



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

2017 District Conference

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Wisconsin Lutheran College Conference Report	
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SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

2017 District Conference

Agenda

Tuesday, June 6

8:00	Registration & Fellowship	
9:00	Worship	Pastor James Huebner, preacher
10:25	Greeting	
10:40	Break	
11:00	(Call to Order)	
	District President Report	Pastor David Kolander
11:30	World Missions, Part I	Pastor Richard Krause Pastor Mark & Sue Rieke
12:00	Lunch A	
12:20	Lunch B	
1:15	Ministerial Education	Pastor Mark Zarling
1:45	Keynote	Pastor Paul Koelpin
3:15	Break	
3:30	Home Missions	Steve Wolf
3:45	Congregational Ministry Support Group	Pastor Bryan Gerlach
4:15	WELS Technology	Martin Spriggs
4:30	Synodical Council	SC Representative Tim Synder
4:45	Northwestern Publishing House	Pastor John Braun
5:00	Announcements & Closing Devotion	Circuit Pastor David Bitter

Wednesday, June 7

8:30	Morning Devotion	Circuit Pastor Curtis Golm
	and Commissioning of Missionaries	Pastor Larry Schlomer
9:00	World Missions, Part II	Pastor Larry Schlomer
9:15	Ministry of Christian Giving	Pastor Kurt Lueneburg
9:30	Christian Aid & Relief	Pastor Robert Hein
9:45	Compensation Review Committee	Dennis Maurer
10:00	Institutional Ministries	Pastor Joe Radsek
10:15	Discussion of other BoRaM Reports	
	Other Conference Business	
	(Motion to Adjourn)	
11:00	Closing Devotion	Circuit Pastor Steven Bode

Dates of Future Conventions and Conferences

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

Conventions (pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and lay delegates) meet in the even numbered years at WLC.

Conferences (pastors, teachers, and staff ministers) meet in the odd numbered years at the Seminary.

2018	Convention	June 12-13	WLC	2023	Conference	June 13-14	WLS
2019	Conference	June 11-12	WLS	2024	Convention	June 11-12	WLC
2020	Convention	June 9-10	WLC	2025	Conference	June 10-11	WLS
2021	Conference	June 15-16	WLS	2026	Convention	June 9-10	WLC
2022	Convention	June 14-15	WLC	2027	Conference	June 15-16	WLS



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Conference Information

Check in Tables

When you arrive at the conference, please stop in at the table for your conference at the north end of the auditorium. The six conference secretaries – or others they have designated – will man these tables. There you can check in and pick up your name tag.

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 auditorium to visit the district website (www.sew-wels.net) and use the online registration form there to get yourself in the registration database.

Excuses

If you know that you will be absent for part of the conference 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 (*using the online form would be preferred*).

Lodging

If you signed up for lodging when you registered, you will find room assignments posted in the auditorium lobby and on the exterior doors of each section of the dormitory. You will find instructions for the room phones and Internet access on the desks in each room.

If you did not send your lodging payment (\$30/night) to Secretary Carter before the convention, please give your payment to one of the seminary professors serving as our courtesy committee. You should be able to find them at one of the back tables. Make your check out to “Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.”

Meals and Refreshments

Continental breakfasts (donuts and coffee) will be provided for everyone Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Beverages and popcorn will be available in the lobby throughout the convention.

The Tuesday meal will be served in the Dining Hall to the north of the auditorium. Seating is available in the dining hall and the grassy area to the west of the dining hall. If there is inclement weather, seating will be available in the basement of the dormitory. We have scheduled two “shifts” for lunch. Those seated in the front of the auditorium will take the Noon A shift. Those seated in the back of the auditorium can proceed to the dining hall at the time listed for Noon B.

Electronic Reports Available

Conference reports and the Book of Reports and Memorials (BoRaM) are available on the 2017 Conference page of the district’s website, www.sew-wels.net/2017conference. The 2017 Book of Reports and Memorials (BoRaM) and other Synodical reports are available at the synod convention website, www.wels.net/2017synodconvention.

Wireless Internet

The auditorium is configured for wireless Internet access that you can use to access the district conference website as well as the information available at the WELS convention site. When you view your available networks, choose the one named "WLS Guest." The username is "wlsguest" and the password is "Welcome!" (Note: both the username and the password are case-sensitive and the password does include the exclamation point).

The Seminary has greatly increased their bandwidth and number of access points, but it will still be important to refrain from as much non-conference-related Internet activity as possible, especially at times when a presentation may need to access the Internet.

Recharging Stations

Power strips for charging computers and other electronic equipment are available in several posted areas of the auditorium.

Extra Conference Materials

There are a number of extra copies of the printed materials for this conference available for anyone who was not able to access them on the Internet. They are available from the conference secretaries at the back of the auditorium. There are also a very limited number of extra copies of the BoRaM available at the head table.

Membership List

Pages 11-29 of the Info pages 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. Uncertified called workers 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).

Seminary Bookstore

The Seminary Bookstore, which is operated by the student body to help students purchase theological books at very reasonable prices, is located in the basement of the dormitory below section 7 (in the northwest "corner" of the circle). We are trying to make arrangements to have the bookstore open at some point during the conference. Watch for an announcement.

Evaluation Sheets

Please use the evaluation sheet (pages 31-32 of the Info pages) to note any comments you may about this conference and its arrangements. These evaluation sheets may be placed in the boxes located at the head table and at the back of the auditorium. You may also fill out an online version of this form. A link to the online version is available on this conference's page on the district website.

Questions

If you have any questions during the conference, please direct them to the courtesy committee at the back of the auditorium or to any member of the seminary faculty or staff.

Thank You

Thank you to Seminary Business Manager Brian Treichel, Technology Services Coordinator Jeffrey Mitchell, Building and Grounds Director Curtis Wenthur, and their staffs for all their help in making arrangements for this conference, to Dave Kremer and his staff at Kremer Publishing for printing materials, to the crew of volunteers who helped collate those materials, and to anyone else who helped in any way with anything that needed to happen to prepare for this conference.



