



# FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

SYNOD CONVENTION 2019

*INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES*

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65<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE  
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

# FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

SYNOD CONVENTION 2019

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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**

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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**

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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**

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**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. Please bring your copy of the BORAM with you to the convention.

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## THE CONVENTION

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The BORAM will be posted online in May along with the other convention-related materials at [wels.net/2019synodconvention](http://wels.net/2019synodconvention). 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.)

We also encourage you to bring this delegate information booklet to the convention with you.

**PAPERLESS CONVENTION:** In order to save time and money, the synod convention, for the first time, will be going almost entirely paperless. PowerPoint presentations and all convention resolutions will be displayed on large screens located at the front of the convention floor. A majority of the convention materials also will be made available electronically during the convention. For the best convention experience, we urge you to bring your own personal electronic device (a laptop, notebook, tablet, or smartphone) with WiFi capabilities, so that you can access online or digital resources. Please indicate if you are bringing a device on your convention registration form.

Every effort will be made to have adequate power available at the convention. Charging stations for your electronic device will be available throughout the convention; their locations will be noted in your on-site materials. Limited outlet access also is available in the classrooms during committee meetings. Please clearly label your devices so nothing gets lost.

Two computer labs also will be available for those who don't have their own device but would like to access documents when the convention is not in session. Hours and locations will be provided in your on-site materials.

**DELEGATE ORIENTATION:** An orientation session for all delegates will begin at 4 p.m. on Monday, July 29, in the gymnasium. During this session, the synod's second vice president, Rev. Joel Voss, and WELS chief technology officer, Martin Spriggs, will review the convention flow and explain how delegates can prepare for the rest of the week. Please bring your personal electronic device to this session so we can help you get online and access convention materials.

# FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

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## THE CONVENTION

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**WORSHIP:** An opening communion service will be held on Monday, July 29, at 6:30 p.m., in the Chapel of the Christ on the Martin Luther College campus. Each morning the convention will open with a devotion. The closing service will be held at the Chapel of the Christ on Thursday, Aug. 1, ending no later than 2 p.m.

**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, July 30. All general sessions will be held in the Martin Luther College 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.

**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 you cannot maneuver stairs or require special assistance.

**ELECTIONS:** An important duty of delegates is to elect synodical officers and board members. Position descriptions and a brief biographical sketch of each nominee are posted online at [wels.net/2019synodconvention](http://wels.net/2019synodconvention) and will be provided in your on-site materials. 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. 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 10. 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.

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**STREAMING THE CONVENTION:** The entire convention will be streamed live at [wels.net/2019synodconvention](http://wels.net/2019synodconvention). 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 clearly and 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.

**POST-CONVENTION:** We want you, as a representative of your church, school, and district, 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/2019synodconvention](http://wels.net/2019synodconvention), 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. An e-mail will be sent to you after convention with information on how to access these post-convention resources. If you need further help, contact WELS Communication Services at [csc@wels.net](mailto:csc@wels.net).

## ON CAMPUS

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**PLACE:** Martin Luther College (MLC)  
Website: [mlc-wels.edu](http://mlc-wels.edu)  
1995 Luther Court  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
Phone: 507-354-8221  
Fax: 507-354-8225

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION:** All convention delegates must register online. Access the online form at [wels.net/2019synodconvention](http://wels.net/2019synodconvention). The deadline to register is May 15. Specific questions regarding the convention should be addressed to Carla Martin at [carla.martin@wels.net](mailto:carla.martin@wels.net) or 414-256-3202. For technical questions, contact the WELS Help Desk at [support@wels.net](mailto: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. If using a personal card, please seek reimbursement from your calling body or congregation. The Minnesota District has already paid the fee for all its delegates, so Minnesota District delegates will not be required to submit payment in order to register.\*

**ON-CAMPUS CHECK-IN:** Upon arrival, you should visit the registration tables in the lobby outside of the Luther Student Center gymnasium.

Check-in hours will be between noon and 4 p.m. on Monday, July 29. 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 Michelle Gartner, [gartneme@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:gartneme@mlc-wels.edu), to make arrangements.

