



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT
51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
SEW 100: A District Centennial

Looking Back... at a Century of Grace
Moving Forward... with Prayer and Resolve

From the Office of the District President

May 2018

Dear Brothers in the Lord,

In 1917 the Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Nebraska Synods merged to become the Joint Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin and Other States, the church body we now know as the WELS. At that time, the former Wisconsin Synod split into the three districts which still exist today: Northern Wisconsin, Southeastern Wisconsin and Western Wisconsin.

In 1918 the various districts held their first district conventions. As a result, 2018 marks the centennial of our Southeastern Wisconsin District. The first convention of our district was held at St. John Lutheran Church in Burlington in July 1918. 145 delegates attended that convention.

This year over 675 pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and lay delegates will have the opportunity to attend our convention on June 12-13 at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Our convention will seek to mirror several of the events of that convention. For example, the sermon text for our opening service will be the same as that from one hundred years ago (John 8:31-32) and the worship format will be representative of worship in 1918. In addition, we will have a two-part presentation and discussion of the same paper which Prof. August Pieper delivered in 1918: "The Despial of Grace Is the Death of the Church." Although it was originally presented in German and speaks of the situation of the world and the church one hundred years ago, we will see how similar and relevant its message is to our world and church situation today. We hope you will enjoy working through this paper and discussing it with one another.

We also pray that all the many reports and updates of the convention presenters will be uplifting and meaningful for you. The amount of ministry which our Lord allows us to carry out throughout the world is an amazing blessing! Specific information about the convention appears in the following pages. This information is also available on our district website: www.sew-wels.net. The website also contains the online registration form. *Please take a few moments soon to register.* (Note for those who will be serving on committees: While the convention itself begins on Tuesday morning, June 12, we are asking committee members to meet on Monday evening, June 11. More details on that will be forthcoming.)

In Our Dear Lord Jesus,

David P. Kolander, President



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Convention Information

Time: Tuesday, June 12 and Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Place: Wisconsin Lutheran College (Sessions will be held in the REX)
8800 West Blue Mound Rd, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Attendance: Expected to attend as voting delegates:

- All pastors and all certified male teachers and staff ministers serving in called positions and holding membership in SEW congregations;
- One lay delegate from each SEW congregation

Invited to attend:

- Retired pastors, male teachers, and staff ministers;
- Pastors, male teachers, or staff ministers not currently holding a call;
- All male called workers not yet synodically certified.

Lay Delegates: See the enclosed sheet for more information especially for first-time attendees.

Convention

Materials: **The 2018 Report to the Districts (Rttd)** The printed and .pdf versions of the Rttd will be much slimmer than in previous years. These copies will include only major reports from the various areas of ministry and other reports needed for discussion at district conventions. Copies of this streamlined version will be mailed to every congregation and every male called worker the week of May 21. A link to the .pdf version is also available at the convention page of the district website, www.sew-wels.net/2018convention.

Links to the .pdf of the printed report, as well as reports from other areas of ministry that traditionally report to the districts via the Report to the Districts are available at www.wels.net/rttd2018.

District Reports and Other Convention Materials We intend to conduct the business of this convention using as little paper as possible. Links to all convention reports and other materials will be available at the 2018 Convention page of the District's website, www.sew-wels.net/2018convention, several days before the convention. You will be able to use electronic devices to access those materials from the convention floor. We plan to provide access to outlets for recharging to as many of the seats as possible.

If you are not able or inclined to bring an electronic device to the convention, then we would strongly encourage you to print the materials – or ask someone to print them for you – before you come to convention. You shouldn't depend on the content of every report being displayed on the projection screens.

If you are not able to print the materials, we will have a limited number of printed copies available at the convention. Please use the "Comments" box on the registration form to indicate that you would like to receive printed copies.

Note: If you have reports or other materials that you would like to have included among the convention materials, please contact Secretary Carter for important details and deadlines for sending it to him electronically.

Registration: Register **before June 6**. Early registration is important for providing our hosts with accurate meal counts. If at all possible, please use the online registration form. The following link will take you directly to that registration form: www.sew-wels.net/2018registration.

If you have no Internet access, then you can register by contacting District Secretary Billy Carter by any of the means at the bottom of the next page. Please make sure that your message or letter includes a) your name and your congregation or calling body and b) which meals you will need.

Excuses: If you will be absent for all or part of the convention, please excuse to Secretary Carter. You may use the online registration form to do this. (Note: it is not necessary for retired called workers to excuse if you aren't planning to attend.)

Fees: There are no convention fees. The costs for this convention are covered entirely by district dues. A mailing with your congregation's or organization's dues assessment was sent to the attention of your treasurer in mid-April.