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Serving the District

DISTRICT OFFICERS

President: Rev David P Kolander
First Vice President: Rev Joel D Leyrer
Second Vice President: Rev Jonathan J Kolander
Secretary: Rev William R Carter

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Chicago Conference:
Chairman: Rev Matthew E Schwartz
Secretary: Rev Frank J Italiano, Jr
Kettle Moraine Conference:
Chairman: Rev Jonathan J Kolander
Secretary: Rev Steven D Bode
Milwaukee Metro Conference:
Chairman: Rev Timothy J Spaude
Secretary: Rev Kyle D Bitter
Milwaukee Urban Conference:
Chairman: Rev Jonathan R Balge
Secretary: Rev John T Raasch
Shoreland Conference:
Chairman: Rev Dale M Reckzin
Secretary: Rev Peter S Metzger
Western Lakes Conference:
Chairman: Rev Gary A Pufahl
Secretary: Rev Jason C Hacker

CIRCUIT PASTORS

Chicago Conference:
Central: Rev Nathan A Cordes
Eastern: Rev George A Ferch
Northern: Rev Steven J Radunzel
Southern: Rev Martin J Bentz
Kettle Moraine Conference:
Corridor: Rev Steven D Bode
Flyway: Rev Dennis R Bratz
Hartford: Rev Aaron P Steinbrenner
Ozaukee: Rev Kurt P Ebert
Milwaukee Metro Conference:
Eden: Rev Robert J Dick
Paradise: Rev Curtis A Golm
WAMiWauG: Rev Thomas W Kneser

Milwaukee Urban Conference:

Barnabas: Rev Christian J Winkel
Philip: Rev David P Bitter
Timothy: Rev Jeremy J Mattek

Shoreland Conference:

Root River: Rev John D Roekle
Southport: Rev Steven L Neumann
Western: Rev Karl M Schultz

Western Lakes Conference:

Northern: Rev Philip J Casmer
Assistant: Rev Bruce J Marggraf
Southern: Rev David M Kuehl

SYNODICAL COUNCIL

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Timothy J Snyder (20)

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

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

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Pastor

Rev Jonathan R Balge (18)

Martin Luther College, Teacher

Teacher Joe E Archer (20)

Martin Luther College, Pastor

Rev Jonathan J Kolander (22)

Luther Preparatory School, Pastor

Rev Timothy J Spaude (18)

Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Teacher

Vacant (22)

DISTRICT MISSION BOARD

Chairman: Rev Mark C Wagner (20)

BHM Rep: Mr Steven W Wolf (22)

Staff Minister Mark H Blauert (18)

Rev John M Borgwardt (20)

Dr James A Moore (18)

Mr Steven J Mueller (20)

Rev Michael D Zarling (22)

MISSION COUNSELOR

Rev Edward P Schuppe

CONGREGATION AND MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

Evangelism

Coordinator: Rev David C Pagel (20)
Rev Dustin S Blumer
Rev James G Buske
Rev Matthew J Kiecker
Rev Paul J Learman
Rev Scott T Oelhafen

Worship

Coordinator: Rev Martin G Wildauer (20)
Rev Thomas J Schultz
Teacher Jonathan T Pasbrig
Teacher Jason A Snodie

Youth and Family Ministry

Coordinator: Vacant (20)

Lutheran Schools

Coordinator: Teacher Daryl A Weber (22)
Teacher Cheryl A Henckel - *Early Childhood*
Teacher Christopher J Avery
Teacher David L Dodge
Teacher John M Melso
Teacher Scott R Sievert

Adult Discipleship

Coordinator: Vacant (18)

Special Ministries

Coordinator: Rev Richard A Waldschmidt (18)
Dr John Juern
Mrs Kathleen N Loose

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Rev Jonathan H Nitz (18)

Chicago Conference

Rev Nicolas C Schmoller (20)

Teacher Nathan W Hinz (18)

Kettle Moraine Conference

Rev Matthew D Kuske (18)

Mr Donald A Zastrow (20)

Milwaukee Metro Conference

Rev Michael T Feuerstahler (20)

Mr Ralph Engelhardt (18)

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Rev Aaron T Robinson (20)

Teacher Aaron J Bauer (18)

Shoreland Conference

Vacant (pastor) (18)

Teacher Paul B Sriver (20)

Western Lakes Conference

Rev Steven K Ristow (18)

Mr James A Holm (20)

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN GIVING

Chairman Rev Timothy A Henning (20)

GIFT PLANNING COUNSELORS

Current Giving: Rev Kevin D Hundley

Estate Planning: Mr Rick K Kneser

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Rev Steven L Lange (18)

Pastor Jason C Hacker (20)

Vacant (22)

DISTRICT BOARD OF APPEALS

Chairman: Prof Paul E Zell (22)

Rev Thomas W Kneser (18)

Teacher Paul B Sriver (18)

Mr John R Sampson (18)

Vacant (Pastor) (20)

Teacher David W Bartelt (20)

Mr Donald Groth (20)

Prof John M Brenner (22)

Teacher Jeffrey O Dorn (22)

Mr Paul Kieselhorst (22)

FORWARD IN CHRIST REPORTER/ DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Rev Scott T Oehlhafen



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

2017 District Conference

2017 Synod Delegates

The Southeastern Wisconsin District will be represented by 68 delegates at the 2017 Synod Convention: 23 laymen, 19 pastors, and 27 male teachers/staff ministers.

Pastor Delegates

Chicago Conference

Peter Martin	Faith, Radcliff, KY
John Kelly	Our Savior, Zion, IL

Kettle Moraine Conference

Charles Raasch	Morning Star, Jackson, WI
Nathan Seiltz	WELS Multi-Language Publications, Waukesha, WI
Michael Woldt	David's Star, Jackson, WI
Matthew Kuske	St. Paul/St. Luke, Lomira, WI
Dennis Bratz	St. Peter, Mayville, WI

Metro Milwaukee Conference

Mark Kock	Resurrection, Milwaukee, WI
Aaron Weber	Zion, South Milwaukee, WI
Benjamin Wessel	Woodlawn, West Allis, WI

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Jon Hartmann	Atonement, Milwaukee, WI
James Behringer	WELS Special Ministries, Waukesha, WI
Paul Steinberg	St. Marcus, Milwaukee, WI
Aaron Robinson	Fairview, Milwaukee, WI

Shoreland Conference

Steven Neumann	Mt. Zion, Kenosha, WI
Paul Brug	Shoreland Lutheran High School, Somers, WI

Western Lakes Conference

Robert Frick	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha, WI
Timothy Kujath	St. Paul, East Troy, WI
Eric Roecker	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls, WI

Teacher and Staff Minister Delegates

Jay Schwall	Lamb of God, West Allis, WI
Paul Berger	Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee, WI
Jon Ziesemer	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
Troy Yerks	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee, WI
Jonathan Pasbrig	Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, WI
David Rust	St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee, WI
Steven Travis	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
Martin Moldenhauer	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
Benjamin Washburn	Peace, Hartford, WI
David Zank	Friedens, Kenosha, WI
James Hahm	Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI

Daniel Larabee	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin, WI
Matthew Rydecki	Trinity, Waukesha, WI
Jarrold Erbe	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
Matthew Grow	Shoreland Lutheran High School, Somers, WI
Jamie Luehring	Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, WI
Brett Valerio	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
Keith Kopczynski	Faith, Antioch, IL
Craig Radue	Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI
Randel Fink	Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI
Brian Gottschalk	Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI
Joshua Johnson	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
Richard Mannisto	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
Kevin Hahm	Atonement, Milwaukee, WI
Nathan Krug	Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete, IL
Kerry Kuehn	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
Daniel Nolte	First, Elkhorn, WI

Lay Delegates

Chicago Conference

Patrick Ruehrdanz	Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL
Michael Milici	St. Matthew, Niles, IL
Mark Venz	Palos, Palos Heights, IL
Richard Oldenburg	Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL
Gary Rauch	Glory to God, Tinley Park, IL
Michael Lines	Light of Life, Greenwood, IN

Kettle Moraine Conference

Tim Kosteretz	Christ Alone, Thiensville, WI
Michael Nichols	Morning Star, Jackson, WI
James Petermann	Our Savior, Grafton, WI
John Hall	St. Paul, Brownsville, WI
Roy Bierman	Good Shepherd, West Bend, WI

Milwaukee Metro Conference

Brian Kreuziger	Divinity-Divine Charity, Whitefish Bay, WI
David Threlkeld	Messiah, Milwaukee, WI
Mark Groth	Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee, WI

One slot still vacant

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Micah Hernandez	St. Peter, Milwaukee, WI
Phil Wagie	Fairview, Milwaukee, WI
Jared Jamrozy	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee, WI

Shoreland Conference

Gary Zenda	New Hope, Racine, WI
Jody Hafemann	Zion, Bristol, WI
Doug Schaal	St. John (Slades Corner), Burlington, WI

Western Lakes Conference

John Maiwald	St. Paul, East Troy, WI
Dennis Banaszak	Living Water, Wind Lake, WI
John Bartelson	Living Word, Waukesha, WI



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

District Calendar

These dates were gleaned from information provided in the district reports and the Book of Reports and Memorials, the calendar at wels.net, and our conference secretaries.

June 2017

- 13-16 National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts
Carthage College, Kenosha, WI
- 22-25 Lutheran Women's Missionary Society National Convention
Orlando, FL

July 2017

- 27 New Teacher Induction Training
St. Paul, Muskego, IL
- 31-Aug 3 WELS Synod Convention
Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, WI

August 2017

- 8 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference Picnic
Garden Homes (Mattek Residence), Milwaukee, WI
- 10 WELS Night at Miller Park, Milwaukee, WI

September 2017

- 11-12 Chicago Pastoral Conference
Victory, Lexington, KY
- 19-20 Kettle Moraine, Shoreland, Western Lakes, and Winnebago Joint Pastoral Conference
Osthoff Resort, Elkhardt Lake, WI
- 24-27 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Phelps, WI

October 2017

- 1-3 Reformation 500 Commemorative Symposium
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI
- 9 Milwaukee Metro Pastoral Conference
St. Jacobi, Greenfield, WI
- 9-12 Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) Annual Convention
Country Springs Hotel, Pewaukee, WI
- 19 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Garden Homes, Milwaukee, WI
- 19-20 SEW District Council (and Circuit Pastor Training)
St. Paul, Muskego, WI
- 26-27 WALE Teachers' Conference
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI
- 26-27 Wisconsin State Teachers' Conference
Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI
- 29 Chicago Conference, South Circuit Reformation Rally
Illinois Lutheran High School, Crete, IL

November 2017

- 5 SEW District Reformation Anniversary Service
Milwaukee Theater, Milwaukee, WI
- 9 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI

December 2017

- 3 Milwaukee Urban Pastor Conference Christmas Gathering
Lighthouse Youth Center, Milwaukee, WI

January 2018

- 9 Shoreland Pastoral Conference
Trinity, Caledonia, WI
- 9-10 Milwaukee Metro Pastoral Conference
Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI
- 15 Western Lakes Pastoral Conference
Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls, WI
- 15-16 Chicago Pastoral Conference
Palos, Palos Heights, IL
- 16 Kettle Moraine Pastoral Conference
Our Savior, Grafton, WI

February 2018

- 2 Deadline for CMO and Statistics (12:00 noon CST)
- 8 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Grace, Milwaukee, WI

April 2018

- 9 Western Lakes Pastoral Conference
St. John's, Mukwanago
- 9/16 Milwaukee Metro Pastoral Conference
St. John, Oak Creek, WI
- 10 Kettle Moraine Pastoral Conference
Peace, Hartford, WI
- 12 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee, WI
- 24 Shoreland Pastoral Conference
Mt. Zion, Kenosha, WI

May 2018

- 8-9 Chicago Pastoral Conference
Cincinnati, OH
- 16 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
Redemption, Milwaukee, WI

June 2018

- 12-13 SEW District Convention
Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

2017 District Conference

District Membership List

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

There are several situations where the workers are members of a congregation in one circuit while serving in another circuit. Such workers are listed under "Serving Other Ministries" in the circuit where they hold congregation membership and are listed in parentheses where they serve.

Chicago Conference - Central Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Resurrection, Aurora, IL	Philip Schupmann	Bradley Essig Scott Wagner (<i>leaving</i>)
Crossroads, Chicago, IL	Michael Borgwardt	
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	<i>Vacant</i>	
St. Andrew, Chicago, IL	Adam Gawel	
Good Shepherd, Downers Grove, IL	Matthew Schwartz	Bryan Scriver (<i>leaving</i>)
	David Rutschow (<i>semi-retired</i>)	David Roekle (<i>arriving</i>)
Abiding Peace, Elgin, IL	Joshua Free	
Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL	Jonathan Kehren	Duane Vance ChiSeon Kim
St. Matthew, Niles, IL	Nathan Cordes (CP)	SM Leonard Epple

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	George Ferch (CP)	
Beautiful Savior, Fort Wayne, IN	Thomas Speidel	
Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne, IN	Nathanael Brenner	
Light of Life, Greenwood, IN	John Stelljes	
Peace, Kokomo, IN	Joshua Bishop	
Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN	Nicolas Schmoller	
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	

Retired Pastors

Robert Johnston	Beautiful Savior, Fort Wayne, IN
John Schroeder	Victory, Lexington, KY

Chicago Conference - Northern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake, IL	David Carlovsky	Jacob Unke (<i>interim - leaving</i>)
New Life, Lake Zurich, IL	Andrew Bauer	
St. John, Libertyville, IL	Kevin Raddatz	SM Jon Woldt <i>James Weiland*</i> Tyler Weinrich (<i>leaving</i>)
Heritage, Lindenhurst, IL	Mark Anderson (<i>leaving</i>)	
Christ the King, Palatine, IL	Thomas Schultz	
St. Paul, Round Lake Park, IL	Robert Meiselwitz	
Immanuel, Waukegan, IL	Steven Radunzel (CP)	<i>Jonah Gauger*</i>
Our Savior, Zion, IL	John Kelly	John Kujath

