



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD ANNUAL CONVENTION INFORMATION

June 20-24, 2021

PRE-CONVENTION INFORMATION

Convention Registration: All pastors and convention delegates may register by mail or online at www.els.org/convention. We encourage all delegates to register by **April 19** so they may receive their committee assignments in advance of the convention. If you prefer, you may email the names and suggested assignments to Denise Luehmann (dluehmann@blc.edu) by April 19 and pay later.

Due to the on-going Pandemic, clergy and delegates are to use their best judgment about attendance, vaccination, etc. These are personal decisions. If still required, arrangements will be made for social distancing etc. in accordance with Bethany Lutheran College campus protocols.

Early Registration: Early registration fees are \$85 for pastors and delegates and \$65 for teachers. Early registration ends Sunday, **June 13**. All delegates, pastors or teachers who register after that date will be charged an additional \$15.

Refunds: If you need to cancel your registration, refunds will be issued based on the original payment type. If you pay by check, we will return your check (checks will not be cashed until June 21st). If you pay by credit card, instructions will be emailed on how to receive your refund.

Excuses: Any excuses for late arrival or non-attendance at the convention are to be sent to the office of the synod president prior to the opening of the convention.

Lodging and meals:

Hotels - A listing of some hotels in the Mankato area is included with this email. BLC corporate hotel sponsors are listed at: www.blc.edu/about/campus-maps/local-accommodations/ Please note: rates are based on availability.

Residence Halls - Bethany Lutheran College offers on-campus housing in Gullixson Hall beginning at 5 pm on Friday, June 18. Cost is \$40 per night for a single room or \$25 per person per night for a shared room. Two sheets, one blanket, one pillow, one pillowcase, one bath towel, one hand towel, and one washcloth will be provided per person.

RV parking - Bethany offers RV parking with electricity for \$20 per night or without electricity for \$10 per night.

Lodging is reserved on a first come/paid basis. The deadline for reserving lodging is **Sunday, June 13th**. **After this date, no rooms or RV spots will be available.** Registration for on-campus housing must be completed online (www.els.org/convention) and pre-paid with a credit card.

Meals: Breakfasts and lunches will be served Monday, June 21, through Wednesday, June 23. Breakfast will be available for \$6.50 and lunch for \$7.50. A meal pass for three breakfasts and lunches may be purchased in advance or Monday morning for \$42.

Displays: Those who would like to have a display table at the convention should apply at the link on the convention website www.els.org/convention before **June 1**.

Presentations: Those who desire to have special presentation time at the convention should contact President Obenberger before **April 15**.

Transportation from the Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport to Mankato:

Land to Air Express - (507-625-3977 or 888-736-9190, www.landtoairexpress.com) provides airport transportation to and from Mankato. Twenty-four-hour advance reservation is required.

Landline – (507-387-6603 or 888-428-1149 or www.landline.com) provides nonstop airport transportation to and from the Mankato Regional Airport. Lyft, Uber, and Blue Earth Taxi are available for transportation from the Mankato airport to your hotel or Bethany Lutheran College.

Car Rental - Many rental companies are located at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Expense Reimbursement:

Delegates - In May, Pastors will receive an email with their congregation's financial responsibility for the Layman's Equalization Fund for delegates. This payment should be made prior to the convention. The purpose of the fund is to help defray the transportation costs of the laymen delegates. Delegates should fill out a reimbursement form upon arrival at the convention.

Pastors - Clergy should submit their expenses to the Pastors' Equalizer the first day of the convention. The equalizer will announce at the convention the amount due from each congregation.

Pastor Emeritus - If you wish to stay on-campus in Gullixson Hall, please reserve your room at www.els.org/convention (select Pastor #1 or #2). The registration fee and Bethany lodging will be paid by Pastors' Equalization. Please submit any out of pocket expenses to the Pastors' Equalizer.

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Roll Call and Credentials: Pastors and delegates need to report to the credentials desk in the Sports and Fitness Center.

Pastors - will be asked to sign the official roll call register. If you fail to sign the register, your attendance will not be reported for the convention.

Delegates - will be asked to sign the official delegate register and submit a signed copy of the *Delegate's Credentials* form. The credentials form certifies the delegate has been elected by their congregation and must be signed by the secretary of the congregation. A delegate will not be allowed to vote if a credentials form is not turned in. Mailed credentials will not be accepted. The delegate's credentials form will be on the back cover of the *Book of Reports and Memorials* mailed in May and at the convention website www.els.org/convention.

Lay members of permanent boards and committees, who attend the convention and are not delegates for their congregation, are to report to the credentials desk and sign the register. They will be regarded as advisory members having the right to speak on the floor of the convention.

Synod Sunday: Following the 4:00 p.m. service there will be supper at the cafeteria (free will donation).

Computer Access: If you plan to use your laptop during the convention, you will need to run on battery power when you are on the convention floor. Outlets are available in the classrooms during committee meetings. Due to the size of the gymnasium, Wi-Fi is unreliable and may not be available.

Streaming the Convention: The convention will be streamed over the internet at www.els.org/convention.

Book of Reports and Memorials: The *Book of Reports and Memorials* (BORAM) will be mailed in May. Each congregation will automatically receive one copy. Additional copies will be included for delegates/teachers who register by April 19. The BORAM contains reports from all permanent boards and committees of the synod. It may also include “memorials” which are recommendations in the form of proposed resolutions requesting action on the part of a convention and which originate from a source other than standing boards and committees. It is essential that you read the BORAM to get a picture of the synod’s work.

COVID-19 Information: The ELS and BLC are concerned about your safety and health. We continue to follow the CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines for COVID-19. To allow for proper social distancing, voting members will be in the south gymnasium and all other attendees will be in the north gymnasium where the proceedings will be live-streamed. Please note: this may change based on regulations issued by the MN Department of Health.

Face Masks: The face mask policy at Bethany requires a face covering to be worn in any interior space on campus and outside when social distancing is not possible. This policy is in compliance with the Minnesota Governor’s Executive Order 20-81. This means you will be required to wear a mask, even in the public spaces of the residence hall. You may remove masks in your private room, when socially distanced outdoors, when grooming in the residence hall bathrooms, and when dining.

For further information on how BLC is keeping its students, staff, and visitors safe please go to <https://blc.edu/COVID-19/>.

QUESTIONS

Before or during the convention, we are available to answer any questions you may have.

Telephone Numbers:

Greg Costello (telephone & fax)	507-344-7305
Keith Wiederhoeft (telephone & fax)	507-344-7395
Elsa Ferkenstad - Evangelical Lutheran Synod & Seminary Office	507-344-7354
Denise Luehmann – convention registration (telephone & fax)	507-344-7848
Renee Tatge – on-campus lodging	507-344-7826
College Switchboard	1-800-944-3066 or 507-344-7000

POST - CONVENTION INFORMATION

Third Annual Apologetics Seminar

Why Does Moses Matter to Christians?

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, June 23, 7 pm – Keynote

Thursday, June 24, 10 am – 4 pm – Sessions

Plus, a practical workshop to be held either at 8:30 am or else 4 pm on Thursday, depending upon whether any convention business continues into Thursday morning.

For updated information plus registration instructions, please contact:

Dr. Ryan MacPherson
Director of the Center for Apologetics and Worldviews
www.blc.edu/apologetics/events
apologetics@blc.edu
507-344-7787

