

Pastor/Teacher/Staff Minister Conference

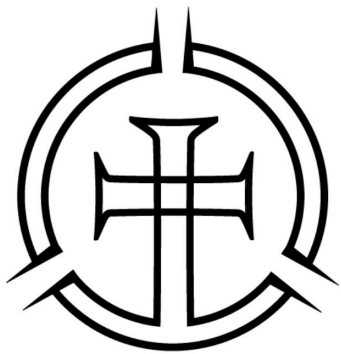
OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

October 15-17, 2025

Hammock Beach Resort | Palm Coast, FL

Dear fellow workers in God's kingdom,

The theme for our District Pastor/Teacher/Staff Minister Conference this year echoes the theme from this summer's Synod Convention: "Christ Through Us." As Gospel proclaimers, our Savior has given us the high calling of being his voice in the world as we share the message of forgiveness and reconciliation with our neighbors. At this year's conference, we will gather around God's Word to be strengthened in our faith and built up in our callings. We will gather together around the cross in worship to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament. We will gather with each other in fellowship to encourage one another and be encouraged. As we do, we trust that our God will equip and strengthen us for the work ahead and keep us focused on Christ, who promises to work through us.



CHRIST

THROUGH US

SCHEDULES:

The general conference schedule as well as specific Teacher Conference and Pastor Conference schedules can be found at the conference website: <https://sa.wels.net/ptc>. (*The Teacher's Conference and the Pastor's Conference will each have their own specific agendas detailing their presentations, workshops, and break times.*) There will be time allotted for an opening worship service, fellowship times, district reports, as well as time for some encouragement from our District President.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Registration opens on Wednesday, August 6th and runs through Friday, September 12th. You may register using a link found at <https://sa.wels.net/ptc>. All conference attendees must register individually.

If you have questions, you can reach the Planning Committee at conference@sa.wels.net. If your spouse is planning to accompany you (and isn't a Called Worker), please register your spouse as a guest on the form.

The deadline to register for the Pastor/Teacher/Staff Minister conference is Friday, September 12th.

ROOM RESERVATIONS:

All attendees are responsible for making their hotel reservations **through Hammock Beach Resort**. The special conference rates listed below for hotel suites is applicable up to 3 days prior to conference and up to 3 days after the conference. If you are just planning on staying Wednesday and Thursday night, you can reserve your room online via the link below. If you are planning to come early or stay longer, you can make your reservation by calling Hammock Beach at the number below.

The deadline to reserve a room for the Pastor/Teacher/Staff Minister conference is Friday, September 12th. We can not guarantee a room or the price below if you make a reservation after the deadline.

If your church/school is located in Florida, you can take advantage of your tax-exempt status. Here is how:

For individual guests who are travelling as part of their church/school that has a Florida State Tax Exemption Certificate, the Resort will honor tax exemption **if the church/school is paying for the reservation**. In other words, as long as the payment from the tax-exempt church/school matches the tax-exempt certificate received from the church/school, we can honor tax exemption. A guest may *not* pay on his/her own "personal" credit card and show the tax-exempt certificate. The payment received must match the tax-exempt organization.

It is recommended that guests who would like to be tax exempt for their stay contact our Reservations Team *directly*, so our Reservations Team can collect the tax exemption paperwork

in advance, confirm the payment match, and then set up the reservation billing to run correctly as tax exempt. Guests may call 866.841.0287, prompt #1 followed by prompt #3.

Click [Here](#) to reserve your stay at Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa and use the Online Code: CKL25. You can also call Hammock Beach to set up a reservation at 866-841-0287 prompt #1 followed by prompt #3.

