



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

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WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Welcome!

On behalf of the faculty and staff of WLC we are pleased to be serving as the host site for your 2022 SEW Convention, and hope you experience an edifying worship service as well as productive discussions and reporting sessions.

Although our event and conferences office and staff are responsible for the majority of the logistics required for your convention, we want to thank our Audio Visual and Information Technology departments, our facility management staff at Trinity Home Group, and our campus food service staff with Sodexo, for their assistance in preparing our campus to serve you at the highest possible level.

We hope we've accommodated your planning committee's wishes for all of today's and tomorrow's activities.

If you are interested in seeing more of our campus, please speak with the event worker stationed at the information center in the REX lobby.

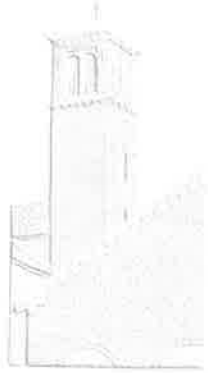
Again, welcome to our campus. May the Lord bless your convention, your fellowship, as well as your safe return home.

In His Service,



Karen Plamann
Director of Events and Conferences

PS: Please feel free to send any feedback on this year's convention including suggestions for improvement to me at karen.plamann@wlc.edu



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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226
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Office of Campus Events



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

Proposed Agenda

Tuesday, June 14

8:00	Registration & Fellowship	
9:00	Opening Worship Service with Communion	Pastor Keith Free, Preacher
10:30	Break	
10:50	Greeting from WLC	Vice-President Richard Mannisto
11:00	District President Report	President David Kolander
	Elections Committee	
	Circuit Changes	
12:00	Lunch and Circuit Pastor Elections	
1:30	Greeting from Synod Presidium	Vice-President James Huebner
1:35	Keynote Presentation	MLC President Richard Gurgel
3:05	Break	
3:20	Home Missions	Pastor John Borgwardt
	District Mission Board	
3:50	World Missions	Administrator Larry Schlomer
4:05	Martin Luther College	President Richard Gurgel
4:20	Ministerial Education	Administrator Paul Prange
4:35	Christian Aid and Relief	Pastor Bruce Marggraf
4:50	Announcements	
5:00	Devotion	Circuit Pastor Aaron Steinbrenner

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

Floor Committees meet in the evening

Wednesday, June 15

8:30	Morning Devotion	Circuit Pastor Matthew Kiecker Circuit Pastor David Kuehl
9:00	Elections Committee	
9:15	District Business (Minutes, Financial Report, Synod Delegates)	Secretary Billy Carter
9:30	Congregational Services	Pastor Bryan Gerlach
10:00	Northwestern Publishing House	Mark Buske Pastor Chris Cordes President Jeremy Angle
10:15	Break	
10:30	Synodical Council	SEW Representative Peter Aisbet
10:45	Ministry of Christian Giving	Pastor Paul Lindhorst
11:00	Other Reports & Floor Committees WELS Foundation WELS Historical Institute	
12:00	Courtesy Resolutions / Announcements	
12:15	Closing Devotion & Installation of Officers	Circuit Pastor Robert Dick Pastor David Kolander

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.

2023	Conference	June 13-14	WLS	2027	Conference	June 15-16	WLS
2024	Convention	June 11-12	WLC	2028	Convention	June 13-14	WLC
2025	Conference	June 10-11	WLS	2029	Conference	June 12-13	WLS
2026	Convention	June 9-10	WLC	2030	Convention	June 11-12	WLC

Floor Committees
(room locations in parentheses)

#1 – Elections: *Staff Minister Thomas Banaczak, chairman*

(Siebert Center – Level B of the REX)

Pastors:	Teachers:	Laymen:
Michael Borgwardt	Josiah Willitz	Bethlehem, Carmel
Andrew Bauer	ChiSeon Kim	Peace, Kokomo
Joshua Kesting	David Stoltz	Immanuel, Waukegan
Mark Rohrback	Matthew Moeller	St. Paul, Brownsville
Jonathan Learman	Matthew Rydecki	St. Paul, West Bend
Aaron Weber	Joseph Brinkman	St. Matthew, Iron Ridge
Curt Golm	Brian Gottschalk	Jordan, West Allis
Luis Acosta	Mark Moldenhauer	Abiding Word, Milwaukee
Christopher Doerr	Timothy Thierfelder	Siloah, Milwaukee
Scott Bergemann	Brett Baade	Gethsemane, Milwaukee
Ed Ungemach	Keith Kopczynski	Water of Life, Racine
Andrew Fix	Timothy Mielke	St. John (Oakwood), Oak Creek
Robert Frick	Jason Goede	Zion, Hartland
	James Nowack	Reformation, Dousman
	Nathan Schulmeister	

#2 – District President's Report and Resolutions: *Pastor Nathan Strobel, chairman*

(S105 – Main Level of Generac Hall)

Pastors:	Teachers:	Laymen:
Kevin Raddatz	Scott Sievert	Good Shepherd, Downers Grove
Steven Geiger	Jamie Luehring	Abiding Peace, Elgin
Larry Mose	Tim Gustafson	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Dan Marshall	Philip Krueger	Zion, Allenton
Raymond Kimbrough	David Leyrer	Woodlawn, West Allis
David Pagel	Joshua Seeger	Grace, Milwaukee
	James Holman	Faith, Antioch
	Paul Sriver	St. Paul, Franklin
	Jarrold Erbe	
	James Brandt	
	John Kaesmeyer	

#3 – Other Topics: *(this committee will not be needed and can consider themselves dismissed)*

Pastors:

Dustin Blumer
Robert Hein
Joel Pless
Joel Leyrer
Philip Merten
Steve Neumann
Gary Koschnitzke
Richard Warnecke

Teachers:

Joe Archer
Timothy Kuehl
Scott Beyersdorf
James Haferman
Timothy MacKain
Kevin Glaeske
Todd Gorsline
Gerald Marowsky
Daniel Hahm
Joel Mattek
Ryan Walz

Laymen:

Christ the King, Palatine
Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Redeemer, Cedarburg
Zion, South Milwaukee
Risen Savior, Milwaukee
Trinity, Union Grove
Living Word, Waukesha

#4 – Steering: *Pastor Jonathan Balge, chairman*

Teacher Duane Vance

Pastor John Roekle

#5 – Copy Review: *Pastor Phil Casmer, chairman*

(S109 – Main Level of Generac Hall)

#6 – Technology (Uploading Finished Resolutions): *Teacher Joshua Schoeneck, chairman*

All committee rooms beginning with S are located on the main floor of Generac Hall, the Science building at the east end of the campus. WLC student staff will also be there to help you find your rooms. Box suppers will be brought to Generac Hall for you.



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT **53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022**

Convention Information

Check in Tables

When you arrive at the convention, please check in at the table for your conference at the north end of the REX gymnasium. The six conference secretaries – or someone they have designated – will man these tables. There you will find your name tag and can pick up the pencil and paper you will need for elections and the worship folder for the opening service.

Late Registration

If you did not yet register, the conference secretaries will have blank name tags you can fill out. They will also be able to check you off on their conference lists. We ask that you still use the computers in the northwest corner of the gym or the REX lobby to register online to get yourself in the registration database. Use the icon on the desktop to open the online registration form. A link to the form is also available at: www.sew-wels.net/2022registration.

Excuses

If you know that you will be absent for part of the convention and did not excuse when you registered, please either give a written excuse to Secretary Carter or use the online registration form to create another registration that notes your excuse.

Meals and Refreshments

Continental breakfasts will be provided for everyone Tuesday and Wednesday. Refreshments will be available in the REX lobby throughout the convention.

The Tuesday noon meal will be served in the Campus Center. Because we won't all fit in the Campus Center at once, we will eat in two shifts. Those shifts will be determined by conference and circuit. Circuits not scheduled for lunch in each shift will meet for their circuit pastor elections during that shift. A schedule noting which circuits eat when and where circuits will meet for their elections is printed at the bottom of page 10 of this document.

The supper meal for committee members will be brought to Generac Hall.

A box lunch will be available at the back of the REX during the noon hour on Wednesday.

Copies Available

A limited number of copies of the Reports to the District and a limited number of packets of the reports and other convention materials for those who were not able to download them before the convention are available from the conference secretaries at the registration tables.

Announcements/Messages

Any announcements that need to be made or messages that come in for convention attendees will be displayed on the screens to the left and right of the stage. If you have a message to display on those screens, please talk to the people at the technology table at the back of the auditorium.

Wireless Internet

The REX is configured for wireless Internet access. When you view your available networks, choose the one named "sew-conference." No logon or password is needed.

Power for Electronic Devices

Cords and power strips for computers and other electronic devices are available at many of the tables at the front half of the auditorium. Cords and strips for recharging are also available at the north end of the gymnasium (behind the conference check-in tables).

Displays

The synodical and para-synodical ministries and groups listed below have set up displays along the south wall of the gymnasium. Please visit their displays while you're here.

Wisconsin Lutheran College

WELS Multi-Language Productions

Central Africa Medical Mission

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Grow in Grace (Continuing Education)

WELS Church Extension Fund

Northwestern Publishing House

WELS Special Ministries

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving

WELS Foundation

WELS Archives / WELS Historical Society

Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School

Lutheran Military Support Group

Grace in Action

Jesus Cares Ministries

A City of God / Chaplains in Schools

Convention Reports and Proceedings

Copies of the proceedings of this convention will be available as soon after the convention as possible on the district's website, www.sew-wels.net. Copies of the convention resolutions will be available there before the proceedings are finished.

Membership List

Pages 25-44 of this document contain the official membership list of the district. Every attempt has been made to make it as accurate as possible. Every called worker has been placed in the conference and circuit where they hold congregational membership. Called workers who are not ministry certified are noted in italics. If you find any corrections that need to be made, or have any other questions about the list, please inform Secretary Carter in writing or by e-mail (sewsec@gmail.com).

Convention Evaluations

You may use the evaluation sheet on pages 49-50 to note any comments you may have about this convention and its arrangements. These evaluation sheets may be placed in the boxes located at the head table and the Technology Station at the back of the gym. There is a link to an online version of this form at the convention's page of the district's website, www.sew-wels.net/2022convention.

Questions

If you have any questions during the conference, please direct them to WLC Campus Events Director Karen Plamann or her assistant Ben Siemers.

Thank You

Thank you to WLC Campus Events Director Karen Plamann and her assistant Ben Siemers and the rest of the Campus Events staff for all their work and help, to the Sodexo Campus Food Service staff for all the meals and morning refreshments; to John Meyer and Tim Snyder and the other members of the WLC Technology and Media Services staff; to the Trinity Home Group staff for all their work setting up the gymnasium for this event; to Denis Kremer and his staff at Kremer Publications for printing the worship folders; to Jeff Westphal and Tammy Steers and their staff at the Westphal Group for printing everything else; to the conference secretaries for their help with registration; and to anyone else who helped in planning and preparing for this conference.

Parliamentary Guidelines

GUIDELINES FOR MOTIONS AND PROCEDURES **~WELS SYNOD AND DISTRICT CONVENTIONS~**

Main or Principal Motion

A Main or Principal Motion introduces the business of the assembly before the voting members for discussion and final action. There can be only one Main Motion on the floor at one specific time. Debatable. Amendable. Majority vote to pass.

Withdraw a Motion

When a motion is before the group and the person who made the motion desires to withdraw it, the Chair may grant him permission to do so, provided no one objects. If anyone objects, the motion cannot be withdrawn except through a motion granting such permission by the assembly. Not debatable. Not amendable. Majority vote required for adoption.

Amending a Motion

Amendments are motions by which the motion under consideration may be clarified or amplified so that it is more suitable and acceptable. This may be done by adding, or inserting, or striking out words, phrases, or paragraphs. An Amendment may be used to divide a motion or to substitute a new motion provided it relates to the matter under consideration. In all instances the amendment is considered first and then the vote on the Main Motion. Debatable if motion to be amended is debatable. Amendable. Majority vote to pass.

Amend the Amendment

An Amendment may be amended, but only once. Amendment in the third degree is out of order. Debatable if motion to be amended is debatable. Not amendable. Majority vote.

Postpone to a Definite Time

The motion to Postpone to a Definite Time applies only to the Main Motion. It may be amended, but only by altering the time. Debatable on its own merits but not on the main motion. Amendable. Majority vote.

Postpone Indefinitely

To Postpone Indefinitely applies only to the Main Motion and questions of privilege. If it carries, the motion to which it applies cannot be brought up for consideration again during the meeting. Debatable. Not amendable. Majority vote for passage.

Limit or Extend Debate

When many people wish to speak to an action to be taken, the time granted to each speaker may be limited. A Motion to Limit Debate or to Extend Debate on a pending question is not debatable and requires two-thirds vote. When time for adjournment of a meeting has arrived and the members are in the middle of debating a motion, the time for adjournment may be extended until debate is completed and the action on the motion has been taken. Amendable.

Point of Information

All requests for information should be addressed to the Chair. The privilege of rising for a Point of Information is at times necessary and helpful for members of the assembly. It, however, is not to be abused. A member rising too often should not be given recognition by the Chair.

When asking for a Point of Information the member should recognize the Chair, states his name and say, "Mr. Chairman, a Point of Information. I would like to ask the previous speaker a question." If the Chair grants such a request, the member may ask his question. Not debatable. Not amendable. Is not voted on.

Parliamentary Inquiry

A Parliamentary Inquiry is a request for the Chair's opinion on a matter of parliamentary procedure as it relates to the business at hand. If the Chair cannot answer the question, he may refer it to the parliamentarian. Such inquiry may not lead to debate or to an appeal. Is not voted on.

Division of a Question

The motion to Divide a Question and then consider one part at a time is really an amendment and is subject to the same rules as an amendment. Not debatable. Amendable. Majority vote required for adoption.

Refer to a Committee

If consideration of a resolution indicates that such resolution or motion is unclear, the matter may be referred back to the committee responsible for the matter or to a special committee.

A Motion to Refer is debatable. The debate, however, can extend only to the desirability of committing the main question and the proper details of the motion to commit but not to the merits of the main question. It is amendable. Majority vote required for adoption.

Previous Question or Call the Question

When members begin to repeat themselves in the discussion of a motion and little progress is being made, a motion calling for the Previous Question (Close of the Debate) may be made. It demands that the motion be called immediately without debate or amendment. If it carries with a two-thirds majority, then the pending main motion or amendment to the main motion must be called. If the motion calling for the Previous Question fails to carry, discussion of the pending motion continues.

No delegate may speak on the pending motion and then close his remarks by saying, "Mr. Chairman, I move to Call the Question."

Should there be a Main Motion before the assembly as well as an amendment to the Main Motion, a motion calling for the Previous Question would apply only to the pending amendment. If the call for the Previous Question is to include the Main Motion as well, the maker to the motion for the Previous Question should say, "I move the Previous Question on the Main Motion and all of its amendments." Or "I move the Previous Question and all pending questions."

Lay on the Table or Tabling a Motion

A motion to Table postpones actions on the subject pending in such a manner that it can be taken up at any time provided a motion to take the subject from the table passes. It is neither debatable nor amendable. Majority vote required for adoption.

Division of the Assembly

After a vote by voice or in a large assembly by hands any voting member may call for a division of the vote, that is, a vote usually by rising or by ballot. It is in order without obtaining the floor and at any time after the question has been put, even after the vote has been announced. Does not require a second or a vote. Demand of a single voting member compels division. Not Amendable. Not debatable.

Point of Order

In ordinary meetings it is undesirable to raise points of order on minor irregularities of a purely technical nature particularly if it is clear no one's rights are being infringed upon. When a voting member notices a breach of order that may do harm if allowed to pass, he may rise and without

waiting for recognition from the Chair call for a point of order. He merely says, "Mr. Chairman, I call for a point of order."

The validity of a point of order is decided by the Chair. If the member who raised the point of order is not satisfied with the Chair's ruling either the Chair or the member may appeal to the assembly for a final decision. The member's appeal requires a second. Debatable under special circumstances. Not amendable. Majority in negative to reverse Chair's decision.

Appeal

If a member differs with a ruling of the Chair affecting a substantial question, he may appeal. He may say, "I appeal from the decision of the Chair." If the appeal is seconded, the chairman states the question as follows, "Shall the Chair be sustained by the assembly?" If there is a tie vote or a majority vote the Chair is sustained. Not amendable. Not debatable under certain conditions.

Suspend the Rules

The Constitution and the Bylaws of the WELS cannot be suspended, even by unanimous consent. Any changes therein should be made in conformity with the Constitution. When the convention wishes to do something that it cannot do without violating one or more of its regular rules, it can adopt a motion to Suspend the Rules interfering with a proposed action provided such action is not in conflict with the organization's Bylaws and Constitution. Such rules usually relate to the details of administration rather than parliamentary procedure. Suspension of a rule for a definite purpose requires a two-thirds vote. Not debatable. Not amendable.

Call for the Order of the Day

The Call for the Order of the Day takes precedence over all other motions except the motion to adjourn and a question of privilege. The schedule or addenda appearing each morning as Today's Business makes up the Order of the Day. However, pressure of time, the unscheduled interruptions of the election committee, and at times the inability of the Floor Committees to provide an orderly flow of recommended resolutions makes it very difficult for the Chairman to follow the Order of the Day precisely. The delegates are asked to allow the chairman reasonable latitude in abiding by the Order. Not debatable. Not amendable. Must be enforced on request of one member unless set aside by a two-thirds vote.

Raise a Question of Privilege

To Raise a Question of Privilege is a device that permits a request or main motion relating to the rights and privileges of the Assembly or any of its members to be brought up for immediate consideration because of its urgency. Such Question of Privilege may relate to the comfort of the delegates with respect to ventilation, lighting, noise, or other disturbances, to the conduct of visitors, etc. It may interrupt a speaker if immediate action is required. Example: "I request that speakers use the microphones so that we can hear what is being said." The Chair rules on whether the privilege shall be granted subject to appeal by the delegates. Takes precedence over all other motions except the three higher-ranked privileged motions to Recess, to Adjourn, to Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn. No debate. No amendment. Chair rules on admissibility.

To Recess

Has little significance for this convention since time of recess is usually set in the Order of the Day. When the time for Recess is over, delegates should return to the convention hall immediately for continuation of the session.

Objection to the Consideration of a Question

The object of this motion is to enable the assembly to avoid altogether any question, which it may consider irrelevant, unprofitable, or contentious. An objection can be made to the consideration of any principal motion, but only when it is introduced. Requires no second. Cannot be debated or amended. A two-thirds vote against consideration is required to sustain the objection.

Adjournment

When the adoption of the proposed program for the convention, the times for adjournment between sessions as well as the time for adjournment at the close of the convention have been set.

To Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn

With the adoption of the proposed convention program, the times to which to adjourn between sessions have been set. The time to which to adjourn is the next scheduled convention of the district, unless a special convention is called in keeping with the constitution of the WELS. Majority vote required for adoption.

Lunch Schedule and Circuit Meeting Locations

All circuits will meet to elect a circuit pastor by ballot during the lunch hour on Tuesday. The schedule below shows the two groups of circuits and their times for lunch and this meeting.

Note: All pastors serving in the circuit are eligible to serve as circuit pastor. The term is a two-year term. Please report the election results to the District Secretary and the Chairman of the Elections Committee.

Room Legend

S0xx	Generac Hall – Lower Level
S1xx	Generac Hall – Main level
S2xx	Generac Hall – Upper level
Treffert	Generac Hall – Lower Level

12:00 Lunch Shift

– Circuit Meetings at 1:00

Western Lakes Conference

Northern Circuit	S032
Southern Circuit	S011

Shoreland Conference

Lakeshore Circuit	S109
Western Circuit	S151

Chicago Conference

Central Circuit	S009
Eastern Circuit	S010
Northern Circuit	S141
Southern Circuit	Treffert Commons

12:30 Lunch Shift

– Circuit Meetings at 12:00

Kettle Moraine Conference

Corridor Circuit	S032
Flyway Circuit	S009
Hartford Circuit	S010
Ozaukee Circuit	S011

Milwaukee Metro Conference

Paradise Circuit	S141
WAMiWauG Circuit	S105

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Barnabas Circuit	S151
Philip Circuit	S109
Timothy Circuit	Treffert Commons



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT **53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022**

District Constitution Articles Pertaining to the Election of Officers and Circuit Pastors

DISTRICT CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VII Rights and Duties of the Officers

Section 1.

The president shall be responsible for the supervision of doctrine and practice within the district. The president shall represent the district, shall supervise the execution of its resolutions and shall sign all documents issuing from the district. The president shall provide for the ordination of such candidates for the ministry who shall have graduated from the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary or such who shall have otherwise qualified and who shall have received and accepted a call from within the confines of the district. He shall also authorize the installation of other pastors and of male teachers called by congregations within the district. He shall issue letters of transfer to such pastors and male teachers as shall enter another church body in fellowship with the synod. The president shall supervise the work of the district circuit pastors. With the concurrence of the other district officers, the president shall fill vacancies in the office of secretary and second vice president. He shall also fill vacancies on all boards and committees of the district. The president and vice presidents shall fill vacancies in the office of the circuit pastor. All appointments made are for the remainder of the unexpired term. With the concurrence of the two vice presidents, the president shall have the right to suspend a synod member from the synodical membership. Unless an appeal is pending, he shall submit a complete report of his action to the district at its next convention. With the consent of the vice presidents, the president may call a special convention of the district or change the time and place of a convention. At each regular convention of the district the president shall submit a written report on the activities of his office during the past biennium.

ARTICLE VI Officers

Section 5.

For the offices of president and vice president, only pastors active in the parish ministry shall be eligible.

DISTRICT CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE VII
Rights and Duties of the Officers

Section 2.

The vice presidents shall carry out such assignments the president may assign or are prescribed in this constitution. The first vice president shall take the place of the president whenever the latter shall be prevented from discharging his duties, and in the case of a vacancy in the office of the president, shall serve as president until the next convention. He shall also oversee special support provided for pastors and teachers and their widows and orphans who are in need of such assistance. In the case of a vacancy in the office of first vice president, the second vice president shall serve as first vice president until the next convention. Vice presidents shall not serve as circuit pastors. Offices vacated by election shall be filled by election at that convention for the remainder of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI
Officers

Section 5.

For the offices of president and vice president, only pastors active in the parish ministry shall be eligible.

ARTICLE VII
Rights and Duties of the Officers

Section 3.

The secretary shall record the minutes of the convention and, with the concurrence of the president and according to the instructions of the district, prepare a report thereon for publication. The secretary shall sign all documents issuing from the district, shall keep a list of all congregations, pastors and male teachers who are members of the district, shall announce all district conventions in *Forward in Christ* not less than six weeks prior to their convening and with the consent of the president may appoint such assistants as may be necessary to perform his duties.

ARTICLE XX
Duties of Circuit Pastors

Section 1.

A circuit pastor shall visit each pastor in his circuit at least once every four years for the purpose of strengthening the unity of the Spirit. He shall discuss the manner in which the goals and programs of the synod are being carried out and shall offer assistance in solving local problems. It shall also be the duty of the circuit pastor to visit congregations when invited by the pastor or the congregation, or when delegated by the district president. Since the circuit pastor is not elected by the district, he is not subject to the restrictions of Article XXVI of the district constitution.



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

Nominations

Notes: The numbers correspond to the electronic ballots that will be used. (i) = incumbent

Nominations from the District Nominating Committee

(four year terms – vote for one for each position.)

Ministerial Education Governing Board Representatives

Martin Luther College, Pastor

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Daniel Leyrer (i) | St. Marcus, Milwaukee |
| 2. John Roekle | First, Racine |
| 3. Aaron Steinbrenner | Peace, Hartford |

Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Layman

Two more slots need to be filled in order to hold an election

6. Kevin Keller
- 7.
- 8.

District Mission Board, Pastor

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11. James Saatkamp | Resurrection, Milwaukee |
| 12. Brian Schmidt | Trinity, Caledonia |
| 13. Michael Zarling (i) | Water of Life, Racine |

District Mission Board, Teacher

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 16. Ryan Finkbeiner (i) | Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee |
| 17. ChiSeon Kim | Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL |

District Mission Board, Layman

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 21. Terry Felton | New Life, Kenosha |
| 22. Steven Wolf (i) | Our Savior, Grafton |

District Lutheran Schools Coordinator

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 26. Teacher Duane Vance | Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete, IL |
| 27. Teacher David Stoltz | Crown of Life, Hubertus |

District Board of Appeals, Chairman

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 31. Pastor Dale Reckzin | St. John (Oakwood), Oak Creek |
| 32. Pastor Thomas Schultz | Christ, Palatine, IL |

District Board of Appeals, Pastor

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 36. Jonathan Arndt | St. John, Newburg |
| 37. Jacob Schwartz | Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin |

District Board of Appeals, Teacher

41. Matthew Linton

42. David Ring

Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson

Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine

District Board of Appeals, Layman

46. Paul Kieselhorst (i)

47. Quentin Samelson

Grace, Milwaukee

Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake, IL

Nominations from the District Council*(four year terms – vote for one for each position)***District Nominating Committee, Chairman***One more slot needs to be filled in order to hold an election.*

51. Pastor Jason Free

52.

Christ the Lord, Brookfield

District Nominating Committee**Chicago Conference -- Teacher***Both slots need to be filled in order to hold an election*

56.

57.

District Nominating Committee**Kettle Moraine Conference -- Pastor**

61. Jeremy Husby

62. Jonathan Learman

Peace, Hartford

St. Peter/Zion, Theresa

District Nominating Committee**Milwaukee Metro Conference -- Layman***One more slot needs to be filled in order to hold an election*

66. Mark Buske (i)

67.

Nain, West Allis

District Nominating Committee**Milwaukee Urban Conference -- Teacher**

71. Todd Gorsline (i)

72. Peter Langebartels

Atonement, Milwaukee

St. Marcus, Milwaukee

District Nominating Committee**Shoreland Conference -- Pastor**

76. Scott Bergemann

77. Arthur Faught

78. David Wierschke (i)

New Life, Kenosha

Trinity, Union Grove

Trinity, Caledonia

District Nominating Committee**Western Lakes Conference -- Pastor**

81. Timothy Gerbing

82. Benjamin Steenbock

Christ, Pewaukee

Zion, Hartland

Nominees for Election – Biographical Information

Martin Luther College Governing Board, Pastor

- 1.** Rev Daniel P Leyrer (i)
1152 W Jonathan Lane
Bayside WI 53217

Home Congregation: St. Marcus, Milwaukee, WI

Age: 59 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: Pastor of Christian Education, First Vice President, Martin Luther College Governing Board, member

Previous Church Offices: Pastor, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Professor, Commission on Evangelism, coordinator (PNW), Commission on Worship, member (PNW), District Mission Board, member (MI), Commission on Evangelism, member WELS Hymnal Project, Scripture Committee, member, Forward in Christ, theological editor

- 2.** Rev John D Roekle
2700 Dwight Street
Racine WI 53403

Home Congregation: First, Racine

Age: 57 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: Associate Pastor, Circuit Pastor for the Root River Circuit of the Shoreland Conference, 2010-present

Previous Church Offices: Circuit Pastor for the Lakeshore Circuit of the Shoreland Conference, 2002-2006

- 3.** Rev Aaron P Steinbrenner
1004 Center Street
Hartford WI 53027

Home Congregation: Peace, Hartford

Age: 51 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: Coordinating Pastor, Circuit Pastor; District Discipleship Coordinator

Michigan Lutheran Seminary Governing Board, Layman

- 6.** Mr. Kevin W. Keller
125 Linden Lane, Apt. 2
Thiensville, WI 53092

Home Congregation: Redeemer, Cedarburg, WI

Age: 59 **Occupation:** Director of Mission Advancement – Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Previous Church Offices: Chairman, Board of Elders; Vice-President; Outreach Committee;
Stewardship Committee

7.

8.

District Mission Board, Pastor

- 11.** Rev James D Saatkamp
203 E Howard Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53207

Home Congregation: Resurrection, Milwaukee, WI

Age: 37 **Occupation:** Pastor

- 12.** Rev Brian J Schmidt
7852 Nicholson Road
Caledonia WI 53108

Home Congregation: Trinity, Caledonia, WI

Age: 39 **Occupation:** Pastor

13. Rev Michael D Zarling (i)
4115 Farmington Lane
Mt Pleasant WI 53403

Home Congregation: Water of Life, Racine, WI

Age: 51 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: SEW DMB Chairman

Previous Church Offices: SEW DMB member

District Mission Board, Teacher

16. Mr Ryan B Finkbeiner (i)
6100 W Hampton Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53218

Home Congregation: Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee, WI

Age: 41 **Occupation:** Principal / Teacher

Current Church Offices: Principal, SEW DMB

17. Mr ChiSeon Kim
8643 Fernald Avenue
Morton Grove IL 60053

Home Congregation: Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL

Age: 31 **Occupation:** Principal/Teacher

Current Church Offices: Principal/Teacher/Teen Sunday School Teacher - Youth Leader

District Mission Board, Layman

21. Mr Terry A Helton
1850 46th Avenue
Kenosha WI 53144

Home Congregation: New Life, Kenosha

Age: 56 **Occupation:** Emergency Medical Servces Adjunct Instructor

Current Church Offices: New Life Lutheran Church Human Resources Committee

Previous Church Offices: Board of Education Chairman

22. Mr. Steve W Wolf (i)
10640 Foxcroft Drive
Cedarburg WI 53012

Home Congregation: Our Savior, Grafton, WI

Age: 60 **Occupation:** Retired Business Owner

Current Church Offices: President, District Mission Board, Board for Home Missions Executive Committee

Previous Church Offices: President, Vice President, Chairman of Board of Christian Education, Board of Elders, Board of Trustees, Evangelism Committee, Stewardship Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, , District Evangelism Committee

District Lutheran Schools Coordinator

26. Mr David M Stoltz
7429 Country View Lane
West Bend WI 53090

Home Congregation: Crown of Life, Hubertus, WI

Age: 52 **Occupation:** Pricipal

Current Church Offices: Vice chair KML Principal conference

Previous Church Offices: Youth Group Director, Principals Conference Chair, KML Education Committee, Chair of MLHS Athletic Committee

27. Mr Duane J Vance
25822 S Egyptian Trail
Monee IL 60449

Home Congregation: Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL

Age: 44 **Occupation:** Executive Director of Illinois Lutheran Schools

Previous Church Offices: District Nominating Committee

District Board of Appeals, Chairman

31. Rev Dale M Reckzin
7680 S Mission Drive
Franklin WI 53132

Home Congregation: St John (Oakwood), Oak Creek, WI

Age: 58 **Occupation:** Pastor

Previous Church Offices: Conference Chairman, SLHS Board Chairman

32. Rev Thomas J Schultz
650 S Brockway Street
Palatine IL 60067

Home Congregation: Christ the King, Palatine, IL

Age: 59 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: Circuit Pastor, District Commission on Worship

District Board of Appeals, Pastor

36. Rev Jonathan E Arndt
W6318 State Highway 144
Random Lake WI 53075

Home Congregation: St. John's, Newburg, WI

Age: 49 **Occupation:** Pastor

Previous Church Offices: MI District Mission Board, MI District Board of Appeals,
Circuit Pastor

37. Rev Jacob M Schwartz
3680 S Top-O-Hill Drive
New Berlin WI 53151

Home Congregation: Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin, WI

Age: 36 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: Conference Program Committee

District Board of Appeals, Teacher

41. Mr Matthew M Linton
708 Fairview Drive N
West Bend WI 53090

Home Congregation: Good Shepherd, West Bend, WI

Age: 37 **Occupation:** Teacher

Previous Church Offices: Board of Evangelism

42. Mr David M Ring
5729 Richwood Lane
Racine WI 53402

Home Congregation: Water of Life, Racine

Age: 59 **Occupation:** Principal/teacher

Current Church Offices: Treasurer Shoreland Principal's Conference

District Board of Appeals, Layman

46. Mr Paul L Kieselhorst (i)
W277 S3344 Marlene Lane
Waukesha WI 53189

Home Congregation: Grace, Milwaukee, WI

Age: 50 **Occupation:** Software Engineer

Current Church Offices: Council (congregation), Vice President, None, None

Previous Church Offices: Church Council (2000-2006), District Board of Appeals

47. Mr Quentin B Samelson
160 Adare Drive
Cary IL 60013

Home Congregation: Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake, IL

Age: 63 **Occupation:** Consultant

Current Church Offices: Elder

Previous Church Offices: Ministry of Stewardship

District Nominating Committee, Chairman

51. Rev Jason D Free
1650 N Brookfield Road
Brookfield WI 53045

Home Congregation: Christ the Lord, Brookfield, WI

Age: 31 **Occupation:** Pastor

52.

District Nominating Committee, Chicago Conference, Teacher

56.

57.

District Nominating Committee, Kettle Moraine Conference, Pastor

61. Rev Jeremy J Husby
1539 Mulberry Street
Hartford WI 53027

Home Congregation: Peace, Hartford, WI

Age: 40 **Occupation:** Pastor

62. Rev Jonathan A Learman
PO Box 273
Theresa WI 53091

Home Congregation: St. Peter/Zion, Theresa, WI

Age: 38 **Occupation:** Pastor

District Nominating Committee, Milwaukee Metro Conference, Layman

66. Mr Mark D Buske (i)
1743 S 75th Street
West Allis WI 53214

Home Congregation: Nain, West Allis, WI

Age: 59 **Occupation:** Marketing Director

Current Church Offices: President, Elder, SEW District Nominating Committee

Previous Church Offices: Treasurer, Youth Discipleship Chair, MN District

67.

District Nominating Committee, Milwaukee Urban Conference, Teacher

71. Mr Todd D Gorsline (i)
7827 W Brentwood Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53223

Home Congregation: Atonement, Milwaukee

Age: 51 **Occupation:** Principal (teacher)

Current Church Offices: Principal, District Nominating Committee

Previous Church Offices: Dean of Students, 5th Grade teacher, Athletic Director

72. Mr Peter A Langebartels
2936 N 86th Street
Milwaukee WI 53222

Home Congregation: St Marcus, Milwaukee, WI

Age: 41 **Occupation:** Teacher

District Nominating Committee, Shoreland Conference, Pastor

76. Rev Scott W Bergemann
9132 8th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie WI 53158

Home Congregation: New Life, Kenosha, WI

Age: 41 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: Pastoral Advisor to the Oasis Youth Center

77. Rev Arthur L Faught
39500 60th Street
Burlington WI 53105

Home Congregation: St. John (Slades Corners), Burlington, WI

Age: 47 **Occupation:** Pastor

Previous Church Offices: Nominating Committee

78. Rev David D Wierschke (i)
7936 Nicholson Road
Caledonia WI 53108

Home Congregation: Trinity, Caledonia, WI

Age: 57 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: Nominating Committee

District Nominating Committee, Western Lakes Conference, Pastor

81. Rev Timothy R Gerbing
645 Brandt Court
Pewaukee WI 53072

Home Congregation: Christ, Pewaukee, WI

Age: 58 **Occupation:** Discipleship Pastor

82. Rev Benjamin D Steenbock
1015 E Capitol Drive
Hartland WI 53029

Home Congregation: Zion, Hartland, WI

Age: 41 **Occupation:** Pastor

Previous Church Offices: Elder, Evangelism Chairman, Congregational Delegate to Synod Convention

District Membership List

By by-law definition, only men who are holding a permanent call and are ministry-certified are members of the district. Men who are holding a call but are not ministry-certified are listed in italics and are not voting members of the district. Vicars are also listed in italics.

Chicago Conference – Central Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Resurrection, Aurora, IL	Philip Schupmann (CP) Thomas Nicholson	Aaron Kjenstad (<i>arriving</i>)
Crossroads, Chicago, IL	Michael Borgwardt	
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	<i>Vacant</i>	
St. Andrew, Chicago, IL	Adam Gawel	
Good Shepherd, Downers Grove, IL	Jonathan Bergemann	Aaron Fischer
Abiding Peace, Elgin, IL	Caleb Klatt (<i>arriving</i>)	
Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL	David Ernest	ChiSeon Kim
St. Matthew, Niles, IL	Paul Spaude	SM Leonard Epple

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

Terry Schultz	Multi-Language Publications	Crossroads, Chicago
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Retired Pastors

Hermann John	Abiding Peace, Elgin, IL
Douglas Semenske	Good Shepherd, Downers Grove, IL

Chicago Conference – Eastern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Bethlehem, Carmel, IN	Seth Bode	
Beautiful Savior, Fort Wayne, IN	Brian Semrow	
Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne, IN	Nathanael Brenner	
Light of Life, Greenwood, IN	Scott Miller	
Peace, Kokomo, IN	Mark Rosenberg	
Lamb of God, West Lafayette, IN	Paul Horn <i>Vicar Jonah Schlomer (arriving)</i>	
Shepherd of the Valley, Terre Haute, IN	<i>Vacant</i>	
Victory, Lexington, KY	W. Joseph Gawel	
Hope, Louisville, KY	Steven Lange	
Faith, Radcliff, KY	Peter Martin (CP)	

Retired Pastors

Robert Johnston	Beautiful Savior, Fort Wayne, IN
John Schroeder	Hope, Louisville, KY

Chicago Conference - Northern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake, IL	David Carlovsky	
New Life, Lake Zurich, IL	Andrew Bauer	
St. John, Libertyville, IL	Kevin Raddatz	SM Jon Woldt (<i>leaving</i>) Justin Wintrone
Christ the King, Palatine, IL	Thomas Schultz (CP)	
St. Paul, Round Lake Park, IL	Jacob Shepherd	
Immanuel, Waukegan, IL	Seth Haakenson	
	Steven Radunzel (<i>retired</i>)	
Our Savior's, Zion, IL	William Schubert	

Retired Teachers

Hartley Dus	Immanuel, Waukegan, IL
George Povich	Our Savior, Zion, IL

Chicago Conference - Southern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Trinity, Crete, IL	Frank Italiano	
	Kendall Cook	
Zion, Crete, IL	Lon Kuether (CP)	
	Michael Schneider	
Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL	Dustin Blumer	
	W Jeffrey Gunn	
Our Redeemer, Grant Park, IL	(<i>with Tinley Park</i>)	
St. Paul, Grant Park, IL	Paul Micheel	
Palos, Palos Heights, IL	Colin Rieke (<i>leaving</i>)	
Glory to God, Tinley Park, IL	Joshua Busch (<i>arriving</i>)	
Our Shepherd, Crown Point, IN	Samuel Jeske	

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

Philip Adickes	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL
Joe Archer	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Joel Buege (<i>retired</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Jeffrey Falck (<i>leaving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Glory to God, Tinley Park, IL
Nathan Hinz	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL
Joseph Keller	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Jacob Lash	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Jeffrey Rick	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Timothy Rimpel	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Ziwen Shi (<i>arriving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	
Scott Sievert	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Jeffrey Spiaser (<i>leaving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Duane Vance	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL
Josiah Willitz	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL

Kettle Moraine Conference - Corridor Circuit

Congregation	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Zion, Allenton	Steven Bode (CP)	
David's Star, Jackson	Michael Woldt Kurt Loescher	Timothy Gustafson Scott Beyersdorf Thomas Neuman Adam Harvey (<i>arriving</i>) Sherman Carstensen (<i>interim, leaving</i>) Zachary Cvikel Bradley Jensen (<i>leaving</i>) Devan Boling (<i>arriving</i>) SM Tom Banaszak
Morning Star, Jackson	Charles Raasch	Mark Hesse Patrick Loroff (<i>leaving</i>) Daryl Weber Michael Mittelstadt Travis Wendt SM Kevin Walker Daniel Schultz Joshua Kramer (<i>leaving</i>) Paul Braun Joshua Gibson
St. Lucas, Kewaskum	Timothy Henning	
Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls	G. Philip Arnold Paul Koester	
Good Shepherd, West Bend	Robert Hein Matthew Mueller Richard Lauersdorf (<i>retired</i>)	
Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend	Darren Knoll Clark Schultz	

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

Stephen Geiger	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Randall Hughes	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Philip Malchow (<i>retiring</i>)	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Joel Pless	Wisconsin Lutheran College	David's Star, Jackson
Benjamin Reichel	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Nathan Seiltz	Multi-Language Publications	Morning Star, Jackson

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers

Aaron Aanonsen	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Morning Star, Jackson
Nathan Amundson	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Robert Balza	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Ned Farley	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Morning Star, Jackson
Joseph Greefkes	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
James Haferman	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Mark Heckendorf	Winnebago Lutheran Academy	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
SM Joe Hennen	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Daniel Hubert	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Daniel W Johnson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Matthew Linton	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
James Livingston	Kettle Moraine LHS	St. Lucas, Kewaskum
Jamie Luehring	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Matthew Moeller	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend

Kettle Moraine Conference – Corridor Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers *(continued)*

Jason Nickels	Wisconsin LHS	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Mark Nolte	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
Edward Noon	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Jonathan Pasbrig	Kettle Moraine LHS	Trinity ELS, West Bend
Derek Rabbers	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
Wesley Schmandt	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Joshua Schoeneck	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
James Sievert <i>(retired)</i>	WELS Lutheran Schools	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Paul Snamiska	Kettle Moraine LHS	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
William Strasser	Kettle Moraine LHS	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Benjamin Walter	Kettle Moraine LHS	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Jason Walz	Kettle Moraine LHS	David's Star, Jackson
Gerald Zeamer	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson

Retired Pastors

Timothy Bauer	Morning Star, Jackson
Paul Huebner	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Curtis Jahn	Morning Star, Jackson
Kenneth Kolberg	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Peter Kruschel	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
David Kuske	David's Star, Jackson
Dennis Lemke	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Loren Lucht	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Ronald Mehlberg	Good Shepherd, West Bend
John Paustian	Good Shepherd, West Bend
John Moldenhauer	Morning Star, Jackson
Martin Scheele	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Russell Schmidt	David's Star, Jackson
Randall Siegel	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Thomas Zarling	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Chester Zuleger	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend

