



**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention + June 11-12, 2024**  
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
*Partners in the Gospel*

**From the Office of the District President**

May 2024

Dear Brothers in the Lord,

*The very one who ascended higher than all the heavens ... gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*  
Ephesians 4:10-12

May this short letter find you rejoicing in your risen and ascended Lord Jesus and the gifts he has given to his church.

I write to you today to encourage you to register for our biennial Southeastern Wisconsin District Convention. The convention takes place on June 11-12, 2024, at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

The theme of the 2024 District Convention is **Partners in the Gospel**. Just as the Apostle Paul fondly remembered the partnership he had with God's people to spread the gospel, so we look forward to thrilling to the truth that all God's people in WELS, called workers and parishioners alike, have the privilege to partner in placing Jesus on the hearts of those in their communities.

To fill us with gospel hope and encouragement during our convention, Rev. Eric Roecker and Mr. Kurt Nitz will be our keynote speakers, addressing us on the all-important topic of "congregational culture" - both how to identify it and how to improve it. The Lord will bless us through opening worship with Holy Communion, with Seminary professor Noah Headrick as preacher. We'll be updated on and pass along our counsel on important ministry matters that are currently before our synod. And then there is the blessed opportunity to support one another in true Christian fellowship at a convention like this.

For all these reasons, dear brothers, I invite you to take a few moments right now to review the information District Secretary Billy Carter has provided us. Take this time to register if you are a pastor, male teacher, male staff minister, or congregational lay delegate. I look forward to seeing you, worshipping with you, sharing blessings and challenges with you, and considering together the kingdom work we enjoy as *Partners in the Gospel*.

Jesus lives! The victory's won!

Rev. Daniel P. Leyrer, President





**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention + June 11-12, 2024**  
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
*Partners in the Gospel*

## Convention Information

**Time:** Tuesday, June 11 and Wednesday, June 12, 2024

**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 ministry 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 ministry certified.

**Lay Delegates:** See pages 11-12 for more information especially for first-time attendees.

### Convention

**Materials:** **The 2024 Report to the Districts (RttD)** Hard copies will be mailed to every congregation in early June. A .pdf version is also available here: [2024 RttD](#).

Links to a .pdf version of the report, a flipbook version of the report, as well as a few supplemental reports from several areas of ministry, are also available on the synod's website at <https://welsconvention.net/rttD>.

**District Reports and Other Convention Materials** We intend to conduct the business of this convention using as little paper as possible. Links to convention reports and other materials will be available at the convention's page on the district website, [www.sew-wels.net/2024convention](http://www.sew-wels.net/2024convention), 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 things to him electronically.

**Registration:** Please register **before May 27**. Early registration is much more important than it has been for previous conventions, for several important reasons. If at all possible, please use the online registration form. The following link will take you directly to that form: [www.sew-wels.net/2024registration](http://www.sew-wels.net/2024registration).

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 will be sent to the attention of your treasurer this week or next.

**Parking:** WLC’s 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.

Additional parking is available on any surface lot on campus (in front of the administration building off of Bluemound, the REX lot off of Wisconsin Avenue, and two lots off of 89<sup>th</sup> Street). Note: 89<sup>th</sup> Street is now a one-way street, running from north to south, so you cannot turn onto 89<sup>th</sup> Street from Bluemound. 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.

## **Floor**

**Committees:** Several floor committees will be given the responsibility to react to important reports in the Report to the Districts or to help with the mechanics and logistics of running a convention. Floor committee members will be contacted after May 28 with more information about their work.

- 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.
- 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.
- An evening meal will be provided for any floor committees that plan to meet Tuesday evening. Floor committees will get information about how and when to request that meal.
- A box lunch will be provided on Wednesday for all who registered for it.
- If the discussion of floor committee reports takes longer than expected, we will take a break and use those box lunches for a “working lunch.”
- If not, we will have them available to take home with you as you leave.
- Refreshments will be available in the REX lobby throughout the convention.
- Lodging:** WLC does not provide lodging in their residence halls. They have made arrangements with several area hotels for reduced rates for people attending meetings at WLC, including:
- Holiday Inn Express Milwaukee/West Allis** - \$99/night  
10111 W Lincoln Avenue, West Allis 53227 - 414.327.2200  
(contact Yacoub Kaloti to request the WLC rate when you call)  
(or use the code IPKUZ when booking online)
- Residence Inn Marriot Wauwatosa** - \$119/night  
1300 Discovery Place, Wauwatosa 53226-1338 - 414.258.2575  
(contact Dianne Heuvelmans to request the WLC rate when you call)
- Sonesta Wauwatosa** - \$99/night  
104 W Innovation Dr, Wauwatosa 53226-1338 - 414.475.9500  
(contact Anastasia Nicholas to request the WLC rate when you call)  
(or use the code 2WISCONSIN when booking online)
- Note: You *must* request the WLC rate in order to receive the WLC rate.
- Displays:** Many WELS ministries and other affiliated 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 27.
- Questions:** Please contact District Secretary Carter at [sewsec@gmail.com](mailto:sewsec@gmail.com), at 920.979.3087 (voice or text), or at P.O. Box 44, Brownsville, WI 53006.





