



**66TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**

Here we
STAND

**INFORMATION FOR
VIRTUAL DELEGATES**

Here we STAND

YOUR ROLE

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 what WELS should be doing for the Lord.

You are serving as a virtual delegate to the 2021 synod convention. Only the chairmen, secretaries, and two designated laymen from each floor committee will be attending the convention in person. As a virtual delegate, you will be represented at the convention by the four committee members of your assigned floor committee. They will vote on your behalf.

Even though you won't be in person on Luther Preparatory School's campus, your thoughts matter. You can let your voice be heard during elections and floor committee meetings that will take place virtually prior to the convention. Please take the time during your floor committee meetings to discuss and voice concerns. You can also share comments during the convention through your in-person floor committee representatives.

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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 in convention called "memorials." A memorial outlines a particular item of business for consideration by the delegates.

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. A printed copy of the BORAM will be sent to you in June before your floor committee meets. The BORAM, along with any additional reports, will be posted online after May 10 at wels.net/2021synodconvention. 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. Your district president will inform you of the dates for district, conference, or circuit meetings where the BORAM will be discussed.

STREAMING THE CONVENTION: The entire convention will be streamed live at wels.net/2021synodconvention. A majority of the convention materials also will be made available electronically prior to and during the convention. Please tune in to the livestream, connect with your floor committee members virtually, and access the online or digital resources.

If you do not have Internet access, please contact your pastor to see if he can help you access the live coverage.

AGENDA: At wels.net/2021synodconvention and in this mailing, a tentative agenda can be found. Check the website for updates. Activities at the convention include an essay, oral reports, and resolutions. Floor committee reports and recommendations will generally be heard and voted on after the related ministry presentation is given at the convention.

DELEGATE ORIENTATION: An orientation session for all delegates will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 26. During this session, the synod's second vice president, Rev. Joel Voss, WELS' chief technology officer, Martin Spriggs, and WELS' communication director, Lee Hitter, will review the convention flow and explain how delegates can prepare for the rest of the week and access the available online materials.

WORSHIP: The opening communion service will be streamed live on Monday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m. Each morning the convention will open with a devotion. The closing service will be held Wednesday, July 28, at 3:30 p.m. Access worship folders at wels.net/2021synodconvention.

FLOOR COMMITTEES: The chairman and secretary along with two lay representatives from each committee will represent the floor committees in person at the convention.

Committees will meet via video conferencing prior to the convention. Committee chairmen will contact their members via e-mail in June or early July to set up these meetings and tell members how to join.

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 formal resolutions or reports to the convention regarding it. All resolutions will be prepared before the convention takes place.

Floor committees will also discuss broader issues such as the ministry financial plan, memorials, bylaw changes, and the pension issue. Synodical area of ministry advisors (representatives) will attend the appropriate floor committee virtual meetings and present any necessary information and answer questions.

As reports are read and resolutions are voted on at the convention, they will be posted on the WELS convention website for the public to see.

A floor committee list, which includes contact information for all in-person delegates, is available at wels.net/2021synodconvention. Prior to

the convention, your floor committee representatives may also provide additional ways for you to contact them during the convention.

GENERAL SESSIONS: General sessions will begin at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27. All general sessions will be livestreamed. All certified delegates are eligible to speak and vote on every issue before the convention. Contact your floor committee representatives with any thoughts you want to share during the general sessions.

GUESTS: Due to the uncertainty of rules and restrictions that may be in place when the convention meets, we are not allowing guests to this convention. Guests may tune in online via the livestream.

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/2021synodconvention. Elections will take place prior to the convention. A detailed schedule for elections and information on how to vote will be sent to you in the June mailing. Please read the candidate biographies ahead of time so you are prepared when the elections run between June 21–July 14.

REPORTS: During the convention, you will hear reports about WELS ministry. All of this information will help you in making important decisions about the Lord's work in WELS.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE: Please attend all convention sessions virtually and take an active part in discussions through your floor committee representatives. 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. 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

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JULY 26 – 28, 2021

LUTHER PREPARATORY SCHOOL · WATERTOWN, WIS.