Retired Teachers

James Fenske	Morning Star, Jackson
Michael Maas	Morning Star, Jackson
<i>Dennis Miller*</i>	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Theodor Nommenson	Good Shepherd, West Bend
James Pasbrig	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Jonathan Schoeneck	Morning Star, Jackson
Darwin Schramm	Morning Star, Jackson
Richard Sievert	Good Shepherd, West Bend
George Traucht	Morning Star, Jackson

Kettle Moraine Conference - Flyway Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. Paul, Brownsville	William Carter	
St. Matthew, Iron Ridge	Larry Mose	Kevin Lorge
St. Luke, Lomira (Knowles)	<i>with St. Paul, Lomira</i>	
St. John, Lomira	Matthew Kiecker (CP)	Greg Obermiller (<i>leaving</i>) Brian Papenfuss
St. Paul, Lomira	Matthew Kuske	
St. Peter, Mayville (Kekoskee)	<i>Vacant</i>	
St. Peter, Theresa	Jonathan Learman	
Zion, Theresa	<i>with St. Peter, Theresa</i>	
Serving Other Ministries - Teacher		
<i>Jordan King*</i>	St. John, Lomira	Winnebago Lutheran Academy
Retired Pastors		
Paul Baldauf	St. Paul, Lomira	
Jerome Enderle	St. Paul, Lomira	
Retired Teacher		
William Vilski	St. Luke, Lomira	

Kettle Moraine Conference - Hartford Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Peace, Hartford	Aaron Steinbrenner (CP)	Benjamin Washburn
	Jeremy Husby	Marvin Wittig
	Robert Pasbrig (<i>retired</i>)	Gary Gray (<i>retiring</i>) Sherman Carstensen (<i>arriving</i>)
Trinity, Hartford	Jeffery Drake	
Crown of Life, Hubertus	Johnold Strey	David Stoltz
Bethany, Hustisford	Jonathan Loescher	Michael Wisniewski
St. Paul, Neosho	Joshua Kesting (Asst CP)	
St. Paul, Slinger	Benjamin Golisch	
St. Paul, West Bend	John Cook	
St. Peter, West Bend	<i>(w/ St. Paul, West Bend)</i>	
St. John, Woodland	James Castillo (<i>retired</i>)	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
Robert Fleischman	Christian Life Resources	St. Paul, Slinger
Jonathan Micheel	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Crown of Life, Hubertus
Robert Pasbrig	Institutional Ministries (<i>retired</i>)	Peace, Hartford
Paul Waldschmidt	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Peace, Hartford
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers		
Joshua Johnson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Crown of Life, Hubertus
James Rademan	WELS Lutheran Schools	Peace, Hartford
Matthew Rydecki	Kettle Moraine LHS	Peace, Hartford
Daniel Unke (<i>leaving</i>)	Kettle Moraine LHS	Peace, Hartford

Kettle Moraine Conference - Hartford Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Pastors

Richard Agenten	Peace, Hartford
James Humann	Peace, Hartford
William Schaefer	Crown of Life, Hubertus
Paul Seiltz	Crown of Life, Hubertus
Myron Sordahl	Peace, Hartford
Roger Wahl	Peace, Hartford
John Warmuth	Peace, Hartford

Retired Teachers

Richard Ash	Peace, Hartford
Stanley Cole	Peace, Hartford

Kettle Moraine Conference - Ozaukee Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Redeemer, Cedarburg	Mark Rohrback	
Our Savior, Grafton	Mark Wagner <i>(retiring)</i>	Nathan Schultz Aaron Trimmer
St. John, Mequon	<i>with Trinity, Mequon</i>	
Trinity, Mequon	James Tiefel <i>(retired)</i>	
St. John's, Newburg	Kurt Schaser Jonathan Arndt	Timothy Payne John Martin III Adam Igl
St. Matthew, Port Washington	Martin Wildauer	
Christ Alone, Thiensville/Mequon	Don Scheuerlein Kurt Ebert (CP)	Paul Berger Daniel Rick Daniel Grunewald

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

Jonathan Bare <i>(leaving)</i>	Joint Mission Council and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Kenneth Cherney, Jr.	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Trinity, Mequon
Samuel Degner	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Nathan Ericson	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Joel Russow	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Jeffrey Samelson	Christian Life Resources	Our Savior, Grafton
Earle Treptow	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Robert Wendland	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Bradley Wordell	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

Timothy Kuehl	Kettle Moraine LHS	St. Matthew, Port Washington
Scott Martens	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Our Savior, Grafton

Retired Pastors

Martin Hahm	Our Savior, Grafton
Michael Hintz	Our Savior, Grafton
Larry Neitzel	St. Matthew, Port Washington

Kettle Moraine Conference – Ozaukee Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Pastors *(continued)*

Alan Siggelkow	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Steven Staude	Christ Alone, Thiensville

Retired Teachers and Staff Minister

David Bartelt	Redeemer, Cedarburg
SM Donald Borgwardt	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Leonard Collyard	Our Savior, Grafton
Steven Enter	St. John, Newburg
Jonathan Hahm	Our Savior, Grafton
Thomas Hering	Our Savior, Grafton
Thomas Mellon	St. John, Newburg
Randall Watts	Redeemer, Cedarburg

Milwaukee Metro Conference – Eden Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. Mark, Brown Deer	Michael Feuerstahler <i>(retiring)</i>	
Abiding Word, Milwaukee	Keith Amborn	
Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee	Paul White	SM Kevin Sonntag
	Thomas Fischer <i>(retired)</i>	
Divinity-Divine Charity, Whitefish Bay	Robert Dick (CP) <i>(retiring)</i>	

Retired Pastors

George Rothe	St. Mark, Brown Deer
David Seager	Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee

Retired Teachers

Richard Schlavensky	Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee
David Sellnow	Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee

Milwaukee Metro Conference –Paradise Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. Paul, Cudahy	Daniel Marshall	Donald Kolander William Roepke
Centennial, Milwaukee	Erich Westphal	
Messiah, Milwaukee	Curtis Golm (CP)	
Resurrection, Milwaukee	James Saatkamp	
St. Lucas, Milwaukee	Peter Unnasch	Andrew Baxter Glenn Metzger <i>(leaving)</i> Matthew Evans <i>(arriving)</i> Peter Schwichtenberg
St. John, Oak Creek	Stephen Schmidt	
	David Meyer	
Zion, South Milwaukee	Aaron Weber	James Braun Joseph Brinkman Nathan Hensler <i>(leaving)</i>

Milwaukee Metro Conference –Paradise Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries - Pastor

Joel Gaertner The Lutheran Home Association St. Paul, Cudahy

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

Joel Koschnitzke Shoreland LHS Zion, South Milwaukee
Philip Krueger Word of Life Lutheran School Centennial, Milwaukee
Mark Leverage Wisconsin LHS St. Paul, Cudahy
Christopher Stollfus *(leaving)* Word of Life Lutheran School Centennial, Milwaukee

Retired Pastors

Robert Gurgel St. Lucas, Milwaukee
Stanley Stein St. Lucas, Milwaukee
Martin Schoell St. John, Oak Creek
Mark S. Voss St. John, Oak Creek

Retired Teacher

Rodney Bollinger St. John, Oak Creek

Milwaukee Metro Conference – WAMiWauG Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. Jacobi, Greenfield	Timothy Spaude (CP) Richard Waldschmidt James Langebartels <i>(retired)</i> <i>Vicar Erik Alair (leaving)</i>	Joshua Walker Brian Kasten Jonah Gauger <i>(leaving)</i>
St. John, Wauwatosa	Joel Leyrer Eric Schroeder Joshua Yu	Daniel Markgraf Andrew Duncan Keith Hackbarth Brett Kriese David Leyrer <i>(leaving)</i>
Good Shepherd's, West Allis	Joshua Zarling Timothy Wempner <i>Vicar Nathan Klusmeyer (leaving)</i>	Michael Henning, Jr Timothy Hochmuth
Jordan, West Allis	Mark Aufdemberge	
Nain, West Allis	Joseph Berg	
Woodlawn, West Allis	Thomas Kneser Benjamin Wessel	

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

Paul Lehninger Wisconsin Lutheran College St. John, Wauwatosa

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers

Joel Davis Wisconsin Lutheran College Woodlawn, West Allis
Daniel Ebeling Wisconsin Lutheran College St. John, Wauwatosa
Kevin Glaeske Wisconsin Lutheran College St. John, Wauwatosa
Allen Greschner *(retiring)* Wisconsin LHS St. John, Wauwatosa
Casey Holtz Wisconsin Lutheran College St. John, Wauwatosa
Peter Iles Wisconsin LHS Good Shepherd's, West Allis
Kerry Kuehn Wisconsin Lutheran College St. John, Wauwatosa
Timothy MacKain Lamb of God Lutheran School Jordan, West Allis

Milwaukee Metro Conference – WAMiWauG Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers *(continued)*

Alex Moore	Shoreland LHS	St. Jacobi, Greenfield
Joshua Nelson	Wisconsin LHS	Good Shepherd's, West Allis
Aaron Palmer	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Nain, West Allis
Craig Radue	Wisconsin LHS	Woodlawn, West Allis
SM Gary Schmid <i>(retiring)</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Good Shepherd's, West Allis
Jay Sierszyn	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Woodlawn, West Allis
Jeffrey Sitz <i>(retiring)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Wauwatosa
John Werner	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Good Shepherd's, West Allis

Retired Pastors

Paul Eckert	St. Jacobi, Greenfield
Joel Gerlach	St. John, Wauwatosa
Ronald Heins	St. John, Wauwatosa
Thomas Knickelbein	Good Shepherd's, West Allis
Steven Stern	St. John, Wauwatosa

Retired Teachers

David Allerheiligen	St. John, Wauwatosa
William Braun	St. John, Wauwatosa
Cary Haakenson	St. John, Wauwatosa
David Hackman	St. Jacobi, Greenfield
Kenneth Luedtke	Good Shepherd's, West Allis
Carl Nolte	St. Jacobi, Greenfield
Gary Saatkamp	St. Jacobi, Greenfield
Daniel Schmal	St. John, Wauwatosa
David Schulz	St. John, Wauwatosa
Jay Schwall	Woodlawn, West Allis
Scott Uecker	St. John, Wauwatosa

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Barnabas Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Atonement	Thomas Kock	Todd Gorsline Christopher Bartsch Taylor Chladek Kevin Hahm <i>(leaving)</i> Cody Harms* Samuel Schlicht Michael Sievert Shaun Stannard* Alenxander Stoeberl <i>(arriving)</i> Josh Tietz* SM Kevin Poston SM Greg Naumann*
Fairview	<i>Vacant</i>	Daniel R Johnson
Mt. Lebanon	Nathanael Bourman Paul Krueger	Ryan Finkbeiner SM Jeffrey Matteson

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Barnabas Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Redemption Salem, Milwaukee (107 th)	Christian Winkel (CP) Jeremy Wosje Paul Meier (<i>arriving</i>)	Nicholas Bush Thomas Carmichael Kurt Maciejczak Troy Yerks (<i>leaving</i>) Zachary Bork
St. James St. Matthew	Christian Marquardt Jonathan Balge	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
James Behringer	WELS Special Ministries	Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee
David Bivens	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee
Aaron Christie	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee
Joel Otto	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee
Serving Other Ministries – Teachers		
Ryan Halter	Kingdom Prep LHS	Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee
Timothy McEachern	Wisconsin LHS	St. Matthew, Milwaukee
Michael Strusz	Kingdom Prep LHS	Atonement, Milwaukee
Retired Pastors		
Michael Bartsch	Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee	
Robert Sievert	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee	
Gordon Snyder	St. Matthew, Milwaukee	
Retired Teachers and Staff Ministers		
Bruce Bintz	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee	
David Deibert	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee	
SM James Esmeier		
Ned Goede	Atonement, Milwaukee	
Gerald Lanphear	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee	
Clarence Jenkins	Fairview, Milwaukee	
David Ross	Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee	
Stephen Schafer	Atonement, Milwaukee	
SM Michael Schuessler	Mt Lebanon, Milwaukee	
Kurtis Seeger	Atonement, Milwaukee	
Jonathan Winkel	Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee	

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Philip Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ	Chad Walta	
Gethsemane	<i>Vacant</i>	
Grace	James Huebner Aaron Strong Brian Hackmann	SM Andrew Carter SM Kevin Becker

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Philip Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Risen Savior	Luis Acosta <i>(leaving)</i> Peter Leyrer	Robert Dusseau Timothy McNeill Philip Warnecke Paul Kramer Micah Wendt <i>(arriving)</i> Devin Boling <i>(leaving)</i> Christopher Rue Elliot Butler <i>(arriving)</i> David Rust <i>(retiring)</i> Paul Kanzenbach <i>(leaving)</i> Lyle Timm Raine Vrable Philip Randall* <i>(arriving)</i> SM Levi Nagel
St. John (Forest Home)	David Bitter (CP) Benjamin Zak <i>(leaving)</i>	
St. John's on the Hillside St. Peter	Isaac Hayes William Dunn	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
Kenneth Fisher	Wisconsin LHS	St. Peter, Milwaukee
Philip Huebner	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Christopher Koschnitzke	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
John Schuetze	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Grace, Milwaukee
Bill Tackmier	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Grace, Milwaukee
Nixon Vivar	WELS World Missions	Christ, Milwaukee
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers		
Brett Baade	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	Christ, Milwaukee
Paul Beck	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Benjamin Carlovsky	Wisconsin LHS	St. John (For. Home), Milwaukee
Jason Goede	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Daniel Hafenstein	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Micah Hernandez	Wisconsin LHS	St. Peter, Milwaukee
James Holman	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Eric Lueck	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Richard Mannisto	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Ryan Oertel	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Jacob Schable <i>(leaving)</i>	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	St. Peter, Milwaukee
Andrew Schmiede	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Joshua Seeger	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Timothy Thierfelder	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Retired Pastors		
James Becker	Grace, Milwaukee	
John Brenner	Grace, Milwaukee	
David Sievert	Grace, Milwaukee	

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Philip Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Teachers and Staff Minister

Keith Bowe	Grace, Milwaukee
Robert Buschkopf	St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee
SM Robert Erdmann	St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee
Fritz Horn	Grace, Milwaukee
Ernest Knobloch	Grace, Milwaukee
Robert Lehninger	Grace, Milwaukee
John Marten	Christ, Milwaukee
Martin Moldenhauer	Grace, Milwaukee
Kenneth Proeber	Grace, Milwaukee
Barry Wierschke	St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Timothy Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Garden Homes	Christopher Doerr	Adam Harvey <i>(leaving)</i> Nathan Bauer Aaron Bauer Joshua Bauer Gerald Hosbach Tyler Schoen Evan Woody SM Paul Marquardt
Salem (Eastside)	<i>Vacant</i>	
Siloah	Brady Coleman	<i>Jeffrey Knox*</i>
St. Marcus	James Hein	Andrew Becker
	Daniel Leyrer	James Datka Levi Dunsmoor <i>(leaving)</i> Andrew Eggers Aaron Kjenstad <i>(leaving)</i> Seth Kock Christian Kuether Peter Langebartels Geoff Loper Garret Mandeville David Menk Joshua Metzger Lance Meyer Micah Ricke Jonathan Rosenow Luke Rothe Kurt Stielow <i>Henry Tyson*</i>
St. Philip	Raymond Kimbrough (CP)	Jason Schapekahm Timothy Babinec Benjamin Edmunson <i>(arriving)</i>

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Timothy Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

Michael Berg	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Philip, Milwaukee
James Buske	Lighthouse Youth Center	Garden Homes, Milwaukee
Philip Merten	Institutional Ministries	Salem (Eastside), Milwaukee
Paul Steinberg	Chaplains in Schools	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Paul Wendland	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Garden Homes, Milwaukee
Mark Wenzel	Institutional Ministries	Salem (Eastside), Milwaukee

Serving Other Ministries – Teachers

<i>Kyler Berg*</i>	Kingdom Prep LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Jeremy Braun	Kingdom Prep LHS	Siloah, Milwaukee
Jeffrey Brown	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
<i>Shelton Daniels*</i>	Kingdom Prep LHS	Garden Homes, Milwaukee
Ethan Degner	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Kevin Festerling	Kingdom Prep LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
<i>Bret Hopf*</i>	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
<i>Vincent Hucek*</i>	Kingdom Prep LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Ryan Latterman	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Philip Leyrer	Wisconsin LHS	Siloah, Milwaukee
Chad Lindemann	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Mark Moldenhauer	Wisconsin LHS	St. Philip, Milwaukee
Scott Raymond	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Bradley Reinhardt	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Mark Ricke	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
<i>Curtis Sprewer*</i>	Kingdom Prep LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
<i>William Turner*</i>	Kingdom Prep LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Cornelius Whiteside II	Wisconsin LHS	Garden Homes, Milwaukee

Retired Pastors

Harold Hoeppner	St. Philip, Milwaukee
Mark Jeske	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
James Kleist	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
John Lawrenz	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Ronald Muetzel	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Glen Thompson	St. Philip, Milwaukee

Retired Teachers

Harold Goede	St. Philip, Milwaukee
John Wesenberg	Garden Homes, Milwaukee

Shoreland Conference – Root River Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Trinity, Caledonia	David Wierschke Brian Schmidt	Jared Rathje Joel Schultz Michael Martens <i>(leaving)</i>
St. John, Oak Creek (Oakwood)	Dale Reckzin	

Shoreland Conference – Root River Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
First, Racine	John Roekle (CP)	
	Drew Day	
Water of Life, Racine	Michael Zarling	
Trinity, Union Grove	Justin Pomije	

Serving Other Ministries - Pastor

Jeremy Laitinen	Shoreland LHS	Water of Life, Racine
Daniel Sims	WELS Christian Aid & Relief	St. John, Oak Creek

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

Mark Blauert	Wisconsin Lutheran School	Water of Life, Racine
Jarrod Erbe	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Trinity, Caledonia
Matthew Grow	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Daniel Hahm	Shoreland LHS	First, Racine
Paul Huebner <i>(leaving)</i>	Shoreland LHS	First, Racine
Samuel Hunter <i>(leaving)</i>	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Ethan Hutchinson	Shoreland LHS	Water of Life, Racine
Michael Koestler	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Gerald Marowsky	Wisconsin Lutheran School	First, Racine
Timothy Mielke	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Paul Patterson	WELS CLS	Water of Life, Racine
David Ring	Wisconsin Lutheran School	Water of Life, Racine
Courtney Schmidt	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Jay Selle <i>(leaving)</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran School	First, Racine
Matthew Sonntag	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Jeremiah Strassburg	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Paul Strutz	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
SM Michael Tracy	Chaplains in Schools	Water of Life, Racine
Jeffrey Zilisch	Wisconsin Lutheran School	First, Racine
Scott Zondag	Shoreland LHS	Water of Life, Racine

Retired Pastors

John Brug	Water of Life, Racine
Gerry Meyer	Trinity, Caledonia
James Phillips	Water of Life, Racine

Retired Teachers

James Boehm	First, Racine
Jeffrey Inniger	Trinity, Caledonia
Douglas Nass	First, Racine
Neil Sriver	First, Racine

Shoreland Conference – Southport Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Zion, Bristol	Dustin Bergene	

Shoreland Conference – Southport Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
New Life, Kenosha (Kenosha Lutheran Academy)	David Pagel Peter Prange Michael Gorte W. Russell Scoggins Steven Neumann (CP) Scott Bergemann	David Leonard Michael Schoenfeld David Zank
Serving Other Ministries - Pastor		
Thomas Bauer	Shoreland LHS	New Life, Kenosha
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers		
Jason Hagedorn	Shoreland LHS	New Life, Kenosha
Gregg Pfarr <i>(retiring)</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	New Life, Kenosha
Keith Wordell	Shoreland LHS	New Life, Kenosha

Shoreland Conference – Western Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Faith, Antioch, IL	Greg Hermanson <i>(retiring)</i> Ed Ungemach III	Craig Breitzkreuz Keith Kopczynski
First, Lake Geneva	Derek Bartelt	Stephen Kamps Hayden Miller
Peace, Wilmot	James Fischer	
St. John, Burlington	Kirk Lahmann (CP) Noah Headrick	Gabriel Malliet Timothy Sonntag Timothy Schubkegel <i>(arriving)</i>
St. John, Burlington (Slades Corners)	Arthur Faught	
First, Elkhorn	Michael Kuschel <i>(arriving)</i>	Michael Falk Theodore Glodowski
Serving Other Ministries - Pastor		
Paul Prange	WELS Ministerial Education	St. John, Burlington
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers		
James Groth	Shoreland LHS	St. John (Slades Cor.), Burlington
Daniel Nolte	Shoreland LHS	First, Elkhorn
Paul Scriver	Shoreland LHS	St. John, Burlington
Retired Pastors		
Wayne Meier	First, Elkhorn	
Victor Prange	St. John, Burlington	
George Swanson	First, Lake Geneva	
Retired Teacher		
Raymond Manthe	First, Elkhorn	

Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ the Lord, Brookfield	David Kolander	Benjamin Schramm
	Philip Casmer	John Kaesmeyer
	Jason Free	Paul Frisque
Zion, Hartland	Stephen Ristow	John Freese
	Benjamin Steenbock	
St. John, Lannon	Andrew Fix	William Tomlin
		Michael DeRuiter
		SM James Boggs
Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls	Colin Vanderhoof	Kevin Klug
		David Porth
Christ, Pewaukee	Richard Krause	
	Timothy Gerbing	
	Richard Warnecke	
	Bradley Taylor	
	Lawrence Gates (<i>retired</i>)	
Faith, Sussex	Bruce Marggraf (CP)	
	Matthew Schaewe	
Grace, Waukesha	Jason Hacker (asst CP)	
	<i>Vicar Erik Lund (leaving)</i>	
Living Word, Waukesha	John Borgwardt	
Mt. Calvary, Waukesha	Michael Turriff	Bradley Gurgel (<i>arriving</i>)
	Robert Frick	Michael Pingel
		Matthew Lange
		Samuel Koepsell
Trinity, Waukesha	Philip Gurgel	Joel Gruke
	Jason Zahn	Justin Gut
	Raymond Schumacher	Jason Snodie
	<i>(part-time)(leaving)</i>	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
Donn Dobberstein	WELS Discipleship	Trinity, Waukesha
Bryan Gerlach	WELS Worship	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Jonathan Hein	WELS Congregational Services	Trinity, Waukesha
Wade Johnston	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Gregory Lyon	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Paul Nitz	WELS World Missions	Faith, Sussex
Steven Pagels	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	St. John, Lannon
Jardan Patrick	International Friendship Center	Christ, Pewaukee
Eric Roecker	WELS Evangelism	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Michael Schultz (<i>leaving</i>)	WELS Hymnal Project	Trinity, Waukesha
Raymond Schumacher	Northwestern Publishing House (<i>part-time</i>)	Trinity, Waukesha
Keith Siverly	Kingdom Prep LHS	Christ, Pewaukee
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers		
Paul Berger	Christ Alone, Thiensville	Christ, Pewaukee
Alan Bitter	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Jeremy Bock	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Lannon

Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers *(continued)*

James Brandt	Wisconsin LHS	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Paul Burmeister	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Waukesha
SM Lucas Faust	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
James Hahm <i>(leaving)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	Zion, Hartland
James Henkel	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Faith, Sussex
Joseph Janke	Wisconsin LHS	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
SM Rick Kneser	Ministry of Christian Giving	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
John Kolander	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
David Kren	Kettle Moraine LHS	Trinity, Waukesha
Justin Liepert	Wisconsin LHS	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Joshua Lindner	Kettle Moraine LHS	Christ, Pewaukee
Joel Mattek	Wisconsin LHS	Christ, Pewaukee
Martin Miller	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Mark Murphy	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
James Ott	Kettle Moraine LHS	Faith, Sussex
Quinten Petersen*	Wisconsin LHS	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
William Plamann	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
Casey Pufahl	Wisconsin LHS	Trinity, Waukesha
Joel Radue	Wisconsin LHS	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Peter Schumacher	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
Mark Shambeau	Wisconsin LHS	Living Word, Waukesha
SM Craig Swiontek	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Steven Travis	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ, Pewaukee
SM Brett Valerio	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ, Pewaukee
Ryan Walz	Wisconsin LHS	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Michael Wiechmann <i>(leaving)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Jon Ziesemer	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Jeremy Zima	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ, Pewaukee

Retired Pastors

Kenneth Bode	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Mark Braun	Christ, Pewaukee
Charles Degner	St. John, Lannon
Verlyn Dobberstein	St. John, Lannon
Gerald Hintz	Grace, Waukesha
William Kirchner	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Daniel Koelpin	Christ, Pewaukee
Arthur Koepsell	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Kieth Kuschel	Christ, Pewaukee
Nathan Pope	Christ, Pewaukee
Glen Schaumberg	Trinity, Waukesha
Norman Seeger	Trinity, Waukesha
Thomas Speidel	Christ, Pewaukee
Walter Westphal	St. John, Lannon
Harvey Witte	Christ, Pewaukee

Retired Teachers

Roger Festerling	St. John, Lannon
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Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Teachers *(continued)*

Mel Friske	Trinity, Waukesha
Michael George	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Gerhard Gilbert	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Paul Jacobs	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Paul Knueppel	Christ, Pewaukee
James Martens	Grace, Waukesha
Hans Metzger	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Carl Natzke	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Dennis Schultz	Christ, Pewaukee
Ronald Schultz	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Gunther Thoms	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Terry Treuden	St. John, Lannon
Dale Walz	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Steven Zellmer	Trinity, Waukesha

Western Lakes Conference – Southern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ, Big Bend	Gary Koschnitzke	Craig Weide Michael Martens <i>(arriving)</i>
Reformation, Dousman	John Paustian	
St. Paul, East Troy	Geoffrey Rue	Kenneth White
St. Paul, Franklin	Brian Adams	Nathan Schulmeister Chad Clough SM Michael Babler <i>(arriving)</i>
Victory of the Lamb, Franklin	Bill Limmer Benjamin Sadler	
St. John, Mukwonago	John Bortulin Timothy Bode Keith Free	James Schneck Brian Humann
St. Paul, Muskego	David Kuehl (CP) Jeffrey Bonack Peter Panitzke Nathan Strobel	Seth Fitzsimmons Josh Lepke Kurt Steffen Jeffrey Wetzel SM Joel Nelson <i>(retiring)</i> SM Randel Fink Mark Sievert
Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin	Jonathan Nitz Jacob Schwartz Jonathan Kruschel	Daniel Larabee Micah Walz <i>(leaving)</i> Eric Fillner Nathan Scharf <i>(arriving)</i>
Living Water, Wind Lake	Aaron Voss	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
Heath Butler	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
Chris Cordes	Northwestern Publishing House	St. Paul, Muskego
Andrew Glende	Lighthouse Youth Center	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Paul Lindhorst	Ministry of Christian Giving	Christ, Big Bend

Western Lakes Conference – Southern Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries – Pastors *(continued)*

Jason Oakland	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Mukwonago
Wayne Shevey	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
E. Allen Sorum	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ, Big Bend

Serving Other Ministries – Teachers and Staff Minister

Daniel Albrecht	Kettle Moraine LHS	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Matthew Bilitz	Wisconsin LHS	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
David Brightsman	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Franklin
Peter Eppen	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
<i>Andrew Fink*</i>	Wisconsin LHS	St. Paul, Muskego
Andre Gosch	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
Brian Gottschalk	Wisconsin LHS	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
SM Thad Jahns	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Donald Kudek	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
James Nowack	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Simon Provan	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Blair Schaper	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
John Sebald	Wisconsin LHS	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Randall Strutz	Wisconsin LHS	St. Paul, Muskego
SM Adam Volbrecht	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Micah Walz <i>(arriving)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
Justin Walz	Wisconsin LHS	St. Paul, Muskego
Bradley Wetzell	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin

Retired Pastors

James Aderman	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Andrew Backus	St. Paul, Franklin
Forrest Bivens	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Wayne Borgwardt	St. Paul, Muskego
Larry Ellenberger	St. Paul, Franklin
Robert Johannes	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Kenneth Kappel	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Mark Kock	Reformation, Dousman
Harlyn Kuschel	St. Paul, Franklin
Herbert Lichtenberg	St. Paul, Muskego
James Naumann	Living Water, Wind Lake
Roger Schultz	Reformation, Dousman
Martin Schulz	St. Paul, Muskego
Mark Schwertfeger	Living Water, Wind Lake
Lee Vaccarella	St. Paul, Muskego

Retired Teachers and Staff Ministers

Robert Anderson	St. Paul, Muskego
Bruce Babler	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
SM Dennis Fletcher	St. John, Mukwonago
SM Robert Garbe	St. Paul, Muskego
Timothy Paschke	St. Paul, Muskego
Robert Sawall	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin

Western Lakes Conference – Southern Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Teachers and Staff Ministers *(continued)*

Richard Scharf	St. Paul, Muskego
Dale Stelter	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Gilbert Tatge	Christ, Big Bend
Daniel Thiel	St. Paul, Muskego
Steven Toth	St. John, Mukwonago
Leroy Westphal	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
Gary Wille	St. Paul, Franklin
Randall Willms	St. Paul, Franklin

Other Members of the District

Missionaries

The following missionaries have chosen to hold membership in the Southeastern Wisconsin District.

John Hartmann (Zambia)
John Hartwig (European Chaplain)
Guy Marquardt (India Counselor)
Ernst Wendland (*retiring*) (Zambia)

CRM Pastors

These men are eligible to receive calls into the ministry, but are not voting members of the district.

Terry Laabs

Local Congregation Not (Yet) Known

Pastors

Daniel Marggraf (KMLHS) (*arriving*)
Joel Krieger (graduate assistant to the district president) (*arriving*)

Teachers and Staff Minister

James Flegel* (WLC) (*arriving*)
Joshua Rimpel (WLHS) (*arriving*)
Jacob Schable (SLHS) (*arriving*)
David Leyrer (KMLHS) (*arriving*)
Darrell Roecker (KMLHS) (*arriving*)
Jason Van Acker* (WLC) (*arriving*)
Adam Pagel* (SLHS) (*arriving*)
Carrington Cunningham (KPLHS) (*arriving*)
Luke Meihack (KMLHS) (*arriving*)
Branden Mueller (Wisconsin Lutheran School) (*arriving*)
Tyler Roecker (SLHS) (*arriving*)
Ziwen Shi (Illinois Lutheran Schools) (*arriving*)
Michael Schlieve* (WLC) (*arriving*)



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

Serving the District

DISTRICT OFFICERS

President: Rev David P Kolander
First Vice President: Rev Daniel P Leyrer
Second Vice President: Rev Michael A Woldt
Secretary: Rev William R Carter

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Chicago Conference:

Chairman: Rev Andrew P Bauer
Secretary: Rev Michael T Schneider

Kettle Moraine Conference:

Chairman: Rev Kurt P Ebert
Secretary: Rev Benjamin R Golisch

Milwaukee Metro Conference:

Chairman: Rev David J Meyer
Secretary: Rev Richard A Waldschmidt

Milwaukee Urban Conference:

Chairman: Rev Jonathan R Balge
Secretary: Rev Christian D Marquardt

Shoreland Conference:

Chairman: Rev Dustin E Bergene
Secretary: Rev Brian J Schmidt

Western Lakes Conference:

Chairman: Rev Philip J Casmer
Secretary: Rev Jason C Hacker

CIRCUIT PASTORS

Chicago Conference:

Central: Rev Philip L Schupmann
Eastern: Rev Peter L Martin
Northern: Rev Thomas J Schultz
Southern: Rev Lon P Kuether

Kettle Moraine Conference:

Corridor: Rev Steven D Bode
Flyway: Rev Matthew J Kiecker
Hartford: Rev Aaron P Steinbrenner
Assistant: Rev Joshua W Kesting

Ozaukee: Rev Kurt P Ebert

Milwaukee Metro Conference:

Eden: Rev Robert J Dick
Paradise: Rev Curtis A Golm
WAMiWauG: Rev Timothy J Spaude

Milwaukee Urban Conference:

Barnabas: Rev Christian J Winkel
Philip: Rev David P Bitter
Timothy: Rev Raymond Kimbrough, Jr

Shoreland Conference:

Root River: Rev John D Roekle
Southport: Rev Steven L Neumann
Western: Rev Kirk E Lahmann

Western Lakes Conference:

Northern: Rev Bruce J Marggraf
Assistant: Rev Jason C Hacker
Southern: Rev David M Kuehl

SYNODICAL COUNCIL

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Peter Aisbet

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Positions may rotate between districts and between pastors/teachers/laymen

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Layman

Mr. Tom Kissinger

Martin Luther College, Teacher

Teacher Joe E Archer

Martin Luther College, Pastor

Rev Daniel P Leyrer

Luther Preparatory School, Teacher

Teacher Seth J Fitzsimmons

Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Teacher

Teacher Stephen L Schultz

DISTRICT MISSION BOARD

Chairman: Rev Michael D Zarling
BHM Rep & Fin. Sec.: Mr Steven W Wolf
Secretary: Mr Steven J Mueller
Rev Seth D Bode
Rev John M Borgwardt
Teacher Ryan B Finkbeiner
Mr Michael Nichols

MISSION COUNSELOR

Rev Wayne R Uhlhorn

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

Discipleship

Coordinator: Rev Aaron P Steinbrenner

Evangelism

Coordinator: Rev David C Pagel

Rev Dustin S Blumer

Rev James G Buske

Rev Matthew J Kiecker

Lutheran Schools

Coordinator: Teacher Daryl A Weber

Teacher Brett M Baade

Teacher Cheryl A Henckel - *Early Childhood*

Teacher Donald P Kolander

Teacher Duane J Vance

Special Ministries

Coordinator: Rev Richard A Waldschmidt

Worship

Coordinator: Rev John P Bortulin

Rev Thomas J Schultz

Teacher Jonathan T Pasbrig

Teacher Jason A Snodie

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Rev Jonathan H Nitz

Chicago Conference

Pastor - Vacant

Teacher Duane J Vance

Kettle Moraine Conference

Rev Paul S Waldschmidt

Layman - Vacant

Milwaukee Metro Conference

Rev Daniel R Marshall

Mr Mark D Buske

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Rev Nathanael J Bourman

Teacher Todd D Gorsline

Shoreland Conference

Rev David D Wierschke

Teacher Mark H Blauert

Western Lakes Conference

Rev Steven K Ristow

Mr Joel Smith

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN GIVING

Chairman Rev Timothy A Henning

GIFT PLANNING COUNSELORS

Current Giving: Rev Paul D Lindhorst

Estate Planning: Staff Minister Rick K Kneser

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Rev Jason C Hacker

Rev Kirk E Lahmann

Mr John B Stark

DISTRICT BOARD OF APPEALS

Chairman: Rev Thomas W Kneser

Pastor - Vacant

Teacher - Vacant

Mr Paul Kieselhorst

Rev Randall R Hughes

Teacher James A Hahm

Mr John R Sampson

Rev Andrew D Fix

Teacher - SM Paul C Marquardt

Mr John Isleb

FORWARD IN CHRIST REPORTER/ DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Rev Matthew J Schaewe

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Rev Jason C Hacker



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

SEW District Calendar

These dates were gleaned from information provided in the district reports and requested from our conference secretaries.

June 2022

- 20-22 WELS National Education Conference
Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee, WI
- 23-26 Lutheran Women's Missionary Society National Convention
Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY
- 28-July 1 WELS International Youth Rally (Discipleship)
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

July 2022

- 8 WELS Night at the Brewers
American Family Field, Milwaukee, WI
- 26 SEW New Teacher Induction Seminar (am)
St. Paul, Muskego, WI

August 2022

- 2 Christian Educators for Special Education Conference
Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, WI
- 3 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference Family Picnic
The Buske Home, Milwaukee, WI

September 2022

- 19-20 Symposium on Compassion
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI

October 2022

- 11-13 OWLS Convention for Seniors
Stony Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Onalaska, WI
- 13 Milwaukee Metro Pastoral Conference
St. Philip, Milwaukee, WI
- 15 Christian Life Resources Convention
Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, WI
- 18-19 Kettle Moraine, Shoreland, Western Lakes, and Winnebago
Joint Pastoral Conference
Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI
- 20 SEW Circuit Pastor Training
St. Paul, Muskego, WI
- 21 SEW District Council
St. Paul, Muskego, WI
- 27-28 Wisconsin State Teachers' Conference
Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI

November 2022

- 10 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference (with Western Lakes & Milw. Metro)
Wisconsin Lutheran High School

January 2023

- 12 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Atonement, Milwaukee, WI
- 16-18 WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership
Hilton Hotel, Chicago, IL

February 2023

- 3 Deadline for Submitting CMO and Statistics
12:00 Noon CST
- 6 Western Lakes Pastoral Conference
Living Word, Waukesha, WI
- 9 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Christ, Milwaukee, WI

March 2023

- 9 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Garden Homes, Milwaukee, WI

April 2023

- 17 Western Lakes Pastoral Conference
Trinity, Waukesha, WI

May 2023

- 2 Shoreland Pastoral Conference
First, Elkhorn, WI
- 11 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Grace, Milwaukee, WI

June 2023

- 13-14 SEW District Conference
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI

July 2023

- 31-Aug 3 WELS Synod Convention
Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, MI



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT **53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022**

Evaluation / Comments Form

Please use this form to provide us with any encouraging comments or constructive criticisms you may have regarding this convention, as well as any advice or suggestions you may have for future conventions or conferences. Please use the space at the bottom of the back page for more comments. Please include your name and contact information if you'd like one of the district officers to speak to you about your concerns.

These forms may be placed in the boxes at the head table or at the back of the gymnasium. There is a link to an electronic version of this form at the district website, www.sew-wels.net.

Announcement Letter and Registration Info

On-Line Registration Process

Worship Services and Devotions

Keynote Address

Reports

Agenda/Format

Meals/Refreshments

Technology

Convention Materials

Going "Paperless"

Other Convention Arrangements

Other Comments

Name & Contact Info (If you want a district officer to contact you)

District President's Report

To: The 53rd Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod Assembled at Wisconsin Lutheran College, June 14 and 15, 2022

Setting Forth the Truth Plainly

As many of you are aware, in recent weeks scammers have used alleged emails from various district presidents, including myself, to try to deceive people into sending them money. We pray the Lord will turn the hearts of these people to himself in humble repentance, so they may hear the straightforward comfort of the gospel of Christ.

The apostle Paul encouraged us to refrain from deceptive speaking in any way when it comes to God's Word: *"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God"* (2 Corinthians 1:2 NIV). What a blessing that someone has set forth the truth plainly to us so that we might know our sin and treasure God's forgiveness. What an honor to set forth that same truth plainly to others so they may join us in lives of Christian faith and devotion.

In that spirit I pray we are looking forward to Martin Luther College President Richard Gurgel's keynote address, which will emphasize the importance of encouraging one another, as we mutually struggle with how to set forth the truth plainly in the midst of dealing with various societal issues. We are grateful that he is able to be with us today.

I am also grateful to be with you today, though this is the last time I will be greeting you as your district president. As announced in the district registration email of mid-May, for the past year I have worked with President Schroeder and our district praesidium on transition plans in case the new Superintendent of Schools position for our district would not be filled. We have extended calls for this position for two years, but to this point no one has been led to accept the call. We will continue this calling process in October, but I have made the prayerful decision not to accept nomination for the office of district president for another term. It has been an honor to serve you in this way, but after six years in this office -- and after a total of fifteen years of serving on the praesidia of two districts -- I do not believe I am able to maintain this pace for another two years, at which time I would be sixty-seven years old.

However, as I also stated in the registration email, I believe this district needs to have another full-time person to provide adequate service. As a result, I have offered to serve as a non-praesidium assistant to the district president in an interim capacity for a period of six and possibly twelve months. It will be reviewed monthly. President Schroeder has approved this position, the call for which will be extended by our district praesidium, just as is the case for the Superintendent of

Schools. In the meantime, we will continue calling for Superintendent position. God-willing, someone will be in place for that position on July 1, 2023.

Another change in our praesidium will occur due to the request of Pastor Michael Woldt not to serve another term as our district's second vice-president. We are very thankful for his four-plus years of service in this capacity. We benefited greatly from his wise advice, which comes from an evangelical, pastoral heart.

Our other praesidium members are First Vice-President, Pastor Daniel Leyrer, and Secretary, Pastor Billy Carter. They both have been of invaluable assistance to me, and I express my gratitude to God for them.

In this connection, I pray for God's blessing on the election process we will soon begin, as we seek a new district president and have elections for the other positions, as well. (The Elections Committee will walk us through this process, as well as the process for electing board members for service in various capacities. Thank you to everyone who was willing to be nominated for consideration.)

I also express my gratitude to our twenty-one circuit pastors and assistant circuit pastors who oversee our district's nineteen circuits. Without their faithful work, the work of the district president would be extremely difficult to carry out. I also am thankful to their congregations for allowing them to carry out this extra and important responsibility.

An important part of our circuit pastor experience is the opportunity to meet twice a year to give updates on the ministry being carried out in their circuits, as well as to ask for advice on questions they might have. Every Fall we meet for an extra day for training in connection with some aspect of ministry. In Fall 2021, for example, Pastor Bob Fleischmann of Christian Life Resources gave us an overview of the various questions his office was dealing with in connection with the COVID issue, vaccines, etc. Next Fall Mr. Victor Vieth, a WELS member and a nationally recognized expert on child sex abuse, who is the Chief Program Officer of the Zero Abuse Project in St. Paul, Minnesota, will address our circuit pastors on items our churches and schools need to be aware of in this regard.

One of the key concerns of our churches and schools, of course, is the amount of vacancies we have in our pulpits and classrooms. Synodwide we have well over one hundred vacancies in both categories. I continue to pray that God will give you wisdom, patience and strength, if you are among those churches and schools dealing with a vacancy or vacancies. I am thankful for the extra work so many of you are doing to keep things going as well as possible in your ministry. This is something that needs to be at the forefront of our synodical and individual efforts to address. At our May COP meetings, President Schroeder was asked to establish a Task Force to develop a plan of action to address our teacher vacancies, in particular – and to report back to him by October. If you should be asked to participate in this study in some way, please do so.