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 Martin Bentz (CP)	SM Mark Blauert
Zion, Crete, IL	Lon Kuether	
Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL	Dustin Blumer	
Our Redeemer, Grant Park, IL	(<i>with Tinley Park</i>)	
St. Paul, Grant Park, IL	Tod Vertz	
Palos, Palos Heights, IL	Colin Rieke (<i>arriving</i>)	
Glory to God, Tinley Park, IL	David Ernest (<i>leaving</i>)	
Our Shepherd, Crown Point, IN	Joseph Schlawin	

Serving Other Ministries

Pastor

Troy Swenson	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
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Teachers

Joe Archer	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Joel Buege (<i>semi-retired</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
John Dorn	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Matthew Heyn (<i>leaving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Nathan Hinz	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL
Mark Kjenstad	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Nathan Krug	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Matthew Linton (<i>leaving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Jeffrey Rick (<i>arriving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran School	
Timothy Rimpel	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Scott Sievert	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Jeffrey Spiaser	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Jeffry Uhlenbrauck	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Josiah Willitz	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Donavan Zastrow	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL

Retired Pastor

William Godfrey	Zion, Crete, IL
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Kettle Moraine Conference – Corridor Circuit

Congregation	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Zion, Allenton	Steven Bode (CP)	
David's Star, Jackson	Michael Woldt	Timothy Gustafson
	Kurt Loescher	Scott Beyersdorf
		Thomas Neuman
		Randal Watts
Morning Star, Jackson	Charles Raasch	James Brohn
	Timothy Wahl	Michael Maas
		SM Tom Banaszak
St. Lucas, Kewaskum	Timothy Henning	David Stoltz
	James Hoogervorst	Scott Stevenson
		Mark Hesse
Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls	Jonathan Kolander	Daryl Weber
	Peter Schmidt	Michael Mittelstadt
	G. Philip Arnold	Timothy Voigt
		Travis Wendt
Good Shepherd, West Bend	Robert Hein	James Sievert
	John Paustian	Joshua Kramer
	Richard Lauersdorf	Paul Braun
	(semi-retired)	
Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend	Darren Knoll	

Serving Other Ministries

Pastors

Stephen Geiger	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Randall Hughes	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Curtis Jahn	Northwestern Publishing House	Morning Star, Jackson
James Korthals (<i>leaving</i>)	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	David's Star, Jackson
Philip Malchow	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
Ronald Mehlberg (<i>leaving</i>)	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Joel Pless	Wisconsin Lutheran College	David's Star, Jackson
Joseph Radsek	Institutional Ministries	Morning Star, Jackson
Nathan Seiltz	Multi-Language Publications	Morning Star, Jackson

Teachers and Staff Ministers

Nathan Amundson	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Robert Balza	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Paul Burmeister	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Good Shepherd, West Bend
James Haferman	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Mark Heckendorf	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
SM Joe Hennen*	Wisconsin Lutheran College	
Daniel Hubert*	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
SM Thad Jahns	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Todd Jahns	Kettle Moraine LHS	David's Star, Jackson
Daniel Johnson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
SM Rick Kneser*	WELS Ministry of Christian Giving	Morning Star, Jackson
James Livingston	Kettle Moraine LHS	St. Lucas, Kewaskum
Dennis Miller*	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Matthew Moeller	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend

Kettle Moraine Conference - Corridor Circuit *(continued)*

Teachers and Staff Ministers *(continued)*

Edward Noon	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Jonathan Pasbrig	Kettle Moraine LHS	Trinity ELS, West Bend
Wesley Schmandt	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Joshua Schoeneck	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
Paul Snamiska	Kettle Moraine LHS	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
William Strasser	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

James Castillo	Morning Star, Jackson
Paul Huebner	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Martin Janke	David's Star, Jackson
David Kuske	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Kenneth Lenz	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Loren Lucht	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Robert Michel	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
John Moldenhauer	Morning Star, Jackson
Russell Schmidt	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Thomas Zarling	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
John Zickuhr	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls

Retired Teachers

James Fenske	Morning Star, Jackson
Fredrick Mahnke	David's Star, Jackson
Theodor Nommenson	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Darwin Schramm	Morning Star, Jackson
Loran Schultz	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
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	Brian Papenfuss
	Roger Zehms <i>(semi-retired)</i>	
St. Paul, Lomira	Matthew Kuske	
St. Peter, Mayville (Kekoskee)	Dennis Bratz (CP)	
St. Peter, Theresa	Jonathan Learman	
Zion, Theresa	<i>with St. Peter, Theresa</i>	

Retired Pastors

Paul Baldauf	St. Paul, Lomira
Jerome Enderle	St. Paul, Lomira
Chester Zuleger	St. Peter, Mayville

Retired Teacher

William Vilski	St. John, Lomira
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Kettle Moraine Conference - Hartford Circuit

Congregations (<i>Schools</i>)	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Peace, Hartford	Aaron Steinbrenner (CP) Jeremy Husby Paul Waldschmidt Myron Sordahl (<i>semi-retired</i>) (<i>leaving</i>)	Benjamin Washburn Michael Marquardt (<i>leaving</i>) Marvin Wittig Nathan Schultz
St. Paul, Neosho St. Paul, Slinger Trinity, Hartford Crown of Life, Hubertus	Joshua Kesting Robert Fleischman Jeffrey Drake Michael Helwig Johnold Strey	Eric Troge
Bethany, Hustisford Zum Kripplein Christi, Iron Ridge St. Paul, West Bend St. Peter, West Bend St. John, Woodland	Jonathan Loesch (<i>closing in June</i>) Paul Reede (<i>w/ St. Paul, West Bend</i>) Daniel Babinec	William Fuerstenau
<i>Serving Other Ministries</i>		
Pastors		
George Enderle Robert Fleischman Robert Pasbrig	St. Michaelis, Milwaukee (<i>semi-retired</i>) Christian Life Resources (<i>part-time</i>) Institutional Ministries (<i>semi-retired</i>)	St. Paul, Slinger St. Paul, Slinger Peace, Hartford
Teacher		
Joshua Johnson James Rademan	Wisconsin Lutheran College WELS Lutheran Schools	Crown of Life, Hubertus Peace, Hartford
Retired Pastors		
Delmer Kannenberg Walter Oelhafen Martin Scheele Paul Seiltz	Trinity, Hartford Peace, Hartford Peace, Hartford Crown of Life, Hubertus	
Retired Teachers		
Richard Ash Wayne Baxmann Harold Hosbach	Peace, Hartford Peace, Hartford Peace, Hartford	