**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention + June 11-12, 2024**  
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
*Partners in the Gospel*

**Proposed Agenda**

**Tuesday, June 11**

8:00	Check-in & Fellowship	
9:00	Opening Worship Service with Communion	Professor Noah Headrick, Preacher
10:30	Greeting from WLC	Vice-President Rich Mannisto
10:40	Break	
11:00	District President Report	President Daniel Leyrer
	Election Committee	
12:00	Lunch and Circuit Pastor Elections	
1:30	Greeting from Synod Presidium	First Vice-President James Huebner
1:35	Keynote Presentation, Part 1	Mr. Kurt Nitz, Pastor Eric Roecker
2:20	World Missions	Administrator Larry Schlomer
2:35	Christian Aid and Relief Video	
2:40	Keynote Presentation, Part 2	Mr. Kurt Nitz, Pastor Eric Roecker
3:25	Break	
3:45	Martin Luther College	Professor Joel Thomford
4:00	Ministerial Education	
	Ministry Recruitment Task Force	Administrator Paul Prange
4:45	Congregational Services	Administrator Jonathan Hein
5:10	Announcements	
5:15	Devotion	Circuit Pastor Timothy Spaude

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

### Wednesday, June 12

8:30	Morning Devotion	Circuit Pastor Nathan Strobel
9:00	Elections Committee	
9:15	District Business (Minutes, Financial Report, Synod Delegates)	Pastor Billy Carter
9:30	Home Missions	Pastor Matthew Brown
	District Mission Board	Pastor Michael Zarling
10:00	Northwestern Publishing House	President Jeremy Angle
10:15	Break	
10:30	Synodical Council	District Representative Peter Aisbet
10:45	Ministry of Christian Giving	Pastor Kurt Lueneburg
11:00	Other Reports & Floor Committees WELS 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video Christian Family Counseling	
12:00	Courtesy Resolutions / Announcements	
12:15	Closing Devotion & Installation of Officers	Circuit Pastor Matthew Kiecker

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

---

---

### **Dates of Future Conventions and Conferences**

*All dates are the Tuesday and Wednesday of the second full week after Memorial Day.*

*Conventions meet in the even numbered years at WLC.*

*Conferences meet in the odd numbered years at the Seminary.*

2025	Conference	June 10-11	WLS	2029	Conference	June 12-13	WLS
2026	Convention	June 9-10	WLC	2030	Convention	June 11-12	WLC
2027	Conference	June 15-16	WLS	2031	Conference	June 10-11	WLS
2028	Convention	June 13-14	WLC	2032	Convention	June 9-10	WLC





**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention + June 11-12, 2024**

**Floor Committees**  
**(room locations in parentheses - not yet assigned)**

**#1 - Elections: *Pastor David Ernest, chairman***

**(meeting room not yet assigned)**

Pastors:	Teachers:	Laymen:
Andrew Bauer	Andrew Baxter	Christopher Cooper
Jon Bergemann	Jarrod Erbe	John Knepel
Pat Brown	ChiSeon Kim	
Zachary Kluball	Michal Henning	
Jacob Schwartz	Tim Sonntag	
David Wierschke	Bradley Gurgel	
Jeremy Wosje	Kerry Kuehn	
	Nathan Scharf	
	Tom Banaszak	

**#2 - District President's Report and Resolutions: *Pastor Gregory Lyon, chairman***

**(meeting room not yet assigned)**

Pastors:	Teachers:	Laymen:
Tim Bode	Mark Blauert	Paul Tuskowski
Kendall Cook	Joel Grulke	David Schweiger
Jon Fischer	Casey Pufahl	
Joel Russow	Jeff Wetzel	
Aaron Voss	Michael Wisniewski	
Chad Walta	Kevin Poston	

**#3 - Synod Convention Recommendation: *Pastor Kurt Schaser, chairman***

**(meeting room not yet assigned)**

Pastors:	Teachers:	Laymen:
Philip Gurgel	Teacher Nate Amundson	Steve Steiner
Steven Lange	Teacher Brett Baade	
Paul Meier	Teacher Ryan Halter	
Keith Siverly	Teacher Daniel Nolte	
Richard Waldschmidt	Kevin Walker	
Aaron Winkelman		

**#4 - Ministry Recruitment Task Force: *Pastor Tim Wempner, chairman***

**(meeting room not yet assigned)**

**Pastors:**

Pastor Tom Kock  
Pastor Clark Schultz  
Pastor Seth Haakenson  
Pastor Michael Woldt  
Pastor Martin Wildauer

Pastor Matthew Scharf

**Teachers:**

Teacher Donald Kolander  
Teacher Dan Markgraf  
Teacher Michael Martens  
SM James Boggs

**Laymen:**

Mr David Marquardt  
Mr William Marzinske  
Mr John Boggs Sr

**#5 - Steering:**

Pastor Jeremy Husby  
Pastor Jonathan Learman

**#6 - Copy Review:**

Pastor Phil Casmer



**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention + June 11-12, 2024**  
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
*Partners in the Gospel*