We are very thankful for the WELS teachers who are currently teaching in the public sector and have come forward at this time to offer themselves as candidates for the public ministry. This has truly been a blessing. I pray that their process of ministry certification is a spiritual and professional blessing for all of them. At the same time, I encourage all of you to encourage more young men and women to consider attending Martin Luther College, our WELS College of Ministry. We are thank-

ful for the hard work MLC is putting into student recruitment, limiting student debt and improving the campus facilities. We are also thankful for the candidates MLC produces for ministry. This past May our district was able to receive twenty-nine assignments for schools among us, in addition to seven candidates who were reassigned to their current ministry. While we are saddened by the many vacancies which remain, we dare not forget to thank God for the blessing he has provided in these well-trained and willing candidates. Thank you to Martin Luther College – and to our WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools – for all their work to help our schools navigate this shortage, as well as to help us deal with so many other school-oriented questions which arise throughout the year.

We have the same situation at our Seminary. This year our district received two pastoral candidates, in addition to an associate for the new district president. We also received one vicar, who will be privileged to serve in a mission setting. We are already looking forward to next May, when we hope to have forty or more pastoral candidates, a nice increase from the twenty-seven men we had this year. What a blessing these candidates will be to Christ's church.

Additional items in connection with our called workers:

"Call Eligibility Review" and Ministry Certification (Teachers)

MLC Professor Dr. John Meyer and his team have updated the MLC website to reflect the changes we have made to our "recertification" process. You may recall that the new name for the process is "Call Eligibility Review." Please direct (D)MLC-trained teachers who are interested in call list eligibility to this link: <https://mlc-wels.edu/ministry-certification/call-eligibility-review/>.

Teachers who have not been trained at (D)MLC who would be willing to consider teaching in a WELS School may also find information on that process on the MLC website at this link: <https://mlc-wels.edu/ministry-certification/teachers/>. This process is called "ministry certification." (Formerly it was called "synod certification.")

Self-Assessment Forms (Pastors and Teachers)

If you have not done so recently, please take a few moments to update your record at WELS through the revised online process. This is especially needed to update your personal and family information, as well as assessment information (ministry preference and ability ranking). This updated information helps district presidents and the Lutheran Schools office prepare call lists and helps to ensure that the biographical information shared at such meetings is as accurate as possible. You also now have the opportunity to write a paragraph about your ministry goals and interests, as well as any other personal or congregational information that would be helpful for district presidents to be aware of. You also may list your top five strengths (Strengthsfinders). Go to this link to update your information: <https://cloud.wels.net/my-wels-cloud/>

Our church body continues to study and wrestle with applications involving the relationship of men and women in God's world and his church. Over the past several years we have worked on a rearticulation of the Male / Female theses of 1997. There has been much study of -- and input on -- the rearticulation drafts, and we look forward to more of the same in the year ahead. The current plan is that a final draft of the rearticulation will be made available to us later this summer or in the

Fall. Our continual prayer is that we say what Scripture says – no more and no less. God wants us as men and women to work together to his glory in a way that recognizes his will and plan for us. God bless our ongoing discussions, as we seek to walk together in the truth.

One key administrative item of the 2021 synod convention was the agreement to change our WELS pension plan from a “Defined Benefit Plan” to a “Defined Contribution Plan.” That change officially took place on January 1, 2022. It seems the changeover has gone quite well. However, if there are any problems that have come up or questions you are wondering about, do not hesitate to contact our WELS Benefit Plans Office.

The key mission emphasis from our 2021 synod convention was the approval of a plan to ask God to bless our efforts to open one hundred new missions over a ten year period, beginning in 2023. Clearly this is a huge undertaking, under God. One part of this undertaking involves our Congregational and Individual Mission Offerings. What a tremendous blessing from God that in the past couple of years our mission offerings have come in at a high level. The financial means to carry out our goals is there. What remains, of course, is the called worker resources needed to provide ministers for these efforts. We prayerfully entrust all of this to the Lord of the Church and to his dearly loved people. God help us to go forward with a sober-minded confidence, as we seek his guidance and wisdom. In this connection, we thank Pastor Keith Free, who recently concluded his service as our WELS Administrator for Home Missions, for serving as our preacher for our opening service. (Mission Offering Note: As has been the case for a number of years, we encourage congregations to consider setting aside ten percent of their overall budget as congregational mission offerings (CMO). This emphasis has resulted in great blessing, for which we praise God.)

Preparation for the 2023 synod convention comes in the form of the Report to the Twelve Districts (available online at <https://wels.net/about-wels/official-reports/rtd/>). This document also serves as information for our district conventions. If you haven’t yet done so, I encourage you to familiarize yourself with its basic contents. It provides an excellent summary of the great amount of ministry the Lord allows our church body to carry out in our nation and throughout the world.

That summary of ministry activity is also a large part of what our time together at this convention is all about. There are many different presentations that we will hear and see in these next hours today and tomorrow. I pray you will look forward to them, reflect on them, thank God for them, and pray the Lord will continue to bless our shared ministry. What a blessing to have brothers and sisters we can join with in sharing the gospel for the strengthening of those who know Christ and the conversion of those who don’t.

That work of growing in grace and sharing God’s grace is accomplished through setting forth the truth of Christ plainly – and not through the use of any deceptive methods or words which distort the message of our Savior. As we go about the task of proclaiming that truth, not only do we not “lose heart,” when we go through difficulties and dilemmas, but we also grow in our appreciation of how good God has been to us personally – and in our desire to share that truth with every person we can. God help you to speak – and to live – the plain truth of your Savior’s forgiving love.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor David P Kolander
President, Southeastern Wisconsin District (WELS)

Membership Changes

The following have accepted calls into the district during the biennium:

Pastors:

David Meyer (St. John (Howell Ave), Oak Creek) from North Atlantic District
Jeremy Laitinen (Shoreland LHS, Somers) from Nebraska District
Derek Bartelt (First, Lake Geneva) from Arizona/California District
Paul Lindhorst (Ministry of Christian Giving) from Dakota-Montana District
Jeffrey Samelson (Christian Life Resources) from North Atlantic District
James Saatkamp (Resurrection, Milwaukee) from Michigan District
Bradley Taylor (Christ, Pewaukee) from South Central District
Keith Siverly (Kingdom Prep LHS) from Minnesota District
Erich Westphal (Centennial, Milwaukee) from Minnesota District
Justin Pomije (Trinity, Union Grove) from Michigan District
Jason Oakland (Wisconsin Lutheran College) from Northern Wisconsin District
Timothy Bode (St. John, Mukwonago) from Minnesota District
W Jeffrey Gunn (Amazing Love, Frankfort) from Arizona/California District
Matthew Mueller (Good Shepherd, West Bend) from Western Wisconsin District
David Ernest (Jerusalem, Morton Grove) from Western Wisconsin District
Noah Headrick (St. John, Burlington) from Northern Wisconsin District
Chris Cordes (Northwestern Publishing House) from Minnesota District
Jason Zahn (Trinity, Waukesha) from South Atlantic District
Joel Russow (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) from South Atlantic District
Jonathan Kruschel (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) from Western Wisconsin District
John Paustian (Reformation, Dousman) from Minnesota District
Paul Meier (Salem, Milwaukee) from Northern Wisconsin District
Daniel Marggraf (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson) from Western Wisconsin District
Michael Kuschel (First, Elkhorn) from Minnesota District

Teachers:

Michael Wisniewski (Bethany, Hustisford) from Western Wisconsin District
Brian Kasten (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) from South Atlantic District
Joel Koschnitzke (Shoreland LHS, Somers) from Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Matthew Lange (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha) from South Central District
Gary Gray (Peace, Hartford) from Arizona/California District
Nathan Scharf (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) from Nebraska District
Joshua Rimpel (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee) from South Atlantic District
Brad Gurgel (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha) from Minnesota District
Benjamin Edmunson (St. Philip, Milwaukee) from Northern Wisconsin District
Matthew Evans (St. Lucas, Milwaukee) from Arizona/California District
Micah Wendt (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) from Pacific Northwest District
Darrell Roecker (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson) from Northern Wisconsin District
Timothy Schubkegel (St. John, Burlington) from Dakota-Montana District

Staff Ministers:

Michael Babler (Victory of the Lamb, Franklin) from South Atlantic District

The following candidates were assigned by the Synod Assignment Committee to calls in the district in 2021 and were received into membership of the district at the last synod convention.

Pastors

Drew Day (First, Racine)

Isaac Hayes (St. John on the Hillside, Milwaukee)

Jacob Shepherd (St. Paul, Round Lake Park)

Teachers:

Zachary Bork (Salem, Milwaukee – one year assignment)

Andrew Eggers (St. Marcus, Milwaukee – assignment made permanent)

Aaron Fischer (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove – one year assignment)

Samuel Koepsell (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha – one year assignment)

Paul Kramer (Risen Savior, Milwaukee – principal training program)

Marcus Mortensen (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete)

Michael Schoenfeld (Kenosha Lutheran Academy, Kenosha – assignment made permanent)

Benjamin Walter (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson)

Samuel Koepsell (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha – assignment made permanent)

Staff Minister:

Michael Tracy (Chaplains in Schools, Milwaukee)

The following candidates were assigned by the Synod Assignment Committee to calls in the district in 2022 and have been accepted into the membership of the district:

Pastors

Joshua Busch (Glory to God, Tinley Park and Our Redeemer, Grant Park)

Caleb Klatt (Abiding Peace, Elgin)

Joel Krieger (graduate assistant to the district president)

Teachers:

Zachary Bork (Salem, Milwaukee – assignment made permanent)

Elliot Butler (Risen Savior, Milwaukee – principal training program)

Carrington Cunningham (Kingdom Prep LHS, Milwaukee)

Aaron Fischer (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove – one year assignment – second year)

Christian Kuether (St. Marcus, Milwaukee – assignment made permanent)

Luke Meihack (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson)

Branden Mueller (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine – one year assignment)

Tyler Roecker (Shoreland LHS, Somers)

Ziwen Shi (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete – one year assignment)

Alexander Stoeberl (Atonement, Milwaukee – one year assignment)

The following accepted calls within the district during the biennium:

Pastors:

Jonathan Arndt (Reformation, Dousman) to St. John, Newburg

Thomas Kock (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) to Atonement, Milwaukee

Jonathan Bare (Joint Mission Council) to a joint call (JMC and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)

David Bivens (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) additional charge (member of the PSI team)
Bradley Wordell (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) additional charge (Grow in Grace)
Nixon Vivar (crm) to WELS World Missions, Waukesha
Luis Acosta (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) to WELS World Missions, Waukesha
Paul Waldschmidt (Peace, Hartford) to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon
Keith Free (WELS Home Missions) to St. John, Mukwonago
Ray Schumacher (Trinity, Waukesha & Northwestern Publishing House)
to Northwestern Publishing House
Jon Bare (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary & Joint Mission Council) to Asia Lutheran Seminary

Teachers:

Kevin Sonntag (Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee) to staff minister
David Ring (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine), principal (additional charge)
Jay Selle (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine) vice-principal (additional charge)
Paul Frisque (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) to Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Jonathan Rosenow (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) to St. Marcus, Milwaukee (Harambee Campus)
Joel Grulke (Our Savior, Grafton) to Trinity, Waukesha
Nathan Schultz (Peace, Hartford) to Our Savior, Grafton
Christopher Bartsch (Atonement, Milwaukee) principal, vice-principal (additional charge)
Sherman Carstensen (Morning Star, Jackson) to Peace, Hartford
Adam Harvey (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Morning Star, Jackson
Aaron Bauer (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Dean of Students (additional charge)
*Nathan Bauer** (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Principal (additional charge)
Aaron Kjensted (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Resurrection, Aurora
Jonathan Boche (Kingdom Prep LHS, Milwaukee) to Wisconsin Lutheran College
Jacob Schable (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee) to Shoreland LHS, Somers
Micah Walz (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) to Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee
*Devan Boling** (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) to Morning Star, Jackson
David Leyrer (St. John, Wauwatosa) to Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson
Michael Martens (Trinity, Caledonia) to Christ, Big Bend

The following inactive workers accepted calls to district congregations or schools during the biennium:

Pastors:

Gary Koschnitzke (retired) to Christ, Big Bend

Teachers:

Lyle Timm to St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee
Alexander Smith to Resurrection, Aurora
Samuel Schlicht to Atonement, Milwaukee
Sherman Carstensen to Morning Star, Jackson
Timothy Mueller, Jr. to Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin (interim principal)

Staff Minister:

Jeffrey Matteson to Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee

The following worker, who had been serving in a congregational assistant position, was declared “Call Eligible” and accepted a call to a district school during the biennium.

Seth Kock (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)

The following accepted part-time retirement calls in the district during the biennium:

Pastors:

Donald Thompson to St. John, Mukwonago

James Tiefel to St. John, Mequon

Steven Radunzel to Immanuel, Waukegan

Thomas Fischer to Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee

Lawrence Gates to Christ, Pewaukee

The following uncertified teachers or staff ministers accepted provisional calls to district congregations or schools during the biennium:

*Jeffrey Brown** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee

*Shelton Daniels** to Kingdom Prep LHS, Milwaukee

*James Flegel** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee

*Andrew Fink** to Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee

*Michael Strautman** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee

*SM Kevin Becker** to Grace, Milwaukee

*Philip Randall** to St. John, Milwaukee

*Michael Schlieve** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee

*Adam Pagel** to Shoreland LHS, Somers

*Jason Van Acker** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee

The following have accepted calls out of the district during the past biennium:

Pastors:

Thomas Engelbrecht (Christ, Pewaukee) to Nebraska District

Greg Pufahl (Centennial, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District

Aaron Robinson (Fairview, Milwaukee) to Minnesota District

Gary Pufahl (Christ, Big Bend) to Arizona/California District

Daniel Waldschmidt (St. John, Burlington) to Minnesota District

Micah Martin (St. John, Mukwanago) to Northern Wisconsin District

Timothy Wahl (Morning Star, Jackson) to Arizona/California District

Paul Learman (Divine Peace, Milwaukee) to Michigan District

Jordan Ertl (Atonement, Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District

Jonathan Kehren (Jerusalem, Morton Grove) to Western Wisconsin District

Scott Oelhafen (Trinity, Waukesha) to Minnesota District

Joshua Free (Abiding Peace, Elgin) to Michigan District

Kyle Bitter (St. John, Wauwatosa) to Western Wisconsin District

Daniel Herold (Glory to God, Tinley Park / St. Paul, Grant Park) to Minnesota District

Michael Schultz (WELS Hymnal Project) to South Atlantic District

Preston Heuer (First, Elkhorn) to Minnesota District
Colin Rieke (Palos, Palos Heights) to Northern Wisconsin District
Benjamin Zak (St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee) to Arizona/California District

Joseph Radsek transferred his membership to a congregation in Western Wisconsin District

Teachers:

Joseph Blum (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District
William Fuerstenau (Bethany, Hustisford) to Northern Wisconsin District
Seth Zoellner (Trinity, Waukesha) to Western Wisconsin District
Christopher Avery (St. John, Burlington) to Nebraska District
Jeffrey Roloff (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) to Dakota-Montana District
David Roekle (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove) to Arizona/California District
John Dorn (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) to Western Wisconsin District
Bradley Essig (Resurrection, Aurora) to Minnesota District
Frederick Luehring (St. Philip, Milwaukee) to Evangelical Lutheran Synod
John Schleis (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) to Northern Wisconsin District
James Brohn (Morning Star, Jackson) to Minnesota District
Jeffrey Falck (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) to Michigan District
James Hahm (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee) to Minnesota District
Jeff Spiaser (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) to South Atlantic District
Jay Selle (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine) to Northern Wisconsin District
Patrick Loroff (St. Lucas, Kewaskum) to Northern Wisconsin District
Nathan Hensler (Zion, South Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Jonathan Woldt (St. John, Libertyville) to Minnesota District
Bradley Jensen (Morning Star, Jackson) to Northern Wisconsin District
David Rust (Cornerstone, Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Paul Kanzenbach (St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee) to Nebraska District
Troy Yerks (Salem, Milwaukee) to South Atlantic District
Levi Dunsmoor (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Nebraska District
Glenn Metzger (St. Lucas, Milwaukee) to Pacific Northwest District
Christopher Stollfus (Word of Life, Milwaukee) to Dakota-Montana District
Paul Huebner (Shoreland LHS, Somers) to Minnesota District
Michael Wiechmann (Wisconsin LHS) to Minnesota District

The following called workers have either completed requirements for ministry certification or are in the process of completing requirements for ministry certification and thus are provisionally certified:

Teachers:

Daniel Hubert (10/1/2018)
Gabriel Malliet (10/31/2018)
Mark Leverence (7/1/2019)
Jason Nickels (7/1/2019)
Ryan Oertel (7/17/19)
Micah Hernandez (12/16/2019)
Jeremy Braun (3/5/2020)
Devan Boling (4/28/2020)
James Datka (5/15/2020)

Ethan Degner (5/22/2020)
Scott Martens (8/25/2020)
Cornelius Whiteside II (5/29/2020)
Justin Wintrone (7/1/2020)
Garrett Mandeville (8/26/2020)
Kevin Festerling (8/27/2020)
Daniel Hafenstein (8/31/2020)
Bradley Reinhardt (9/8/2020)
Simon Provan (9/10/2020)
William Roepke (9/14/2020)
Jay Sierzyn (10/28/2020)
Jonah Gauger (11/5/2020)
Jeremy Zima (11/5/2020)
Peter Eppen (11/9/2020)
David Menk (11/11/2020)
Gregg Pfarr (11/24/2020)
Peter Schwichtenberg (11/24/2020)
Taylor Chladek (12/2/2020)
Evan Woody (12/2/2020)
Mark Sievert (12/8/2020)
Christopher Rue (12/14/2020)
Seth Kock (12/15/2020)
Jeffrey Brown (1/1/2021)
Geoff Loper (5/11/2021)
Aaron Aanonsen (5/15/2021)
Ryan Latterman (7/28/2021)
Michael Wiechmann (7/28/2021)
Sherman Carstensen (8/4/2021)
Tyler Schoen (9/13/2021)
Randall Strutz (8/25/2021)
Donald Kudek (12/16/2021)
Nathan Bauer (1/12/2022)
Kurt Stielow (3/8/2022)
Scott Raymond (5/15/2022)

Staff Ministers:

Joe Hennen (12/10/2020)
Gary Schmid (12/10/2020)
Craig Swiontek (12/15/2020)
Adam Volbrecht (12/21/2020)
Jeffrey Matteson (7/18/2021)
Kevin Becker (1/1/2022)

The calls of the following workers expired or their positions were eliminated during the biennium:

Pastor:

Nixon Vivar (12/31/21)

Teachers:

John Marquardt (6/30/2021)

Stephen Roekle (6/30/2021)

The following called workers resigned during the biennium:

Pastors:

Joshua Bodden (6/30/2021)

James Hoogervorst (4/8/2021)

Teachers:

Christopher Arndt (7/15/2020)

Thomas McBryde (6/30/2021)

Wade Witzlsteiner (6/30/2021)

Ethan Rixe (6/30/2021)

Robert Ceasar (6/30/2021)

Dennis Leckwee (6/30/2021)

Timothy Mueller, Jr. (6/30/2021)

Marcus Mortenson (7/31/2021)

Alexander Smith (12/24/2021)

Spencer Jensen (1/31/2022)

Kevin Hahm (6/30/2022)

Jonah Gauger (6/30/2022)

Greg Obermiller (6/30/2022)

Daniel Unke (6/30/2022)

Joshua Kramer (6/30/2022)

Samuel Hunter (6/30/2022)

Michael Strautmann (6/30/2022)

The request of Troy Swenson to have his crm status reinstated was denied during the biennium:

The following members of the district have announced or entered retirement.

Pastors:

Mark Kock (8/31/2020)

Michael Bartsch (10/1/2020)

Dale Baumler (12/31/2020)

Kenneth Kappel (12/31/2020)

John Gawrisch (6/30/2021)

Robert Meiselwitz (7/18/2021)

Martin Schoell (6/30/2021)

John Brenner (6/30/2021)

Mark Braun (6/30/2021)

James Naumann (9/30/2021)

Curtis Jahn (12/31/2021)

Robert Dick (7/31/2022)

Thomas Fischer (4/30/2022)
Michael Feuerstahler (6/30/2022)
John Paustian (1/31/2022)
Philip Malchow (6/30/2022)
Ernst Wendland (6/30/2022)
Gregory Hermanson (7/31/2022)
Mark Wagner (6/30/2022)
Mark Jeske (5/31/2022)

Teachers:

Randall Watts (6/30/2021)
Robert Sawall (6/30/2021)
Keith Bowe (6/30/2021)
Thomas Hering (6/30/2021)
Randall Willms (6/30/2021)
Stephen Schultz (6/30/2021)
David Bartelt (6/30/2021)
David Rust (6/30/2022)
Allen Greschner (6/30/2022)
Jeffrey Sitz (6/30/2022)
Gary Gray (6/30/2022)
Gregg Pfarr (6/30/2022)

Staff Ministers:

Michael Schuessler (8/31/2020)
Joel Nelson (6/30/2022)
Gary Schmid (6/30/2022)

The following retired called workers transferred to congregations in our district during the bien-
nium:

Pastors:

James Hoff from Michigan District
Roger Wahl from Western Wisconsin District
Martin Hahm from Arizona-California District
Larry Neitzel from Western Wisconsin District
Verlyn Dobberstein from Dakota-Montana District

Teachers:

Stanley Cole from Pacific Northwest District

The following retired called workers transferred to congregations in other districts during the
biennium:

Pastors:

Dennis Bratz to Western Wisconsin District
Steven Lawrenz to Northern Wisconsin District
George Ferch to Western Wisconsin District

John Graf to Western Wisconsin District
Robert Meiselwitz to Arizona/California District
Timothy Kujath to Western Wisconsin District
Dale Baumler to Northern Wisconsin District
John Gawrisch to Western Wisconsin District
James Hoff to Northern Wisconsin District

Teachers:

Fredrick Mahnke to Western Wisconsin District
Eric Troge to Northern Wisconsin District
Ray Dusseau to South Atlantic District
Len Collyard to Arizona/California District

The following members of the district entered the Church Triumphant during the biennium.

Pastors:

George Enderle (8/13/2020)
Kenneth Lenz (10/19/2020)
Arthur Schupmann (11/24/2020)
Lloyd Huebner (12/8/2020)
Delmer Kannenberg (2/26/2021)
Mark Anderson (7/8/2021)
Daniel Buske (8/13/2021)
Robert Hartmann (9/7/2021)
Richard Balge (10/17/2021)
Don Thompson (12/15/2021)
William Godfrey (3/29/2022)

Teachers:

David Nelson (7/1/2020)
Donald Sebald (10/3/2020)
Michael Albrecht (8/14/2021)
Loran Schultz (11/8/2021)
Norman Dux (12/25/2021)
Larry Numerich (1/6/2022)
Jeffrey Dorn (2/26/2022)

Staff Minister

Daniel Hanke (2/11/2021)

Closures and Mergers:

The following congregations closed during the biennium:

St. Michaelis, Milwaukee (7/2/2020)
Calvary, Milwaukee (12/25/2020)
St. Luke, Kenosha (1/31/2021)
Divine Peace, Milwaukee (11/7/2021)

The following congregations merged during the biennium:

Epiphany and New Life in Racine merged to form Water of Life, Racine

Bethany, Friedens, and Mt. Zion in Kenosha merged to form New Life, Kenosha

Apostles of Christ, Wauwatosa merged with Christ, Pewaukee.

The following schools closed during the biennium:

Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee (6/30/2020)

Immanuel, Waukegan (6/30/2020)

The following schools merged during the biennium:

Bethany, Friedens Kenosha and Friedens, Kenosha merged to form Kenosha Lutheran Academy

The following workers accepted new calls to merged congregations and schools during the biennium:

Pastors:

Michael Zarling (New Hope, Racine) to Water of Life, Racine

David Pagel (Bethany, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Peter Prange (Bethany, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Michael Gorte (Friedens, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Scott Bergemann (Mt. Zion, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Steven Neumann (Mt. Zion, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

W Russell Scoggins (St. Luke, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Teachers:

David Leonard (Friedens, Kenosha) to Kenosha Lutheran Academy, Kenosha

David Zank (Friedens, Kenosha) to Kenosha Lutheran Academy, Kenosha

The praesidium made the following appointments to district positions during the biennium.

Pastor Joshua Free as Circuit Pastor, Central Circuit, Chicago Conference

Pastor Matthew Schaewe as District Forward in Christ Reporter

Layman John Isleb to the District Board of Appeals

Teacher James Hahm to the District Board of Appeals

Teacher Mark Blauert to the District Nominating Committee

Pastor Nate Bourman to the District Nominating Committee

Layman Joel Smith to the District Nominating Committee

Teacher Todd Gorsline to the District Nominating Committee

Pastor Philip Schupman as Circuit Pastor, Central Circuit, Chicago Conference

Circuit Changes - Resolution

Subject: CHANGES IN CONFERENCE AND CIRCUIT MEMBERSHIP
Resolution No. 1

- WHEREAS 1), the district by-laws prescribe that “the district shall determine the number and boundaries of its conferences and circuits” (Article X, Section 1); and
- WHEREAS 2), merging two circuits into one and disbanding a circuit and moving its congregations into other circuits or conferences involves changing the number of circuits and changing the boundaries of those conferences and circuits; and
- WHEREAS 3), the Root River and Southport Circuits of the Shoreland Conference would like to merge into one circuit to be known as the Lakeshore Circuit; and
- WHEREAS 4), the Eden Circuit of the Milwaukee Metro Conference would like to disband and its congregations have asked to join other circuits or conferences;

therefore be it

- Resolved a), that the Southeastern Wisconsin District approve the request of the Root River and Southport Circuits to merge into one circuit, the Lakeshore Circuit; and be it further
- Resolved b), that the Southeastern Wisconsin District approve the request of the Eden Circuit to disband; and be it finally
- Resolved c), that the Southeastern Wisconsin District also approve the requests of the Eden Circuit congregations to join the circuits and conferences printed below.

St. Mark, Brown Deer
to the Ozaukee Circuit of the Kettle Moraine Conference
Abiding Word, Milwaukee
to the Barnabas Circuit of the Milwaukee Urban Conference
Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee
to the Ozaukee Circuit of the Kettle Moraine Conference
Divinity-Divine Charity, Whitefish Bay
to the Philip Circuit of the Milwaukee Urban Conference

Respectfully submitted,
The District Officers

Minutes of the 51st Biennial Convention

June 12-13, 2018

Tuesday, June 12

The 51st Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District opened with a communion worship service held in the gymnasium of Wisconsin Lutheran College. The service recalled the grace that God has shown to the district in the hundred years since its first convention in 1918 and was based on worship forms that were available to the Church in 1918. District President David Kolander preached a sermon based on John 8:31,32. Pastor Martin Wildauer served as the presiding minister. The other district officers served as lectors. Carl Nolte served as organist. A festival choir and brass ensemble directed by Staff Minister Levi Nagel also accompanied the service.

After the worship service, President Kolander introduced Vice-President Richard Mannisto of Wisconsin Lutheran College, who welcomed the delegates to the campus and showed a video about the college and its work.

After a break, President Kolander called the convention to order in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and gave a brief description of our work the next two days.

Pastor Thomas Schultz, chairman of Floor Committee #1 - Elections, highlighted the duties of district president listed in the district by-laws and conducted the nominating ballot for the office of district president. After the ballots were cast and collected, he declared the nominations closed.

President Kolander introduced First Vice-President Joel Leyrer, who presented the first half of the essay that Prof. August Pieper delivered at the 1918 convention, entitled, "The Despising of Grace Is the Death of the Church."

President Kolander spoke to the delegates about the elections for circuit pastors that would take place during the lunch break. Secretary Billy Carter also made several announcements and described the schedule and procedure for lunch and the circuit pastor elections. President Kolander led the delegates in a prayer that thanked the Lord for the truth of God's Word and for the meal.

After the lunch break, Professor Michael Berg of Wisconsin Lutheran College announced WLC's plans to offer a one-credit course on Apologetics.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported the top five candidates nominated for district president. When a discrepancy was noted between the names that were presented and the numbers on the ballot, President Kolander asked the committee to resolve the discrepancy and then return to conduct the election ballot.

President Kolander asked Vice President Joel Leyrer to take the chair while he presented the President's Report. President Kolander began by asking us to observe a moment of silence for the members of the district who had entered the Church Triumphant during the biennium. He also thanked the Lord for blessings to our district in its one hundred years and thanked the district, the other officers, and the circuit pastors for their help and encouragement since he was elected. He also reported on the work he had done preparing call lists for congregations and noted the assignment of new called workers into the district. He asked the Lord to bless our efforts to support the work of

the synod through their congregation mission offerings. He noted the efforts being made to help our expanding urban schools find teachers for their classrooms, as well as the study and discussions which have taken place in connection with questions raised about the doctrine of the roles of men and women and some of its applications. He also highlighted several items that had been mentioned in recent issues of "Together."

During a break in the President's report, Elections Chairman Schultz reported that the top five candidates nominated for district president were Pastors Jon Bortulin, Aaron Christie, David Kolander, Joel Leyrer, and Steven Neumann. After the ballots for the election were distributed, cast, and collected, Chairman Schultz declared the election closed.

President Kolander introduced Missionary John Hartmann, who brought greetings from the other missionaries in Zambia and thanked the delegates for their support of our mission work.

After a brief break, Elections Chairman Schultz announced that Pastor David Kolander had been re-elected to the office of district president. President Kolander's announcement that he was accepting the call extended to him in that election was met with a round of applause. Chairman Schultz then read the by-laws description of the work of the district vice presidents and conducted the nominating ballot for the office of first vice president. After the ballots were cast and collected, he declared the nominations closed.

First President Leyrer continued his presentation with the second half of Prof. Pieper's 1918 essay, "The Despising of Grace Is the Death of the Church."

During a break in the essay, Elections Chairman Schultz reported that the top four candidates nominated for first vice president were Pastors Aaron Christie, Joel Leyrer, Gary Pufahl, and Michael Woldt. After ballots were distributed, cast, and collected, the election was declared closed.

During another break in the essay, Elections Chairman Schultz announced that Pastor Joel Leyrer had been re-elected to serve as the first vice-president of the district. Vice President Leyrer's announcement that he was accepting the call extended to him in that election was met with a round of applause. Chairman Schultz then conducted the nominating ballot for the office of second vice-president. After the ballots were cast and collected, the nominations were declared closed.

After reading most of the original essay, Vice President Leyrer presented several questions that he encouraged the delegates to take the time to consider after they returned home from the convention.

After a brief break, Elections Chairman Schultz announced that the top four candidates nominated for the office of second vice president were Pastors Aaron Christie, Gary Pufahl, Don Scheuerlein, and Michael Woldt. After ballots were distributed, cast, and collected, the election was declared closed.

Pastor Don Thompson presented a report on changes in the ministry at The Point of Grace, the campus ministry serving students at several colleges and universities in the Milwaukee area, which will now involve pastors of local congregations working with students and helping them be active in those local congregations. Pastors James Hein of St. Marcus, Milwaukee and Aaron Strong of Grace, Milwaukee also spoke about the blessings the students and their congregations were experiencing through this ministry.

President Bill Ziche of Northwestern Publishing House presented a video report on the difficult decisions that NPH has made this year, including closing the retail store, in an effort to keep NPH on a stronger financial footing.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported that Michael Woldt had been elected to serve as second vice president of the district. Vice President Woldt's announcement that he was accepting the call extended to him through that election was met with a round of applause. Chairman Schultz then read the by-laws description of the responsibilities of the district secretary and conducted a nominating ballot. After the ballots were cast and collected, nominations were declared closed.

Pastor Robert Hein, chairman of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, presented a video on the help that had been provided for victims of hurricanes in the Caribbean and in Texas and humanitarian aid efforts being made in connection with mission efforts in several foreign fields and communities in our country.

Pastor Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project, gave a presentation on the progress toward the publication of a new WELS Hymnal, which has a target release date of Advent 2021 for the first of the worship books that will be published in connection with the project. He also described some of the features that are planned for those additional books and several digital products.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported that the top five candidates nominated for the position of district secretary were: Pastors Kyle Bitter, Billy Carter, Aaron Christie, and Andrew Fix, and Teacher Casey Pufahl. After ballots were distributed, cast, and collected, the election was declared closed.

Tim Snyder, the district's representative on the Synodical Council, gave a presentation on the work the Council does to oversee the finances of the synod.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported that William Carter had been re-elected to serve as the secretary of the district. Secretary Carter's announcement that he was accepting the call extended to him in that election was met with a round of applause. Chairman Schultz noted that the elections for the other offices slated for election at this convention would be held tomorrow and encouraged the delegates to take a look at the slate of nominees and their bios provided in the convention materials before the election takes place tomorrow.

Secretary Carter also noted that the District Council had been unable to find two teachers from the Milwaukee Urban Conference who were willing to be nominated for a position on the district nominating committee. He noted that it would be important to receive two nominations from the floor for that position in order for an election to take place. He also noted that we would accept nominations of pastors or teachers for that position.

Dan Ebeling, chairman of Floor Committee #2, District President's Report and Resolutions, asked the delegates to provide him with any corrections that might need to be made to the Membership Changes report in the District President's report.

After several announcements from Secretary Carter and others, Pastor Kurt Lueneburg, administrator of the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, gave a presentation on the work his ministry does to encourage the congregations and members of the synod in the grace of giving.

The Tuesday session concluded with a meditation led by Circuit Pastor Jon Kehren. The meditation made use of the order of Vesper from the 1917 hymnal and focused on Romans 6:12-20, which was the text for one of the other worship services at the 1918 convention. Pastor Aaron Christie served as the organist.

Wednesday, June 13

The Wednesday session opened with a meditation led by Circuit Pastor Lon Kuether. The devotion made use of the alternate Order of Morning Service from the 1917 hymnal and focused on Acts

19:23-40, which was the text for one of the other worship services at the 1918 convention. Teacher David Porth served as the organist.

After the devotion, Elections Chairman Schultz directed the election ballot for the remaining district positions. Teachers Christopher Arndt and Charles Ungemach were nominated from the floor for the Milwaukee Urban Conference position on the nominating committee. Those nominations were seconded and carried. After ballots were distributed, cast and collected, Chairman Schultz declared the elections closed.

Secretary Carter pointed the delegates to the minutes of the 2016 convention, which had not yet been approved. It was moved and supported to accept those minutes. That motion carried.

Secretary Carter presented the 2016-2017 Financial Report. He noted that our current dues were completely covering the costs of our conferences and conventions and that he didn't expect that we would need to adjust district dues for a long time. He also noted some of the other ways that district funds had been used during the biennium, including covering the costs of counseling for called workers, and serving as a place to gather donations for a gift to former President David Rutschow and to cover the costs of the special Reformation service in November 2017. He also reported that the almost \$25,000 that had been gathered as a thank offering in connection with that service had been disbursed to the district mission board to help fund more mission efforts within the district.

Secretary Carter also asked for the delegates' help to report any corrections in the membership list and noted that he had worked with the synod's technology people to provide the district secretaries with access to parts of the synod's database that would help them in their work and that he was already seeing the benefits that were expected to come from that effort.

Secretary Carter also presented the slate of delegates, congregations, and alternates who would represent the district at the 2019 Synod convention at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. He asked the delegates to check to see if there were any errors that they noticed in that slate. It was moved and supported to approve the slate of delegates with one correction. The motion carried. Secretary told those whose names appeared on the slate, including the alternates, to expect more information soon, to fill out the online pre-registration form, and to clear their schedules of anything that couldn't be re-arranged.

Pastor James Huebner, first vice president of the synod, brought greetings from President Mark Schroeder and second vice president Joel Voss and encouraged the delegates to keep turning to God's Word to find the strength and confidence to keep serving our Savior in a world that offers so many obstacles to God's truth. He also thanked the delegates, lay and called, for all their work and service to the King and the kingdom and asked God's blessing on our work. He reported that two new district presidents had been elected at other conventions: Pastor Dennis Klatt in the Minnesota District and Pastor Snowden Sims in the Michigan District.

In response to questions from the floor, Vice President Huebner reported on the informal discussions being held with representatives of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Professor John Brenner of the synod's Committee on Interchurch Relations also reported on the status of the joint statement on the Termination of Fellowship that had been drafted by a committee with representatives from our synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

Pastor Keith Free, administrator of the synod's Board for Home Missions, reported on our synod's work in Home Missions and World Missions. He showed a video that summarized the work being done in fields around the world and in communities throughout the United States and Canada, including the work the Church Extension Fund does to help mission congregations finance building projects and Mission Journeys, a program that matches volunteers with opportunities to help mis-

sion congregations with their work. He invited delegates to celebrations that would be taking place to observe the 125th anniversary of our mission work among the Apaches. He especially highlighted the opportunities we've had to meet with groups around the world who had discovered us online and wanted to learn about our Scriptural teachings, including a group in Vietnam. He also invited the delegates to try out a new phone app that regularly shares mission stories.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported the results of most of the elections from this morning's ballot and the need for runoff elections for six of those elections. After ballots for those runoffs were cast and collected, the election was declared closed.

After a brief break, Mr. Steve Wolf, a member of the District Mission Board, gave a presentation on the work of the board. He thanked two members of the board who had completed service after two full terms. His presentation also highlighted the work of some of the mission congregations in our district, including the four new starts that were granted manpower this year, and a several sites that the board is considering for future work. He also noted that the Reformation thank offering will be used to enhance the work being done in the new mission starts that were approved this year. He encouraged the delegates to talk to the board about opportunities for mission work that they might see in their communities.

Pastor Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Discipleship, gave a presentation on the work of all six commissions under the umbrella of WELS Congregational Services. He showed a video that especially highlighted the resources available from the Commission on Congregational Counseling. He also noted resources that would be available from the new commission of Discipleship, which is a combination of the former Commissions on Youth Discipleship and Adult Discipleship. He showed a trailer for the new outreach movie prepared by the Commission of Evangelism, entitled "To the Ends of the Earth," that will focus on Paul's mission work in the book of Acts, especially his interactions with people in the city of Philippi. He also showed a video about several emphases in the work of the Commission on Lutheran Schools. He noted several emphases of the Commission on Special Ministries, including resources for people dealing with abusive situations or with pornography, as well as resources for military personnel, veterans, and their families. He noted that planning had begun for a conference in 2020 on Lutheran Leadership that will especially focus on strategic ministry planning.

Pastor Michael Woldt, chairman of the governing board of Martin Luther College, highlighted items from the reports in the convention materials from all four WELS ministerial education schools, focusing on the good news that we have to share and the work the ministerial education schools do to prepare workers who share that good news.

Pastor Dan Ebeling, chairman of Floor Committee #2, District President's Report and Resolutions. President Kolander asked Vice President Leyrer to take the chair during this report.

Resolution 1 - Changes in District Membership was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 2 - Acceptance of Newly-Assigned Called Workers was moved, supported and adopted.

Resolution 3 - Convention Offering was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 4 - Special Recognition of Thanks was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 5 - Assistance with DP Workload in Three Largest Districts was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 6 - Special Recognition of Thanks - was moved, supported, and adopted.

Vice President Leyrer thanked Chairman Ebeling and his committee for their work and their report.

President Kolander provided instruction for the box lunches and led the group in a dinner prayer. Sessions continued after everyone had picked up their lunch and began to eat.

Mr. Bill Meier, director of WELS Kingdom Workers, reported on volunteer opportunities available through a new service, Lutheran Volunteer Connect.

Pastor emeritus Martin Scheele reported on the work of the Organization of WELS Seniors (OWLS) and encouraged delegates to make their senior members aware of the opportunities for fellowship, education, and service available through the organization. He also invited seniors to their annual Convention for Seniors that will take place in Elkhart Lake in October.

Professor Joel Pless of Wisconsin Lutheran College, who also serves as president of the WELS Historical Institute, reported on some major work being done to refurbish the Salem Landmark church and some fundraising efforts to help finish the last part of that project, installing a new roof.

Pastor Thomas Schultz, Chairman of Committee #1, Elections, reported the results of the final run-off elections and presented the committee's final report. It was moved and supported to adopt the report with one correction. The motion carried.

President Kolander thanked Chairman Schultz and his committee for their work and their report.

President Kolander then thanked the delegates for their work at the convention and elsewhere. He also expressed his thanks to all who were involved in making arrangements for the convention, invited the delegates to take a look at the displays and take home an extra lunch on their way home, and asked God's blessings on all the delegates as they returned home and as they continue to serve him in their lives and ministries.

It was moved and supported and adopted to adjourn the convention at 12:23 p.m.