**HELP DESK:** The help desk will be staffed while the convention is in session. It will be located at the back of the convention floor and will be clearly marked

*\* Minnesota District delegates: Please refer to the registration instructions included in your packet.*

“Help Desk.” You can make general inquiries, and technical help will be available if needed.

**ON-CAMPUS LODGING:** Unless you make other arrangements, you will be assigned a room in one of the MLC 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. Confirmation of those staying in the dorms will be included in the June mailing. You will receive your dorm room assignment when you check in on campus.

MLC dormitories have four floors, and each floor has a communal bathroom. Even though the campus as a whole is handicapped accessible, not all dorms are equipped with elevators. Delegates who need first-floor housing should check the appropriate box on the registration form. All other concerns or special requests should be made by indicating this in the comments section of the online registration form.

MLC does not have pillows. If you are driving, you can help us keep costs down by bringing your own. If you are unable to bring a pillow, please indicate this on your registration form in the space provided so we are sure to have one available for you.

Delegates will be provided with linens, a blanket, and towels. You will need to supply all items such as shampoo, soap, clothes hangers, alarm clock, portable radio, and personal items. MLC dormitories are not air-conditioned, so you should 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](http://tsa.gov)).

**OFF-CAMPUS LODGING:** If you prefer staying off-campus at your own expense, we’ve provided some suggestions for hotels in the New Ulm area on page 13. You will be responsible for making your own reservations as well as paying all off-campus lodging, food and beverage, and transportation costs.

**RV PARKING/CAMPING:** We will not be able to provide accommodations for RV parking on campus. However, nearby Flandrau State Park does have camping.

**PARKING:** A campus map showing parking areas is on pp. 14-15. It will also be included in the June mailing, available online at [wels.net/2019synodconvention](http://wels.net/2019synodconvention), and in your on-site materials.



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## ON CAMPUS

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**PHONE CALLS:** The MLC switchboard will be staffed during normal office hours. The phone number is 507-354-8221. You can also call the Convention Help Desk telephone at 507-233-9125 during convention hours. Fax service is also available. The MLC fax number is 507-354-8225. Please be sure faxes are clearly labeled.

Calls after hours or in an emergency should be directed to the dorm supervisor in the building to which you are assigned. These phone numbers will be provided with your dorm room assignments when you arrive on campus. There are no pay phones available on campus. We assume that you have a cell phone or can borrow one from someone if you do need to make a call.

**INTERNET ACCESS:** MLC 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.

**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 Minnesota. 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 MLC campus. Please smoke only in a designated area and properly dispose of the cigarettes.

**FITNESS:** MLC has a fitness center located in the lower level of the Luther Student Center. Hours of operation will be included in your on-site materials.

**MEALS:** Delegates will be provided all meals beginning with Monday supper and concluding with lunch on Thursday (see the convention agenda for meal times). If you need more meals than what is stated above, please note them on your registration form. 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.

### WHAT TO BRING:

- BORAM
- This delegate information booklet
- Electronic device (smartphone, tablet, laptop) and charging accessories
- Pillow and fan (if staying in dorm)
- Comfortable clothing and personal care items

## TRAVEL

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**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 it. 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.
- If you are not sure which method is more cost-effective, use this calculator to decide: [befrugal.com/tools/fly-or-drive-calculator](http://befrugal.com/tools/fly-or-drive-calculator)
- 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.
- Carpool with others when possible.

**EXPENSES THAT WILL BE REIMBURSED:**

- Cost of gasoline (with receipts) in lieu of mileage
- Economy air fare to MSP (Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport)

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@wels.net](mailto:carla.martin@wels.net).

If requested, we will reimburse air 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.
- Off-campus lodging
- 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 Help Desk or to mail after you've returned home. A reimbursement form can also be accessed at [wels.net/2019synodconvention](http://wels.net/2019synodconvention).