Kettle Moraine Conference - Ozaukee Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Redeemer, Cedarburg Our Savior, Grafton	Mark Rohrback Mark Wagner	Joel Grulke Benjamin Raddatz (<i>leaving</i>) SM Thomas Hering
St. John, Mequon Trinity, Mequon	Jeremy Koehler Kenneth Kolberg	

Kettle Moraine Conference – Ozaukee Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. John's, Newburg	Kurt Schaser	Timothy Payne John Martin III Adam Igl
St. Matthew, Port Washington Christ Alone, Thiensville	Martin Wildauer Don Scheuerlein Kurt Ebert (CP) Stanley Weinrich	Michael Albrecht Daniel Aswege
<i>Serving Other Ministries:</i>		
Pastors		
Jonathan Bare	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Richard Gurgel	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
John Hartwig	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Steven Staudé	Ministry of Christian Giving <i>(semi-retired)</i>	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Bill Tackmier	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Earle Treptow	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Bradley Wordell	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Teachers		
David Bartelt	Kettle Moraine LHS	Redeemer, Cedarburg
Leonard Collyard	Kettle Moraine LHS	Our Savior, Grafton
Timothy Kuehl	Kettle Moraine LHS	St. Matthew, Port Washington
Jamie Luehring	Kettle Moraine LHS	Our Savior, Grafton
Retired Pastors		
Richard Balge	Christ Alone, Thiensville	
Paul Kelm	Our Savior, Grafton	
Steven Lawrenz	St. John, Mequon	
Armin Panning	St. Matthew, Port Washington	
Alan Siggelkow	Christ Alone, Thiensville	
Retired Teachers and Staff Minister		
SM Donald Borgwardt	Christ Alone, Thiensville	
Steven Enter	St. John, Newburg	
Jonathan Hahm	Our Savior, Grafton	
Thomas Mellon	St. John, Newburg	

Milwaukee Metro Conference – Eden Circuit

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

Milwaukee Metro Conference – Eden Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries

Staff Minister

SM Martin Rosewicz* Institutional Ministries Divinity-Divine Charity, Whitefish Bay

Retired Pastors

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

Retired Teachers

Luther Kolander Abiding Word, Milwaukee
Hans Metzger Abiding Word, Milwaukee
Richard Schlavensky Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee

Milwaukee Metro Conference –Paradise Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. Paul, Cudahy	Daniel Marshall	Donald Kolander Brad Nommensen SM Robert Garbe <i>(semi-retired)</i>
Centennial, Milwaukee	Greg Pufahl	
Messiah, Milwaukee	Curtis Golm (CP)	
Resurrection, Milwaukee	Mark Kock	
St. Lucas, Milwaukee	Peter Unnasch	Michael Koestler <i>(leaving)</i> Christopher Luebke Christian Ristow <i>(leaving)</i> (Andrew Baxter) <i>Peter Schwichtenberg* (arriving)</i>
St. John, Oak Creek	Stephen Schmidt	SM Rod Bollinger
Zion, South Milwaukee	Aaron Weber	Fonda Fischer
	John Cook	James Braun Joseph Brinkman Eric Fillner

Serving Other Ministries

Pastor

Joel Gaertner The Lutheran Home Association St. Paul, Cudahy

Teachers

Philip Krueger Word of Life Lutheran School Centennial, Milwaukee
Samuel Schlicht *(leaving)* Word of Life Lutheran School
Michael Sebald *(leaving)* Wisconsin LHS St. John, Oak Creek
Christopher Stollfus Word of Life Lutheran School Centennial, Milwaukee

Retired Pastors

Larry Ellenberger Centennial, Milwaukee
Robert Gurgel St. Lucas, Milwaukee
Stanley Stein St. Lucas, Milwaukee
Gary Tryggstad Centennial, Milwaukee

Retired Teachers

Norman Dux St. Paul, Cudahy

Milwaukee Metro Conference – WAMiWauG Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. Jacobi, Greenfield	Timothy Spaude Richard Waldschmidt	Brian Mensching Alex Moore Paul Frisque Micah Walz <i>Wade Witzlsteiner*</i>
Divine Peace, Milwaukee	Paul Learman Kenneth Kappel (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
Apostles of Christ, Wauwatosa	Randall Siegel (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
St. John, Wauwatosa	Joel Leyrer Eric Schroeder Kyle Bitter Joshua Yu	Scott Uecker David Allerheiligen <i>Andrew Duncan*</i> David Leyrer Keith Hackbarth
Good Shepherd's, West Allis	Thomas Knickelbein P. James Wilcox	Michael Henning, Jr Timothy Hochmuth
Jordan, West Allis	Mark Aufdemberge	
Nain, West Allis	Joseph Berg	
Woodlawn, West Allis	Thomas Kneser (CP) Benjamin Wessel	
<i>Serving Other Ministries</i>		
Pastors		
Wade Johnston	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Nain, West Allis
Paul Lehninger	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
Mark Wenzel	Institutional Ministries	Good Shepherd's, West Allis
Teachers and Staff Ministers		
William Braun	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
Joel Davis	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Woodlawn, West Allis
Daniel Ebeling	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
Ned Farley	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
SM Kevin Festerling	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Wauwatosa
Kevin Glaeske	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
Brian Gottschalk	Wisconsin LHS	Divine Peace, Milwaukee
Allen Greschner	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
Aaron Palmer	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Nain, West Allis
<i>Quinten Petersen*</i>	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Wauwatosa
Craig Radue	Wisconsin LHS	Woodlawn, West Allis
<i>SM Gary Schmid*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Good Shepherd's, West Allis
David Schulz	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
Jay Schwall	Lamb of God Lutheran School	Woodlawn, West Allis
<i>Jay Sierszyn*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Woodlawn, West Allis
Jeffrey Sitz	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Wauwatosa
John Werner	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Good Shepherd's, West Allis

Milwaukee Metro Conference – WAMiWauG Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Pastors

James Aderman	Divine Peace, Milwaukee
Richard Agenten	Good Shepherd's, West Allis
Paul Eckert	St. Jacobi, Greenfield
Joel Gerlach	St. John, Wauwatosa
Ronald Heins	St. John, Wauwatosa
Steven Stern	St. John, Wauwatosa
Harvey Witte	Apostles of Christ, Wauwatosa

Retired Teachers

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
Donald Sebold	St. John, Wauwatosa