The convention closed with a meditation led by Circuit Pastor Raymond Kimbrough. The devotion focused on 1 Peter 2:9,10, which was the text for the sermon in the closing worship service of the 1918 convention. Outgoing circuit pastor George Ferch conducted the installation of the district officers and circuit pastors as a part of the devotion. Pastor Martin Wildauer served as the organist.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor William R. Carter, District Secretary



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

2020-2021 Financial Report

Calendar Year 2020

Balance, 12/31/2019, Checking Account	\$5,124.62	
Balance, 12/31/2019 Savings Account	\$10,111.27	
Funds Available, 1/1/2020		\$15,235.89

Income, 2020

Interest	\$5.06	
Total Income, 2020		\$5.06

Expenses, 2020

Internet/Email Hosting	\$341.90	
Conferences/Conventions		
Elections	\$56.10	
Worship	\$189.98	
Circuit Pastor Training	\$2,135.25	
Gifts	\$100.00	
Total 2020 Expenditures		\$2,823.23

Balance, 12/31/2020		\$12,417.72
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Balance, Checking Account	\$2,301.39	
Balance, Savings Account	\$10,116.33	

Circuit Pastor Training Balance		-\$1,166.67
General Fund Balance		\$13,584.39

Calendar Year 2021

Balance, 12/31/2020, Checking Account	\$2,301.39	
Balance, 12/31/2020 Savings Account	\$10,116.33	
Funds Available, 1/1/2021		\$12,417.72

Income, 2021

Interest	\$1.87	
Total Income, 2021		\$1.87

Expenses, 2021

Internet/Email Hosting	\$396.00	
Conferences/Conventions		
Arrangements	\$994.51	
Worship	\$140.00	
Circuit Pastor Training	\$2,703.61	
Counseling	\$750.00	
Gifts	\$100.00	
Total 2021 Expenditures		\$5,084.12

Balance, 12/31/2021		\$7,335.47
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Balance, Checking Account	\$2,217.27	
Balance, Savings Account	\$5,118.20	

Circuit Pastor Training Balance		-\$3,870.28
General Fund Balance		\$11,205.75

Pastor William R Carter,
Secretary-Treasurer

Notes from the Financial Report

Things Are Different in – and after – a Pandemic (including District Dues)

The last time we met in person for a convention back in 2018, this report noted that we had found the “sweet spot” for deciding how much to assess in conference dues right between the higher costs during a convention year and the lower costs during a conference year. I was even so bold as to state that “we shouldn’t need to increase district dues again for a long time.” But then came the pandemic. Because we didn’t have the usual expenses of a convention or a conference either of the last two years, we decided not to assess any dues either, because we knew that we had more than enough money to cover whatever other limited expenses we were expecting (see below).

When you add up the expenses we did have, though, including the costs of two fall circuit pastor training sessions, when the only income we had was \$6.93 cents in interest, we find ourselves with a balance in our accounts that won’t be enough to cover the higher costs of a convention year without a significant increase in our district dues. So we raised this year’s dues from \$40 to \$60 per certified male called worker and from 20 to 40 cents per communicant. This should be the only year we’ll need this increase. We should be able to bring the dues back to their previous level in 2023.

The same can’t be said, though, about the additional assessment that we’ve been charging to pay for our circuit pastor training sessions. Though the costs for those sessions were not significantly higher than in previous years (just over \$2,100 in 2020 and \$2,800 in 2021), spending that money without gathering the additional assessment means that the circuit pastor training fund owes the general fund almost \$3,900. We plan to increase the additional assessment for the next several years (from \$7 to \$10 per congregation and from \$1 for every 50 communicants to \$1 for every 40 communicants) so that that fund can repay the general fund over several years instead of trying to pay it all back all at once.

Notes on Our Expenses during the Last Two Years

- 1) The **Internet/Email Hosting** category now includes a monthly subscription to Google Suites in addition to our costs for Final Web for the district website. We signed up for Google Suites before the 2020 electronic elections because it offered a better, faster way to send bulk emails, which was important for the process we used for those elections. We still need to learn more about how we could use some of the other features of Google Suites for our communication.
- 2) The only expenses we had for the **electronic elections in 2020** was the cost for meals for the men who ran those elections. The amount listed under **Worship** in 2020 covered the cost of refurbishing our chalices after they were used by someone else. Our expenses for the **virtual conference in 2021** included costs for the people and resources of the WLC Technology. The amount under **Worship** covered the honoraria for the opening sermon and closing devotion.
- 3) We continue to use district funds to pay for transition **counseling** for called workers who have left the ministry. The additional expenses in this category in this biennium covered some counseling for called workers seeking to re-enter ministry and other counseling recommended by the presidium for current called workers. We now use Christian Family Solution’s Member Assistance Program (MAP) for this.
- 4) The **Gifts** category includes gifts from district funds for two district officers who celebrated ministry anniversaries during the biennium.

Dues Notices - For several reasons, the dues notices went out later than usual this year. Please make sure that your treasurer or business manager sees the notice and gets it paid, so that we can pay the bills for this convention in a timely manner.

Other Items from the District Secretary

District Membership List

I'd like your help in making sure that the membership list on pages 25-44 of the convention materials is as accurate as it can be. Besides checking that your name is spelled correctly and that you are listed with the correct serving body, please also check the following:

- **Non-Parish Workers** – All those serving joint schools, high schools, and post-secondary schools, as well as all those serving as synod administrators or other institutions, agencies, or para-synodical groups should be listed as a member of the congregation where they hold membership in the “Serving Other Ministries” section of each circuit.
- **Certification Status** - Called workers who are not yet ministry certified should be listed in italics on this roster. Please check to make sure that your own certification status, as well as that of those who serve your congregation or school, is listed correctly
- **Retirement Calls** – Please also check to make sure that I've got any workers serving in retirement calls listed correctly. Because the by-laws use the words “permanent call” to determine whether a called worker is a voting member of the district who's eligible to serve in an elected position or as a synod delegate, it's important to know if there's anything that's less than permanent about the calls that are issued to retired workers. Please let me know. *(Please also see the last paragraph below for more about my work with a COP subcommittee to find better wording for the bylaws to eliminate some confusion caused by other “less-than-permanent” calls.)*
- **Retired Workers** – Because conferences like to invite retired called workers to their meetings, it's also good to know that our retired called workers are listed in the right congregations. Please check to see if the retired called workers in your congregations are listed correctly.
- **Membership Not (Yet) Known** - Please also check this section (mostly workers who were recently called into our district) to see if you can provide any missing information.

If you find discrepancies anywhere in the membership list, please contact me, so that I can have the correct information, and so that I can make sure that the WELS database also contains the correct information.

District Secretaries Subsite on the COP Cloud Site

In my last report, I noted that I had been working with WELS Tech guru Sallie Draper and Carla Martin, President Schroeder's executive assistant, to develop the first of what eventually became a full complement of reports from the new WELS database to help district secretaries in their work. I am pleased to report that this set of reports has been very helpful to all the district secretaries.

Efforts to Improve Bylaws Wording on Synod/District Membership

This biennium I've also had the opportunity to work with members of the CoP's Sub-Committee on Called Workers to find a way to improve the wording in the synod's bylaws that describe who is a voting member of the synod and its districts. Several decades ago that definition was amended to include men who were serving calls in their retirement so that they could be voting members and could be allowed to serve in district or synod elected positions. At the time, the phrase “holding a permanent call” was added to the definition in order to exclude retired pastors who were serving a vacancy. The increase in the number and variety of other less-than-permanent calls since that time (e.g., renewable retirement calls or one-year assignments), makes it important to find a different way to make the intended distinction. The search for better wording has proved elusive. I hope that we can find something in time for it to be addressed at the 2023 synod convention.

2023 Synod Convention Delegates

The 2023 WELS Convention will meet at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan the week of July 31 – August 3, 2023. Of the 400 voting delegates, the Southeastern Wisconsin District is to provide 68 delegates: 23 laymen, 20 pastors/professors, and 25 male teachers/staff ministers.

Delegates who served at the virtual convention in 2021 have been given the opportunity to serve again. Their names appear in bold in the slates below. Checkmarks indicate a worker or lay delegate who has asked to serve again. Everyone else listed below will soon receive an email from Secretary Carter with needed information and a link to an online pre-registration form. Called workers should be complete the online form as soon as possible. Congregations should select delegates and substitutes and have those men complete the online form before February 1, 2023.

Everyone listed below, including alternates, should clear their calendars and be prepared to attend the convention. Alternates may be asked to fill a slot anytime up till about six weeks before the convention. Please respond quickly if Secretary Carter informs you that you need to fill a slot.

Pastor Delegates/ Alternates

Chicago Conference

Seth Haakenson ✓ *Lon Kuether*
Paul Horn ✓ *Dustin Blumer*
Andrew Bauer *Adam Gawel*

Kettle Moraine Conference

William Carter *John Cook*
Kurt Loescher *Randall Hughes*
Nathan Ericson *Martin Wildauer*
Darren Knoll *Bradley Wordell*

Metro Milwaukee Conference

Daniel Marshall *Joel Leyrer*
Erich Westphal *Richard Waldschmidt*
Joseph Berg *Curtis Golm*

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Brady Coleman *Aaron Strong*
Brian Hackmann ✓ *James Hein*
Phil Huebner ✓ *Jeremy Wosje*
Christopher Doerr *Paul Krueger*

Shoreland Conference

John Roekle *Dale Reckzin*
David Wierschke *Scott Bergemann*

Western Lakes Conference

Paul Nitz *Colin Vanderhoof*
Jonathan Kruschel *Brian Adams*
Andrew Glende *David Kolander*
Jason Hacker *Paul Lindhorst*

Lay Delegate Congregations /Alternate Congregations

Chicago Conference

St. Andrew, Chicago ✓
St. Paul, Grant Park
Faith, Radcliffe
Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake
Zion, Crete
Peace, Kokomo ✓

Kettle Moraine Conference

Zion, Theresa
Trinity, Hartford
Bethany, Hustisford
St. Paul, Lomira
Redeemer, Cedarburg

Glory to God, Tinley Park
Our Redeemer, Grant Park
Hope, Louisville
Amazing Love, Frankfort
Trinity, Crete
New Life, Lake Zurich

St. John, Lomira
Trinity, West Mequon
Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Zion, Allenton

Milwaukee Metro Conference**St. John, Wauwatosa ✓**

Jordan, West Allis

Resurrection, Milwaukee

*St. Lucas, Milwaukee**St. Paul, Cudahy**Woodlawn, West Allis***Milwaukee Urban Conference****St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee ✓****Siloah, Milwaukee**

Risen Savior, Milwaukee

*Salem (Eastside), Milwaukee**Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee**St. Matthew, Milwaukee***Shoreland Conference****New Life, Kenosha****St. John, Burlington**

First, Lake Geneva

*Peace, Wilmot**Water of Life, Racine/Caledonia**First, Racine***Western Lakes Conference****St. Paul, Franklin****Christ, Pewaukee****Christ, Big Bend ✓***Faith, Sussex**Mt. Calvary, Waukesha**Trinity, Waukesha***Teacher/Staff Minister Delegates****Teacher Delegates****Daniel R Johnson****Joshua Walker****James Brohn****James Boggs****Matthew Linton ✓****Mark Blauert****John Freese****Michael Koestler****Paul Patterson ✓**

Paul Burmeister

Martin Miller

Ryan Walz

Daniel Markgraf

Benjamin Carlovsky

Kevin Poston

Paul Frisque

Joel Grulke

Blair Schaper

Lyle Timm

Eric Filner

Keith Hackbarth

Timothy Mielke

Jason Goede

Joseph Greefkes

Robert Dusseau

First Alternates

Adam Harvey

James Schneck

Joshua Seeger

Paul Snamiska

Duane Vance

Nicholas Bush

Zachary Cvikel

Stephen Kamps

James Livingston

Brian Papenfuss

Timothy Payne

Michael Strusz

Seth Fitzsimmons

Adam Igl

Jonathan Rosenow

James Braun

Michael Henning, Jr.

John Kolander

Philip Krueger

David Leyrer

Philip Leyrer

Mark Murphy

Levi Nagel

Timothy Rimpel

Timothy Sonntag

Second Alternates

William Strasser, Jr.

Timothy Thierfelder

William Tomlin

Jason Walz

Daniel Albrecht

Casey Holtz

Michael Pingel

Robert Balza, Jr.

Christopher Bartsch

Andrew Becker

Theodore Glodowski

Aaron Palmer

Marc Shambeau

Brian Humann

Thad Jahns

Kevin Klug

David Kren

David Leonard

Paul Marquardt

Joel Mattek

Timothy McEachern

Lance Meyer

Michael Mittelstadt

Joel Schultz

Jason Snodie

Report of the District Mission Board

The district mission board chairmen had their meeting with the WELS Board for Home Missions March 31 and April 1. There were several action items for the SEW that came out of that meeting.

1. Lamb of God in West Lafayette, Indiana had their four-year mission program subsidy agreements (MPSA) approved. That means they will receive four more years of funding from the BHM and then, Lord willing, they will be self-supporting.
2. Pastor Paul Horn at Lamb of God was approved for a Vicar in Mission Setting (VIM).
3. The new start initiative in Cedar Lake, Indiana was deferred. The Executive Committee felt that the core group for starting a mission in Cedar Lake needs to mature.

Mission Counselor Wayne Uhlhorn, along with the SEW DMB Chairman Michael Zarling, and DMB members Seth Bode and Steve Mueller will work with Pastor Kendall Cook on how to mature and create a committed core group. The plan is to bring the request back to the BHM in spring 2023.

MC Uhlhorn, Zarling, and Bode are also working to mature a core group in East Boone County, IN. The current core group is one family in Whitestown, Indiana. That family has asked Pastor Bode to start weekly women's Bible studies in Whitestown. The goal will be for the women to then invite their husbands and others for a BIC that Pastor Bode will start teaching in Whitestown. Lord willing, we will have a committed core group of new WELS converts when we bring East Boone County to the BHM next spring for a new start.

Pastor Paul Schupmann is working a mission initiative in Dekalb/Sycamore. IL-47 is the line between the SEW and WW districts. Like the other two new starts, we'll need to mature a core group.

We are encouraging circuit pastors, pastors, principals, teachers, and laypeople to contact any of our SEW DMB members if they see areas of growth where we can start a new congregation. Or let us know if there is a healthy congregation or Lutheran elementary school that could use three years of funding for an enhancement to their congregation's outreach or a school chaplain to harvest the ripe mission field within the grade school.

We can also help congregations who are barely hanging on to see the potential mission opportunities in their area with multicultural ministry or a church merger or something else.

Let us know where our SEW DMB can be of service in your area of Kingdom work.

Our district is committed to our BHM's goal of 100 new mission starts and 75 enhancements in the 10 years of 2023-2033. Perhaps you or others have some concerns about money and manpower with this decade-long outreach initiative. What follows are brief answers to those concerns.

Regarding money:

- We are working closely with Kurt Lueneberg and the Planned Giving Counselors to walk through the 100 missions initiative so that through their efforts donors can be directed to contribute towards it. Kurt and his team are eager to do their part in supporting our efforts.
-

- There is a “silent campaign” going on right now in an effort to have \$10M later this year when the campaign kicks off to raise money for the initiative. We already have about \$6M raised. When the campaign officially kicks off in fall, we want people to see that a significant amount of money has already been donated to this initiative.
- Also, there are churches that will be closing in the upcoming years. As we've seen in the past, some of those churches will be giving at least a portion of those proceeds to help with our 100 Missions initiative.
- In all this, we're working hard to provide ways for God's people to respond to this initiative and see how God chooses to bless our efforts, knowing that he is able to bless us in more ways than we could ask or imagine.

Regarding manpower and the concern that we don't have enough pastors and a lot of vacancies:

- We share that concern in the sense that we recognize there are vacancies in congregations and some of these vacancies have lasted a long time. It's tough on those congregations.
- We recognize the tension that exists between nurture and outreach. Which gets more focus? Congregations wrestle with that and so do we as a synod. Yes, we want our current congregations to be served by our well-trained pastors. At the same time, Christ's love compels us to seek the lost. In other words, it's “both...and” - both nurture and outreach are essential.
- Practically speaking, if we do scale back and don't aggressively plant new churches, we could be caught on our heels when the pendulum swings in the other direction and we have more pastor candidates than we have congregations. History shows that the pendulum will swing back in the other direction. Trends in our synod seem to indicate that may happen sooner than we think. So...
- We'd rather fail trying rather than fail to try. In other words, rather than assuming we can't do this because of the shortage of manpower, we'd rather try and see how the Lord provides for his church.
- We are doing things that give the Lord the opportunity to bless. MLC is taking steps to step up recruitment efforts, WLS is planning to add some things to the curriculum to better train future pastors to be church planters AND to offer winterim courses for current pastors so that we might increase the pool of pastors who can serve as church planters.
- Other areas of ministry within WELS are doing their part in carrying out this initiative. In the end, if we can say we did our best to accomplish this goal and the Lord blessed us with 75 new missions in 10 years, God be praised! Again, we'd rather fail trying rather than fail to try. As we try, let's see how God chooses to bless us, knowing that he can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. And however he blesses us ... God be praised!

May the Lord of the Church continue to bless our mission work together for the growth of Christ's Kingdom and to our Lord's glory!

Now to him, who is able, according to the power that is at work within us, to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20, 21)

Respectfully submitted,
Michael D. Zarling, Chairman

Report of the District Ministry of Christian Giving

See Report to the Twelve Districts, pages 22-25

It is a great blessing to meet in person for first district-wide gathering since 2019, the first district convention since 2018. Think about how much has happened since then. A global pandemic. A new presidential administration. Civil unrest and protests in our country. Changes in your congregations with baptisms and funerals, confirmations and weddings. Changes in your personal life. Changes in ministry. This list goes on. So much has happened since we last gathered.

One thing has not changed, and that is the good news of God's love. His love never changes. His promise of eternal life by grace alone through faith in Christ alone, as the Scriptures tell you, will not ever change. This provides the solid foundation for your life in the midst of the turmoil all around you. As your Savior tells you, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock" (Matthew 7:24,25 NIV).

One surprising blessing from the Lord in the time since the COVID pandemic began is what has happened with WELS Congregational Mission Offerings (CMO). Considering the economic damage caused by the pandemic, one might have expected the offerings for the synod's ministry to decrease and tough ministry decisions would have to be made. However, by God's grace, God's people responded with the highest ever CMO contributions. This was the case not just for one year, but for the last two years. And we are on track this year to make it three in a row. Thank you, leaders of congregations, for encouraging such generosity through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord bless us to continue in the joy of contributing to support the spread of the gospel of Jesus.

CMO Subscriptions

Thank you for submitting your CMO subscriptions and statistical reports in a timely manner. This year 98% of all congregations in the WELS completed their CMO subscriptions and statistics. This is an amazing percentage.

Some have asked why the first Friday in February at noon is such an important deadline. That deadline is based on the schedule for Synodical Council meetings. The people in the MCG office at the Center for Mission and Ministry need time to process CMO and statistics after congregations submit them. The numbers are then used to prepare income estimates for the budget planning process. Those estimates need to be done in a timely manner so that the members of the Synodical Council can review them and prepare for their meeting. In short, that deadline is not arbitrary. There is a reason for it. Thank you for meeting that deadline so that all involved can have the best information possible for planning the ministry of our church body.

As you plan your congregation's financial plan for ministry for the next year, look at the CMO page on the WELS Resource Center <http://mcg.welsrc.net/cmo>. A section called "Resources for Encouraging CMO" includes all kinds of helpful tools.

Deadline for CMO and statistics next year will be noon Central Standard Time, Friday, February 3, 2022.

How we can help you?

Please make use of our giving counselors. They are great resources not only for your members, but your congregation as a whole. Do not be afraid to ask them to help you teach the joy of Christian giving.

Mr. Rick Kneser
Deferred Giving Counselor
rick.kneser@wels.net
262-305-7688

Rev. Paul Lindhorst
Current Giving Counselor
paul.lindhorst@wels.net
605-880-1583

Pastor Tim Henning
SEW Ministry of Christian Giving Chairman

Report of the District Lutheran Schools Committee

1. WELS National Education Conference

The WELS Education Conference will take place June 20-22, 2022, at the Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. A special keynote presentation and sectionals by Dr. Eric Jensen are scheduled for June 20.



2. Teacher Attrition Rates

The CLS Office reports the following teacher attrition rates from 7/01/21 to the present date:

Retirements: 61 (very similar to numbers from previous two years);

Resignations: 106 (down from 117 in fiscal year 2020-21; and 133 in fiscal year 2019-20). With approximately 3,000 active teachers in the WELS, the total attrition rate (173 teachers) for the past year is 5.7%.

3. Teacher Assignment Data and School Teacher Vacancies

This year, MLC yielded 74 (92 in 2021; 120 in 2020) teacher candidates who could be assigned anywhere (57 from graduating class and 17 from previous years). All of them were assigned.

In addition, 51 teacher candidates who were geographically limited received Calls for a total of 125 candidates assigned (168 in 2021; 150 in 2020).

After the Assignment Committee met, there were still at least 140 total vacancies for teacher-trained men and women synod-wide (at least 90 at this time in 2021, at least 50 at this time in 2020). Of those 140, 116 had brought Calls to the Assignment Committee that went unfilled.

Since MLC Assignment Day, another ten candidates have become available and have been assigned.

4. Opportunities to Serve

Do you know a fellow WELS member with an education degree not currently serving in WELS schools who might consider serving in a local WELS school? Encourage them to contact lutheranschools@wels.net, and they will be happy to discuss the process.

Do you know a WELS trained teacher unable to teach in a WELS school because of distance? The CLS office is collecting names of teachers who would be interested in supporting a WELS school with a teacher or special subject vacancy through virtual teaching. Please contact our office at lutheranschools@wels.net for more information.

5. Training Educational Leaders

The Principal Credential Cohort program invites individuals who have demonstrated three or more years of successful teaching experience, recognized leadership gifts and characteristics, and are not currently serving in a principal role to participate. The cohort provides support from mentors and fellow participants, three leadership training events and a 50% scholarship for graduate coursework through MLC.

The Emerging Leader Cohort for early childhood directors provides opportunities for those either not currently serving as an early childhood director or new to the director role with professional development and training. The cohort provides support from mentors and fellow participants, leadership training events and a 50% scholarship for graduate coursework through MLC. For more information or to nominate a teacher for either Principal Credential Cohort or Emerging Leader Cohort, contact the CLS office.

6. WELSSA

All WELSSA accredited schools are required to turn in their 2021-22 WELSSA Annual School Accreditation Report and School Improvement Plan to the WELSSA office by June 30, 2022. All schools were sent a personalized ASAR/SIP via Google Sheets last school year. The WELSSA office will be making some minor adjustments to the spread-sheet to reflect the new six-year cycle in the coming months. If a school needs access to their spreadsheet or would like to know which tabs are due for their school this year, please reach out to welssa@wels.net and a member of the team will help you.

If a school hosted a WELSSA site visit this year, they will be sent a new personalized ASAR/SIP based on the site team's recommendations for their new cycle in early May.

Reminder of Recent WELSSA Changes:

- A. More general "foundational documents" language in Standard 1
- B. Elimination of "Exemplary Status Accreditation" (Accredited; Accredited with Conditions; Not Accredited)
- C. Change from five to six-year timeframe between full Accreditation process

7. Christian Educators for Special Education (CESE) Conference August 2

Save the date for the Christian Educators for Special Education summer conference: August 2, 2022. You can attend his conference in person at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, Wisconsin.

Live and recorded virtual attendance options will also be available. Featured presenter, Greg Santucci, OTR (Occupational Therapist) the founding director of Power Play Pediatric Therapy will present: "You Must Be Regulated Before You Can Learn: How Sensory Processing, Safety, and Self-Regulation Impact Behavior and Learning."

8. Vector Solutions

Vector Solutions (formerly: *SafeSchools*) offers *Child Abuse: Identification & Intervention* and *Child Abuse: Mandatory Reporting* courses to help you deliver this important training to all staff in an easy-to-use format. Schools who are Lutheran Schools contributors have free access to this training tool. Contact Sarah Krause at CLS if you need help accessing these services.

9. Heart Imprints

This resource provides ideas for your chapel or children's message that coordinates with the scheduled readings for each Sunday and consists of a Bible reading, an object lesson, an outline that articulates the law and gospel, and a suggested order of service. Learn more at cls.welsrc.net/heartimprints, and download the resources. View the Heart Imprints Introduction for helpful tips for presenting devotions to children.

10. 2021-22 School Statistics

Teachers are encouraged to update their WELS Cloud profile and self-assessment at cloud.wels.net/me to ensure it reflects the most current information. Profiles are used to research and identify candidates for calls. Therefore, it is very important current ministry interests and relocation preferences/abilities are updated.

11. 2021-22 School Statistics

- Annual statistics collection helps us recognize the many blessings, challenges, and opportunities that our schools face.
- Visit the CLS resource center cls.welsrc.net/stats to view a detailed summary report.

Enrollment Growth/Decline 5 years

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
ECM	11,126	11,270	11,447	9,803	11,672
LES	24,485	24,348	24,394	24,618	26,586
ALHS	5,493	5,619	5,793	5,874	6,041
Prep Schools	616	611	599	581	605

12. Dates to Remember

June 20-22 - [WELS Education Conference](#) - Pewaukee, Wis.

June 28-July 1 - WELS International [Youth Rally](#), Knoxville, Tenn.

July 26 – SEW New Teacher Induction Seminar @ St. Paul’s, Muskego (AM)

August 2 - Christian Educators for Special Education [Conference](#) at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, WI.

In His Service and Yours,
Teacher Daryl A Weber
SEW District Lutheran Schools Coordinator

Report of the District Worship Committee

Who we are

Jonathan Pasbrig, Pastor Thomas Schultz, and Jason Snodie serve as members of Southeastern Wisconsin District Committee. **Pastor Martin Wildauer** is not officially on the committee but his institutional knowledge is a blessing. **David Porth** did yeoman's work in helping to prepare the worship for our convention. Along with Sacristan Thomas Schultz, our musicians and worship leaders deserve our thanks. **Pastor John Bortulin** serves as the coordinator for the committee. He welcomes any input or questions you might have.

Summer 2022 Update

- You are encouraged to give attention to worship items highlighted in the RTTD (specifically pp. 20-21, pp. 106-107). Pastor Bryan Gerlach will also address the convention on the new hymnal suite. The commission's supplemental report to the RTTD is in the Other Reports section.
- The commission's older website at the WELS Resource Center has many useful resources: <https://worship.welsrc.net/>.
- Check out the Foundation Resources, including the popular WELS Preachers Podcast: <https://welscongregationalservices.net/the-foundation/>.
- As of the end of March, more than half of WELS congregations had begun using new hymnal resources, and more than 400 congregations had subscribed to the Service Builder program. For a variety of reasons, adoption of the new hymnal is not expected to be as rapid as the 1993 hymnal. But thus far adoption of the hymnal and Service Builder are well above projections.
- A soft launch of Musician's Resource is planned for spring of 2022. This initial release focuses on public domain materials, providing a wide variety of musical scores.
- Beginning in spring of 2022 both Preach the Word and Worship the Lord will focus on a variety of outreach themes—preaching that raises outreach culture and encourages personal witnessing, and “worship and outreach” stories from a variety of congregations.
- At this time, the date for the next national worship conference is yet to be determined.

New Hymnal Resources

- An update on hymnal items that are available: <https://online.nph.net/christian-worship-hymnal-suite.html>
- RTTD p107 (<https://wels.net/about-wels/official-reports/rttd/>) lists items to be released “over the next year.” The earliest will be:
 - Christian Worship: Planning Guide - now shipping
 - Christian Worship: Commentary on Propers, Year A - goal to get this to the vendor May 16, so it can be printed and in-house by the middle of August.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor John Bortulin
SEW District Worship Coordinator
262-232-2202 - pastorjpb@gmail.com

Report of the District Special Ministries Committee

During this SEW convention, the WELS Congregational Services report will be in the form of a video. Please take note of these points of emphasis in Pastor Behringer's report.

1. **Circuit Presentations: Addressing the Mental / Spiritual Health Crisis.** A series of 90-minute online video presentations for WELS / ELS pastors and therapists will address mental health topics. A panel of pastors and therapists will discuss a topic where collaboration and cooperation between spiritual shepherds and professional Christian counselors can serve the needs of church members. The topical portion of each session will be recorded. After the recorded presentation, pastors and therapists will have time to ask questions and discuss. The number of WELS / ELS pastors and therapists in attendance at any presentation will be limited to offer more opportunity for attendees to participate in the discussion. Each mental health topic presentation will be repeated for groups of pastors who request the online learning session. Individual circuits or groups of pastors within organizations may schedule their own Effective Soul Care Partnership session. "Effective Soul Care Partnership" is a partnership between WLCFS Christian Family Solutions and WELS ELS Christian Therapists Network (a WELS Special Ministry). District Special Ministries Coordinators experienced a pilot presentation in May. You can visit the WELS ELS Christian Therapist Network website for updated information (www.christiantherapistnetwork.com). Contact Angela Glaeske at Christian Family Solutions (aglaeske@wlcfs.org) to schedule a case study at your next circuit meeting.
2. **Parenting children who have experienced trauma** is different from parenting children who haven't. Common parenting approaches often backfire. But there is hope! A self-paced, digital course, TBRI® 101, is now available through the Special Ministries' Light for Parents. This course offers an informal, yet thorough approach to Trust-Based Relational Intervention®, an evidence-based intervention for children from hard places of abuse, neglect, and/or trauma, including children who were adopted. Nearly eight hours of instruction cover the principles and strategies of TBRI® and offer practical tips for implementation. Parents will be able to work through the course at a pace and time that fits their lifestyle. A limited number of free trainings are available and will only be available to parents/grandparents/foster parents with children in their home. For further information or to apply for access to this course, please email staff@lightforparents.com.
3. **\$500 Grant from MDHH to congregations installing a hearing loop** - The Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering a grant of \$500 to any church that installs a hearing loop to assist the hard of hearing people in their ministry. For details see www.WELS.net/mdhh or email mdhh@wels.net.
4. **Child Safety is the emphasis of Freedom for the Captives.** Child Safety has always been a Christian issue. Early Christians rescued abandoned babies and organized orphanages. Luther

and Walther were ahead of their time in speaking against child abuse. WELS offers the most thorough abuse prevention resources of any faith community. Freedom for the Captives' website has new information every month – not only to make our churches and schools safer, but to recognize child abuse and respond to protect children. Have you looked at the website this month? www.Freedomforcaptives.com.

5. **His Hands (the Special Ministries newsletter) is back in a twice monthly format.** Twice a month, a blog article and some links in an email provide information on the many areas where Special Ministries provides resources for congregations to help people who cannot access gospel ministry without some sort of accommodation. Go to www.wels.net/subscribe to receive His Hands.

Chaplain Certification offers useful online learning opportunities, often with financial aid, even if you (or your lay leader) does not become a chaplain. In September these online chaplaincy courses will be offered: "Communicating Forgiveness," "Ministering to the Incarcerated and their Families," "Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry" (Free!), "The Spiritual Side of PTSD" and "Grounded in Scripture" a doctrinal course for those interested in ministry but have not had a foundational study of Scripture. For more information, see the MLC website www.mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate/ or email chapcert@wels.net.

Military Service can bring spiritual danger. Can you imagine a young person leaving home, facing life and death situations and pressures to sin? It happens to our military members. The dangers and the solutions are described in the video "Staying Close to God's Word While in the Military." www.csm.welsrc.net/military-resources/ If you have a member in the military or entering the military, refer them at www.wels.net/refer.

On the district level, the Samaritan Partners Caregivers Support Group continues to meet. Here is their invitation to join their group: *We have been gathering for Samaritan Partners since 2011 to support each other and share information that each of us has found out. Please let it be known that if Pastors know of a caregiver who may appreciate gathering with other caregivers to contact me for further information. Please contact Carol W at this email, schatzy999@yahoo.com, for questions or information. We meet outside during the warm months. Our group is intimate in numbers and confidential. We welcome all caregivers.*

Training for volunteer opportunities

- Prison Ministry offers mentor training, a valuable way to make a difference in the life of someone who has been released from prison. For more information and to refer someone, go to www.wels.net/prison-ministry or email prisonministry@wels.net.
- Mission for the Visually Impaired needs people who can do repetitive computer tasks (such as sound editing on a recorded book) or are willing to learn how to braille. To learn more, email welvisimp@wels.net.
- Military Services is looking for writers to create content on specific topics to help military members and families and churches that serve them.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Richard Waldschmidt
SEW Special Ministries Coordinator

Report of the District Discipleship Committee

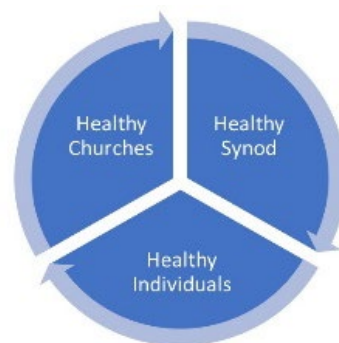
a supplemental RttD report available at

www.wels.net/about-wels/official-reports/rttd/.

Our Calling

What is a “disciple?” Simply, it is a believer responding to Christ’s invitation, “Come, follow me.”

The WELS Commission on Discipleship exists to strengthen the connection of God’s people to Christ and to one another. To that end, our mission is *“to provide resources, encouragement, and training to assist congregations and their ongoing walk of faith.”* Because that walk of faith spans the totality of life, our calling encompasses ministry to all members of the Christian family in their unique callings: men and women, young children, teens, college-age and young adults, singles, parents, marriage spouses, etc.



At the Present

Marriage and Family Resources

Studies have shown there is a correlation between what happens in the homes of our members and congregational health. Every week, Commission on Discipleship provides a variety of resources in support of that important goal including:

- **Regular WELS Family Devotions** – published three times a week and including age-appropriate discussion questions, the 400-500 word devotions are meant to strengthen the family as parents engage their children in God’s Word and prayer. Congregations are encouraged to download them to their websites, share on their social media, or print for church/school families.
- **Marriage Moments** – sent every Monday, these two-minute videos strengthen the marital connection between husbands and wives—just a single thought from God’s Word to deepen their marital relationship. Christian homes benefit greatly when Christ is part of a couple’s daily life.

Youth Ministry

2022 WELS Youth Rally – For almost fifty years, thousands of youth and youth leaders have gathered every other year from across our church body in a large-scale event that connects them to Christ and each other. This summer’s rally is June 28 through July 1, at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. It will include daily worship opportunities, multiple keynotes to attend, 28 workshops offering something of interest for everyone, great food, recreation, and service opportunities. Some of the rally workshops will then be developed into online youth ministry resources and made available this fall to all congregations at www.welscongregationalservices.net.

For the past six years, **“Transformed” Teen Devotions** reach high school believers weekly at a critically-important age of life. Beginning this year, a **Teen Facilitator Guide** provides study helps for youth leaders to engage teens in a deeper conversation of Scripture that connects with real life. The resource is part of a broader menu of *The Foundation* resources on WELS Congregational Services website at <https://welscongregationalservices.net/the-foundation/>.

WELS National Leadership Conference - Plans are being made to invite teens and young adults to attend the upcoming Leadership Conference this coming January 16-18, 2023, in Chicago. The message is clear: our church body values younger generations in the body of Christ and sees their inclusion as an opportunity for encouragement and training. More information will be forthcoming mid-summer.

Women’s Ministry

“Won to be One” is the theme of the WELS Women’s Ministry Conference at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI on July 21-23, 2022. Women from all walks of life are invited to attend in six different keynotes and chose from dozens of breakout groups. The conference will identify barriers of our dis-attached, fragmented culture that get in the way of unity. Then, with a focus on the book of Ephesians, cultivate the richness of grace and unity to stand firm in the face of conflict, and extend grace in our everyday relationships. <https://wels.net/event/2022-wels-womens-ministry-conference/>

Every congregation has women who are eager to grow in the Word and desire to share it with others but want to better balance knowing Scripture well enough to teach. ***Equip Women to Teach the Word*** is an online training module for congregations that want to encourage and prepare women to serve as faithful teachers of God’s Word in different ministry settings. <https://welscongregationalservices.net/equip-women-to-teach/#toggle-id-1>

For more information, including how to subscribe to their bi-monthly newsletter, Advent by Candlelight resources, and an online **“Heirs Together”** Bible class starting this fall, go to <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/>.

A Look Ahead

The Commission on Discipleship is at various stages of development on a wide variety of programs and resources to address urgent and immediate congregation needs or long-standing ministry challenges.

Congregational Marriage Resources – A variety of online modules will be available beginning this fall including:

- A new set of *Marriage Maintenance* Bible studies. Each study comes with a short lead-in video that sets up the topic followed by an activity to put it into practice. The resource asks for a couple’s commitment of time to further their conversation based on God’s Word (study) and for direct marriage application (personal discussion).
- *Marriage Enrichment Module* – **“Keys to a Lasting Marriage”** is a three-part biblical, practical, interactive marriage resource facilitated by a pastor/staff minister/or strong lay leader(s). Each part has a student sheet, leader guide and an accompanying PowerPoint. Its use is

flexible to local ministry needs (inreach and outreach) and church calendar (three-hour marriage workshop, three weekly/monthly sessions, or three sessions spread out over a week-end retreat).

- *Pre-Marriage* – Incorporating Marriage Moment videos, this pre-marriage course covers topical and biblical areas of marriage for use by the pastor with a couple or in a small group setting.

Small Group Ministry - Pulse surveys show that many church members lack a strong connection to their church and to each other. This module will share several ways to approach using small groups and step-by-step instructions how churches can arrange for small groups in their ministry setting for better congregational connectedness and member care.

Youth Night – One of the effects of COVID-19 is the loss of momentum in youth ministry at the local congregational level. The goal of Youth Night is to bring together youth and youth leaders from area congregations in a two-hour evening event that encourages shared faith and fun in a larger setting. A Youth Night template with an accompanying kit of resources (planning guide, event coordination, youth involvement) will be ready by this fall.

Stewardship – What is an active church member? According to Barna Research, it is a person who goes to church once a month. Once a month. In a culture where God is diminished and self is promoted, will an hour a month sufficiently combat the rest of the 671 monthly hours lived in a post-biblical world? What are the key areas of “time” which may be sorely out of sync because of our culture? How does a stewardship of time trickle down into healthier faith and life?

This fall, a worship/Bible study series will double-down on God’s priorities for the critical asset called “TIME.”

Sunday school module - Help congregations assess their struggling Sunday school ministry and provide examples of various approaches to revitalize youth ministry.

Human Sexuality/Identity Task Force – Our church and school ministries will increasingly encounter an ideology and culture causing gender/identity confusion. Church members, students, called workers, faculties, and church leaders face a wide-range of struggles associated with it. How do we help them? How is it cloaked in Christian love? This task force brings together experienced called workers and lay leaders in key areas (counseling, classroom, church and school leaders, legal consultation) to clothe firm beliefs in Christian love and with resources that will support and equip called workers, faculties, and families.

It is truly a challenging yet exciting time for strengthening disciples in their following of Christ! May God bless our plan for him and our service to his people!

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Aaron Steinbrenner
District Discipleship Coordinator

Report of the District Constitution Committee

Constitution Committee's Work

From 2020-2022 the District Constitution Committee has received and reviewed twelve Constitution and Bylaw documents.

The District Constitution and Bylaws *require* congregations to submit new documents or revised documents to the District Constitution Committee:

The committee shall examine the constitution and bylaws of congregations applying for membership in the district and make its recommendation to the convention. In the years the district does not meet, it shall make its recommendations to the president, upon whose recommendation members are accepted at the convention of the synod. The committee shall also approve revisions of constitutions and bylaws of congregations of the district.

News and Encouragements

Clean Copy

We ask that the congregations submit the “cleanest” proposed document as possible. The Constitution Committee is not a “proofreading” committee. Formatting, spelling, margin errors, article and section numeration should be checked and re-checked before submitting the document to the committee.

Right of Appeal

Constitutions **MUST** include a “right to appeal” section. This is required by the constitutions of our districts. The Synod model suggests:

A lay person who has been subject to disciplinary action by this congregations shall have the right to appeal the action. The lay person shall be notified in writing by the congregation of the right to appeal within 30 days of the completion of the disciplinary action. Such an appeal must be filed with the president of the district to which the congregation belongs within 60 days of receipt of notification from the congregation.

Timeline

It takes three to four weeks for the District Constitution Committee to review and respond to a document. The document is to be submitted to the Committee **PRIOR** to being presented to a voters' meeting for approval. The timeline for turnaround maybe be longer depending on how many documents the Committee has submitted to it at a given time.

New “model” forthcoming

A new model Constitution and Bylaws should be coming in the nearer future. Congregations and organizations that are looking at revising their documents may want to consider delaying those efforts until the new model is published.

Members of the Committee (term ends):

Rev. Jason Hacker (2026) Grace, Waukesha

Mr. John Stark (2022) Grace, Waukesha

Rev. Kirk Lahmann (2024) St. John, Burlington

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jason Hacker, Chairman

2022 Southeastern Wisconsin District Convention

Keynote Address: Encourage One Another

Introduction

I was a little stunned that your district praesidium would ask a pharisaical, legalistic, hypocritical government toady, fascist, and heretic to deliver this keynote address. But they did. And here I am.

All those descriptions and titles were used for me in phone calls, social media, and emails during my first year at Martin Luther College as the pandemic troubled our world. I wish I could say that I responded to every such email or phone call with grace and patience, and that I never formed reciprocal snap judgments about my brothers and sisters. But that would be far less than honest.

Of course, it wasn't just at MLC that such pandemic related disagreements caused discord within the flock. During the pandemic, we may all have struggled with the temptation to speak with one another in anger and frustration in our families or church families, in our circuits, conferences, and districts.

Satan was laughing at the havoc this caused among our tiny part of Christ's flock we call the WELS. He loved seeing strained relationships in our families and in our church families and synod.

OK, we might think, that may not have been our finest hour as tempers were short and patience was strained, but that's behind us. Why dredge all of that back up?

There is indeed no benefit in becoming spiritual archeologists digging through every strata of dirt to unearth every disagreement to examine who was right or wrong, wise or foolish. But we also must not confuse a presenting issue with a true diagnosis of what caused the discord. If we are going to grow in what it means, even amidst disagreements, to encourage one another, we need to get past presenting issues to the heart of the matter. Otherwise, in a sinful world and in an imperfect church militant, the next presenting issue will soon come down the road and exploit those same weaknesses.

If you want proof of how important it is to be prepared for the next such divisive issue, I think five letters will do: CUWAA. Many of you may be well aware of what is happening to the flagship university of the Concordia system in our former sister synod. Diversity issues have them in disarray - even going to court against one another. But they need not feel singled out. The upcoming mid-term elections seem poised to make such issues the next red and blue litmus test. Political candidates, often more concerned about stirring up anger in their voter base than finding real answers to challenging issues, are all too willing to permit such issues to become another deeply driven wedge in our country's deepening cultural divide.