**SHUTTLE SERVICE:** MLC will coordinate shuttle service to and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP). If you require shuttle service from the airport, please plan to arrive no later than 1:30 p.m., on July 29. This will help in the shuttle coordination. The shuttle returning back to the airport will leave at 2:30 p.m., on Aug. 1, after the closing service. Delegates requesting a shuttle on their registration form will receive information from MLC in early July that will include a shuttle schedule, pick up locations, and cell phone contact numbers.

## QUESTIONS OR CHANGES

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**KEEP US INFORMED:** If you notice an error in any of the convention information you receive (your name, address, convention arrangements, 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](mailto:carla.martin@wels.net)

### FOR CAMPUS HOUSING AND AIRPORT SHUTTLE QUESTIONS:

Michelle Gartner, MLC event coordinator  
1995 Luther Ct.  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Phone: 507-354-8221 ext. 393  
Cell: 507-217-6157  
E-mail: [gartneml@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:gartneml@mlc-wels.edu)

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

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### MONDAY, JULY 29

Noon-4:00 p.m. Registration/dormitory check-in  
3:00 p.m. Training session for committee chairmen and secretaries  
4:00 p.m. Delegate orientation  
5:00 p.m. Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Opening worship service in the Chapel of the Christ  
8:00 p.m. Floor committees meet  
9:00 p.m. Evening fellowship

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## TENTATIVE AGENDA

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### TUESDAY, JULY 30

8:00 a.m.	LWMS flag presentation followed by opening devotion
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.	Missions presentations
9:00 p.m.	Evening fellowship

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

8:00 a.m.	Morning devotion
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.	MLC presentation and tour <i>*See page 12 for more information.</i>
8:30 p.m.	Evening fellowship

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

8:00 a.m.	Morning devotion
10:00 a.m.	Break
Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Closing service and installation of officers
2:00 p.m.	Dismissal

*This agenda is subject to change.  
A more detailed agenda will be included in the June mailing.*

EQUIPPING  
**CHRISTIAN**  
WITNESSES

**TOURS HIGHLIGHTING THE  
“FACILITIES” PILLAR\* OF  
EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN WITNESSES**

Wednesday, July 31, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**This campus tour will provide delegates with a complete understanding of MLC’s facility needs, research to address those needs, and strategic plans that provide the focus for Martin Luther College’s capital campaign, *Equipping Christian Witnesses*.**

**Join us Wednesday evening for an enlightening event that will provide the information you will need as a delegate to promote this campaign on behalf of your College of Ministry.**

*\* The other two pillars are student recruitment and tuition assistance*



## **AREA HOTELS AND MOTELS**

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Blocks of rooms are reserved under “Synod Convention” at the following hotels:

**MICROTEL INN & SUITES** – 424 20th South St.; 507-550-0922

- Complimentary WiFi
- Continental breakfast
- Free parking
- Indoor pool
- A limited number of rooms are available
  - \$84.99 plus tax – 1 Queen
  - \$94.99 plus tax – 2 Queens
  - \$104.99 plus – Suite

**BEST WESTERN PLUS** – 2101 S Broadway St.; 507-359-2941

- Complimentary WiFi
- Full hot breakfast
- Free parking
- Indoor pool
- Green Mill Restaurant is located on-site
- A limited number of rooms are available
  - \$106 plus tax – King Room
  - \$106 plus tax – Double Room