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Barnabas Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Atonement	Jon Hartmann Jordan Ertl	Todd Gorsline Christopher Bartsch Kevin Hahm Seth Herrmann <i>Brian Kent*</i> Samuel Schlicht <i>(arriving)</i> <i>Shaun Stannard*</i> SM Stephen Schafer
Calvary	Michael Bartsch <i>(semi-retired)</i>	
Fairview	Aaron Robinson	SM Greg Naumann*
Mt. Lebanon	Aaron Bublit Vicar Adam Lambrecht <i>(2017-2018)</i>	Jonathan Winkel SM Michael Schuessler* Ryan Halter* Daniel Johnson David Liebhard Fred Pahmeier <i>(leaving)</i> Michael Pingel Brandon Stubalt <i>(leaving)</i> Ryan Finkbeiner
Redemption	Christian Winkel (CP)	
Salem, Milwaukee (107 th)	Timothy Soukup John Raasch	Nicholas Bush Daniel Grunewald Kurt Maciejczak Troy Yerks <i>(arriving)</i>
St. James	Peter Kassulke <i>(leaving)</i> Christian Marquardt <i>(arriving)</i>	
St. Matthew	Jonathan Balge	

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Barnabas Circuit (*continued*)

Serving Other Ministries:

Pastors

James Behringer	WELS Special Ministries	Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee
Christopher Doerr	Northwestern Publishing House	St. James, Milwaukee
John Graf	WELS Christian Giving (<i>semi-retired</i>)	Atonement, Milwaukee
Thomas Kock	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Atonement, Milwaukee
Joel Otto	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee

Teachers

Ned Goede	Wisconsin LHS	Atonement, Milwaukee
Kurtis Seeger	Wisconsin LHS	Atonement, Milwaukee
C.L. Whiteside*	Wisconsin LHS	Atonement, Milwaukee

Retired Pastors

Paul Manthey	St. Matthew, Milwaukee
Robert Sievert	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee
Gordon Snyder	St. Matthew, Milwaukee

Retired Teachers and Staff Minister

Bruce Bintz	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee
David Deibert	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee
Ray Dusseau	Atonement, Milwaukee
Clarence Jenkins	Fairview, Milwaukee
Paul Knueppel	Atonement, Milwaukee
Gerald Lanphear	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee
Carl Natzke	Atonement, Milwaukee
David Ross	Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee
James Esmeier	

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Philip Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ	Joel Jaeger (<i>leaving</i>) Chad Walta Nixon Vivar (<i>arriving</i>)	
Gethsemane	Robert Jensen	
Grace	James Huebner Daniel Bondow Aaron Strong	SM Frederick Horn
Risen Savior	Charles Papenfuss (<i>leaving</i>) Luis Acosta	Robert Dusseau Paul Kelm (<i>leaving</i>) Timothy McNeill Jonathan Rosenow Devin Boling*
St. Andrew	Harold Hoepfner (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
St. John (68 th)	David Bitter (CP) Benjamin Zak	David Rust Robert Buschkopf Paul Kanzenbach Derek Rabbers Robert Sawall SM Levi Nagel

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Philip Circuit (*continued*)

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
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St. John (Vliet)	William Schaefer (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
St. Peter	Martin Schoell	
	William Dunn	

Serving Other Ministries

Pastors

James Becker	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Mark Braun (<i>semi-retired</i>)	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
John Brenner	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Grace, Milwaukee
Kenneth Cherney	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Risen Savior, Milwaukee
Kenneth Fisher	Wisconsin LHS	St. Peter, Milwaukee
Philip Huebner	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
John Schuetze	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Grace, Milwaukee
Nathan Strobel	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Risen Savior, Milwaukee
James Tiefel	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Grace, Milwaukee
Paul Zell	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Grace, Milwaukee

Teachers and Staff Ministers

Brett Baade	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	Christ, Milwaukee
Andrew Baxter	St. Lucas Lutheran School	Grace, Milwaukee
Paul Beck	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
SM Paul Berger	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	Christ, Milwaukee
Matthew Bilitz	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Keith Bowe	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
James Holman	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Chad Lindemann	Wisconsin Lutheran College	
Richard Mannisto	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
James Matson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Martin Moldenhauer	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Joshua Nelson	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	St. Peter, Milwaukee
Jacob Schable	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	St. Peter, Milwaukee
Joshua Seeger	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Jonathan Stern	Word of Life Lutheran School	St. Andrew, Milwaukee
Timothy Thierfelder	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Steven Travis	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Troy Yerks (<i>leaving</i>)	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	Christ, Milwaukee

Retired Pastors

Lloyd Huebner	Grace, Milwaukee
David Sievert	Grace, Milwaukee
Paul Wilde	Risen Savior, Milwaukee

Retired Teachers and Staff Minister

SM Robert Erdmann	St. John (68 th), Milwaukee
Ernest Knobloch	Grace, Milwaukee
Robert Lehninger	Grace, Milwaukee
John Marten	
Larry Numerich	Gethsemane, Milwaukee
Kenneth Proeber	Grace, Milwaukee
Barry Wierschke	St. John (68 th), Milwaukee

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Timothy Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Garden Homes	Jeremy Mattek (CP)	Adam Harvey Aaron Bauer Joshua Bauer <i>Nathan Bauer*</i> Joseph Blum David Dodge Gerald Hosbach <i>Tyler Schoen*</i> John Wesenberg SM Paul Marquardt
Salem (Eastside)	<i>Vacant</i>	Scott Anthony
Siloah	<i>Vacant</i>	Christopher Arndt <i>Jeffrey Knox*</i> Charles Ungemach <i>Jonathan Boche*</i> Andrew Becker Robert Buss <i>Robert Ceasar*</i> James Christensen <i>Cody Harms*</i> Peter Langebartels <i>Josh Lepke*</i> Jeremy Maas <i>Garret Mandeville*</i> Lance Meyer Matthew Rieck <i>Eric Sandow*</i> <i>Curtis Sprewer*</i> <i>Kurt Stielow*</i> <i>Henry Tyson*</i> Zachary Wiegman (<i>leaving</i>)
St. Marcus	Mark Jeske Paul Steinberg James Hein Daniel Leyrer	Jason Schapekahm Fredrick Luehring Michael DeRuitter Mark Moldenhauer Andrew Olson
St. Philip	Raymond Kimbrough	
<i>Serving Other Ministries</i>		
Pastors		
James Buske	Lighthouse Youth Center	Garden Homes, Milwaukee
Philip Merten	Institutional Ministries	Salem (Eastside), Milwaukee
E. Allen Sorum	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Garden Homes, Milwaukee
Paul Wendland	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Garden Homes, Milwaukee

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Timothy Circuit *(continued)*

Teachers

Andrew Gerlach*	Wisconsin LHS	Garden Homes, Milwaukee
Bret Hopf*	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Philip Leyrer	Wisconsin LHS	Siloah, Milwaukee
Joshua Metzger	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee

Retired Pastors

Leonard Freeman	Garden Homes, Milwaukee
Kurt Grunewald	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
James Kleist	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
John Lawrenz	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Ronald Muetzel	St. Marcus, Milwaukee

Retired Teachers

Harold Goede	St. Philip, Milwaukee
Merlyn Kruse	St. Marcus, Milwaukee

Shoreland Conference – Root River Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Trinity, Caledonia	David Wierschke Emile Burgess <i>(leaving)</i>	David Habeck Joel Schultz Michael Martens <i>(arriving)</i>
St. John, Oak Creek (Oakwood)	Dale Reckzin	
Epiphany, Racine	Michael Zarling	
First, Racine	John Roekle (CP)	
New Hope, Racine	<i>Vacant</i>	
Trinity, Union Grove	Don Frelitz	

Serving Other Ministries

Pastors

Paul Brug	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Kevin Hundley	Ministry of Christian Giving	St. John, Oak Creek (Oakwood)

Teachers

James Boehm	St. John, Burlington <i>(semi-retired)</i>	First, Racine
Peter Eppen*	Wisconsin Lutheran College	
Jarrold Erbe	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Trinity, Caledonia
Matthew Grow	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Peter Gumm	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Daniel Hahm	Shoreland LHS	First, Racine
Samuel Hunter	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Samuel Kleinke	Shoreland LHS	Epiphany, Racine
Jason Lowrey <i>(leaving)</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Trinity, Caledonia
Gerald Marowsky	Wisconsin Lutheran School	First, Racine
Timothy Mielke	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Paul Patterson	Wisconsin Lutheran School	Epiphany, Racine
Courtney Schmidt	Shoreland LHS	New Hope, Racine
Daniel Schulz	Shoreland LHS	Epiphany, Racine
Jay Selle	Wisconsin Lutheran School	

Shoreland Conference – Root River Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries (continued)

Teachers *(continued)*

Jeremiah Strassburg	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Paul Strutz	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Scott Zondag*	Shoreland LHS	Epiphany, Racine
David Zuberbier <i>(arriving)</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran School	

Retired Pastors

John Brug	Epiphany, Racine
Harlyn Kuschel	New Hope, Racine
James Phillips	New Hope, Racine
Nathan Pope	First, Racine

Retired Teachers

Douglas Nass	First, Racine
Neil Sriver	First, Racine
Dale Stelter	Epiphany, Racine

Shoreland Conference – Southport Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Zion, Bristol	Brian Koschnitzke	
Bethany, Kenosha	David Pagel	Christopher Avery <i>(leaving)</i>
	Peter Prange	Marc Meihack
Friedens, Kenosha	Michael Gorte	Bruce Babler
		David Zank
		David Leonard <i>(arriving)</i>
Mt. Zion, Kenosha	Steven Neumann (CP)	
	Scott Bergemann	
St. Luke, Kenosha	Luke Italiano <i>(leaving)</i>	

Serving Other Ministries

Pastor

Thomas Bauer	Shoreland LHS	Bethany, Kenosha (Somers)
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Teachers

Jeffrey Dorn	Shoreland LHS	Bethany, Kenosha
Nathan Hochmuth <i>(leaving)</i>	Shoreland LHS	Bethany, Kenosha (Somers)
Paul Huebner	Shoreland LHS	Friedens, Kenosha
Gregg Pfarr*	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Friedens, Kenosha
Keith Wordell	Shoreland LHS	Bethany, Kenosha

Shoreland Conference – Western Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Faith, Antioch, IL	Greg Hermanson	Stephen Schultz <i>(leaving)</i>
	Ed Ungemach III	Keith Kopczynski
	Lloyd Harter	Jason Snodie

Shoreland Conference – Western Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. John, Burlington	Kirk Lahmann Daniel Waldschmidt	(James Boehm) <i>(semi-retired)</i> Christopher Avery <i>(arriving)</i> Gabriel Malliet* Timothy Sonntag Jeffrey Zilisch
St. John, Burlington (Slades Corners) First, Elkhorn	Jeffrey Halldorson David Rau <i>(leaving)</i> Wayne Meier <i>(semi-retired)</i>	Benjamin Schramm Daniel Nolte <i>(leaving)</i> Theodore Glodowski <i>(arriving)</i>
First, Lake Geneva	Karl Schultz (CP) Peter Metzger	Steven Haag Stephen Kamps
Peace, Wilmot	James Fischer	
<i>Serving Other Ministries</i>		
Pastor Paul Prange	WELS Ministerial Education	St. John, Burlington
Teachers James Groth Robert Musgrave* Daniel Nolte <i>(arriving)</i> Paul Scriver	Shoreland LHS Shoreland LHS <i>(part-time)</i> Shoreland LHS Shoreland LHS	St. John (Slades Cor.), Burlington St. John, Burlington First, Elkhorn St. John, Burlington
Retired Pastors Thomas Kraus Victor Prange	St. John (Slades Corner), Burlington St. John, Burlington	
Retired Teacher Raymond Manthe Melvin Schwartz	First, Elkhorn Faith, Antioch, IL	

Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ the Lord, Brookfield	David Kolander Philip Casmer (CP) Jason Free	John Melso John Kaesmeyer
Zion, Hartland	Stephen Ristow	John Freese Scott Nerby
St. John, Lannon	Gary Koschnitzke Andrew Fix	William Tomlin Chad Marohn <i>(leaving)</i> Kevin Poston
Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls	Eric Roecker	Brett Kriese David Porth
Christ, Pewaukee	Richard Krause Thomas Engelbrecht Timothy Gerbing Richard Warnecke Dale Baumler <i>(semi-retired)</i>	

Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Faith, Sussex	Bruce Marggraf (Asst CP) Matthew Schaewe	
Grace, Waukesha	Jason Hacker	
Living Word, Waukesha	John Borgwardt	
Mt. Calvary, Waukesha	Michael Turriff Robert Frick Joshua Bodden	Gregory Rebernick Alan Uher
Trinity, Waukesha	Aaron Christie Lawrence Gates Scott Oelhafen John Mattek (<i>semi-retired</i>) <i>(leaving)</i>	Jeffrey Inniger (<i>leaving</i>) Matthew Rydecki John Ganey (<i>leaving</i>) Justin Gut Seth Zoellner (<i>arriving</i>)

Serving Other Ministries

Pastors

Bryan Gerlach	WELS Worship	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Michael Hintz (<i>retiring 12/17</i>)	WELS Evangelism	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Gregory Lyon	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Michael Schultz	WELS Hymnal Project	Trinity, Waukesha