Satan is waiting to laugh at Christians all over again if, in the midst of these strong winds of culture, we allow such debates swirling around us to distract us from our primary calling to speak God's saving truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) with one another and with our world. If we are not careful, we can easily conflate lifting high the banner of Jesus with lifting high a political or social cause.

Such challenging situations that can keep us from encouraging one another (and speaking the truth in love to the culture around us) are always going to be swirling around us. What's going on at the heart of all these matters is precisely what Jesus said would happen in these gray and latter days. The love of

most is growing cold (Matthew 24:12). Consider that Jesus spoke those words as warning to his own disciples. The unbelieving world never has had any Christ-like *agape* love to begin with. In Matthew 24, Jesus looks his church of every generation squarely in the eye as he warns us about love growing cold. The stresses and strains of these gray and latter days of the world are always at work to drive us from faith in the Savior by attacking our love for God and neighbor. Here's how Martin Franzmann summed up Jesus' warning: "The bitter disillusionment which comes when men betray their brothers in the faith, the harsh necessity of exposing false prophets and separating the church from them – these things, together with the constant pressure of being hated by all nations, put a strain on Christian love that threatens to destroy it" (*Concordia Self-Study Commentary*, 37).

As Franzmann also notes in this same section, the challenge of Confessional Lutherans seeking to remain faithful to Scripture against a dying world's strong headwinds bring to mind the struggle of the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2. Just like the Christians in Ephesus, the little flock we call WELS has battled hard in God's strength to maintain a clear confession of the truth amidst growing apostasy in the visible church. But in the midst of that noise of battle, the danger is that spiritual PTSD begins to set in. In the fatigue and frustration of battle, we can begin to train our guns on one another. We can become, to quote sainted seminary professor, John Jeske, "straight as a gun barrel and just as cold."

Where Satan undermines love for God (and its inseparable twin fruit of love for neighbor), he is well aware that what he is really attacking is our faith. That's why Satan laughs over the havoc he caused these past couple years in strained relationships among families and church families, in circuits, conferences, districts, and our synod. And while we may think we've begun to heal from all those wounds, Satan hopes we do not too carefully think about what was going on. He hopes the next divisive issue *de jour* leads us to open up even deeper wounds.

The bonds of love that bind us together within the family of faith are a strange paradox. They are strong, sealed by the Spirit in the water of our baptism that united us not only to Jesus but to each other. Yet they are tender at the same time. In our anxious, skeptical, and cynical world, the trust that is foundational for love can quickly begin to crack when our anger gives Satan a foothold (Ephesians 4:7). When cracks in trust develop, and when the damage is left untended, those fault lines can easily be split wide open when the next cultural shockwave comes along.

Encouraging one another – which, yes, does indeed include calling one another to repentance when necessary – is not some fluffy extra for those who can't take their doctrine straight at 100 proof. To dwell together in unity is the fertile soil in which God works his gracious saving plan for us and through us. As Psalm 133 drives home to us: "When brothers live together in unity....there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore" (Psalm 133:1, 3).

Our love for one another suffered some significant wounds these past two years. Now is the time to ponder where we go from here before the next blast of the world's cold and loveless controversies put our love for one another completely in the deep freeze. So, let's explore how to reclaim even more the wonderful gift our Confessions call "the mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters" (*The Book of Concord*, Kolb-Wengert, 313:8).

Here's where we're headed. We begin with a survey of three biblical realities which help guard our love by digging down to some root causes of the fear and distrust that eat away at our love. Then we will consider some practical encouragements which can further help us encourage each other. Through all of

this, our prayer will be that God keeps us from giving Satan more reason to laugh as he watches us bite and devour each other. Rather, we will pray, that it is our Father who is laughing through it all as his purpose, not Satan's prevails. And that divine purpose includes this: that we **Encourage One Another**.

Part 1: Fear and Distrust Destroying Biblical Realities

Biblical reality #1: Every detail of world history rests in the hands of the slain Lamb

Sinful wrath and anger are enemies of true encouragement. And behind most anger you will find fear lurking in the heart. As Psalm 37 confirms, so much anger flows from an anxious pondering of how much of life seems far beyond our control. "Do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret – it leads only to evil" (Psalm 37:7-8). But how hard it is to keep from fretting! To our eyes, life as God intended it is constantly distorted. The more we fret about this inwardly, the more our anger will quickly boil over outwardly. Our anger leads us to want to lash out as we attempt to take matters into our own hands.

But, as always, a proud human lie is lurking in that temptation. It's the arrogant presumption that the future is in our frail hands to begin with. Now, it's certainly true that God calls us to be wise stewards of his gifts to us for the sake of family, society, and country, but we so easily cross the line from trusting stewardship of God-given responsibilities into fearful grabbing at the reins. We climb on the bucking bronco of a disordered world as if somehow, if we ride well enough, we could tame its sinful chaos.

How powerfully God both cuts to the core of that lie and proclaims his comforting truth in the inspired apocalyptic vision of Revelation 5. The beauty of apocalyptic literature, in general, is that it tends to appear at times of great turmoil as it deals honestly – in fantastic pictures - with fearful realities while also providing a new, hopeful vantage point from which to view them. Now, apocalyptic literature, apart from Scripture, is nothing but escapism. But when the Spirit takes pen in hand through human authors to paint apocalyptic visions in Scripture, that is no escapism. It's God himself dealing with a sinful world's fearful turmoil with the fear-calming realities of his Messiah's gracious rule.¹

Such is the humbling and yet astoundingly comforting truth of the apocalyptic vision of Revelation 5. The chapter begins with John seeing a scroll in God the Father's hand. The scroll has writing on both sides, but no one can read it because it is sealed with seven seals. As the chapters that follow make very clear, what is written on that scroll is the world's history from that moment through the Last Day.

¹ Sadly, we often miss the simple and yet powerful comfort of scriptural apocalyptic visions. It happens when we fail to recognize the difference between the Norman Rockwell realism of the typical Epistle section or Gospel narrative and the Claude Monet impressionism of scriptural apocalyptic visions. We foolishly get lost in trying to interpret every fantastic detail of the visions as if they were Norman Rockwell paintings rather than grasping that the Spirit is channeling his inner Claude Monet impressionism to communicate a singular truth. Here is the simple heart of every biblical apocalyptic vision: "The Devil hates us, but he loses; God loves us, and he wins; it isn't even close" (Jeffery Arthurs, *Preaching with Variety*, 179). Sadly, in a world where every "tribe" takes shelter in its own language, some Confessional Lutherans muddy the waters by taking shelter in the allegorical language that is, admittedly, not infrequently found in Luther's own writings (despite how much he sought to wean himself of the practice). But allegory is often nothing more than the lazy Lutheran theologian's path to Christocentricity. For all its pious reflections, allegory often refrains from doing the hard, exegetical work of discovering how each unique biblical text knows how to preach Christ in its own unique way within its own unique context.

At first this humbling and anxiety fueling truth is held before us: no one in heaven, or earth, or under the earth is found who is worthy to open the scroll or even peek inside it! No mere creature of God – even awesome angelic ones – has the wisdom to know the future or the power to guide the world as it hurtles from one turmoil to the next toward its inevitable doom.

But as John begins to weep over troubles human sin has caused but no human strength can cure, suddenly he is told: “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals” (Revelation 5:5). And, as often happens in apocalyptic vision, suddenly the Lion of the tribe of Judah appears as a Lamb that looked as if it had been slain. And as proof not only of his humanity (he is the slain one) but of his deity, suddenly he stands where the Father just had been: at the very center of the throne. The human and yet divine Lion/Lamb takes the scroll and begins to break the seals one by one to reveal what will take place.

Yes, much that is revealed is fearful on its face. This world will convulse mightily as it goes down to its death under a Holy Creator’s curse. The Spirit does not hide that from John or us. But all of this is revealed by the slain and risen Lamb as he breaks the seals one by one. That clues us in to this comforting reality: all of this ends with God’s saving purpose accomplished for his elect because of the Lion/Lamb. That’s why, as the seventh seal is opened, we see before us the uncountable host of God’s elect children from every nation, tribe, people and language standing in triumph before the Lamb (Revelation 7:9). They are safe forever before their Savior’s throne. Not a single one is lost of those whom God sealed as his own in his electing love in Jesus.

For all its awesome wonder, the message of this vision of Revelation is simple. World history until the end of all time rests in the hands of the slain Lamb. It is the fantastic apocalyptic method of painting before us what Paul says in more prosaic and yet still poetic language in Romans 8: “In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (32).

The applications are many to help us to gain courage and to die to fear and anxiety (and the anger and bitterness they produce toward God and others). However, since all three biblical realities we are tracing are intimately interlaced, we will explore the next two truths first before making applications.

Biblical reality #2: Our congregations and their leaders rest securely in Jesus’ hands

Knowing that God has the grand narrative of world history all figured out is wonderful, but what about the petite narratives of each day of our lives as individual Christians, as Christian families, and as church families? These more personal concerns can still fill our hearts with fear and anxiety and lead us to the anger and frustration that poison any eagerness to encourage one another.

If we go back four chapters to Revelation 1, there we see that God doesn’t just sweat the big stuff. He is also intimately involved in the dirty, grimy, and sin-infested details of our daily lives.

As this vision opens, it’s important to note where John is and why he’s there. He’s not among the people of God he loved and cared for. He’s on a rocky, God-forsaken outcropping in the Aegean Sea called Patmos. Here Rome banished enemies of the state.

But things weren’t just hard for John but also for the people he loved and served. They were struggling against the same forces of Rome - not to mention hostile Judaism - that were also making their lives uncomfortable, even dangerous and deadly. As we remember that biblical apocalyptic literature does

not sugarcoat the painful realities of life in this fallen world, it's fascinating to note how John was inspired to lead into this vision: "I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus..." (Revelation 1:9). Yes, John is with these words echoing the encouragement of Jesus to his first disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). Yet John does not hide that for this life reigning with Christ in that kingdom means being surrounded by that which brings "suffering" and calls for "patient endurance." Who is equal to facing such things again and again and again?

You are! And the vision tells us how! The Roman empire was able to separate John from the people of God he loved, but they could not separate John or his people from the Jesus who loved them! What's the proof? Suddenly, it became clear that this little island was not God-forsaken at all! Suddenly, there is a voice like a trumpet, like the rushing of many waters, like the merging of all the world's waterfalls. Suddenly, as John turns to look, there before him is the stunning and, at first, fearful vision of one who looked "like a son of man." However, the vision showed clearly this was no mere man. His eyes are blazing fire. His feet glowing bronze. His face shines with the brilliance of the noonday sun.

John's initial reaction – as would also have been ours as sinful creatures – was to fall down as though dead. But that Son of Man touches him with his right hand and speaks these comforting words: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades" (Revelation 1:17-18).

And then, to underline the comfort of what he just said, this life-giving and peace-restoring Jesus takes pains to provide a clear explanation of two elements in the vision. Jesus is walking in amidst seven golden lampstands and is holding seven stars in his hand. As he explains, the seven golden lampstands around him were the seven churches who were the first recipients of this letter. The seven stars were the messengers, the spiritual leaders, of those congregations. What is Jesus doing here but painting with astounding picture language that which he told us so plainly in prose elsewhere. "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20) and "Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them" (Matthew 18:20). Jesus is intimately and personally caring for his flock.

And for those who are called or appointed to lead God's people, the image of the stars held safely in his right hand provides astounding comfort. Jesus provides special palm-of-the-hand protection for those often the target of Satan's most powerful attacks to give in to fear, anger, distrust, and discouragement. With all of this, God assures all his people, and especially his spiritual leaders, that he is not just concerned about the big picture of world history. He is with us to love and protect in all the details of our lives. In his Church, each of us and all of us are safe and secure. We are the kingdom he loves!

And yes, that isn't just true when things are going well and we are all getting along just fine. This is true when "suffering" and "patient endurance" accompany our reign with him in his kingdom – just as he said it would be this side of heaven. Even then, we have nothing to fear. While there are many applications for encouraging each other, allow one more biblical reality to be interwoven.

Biblical reality #3: Our hope has never been in princes, in mortal men who cannot save

What we are now entering is the area in which any misunderstanding can quickly cause significant confusion that leads to much fear and anger. Confusion here results in a significant amount of biting and devouring, rather than encouraging. And American Christianity is often badly confused right here.

Many of the most heated arguments in our culture right now reveal themselves in the political realm. Often, one “side” in the political debate has no use for the two biblical truths we have just outlined, while the other “side” badly distorts those same teachings. At the risk of oversimplifying, what we often see are two very entrenched enemy forces battling for control in our country. On the one side is a very secular perspective that finds no comfort in the visions of Revelation because they simply do not believe in the Savior who gave those revelations. They do not find any comfort in the promises for this life and eternity in the kingdom of heaven since they do not belong to it. All their hopes – if they even believe in hope of any kind - are situated only in this world. Therefore, they find themselves heatedly invested in the political realm since having the “right” government and the “right” laws (as they perceive it) are the only hope for the world to actually “progress” (as they would define progress). Having put all their eggs in the basket of the kingdom of this world, success in the political realm takes on immense importance. And anyone opposing them will quickly be viewed as the enemy with name-calling rhetoric to match.

What is ironic, is that the other “side” often is making the same mistake, but in the exact opposite direction. Much of American Christianity is millennialistic. They badly confuse the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world. They harbor the utterly unbiblical hope that this world, before the Last Day, will somehow become a place where Christians rule, either before or after Christ visibly returns. Thus, the irony: while they may indeed believe in Jesus, they mistakenly believe the advance of God’s kingdom requires – to a large degree – the controlling of political power. Such millennial thinking discounts what Scripture says about a world inevitably sliding ever deeper into its death spiral until the Last Day. Substituting a theology of glory for a theology of the cross, millennial thinking believes that somehow Christians can avoid the tribulations of this world as they seek to triumph not just by faith but by sight. Refusing to let the glory of our life be hidden with Christ until the Last Day (Colossians 3:3), many Christians are seeking to establish that rule visibly right now.

What does this yield? It yields a form of Christianity that battles for control of the political realm with the same kind of fierce no-holds-barred tenacity as their secularized opponents. Both are sure they are on the “right” side and know what the “right” form of government must be, and their language and rhetoric paints all who disagree with them as their evil enemies. With that much at stake, there is little room for cooperation or compromise or finding anything in one’s opponents points to agree with. Each side engages in the exaggeration of whatever they don’t agree with in their enemy’s agenda (which is almost always everything). And anyone who does not adhere strictly to the “party line” (in either direction) is publicly called out and punished.

Living in the midst of an American Christianity that breathes such a millennialistic theology of glory, it is painfully easy for us to breathe in more of that spirit than we know. Even when a particular political point may be very good and wise, the spirit and vehemence of how points are argued in this slash and burn holy war is already problematic. Sadly, we too can begin to learn this style of angry, rhetorical warfare. In this combat zone, any fellow Christian who disagrees with us - sometimes even in the least point from what is the currently accepted political orthodoxy – can be looked on with suspicion.

That’s why Scripture’s teaching about the two kingdoms must be considered very carefully. So much of the frantic fear of the Christian world around us springs from just this confusion of the two kingdoms. Too many Christians place far too much of their hope in maintaining or gaining control of the branches of government. While we as Lutherans can too easily fall into the opposite ditch of washing our hands of the government or political realm or social square entirely, the general tendency of the Christians of

North America is to lean considerably in the opposite direction. Far too much confidence is placed in gaining and holding governmental power in this fallen world.

Believing that there is so much at stake in the political world, the promises we have just traced in Revelation 5 and Revelation 1 begin to seem very distant and impractical for overcoming “the enemy.” Too easily – if a fellow Christian seems to hold a differing political view – “the enemy” becomes the very people we are meant to encourage as our brothers and sisters. And, those who are fully on the side of “the enemy” are written off as (almost) irredeemable.

What is being badly distorted, if not confused utterly, is that God has placed us simultaneously in two kingdoms. Until heaven, all in whose hearts the Spirit has kindled faith in Jesus are part of the kingdom of heaven (the kingdom of God’s right hand as Luther called it). However, simultaneously, we hold citizenship as part of an earthly kingdom or government (the kingdom of God’s left hand as Luther called it). God established both kingdoms to bring blessings to his creatures in this world.

Let’s begin here with a quick reminder about what is unique about each of the two kingdoms in which we find ourselves. First, let’s consider the beauty of where our true citizenship lies (Philippians 4:1). We entered God’s kingdom when the Spirit gave us a new birth in the washing with water and the Word (Titus 3:5). The sole purpose of this kingdom is to win fallen creatures to repentance for sin and to faith in their eternal salvation. And, while those won to faith still live in this world, the same grace of God that won them to faith also empowers them to live and speak as walking and talking beacons for a just and holy, but also gracious and merciful Creator who redeemed the entire world in his eternal Son.

The tools of this kingdom are the Word and sacraments as God works in human hearts both to create and then maintain repentance from sin and faith in the Savior. The means of grace, the gospel in Word and sacraments, is the only power that can create faith, maintain faith, and empower fruitful lives lived by loved sons and daughters. This kingdom does not seek to work in us the fearful obedience of the slave, but the joyful obedience of the loved son or daughter of the Father.

In this kingdom, only what God calls evil is evil and only what God calls good is good. And the good is not preeminently matters of outward visible things such as food and drink, but of the inward realities of faith, hope and love in which Spirit-tended fruits of faith grow. “The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:7).

And yes, though many who lean toward pietism within Christianity struggle with this reality, where God has not clearly called something sin, there he leaves much up to the spiritual maturity of his children to make wise decisions about what may be good or best at any given place and at any given time. In such things of wisdom, which are not a matter of right and wrong, it is important that no one use their freedom to the harm of their neighbor and, in reverse, that no one pass judgment on their brothers or sisters whose choices of what is good or best in a specific situation may be different from theirs. While we certainly want to help each other hold unswervingly to every article of Christian doctrine that God has established, we work equally hard to make sure we don’t create an article of faith where God has not established one. One side of the challenge makes sure we don’t turn freedom into a license for sin (Jude 4). The other side makes sure we don’t make ourselves and others slaves to outward obedience that is always the beginning of the denial of God’s alone saving grace in Jesus (Galatians 5:1).

But how different is the kingdom of God's left hand! Here the tools are not the means of grace to win hearts, but the force of law (both promised benefits for obedience and threatened judgment on disobedience) to compel and cajole outward behavior for the sake of the physical protection of the citizens of that earthly government (Romans 13). It is all about the outward realities of life and preserving things such as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Here the primary goal is not right belief but the right outward action that is perceived to be the best benefit for those in that society. Here the arguments are not formed from chapter and verse of the Bible, but the use of reason as it seeks to reflect the law the Creator inscribed on human hearts as that reveals itself through every human conscience.

Now, it is certainly true that in this kingdom of God's left hand, a Christian will have an advantage since their conscience – which in a sinful world is subject to error and misunderstanding under the influence of our self-centered hearts - are informed by the Word of God. But here is what many Christians fail to understand: when operating in the kingdom of God's left hand, it is a dangerous confusion of the two kingdoms to try to take the weapon of the kingdom of God's right hand (the sword of the Spirit) and wield that in public discourse in the public square when seeking to impact society or government.

But why is that? Isn't the Scripture the clearest light found on earth for how God created us to live in his world (Psalm 199:105)? Certainly! But when we as Christians begin to wield the sword of the Spirit in the midst of the work of the kingdom of God's left hand, we quickly confirm in the minds of unbelievers – as well as those who follow a theology of glory – that God gave his Word mostly as a club to coerce proper outward behavior for the sake of promoting some kind of outward kingdom of God. What is quickly lost is that these Scriptures are written not with the purpose of coercing moral behavior but for convincing hearts that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).²

Another misunderstanding is also lurking close to the surface when Christians blur the two kingdoms in which God has placed them. Often Christians can forget that this fallen world is trending inevitably toward ever-increasing wickedness as hardened consciences become increasingly deaf to any sense of the law God wrote on human hearts (Romans 1:18-32). When Christians forget that, they lose sight of the reality that often in the kingdom of God's left hand the best we can hope for is permitting the lesser of two evils for the sake of avoiding even greater evil from breaking out.

That less-than-satisfying reality of government in a fallen world can be seen even in the midst of the very different setting of the theocracy of Israel in Old Testament times. Clearly, what was unique about Israel is that God ruled quite directly in both kingdoms as God sought to preserve not only faith in the promised Messiah but also an outward nation from which the Messiah would be born.³ Yet, even in

² It can often be true that a discussion in the realm of God's left hand kingdom (for example, as a Christian publicly addresses a public school board meeting in their community) can quickly become an opportunity afterwards to witness to the truth of God's right hand kingdom. Others may ask that Christian afterwards for the reason for the hope behind their words. Then very quickly what had begun as a presentation made in the midst of the kingdom of God's left hand kingdom has morphed into an opportunity to speak law and gospel in God's right hand kingdom. That's why the Christian is wise always to stay alert to every opportunity God may give (Colossians 4:5-6).

³ The thoroughly unbiblical notion that the United States is the new Israel that will establish a Christian dominion to which Christ can return, much as Israel was the believing nation from which God brought his Messiah the first time, also helps explain the vehemence and fear with which many Christians fight their political battles in the

Israel, God instructed Moses to allow those who refused to stay faithful to their spouse to write a bill of divorce. What God clearly hated (Malachi 2:16) because of the hardness of heart it revealed (Matthew 19:8), God still had Moses permit outwardly. At least through the written bill of divorce the forsaken spouse would know, officially, that they had been forsaken. One evil was permitted to avoid even greater chaos and confusion caused by hardened hearts.

Such is the reality of how things often work in the kingdom of God's left hand. As we live in the midst of New Testament realities when there is no longer any outwardly governed nation that is "God's people," we should rightly expect that often the best we can achieve is little more than distasteful compromises. One evil is permitted in order to avoid still greater evil.

Does this mean that Lutherans should walk away from outward government as unspiritual? No, that would be the opposite mistake. Maintaining as much outward peace and safety as possible in a society (the essential purpose of government) provides the setting in which the gospel proclamation can thrive (1 Timothy 2:1-4). For that preeminent reason (in addition to simple compassion for their fellow citizens), Christians will want to be engaged in the public square. With sound reasoning – springing from a conscience informed and sensitive to God's revealed Word – we can assist confused consciences to hear again the voice of inscribed law the Creator planted within them.

Yet, at the same time, we must understand that those efforts will always meet with less than satisfying results. The selfish, self-centered, sinful heart of human beings is always trending toward that which, in the final analysis, is "senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless" (Romans 1:31). This is often accompanied by fine sounding self-justifying rationalizations that try to make good (love) sound evil and evil (lovelessness) sound good. Often, "their glory is in their shame" (Philippians 3:19).

That's why, although the Christian will seek to defend in the public arena the cause of those who are being unjustly treated by society, they know that they will never end racism or bigotry since such sins dwell naturally in the hearts of us all. That's why, while Christians will seek to have a government and laws that display compassion for the poor, they know, as Jesus has told them, that the poor you will always have with us (Matthew 26:11). Such biblical and sober minded realism helps Christians participate in the secular realm without frantic, utopian, millennial dreams. Reading the book of Ecclesiastes is a powerful tonic for such theology of glory dreams. There the inspired author reminds us in multiple ways that we will never succeed in a fallen world in unbending all that is twisted or filling up all that is lacking (Ecclesiastes 1:15).

Again, this isn't saying that Christians should refrain from politics or political office. This isn't saying Christians should avoid taking part in the discussions in the public square. Jesus has, after all, called us to be "salt" in a decaying world and "light" to a world where consciences are darkened and blind (Matthew 5:13-16). But it is critical that we remember that being "salt" will only slow or delay the decay of a world spiraling down to death and destruction. It will not stop its march toward death. It is important to remember that no matter how much we seek to let the light of a biblically enlightened conscience shine, the unbelieving and wicked world will often choose darkness instead of light (John 3:19). It also means that we remember, when seeking to exert influence in the public square, that we

United States. Multiple prophecies of Old and New Testament are often badly distorted to prop up this part of the millennialistic dream. False doctrine always has consequences, sometimes on a national scale!

choose the proper tool for that task. For that task God has given us the gift of the sound reasoning of an enlightened conscience that in its speaking reflects the law the Creator inscribed within us all.

Is it possible that some degree of misunderstanding of the distinction between the two kingdoms can explain to some degree what has stunted the encouragement that we are called to give to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ? Have we at times forgotten that when reasoning how to most wisely operate in the kingdom of God's left hand, two Christians may disagree about which candidate to support and what public policies are the wisest? Have we forgotten that Christians may not always agree on the best way to operate as salt and light in the midst of that dark and decaying world as they seek to be involved in the matters of the kingdom of God's left hand?

If even in the kingdom of God's right hand (the church) we are wise not to get caught up in disputable matters where God has not told us how we must operate (Romans 14:1), how much more so is that not true when we are operating in the realm of the kingdom of God's left hand! In the current two-party system under which United States Christians live, it is important to remember that no political party can claim to be God's party.⁴ Wherever sinful human beings are operating, there will be no shortage of sinful motives and only thinly veiled pride or greed at work no matter how many times someone on either side throws out a "God bless America!" If, in the kingdom of God's right hand, Paul exhorts Christians who are calling fellow Christians to repentance for what is clearly sin to do so gently (Galatians 6:1), what do you think that says to Christians who disagree with one another in matters of reason and greater or lesser wisdom in the realm of the kingdom of God's left hand?

And now, into this whole mix, bring back the powerful reminders of Revelation chapters 1 and 5. All is not lost if an election goes the "wrong" way (as those on either side of the political war think). The Lion of the tribe of Judah still holds the scroll in his hand. All is not lost if laws we find distasteful and completely immoral are passed. We are still Jesus' dear ones and our task of being salt and light has not changed – although when speaking in the public square as citizens we may have some new places to sharpen our reasonable arguments for when we are out in the world doing some salt-shaking and light-shining. We do not need to wring our hands as if somehow God's plans and purposes have been

⁴ Abortion, unless for preserving the life of the mother, is murder. That is clearly biblical and reflects what God wrote on human hearts about protecting human life. That which encourages or celebrates abortion for any other reason is bold faced wickedness. That may be one of the more notable blind spots for many in one political party in our land. However, the confusion of church and state is one of the more notable blind spots of many in the other political party in our land. That confusion distorts the very purpose for which God sent his Messiah into the world. It forgets that the Savior clearly proclaimed that his kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). May I ask you to ponder how much harm that confusion causes? If the government forgets its role of protecting life, that is a travesty. But we Christians can still live differently as in both left and right hand kingdom opportunities we let our light shine and win hearts to repentance and faith by our confession of the truth. Despite public laws to the contrary, that witness of God's people can still prevent many from ending the lives of their unborn children (and bring the comfort of forgiveness to those who have been deceived by the world's lies). But if Christians forget why they exist as the church of Christ in this world, the work that brings lost souls to their eternal salvation is hindered greatly. The church begins to resemble just another political party vying for earthly power - just as many unbelievers claim it is. If some of my brothers and sisters in the faith think this confusion may, in fact, be the greater travesty, can I fault them if this impacts how they vote? It was just such a concern for this confusion of church and state in one political party that led WELS Lutherans to vote consistently for the "other party" (!) as recently as World War I. In fact, when presented with poor choices in both major parties, WELS Lutherans were not beyond registering a protest vote for socialist candidates! A master's thesis by a teacher in our synod, [The War to End All Germans](#), digs into this reality at some length.

thwarted when it becomes clear that a dead and dying, blind and unbelieving world, is, in fact, what Scripture says it is. Jesus still walks among his lampstands as he guards his Church and enables her to carry out her eternally important mission through it all. And we and our families still live under his perfect protection. There is no changing those realities. That is true even when we find ourselves disheartened by events in the nation in which God has placed us to love it and work for its good.

So, remembering that we do not need to give in to frantic fear like those who think their hope is in the kingdom of God's left hand, we can refuse to give in to anger with God or our fellow Christians, and encouraged by his promises, we encourage one another. Yes, we can even continue to love and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ who may disagree with us when it comes to what is the wisest path for which to advocate in the realm of the kingdom of God's left hand! We do that because we know this to be true: where it matters for eternity before God, there is neither "Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian⁵, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all" (Colossians 3:11).

Part 2: Practical encouragements flowing from these biblical realities to help us maintain a spirit of encouraging one another

Practical encouragement #1: Pray for one another instead of preying on each other

Scripture is certainly clear on the importance of praying for all people, for kings and all those in authority (1 Timothy 2). But as we focus on encouraging one another as fellow Christians, the topic of this keynote would point us in particular to the importance of praying for our fellow Christians, and, in particular, especially for those fellow Christians within our fellowship with whom we are most inclined to disagree. As we've discussed above, all that threatens to divide us within God's family is still under the gracious rule of our Father and Brother. So why not take it to him who holds all history and each of our lives in his hands? Even when those fellow Christians appear to be disagreeing with you on something established by Scripture, and especially when they are disagreeing with you in a matter God has not cut through (in either of the two kingdoms), it is especially critical to pray for them.

Why is that? First, it is critical because it helps to avoid giving Satan a foothold as we ask our Lord Jesus not to let our anger or bitterness get the better of us (Ephesians 4:26-27). While there is such a thing as righteous wrath over wickedness, it is very difficult for anyone other than God to keep that wrath righteous. Very quickly our anger becomes a tool of the devil to sow even more anger and discord.

So, what happens when we pause to pray for those with whom we disagree? When we pray for our brothers and sisters when we are disagreeing with them, we are by that very prayer standing with them where it matters most, before our Father's throne. As we step before God's throne on behalf of our brother or sister, we find ourselves on their side (even when we cannot, perhaps, agree with them). We are then imitating our great Intercessor rather than imitating the great accuser (Satan).

⁵ The Scythians were considered to be the worst and most brutal "barbarians" even by other "barbarians." Yet, God still rescued at least some of them for his eternal kingdom. Does that not give us something to ponder before we foolishly conclude by someone's outward political leanings who can or cannot be part of the kingdom of God or who does or does not deserve our encouragement?

John Kleinig, in his book *Grace upon Grace*, points out that there is an inverse proportion between praying for one another and living in criticism for one another.

There is, then, an inverse ratio between criticism and intercession in a Christian community. Where people no longer pray for one another, troubles arise and criticism increases in their wake. Compassion diminishes. The Church is torn apart because the climate of criticism and condemnation prevents it from functioning as the body of Christ. But where people readily take up the shortcomings of others by praying for them, the result is growing harmony and increasing communal solidarity. Intercessory prayer builds up people in the Church and encourages them to function properly as the Body of Christ. Satan, therefore, stimulates criticism and condemnation of others, for the best of possible moral and theological reasons, in order to diminish compassion and intercession. That's how he is most able to sabotage the life and work of the Church. (202)

A closely related second blessing of such intercessory prayer for our brother or sister is that it invites us to check our own hearts for where repentance and forgiveness is needed. There, before our Father's throne, we will remember that whatever is wicked in our anger, what Paul calls "anger and disputing" (1 Timothy 2:8), simply is incompatible with humble prayer. Before the throne of God none of us approaches as anything other than a sinner whose only claim to our Father's ear is our Brother's righteousness that covers us. As we pray – and certainly as we are pondering the Word along with our prayer – what will often become evident to us is that any speck in my brother's eye is nothing compared to the big angry and bitter beam lodged squarely in my own (Matthew 7:3-5). That doesn't mean I don't approach my brother about the speck – Jesus acknowledges that is where we still end up – but we learn not to approach our brother or sister from a position of haughty, self-righteous anger (which presumes we are moral superiors approaching moral inferiors) but in humble, patient concern.

A third blessing as we pray for others is that in answer to our prayer for wisdom – to the God who gives generously to all in Jesus without finding fault (James 1:5) – we may soon begin to realize that the one who doesn't "get it" may be us, not our brother or sister. The wisdom God may give us is to see that we have turned our opinion in a disputable matter (in either kingdom) into divine doctrine. We may also be blessed, in answer to our prayers, with the wisdom to ask questions and listen first. The wisdom we may gain as we listen is that we may learn that we aren't as "woke" in the topic under dispute as we presumed ourselves to be.⁶ Some patient listening to our brother or sister may reveal they have, in a disputable matter, made a very wise decision for a setting and context very different from our own.

We may also learn, as God blesses us in answer to our prayer with the wisdom of patient listening, that we have drawn strained conclusions that our brothers or sisters have not drawn as we stretch their arguments or actions to ridiculous ends. Running to our Father to intercede for them can keep us from being so argumentative that we drive them to those very additional conclusions that otherwise would have existed only in our minds. How many times in Church history have those defending the truth a bit too vehemently driven people deeper into their error. We can end up inviting their human pride to defend what they never would have ever defended as we frame their argument as an exaggerated caricature of what they have actually done or said!

⁶ It's not just in social justice issues where those who claim to be "woke" may not be as well-informed as they think they are! We all know how to claim a position of superiority in an issue when that claim is anything but legitimate!

There may be many more benefits in our godly task of encouraging others that praying for them produces. But this much is certain: God's answer to our prayers for them can enable us to approach them with humility not hubris. Having approached our Father in concert with their chief Intercessor, we can more easily avoid becoming their chief accuser (Satan needs no more assistants). That becomes even more important when what we need to voice is a serious spiritual concern about which God has clearly spoken in his Word. Praying for those we seek to encourage can help us avoid acting as if the goal is to prove our superior orthodox credentials rather than to win a brother or sister over from a falsehood or to reconsider whether their position is wise.⁷ In a church body that is rightly thankful for the sound teaching God has allowed to be found within our midst, it's quite easy to slip into the sin of playing "gotcha" with others as we scour their word or actions for the worst possible construction.

Practical encouragement #2: Take the 8th Commandment seriously

Now that we've raised the issue of taking words and actions in the kindest possible way, we've entered the realm of the 8th Commandment and how that governs encouraging one another. Here's a question: have we learned to give a pass to sins of the tongue as if they aren't nearly as serious as other sins? There seems to be frequent silence on our part in preaching and teaching even when a portion of Scripture almost pleads with us to discuss such issues. In a culture where much that is labeled "news" is little more than slander and gossip (slanted either right or left politically depending on the chosen cable news network or social media platform), have we lost the courage to point out that allowing ourselves to imitate slander and innuendo isn't who we are as God's people? It does no good to reach back into history to point out how often full of invective were the words of Luther and other Lutheran fathers. We don't need to be apologists for them when they were tempted to be creatures of their day any more than we should be apologists for ourselves when we are tempted to be creatures of our day.

Jesus provides no such defense for sins of the tongue. "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken" (Matthew 12:36). And do we even need to add that to say "You fool!" to our brother or sister puts us in danger of the fire of hell (Matthew 5:22)? Notice also in Matthew 5 that Jesus leaves no room for us to argue that "the fool" deserved the name. In fact, the whole section presumes that someone has indeed been acting sinfully who needs to seek reconciliation, and then suddenly suggests that it is the person uttering the word "fool" who needs to seek it!

In a world that is so easily frustrated with all the "idiots" out there, we would do well to guard our hearts and then guard our tongues. When I fall into such thinking, it may be very helpful to realize that, if I looked into a mirror (either God's or the one on my wall will work), it may just be the one I see looking back who is the greatest "idiot" in the matter at hand! This much is true at least: as I marinate in my moodiness I will see in that mirror the one deserving at that moment to be crowned champion of self-righteous anger. Shouldn't it give us pause that, when the Apostle Paul is summing up the wickedness that by nature infects the world, he does not begin with deeds as evidence that they have altogether become worthless? Instead, he begins with words: "Their throats are open graves; their

⁷ Our sainted spiritual father, J.P. Koehler, in his essay *Legalism Among Us*, warned that such "boasting of orthodoxy" is, in fact, a proud confusion of law and gospel. You will find that essay in *The Wauwatosa Theology Volume II*.

tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness” (Romans 3:13-14).

And yes, what Paul says about the physical mouth and tongue is just as real when the tongue-lashing we deliver is virtual. And there is a special challenge here: it is forgetting that at the other end of my digital poisoned pen is not a digital avatar but my very real brother or sister in the faith. Digital forms of communication, as with any gift of God, can be harnessed for good or turned into platforms for what God would call wickedness. Clearly, the digital world offers some big and broadband platforms for the wickedness of our virtual tongues. When feeling particularly incensed by a brother or sister in the days of snail mail, there was a helpful delay in having to type out a letter, find the recipient’s address, address the envelope, find a stamp, and then get the letter to the closest mailbox. That gave us many opportunities to repent of our surging anger and quiet the intensity of our invective – if not silence it altogether. Hitting send after a few minutes of anger oozing from our fingertips into our laptop or smart phone can happen all too quickly! Unfortunately, the wounds caused may heal all too slowly!

And we’ve only briefly touched on the critical matter of taking one another’s words and actions in the kindest possible way rather than jumping to unloving conclusions. Our court system may still attempt to maintain an accused’s presumption of innocence, but our hearts and lips often work in reverse. We can quickly presume our brother or sister to be guilty until they can prove to our satisfaction that they’re innocent. That’s often a formidable challenge since I may have already finished serving as judge, jury, and their reputation’s executioner before they can say a single word in defense. I may even have already convened a digital grand jury: since in the social media echo chamber I can always find like-minded angry individuals who will assure me my anger was justified.

As was mentioned in the introduction, I wish I could say that when people engage in name calling on my phone line or email inbox that I remember that those angry words came from someone who was hurting in ways I might not comprehend. I wish I could say I always searched for the grain – or whole bushel – of truth in what they wrote and was always willing to admit where things could have or should have been different. Unfortunately, this essay is being written by someone for whom the word “fool” too often fits. And I cannot defend myself by saying: “Well, I didn’t fire the first digital shot!”

How thankful we can be that “Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6). All my tongue’s ungodliness is included in the stunning “not guilty” pardon announced over me. No matter how much my tongue has multiplied sin, “where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Romans 5:20). For this too my – and your – Savior suffered in silence while a wicked world unjustly accused him! There and there alone we are absolved for all the times we wish we had imitated our Savior and held our peace.

Practical encouragement #3: Refuse to allow our country’s red and blue divide to divide us!

Let’s just say it straight out again. There is no one “right way” that every Christian must vote in every election. No political party can lay claim to divine sanction for all its platform and policies. In a sinful world we will often be holding our noses because something smells foul about every candidate in a race. In such races, one brother or sister may lean toward one candidate and another brother or sister may lean toward the other. I dare not allow that to become a wall that hinders the free flow of loving support and encouragement for one another that is essential to the functioning of the body of Christ. Again, if even in the kingdom of God’s right hand (the church), there are non-doctrinal matters about which believers may not agree about the wisest path, how much more true is that in the kingdom of

God's left hand where God has left so much to reason and conscience! If we do not remind ourselves of this regularly, the danger is great that the red and blue divide of our country becomes a source of genuine offense – of stumbling in the faith – as Christians take sides within their congregations.

And allow a special appeal to my brothers and sisters in public ministry. There are many places in the public ministry that call for public ministers to wisely and lovingly refrain from some things that would otherwise be free to them in the royal priesthood of all believers (1 Corinthians 8:13). Being evidently partisan in our politics either in face to face conversation or in the realm of social media would seem to be one of those areas where we would be wise to refrain from the exercise of our freedom.

The reasons are multiple! As we have addressed elsewhere, the influence of the Evangelical world, which often is unafraid to baptize one candidate or another as “divinely approved,” impacts our own people as well. The belief that there is only one “right way” to view every and any issue and only one party with official heavenly sanction is already out there. For us in positions of leadership, we can easily give the impression that any “good Christian” would follow our lead. Some may blindly follow because their pastor or teacher said it. Or, just as dangerous, others may no longer be able to hear us as we proclaim the still small voice of the gospel because our political bias is ringing loudly in their ears.

Second, it is not only a source of potential offense and confusion within the church but also outside the church. If I wear my political preferences on my sleeve or on social media, we are easily sending not-so-subtle signals to the unchurched in our web of influence that if they disagree with us politically they may not be so welcome in our church or school. That, of course, would be antithetical to the very reason we entered ministry. But the opposite challenge is also present: we can begin to attract others to church because they agree with us politically, as our church and school begins to resemble a *de facto* caucus for one political party. The confusion of the two kingdoms in all of this is profound.

Allow me to put this another way. If we do not avoid wearing our politics on our sleeves, aren't we in danger of fostering another form of modern day phariseeism? Especially on the day's issues in the public square about which we feel the strongest, do those on the other side of that issue get the impression from us that we don't even want them around? Jesus never supported tax collectors or prostitutes in their pursuit of dishonesty or immorality. But, unlike the Pharisees, he never shunned their company nor gave the impression such “sinners” were beneath his concern. Jesus simply spoke honestly to all “sinners” about repentance and forgiveness. He did not lead a social crusade to end tax collector dishonesty or campaign for clearing the street corners of all prostitutes. Instead, those sinners were drawn to him because, unlike the Pharisees, they sensed he loved them and did not write them off. If that is not the inviting stance we have toward those we are tempted to speak of with disdain as “sinners,” how might that become more true about us? We do not want push away from our proclamation of grace those who need to hear of repentance and forgiveness just as we do. Does the scope of our encouraging one another reach that “far”? Jesus' did.

Conclusion

My father was a rather intense individual. He dealt with most things with a strong degree of seriousness (no doubt brought on by the rebellious nature of his youngest son). But I remember fondly those evenings when my parents' good friends were at our house. Do you know what I remember most about those evenings? It was the laughter that would rise up from the front room to my bedroom. Do you

know why I loved to hear that even when it woke me up? It calmed me to know that things must not be so bad for my family. Apparently, the many failings of their youngest had not turned all prospects dark!

In the midst of all the machinations of the devil and his kingdom of the air (Ephesians 2:2), there is a sound that comes down from heaven that I find very comforting. It is my heavenly Father's laughter (Psalm 37:13). No matter how dim and discouraging life can seem in this dark and dying world, that laughter speaks of a comforting reality. Nothing and no one can successfully overcome his rule and the rule of his Messiah whom he has forever installed on his throne (Psalm 2:4-6).