Courts

Chapel of the Christ

Cafeteria

Bookstore

Luther Student Center

Gymnasium

Boiler Building

Maintenance Facility

Faculty/Staff

Student

Visitor & Event Parking

Student

VISITOR

Concord Hall

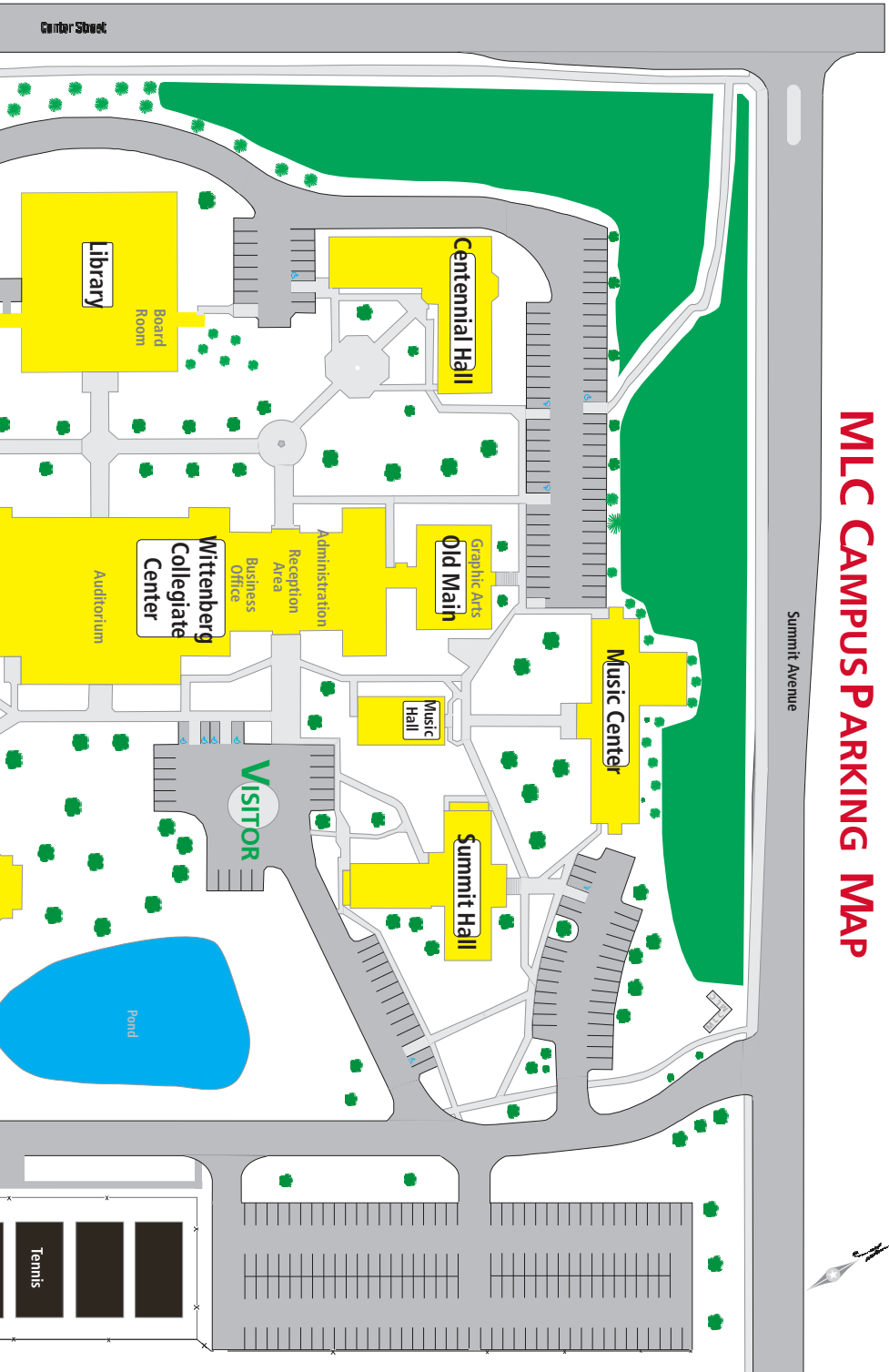
Augustana Hall

Highland Avenue



# MLC CAMPUS PARKING MAP

Summit Avenue



Center Street

Library

Board Room

Centennial Hall

Old Main  
Graphic Arts

Music Hall

Music Center

Summit Hall

Wittenberg Collegiate Center

Auditorium

VISITOR

Pond

Tennis

FOR THE  
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TO COME

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***NOTES***

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A series of horizontal lines for writing notes.





**WELS**  
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

**JULY 29 – AUGUST 1, 2019**  
*MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE · NEW ULM, MN*