



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

*Here we*  
**STAND**

**INFORMATION FOR  
IN-PERSON DELEGATES**

### THE CONVENTION

<i>Book of Reports and Memorials</i> .....	1
Paperless convention .....	2
Delegate orientation .....	3
Worship .....	3
Floor committees .....	3
General sessions.....	4
Guests .....	4
Elections .....	4
Reports.....	4

### ON CAMPUS

Location.....	5
Registration.....	6
On-campus check-in .....	6
Lodging .....	6
Parking .....	7
LPS telephone numbers.....	7
Internet .....	7
Meals .....	8

### TRAVEL

Reimbursement.....	8
Shuttle service .....	9

### QUESTIONS OR CHANGES .....

10

### AREA HOTELS AND MOTELS .....

11

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.

You are serving as an in-person representative at the 2021 synod convention. Only the chairmen, secretaries, and two designated laymen from each floor committee will be attending the convention in person. The rest of the delegates will attend virtually by watching the livestream. As an in-person delegate, you will be authorized by your floor committees to vote on behalf of those who will not attend in person. Please listen carefully to their concerns during your floor committee meetings and the convention proceedings.

### 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.

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](http://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. Please attend district, conference, or circuit meetings where the BORAM will be discussed. (Your district president will inform you of the dates.)

We also encourage you to bring your BORAM and this delegate information booklet to the convention.

**PAPERLESS CONVENTION:** In order to save time and money, the synod convention will be 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 prior to and 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 connect with your floor committee members virtually and 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. Please clearly label your devices so nothing gets lost.

**DELEGATE ORIENTATION:** An orientation session for all delegates will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 26, in the gymnasium. 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. Please bring your personal electronic device to this session so we can help you get online and access convention materials.

**WORSHIP:** An opening communion service will be held on Monday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the chapel on the LPS campus. Each morning the convention will open with a devotion. The closing service will be held on campus Wednesday, July 28, at 3:30 p.m.

**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](http://wels.net/2021synodconvention).

**GENERAL SESSIONS:** General sessions will begin at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27. 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.

**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](http://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.

**AGENDA:** At [wels.net/2021synodconvention](http://wels.net/2021synodconvention) and in this mailing, a tentative agenda can be found. Check online for any changes or 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.

**STREAMING THE CONVENTION:** The entire convention will be streamed live at [wels.net/2021synodconvention](http://wels.net/2021synodconvention). 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. 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/2021synodconvention](http://wels.net/2021synodconvention), will include resolutions, election results, pictures, articles, some presentations, and more. *Together*, the synod's e-newsletter, will highlight important decisions and cover major events at the convention. Social media posts will bring up-to-the-minute updates. A synopsis of all the news will be put into an easy-to-use bulletin format and will be e-mailed to you after the convention, along with information on how to access all 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:** Luther Preparatory School (LPS)  
1300 Western Ave. Watertown, WI 53094  
Website: [www.lps.wels.net](http://www.lps.wels.net)  
Phone: 920-261-4352  
Fax: 920-262-8118

**NOTE:** WELS will follow the current CDC and state guidelines and safety precautions when meeting on the LPS campus for the synod convention. Look for updates on what this entails in your June mailing.

# Here we STAND

## ON CAMPUS

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**REGISTRATION:** All convention delegates must register online. Access the online form at [wels.net/2021synodconvention](http://wels.net/2021synodconvention). 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:** There is no delegate fee this year.

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

Check-in hours will be between noon and 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 26. If you are staying in the dormitory, plan to arrive on campus no later than 3:30 p.m., so that you have time to settle in before the delegate orientation begins at 4:30 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 later than 8 p.m., please contact Marty Pagel, [pagelmr@lps.wels.net](mailto:pagelmr@lps.wels.net), 309-428-9542, 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.

**ON-CAMPUS LODGING:** Unless you make other arrangements, you will be assigned a room in one of the LPS dormitories. We assign each delegate his own dorm room, but, if you prefer, up to two persons can 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.

The Augsburg dormitory has three floors, and each floor has a communal bathroom. There are elevators available in the dorm for your use. Delegates who need first-floor housing should check the appropriate box on the registration form. All other concerns or special requests should be indicated on the comments section of the online registration form.

Delegates will be provided with linens, a blanket, pillows, and towels. You will need to supply all items such as shampoo, soap, clothes hangers, alarm

# Here we STAND

## ON CAMPUS

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clock, portable radio, and personal items. LPS dormitory rooms are not air-conditioned, but fans will be available. 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 Watertown area on page 11. 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, available online at [wels.net/2021synodconvention](http://wels.net/2021synodconvention), and in your on-site materials.

**PHONE CALLS:** The LPS switchboard will be staffed during normal office hours. The phone number is 920-261-4352. Fax service is also available. The LPS fax number is 920-262-8118. 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. We assume that you have a cell phone or can borrow one from someone if you need to make a call.

**INTERNET ACCESS:** 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 Wisconsin. The gymnasium where the convention is held is air-conditioned.

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

**MEALS:** Delegates will be provided all meals beginning with Monday dinner and concluding with dinner on Wednesday (see the convention agenda for meal times). 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
- 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 eight 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 General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee (MKE)

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/2021synodconvention](http://wels.net/2021synodconvention).

**SHUTTLE SERVICE:** LPS will coordinate shuttle service to and from the airport.

If you require shuttle service from the airport to LPS on July 26, please plan to arrive at the airport no later than 2 p.m. This will help in the shuttle coordination.

If you wish to take the convention shuttle to the Milwaukee airport for your return trip home, please book a flight that departs no earlier than 7 p.m. on July 28. The shuttle to the airport will leave at 5 p.m., after the closing service. If no flights are available, you may need to stay on campus an additional evening and fly home on July 29. If you need a shuttle to the airport on July 29, please book a flight that leaves Milwaukee no earlier than 9 a.m.

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, 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:

##### Campus housing

Bonnie Kuerth  
Cell: 920-883-7573  
E-mail: [bkuerth@lps.wels.net](mailto:bkuerth@lps.wels.net)

##### Airport shuttle

Cindy Krause  
Cell: 920-248-2550  
E-mail: [krausecl@lps.wels.net](mailto:krausecl@lps.wels.net)

##### General school information

Phone: 920-261-4352

### AREA HOTELS AND MOTELS

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

#### **BEST WESTERN** – 101 Aviation Way, Watertown

**NOTE:** Mention the arrival date of your guestroom reservation and then the **WELS Synod Convention Room Block**, and we will happily assist you to complete your reservation. The final guestroom cutoff date to reserve your room is June 25, 2021, to qualify for the discounted room rate of \$136.00 (plus taxes).

- 920-262-1910
- Website: [bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.50152.html?groupId=W67CU5F8](http://bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.50152.html?groupId=W67CU5F8)
- Complimentary WiFi
- Pool
- Free parking
- A limited number of rooms are available

#### **DAYS INN IN JOHNSON CREEK** – W4545 Linmar Lane, Johnson Creek

- 920-699-8000
- Website: [reservations.com/hotel/days-inn-johnson-creek](http://reservations.com/hotel/days-inn-johnson-creek)
- Queen beds, some suites with whirlpool available
- Pool and whirlpool
- Fitness center
- Complimentary WiFi
- Deluxe continental breakfast served from 6-9 a.m.



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66TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE  
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**JULY 26 – 28, 2021**

*LUTHER PREPARATORY SCHOOL · WATERTOWN, WIS.*