Yes, my Father's wrath – and the wrath of the Lamb (Psalm 2:12) – on the Last Day will be terrible against any who ended their time of grace opposing him. But until then, it greatly comforts me to hear my heavenly Father laugh at those who seek – vainly – to overthrow him and my dear Savior. In the midst of all the sin of this confused and confusing world, I find that laughter immensely comforting. It reminds me of the reality that God has long ago known what he would do to accomplish his will, to keep his promises, and to bring his eternal kingdom to its victorious end. And I can laugh too, because he has, in spectacular and surprising grace, included me in his plans. I find that very encouraging. I believe God uses his laughter to help keep my love from growing cold by being buried under an avalanche of anger, fear, and distrust amidst so much that seems to be going wrong.

But I am not alone in needing that encouragement. And so, when my heavenly Father has tickled me again with his gracious and gentle promises to get me to laugh and ruin another childish tantrum, he then reminds me I have another task to fulfill. It is to encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ – who also are under siege from the anger, fear, and distrust their hearts are feeling. And yes, it may be most important for me to be just such an encourager to my brothers and sisters I may be least likely to encourage on my own. He calls me to help them to pause to listen to their Father laughing as well. He calls me to help them to realize that their Father's laughter springs from the reality that all his good promises remain secure and faithful. He longs for my brothers and sisters to remember that their Father's laughter signals that all their fears, anger, and distrust, can also give way to laughter. It will all be OK. In fact, it already is. That will be very evident when this world as we know it comes to its end.

In that hope, with the laughter of our Father who loves us in Jesus putting a smile on our hearts, we learn how to encourage one another come what may. No matter what the mid-term elections bring, or whether the war in Ukraine calms down or spreads, or whether inflation continues to spiral upward or a recession brings it to painful end, or whether a new pandemic comes along: our source of encouragement is unchanging. And the more we remember that, the more we learn what it means to keep on encouraging one another rather than biting and devouring each other as the fearful, angry and cynical unbelieving world does. Even when the smile cannot be found on our face, or when the laughter of our hearts is still tinged with sadness, we still have a reason to be encouraged, and to encourage one another. Yes, even in the midst of the increase of wickedness, our love – and our encouragement – does not need to grow cold. This is our Father's world. And no one can take the laughter of the victory of his Son from him...or from us. In that certainty of gracious and eternal victory, my brothers and sisters: Encourage One Another!

Rich Gurgel, New Ulm, Minnesota, May 2022

Keynote Discussion Guide

1. Take three minutes to read Psalm 37 below. As you read, ponder this question:

Which of God's promises in this psalm are most helpful for encouraging one another to live in quiet trust rather than fearful anger when evil seems to be prevailing?

2. Jesus never condoned what was sinful, yet, in how he went about his ministry, he did not drive away "sinners" whom many of the "pious" in Judaism had completely written off.

What can we learn from him as we encourage one another to speak the truth in love to a culture greatly confused about God's beautiful gift of creating us male and female? How can helping one another to keep a clear distinction between the two kingdoms also help here as we seek to be salt and light in our culture?

3. What did you find most helpful in the keynote address? What questions do you have?

Psalm 37 (NIV)

- ¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
² for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.
- ³ Trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
- ⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:
- ⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.
- ⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- ⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

- ¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.
- ¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy peace and prosperity.
- ¹² The wicked plot against the righteous
and gnash their teeth at them;
- ¹³ but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he knows their day is coming.
- ¹⁴ The wicked draw the sword
and bend the bow
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose ways are upright.
- ¹⁵ But their swords will pierce their own hearts,
and their bows will be broken.
- ¹⁶ Better the little that the righteous have
than the wealth of many wicked;
- ¹⁷ for the power of the wicked will be broken,
but the LORD upholds the righteous.
- ¹⁸ The blameless spend their days under the LORD's care,
and their inheritance will endure forever.
- ¹⁹ In times of disaster they will not wither;
in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.
- ²⁰ But the wicked will perish:
Though the LORD's enemies are like the flowers of the field,
they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke.
- ²¹ The wicked borrow and do not repay,
but the righteous give generously;
- ²² those the LORD blesses will inherit the land,
but those he curses will be destroyed.
- ²³ The LORD makes firm the steps
of the one who delights in him;
- ²⁴ though he may stumble, he will not fall,
for the LORD upholds him with his hand.
- ²⁵ I was young and now I am old,
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.

²⁶ They are always generous and lend freely;
their children will be a blessing.

²⁷ Turn from evil and do good;
then you will dwell in the land forever.

²⁸ For the LORD loves the just
and will not forsake his faithful ones.

Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed;
the offspring of the wicked will perish.

²⁹ The righteous will inherit the land
and dwell in it forever.

³⁰ The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak what is just.

³¹ The law of their God is in their hearts;
their feet do not slip.

³² The wicked lie in wait for the righteous,
intent on putting them to death;

³³ but the LORD will not leave them in the power of the wicked
or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

³⁴ Hope in the LORD
and keep his way.

He will exalt you to inherit the land;
when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.

³⁵ I have seen a wicked and ruthless man
flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,

³⁶ but he soon passed away and was no more;
though I looked for him, he could not be found.

³⁷ Consider the blameless, observe the upright;
a future awaits those who seek peace.

³⁸ But all sinners will be destroyed;
there will be no future for the wicked.

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

HOMEMISSIONS

WELS HOME MISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

“Like” the WELS Missions Facebook page at [fb.com/WELS Missions](https://www.facebook.com/WELS.Missions).

SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS



Windsor, Colo. – WELS congregations in Ft. Collins, Loveland, and Greeley are supporting this new mission start in a rapidly expanding area in northern Colorado. There are currently 20 WELS families located in the target area, which has no Lutheran churches.

Wichita, Kan. – Messiah is looking to start a second site on the east side of the city to better serve the 650,000 people in the greater metropolitan area. The area population is expected to grow by 10% over the next 10 years.

Canton, Ga. – Members and leadership from Beautiful Savior in Marietta, Ga., have identified Canton, a quickly growing suburb of Metro-Atlanta, as a prime location to plant a new mission church. Population has doubled in the past 20 years and that growth is expected to continue.

Conroe, Tex. – Conroe, the northernmost suburb of Houston, is the fifth fastest growing city in the United States. Abiding Word in Houston, Tex., is helping this new mission get off the ground and running.

Lodi, Wis. (Unsubsidized) – Zion in Leeds, Wis., is establishing a second site in Lodi. They have already leased a ministry center where the 17-person ministry team hopes to launch worship this year. This mission is financially supported by Zion, but Home Mission status will give them access to support from their district mission board, mission counselors, and special grants.

SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS

Cross of Glory, Baton Rouge, La. –

Cross of Glory will receive short-term financial support as they continue to build on the outreach momentum that began when their pastor arrived in 2017. They're currently the only WELS church able to reach the 750,000 people living in the parishes in and around Baton Rouge.



St. John, St. Paul, Minn. – St. John has called a bilingual pastor to serve the sizable Hispanic population in the area. The church is located right next to the Mexican Consulate; a portion of their facility is being rented by a Latino service organization; and there is already a Spanish women's Bible study being led by a pastor's wife who also works for a pregnancy resource center that's housed there.

Divine Savior, Delray Beach, Fla. –



Divine Savior plans to call a full-time staff minister to assist in school outreach, discipleship training, and connecting new members with various volunteer opportunities. 120 students are enrolled in their school that started in 2018, with 230 expected next school year. That school growth is leading to church growth, and they expect to add around 50 members in the next few months based on current Bible information class attendance.

WELS MISSIONS

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HOMEMISSIONS

WELS HOME MISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

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at wels.net/subscribe.

SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS CONTINUED

Abiding Savior, Killeen, Tex. –

Abiding Savior is located near Fort Hood, one of the nation's largest military bases. The church got a new pastor in 2019, added 13 new members in 2021, and is expected to continue growing with Home Missions support in the years to come.



Our Savior, Burlington, Iowa –

Our Savior has been without a full-time shepherd for 12 years. They are currently being served by pastors from two other WELS churches, with elders leading services when pastors are unavailable.

The 17-member core group is committed to outreach with support from a new home missionary.



NEW UNSUBSIDIZED MISSIONS

Home Missions also approved unsubsidized mission status for Mt. Calvary in Redding/Anderson, Calif., and Living Faith in Midlothian, Tex. Home Missions provides assistance to unsubsidized mission congregations through its district mission boards, mission counselors, and synodical support staff, but does not provide direct financial support. Unsubsidized home mission congregations also have access to loans and grants from WELS Church Extension Fund and Home Missions.

100 MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS

WELS Home Missions is launching a new initiative to plant 100 new home mission churches and enhance 75 existing ministries from 2023-2033. This is a BIG challenge. But we prepare and we plan, and we ask God to bless it. Trusting in the Lord, we boldly move forward knowing God will bless us and his kingdom. Please pray for this initiative, talk to your district mission board about how you can get involved, and support this goal with your gifts. Learn more at wels.net/100in10.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We thank God for you! Home Missions is thankful for the generosity of so many. Your gift matters. The gospel is being proclaimed in new communities all around North America through new mission starts and existing home mission congregations. We are also grateful for our partnership with WELS Church Extension Fund and the services and grants they provide that help us reach out to the lost.

Pray for our neighbors who are still in darkness and consider how you can make a difference and share Jesus Christ with many. To give an immediate gift, go to wels.net/hmgift. Watch with us as the Holy Spirit changes earthly lives and opens the door to eternal life for our brothers and sisters in our own backyard.

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100 MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS

WELS HOME MISSIONS 2023-2033

Task Force Recommendations

Missionaries

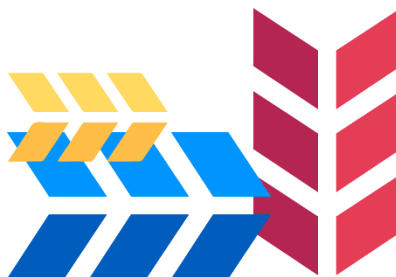
- The Board for Home Missions (BHM) has regular meetings with Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to discuss recruiting, encouraging, and equipping men to serve as church planters.
- Home Missions Administration and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary continue to meet at least annually to discuss items of current interest.
- Consider having more vicars serve in missions that are in the early years of existence through the Vicar in a Mission Setting (ViMs) program.

Money

- Train, equip, and encourage District Mission Boards (DMBs) to look at their missions with a critical eye.
- Acknowledge that DMBs are advocates for their missions and we all want each mission to thrive.
- Communicate and put into perspective why defunding may have to occur. i.e., stewardship of resources.
- Have DMBs use a green-yellow-red rating system for tracking their subsidized missions.
- Encourage flexibility and creativity of the DMBs, when appropriate, as to not to abandon a field where a mission is defunded. While this may not always be possible, it could mean that the DMB makes a request for subsidy that is significantly less but allows the people to still be served with the gospel.
- Encourage Church Extension Fund (CEF) to work with WELS Home Missions to find creative ways to reduce debt payments for our mission congregations.
- Consider ways to provide additional awareness/visibility for the best mission candidates and encourage/enable mission-minded donors to financially support these Home Missions efforts.

Internal Operations and Resources

- The Board for Home Missions Executive Committee (EC) establish and publish clear guidelines for budget submissions, including a corresponding budget narrative.
- The EC and Home Missions administration establish and communicate criterion for 2 and 3-year Mission Program Support Agreement (MPSA) renewal requests in addition to the 1-year requests.
- Each DMB will assign a member to review each individual New Start/ Restart/ Enhancement/MPSA request. This review to be part of the submission request.
- Train, equip and encourage DMBs to look at their requests with a critical eye.
- Maintain current EC member level (Chairman, two pastors, two laymen). As the initiative progresses, evaluate and pivot if necessary.
- Core group development and training is our most important “commodity”, and we need to do a better job of strengthening this area of mission work.
- Continue to focus on how we can better transition and train our growing mission churches.
- Encourage DMBs to proactively communicate with their District President if they are having concerns that the missionary may not be the right guy.
- Recommend DMB chairman/members make themselves available to local Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS) circuit meetings/rallies to be the focus of the rallies in fall ’22 and/or spring ’23 to communicate the initiative and their DMB pipeline, ways to support and get involved, etc.
- Continue to provide financial assistance to any mission effort seeking Praise and Proclaim training (this will require increased grant moneys to keep up with increased demand).
- Home Missions encourages DMBs to make use of Praise and Proclaim (in conjunction with Mission Journeys) at current home mission congregations and when exploring new mission fields and training core groups.





WELS Church Extension Fund

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

CONVENTION REPORT

Summer 2022



Cross of Christ, Boise, Idaho



Carbon Valley, Firestone, Colo.



CrossLife, Pflugerville, Texas

Since 1993, WELS Church Extension Fund has been providing loans and grants to mission and mission-minded congregations so they can acquire land and ministry facilities to be used for gospel outreach.

HIGHLIGHTS of MINISTRY SUPPORT

- Over **2,900 WELS members, congregations, and affiliates** have entrusted WELS Church Extension Fund (WELS CEF) with **\$103.6 million** in member investments.
- In fiscal YTD 2021-22, **\$18.8 million of new loans** and **\$2.4 million of new grant requests** were approved.
- Since 1993, WELS CEF has provided **\$41.4 million of matching grants** to mission congregations and **\$11.0 million of special grants** to Home Missions.

All of this starts with our WELS congregations and members who invest in WELS Church Extension Fund. Your support is a tremendous blessing to God's kingdom.

LEARN MORE

If your congregation is thinking about a building project or land purchase, please consider applying for a loan through WELS CEF. Visit **wels.net/cef** or call **1-866-511-7793** to learn more.

The purchase of WELS CEF securities is subject to risks, which are described in our Offering Circular. The selected financial information above should be viewed in conjunction with our audited financial statements contained in the Offering Circular. The WELS CEF Offering Circular can be found online at wels.net/offering-circular. This is not an offer to sell, nor the solicitation to buy, our securities. We will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. WELS CEF certificates are unsecured general debt obligations. WELS CEF is not a bank or regulated financial institution. This offering is made solely by the Offering Circular.

Not FDIC or SIPC insured • Not a bank deposit • No WELS guarantee

Where investing in your future builds churches

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wels.net/cef • cef@wels.net • 1-866-511-7793





Pastors and congregations: How to share student information with WELS Campus Ministry

Why is it important to share the contact information for college students in my congregation with WELS Campus Ministry?

Almost every university in the United States and Canada has an assigned campus ministry contact pastor. Each contact pastor receives a list of WELS student that are attending their school. By sharing information with WELS Campus Ministry, these contact pastors know who the students are and can help them stay connected to Christ and strengthen their faith while at school.

What will WELS Campus Ministry do with this information?

WELS Campus Ministry will share the student's information with the contact pastor at their college or university. We will also periodically email students with requests for updated information and free subscription offers to *Forward in Christ* magazine and *Meditations* devotions (offered digitally and in print).

Who can share this contact information with WELS Campus Ministry?

Church employees and laypeople who are authorized to view and edit student information may do so by using the church's WELS Cloud account and credentials and following the steps below. Relatives of students can submit their student's information at data.wels.net/CampusMinistry/CampusMinistry.

Instructions:

Step One: Receive permission from the students to share their information with WELS Campus Ministry.

- Best practice: Send out an email/text/call to the graduating high school seniors at your congregation the summer after they graduate. Let them know that you plan to share their contact information with WELS Campus Ministry and explain why it's important.

Step Two: Go to "My WELS Cloud" (cloud.wels.net/my-wels-cloud/)

Step Three: Read the "Important Information" section. If you know your login information, select "Proceed to My WELS Cloud". If you need to reset your password or find your login information, click "Get Help."

Step Four: Once you're logged in, click "Campus Ministry Student Management" found in the center column under "Church."

- Campus Pastors: You will see a list of students attending your campus (or campuses). If you are a campus pastors and you have members of your church attending other campuses, you'll be able to toggle between the two lists using a link in the upper right area of the form.

Step Five: On the right-hand side of the page, click "View Home Congregation List".

Step Six: Add student information (by clicking the + on your left-hand side) and/or edit student information (by clicking the box to the left of the name then click the pencil icon next to the +). Information for the student's profile will appear. Once finished adding/editing, click submit.

Step Seven: Repeat step five for all members who are college students.

WORLD MISSIONS

WELS WORLD MISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

"Like" the new WELS Missions Facebook page at fb.com/WELSMissions.

Pray for Ukraine: WELS members are giving generously to provide aid to and through members of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC), WELS' sister church in Ukraine, in the wake of the war. WELS has sent some of these donations to Direct Relief, an organization that provides immediate medical aid and supplies where they are needed most, but most of these gifts are sent directly to pastors or churches who help members and people in the community buy essentials. Most ULC congregations continue to hold worship, either in person or online, proclaiming the hope they have in Jesus. The ULC's bishop was even able to offer a brief devotion on Ukraine's National Radio that included reading John 3:16. Visit wels.net/ukraine for additional updates as they become available.



New chapter for Russian church: Missionary Luke Wolfgramm and his wife, Jennifer, left Russia and traveled to Albania four days after Russia invaded Ukraine. They have lived and served in Russia for the past 25 years. In his final days in the country, Wolfgramm was able to meet with church leaders to provide last-minute guidance and encouragement. WELS will continue to support the Russian church as it is able under current sanctions. The Wolfgramms will relocate to a new location in Europe to partner with Russia and other sister church bodies in their theological education and outreach efforts.



New connections in Myanmar: The Asia One Team has been in contact with leadership from a Lutheran church body in Myanmar after the group found Bible studies and sermons online from a WELS church in Wisconsin. Plans were being made to take teaching to the next level and proceed with conversations about fellowship when a coup began in January 2021. Since then, church members have been forced to scatter. Our missionaries have provided humanitarian aid in partnership with Christian Aid and Relief, and we pray conditions may improve enough for regular instruction to continue in the future.

Mission growth in Latin America: Due to the enormous growth stemming from *Academia Cristo* training efforts, the Latin America mission team has added five new missionaries to their team. This additional manpower will help follow up with contacts and continue training new Christians in grace-starved Latin America. In October 2021, WELS' sister churches throughout Latin America formed a new synod that will allow these individual churches to do mission work and train pastors together. This new synod will also welcome any new churches formed out of *Academia Cristo* training efforts. Learn more about the growth in Latin America at wels.net/latinamerica.



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 **WELS**
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

WORLD MISSIONS

WELS WORLD MISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

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at wels.net/subscribe.

Updates from Africa: Rev. Benjamin Foxen (Cross of Glory, Peoria, Ariz.) and Rev. Keegan Dowling (Abiding Word, Orleans, ON, Canada) recently accepted calls to serve as missionaries on the One Africa Team. Both will be moving to Lusaka, Zambia, in the upcoming months. Obadiah Lutheran Church in Uganda recently drafted a request for doctrinal unity/fellowship with WELS, which includes a summary of doctrine and practice and a report describing the relationship between their synod and WELS/One Africa Team. The prayer is that they will be brought into fellowship at the 2023 Synod Convention. Stay up to date on mission work in Africa by visiting wels.net/africa.

New gospel outpost in Brazil: Rev. Denício Godoy was ordained and commissioned by the Lutheran Church of Portugal as a missionary in Brazil in April 2022. Rev. Godoy connected online with Rev. Artur Villares from the Lutheran Church of Portugal, WELS' sister church, and took classes with him to be colloquized as a Confessional Lutheran pastor. Rev. Kenneth Cherney, Old Testament professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, provided support during that process. Rev. Godoy will begin outreach in Brazil as a mission arm of the Lutheran Church of Portugal, with support from the WELS Europe team and continued encouragement from Rev. Cherney. Learn more about the Lutheran Church of Portugal and how they came to connect with Pastor Godoy at wels.net/portugal.

New missionary to London and the U.K.:

Missionary Mike Hartman was commissioned as world missionary to London and the U.K. in February 2022. Since accepting the call, Hartman has taken multiple trips to London to meet the current core group, meet with members of other WELS' sister churches who have moved to the area, develop a full ministry plan, and explore housing and schooling options for his family. The Hartmans will be moving to London this summer. Continue to check on progress of this new mission field at wels.net/london.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We thank God for you! World Missions is grateful for the many, generous special gifts we receive throughout the year. Extraordinary things are happening all over the world every day. Your gift matters.

Please pray for the lost and consider how you can best make an impact on the millions of people who still need to hear the truth of the gospel. To give an immediate gift, go to wels.net/wmgift. Watch with us as the Holy Spirit changes earthly lives and opens the door to eternal life for our brothers and sisters around the world.



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As we have opportunity,
**let us do good
to all people,**

especially to those
who belong to the
family of believers.

GALATIANS 6:10

Hein Completes Service as Chairman

On June 30, 2022, Pastor Robert Hein will finish his second of two terms as chairman of the WELS Christian Aid and Relief Commission. For 12 years Pastor Hein has guided the work of WELS CAR with wisdom, compassion, and a deep commitment to help those who are hurting. We thank Pastor Hein for his faithful service and wish him God's richest blessings in the future. Pastor Hein currently serves at Good Shepherd in West Bend, Wis.

New Grant Program Set to Begin

In spring of 2022, WELS Christian Aid and Relief will launch a new effort called the Community Care and Compassion Matching Grant Program. This annual program is designed to encourage more compassion ministry in the WELS by providing matching grants of up to \$2,500 to self-supporting WELS congregations who submit an approved plan to reach out with compassion in their communities. This grant can be used to support veterans who are struggling or victims of domestic violence. It can be used to encourage medical workers, police officers, fire fighters, and other first responders as they struggle through these difficult days. It can be used to help lonely seniors, underprivileged school children, or those who struggle with food insecurity. There are so many in need and so many ways to show compassion to them while also sharing with them the good news of our Savior. Watch for more information about this program in the near future!



Disaster Relief Update

There seems to be no end to disasters in this broken world. WELS CAR views each one as an opportunity to help the hurting and reach out with the compassion of Christ.

WAUKESHA PARADE TRAGEDY

On Nov. 21, 2021, the driver of an SUV killed six people and injured sixty-two others by hitting participants and observers at the annual Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wis. In the aftermath of the tragedy WELS CAR partnered with Christian Family Solutions (CFS), a WELS-affiliated counseling service, to provide crisis counseling to those who witnessed this tragedy. Forty-two hours of Christ-centered counseling sessions were provided by a grant from WELS CAR. In addition, CFS staff provided an estimated 36 hours of consultation time with pastors, teachers, and other congregation, school, and community leaders to help guide psychological crisis response or provide other resources. We are grateful for our partnership with CFS and for the opportunity to work with them to assist those impacted by his horrific event.

KENTUCKY TORNADES

On Dec. 10, 2021, a series of terrible tornadoes struck the south-central part of our nation killing at least 76 people and causing billions of dollars in damage. Thankfully, no WELS congregations or members were directly impacted by the

storms. Lack of a WELS congregation in the impacted area also means that we were unable to launch an on-site disaster relief effort. Instead, WELS CAR gave gifts totaling \$40,000 through Direct Relief, an organization that specializes in providing medical aid to those who need it.

COLORADO FIRES

On Dec. 30, 2021, hundreds of homes and other structures were lost as two wildfires swept through the Boulder, Colo., area. WELS CAR responded by providing a grant of \$2,500 to Peace Lutheran Church to assist those in need. The members of peace purchased and distributed gift cards for basic needs such as food, clothing, and lodging in the days immediately following the fire. They continue to look for ways to help the hurting. We thank Pastor Jason Thiel and the members of Peace for their compassionate efforts.

HURRICANE IDA

Hurricane Ida made landfall on the Gulf Coast way back on Aug. 29, 2021. However, WELS CAR continues to serve those impacted by the disaster. Most recently, volunteer teams traveled to New Orleans to assist with repairs and roof replacement for several member families of Crown of Life Lutheran Church. Pastor Jonathan Kehl writes: "God never leaves his people! He provides for our spiritual needs as well as our daily needs. He has given us a church body equipped with gifts and talents he uses to care for his people, and it's evident in the recovery of our city. Thank you for your eagerness in serving us in our time of need!"



Need a Preacher or Presenter?

Would you like to learn more about this vital ministry of compassion? Preachers and presenters are available for your church, school, or group. To request a speaker, go to wels.net/relief and fill out the speaker request form, or contact Pastor Dan Sims.

To learn more, make a donation, or volunteer,

visit wels.net/relief and like us on Facebook at fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief.

If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact director Rev. Daniel Sims.

ENROLLMENT

633 Undergraduates on campus

Representing **31** states and **7** countries

MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Part-time and full-time students

EDUCATION	PRESEMINARY
<i>Includes Staff Ministry</i>	<i>Year of graduation</i>
104 First-year	2 2025-26
107 Sophomore	42 2024-25
105 Junior	46 2023-24
104 Senior	38 2022-23
31 Fifth-year	47 2021-22
7 Other	
458 Total	175 Total

DECEMBER GRADUATES

- 7** Bachelor of Science in Education
- 1** Bachelor of Science
- 1** Bachelor of Arts
- 1** Assignment
- 0** Emergency Calls



CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT PROGRAM

569 Students supported

269 Congregations participating

\$537,000 Given by congregations

Statistics demonstrate our need to match about \$500,000 in CPGP congregational gifts every year.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

73 ECE program students

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

- 78** Children
- 4** Lead teachers
- 7** Student teachers
- 1** Director
- 6** Staff



CONTINUING ED / GRADUATE STUDIES

312 Continuing Education students

145 Graduate Studies students

13 MA Theological Studies

55 MS Educational Admin

40 Principal

13 ECE Director

2 Technology Director

77 MS Education

- 29** Instruction
- 17** Leadership
- 18** Special Ed
- 13** Ed Tech



NEW TEACHER INDUCTION

214 Beginning Teachers

148 Schools

148 Mentors



ECW CAMPAIGN GIVING UPDATE

\$9,201,591 Donated or Pledged to ECW

7,207 Total Gifts

3,382 Donors



EQUIPPING
CHRISTIAN
WITNESSES



SPRING COLLEGE CHOIR TOUR

February 25 – March 6

The MLC College Choir looks forward to sharing God's Word in song in the Great Plains and South Central US this spring. Concerts are planned for South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Nebraska. Please plan to attend a concert near you, or follow the choir on Facebook to see videos from the concerts and stories from the students.

Visit mlc-wels.edu/go/choir-tour for more information.

NEW FACES COMING TO CAMPUS

The MLC campus family is thankful that the Lord is leading many talented servants to join our ministry at MLC. We will pray for those who will be considering additional positions on our campus this coming semester, and we pray for the many ministries that hope to fill vacancies soon. At the time of this report, the following people will be joining us on campus in 2022:

Melissa Berg - Director of Early Childhood Learning Center

Isaiah Degner – Professor of Spanish

Heath Dobberpuhl – Professor of Science

Kayte Gut – Professor of Early Childhood Education

Rachel Youngblom – Professor of Special Education

SAVE THE DATE - MLC DAY IS MAY 4!

Promote and celebrate ministerial education by hosting an MLC Day in your congregation!

Anytime between now and May 4:

Photograph your school, class, or faculty creating an MLC greeting.

Videotape an MLC shout-out, song, or skit.

Write a prayer for our students and staff.

Share all of these with us by email or Facebook.

Gather an offering for your College of Ministry. Your gifts on MLC Day will help fund the Congregational Partner Grant Matching Fund, directly supporting MLC students.

Find more ideas at mlcday.com.

On MLC Day, May 4, we'll have a grand unveiling of all the schools' and congregations' prayers, posts, shout-outs, and songs!



DAYLIGHT – SERVING YOUR MINISTRIES!

The MLC Daylight Office coordinated the services of Hannah Westra, Emily Raymond, and Alaina Wiedoff for a Christmas break service project in Puerto Rico. This crew is working with Mi Dios Verdadero Lutheran Church in Guayama, Puerto Rico, to promote Academia Cristo, an outreach program for all of Latin America.

If you would like MLC students to support your ministry during their spring or summer break, contact MLC's Daylight Office at daylight@mlc-wels.edu.



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

MS in Education—Special Education

with optional
MN Learning Disabilities Licensure

“When parents choose our schools for the Christian education of their children, we want to meet their children’s needs with fully qualified and licensed teachers who are ready to collaborate with a team in support of their children.”

Professor Kelli Green



Choose the Program That’s Right for You

For Special Education Teachers **Learning Disabilities Licensure**

This option provides a complete training, preparing you to become a K-12 special education teacher with licensure for mild to moderate learning disabilities. Upon completion of this program, you will have the option of earning a Minnesota LD license (transferable to your home state).

This program is for you if you want to . . .

- Recognize and serve the types of learning disabilities common in Lutheran Schools,
- Coordinate and provide special education services for all students,
- Collaborate professionally with school and community partners,
- Implement and monitor student IEPs/ISPs, and
- Ensure all students in the Lutheran School succeed.

For General Classroom Teachers **MS in Education—Special Ed Emphasis**

The non-license option is ideal for you if you’re a general classroom teacher who wants to better understand and serve your at-risk students and provide a more inclusive education environment for students with disabilities.

This program is for you if you want to . . .

- Recognize and serve a range of student exceptionalities in your classroom,
- Successfully navigate the referral process,
- Implement accommodations in your classroom,
- Address reading and math delays,
- Serve students with learning disabilities,
- Help students with emotional/behavioral disorders be successful, and
- Create and teach lessons that help all students learn.

Our professors understand your needs and challenges as educators in Lutheran schools across the nation, and they embed practical applications in every course. Learn a new strategy today and apply it in your classroom tomorrow!

For More Information About Our Master’s Programs, Visit
mlc-wels.edu/graduate-studies/degrees/



CONTINUING EDUCATION *MLC—Your Partner in Ministry*

Interested in Taking a Course This Summer?

PRACTICAL

*We Have a Variety of Courses
for All Areas of Ministry*

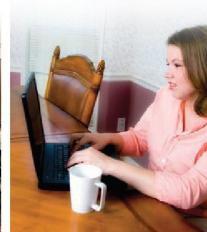
- Early Childhood
- Educational Technology
- Graduate Studies
- Instruction
- Leadership
- Post-Baccalaureate Licensure
- Ministry Certification
- Special Education

CONVENIENT

*On
Location*



Online



AFFORDABLE

Webinars for \$20

Micro-Credentials for \$50

Courses for Clock Hours for
\$160/12.5 clock hours

Continuing Ed Courses for Credit

- 1000- to 4000-level courses for \$375/credit
- 5000- to 6000-level courses for \$325/credit
- 8000- to 9000-level courses for \$320/credit

Join the Fun—Attend a Summer Satellite Course



ANTIOCH IL

EDU8103 Developing Home & School Relationships

C Loomis Jun 27 - 28 Faith LES - Antioch IL

MORTON GROVE IL

EDU8101 Intellectual, Social, & Emotional Development

J Sallquist Jun 16 - 17 Jerusalem LES - Morton Gr IL

APPLETON WI

EDU9550 Teaching the Way People Learn

P Tess Jun 27 - 28 Mt Olive LES - Appleton WI

EAU CLAIRE WI

EDU8205 Teaching Writing in the Elementary School

P Grubbs Jun 9 - 10 St Mark LES - Eau Claire WI

FOND DU LAC WI

EDU8205 Teaching Writing in the Elementary School

P Grubbs Jun 6 - 7 Faith LES - Fond du Lac WI

MEDFORD WI

EDU8538 Standards-Based Assessments

C Whaley Jun 27 - 28 Immanuel LES - Medford WI

MILWAUKEE WI

EDU9540 Principles of Christian Education

R Klindworth Jun 6 - 17 Wis LHS - Milwaukee WI

OAKFIELD WI

EDU8535 The Role of Grammar in a Balanced

Language Arts Curriculum

J Roux May 31 - Jun 1 St Luke LES - Oakfield WI

WATERTOWN WI

EDU8538 Standards-Based Assessments

R Rathje Jun 27 - 28 St Mark's LES - Watertown WI

EDU9509 STEM in Lutheran Schools

J Carlovsky Jun 8 - 9 St Mark's LES - Watertown WI

ENG8602 Building and Maintaining Relationships

A Robinson Jun 13 - 14 St Mark's LES - Watertown WI

NEW!! SPE9503 Serving Exceptional Students:

Trauma-Informed Christian Schools

K Green Jun 15 - 17 St Mark's LES - Watertown WI

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER COURSES BEGINS FEBRUARY 15!

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY
A MINISTERIAL PREP SCHOOL OF THE WELS

SNAPSHOT

SPRING 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Construction is always exciting. Last summer we saw the completion of our new press box and concession stand for our athletic events. Every day through my classroom window I would take note of the progress. First the foundation. Then the framing. Then the roof. The more it changed from day to day the more exciting it was to imagine our fans enjoying the finished project.

I will admit, though, that there were days that were less than stimulating. The days when the electrical was being installed there was not much happening to the untrained eye. When the plumbing was occupying days worth of work, the progress seemed almost non-existent. But how necessary those days were!

"Who despises a day of small things?" Zechariah 4:10a Those were the words of the Lord to Zerubbabel during the rebuilding of the temple. The temple that they were rebuilding was "small" by comparison to Solomon's that had been ruined. It was a real temptation to be frustrated when progress was minimal, and results were seemingly insignificant. But those days of small accomplishments were necessary for larger ones.

It has always been a temptation for the church to be frustrated by small numbers and even smaller progress. It is the devil's tool to see our collective work as small or insignificant on the global scale. Eleven disciples sent into a world that needed to hear the Gospel did not seem like enough. 300 of Gideon's men were certainly too small a number to defend Israel's honor against the Midianites.

There is that same temptation when we consider ministerial education today. A ministerial education school of less than 200 is (too) small. A class of 26 men from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is too few to meet the needs of the church.

When building we must remember that there are days of small things. Small words of encouragement can build bigger confidence. A small word of forgiveness may be life-saving water for a dying soul. A small school of teenagers knit together like a family can be built, by God's grace, into a great army of witnesses for the Lord.

How dare we despise the days of small blessings? What might look small or insignificant can, in the hands of our God, become great opportunities.

#smallschooladvantage
bigschoolopportunity

Loving and serving Him,

Rev. Mark Luetzow, President

MISSION SEMINAR

In early February, the Seminary Family was blessed with the opportunity to learn more about WELS World Missions. **Missionary Mike Hartman** was on campus to share with the faculty and the students the gospel mission work being done in Latin America. He specifically told how their team is using technology to reach multitudes of people in many countries. Between his presentations, students met in small groups with individual faculty members to discuss this mission work and mission work in general. Missionary Hartman sparked many wonderful conversations about how the gospel of Jesus Christ is being spread in foreign lands. The day concluded with our MLS international students presenting about their homelands of China, Korea, and Germany. Sharing their experiences from back home was a great way for all of our students to see how the Word of God connects believers around the world.



Missionary Mike Hartman



David, Beijing, China

WAKEFIELD TAKES 6TH IN STATE



Junior, Evan Wakefield, placed 6th (189lb) in the MHSAA Div. 4 wrestling finals.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

At the beginning of the school year we set a goal to have 20+ endowed scholarships to support MLS students who will continue their education at MLC. Our hope is two-fold: 1) *that these scholarships will lessen the student debt of MLS students who pursue the public ministry, and 2) that the scholarships will be a source of encouragement for current and future MLS students that their alma mater will continue to support them even after their graduation.* As we near the close of the school year we are confident that we will reach that goal. If you have an interest in establishing a new scholarship or supporting one of our current ones, please contact Pres. Mark Luetzow (mtl@mlsem.org).



ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

The MLS football team was recently named Academic All-State for the 2021 season. Each year the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association awards All-State honors to four teams in each of the nine playoff divisions with the highest team GPA.



After a two year break, the MLS summer camps will be back in full swing this June! The various overnight and day camps emphasize teamwork, fundamentals, and skills for a variety of sports and activities in a positive, Christian environment. Campers also become familiar with the MLS campus and get to know new friends and future classmates. MLS Junior Autumn Wakefield thought back to her camp years and remarked, *"Honestly, the most fun part was running around campus with everyone after the camp was done for the day. I mean, that's where I met most of my future teammates."*

Visit mlsem.org/summercamps for more information and to register your child.



2022-23 APPLICATION UPDATE

It's not too late to apply to be a member of the Class of 2026!

We're excited to surpass our goal of 60 applicants! The application process takes less than 10 minutes and there is no application fee.

Go to mlsem.org and click on "Apply."
We're excited to welcome all our new Cardinals!

Camp	Grades	Dates
Boys Basketball	5-9	June 13-15
Boys Football	7-9	June 15-17
Co-ed Fine Arts*	3-6	June 16-17
Father/Son Football	4-6	June 17-18
Girls Basketball	5-9	June 19-21
Girls Volleyball	5-9	June 21-22

**Fine Arts Camp is a day camp. All others are supervised overnight camps in the MLS dorm.*



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

2777 Hardin Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
Phone: 989.793.1010
Fax: 989.401.7334

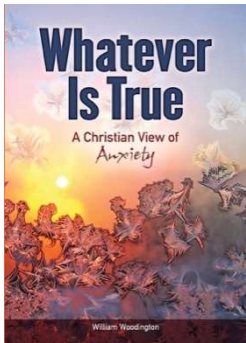


SCAN ME

God's Word for My Life

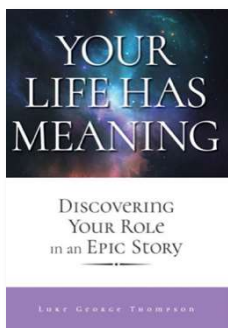
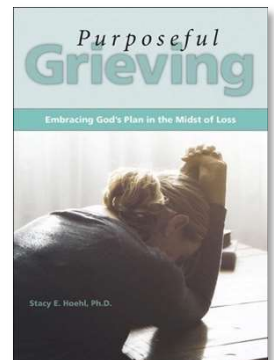
Visit us online at nph.net

Resources to Recommend to *Those Facing Challenges*



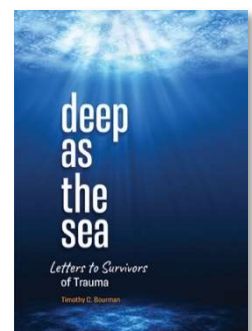
Although books on anxiety can be found anywhere, most of them tell the sufferer to help themselves. Written by William Woodington, ***Whatever Is True: A Christian View of Anxiety*** helps readers accept, rejoice in, and persevere through anxiety while leaning on God's Word. Softcover, 109 pages. [C1201814](#) - \$12.99

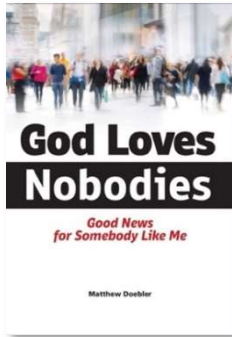
Purposeful Grieving: Embracing God's Plan in the Midst of Loss by Dr. Stacy E. Hoehl walks readers through the grieving process in 56 comforting devotions. Each devotion concludes with a prayer and two journaling questions. Softcover, 141 pages. [C0600764](#) - \$12.99



Your Life Has Meaning: Discovering Your Role in an Epic Story addresses nihilism and other popular secular philosophies of our age. Pastor Luke Thompson invites readers, especially those in college, to view their lives as God does—full of meaning and created for his glory. Softcover, 155 pages. [C1500829](#) - \$17.99

NEW Deep as the Sea: Letters to Survivors of Trauma is a collection of letters addressed to those who have experienced a traumatic event or series of tragedies. Filled with empathy and spiritual wisdom, this book by Pastor Timothy Bourman helps believers find refuge in God and a new sense of purpose. Softcover, 117 pages. [C1201815](#) - \$13.99

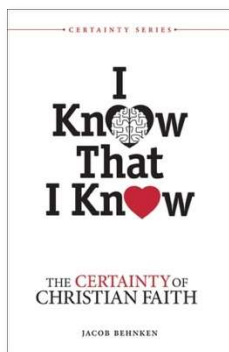
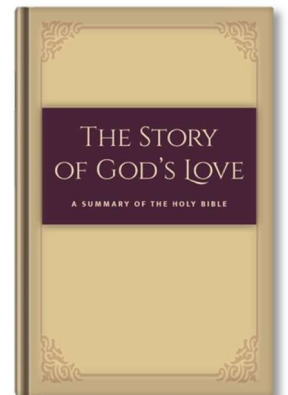




COMING SOON It's easy for believers to spend life pursuing worth through what they do and how much they achieve. **God Loves Nobodies: Good News for Somebody Like Me** by Pastor Matthew Doebler offers gospel-centered hope using biblical examples and humorous pop culture references. **Preorder copies for your members!** Softcover, 186 pages. [C1500834](#) - \$18.99 Available Summer 2022

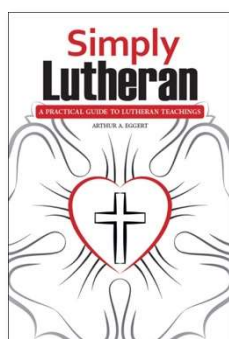
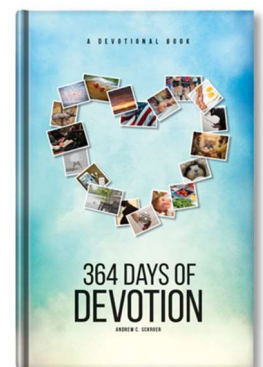
Resources to Recommend to *Those New to the Faith*

Reading the entire Bible can feel overwhelming for new believers. **The Story of God's Love** presents the full picture of God's salvation plan through select Bible readings in a simple, continuous account that draws from the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV). Its brief introductions, 250 easy-to-follow reading sections, and more will help new believers follow the revelation of God's love for them throughout Scripture. Hardcover, 388 pages. [C0105005](#) - \$21.99



Many new Christians wonder, "How do I know my faith is genuine? How much belief is enough?" **I Know That I Know: The Certainty of Christian Faith** explores the biblical definition of faith and its relationship to important Christian topics, including good works and emotions. Softcover, 97 pages. [C1500800](#) - \$12.99

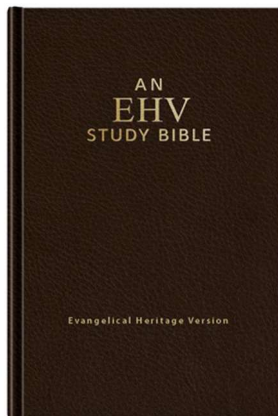
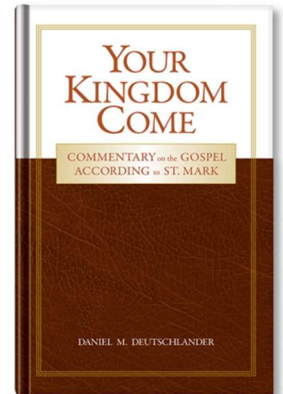
364 Days of Devotion: A Devotional Book offers a simple way for families and individuals to cultivate a devotional habit. Pastor Andrew C. Schroer engaging anecdotes and relatable life scenarios that point to what God reveals about himself in the Bible. Over the course of a year, readers will recognize God's love for them. Hardcover, 713 pages. [C0600767](#) - \$29.99



Simply Lutheran: A Practical Guide to Lutheran Teachings by Arthur A. Eggert provides an ideal starting point for those wanting to understand the central topics of Lutheranism. This book presents a simple yet solid summary of Lutheran doctrine regarding the Bible, God's plan of salvation, and life in the church. Softcover, 325 pages. [C1500827](#) - \$20.99

Resources to Recommend for *Encouraging Spiritual Growth*

Written by Professor Daniel Deutschlander as one of his final works, ***Your Kingdom Come: Commentary on the Gospel According to St. Mark*** shares comprehensive and thought-provoking explanations of St. Mark's gospel, plus helpful cross references to the gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John, plus an appendix on *The Theology of the Cross*. Hardcover, 628 pages. [C1500833](#) - \$44.99



Featuring the text of the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV), ***An EHV Study Bible*** offers thorough historical and cultural explanations of Scripture from confessional Lutheran experts to help readers let Scripture interpret Scripture. This comprehensive study Bible also includes:

- Footnotes with alternate viable words or phrases
- Alternate Greek and Hebrew readings of the text
- Extra-biblical historical, geographic, and archaeological information
- Maps, charts, timelines, and more

An EHV Study Bible will enrich believers' understanding of the context of biblical events and help them appreciate the significance of those events. Hardcover, 2,158 pages. [C0105004](#) - \$59.99

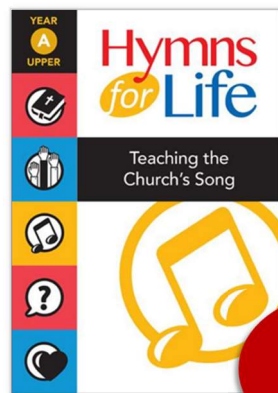
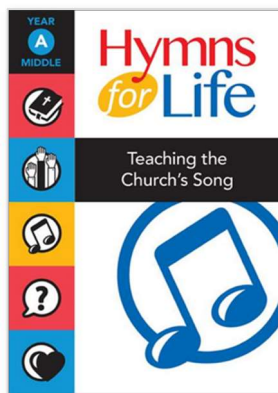
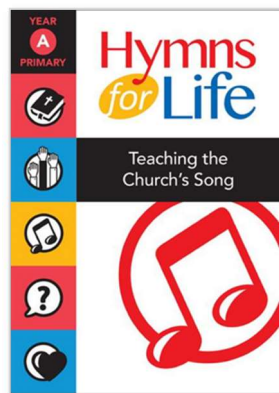
***Forward in Christ* magazine** supports the ministry of pastors today by serving as a tool to encourage the faith of those they serve throughout the week.

