 8—1730 S CHURCH STREET

- Located at Hwy 26 and I-94 (approx. 3 miles from LPS)
- Complimentary high-speed Internet, coffee makers, continental breakfast
- A limited number of rooms are blocked until June 30, 2017
- Rates: \$83.00+ tax per night 2 Queen beds
 \$75.00+ tax per night 1 Queen bed
Rates are for up to 2 persons per room. \$5.00 per person charge for additional guests
- To reserve by phone:
 920-261-1188 Hotel direct

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS—101 AVIATION WAY

- Located at Hwy 26 and I-94 (approx. 3 miles from LPS)
- Complimentary high-speed Internet, refrigerators, coffeemakers, hot continental breakfast
- A limited number of rooms are blocked until June 30, 2017
- Rates: \$126.99+ tax per night 2 Queen beds during weekday nights
 \$126.99+ tax per night 1 King bed during weekday nights
Friday or Saturday night rates will be quoted by the hotel at the time of your reservation
- To reserve by phone:
 920-262-1910 Hotel direct
 1-888-HOLIDAY National reservations—tell the operator you are with Synod Convention at LPS
- To reserve online: hiexpress.com/watertownwi and enter the 3 letter group code LPC



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Other hotels near Watertown (no shuttle service provided):

DAYS INN—W4545 LINMAR LANE, JOHNSON CREEK

Located off I-94 at Johnson Creek (approx. 7 miles from LPS)

Complimentary high-speed Internet, parking, indoor pool, breakfast

To reserve by phone: 920-699-8000

COMFORT SUITES—725 PARADISE LANE, JOHNSON CREEK

Located off I-94 at Johnson Creek (approx. 7 miles from LPS)

Complimentary high-speed Internet, parking, fitness center, indoor pool, breakfast

To reserve by phone: 920-699-2800



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

JULY 31 - AUGUST 3, 2017

Luther Preparatory School · Watertown, WI