**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** *(four year terms)*

**Synodical Council District Representative**

Peter Aisbet (i) -  
Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls  
Christopher Snyder -  
St. Matthew, Milwaukee  
*One more slot still needs to be filled.*

**Ministerial Education Governing Board  
Representatives**

**Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Layman**

Tom Kissinger (i) -  
Christ the Lord, Brookfield  
Peter Trapp - Peace, Hartford  
*One more slot still needs to be filled.*

**Martin Luther College, Teacher**

Joe Archer (i) -  
Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete IL  
Christopher Bartsch -  
Atonement, Milwaukee  
*One more slot still needs to be filled.*

**Luther Preparatory School, Teacher**

Seth Fitzsimmons (i) - St. Paul, Muskego  
Ethan Hutchinson - Shoreland LHS, Kenosha  
Chiseon Kim - Jerusalem, Morton Grove IL

**District Mission Board, Pastor (two)**

John Borgwardt (i) Living Word, Waukesha  
Kendall Cook - Trinity, Crete IL  
Seth Haakenson - Immanuel, Beach Park IL  
Fred Schleg - Palos, Palos Heights IL  
Keith Siverly - Bethlehem, Germantown

**District Mission Board, Layman (two)**

Thomas Cameron -  
Christ the Lord, Brookfield  
Darby Fry - Crossroads, Chicago IL  
Michael Nichols (i) -  
Good Shepherd, West Bend  
*One more slot still needs to be filled.*

**District Evangelism Coordinator**

Pastor Chris Johnson -  
Mt Lebanon, Milwaukee  
Pastor Collin Vanderhoof -  
Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls

**District Special Ministries Coordinator**

Pastor Richard Waldschmidt (i) -  
St. Jacobi, Greenfield  
*One more slot still needs to be filled.*

**District Board of Appeals, Pastor**

Randall Hughes (i) -  
Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson  
Dan Marggraf - Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson

**District Board of Appeals, Teacher**

Jason Hagedorn - New Life, Kenosha  
Dan Markgraf - St. John, Wauwatosa

**District Board of Appeals, Layman**

John Sampson (i) -  
Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne IN  
Will Schaefer - Christ the Lord, Brookfield  
Joel Schwartz - St. Marcus, Milwaukee

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

**District Nominating Committee**

**Chicago Conference -- Pastor**

Nathanael Brenner (i) -

Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne IN

Caleb Klatt - Abiding Peace, Elgin, IL

**District Nominating Committee**

**Kettle Moraine Conference -- Layman**

Todd Biesterfeld (i) -

Good Shepherd, West Bend

Mark Frey - St. John, Newburg

**District Nominating Committee**

**Milwaukee Metro Conference -- Pastor**

Daniel Marshall (i) - St Paul, Cudahy

James Saatkamp - Resurrection, Milwaukee

Joel Schwartz - St. John, Wauwatosa

**District Nominating Committee**

**Milwaukee Urban Conference -- Pastor**

Brian Hackman - Grace, Milwaukee

Chad Walta - Christ, Milwaukee

**District Nominating Committee**

**Shoreland Conference -- Teacher**

Mark Blauert (i) -

Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine

Tim Schubkegel - St. John, Burlington

**District Nominating Committee**

**Western Lakes Conference --**

Nate Scharrer - St. John, Mukwonago

*One more slot still needs to be filled.*



**SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention + June 11-12, 2024**  
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
*Partners in the Gospel*

## **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 2024 Report to the Twelve Districts (RttD) in their reports to us. Hard copies will be mailed to every congregation in early June. A.pdf version is also available here: [2024 RttD](#).

Links to a .pdf version of the report, a flipbook version of the report, as well as a few supplemental reports from several areas of ministry, are also available on the synod's website at <https://welsconvention.net/rttd>.

Other reports and materials for this convention will also be posted on the convention page of the district website ([www.sew-wels.net/2024convention](http://www.sew-wels.net/2024convention)) 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. If you will be assigned to a floor committee, you will be contacted with more information after May 28.

Pages 3-5 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. Please note that early registration is more important than in previous years, for several reasons.

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. Daniel Leyrer**  
1152 W Jonathan Ln  
Bayside WI 53217  
262.365.9311  
[sewdp@wels.net](mailto:sewdp@wels.net)

**Second Vice-President**

**Rev. John Bortulin**  
W276S8930 Hilltop Lane  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
262.232.2202  
[pastorjpb@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjpb@gmail.com)

**First Vice-President**

**Rev. Aaron Steinbrenner**  
1004 Center St  
Hartford WI 53027  
262.224.6331  
[asteinbrenner@peacehartford.org](mailto:asteinbrenner@peacehartford.org)

**Secretary**

**Rev. William Carter**  
615 Highland Ave - PO Box 44  
Brownsville WI 53006  
920.979.3087  
[sewsec@gmail.com](mailto:sewsec@gmail.com)