Forward in Christ includes Bible studies, real life stories of faith that your members can relate to, and content that addresses timely and often tough topics from a confessional Lutheran perspective. It provides content that is relevant to your members' lives, deepens their biblical understanding, and empowers them to defend their faith.



When you subscribe your congregation for the first 12 months, you will save **10% off** current bulk rates, a savings of up to **75% off** the cover price. [C931010](#)

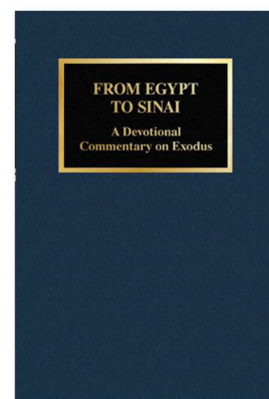
Visit www.nph.net or call 800-662-6022 to order.



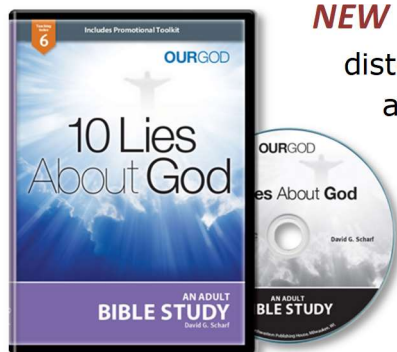
**Year B
Available
Summer
2022**

Introduced for this past school year, ***Hymns for Life*** Year A will soon be joined by Year B for the 2022-2023 school year. *Hymns for Life* is a three-year, multileveled hymnology curriculum for Lutheran elementary schools. Through the curriculum, students study 90 hymns while learning about each hymn's background and connection to their faith in Christ. The companion resource, [Hymn Sheets and Lyrics](#), offers downloadable files of every hymn for use in digital presentations. Learn more at nph.net/hymnsforlife.

COMING SOON *From Egypt to Sinai: A Devotional Commentary on Exodus* by Paul Meitner connects the Israelites' journey through the wilderness to the Christian's daily struggle to trust in God alone. This devotional commentary will deepen the faith of believers through deepening their knowledge and appreciation of God's plan of salvation through millennia and in their lives today. Hardcover, 312 pages. **C1500835** Available Fall 2022



Customizable Bible Studies for Large and Small Groups



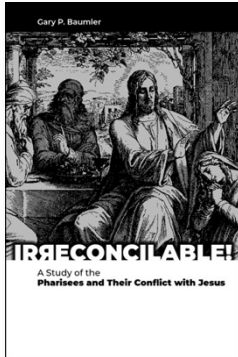
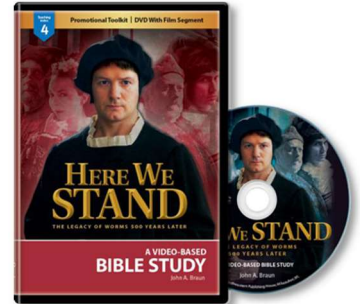
NEW 10 Lies About God tackles common false teachings that easily distort Christians' beliefs, such as "God just wants me to be happy" and "A God of love wouldn't send people to hell." This ten-lesson Bible study by David G. Scharf will equip your members to address these subtle errors with God's Word. Teaching Index: 6. CD or Download. **C2201193** - \$59.99

Visit www.nph.net or call 800-662-6022 to order.

Here We Stand: The Legacy of Worms, 500 Years Later

explores four foundational truths Luther stood for: grace, the royal priesthood of believers, Scripture alone, and serving others in Christian freedom. Based on the short film, *Here We Stand*, the study revisits Luther's famous stand at Worms and its impact on Lutherans today. Teaching Index: 4. CD or Download.

C2201204 – \$24.99



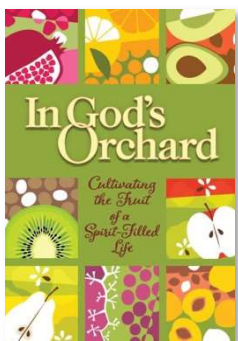
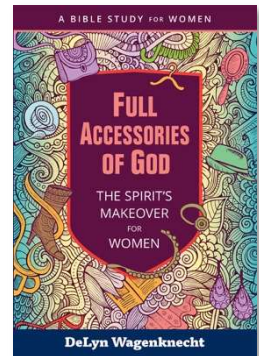
COMING SOON Irreconcilable: A Study of the Pharisees and Their Conflict With Jesus

Irreconcilable answers the questions, "Who were the Pharisees and why did they oppose Jesus so vehemently?" This Bible study by Gary P. Baumler also reveals the dangers of self-righteousness both in Jesus' time and today among believers. Participants will learn that without relying on God's grace, Christians risk rejecting their Savior's work in favor of their own moralistic standards—just like the Pharisees. Teaching Index: 6. **C2201201** - Printed booklet and **C2201202E** - Leader's Guide download. *Available Summer 2022*

Trustworthy Bible Studies for Women

Full Accessories of God: The Spirit's Makeover for Women

explores the well-known armor of God verses in Ephesians 6:10-17. This convenient Bible study book by DeLyn Wagenknecht offers five daily personal readings and a closing section for group discussions. Teaching Index: 3. Softcover, 130 pages. **C1201801** - \$14.99

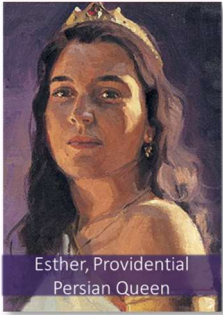


Written by six Christian women, ***In God's Orchard: Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life***, focuses on the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22,23. Participants will learn how God nurtures each fruit through the gospel, how the sinful nature impacts them, and how Jesus demonstrated all of them perfectly.

Teaching Index: 4. Softcover, 114 pages. **C2201198** - \$14.99

My 180: Loving God More follows its author Angie Molkenstin as she seeks to grow in her understanding of God's love and helps her readers do the same through an active prayer life, regular Bible study, and spiritual role models. Softcover, 135 pages. **C1201810** - \$15.99



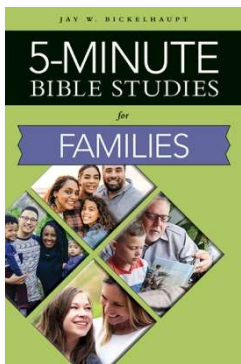
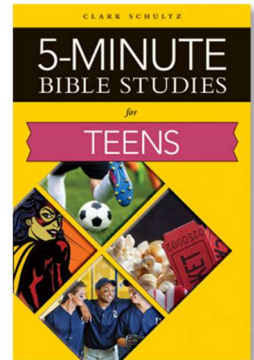


COMING SOON *Esther: Providential Persian Queen* by Lou Ann Mokwa invites women to rely on God's grace even in troubling circumstances and consider their role as Christ's ambassadors. These eight short lessons feature an opening prayer, references to other parts of Scripture, and thoughtful study and discussion questions. This study works well for personal and small group use whether in-person or online! **C2201205 Available Fall 2022**

Bible Studies for Individuals

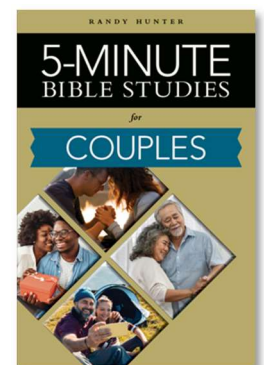
5-Minute Bible Studies: For Teens helps teens and young adults spend time in God's Word even with a full schedule of school and other activities. Featuring three messages each week for a full year, this book will help readers recharge with thoughtful questions, uplifting prayers, and relevant topics. Softcover, 160 pages.

C2201196 - \$15.99



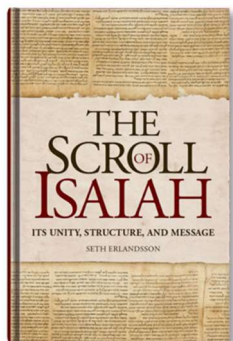
In ***5-Minute Bible Studies: For Families***, Pastor Jay W. Bickelhaupt offers brief, insightful devotions to keep families connected to God and his Word throughout the week. Each of the 156 readings features thought-provoking questions and a short prayer to help families grow in faith and in their desire to serve their Savior. Softcover, 158 pages. **C2201195 - \$15.99**

COMING SOON *5-Minute Bible Studies: For Couples* helps husbands and wives grow closer to God and each other. Written for married couples to help them grow comfortable with discussing and applying God's Word together, this book offers three studies each week for a full year. This new addition to the series provides a great resource to give newlywed couples following marriage counseling. Softcover. **C2201194 Available Fall 2022**



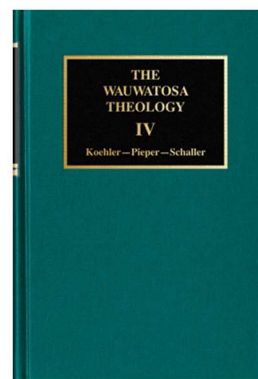
Visit www.nph.net or call 800-662-6022 to order.

For Our Pastors

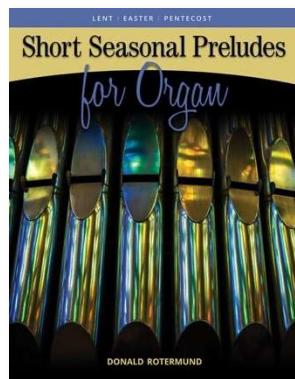


The Scroll of Isaiah: Its Unity, Structure, and Message is a one-volume commentary written by Dr. Seth Erlandsson, a well-published former Director of the Bible Research Centre of the Biblicum Foundation. Dr. Erlandsson focuses on the main topics of Isaiah, the overall structure of the book, misguided theories from modern scholars, and Isaiah's unity in authorship, audience, and message. Hardcover, 307 pages. [C1500830](#) - \$39.99

COMING SOON *The Wauwatosa Theology, Volume IV* continues the collection of German literary work from J.P. Koehler, August Pieper, and John Schaller to help mature and new pastors grow in their theological understanding and spiritual lives. This volume provides interesting insights into American Lutheranism at its watershed. All but one of the featured essays have never before been published in English. Hardcover. **C1500675** Available Fall 2022

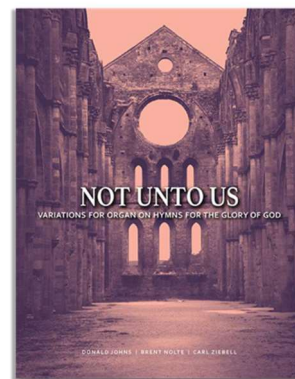


Worship Resources — Keyboard Sheet Music



Short Seasonal Preludes for Organ: Lent, Easter, Pentecost features familiar hymns for Lent, Easter, and Pentecost with these fughetta-style arrangements for organ. 52 pages. [C2700091](#), \$25.00

Not unto Us: Variations for Organ on Hymns for the Glory of God features variations on five hymns glorifying God, including "All Glory Be to God on High" and the new hymn "Before the Throne of God Above." 44 pages. [C2700088](#), \$23.00



NEW *Six Hymn Consolations* by Raymond Haan features six short preludes of well-known hymns for funerals, meditative services, and general use from the Lent, Easter, Redeemer, and Hope and Comfort sections of *Christian Worship: Hymnal* for organ. 24 pages. [C2700090](#), \$19.00

Visit www.nph.net or call 800-662-6022 to order.

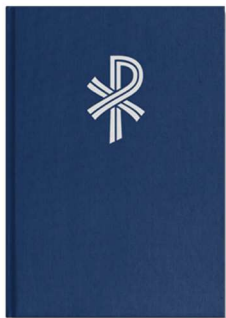
Worship Resources — Choral Music

NEW This choral arrangement of ***I Run to Christ*** by Chris Anderson and Greg Habegger introduces a hymn that is new to *Christian Worship: Hymnal* with piano and optional violin accompaniment. 12 pages. [C2806167](#), \$2.25

NEW Composed by Aaron Keyes and Stuart Townend and arranged by Lynn L. Petersen, ***My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone*** is a comforting piece based on Psalm 62 that features cello and violin parts (available as downloads) along with optional congregational singing. 24 pages. [C2806166](#), \$2.75

NEW Arranged by Linda Moeller for two-part equal voices, ***O God, Be Gracious*** features an optional C instrument part and congregational singing. This simple children's choral piece is a metric paraphrase of Psalm 4 that thanks God for his grace and protection. Download only, 9 pages. [C2809080E](#), \$11.95

Christian Worship Resources



Christian Worship: Hymnal pairs past traditions with the best from new materials to foster joyful worship, prayer, and praise. Featuring over 600 hymns, three setting options for the order of service, and rites, devotions, and canticles, this hymnal feels both familiar and fresh. Hardcover, 1,050 pages. [C0303040](#) - \$24.00

Christian Worship: Psalter features the full text of all 150 psalms, at least two musical settings for each psalm, and more to widen the variety of options for worship services. Hardcover, 860 pages. [C0303043](#) - \$22.00





Designed to assist keyboardists, these volumes contain all of the essential accompaniment scores needed for congregational worship:

Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Services

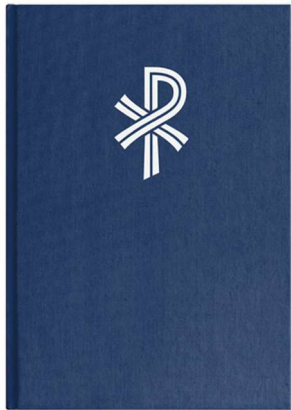
Spiralbound, 592 pages. [C0303045](#) - \$40.00

Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Hymns, Volumes 1, 2, and 3

Spiralbound, 1,547 pages. [C0303044](#) - \$105.00

Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Psalter, Volumes 1 and 2

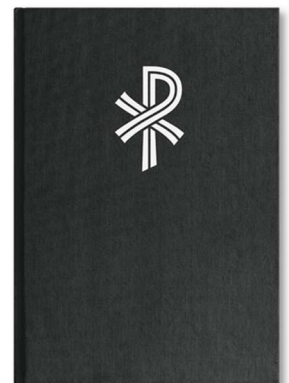
Spiralbound, 1,170 pages. [C0303046](#) - \$70.00



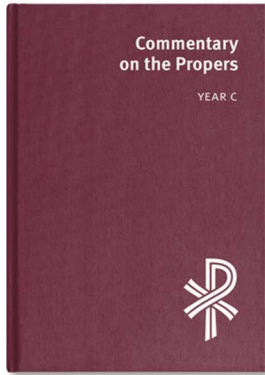
Christian Worship: Altar Book provides pastors with all of the most commonly used orders of service and necessary resources for leading congregations in worship. Hardcover, 405 pages.

[C0303051](#) - \$100.00

Christian Worship: Agenda contains special occasional rites and services that are not found in the Pew Edition or Altar Book, including installations of called workers, new member reception, and building dedication. Hardcover, 149 pages. [C0303052](#) - \$50.00

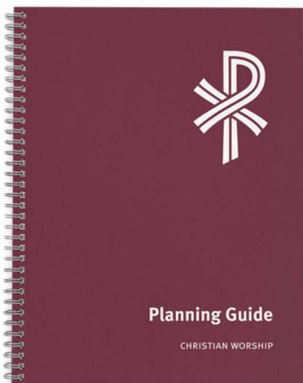
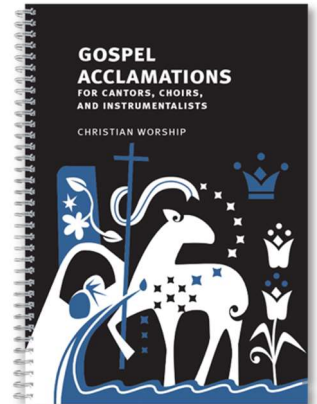


Visit www.nph.net or call 800-662-6022 to order.



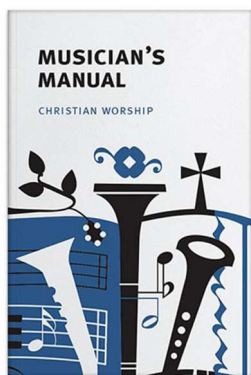
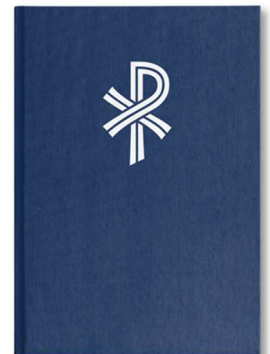
Christian Worship: Commentary on the Propers, Year C provides pastors and other worship planners with commentary on lectionary elements, including prayers of the day; Gospel Acclamations; and Old Testament, epistle, and gospel readings. Hardcover, 377 pages. [C0303049](#) - \$50.00

Christian Worship: Gospel Acclamations for Cantors, Choirs, and Instrumentalists provides the alleluia refrain melody, guitar chords, and full chant harmonization for all the proper verses of the Gospel Acclamations for Years A, B, and C from the lectionary. Spiral bound, 183 pages. [C0303066](#) - \$20.00



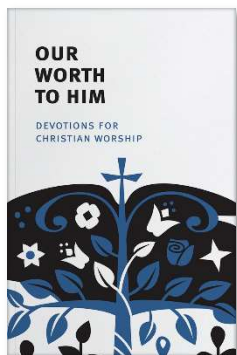
NEW Christian Worship: Planning Guide features a complete Scripture index of 18,000 entries for hymns and hymn suggestions for each Sunday, festival, and appointed lesson, to help pastors and planners outline church services efficiently. Spiralbound. [C0303053](#) - \$35.00

NEW Christian Worship: Pastor's Companion helps pastors minister outside the sanctuary, in places such as private homes or hospitals, and includes a number of intercessory prayers. Pastors can keep this convenient collection of rites in a vehicle or bag for any situation. Hardcover. [C0303054](#) - \$55.00 Available Fall 2022



NEW Christian Worship: Musician's Manual is a helpful aid for musicians and other worship leaders that explains the history, practices, and meanings behind Christian worship as these topics relate to Christian worship principles, the church year, the Divine Service, worship arts, and more. **Encourage your musicians to preorder a copy!** Softcover. [C0303057](#) - \$30.00 Available 2023

Visit www.nph.net or call 800-662-6022 to order.



Our Worth to Him: Devotions for Christian Worship is a collection of brief daily devotions by Pastor Mark Paustian that explore the purpose of worship, the meanings of worship service aspects, and what truly takes place as believers gather in God's house. As you read, you will gain a fresh understanding of the church year, the sacraments, the worship space, and much more. [C0303058](#) - \$15.00

COMING SOON *Christian Worship: Foundations* is a pastor's manual that reviews Bible-based worship principles, practical insights on the use of music and the arts, and commentary for all services in *Christian Worship: Hymnal* and *Christian Worship: Agenda*. **Preorder your copy today!** Spiralbound. **C0303055 - \$35.00**

View all available *Christian Worship* Hymnal Suite volumes at nph.net/hymnorder.

Thank you for your continued support of your synod's publishing house. As our way of saying thank you, here is a special coupon for you! Use it on your next NPH purchase online at nph.net or over the phone at **800-662-6022**.

**save
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WELS Commission on Worship

2022 Supplemental Report to the Twelve Districts

worship.welsrc.net

Our Calling

The Commission on Worship (C/W) exists to help parishes in their central activity of worship that glorifies God and strengthens his people. Music and liturgy consume much of the commission's time, but "worship" includes far more: an interest in the style, the forms, and the setting of worship; in preaching; in liturgical orders and rites; in church music for the congregation, choir, soloists and instruments; in architecture and ecclesiastical arts.

Worship is the heart of all parish life, the time when the greatest number of members gathers to proclaim the gospel and receive God's life-giving power in Word and sacrament. Worship is also a congregation's key point of contact with guests.

If you have never explored the work of the Commission on Worship, you can get a good idea its scope by reviewing content at the Congregational Services website as well as the older Commission on Worship website (above), which still contains the greatest amount of Worship content.

Our Current Situation

Hymnal Project

Most members of the C/W in recent years have been preoccupied with the WELS hymnal project and its several ancillary volumes. This massive project receives only brief mention here since many details about the new hymnal "suite of resources" are available at christianworship.com. This website also gives details about video and other resources designed to help individuals and congregations explore and introduce the new hymnal. These resources were planned for congregations that have already decided to purchase the new hymnal, for those still exploring, and for those who do not expect to begin the process until sometime in the future.



NPH began taking pre-orders in early 2021. Congregations that placed orders before the middle of June received hymnals in fall. In the summer of 2021 the Hymnal Introduction Program in cooperation with "The Foundation" from Congregational Services, released various resources to assist with long range worship planning. These included the new lectionary, hymn suggestions, and plans for both a cautious and a more ambitious introduction of new musical materials. The goal with these plans was to allow each congregation to decide how and when to best use new materials without overtaxing worshipers or accompanists.

The new hymnal suite of resources is available here: online.nph.net/church-supplies/categories/hymnals-songbooks/christian-worship-suite.

As of the end of March 2022, more than half of WELS congregations had begun using new hymnal resources, and more than 400 congregations had subscribed to the *Service Builder* program. For a variety of reasons, adoption of the new hymnal is not expected to be as rapid as adoption of the 1993 hymnal. But thus far adoption of both the hymnal and *Service Builder* are well above projections.

A soft launch of *Musician's Resource* is planned for spring of 2022. This initial release focuses on public domain materials, providing a wide variety of musical scores.

Congregational Services Resource Center

In addition to new hymnal content at christianworship.com, other resources are available at welscongregationalservices.net/hymnal-introduction-resources. These include several video presentations and study packages, introductory scripts, a hymnal dedication rite, and hymn sing and concert videos.

Two of the newest resources are:

- “Just starting to explore the new hymnal?” – available under More Resources at welscongregationalservices.net/hymnal-introduction-resources. This can be especially helpful for a congregation or individual just now starting to explore the new hymnal suite of resources.
- Service Builder orientation videos – available at the website above. Beginning in April a series of tightly scripted videos is being posted. These complement the earlier and longer webinars available at online.nph.net/servicebuilder.

An ongoing feature that began in February of 2022 is “Hymnal Highlights.” These provide commentary and recordings of new hymns that congregations may share by email or social media. The goal is to boost familiarity with and appreciation of the new hymns. The hymns selected are chosen from suggestions in the Year C Planner (available at “The Foundation”).

The C/W office also partnered with WELS Communications to feature during Lent 2022 videos based on “The Seven Words” (CW 436). All seven videos plus two versions of all stanzas in sequence are available here forwardinchrist.net/videos (as well as WELS Facebook).



A Look Ahead

In addition to ongoing resources related to release of the new WELS hymnal, future C/W activity includes:

Beginning in spring of 2022 both *Preach the Word* and *Worship the Lord* will focus on a variety of outreach themes—preaching that raises outreach culture and encourages personal witnessing, and “worship and outreach” stories from a variety of congregations.

The next national worship conference: as of this writing, a date has not been set, whether in 2023 or 2024.

For additional information, contact Rev. Bryan Gerlach, 414-256-3265 or bryan.gerlach@wels.net.

Rev. Bryan Gerlach, reporter

Rev. Jon Zabell, chairman, Green Bay, WI
Rev. Jason Hacker, secretary, Waukesha, WI
Rev. Jacob Behnken, Midland, MI
Mr. Harvey Dunn, Loveland, CO
Teacher Michael Marquardt, St. Paul, MN

Advisory:

Rev. Bryan Gerlach, director
Mr. Jeremy Bakken, Northwestern Publishing House
Prof. Aaron Christie, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Prof. Craig Hirschmann, MLC, New Ulm, MN
Rev. Michael Schultz, Hymnal Project Director



WELS Commission on Evangelism District Convention Update - 2022

Everyone Outreach

Everyone Outreach is a program designed to help congregations build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is thinking about and participating in outreach. The program kicks off with a two-day workshop where participants discover thought habits that may be keeping them and their congregation from reaching out with the gospel as well and as often as they would like. Following the workshop, resources are provided that help create new thought habits resulting in new behaviors and, Lord willing, more outreach.

171 congregations have expressed interest in the program. 10 workshops were held in the Fall of 2021. 27 were held January–May of 2022. 18 workshop facilitators were trained in August 2021, and another 20 were trained in January 2022.

Learn more about *Everyone Outreach* at www.everyoneoutreach.com

Congregational Evangelism Kit

The *Congregational Evangelism Kit* provides video-based training for congregational evangelism leaders and teams. It explains the importance and implementation of tools such as:

- creating a prospect database
- capturing prospect information
- creating a welcoming worship atmosphere
- Come and Go strategies

A pastor or evangelism team can work through the kit, putting each tool in place and, when finished, have all the basic evangelism elements functioning.

The *Congregational Evangelism Kit* is available at <https://welscongregationalservices.net>

One by One

This Bible study is based on Pastor David Rosenau's keynote presentation at the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership in January of 2020. Using powerful personal stories and drawing from his wealth of experience both as a detective and a parish pastor, Pastor Rosenau helps Christians understand why it is so important to see every soul as a treasure and why we want to be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to share the gospel with each one.

One by One is available at <https://welscongregationalservices.net>

Let's Go!

This Bible study provides online, video-based personal witness training. It teaches a simple, three-part approach that any Christian can put into practice. 1) Love the unchurched people God has brought into your life. 2) Listen carefully to their thoughts, beliefs, concerns, etc. 3) Lead them to the gospel. *Let's Go* can be used by both large and small group Bible studies as well as by individual Christians.

Let's Go is available at <https://welscongregationalservices.net>

In Season and Out of Season

This Bible study, based on the Apostle Paul's evangelism experiences in the city of Philippi, seeks to encourage and equip God's people to share the gospel in any and every situation. The three-lesson, video-based bible study can be used in large or small group settings.

In Season and Out of Season is available at www.welscongregationalservices.net.

Christmas Eve and Easter Resources

The Commission on Evangelism provides outreach resources for Christmas Eve and Easter as part of the Congregational Services resource called *The Foundation*. The resources include graphics, a promotional video, postcards, and more.

You can access resources for Easter outreach at <https://welscongregationalservices.net> under *The Foundation*.

WhatAboutJesus.com

WhatAboutJesus.com is an outreach website produced by the Commission on Evangelism. It aims to be a source of information and inspiration for those seeking to know more about the Bible and its message. Congregations are encouraged to make their members aware of it so they can direct unchurched acquaintances to it.

Daily Devotions

Daily Devotions are brief, daily encouragements from God's Word. They are produced both in print as well as via podcast. The devotions appear on the home pages of wels.net and WhatAboutJesus.com. They are also posted on WELS Facebook. Additionally, devotions are sent to about 10,500 e-mail subscribers every day.

Evangelism Certificate Program

The WELS Commission on Evangelism offers evangelism courses through the Martin Luther College online continuing education program. These evangelism courses are intended for laypeople and called workers to help them lead their congregations with planning and implementing efforts to reach more people with the gospel. These courses make up the Evangelism Certificate Program at Martin Luther College. There are three one-credit courses: The Mission of the Church, 2) Practical Evangelism for Congregations, and 3) Friendship Evangelism.

Information is available at www.wels.net/evangelism

School of Outreach

The *School of Outreach* seminar shares key components of a congregational evangelism program. Participants work with workshop leaders to develop outreach plans and strategies. Congregations can contact their district evangelism coordinator to schedule a workshop.

Information is available at www.wels.net/evangelism

Evangelism Day at Martin Luther College

The Commission on Evangelism partners with the faculty of Martin Luther College to enhance the evangelism training of students at the college. In November 2021 the sixteenth annual Evangelism Day was conducted. Students were reminded of the importance of reaching the lost and encouraged to be evangelism influencers in their ministries.

Telling the Next Generation

Telling the Next Generation is a workshop developed by the Commission on Evangelism, the Commission on Lutheran Schools, and Early Childhood Ministry. The program serves congregations with planning, assistance, and resources for the implementation of outreach strategies utilizing a Lutheran elementary school and/or early childhood ministry.

Learn more at www.welscongregationalservices.net

Outreach Newsletters

The Commission on Evangelism annually offers *Outreach Newsletters* to WELS congregations. The newsletters each consist of a devotional article targeted at congregations' prospects. There are twelve newsletters offered each year.

The newsletters can be downloaded, free of charge, at www.welscongregationalservices.net.

Rev. Eric Roecker, reporter

WELS Commission on Evangelism
Rev. Douglas Tomhave, chairman
Rev. Jay Bickelhaupt
Rev. Joseph Fricke

Advisory:
Prof. Samuel Degner, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Rev. Eric Roecker, Director



WELS Historical Institute

Remember the past

May 2022

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

In July 1872, the landscape of the Lutheran church in America was forever changed when six confessional Midwestern Lutheran church bodies founded the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America together. It had not been easy. Our Lutheran forefathers dialogued with one another patiently and persistently to discover, promote, and strengthen among themselves the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. They did this by boldly voicing a common commitment to the holy Scriptures and an unqualified subscription of the Lutheran Confessions. While they realized and confessed that they would never achieve perfect unity this side of heaven, they rejoiced in the fundamental unity that the Spirit had managed to forge between them. That God-given unity prompted them to celebrate their bonds of Christian fellowship and to seek ways to work together in carrying out the kingdom work Jesus has given his Church to do as we await his glorious return.

When Professor Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther stepped into the pulpit of St. John, Milwaukee on July 10, he could not help but express his thanksgiving to God.

Look and see here a multitude of representatives from six church bodies which, only a few years ago, stood opposing one another, as enemies at war—today they praise God and the Father of our LORD JESUS Christ in one spirit with a single voice ... [and gather] to discuss, as fellows in one faith, as sons of one church, and as laborers in one work, in brotherly unity, the means to achieve the single goal that has been placed before them, and that motivates them all as servants and children of one church. O blessed and holy day! Some day even our children and children's children will recount it with joy.

As the children and grandchildren of those “children's children,” the members of the WELS Historical Institute believe it is most fitting to consider what the Lord Jesus accomplished among confessional Lutherans in America in the years leading up to 1872 and to “recount it with joy,” as Walther suggested we ought. In light of his words, **a service of thanksgiving will be held at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church (804 W. Vliet), Milwaukee on Sunday, July 10, 2022, beginning at 2 p.m., as this**

day marks exactly the 150th anniversary of the opening service and first session of the Synodical Conference's inaugural convention. Wisconsin Lutheran College Professor em. Dr. Mark Braun will serve as the preacher. Over the years, Dr. Braun has written extensively on the history of the Synodical Conference, including *A Tale of Two Synods*, which recounts the events that led to the unfortunate demise of the Synodical Conference in the 1960s.

Following the service and **beginning at 3 p.m.**, Pastor Peter M. Prange will be offering a **presentation entitled "The Synodical Conference: Founded on Fundamental Unity,"** which briefly outlines the rationale and history of the Synodical Conference's founding in 1872. He will share details of his extensive research into the doctrine and practice of church fellowship among those Lutherans who founded the member synods and the Synodical Conference, as well as some of the doctrinal and practical concerns that brought them together as one. He is in the process of publishing three volumes entitled *Wielding the Sword of the Spirit*, which recount this history and grapple with the principles and practice of church fellowship that were enunciated and employed by our Synodical Conference forefathers. You may be surprised by what you find out. We invite you to participate in his presentation and consider what he has discovered and uncovered.

If you are unable to attend this special event, both the service and the presentation will be video-recorded and made available on the **new WELS Historical Institute website** that is currently under construction. The institute's plan and prayer is to have the website operational by early July. You'll be able to find it at www.historywels.org or www.welshistoricalinstitute.org.

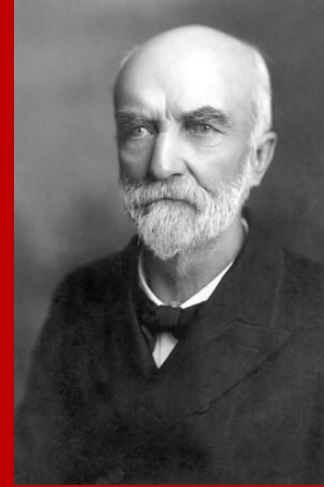
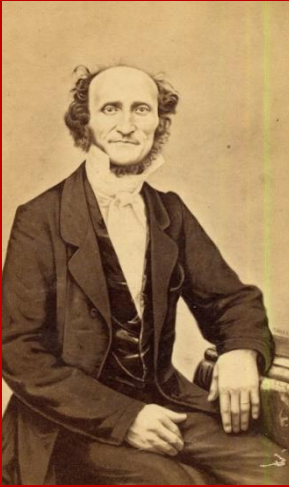
We at the WELS Historical Institute look forward to seeing you at St. John, Milwaukee on Sunday, July 10 to celebrate with us this momentous event in American Lutheran history!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rev. Benjamin P. Schaefer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Rev.", "Benjamin", and "Schaefer" being capitalized and prominent.

Rev. Benjamin P. Schaefer

WELS Historical Institute Promotions Committee, Chairman



THE SYNODICAL CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

On July 10, 1872, Professor Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther stepped into the pulpit at Pastor Johann Bading's church, St. John, Milwaukee, and exclaimed, "O blessed and holy day!" He was preaching the opening sermon at the inaugural convention of the **Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America** and expressing his unmitigated joy that he had lived to see this day. With the Spirit's help, six confessional Lutheran church bodies in the American Midwest had forged a gospel ministry partnership that could and would have a profound impact on American and world Lutheranism for decades.

But had these synods discovered complete doctrinal agreement? They hadn't, nor did they expect to find it. Instead, the Synodical Conference was founded on what Walther described as "fundamental unity," as Pastor Peter M. Prange will explain in his presentation **"The Synodical Conference: Founded on Fundamental Unity"** to mark the 150th anniversary of the Synodical Conference's first convention. How did our forefathers define fundamental unity? Come and find out.

A **service of thanksgiving** will precede the presentation. Professor em. Dr. Mark Braun, Wisconsin Lutheran College, will serve as the preacher. Dr. Braun has written extensively on the history of the Synodical Conference.



Where: St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
804 W. Vliet Street
Milwaukee, Wis.

When: Sunday, July 10, 2022
Service of Thanksgiving – 2 p.m.
Presentation – 3 p.m.



"You hear about things that WELS Christian Aid and Relief is doing in Africa for communities that really have a need, and that community then is also hearing the gospel from the people who are there to help them out. The support that we can give through a charitable gift annuity will help provide that, and that's something that can be carried on after we're in heaven." —**ARNIE NOMMENSEN**

After 35 years of teaching, retired WELS member Arnie Nommensen began serving in a different way: as a WELS Christian giving counselor.

In his role, Arnie met a WELS member who made quite an impression on him. This member had seen firsthand the blessings of charitable gift annuities, so Arnie helped this believer set up multiple charitable gift annuities to leave a legacy of faith. Motivated by this example and out of thankfulness for God's blessings, Arnie knew that setting up charitable gift annuities to support the Lord's work was also right for him and his wife, Carol. They knew that long after they are in heaven, their charitable gift annuities will continue to support the ministries they love, like providing physical and spiritual support in Africa through WELS Christian Aid and Relief.



WELS Foundation helps God's people support the ministries they care about.

One of those ways is through a **charitable gift annuity**, which can provide quarterly income payments for life, in addition to significant tax benefits. When the Lord calls you home, the remainder will be distributed to the ministry or ministries of your choosing. **WELS Foundation can assist donors through every step of setting up a charitable gift annuity.**

Learn how a charitable gift annuity can benefit ministry:



- Scan the QR code to watch the video of Arnie and Carol's full story
- Visit **wels.net/charitable-gift-annuity**
- Contact your local WELS Christian giving counselor at **mcg@wels.net** or **800-827-5482**
- Visit **wels.net/givingcounselors**

Since 1997, WELS Investment Funds has been providing investment portfolios for the benefit of WELS, its schools, its congregations, and other affiliated organizations



The benefits of WELS Investment Funds to ministry

If your congregation has or is looking to start an endowment or scholarship fund, or has other long-term investment needs and are looking for more information, WELS Investment Funds may be right for you.

WELS Investment Funds currently manages approximately \$300 million in assets, which includes \$77 million for 245 congregations and WELS-affiliated ministries. **By pooling our God-given talents and resources, we can take advantage of lower-cost, institutionally priced investment opportunities that are not available to smaller investment accounts.** As more congregations and organizations invest in WELS Investment Funds, the cost-reduction benefits increase.

Reacting to market volatility *by Bill Burns, CFA, senior investment consultant at Vanguard*

- Market downturns aren't rare events. You will likely endure many of them in your lifetime.
- Losses can sting, but it's important to keep a long-term perspective if you don't need the money soon.
- Timing the market is futile. The best and worst trading days happen close together.
- Staying the course (and rebalancing) can pay off. But altering your asset allocation can be costly. (Please note: We continue to monitor and rebalance the WELS Funds as needed.)



Visit wels.net/welsfunds or scan the QR code to read Vanguard's article "How to react when markets drop."

WELS Funds returns* as of March 31, 2022

TOTAL RETURN %	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	1 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR
WELS Balanced Fund	-6.26%	-3.66%	-0.01%	8.68%	7.88%
TOTAL RETURN %	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	10 YEAR
WELS Endowment Fund	-6.47%	-3.21%	0.89%	11.63%	N/A

Both the Balanced Fund and Endowment Fund are suitable for long-term investment needs, such as scholarship and endowment funds. The Balanced Fund is comprised of approximately 60% equity and 40% fixed income, and the Endowment Fund is comprised of approximately 75% equity and 25% fixed income.

*Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The performance data is current as of March 31, 2022, and is subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions. Participating in WELS Funds is subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested. Withdrawals are payable by WELS Funds exclusively from the net assets of WELS Funds. Accounts are not protected or insured by the FDIC or SIPC and are not guaranteed by WELS or any other person or entity.

Learn how WELS Investment Funds can benefit your ministry:

- Visit wels.net/welsfunds
- Contact Executive Director Jim Holm at jim.holm@wels.net or 414-256-3206



THE VALUE OF A WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE EDUCATION

Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) generously invests in making a Christian college experience affordable because we know the positive impact WLC graduates are making around the world.

PARTNERS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

A \$2,000 renewable scholarship will be given to students who graduate from a Christian high school and enroll at WLC.

MERIT AWARDS

Merit Awards for qualifying freshmen enrolling in Fall 2022 will range from \$10,000 to \$18,000 per year, based on GPA and optional test scores, for a lifetime value of \$40,000 to \$72,000. Learn more at wlc.edu/scholarships.