Parking: WLC's new parking structure will be available for us for this convention. It holds over 300 vehicles. You can enter the structure from Wisconsin Avenue. The address of the lot is 8701 W Wisconsin Avenue. There are turn lanes from the east and from the west, but in the morning traffic it might be better to approach from the west.

Once that structure is full, there are another 80 spaces available under the residence halls. If you find it necessary to park on the street, please note the parking restrictions that exist on many of the neighborhood streets.

Check in: When you arrive at the convention, please check in and pick up your name badge at the table for your conference at the north end of the REX gymnasium. The conference secretaries will man these tables.

- Offering:** A floor committee will be asked to draft a resolution that will designate where to send the offering that will be gathered at the opening communion service.
- Choir:** There will again be a festival choir for the opening worship service. Staff Minister Levi Nagel of St. John (68th St), Milwaukee will direct. Watch for more information in future email updates.
- Meals:** Continental breakfasts will be provided Tuesday and Wednesday in the northwest and southwest corners of the REX.
A noon meal will be provided on Tuesday for all who registered for it.
A Tuesday evening meal will be provided for floor committee members.
(Floor committee members should register for this meal.)
A box lunch will be provided on Wednesday for all who registered for it.
(We are planning to work into the early afternoon.)
Refreshments will be available in the REX lobby throughout the convention.
- Lodging:** WLC will not provide lodging in their residence halls. They have an arrangement with the Mayfair Radisson (2303 N Mayfair Rd) for reduced rates for people attending meetings at WLC. If you call to reserve a room, make sure you mention that you are attending a convention at WLC to receive the reduced room rates. There is also a link on the convention's page of the district website that will take you directly to Radisson's reservation page with the reduced rates plugged in already.
- Displays:** Many synod and para-synodical ministries and groups will have displays at the convention. Please visit their displays while you are there.

If your group would like to set up a display and you don't hear from Secretary Carter about making arrangements to do so, please contact him before May 24.
- Questions:** Please contact District Secretary Carter at sewsec@gmail.com, at 920.979.3087 (voice or text), or at P.O. Box 44, Brownsville, WI 53006.



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Floor Committees

#1 - Elections: *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack, chairman*

Pastors:	Teachers:	Laymen:
Mark Aufdemberge	Len Epple	Victory, Lexington
Jeffrey Bonack	James Groth	Our Shepherd, Crown Point
James Buske	Matthew Grow	Heritage, Lindenhurst
David Carlovsky	Nathan Hinz	St. Lucas, Kewaskum
John Gawrisch	Paul Huebner	Our Savior, Grafton
Timothy Gerbing	Todd Jahns	St. John, Mequon
Randy Hughes	Robert Sawall	Centennial, Milwaukee
Peter Schmidt	Blair Schaper	St. John, Oak Creek
Martin Schoell	Kurtis Seeger	Fairview, Milwaukee
Thomas Schultz	Jeff Sitz	St. James, Milwaukee
Mark Wenzel	Kevin Sonntag	St. Luke, Kenosha
David Wierschke	Gil Tatge	Peace, Wilmot
	Brad Wetzell	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
	Ken White	Faith, Sussex
	Marvin Wittig	
	Gerald Zeamer	

#2 - District President's Report and Resolutions: *Prof. Daniel Ebeling, chairman*

Pastors:	Teachers:	Laymen:
Aaron Christie	Aaron Bauer	Trinity, Crete
Robert Dick	Alan Bitter	St. Matthew, Port Washington
Timothy Henning	Robert Dusseau	St. Paul, Neosho
Timothy Kujath	Daniel Ebeling	Nain, West Allis
Steven Lange	Fonda Fischer	Calvary, Milwaukee
Daniel Leyrer	Timothy Mittelstadt	St. John (Slades Corner), Burlington
Charles Raasch	Timothy Rimpel	St. Paul, East Troy
Dale Reckzin	James Sievert	
	Paul Strutz	
	Steven Toth	
	Jeffrey Zilisch	

#3 – Other Topics: *(may not be needed) Pastor Daniel Marshall, chairman*

Pastors:	Teachers:	Laymen:
Scott Bergemann	Keith Bowe	Peace, Kokomo
Bruce Marggraf	Joseph Brinkman	Immanuel, Waukegan
Daniel Marshall	Kevin Glaeske	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Robert Meiselwitz	James Haferman	Morning Star, Jackson
Philip Merten	John Kaesmeyer	Woodlawn, West Allis
Don Scheuerlein	Mark Kjenstad	Siloah, Milwaukee
Nathan Strobel	Keith Kopczynski	Mt. Zion, Kenosha
Mark Wagner	Gerald Marowsky	Zion, Hartland
	William Plamann	
	Stephen Schafer	
	Timothy Voigt	

