



INTEGRITY DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

WELS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP

January 19–21, 2026
Chicago Hilton

*Practical leadership growth that
strengthens employees and delivers
immediate value back to your workplace.*

In just a few days, participants sharpen skills in communication, strategizing, teamwork development, and management—all grounded in integrity and service. They return more motivated and better equipped to strengthen your organization. It's a high-impact investment with minimal time away.

KEYNOTES

CHARACTER FORMATION AS CULTURAL STRATEGY

Explore how resilient character steadies culture and equips leaders to inspire and guide organizations well. This keynote emphasizes the importance of character formation as the foundation for trust, resilience, and long-term influence.



Dr. Ryan Olson is a research professor at the University of Virginia and a senior fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, where he also co-directs the Colloquy on Culture and Formation.

LOST HABITS OF LEADERSHIP: CURIOSITY & CRITICAL THINKING

Rediscover the role curiosity and critical thinking play in sparking innovation and sharpening decisions. This keynote highlights how recovering these habits strengthens decision-making and positions organizations to thrive in uncertain times.



Chip Woods has developed leadership, analytical, and relationship skills over his thirty years of experience in multiple industries, from aerospace to football. He was part of Lockheed Martin's design team to develop the Orion spacecraft.



Rev. Brett Krause is the pastor at Zion Lutheran Church and School in Denver. He also serves as WELS chairman for the Colorado District Mission Board, overseeing mission development work in three states.

BREAKOUTS

ALIGNING STRATEGY, SPENDING, AND STEWARDSHIP

Strengthen financial leadership and link resources to organizational goals.

COMMUNICATING YOUR MISSION WITH CLARITY

Improve messaging, branding, and connection to strengthen engagement.

COUNTING WHAT COUNTS

Identify and track meaningful data to drive informed, strategic decisions.

THE EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT LEADER

Build self-awareness, manage conflict, and strengthen relational leadership.

THE FOCUS TAX: HOW MUCH ARE YOU PAYING?

Reduce the hidden costs of distraction to sharpen organizational performance.

FROM TALK TO TRACTION

Move from ideas and conversations into action with proven implementation practices.

THE GRACE TO LEAD CHANGE WELL

Develop resilience, empathy, and clarity to guide people through transitions.

PROBLEM-SOLVING AS CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Approach challenges with integrity, creativity, and a values-driven mindset.

SERVANT LEADERS

Explore how leading with humility and service strengthens teams and organizations.

VISION THAT INSPIRES SERVICE

Cast compelling vision that energizes others toward shared goals.

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