- ROOM TYPES AVAILABLE:

- Main Tower One Bedroom Deluxe Oceanview Suite - \$225/night
1 King Bed & 1 Pull-out sofa
- Main Tower One Bedroom Oceanview Premium - \$255/night
1 King Bed & 1 Pull-out sofa
- Two Bedroom Resort View Villa - \$315/night
2 King Beds & 1 Pull-out sofa
- Three Bedroom Resort View Villa - \$375/night
2 King Beds | 2 Twin Beds | 1 Pull-out sofa
- Main Tower Three Bedroom Ocean View Suite - \$399/night
2 King Beds | 2 Twin Beds | 1 Pull-out sofa

CONFERENCE FEES:

There is a Registration Fee of \$175. This includes the costs for conference expenses, presenter costs, the Wednesday evening fellowship, Thursday's catered lunch, and water & coffee throughout the conference. If a married couple attends and the spouse is not participating in the conference, there is a \$75 fee to cover food and fellowship costs.

If you are an Early Childhood Educator who is only coming to the conference for a full day on Friday, you will be able to note that on the registration form. The conference fee for Friday only is \$75 and will cover conference expenses as well as a catered box lunch for you on Friday.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

District Pastor's Conference Presentation

The Psalms - Knowing Them Like the Back of My Hand (Prof Brad Wordell)

Luther called the Psalms the Holy Spirit's Bible within the Bible. He said that the Psalms clearly proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Psalms paint a portrait of the coming Christ. Our study of the Psalms will focus on the larger structure of the Psalms—the five books and

the storyline that runs through them—and identifying the groupings of Psalms in those five books (e.g., the first kingship cluster in Psalms 20 through 24). Special attention will be given to the Christo-telic nature of the Psalms, the themes of the Psalms, the structures of the Psalms, and the best way to read them. We will discuss the use of the Psalms in life and ministry, and how to teach the Psalms to God's people. To whet our appetites for language study, about 10% of the seminar will include the reading and discussion of Hebrew. The specific psalms studied will be a mix of "the most-used psalms in pastoral ministry" and "hidden gems." Participants will give input on the selection of those psalms.

District Teacher's Conference Presentations

Wednesday's Keynote: Professional Learning Communities in the South Atlantic District

The Professional Learning Community (PLC) model provides a research-supported method for schools to improve student learning outcomes through ongoing collaborative learning among educators. This keynote will give an overview of the purpose of a PLC, essential ideas, and necessary logistics to consider when implementing this approach within your school or across schools. Examples will be shared from over 20 years of experience with PLCs in a variety of settings to help you envision and make a practical plan for what a PLC can look like in your specific ministry setting. For those who have already started this work, this will help you identify next steps.

Thursdays Keynote: Giving the Gift of Feedback through High Quality Assessments

Feedback is a gift. Feedback helps us ensure that we are having our intended impact. To ensure that our students are learning what we want them to learn we need feedback. Our students need feedback to focus their efforts in the learning process. This feedback can come in the form of formative and summative assessments that provide teachers and their students with data that informs next steps in the learning journey. In this keynote we will review, share and apply research-based principles to design assessments that give us and our students actionable feedback. We will evaluate our current practices and take the next best steps in a shift from using assessments primarily to evaluate students' content knowledge at a single point in time to using a variety of frequent assessments to identify progress on essential skills and inform instruction.

CONFERENCE MISCELLANEA:

The suites at The Hammock Beach Resort are designed and equipped more like condominiums than traditional hotel rooms. All suites provide full kitchen facilities (refrigerator, cooking, dishes, silverware, etc.) as well as a roomy living area.

All meals, except Thursday's boxed lunch, will be on your own. There is a Publix grocery store nearby the resort if you'd like to stock up on supplies for snacks and/or meals in your suite. There are also several restaurants on site, along with many more in the surrounding area.

If you have questions, you can reach the Conference Planning Committee at conference@sa.wels.net. In addition, if you are unable to attend, excuses are to be submitted to the Conference Planning Committee at the same email.

We are excited for this conference. We pray that we are able to come together this October to be mutually encouraged and strengthened around God's Word. We are confident this conference and our presenters will be a rich blessing to you and your respective ministries.

Pastor Ben Kratz, District Pastor/Teacher/Staff Minister Conference Chairman
(Our Savior Lutheran Church – Birmingham, AL)

Mr. Eric Hahn
Pastor Erik Jahnke
Pastor Jonny Lehman
Mrs. Laura Montez
Pastor Andrew Stuebs
Mr. Troy Yerks