#4 – Steering: *Teacher Thomas Hering, chairman*

Teacher Thomas Hering Pastor David Kuehl

#5 – Copy Review: *Pastor Curtis Jahn, chairman*

#6 – Technology/Website: *Teacher Justin Gut, chairman*

Floor committees 2 and 3 (if needed) will meet in Generac Hall (the science building at the east end of the campus). Room assignments will be published in the convention materials. Committees are asked to begin their work on Monday evening before the convention and to conclude their work Tuesday evening. Supper will be provided on Tuesday for all committee members (remember to sign up for it when you register). Chairmen of the remaining committees are asked to meet with Secretary Carter Monday evening as well

All chairmen will receive more information about each committee's assignments and will be asked to appoint secretaries before the convention so that Secretary Carter can get them information they will need for their work.



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Proposed Agenda

Tuesday, June 12

8:00	Registration & Fellowship	
9:00	Opening Worship Service with Communion	Pastor David Kolander, Preacher
10:30	Greeting from WLC	
10:40	Break	
11:00	District President Comments	
	Election Committee	
11:15	Essay, Part 1	Pastor Joel Leyrer
12:00	Lunch and Circuit Pastor Elections	
1:30	WLC Announcement	Prof. Michael Berg
1:45	District President Report	Pastor David Kolander
2:15	Break	
2:25	Essay, Part 2	Pastor Joel Leyrer
3:10	Break	
3:20	The Point of Grace	Pastor Don Thompson
3:30	Synodical Council	Mr. Tim Synder
3:45	Ministry of Christian Giving	Pastor Kurt Lueneburg
4:00	Ministerial Education	Pastor Michael Woldt
4:15	Christian Aid & Relief	Pastor Robert Hein
4:30	Hymnal Committee	Pastor Michael Schultz
4:45	Northwestern Publishing House	Mr. Bill Ziche
5:00	Announcements	
5:15	Devotion	Circuit Pastor Jonathan Kehren (Chicago: Central)

Floor Committees meet in the evening

Wednesday, June 15

8:30	Morning Devotion	Circuit Pastor Lon Kuether (Chicago: Southern)
8:45	Elections Committee	
9:00	District Business (Minutes, Financial Report, Synod Delegates)	Pastor Billy Carter
9:15	Synod Presidium	Pastor James Huebner WELS First Vice-President
9:30	WELS Home & World Missions	Pastor Keith Free
10:00	Break	
10:15	District Home Missions	Pastor Mark Wagner
10:30	Congregational Services	Pastor Donn Dobberstein
11:15	Other Reports & Floor Committees	
12:00	Courtesy Resolutions / Announcements	
12:15	Closing Devotion & Installation of Officers	Circuit Pastor Ray Kimbrough (Milwaukee Urban: Timothy)

The Elections Committee will be given the floor whenever necessary to complete their work.



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Nominations

Notes: Biographical information will be provided in the convention materials.
All nominees are listed in alphabetical order.
(i) = incumbent

Nominations from the District Nominating Committee *(six year terms)*

Ministerial Education Governing Board Representatives

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Layman

Tom Kissinger - Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Paul Sherwood - Grace, Milwaukee
Bill Strutz - Epiphany, Racine

Luther Preparatory School, Teacher

Seth Fitzsimmons - St. Paul, Muskego
Peter Gumm - Shoreland LHS, Somers
One more slot needs to be filled

District Mission Board, Layman

Mike Nichols -
Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Daryl Walther - Christ the Lord, Brookfield

District Mission Board, Teacher

Nicholas Bush - Salem (107th), Milwaukee
Ryan Finkbeiner - Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee
Jason Hagedorn - Shoreland LHS, Somers

District Discipleship Coordinator

Aaron Bublitz - Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee
Aaron Steinbrenner - Peace, Hartford

District Special Ministries Coordinator

Scott Bergemann - Mt. Zion, Kenosha
David Carlovsky -
Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake, IL
Richard Waldschmidt (i) --
St. Jacobi, Greenfield

District Board of Appeals, Pastor

Jason Free -- Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Phil Schupman - Resurrection, Aurora, IL
Kirk Lahmann - St. John, Burlington
Randy Hughes -
Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson

District Board of Appeals, Teacher

Jeff Dorn - Shoreland LHS, Somers
Jamie Luehring -
Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson

District Board of Appeals, Layman

John Isleb - St. Paul, East Troy
John Sampson (i) -
Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne, IN
Robert Stelter - St. Paul, Muskego

Nominations from the District Council *(four year terms)*

District Nominating Committee, Chairman

Jonathan Nitz (i) -

Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin

Nicolas C Schmoller -

Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN

District Nominating Committee

Chicago Conference -- Teacher

Duane Vance - Jerusalem, Morton Grove

(one more slot needs to be filled)