NATIONALLY RANKED

WLC is ranked 18th in the nation by *Washington Monthly* in its 2021 listing of Bachelor's Colleges. The publication also included WLC in its ranking of **Best Bang for the Buck Colleges**; WLC is 15th on a list of 371 ranked schools in the Midwest.

For 2022, *U.S. News & World Report* rates WLC as one of the Top 20 Regional Colleges in the Midwest. WLC also was included in the *U.S. News* rankings for **Best Value Schools**, ranked 14th among Regional Colleges in the Midwest.



Greetings from your ministry partners at Wisconsin Lutheran College! I pray that God richly blesses your service and fellowship at your WELS District Convention this summer.

For 50 years, Wisconsin Lutheran College has prepared students to embrace their faith and step into the world as devoted Christian servant leaders. During their time at WLC, students grow both spiritually and academically, encouraged by faculty and staff dedicated to helping students realize their God-given purpose.

WLC is an independent college affiliated with the WELS; as your partner we train the future lay leaders of our church. At Commencement this past May, we sent our largest graduating class ever of Christian business leaders, nurses, healthcare professionals, artists, computer scientists, and more into the world to impact and influence their workplaces, communities, and families.

We thank God for your partnership, and may He continue to bless our ministry!

In Christ's Service,

Dr. Daniel W. Johnson
President, Wisconsin Lutheran College



The WLC Class of 2022 was comprised of students from 20 states representing 41 academic programs. WLC's 18 nursing grads (above) will begin serving in healthcare settings this summer while preparing to take the NCLEX exam.



WLC's psychology grads (above), who ranked in the 93rd percentile nationwide in the ETS Major Field of Study in Psychology test, plan to enter a wide range of fields including speech pathology, music therapy, neuroscience, criminal justice, case management, and clinical mental health counseling.



Furthering Their EDUCATION

More than 30 members of WLC's Class of 2022 will continue their education in a variety of fields this fall. A few examples: **Grant Hammer** (shown second from right with graduating members of the men's golf team) will pursue a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder. This summer he is interning with the Air Force Research Lab in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Abigail Raasch will begin graduate studies this fall at Palmer College of Chiropractic. This summer she is serving at an orphanage in Uganda.

Sandhya Akella (pictured) will be pursuing a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.



National CHAMPIONSHIP

WLC seniors **Sam Rodmyre** (pictured below) and **Kendra Schumacher**, along with the Women's 4x400m Relay, qualified for the 2022 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships in May. The relay team (pictured above) of sophomore **Anna Raasch**, Schumacher, junior **Grace Weide**, and junior **Brooke Graesslin** finished 12th in the nation. Rodmyre, who will attend medical school this fall, finished 16th in the decathlon. Schumacher earned her second All-American honor this year with a fourth-place finish in the 200m final. She finished ninth in the 100m final.



Chalk Art EXHIBITION

The WLC Art Department held a chalk-drawing contest in April. Student artwork - which reflected the theme of "Peace" - lined the walkway in front of Generac Hall. Pictured above are WLC Professor of Art **Kristin Gjerdset** with her Ukrainian sunflower artwork and alumna **Lenka (Steffelova) Wendland '01**, who judged the student competition.

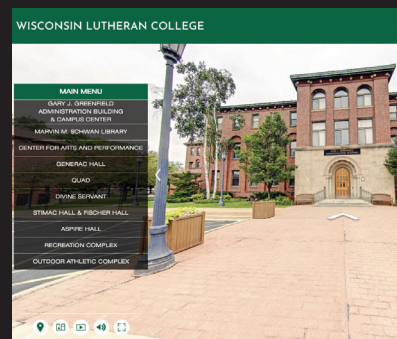


Marine Biology FIELD RESEARCH

WLC professors **Dr. Ethan Degner** and **Courtney Moll '09** took eight students to Florida in January to participate in marine biology research. The trip tied together work that students are doing at WLC successfully growing coral in the marine biology lab. Students are conducting additional marine biology research in Grenada this summer.



Virtual TOUR



Interested in learning more about Wisconsin Lutheran College? Visit wlc.edu/tour to watch an intro video of our campus and to take a virtual tour. We encourage you to share this link with students who may be interested in exploring WLC.



Shining the light of Jesus' love on walled-in souls of our communities

Executive Director Report

June 2022

While working on an Acts 5 sermon text, I noticed a pattern.
It could be our motto. WOW!

Wonders
Opposition
Witness

- God works wonders as he displays his power.
- Satan opposes God's work. Sometimes he stirs up enemies. Other times we are God's latest Job, God's shaming of Satan.
- God's children see the big picture which unbelievers can't see – God is at work through it all. They witness to the world. "WOW! What God has done!"

When we are in the midst of COVID, struggling with cancer, burying our loved one, or dealing with the latest restriction limiting our access or distribution of materials, it may be hard or impossible to see anything good in the situation. Yet our faith knows this great Biblical truth: God is unfailingly at work. He works wonders, he wins, and we are his witnesses.

Viewing the last two years through the eyes of faith, we see God working faith in hearts because of COVID, making us closer and stronger through cancer, making heaven all the more real through death, and strengthening our resolve to tell others while there is still time.

- New volunteers have come forth to fill needed positions.
- Work is flourishing in jails that have re-opened.
- As I write this, GraceLinks devotional email ministry has grown to a "congregation" of 520 souls.
- This email ministry has also grown into a print ministry, and we are preparing our second printing of devotions for delivery to IM and Texas, where one of the largest prisons in America is being served.
- Donor response to recent visits was strong.
- IM's new website is finished, and social media relationships continue to grow. Our reach includes Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Our strategic planning is progressing. Expect a recommendation from the Ministry Planning committee. They have been vetting leadership teams to help us.

This process will include collecting StrengthFinders information as needed. By assessing Board and Staff gifts and communicating together, we can better examine future needs. We hope that together, we can:

- Determine both the needs of IM's future and the strengths each individual possesses;
- Like connecting puzzle pieces, we want to place each individual where their gifts are best suited for service.
- Help each individual anticipate where they would like to be in the future, in the big picture of IM's structure; and
- Create an atmosphere where joy accompanies faithfulness and satisfaction, encouraging accountability.

May all our work bring God glory.

– Phil Henselin



Shining the light of Jesus' love on walled-in souls of our communities!

First Quarter 2022

Front-Line Worker Support*

When I arrived, she was screaming at the officer, and had even attacked him. I was proud of the officer. He kept a cool head. He told her, "I know you are upset. I know this is a difficult situation. This is the chaplain. If you will talk to him, I'm going to forget that you assaulted an officer."

Chaplains serve the public, helping both the individual and the one in authority, by bringing a caring heart. Chaplains are the hands and feet of Jesus, walking wherever there is pain. Most Front-Line Workers also have a caring heart, but often they can't express it as directly, because they are busy providing protection, stopping a problem, controlling the situation, and providing life-saving care.

Institutional Ministries is a liaison to your congregation, to provide help in reaching people behind walls. You probably don't think of Front-Line Workers as people behind walls. Neither do they. That's part of what makes it so hard for them to reach out for help when they, themselves, are in need. Being a Front-Line Worker makes one especially susceptible to moral injury and PTSD. If you have built a relationship with them in the past, it greatly increases the likelihood they will seek you out when they have need.

Have You Thanked Them?

Have you thanked them lately, for keeping a cool head when others let emotions rule, and for running into the very situations from which most of us would flee?

Your congregation probably did a lot of evangelism planning around Easter. One of your goals was community awareness. The month of May is a perfect opportunity to carry that to another step, both serving those who serve you, while providing powerful community awareness for your church.

May 1-7	Public Service Recognition Week Correctional Officer Appreciation Week
May 1-31, 2022	Military Appreciation Month
May 4:	International Firefighters Day (Permanent)
May 6:	National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Military Spouse Appreciation Day National Nurses Day (permanent)
May 6-10:	National Nurses Week

May 11-27, 2022	National Police Week
May 15-23, 2022	EMS Week
May 21, 2022	Armed Forces Day (Saturday)
May 30 & 31:	Memorial Day
October 28	National First Responders Day (Permanent)

It's Not Too Late

You may be thinking that it is too late this year, but think again. You aren't going to cancel Easter because you didn't buy door hangers. In the same way, you can start this year – even if it is only a prayer in church – and flesh it out more for the following year, building consistency into your plan.

What are some ways that you might be a servant to those who serve? To find out, interview them. Find out what would work for them and what they might appreciate most.

- Fundraise and buy needed equipment.
- Do a barbeque or other lunch. Invite the First-Responder group you choose and the public.
- Provide store-bought goodies for their break room.
- Give them gift cards for pizza with their family.
- The possibilities are as varied as your community, the group you want to recognize this year, and their respective situation.

You could also turn this into an educational situation. Institutional Ministries can provide a discussion on helping people with addiction, grief, moral injury, and PTSD. It is a great way to promote community awareness of the difficulty of the First-Responder's job, while offering future support.

Can This Really Work?

We offer you two strong examples of a local pastor having done this in his community. Contact these men. Ask them to tell you what they did, and why they believe it was a blessing to both congregation and community.

- Pastor Paul Schupmann – St. John, Juneau, WI
- Pastor Robert Dick – Divinity Divine Charity in Whitefish Bay, WI

God bless our joint efforts to share Christ with hurting hearts. – Phil

Pastor Philip Henselin, Executive Director

*This encouragement comes on behalf of both Institutional Ministries and The Association of WELS Chaplains (TAWC).

Where the Care of Soul is the Soul of Care

TLHA Quarterly Special Edition: Summer 2022

Connected through Prayer Requests

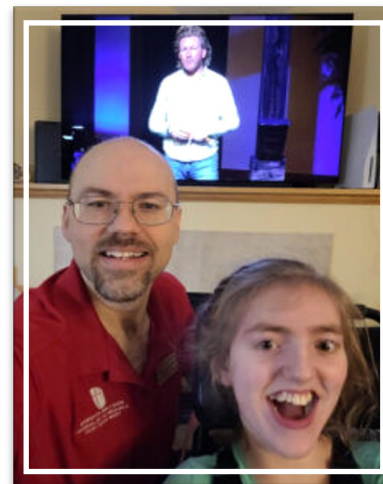
“But God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.” (Psalm 66:19)

There is a specific time within Jesus Cares Ministries Worship at the Cross services for attendees to request prayers, and worship organizers discussed how this could be accomplished during Facebook Live’s online streamed services.

Throughout the live services, Staff Minister Michael Hennig encourages online watchers to leave prayer requests in the comments.

During each live service, viewers can see each other’s prayer requests, and Staff Minister Michael can share the prayers directly with the Lord.

Moriah, a 13-year-old who has cerebral palsy, and her dad, Pastor Patrick Feldhus (also one of our JCM consultants and chaplain at Hope Residence), often share their prayers in the comments section.



“She gets excited when the service begins,” her dad explained. **“But her excitement goes through the roof when Staff Minister Michael says her name and fulfills her prayer request.”**



Watch now! To see video of Moriah’s prayer requests being fulfilled, visit bit.ly/Moriah_video.

Moriah, along with other JCM participants, greatly benefit from Worship at the Cross ONLINE and the other online resources.

“She can never get enough of God’s Word. JCM’s online resources are beneficial to Moriah and help her connect to people she would otherwise not have any connection with until she meets them in heaven,” said Pastor Patrick. **“We have rewatched the online services on many occasions, since it is a way to help her calm down.”**

There is nothing quite like the joy expressed when individuals with special needs, like Moriah, are included and come together to praise God and hear the Gospel in a fun and meaningful way.

Thanks to the work of JCM, more people than ever are getting the chance to experience that joy.



Shine your light by volunteering with a local JCM program.
Find a program near you by visiting tlha.org.



Mark Hayes | Interim CEO
Rev. Joel Gaertner | VP of Ministry

THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION



Mentorship program at Heritage Homes leads to new hire

At Heritage Homes, Casey Schuett, Campus Administrator, and DesiRae Bliefernicht, Human Resources Manager, brainstormed ways to showcase their care community as an employer in the Watertown, Wis. community.

DesiRae reached out to the local high school to explore potential partnerships for students, and she connected with the teacher of a health observations course.

"We were grateful to hear back right away," said DesiRae. "As part of the class, students can shadow within local healthcare organizations. This type of engagement fits perfectly with what we were hoping to do."

Each week, a student from the class spends an hour a day at Heritage Homes.

"Typically, the student spends Monday with me. I will give a tour and go over what my job is," explained Casey. "The rest of the week varies but usually includes spending time in activities, human resources, nursing, and direct care. We also try to plan it depending on what the student's interests are."

In addition to highlighting Heritage Homes as an employer with a great work environment, team members hope to encourage young people to consider a future career in healthcare. The partnership encourages high school students to consider part-time opportunities once they turn 18.



"We hope to show individuals considering the field what this industry is like, helping them prepare and have an idea of what a future career might look like."

-Casey Schuett,
Campus Administrator



No matter your age, now is a great time to become a part of the team at TLHA care community. Apply at tlha.org/careers.

Mark Hayes named Interim Chief Executive Officer

We are pleased to announce Mark Hayes will serve as the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Lutheran Home Association effective Friday, May 20, 2022.

"I am so honored to be asked to lead The Lutheran Home Association," said Mark. "I look forward to serving the team members, residents, and families of this special ministry."

Mark has been on the executive leadership team since 2017 in the role of the VP of Mission Advancement and then as the President of Ministry since 2020. Mark has a rich background in outreach, strategic planning, ministry development, and leadership.

He earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin, and a Master of Divinity from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin.





CRIBBAGE CONTINUES TO BE A GOOD WAY TO VISIT WITH RESIDENTS WHILE BRINGING BACK MEMORIES OF THE TIMES I SPENT WITH NICK.

-Pastor Kenley Mann, Chaplain at Wellhaven Senior Living

Jesus' gift of eternal life

As a chaplain at Wellhaven Senior Living, Pastor Kenley Mann spends one-on-one time with each resident. He often brings along a cribbage board in the hopes that they might be able to play a game together. There's something special about Pastor Mann's cribbage board. It is homemade and was gifted to Pastor Mann from a Wellhaven resident, Nick Huttner, who was called home to heaven in 2020.

Pastor Mann learned that Nick had grown up Catholic but after joining the military had no church home and thus stopped hearing God's Word. The conversations would jump back and forth from humorous to serious.

During one of the games, Nick asked, **"Pastor, is Jesus my Savior because He showed me how to live or because He did everything for me?"** It was a joy for Pastor Mann to explain how Jesus had done everything for him to give eternal life to Nick as His gift.



Nick may be in Heaven but his legacy will live on in the memories of all who knew him. The Lutheran Home Association cares for souls like Nick. Learn more at tlha.org.



DON'T SELL YOUR PROPERTY

until you've considered all your options

Avoid the hassle of selling your property or land by making a charitable gift to The Lutheran Home Association. Your gift will advance our ministry to share Christ's love with people entrusted to our care.

Contact our Mission Advancement office at (952) 873-4744 to learn more.

COMMUNITIES AND PROGRAMS

Boessling Village Apartments,
Belle Plaine, MN

Faith Residence, Belle Plaine, MN

Heritage Homes, Watertown, WI

Highland Regency House,
New Ulm, MN

Hope Residence, Belle Plaine, MN

Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM),
Belle Plaine, MN

Kingsway Retirement Living,
Belle Plaine, MN

St. Michael's Assisted Living,
Fountain City, WI

The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine,
Belle Plaine, MN

Wellhaven Senior Living,
River Falls, WI

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Bruce Becker, Rev. John Boeder, Jeff Davis, Lowell Hoffman (Board Chair), Jon Maertz, Rev. Michael Muehlenhardt, Randy Niemann, Rev. Matthew Rauh (Vice Chair), Tim Schuth (Treasurer) and Lance Schwartz (Secretary).



THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION

SOULS CHANGED



Elizbeth, a volunteer at Wellhaven Senior Living, shares her time assisting our residents and team members within our care community. *"I've volunteered all my life and never felt so appreciated and welcomed. It's a privilege getting to know all the residents over these past years. A treasure of historic stories."*



Thanks to St. Michael's Assisted Living, Ken Haeuser can continue to live in the Fountain City community he has always called home. *"To come to a place like this to get better has been a blessing."*



Amy, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine leads an activity pairing physical activities with music. *"It's a joy to be a part of. What is wonderful about music is that anyone can participate, and music is something that your soul never forgets. The activities bring smiles and laughter to the residents."*

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Statements reflect fiscal year
Oct. 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021.



1,209

Lives impacted through
our health care,
housing services
and outreach ministries.



3,418

participants in
Jesus Cares
Ministries

Learned about God's
saving grace.



~ 1,645

chaplain visits
each month

Average number of visits
with residents by our
pastors through
the chaplaincy program.

More than...



2,840

volunteer hours

Generously donated to our
programs and care communities.



775

team
members

Part of the local economies
of six communities in two states.



1,273

cheerful givers

Shared eternal hope,
provided, and inspired hope.



95

veterans

Served on our team,
received care, or called a
TLHA community home.



100 attendees

Heard the message "It's Alzheimer's — It's Time for
Extraordinary Love," by Rev. Curt Seefeldt.



YOU'RE NOT ALONE - WE CAN HELP -

YOUR NEED

Hard questions need thoughtful answers. New challenges need new approaches. And sometimes old problems need a fresh – or more seasoned – perspective. Your ministry today is bumping up more and more against complicated issues of life, family, marriage, and sexuality, and it's hard to keep up with them all.

THE ISSUES

(Here is a sampling) Abortion, neonatal care, pregnancy, birth control, infertility, adoption, sexuality issues, health care, genetic engineering, vaccinations, organ/tissue transplantation, palliative care, end-of-life issues, church-state concerns, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, ethical/bioethical quandaries *(and the list keeps growing)*

OUR TEAM



Rev. Robert
Fleischmann
National Director



Rev. Jeff Samelson
*Director of Ministry
Advancement*



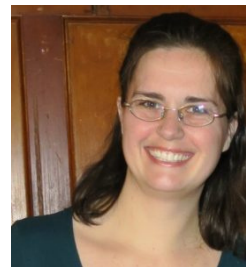
Mrs. Brittany
Jahns
*Donor Relations
Associate*



Mrs. Diane
Fleischmann
*Information
Services
Coordinator*



Mrs. Casey Stanke
*Creative Content
Director*



Mrs. Jennifer
Bloomier
Office Manager

LET US LEND A HAND

CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES stands with you in facing and understanding these challenges. We specialize in researching not just the latest concerns, but also the ones around the corner. We study the issues and then cast them before the light of Scripture so that we might provide God-pleasing counsel on them to the church as a whole and to you in your ministry. (See the next page for resources you can use right now – including our new podcast.)

8 IMMEDIATE RESOURCES



INSTANT RESOURCES:

- 1) **Visit:** christianliferesources.com
- 2) **Receive Email Updates:**
christianliferesources.com/contact/



CONGREGATION RESOURCES:

- 3) **Material for Life Celebration Event:**
christianliferesources.com/resources/celebration-of-life-materials/
- 4) **Request a Preacher/Presenter:**
christianliferesources.com/resources/events/request-a-speaker/



CHRISTIAN LIVING RESOURCES:

- 5) **Weekly Podcast:**
christianliferesources.com/life-challenges-podcast/
- 6) **Christian Medical Directive Statement:**
christianliferesources.com/resources/christian-medical-directives/
- 7) **Educational Materials:**
christianliferesources.com/downloadable-brochures/
(many are available as a free PDF or for purchase)



SCHOOL RESOURCE:

- 8) **School Mission Materials:**
christianliferesources.com/school-missions



PERSONALIZED ASSISTANCE

Email Us: info@christianliferesources.com
Call Us: 414-376-0594 | 1-800-729-9535

Healing & Helping Ministry Update

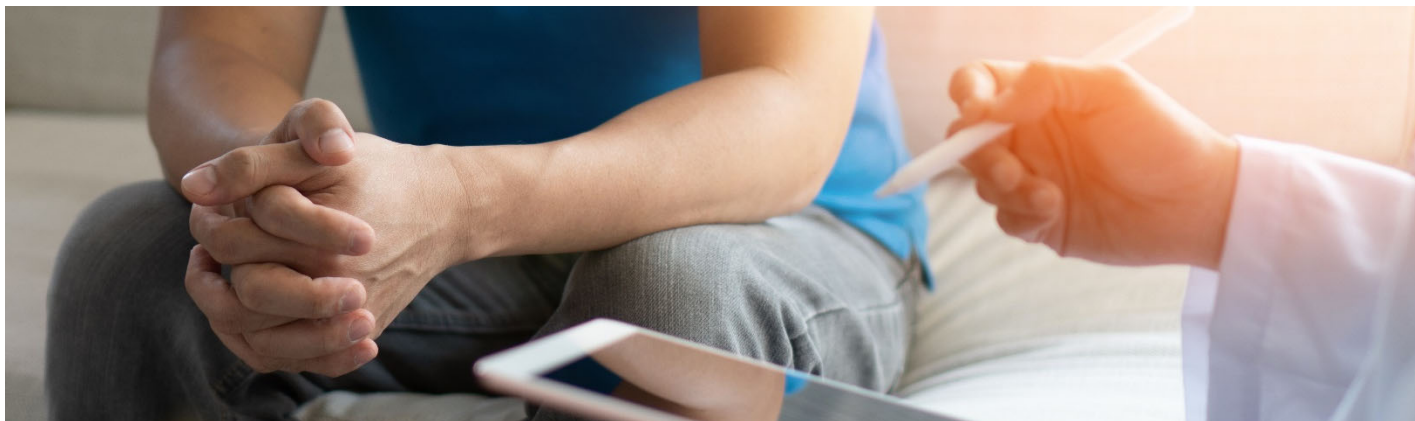
Christ-centered mental health and wellness resources | 2022 Report to WELS District Conventions

The Front Lines of Spiritual and Mental Health

The uncertainty in our society since 2020 has brought about a pandemic of a different sort – one related to spiritual and mental health. **Christian Family Solutions** is a counseling care and services agency with more than 110 mental health counselors and professionals who serve many hurting people. As a WELS parasynodical, we are a trusted source for **excellent mental health care that is integrated with the truth of God's Word**.

We model our mental health care after Jesus' ministry. We offer excellent clinical care that addresses the needs of the body and mind, and we address the spiritual needs of flawed human beings who need to be assured of grace, mercy, and peace from a loving Savior.

When individuals or families face a mental health challenge, pastors and teachers are the front-line resources. Our called workers often need assistance if treatment beyond pastoral care is required. **That's where we come in.** We support congregations and schools as they wrap their arms around their members and students with mental health challenges, as well as the families that are profoundly affected.



Connect with Christian Family Solutions

- During business hours, the CFS staff can talk with you about care options available at CFS, including outpatient counseling, mental wellness and skills groups, and Intensive Outpatient Programs — a higher level of care that provides the necessary intervention when symptoms are escalating.
 - NOTE: The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in emotional distress 24 hours a day at **800-273-8255**.
- If a congregation is part of our Member Assistance Program, that congregation's members can receive a referral to CFS through the pastor. Visits can be arranged in person or through secure video.
- Visit **ChristianFamilySolutions.org** for information and helpful resources.

Particular challenges for teens

“The challenges today’s generation of young people face are unprecedented and hard to navigate. The effect these challenges have had on their mental health is devastating.”

- December 7, 2021, U.S. Surgeon General advisory report, [“Protecting Youth Mental Health”](#)

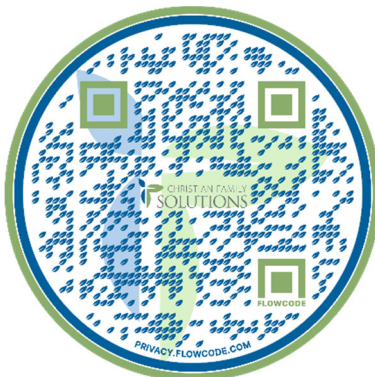
Our teens in particular are presenting with more acute symptoms and need referrals to quality Christian mental health care. Too often, we see that parents wait too long before referring a teen to professional care. **We’ve created programming for our teens that addresses this acute need and is accessible anywhere in Wisconsin and Minnesota.**

ARMOR for Teens is an intensive treatment program offered in person at our Lakeville or Mankato (Minnesota) clinics, our Brookfield (Wisconsin) clinic, or online in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. The online program works well in cooperation with school coursework and activities, or for those who are not near a treatment facility. **To refer students to counseling or to ARMOR for Teens, call 800-438-1772.**



How can we work together toward better spiritual and mental health?

- **REFER people in need to Christian Family Solutions.** CFS provides professional mental health outpatient counseling, school-based counseling, day treatment and intensive outpatient programs through our clinics in 7 states, at partner schools, and through secure telehealth services.
- **PRAY for our ministry as we strive to serve more and more hurting clients.** Your prayers and your referrals will help connect individuals and families to true healing, help, and hope.
- **ASK the Lord to send more workers!** One of our greatest limitations is the availability of Christian mental health care professionals. **If you know a Christian mental health professional who may be interested in working with us**, please contact us or visit www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org/careers.
- **DONATE to support our ministry.** Your gifts help us grow access and remove barriers to care.



Scan and view our 2022 Ministry Overview Video here.

Thank you for your partnership!

T:admin-hq/marketing/allcollateralsinventory



800 438-1772 | ChristianFamilySolutions.org

W175 N11120 Stonewood Drive • Germantown, WI 53022

 **CHRISTIAN FAMILY
SOLUTIONS**
Counseling Care & Services

I Am a Pioneer.

Who is a Girl Pioneer?

We are dancers & writers. We are teens & first graders. We live with our parents & with our grandparents. We go to Lutheran Day Schools & to public schools. We love horses & the theater. We study & we play. We are campers & bakers. We live in big cities & rural farm communities. We play soccer & sing in choir. We are best friends & sisters.

We are Christians who love to learn about our Savior & love to share Him.

We are
Girl Pioneers.

***Loyal to
Christ***



For more information about the
Lutheran Girl Pioneers, please contact:

Lutheran Girl Pioneers
Christine Bohn, Executive Director
W10376 Buttercup Lane
Wautoma, WI 54982
608-781-5232
girlpioneers@gmail.com

Why Should My Congregation Have a Lutheran Girl Pioneers Caravan?

Lutheran Girl Pioneers (LGP) provides opportunities for our girls, ages Kindergarten through high school, to discover and develop interests in leadership, personal awareness, evangelism, nature, skills for independent living and so much more! The benefits girls receive from LGP go beyond the fun, fellowship and learning and extend to their living a Christ-centered life within their family, church, school and community.

The Lutheran Girl Pioneer program is available to all girls of WELS or ELS congregations. LGP strives to inspire our girls to realize the joy of a Christ-centered life, living the LGP motto: "Loyal to Christ."

Starting a caravan is easy- give a call to the National Office and talk with Christine. She'll walk you through everything that needs to be done.

Lutheran Girl Pioneers will be a blessing not only for the girls you will serve, but also for the leaders and other adults involved. Through planning and executing each meeting, the leaders are in the Word. Some congregations also use Lutheran Girl Pioneers as an outreach tool, inviting the community to join their group, which begins with the girls themselves, but also leads families to your congregation.

There are "levels" within the LGP program: Sunbeams are Kindergarteners through second graders; Travelers are third and fourth graders; Trailblazers are fifth and sixth graders; Homesteaders are seventh and eighth graders; Spinners are girls who have been confirmed; Junior Leaders are high school aged girls ready to help lead. Girls earn charms for a bracelet when they complete each level and when they complete Special Achievements.

We would love to share with you more information about this vital program! It's through the love of our Savior that we serve and we want to serve your congregation, too! Please don't hesitate to contact the National Office with any questions you may have or to request more information.

Lutheran Girl Pioneers, W10376 Buttercup Lane, Wautoma, WI 54982
608-781-5232 girlpioneers@gmail.com



June 2022 District News from the Wartburg Project



Showers of Blessing

I will make them and the area around my hill a blessing. I will send the rain showers, down in their season. They will be showers of blessing (Ezekiel 34:26).

Our basic suite of EHV products is now complete. For showers of blessings, read:

- the basic print Bible from Northwestern Publishing House;
- the print study Bible from Northwestern Publishing House;
- the Microsoft EHV Computer Study Bible from the Microsoft Store;
- the Logos version of the EHV Study Bible available from Faithlife;
- a condensed Bible, *the Story of God's Love*, from NPH;
- a harmony of the Gospels, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ*, from NPH;
- EHV versions of Luther's Small Catechism from NPH and the ELS Bookstore.
- Other works available for free on the Wartburg Project website include a collection of Passion Histories and the lectionaries commonly used in WELS and the LCMS, including the readings for use with the new WELS hymnal.
- There are metric versions of the EHV available for our overseas users.

Spread the Word.

Widening Circles

We have given permission or licenses for use of the EHV in many projects, small and large, and are always open to proposals.

We recently granted a license to a missionary society in Hong Kong to print copies of the Gospels of John and Luke for free distribution for evangelism. John's Gospel is in print and is being distributed in Hong Kong and the UK.

There is a Swedish version of our Passion History, and our catalog for composers is being used in Sweden as well as in the United States.

To our knowledge the *Concordia Commentary: Deuteronomy* by Adolph Harstad of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is the first in-depth exegetical commentary to make extensive use of the EHV. A podcast dealing with this commentary is available at podcasts.cph.org and in all the usual podcast platforms. Harstad is also the author of the *Concordia Commentary: Joshua* from the pre-EHV era.

Daniel Deutschlander's popular commentary on Mark's Gospel from Northwestern is, to our knowledge, the first commentary based on the EHV translation. We hope for many more.





Arizona-California DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

May 10, 2022

Brothers in Christ-

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

Greetings from the Arizona-California District! We cherish the bond of faith that unites us together in Christ, along with our partnership in the Gospel. It is our prayer that the Lord edify each and every one of you through worship and study at your upcoming conventions.

The Arizona-California District is planning to meet June 13-15, 2022 at the Embassy Suites in Scottsdale, AZ. The theme of our convention is *Rejoice in the Lord Always*. Prof. David Scharf (professor of theology at Martin Luther College) will deliver the keynote address, *Giving to God Our All, Our Best*.

May the Lord bless your time together. And may we all honor God in our district and local ministries for the good of His kingdom!

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Steven P. Gabb
Arizona-California District Secretary

AZ-CA District Officers

Rev. Jon D. Buchholz
District President

Rev. David R. Clark
1st Vice President

Rev. Aaron D. Boehm
2nd Vice President

Rev. Steven P. Gabb
Secretary



The Dakota-Montana District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

June 2, 2022

Dear brothers in Christ:

Christ said during one of his visits to Jerusalem, *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink"* (John 7:37). As we prepare for Pentecost, we see how the Lord keeps this promise. We come to him where he promises to be – words and sacraments – and he gives us a water of life and says, you *"will never thirst"* (Jn 4:14). While many people think of District Conventions as a place where we conduct business, it is also a fountain overflowing with this living water. We gather around Jesus, and he refreshes us.

Your brothers in the Dakota-Montana District greet you. We pray that the Lord bless you as you meet and quench your thirst with the good news that Jesus became your sin so that you can be his righteousness.

The Dakota-Montana District meets for its 51st Biennial Convention on June 14-16 at Great Plains Lutheran High School. The theme of our convention is *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come."* We intended to celebrate our 100th anniversary as a District in 2020, but events prevented us from gathering in person, so we postponed that celebration until this year.

Our devotions will turn our hearts and minds to the help and hope that comes from God. Our Convention Divine Service reminds us that a district that spans over 1,200 miles (and made up of sinners born hostile to God) is one in Christ and has been for over one hundred years. Pr. Michael Enderle, our District's 1st Vice-President, will preach on Isaiah 6:1-9a.

Our anniversary celebration will continue with our essays. Pr. Justin Dauck looks to our District's past as we see how God has taken care of us and guided us. Pr. Jonathan Werre will look to the future and remind us to trust in the God who takes care of us and guides us no matter how things change (or stay the same).

God be with you!

Your servant in Christ,

Benjamin J Tomczak

Pr. Benjamin J. Tomczak, Secretary
WELS Dakota-Montana District

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Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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Pastor Jason E. Baldwin, Secretary
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June 5, 2022

Dear brothers of the WELS in Conference or Convention,

Greetings to you from the Michigan District! The 120th Pastor, Teacher, Delegate convention of the Michigan District will be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary - Saginaw, Michigan - June 6-8, 2022. The theme of the convention is: *"Confession and absolution are good for the soul"* - Based on 1 John 1:9 / John 20:23. Prof. Dan Westendorf will present a paper entitled: *Speak as the Lord Commands: Confess and Proclaim His Forgiving Grace*.

We plan to be about the business of our Savior God to serve the people entrusted to our care. We plan to digest the reports which have been shared by our Synod through the Report to the Twelve Districts and discuss them as a body of believers.

May the Lord bless your time together as brothers working for Jesus, our head. May he guide your discussions and season them with love. May he bless your decisions for his kingdom.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)

In service to Christ,

Jason E. Baldwin, Secretary
Michigan District, WELS



June 1, 2022

“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.” (Colossians 4:3)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings from the Minnesota District. We pray that you are well and that the Lord of the Church has blessed your labors. May all your plans and purposes glorify his name! In a time of division and factions, our hearts rejoice in the unity we have with you through the glory of our Savior Jesus.

The Minnesota District will meet in convention June 7-9, 2022 at Martin Luther College. Our theme will be, “When God Opens a Door, Proclaim Christ” Professor Luke Thompson will give a presentation titled “Open Doors for a Closed Culture.”

May the Lord increase our faith and make us willing to suffer all things, even death, rather than fall away from his grace. We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God, but Jesus has given us peace.

Yours,

Eugene DeVries
Minnesota District Secretary

Minnesota District Officers
President Dennis Klatt – 1st Vice President Wayne Schoch – 2nd Vice President Matthew Pfeiffer
Secretary Eugene DeVries



THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT PRAESIDIUM

of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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June 2, 2022

Dear brothers,

We are grateful for the joy of calling you fellow members of the body of Christ and thank God for the encouragement of having coworkers in the Gospel! The blessing and peace of Christ be with and in you. The Holy Spirit fit you for service and do beautiful things with your labors in your district conventions!

We really appreciate the greetings you've sent and prayers you've offered for us.

Our district will meet June 6 to June 8 in Thornton, Colorado to be informed and carry out the purposes of the District, to do the work of the Church in our part of the world and by grace, be bonded together in Christ. The convention will gather under the theme: "Serving Jesus in a World that Wants to Serve Itself". Professor emeritus Mark Braun (Wisconsin Lutheran College) will lead us in a presentation based on a commentary he's writing on the book of Judges: What Should We Do with the Book of Judges?

In Christ,

Tyler Peil, on behalf of your brothers in the Nebraska District



June 2, 2022

Dear brothers in Christ,

The Apostle Paul reminded the elders of Ephesus *"I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God."* He then committed them *"to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."* (Acts 20) As recipients of God's Word, we rejoice in our opportunity to proclaim the whole will of God to God's people; and are encouraged that you share the same joy in hearing and proclaiming the whole will of God to God's people.

The North Atlantic District sends their greeting to you. We continue to lift you and your work before God's throne of grace. We ask that he continue to strengthen you to proclaim the whole will of God.

The North Atlantic District will convene their 20th Biennial Convention on June 7-8, 2022 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Chesapeake, VA. We will ponder Paul's words to the Ephesian elders with the convention theme "Proclaim the whole counsel of God." Professor Paul Koelpin will present on Antinomianism: Appeal and Antidote. He will explore with us both the appeal of antinomianism as well as provide Scriptural guidance for the place of the law in our teaching and preaching.

May the grace of God continue to be with you.

In Christ,

Rev. Jonathan Fischer, Secretary

North Atlantic District

District Officers

Rev. Donald Tollefson
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June 9, 2022

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

As the Northern Wisconsin District prepares to meet in convention we rejoice in the fellowship we enjoy with you as you carry out the work before you in your districts. We keep you in our prayers as you deliberate matters pertaining to kingdom work in your individual districts and as you make decisions to help guide our church body when the synod meets in convention in 2023.

Our convention theme, “Words of Eternal Life,” are a reminder of the message our Lord has given his people to share as they carry out his command to make disciples of all nations. May he bless the work you carry out in your district conventions and may he bless the work of our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod as we walk together to take those precious words to the ends of the earth.

In Christ,

Rev. Ronald C. Szep
WELS Northern Wisconsin District secretary



Pacific Northwest DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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May 23, 2022

"Do everything in love."

— Corinthians 16:14

Dear brothers,

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest District!

We treasure the unity of faith, the joint labor of sharing the gospel and the dedication to the New Command we all have in common. God richly bless your District Convention!

Our District Convention will be held at Evergreen Lutheran High School on June 7-8. Prof. Ken Cherney of our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will help us dig into God's Word to find help and hope in a world where there is much suffering and confusion. The message of Job that we will consider is: "I Will Hope In Him."

As you gather as brothers, our prayer is that the Lord richly blesses your time together in his Word and much good comes from your meeting together.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus!

In Him,
Pastor Dan Kramer

SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT



May 30, 2022

"I am praying [...] for those who believe in me through their message. ²¹ May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me" (John 17:20-21).

In the spirit of unity for which our Savior prayed, greetings dear brothers, fellow workers in the harvest fields! From your fellow laborers in the South Atlantic District, we pray God blesses and preserves you all in the mission and ministry in which God has graced us to serve.

The S.A. District will meet at the Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor, FL, beginning Tuesday June 7 and wrapping up on Thursday June 9. The convention theme is "Send out your Spirit." Pastor Jon Bauer will be our guest presenter. He will present "The Blessings of Being Distinctly Lutheran."

For more information you can see our website here: <https://sa.wels.net/convention>

God grant you rich renewal in your time in the Word, and as you treasure the unity we have in our fellowship in Christ.

Jesus be your strength and your song,

N. Martin Mielke

WELS South Atlantic District Officers

President Charles Westra ▪ 1st Vice President Jon Schroeder ▪ 2nd Vice President Duane Rodewald
Secretary N. Martin Mielke



South Central District

May 23, 2022

Brothers,

“All the brothers here send you greetings” (1 Corinthians 16:20).

The tradition of sending greetings reaches all the way back the first Christian congregations. Or, perhaps it would be better to simply say it reaches all the way back to the first Christians. It is intriguing to me that the Holy Spirit would inspire Paul to record that Quartus, in particular, sent greetings (Romans 16:23). Who? Good question. But, he was a real person, and perhaps the more significant insight was that his relationship with the Christians in Rome was real too.

Time and distance may keep us and the members of our districts from seeing one another, and many of us may never meet each other face to face. But, the gospel has created a relationship between us and our God that is stronger than any other. For that, we give thanks.

In the absence of being physically together with each other, we send our greetings to all of you. (Please forgive us if we refrain from also sending you a holy kiss.) However, you are welcome to hear about the gospel work that is taking place among us by visiting our convention website: www.sc.wels.net.

We will be meeting in person on June 6-7, 2022, at one of our new mission: Divine Savior Church & Academy in Liberty Hill, Texas. Retired seminary professor James Korthals is our guest speaker. His essay is entitled *Still Bound by the Scriptures: Beyond Worms to the Wartburg and Wittenberg*, and it will be available for you to read online.

May Christ be with you and bless the time you gather together at your conventions. As the world in which we live seems to be more fractured and polarized than ever, my prayer is that God would bless the proclamation of the gospel at our conventions to bring an ever stronger unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace that we share with each other through Jesus.

We are forgiven!

Caleb Schoeneck



Southeastern Wisconsin District

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June 1, 2022

Brothers in Christ:

When the apostle Paul was writing to his congregation in Thessalonica about the challenges all Christians will face as the Day of the Lord draws near, he encouraged that congregation to “encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). As you gather at your conventions this month to be encouraged by God’s Word and to discuss the work we do share that Word with our world, your brothers in the Southeastern Wisconsin District send you greetings and pray that the Lord would bless your time and work together.

The Southeastern Wisconsin District will hold its 53rd Biennial Convention Tuesday and Wednesday, June 14 and 15, at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. We will convene under the following theme that echoes Paul’s encouragement to the Thessalonian Christians:

“Encourage One Another”

The Word and sacrament in our opening service and our devotions will strengthen and encourage us for all the work God has for us to do as his people. Pastor Keith Free, who recently stepped away from his work as the synod’s administrator for Home Missions to accept a call to a congregation in our district, will preach the sermon for our opening service. Circuit pastors will lead the other convention devotions. He will encourage us to remember the great privilege we have in sharing the gospel with others. Because he has been much involved with the synod’s upcoming “100 Missions in 10 Years” emphasis, that will certainly be on our minds as we hear his message from God’s Word.

President Richard Gurgel from Martin Luther College will present a keynote address focused on the theme of the convention. He will share the importance of mutual encouragement and charity, as we navigate the kinds of difficult circumstances we have faced the past couple of years. His experience as a new college president during this time will provide a helpful context to his words.

May God bless everything you do, brothers, both at your conventions and in your congregations and communities, to encourage one another and to share the gospel with others.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Billy Carter

Pastor Billy Carter, Secretary
WELS Southeastern Wisconsin District

WELS Western Wisconsin District



May 11, 2022

Dear brothers in Christ in WELS,

Please accept the greetings of your brothers in the Western Wisconsin District. God's blessings to your District as carry out His work under his guidance and care.

The Western Wisconsin District is meeting at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI on June 6-7, 2022. The words of Hebrews 10 provide the theme for our convention this year, *"Encourage One Another."* Three presentations will guide our discussions as we strive to spur each other on in worship, education, and care of souls.

May the Lord of the Church guide and keep all of you as you travel, meet, elect and study. May all we do in our Districts this year build God's Church and, above all, give Him the glory!

God's grace be with you all,

Rev. Galen J. Riediger
Secretary, WELS Western Wisconsin District

Western Wisconsin District Praesidium

President	First Vice President	Second Vice President	Secretary
Rev. Michael Jensen	Rev. Brett Brauer	Rev. Jeffrey Seelow	Rev. Galen Riediger