District Nominating Committee

Kettle Moraine Conference -- Pastor

Paul Waldschmidt - Peace, Hartford

(one more slot needs to be filled)

District Nominating Committee

Milwaukee Metro Conference -- Layman

Mark Buske - Nain, West Allis

Adam Goede - St. John, Wauwatosa

Brian Treichel - St. John, Wauwatosa

District Nominating Committee

Milwaukee Urban Conference -- Teacher

(two more slots need to be filled)

District Nominating Committee

Shoreland Conference -- Pastor

James Fischer - Peace, Wilmont

Preston Heuer - First, Elkhorn

David Wierschke - Trinity, Caledonia

District Nominating Committee

Western Lakes Conference -- Pastor

Jonathan Arndt - Reformation, Dousman

Jacob Hoff - St. Paul, Franklin

Steven Ristow (i) - Zion, Hartland



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Guidelines for Lay Delegates

We hope you are looking forward to attending our district convention on the campus of Wisconsin Lutheran College. The communion worship service and the devotions will be good for the soul. The essay, the reports, and the discussions are sure to be interesting. And you will enjoy the Christian fellowship.

Many of the representatives from the boards and commissions of the synod will refer to the 2018 Report to the Twelve Districts (RttD) in their reports to us. Copies of a streamlined version of the RttD (containing only the major reports from each area of the synod's ministry) will be sent to every congregation the week of May 21. A link to a .pdf version of this streamlined version is available at www.sew-wels.net/2018convention. Reports from other areas of ministry that have normally reported to the districts through the RttD can also be found on the synod's website at www.wels.net/rttD2018.

Other reports and materials for this convention will also be posted on the convention page of the district website (www.sew-wels.net/2018convention) about a week before the convention. Making these materials available electronically has resulted in significant cost savings for recent conventions. If you are not able to download or print the reports, and you don't have anyone who can print them for you, there will be a limited number of packets of these materials available at the convention. Please use the comments box in the online registration form to indicate that you would like to receive one of these packets.

When you arrive at the college, please come to the REX, the large gymnasium/auditorium building at the north end of the campus. Please check in and pick up your name badge at the tables (one for each conference of the district) at the north wall of the auditorium. (Your pastor will be able to tell you the name of the conference to which your congregation belongs.)

A festival communion service will open the convention at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Worship and commune with us as we ask God's blessings on our convention and on the work of the synod.

As a voting delegate, you may participate in all election ballots and voice votes. You may also participate in floor discussions. To do so, simply proceed to one of the floor microphones and wait until the chair recognizes you. Please identify yourself and your congregation.

One of the main orders of business at the convention is elections. There will be nominating ballots followed by election ballots for each of the officer positions (president, vice presidents, and secretary). That process will be explained very early on in the convention agenda. Please feel free to participate in the nominating and election ballots.

The district nominating committee has also placed quite a few names in nomination for other district positions. The election for those positions will take place by ballot after the elections

for the officers are complete. A list of those nominations is included in these pages. If you didn't receive a copy, please ask your pastor to get you one. Biographical information for all these candidates will be included among the downloadable convention reports. You may wish to take some time to look over that information prior to the time of the actual ballot.

Each of the district's circuits will also hold elections for circuit pastor at the convention. These elections will take place at circuit meetings during the lunch hour on Tuesday. The downloadable convention materials will include a list of times and locations. Please attend this meeting and participate in the election of your circuit pastor.

You may be assigned to a floor committee. These committees study specific matters coming before the convention and prepare resolutions for discussion and adoption on the convention floor. A list of the floor committees and their members is included elsewhere in these pages. If the name of your congregation is listed under one of those committees, please arrange to attend the meetings of that floor committee. The rooms where each committee will meet will be listed in the convention materials. Directions to those rooms will be posted. Committees 2 and 3 (if needed) will be asked to begin their work on Monday evening and conclude their work on Tuesday evening. Supper will be provided in your committee rooms (please make sure that you check the box for Tuesday supper on the registration form).

Pages 2-4 of these materials include some other information you will need in order to register for the convention. If at all possible, we'd like you to register online. Instructions for registering online are included on those pages. That information sheet also includes instructions for registering by phone or mail if you have no Internet access.

We want you to feel at home at the convention. We hope that this information has helped. If you have any questions or need more information, please speak with your pastor or contact any of the district officers. Our contact information is included below.

In the Savior's name,

The Southeastern Wisconsin District Officers

President

Rev. David Kolander
1650 N Brookfield Rd
Brookfield WI 53045
262.782.3040
sewdp@wels.net

Interim Second Vice-President

Rev. Michael Woldt
2770 Davids Star Dr
Jackson WI 53037
262.677.2412
woldtma@hotmail.com

First Vice-President

Rev. Joel Leyrer
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Secretary

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