Teachers and Staff Ministers

Daniel Albrecht	Kettle Moraine LHS	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Alan Bitter	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
James Brandt	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Roger Festerling (<i>leaving</i>)	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
Andre Gosch	Wisconsin LHS	Living Word, Waukesha
James Hahm	Wisconsin LHS	Zion, Hartland
<i>James Henkel*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Faith, Sussex
John Kolander	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
David Kren	Kettle Moraine LHS	Trinity, Waukesha
Eric Lueck	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
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
William Plamann	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
Joel Radue	Wisconsin LHS	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Darrell Roecker	Wisconsin LHS	Trinity, Waukesha
<i>SM Steve Schroeder*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Peter Schumacher	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
<i>SM Craig Swiontek*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Gilbert Tatge	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
Terry Treuden (<i>retiring</i>)	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Lannon
SM Brett Valerio	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ, Pewaukee
Ryan Walz	Wisconsin LHS	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Steven Zellmer	Wisconsin LHS (<i>semi-retired</i>)	Trinity, Waukesha
Jon Ziesemer	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield

Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Pastors

William Bernhardt	Trinity, Waukesha
Kenneth Bode	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Robert Hartman	Living Word, Waukesha
William Kirchner	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Daniel Koelpin	Christ, Pewaukee
Arthur Koepsell	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Kieth Kuschel	Christ, Pewaukee
Glen Schaumberg	Trinity, Waukesha
Walter Westphal	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls

Retired Teachers

George DeNoyer	Trinity, Waukesha
Mel Friske	Trinity, Waukesha
Michael George	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Gerhard Gilbert	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Paul Jacobs	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Kenneth Leverence	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Dennis Schultz	Christ, Pewaukee
Ronald Schultz	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Gunther Thoms	
Dale Walz	Christ the Lord, Brookfield

Western Lakes Conference – Southern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ, Big Bend	Gary Pufahl Ian Headrick	Steven Janke Craig Weide
Reformation, Dousman	Jonathan Arndt	
St. Paul, East Troy	Timothy Kujath	Kenneth White
St. Paul, Franklin	Brian Adams Jacob Hoff	Nathan Schulmeister Lyle Timm Randall Willms
Victory of the Lamb, Franklin	Benjamin Kuerth Bill Limmer	
St. John, Mukwonago	John Bortulin Micah Martin <i>Vicar Nicholas Mount</i>	James Schneck Steven Toth
St. Paul, Muskego	David Kuehl (CP) Jeffrey Bonack Peter Panitzke	Seth Fitzsimmons Kurt Steffen Justin Walz Jeffrey Wetzell SM Joel Nelson SM Randel Fink
Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin	John Gawrisch Jonathan Nitz Jacob Schwartz	Timothy Mueller Daniel Larabee Shawn Riesop John Schleis <i>(arriving)</i> SM Brian Gulrud <i>(part-time)</i>
Living Water, Wind Lake	Aaron Voss <i>(arriving)</i>	

Western Lakes Conference – Southern Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries

Pastors

Keith Free	WELS Home Missions	St. John, Mukwanago
Wayne Shevey	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Donald Thompson	Point of Grace, <i>part-time</i>	St. John, Mukwanago

Teachers

Robert Anderson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Steven Bremer	Wisconsin LHS	St. Paul, Muskego
David Brightsman	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Franklin
<i>Chad Clough*</i>	Word of Life Lutheran School	St. Paul, Franklin
Jason Goede	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
<i>Donald Kudek*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
James Nowack	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Blair Schaper	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
<i>SM Adam Volbrecht*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Bradley Wetzel	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin

Retired Pastors

Andrew Backus	St. Paul, Franklin
Forrest Bivens	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Wayne Borgwardt	St. Paul, Muskego
Herbert Lichtenberg	St. Paul, Muskego
Gerry Meyer	St. Paul, Muskego
James Naumann	Christ, Big Bend
Martin Schulz	St. Paul, Muskego
Arthur Schupmann	St. Paul, Muskego
Lee Vaccarella	St. Paul, Muskego

Retired Teachers and Staff Minister

SM Dennis Fletcher	St. John, Mukwonago
Richard Scharf	St. Paul, Muskego
Leroy Westphal	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
Gary Wille	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)

David Kehl (MLP – Asia)

Paul Nitz (Malawi)

Glen Thompson (Hong Kong)

Ernst Wendland (Zambia)

Robert Wendland (Malawi)

CRM Pastors

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

Kenneth Bittorf

Terry Laabs

David Peters

Local Congregation Not (Yet) Known

SM Lucas Faust (WLC)

Simon Provan (WLC)

Jonathan Schoeneck (retired)

Jeremy Bock (WLC)

Robert Edgington (SLHS)

Micah Ricke (WLHS) *(leaving)*

Timothy McEachern (WLHS) *(arriving)*

Joseph Greefkes (KMLHS) *(arriving)*

Jason Hagedorn (SLHS) *(arriving)*

Michael Koestler (SLHS) *(arriving)*

Benjamin Reichel (KMLHS) *(arriving)*

Mark Nolte (KMLHS) *(arriving)*

Casey Pufahl (WLHS) *(arriving)*

David Zuberbier (Wis Luth Sch, Racine) *(arriving)*

Mark Shambeau (WLHS) *(arriving)*

Michael Berg (WLC) *(arriving)*

Aaron Anonsen (WLC) (arriving)*

Matthew Linton (KMLHS) *(arriving)*

Jeremy Zima (WLC) *(arriving)*

Joshua Lindner (KMLHS) *(arriving)*

Jordan Patrick (Joint Mission Council) *(arriving)*

Brian Doeblner (WLHS) *(arriving)*

Ryan Latterman (WLC) (arriving)*

Travis Kretsch (KMLHS) *(arriving)*



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Evaluation/Comments Form

Please use this form to provide us with any encouraging comments or constructive criticisms you may have regarding this conference, 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 auditorium.

Announcement Letter and Registration Info

On-line Registration Process

Worship Services and Devotions

Keynote Address

Reports

Agenda/Format

Meals/Refreshments

Technology

Conference Materials

Going Paperless

Other Conference Arrangements

Other Comments

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Report of the District President

The heritage of Christian faith which we have been given by God is the heritage which God promises will be passed on to the ends of the earth until the time of his Son's return. And he uses us to proclaim to others what has been implanted in us! Beginning with our opening worship service, this District Conference is providing us with a number of opportunities to treasure the message of Jesus for ourselves and to rejoice in how his Good News continues its spread from age to age among us.

For example, in just a few moments we will have the privilege of welcoming Missionary Mark and Sue Rieke, as they speak to us about their work in India. Included in our welcome to them is the prayer for blessing on the deliberation of Pastor Peter Zietlow and his wife Lauren, as he reflects on the call to join their ministry team.

Also, what a joyful experience we will have in tomorrow morning's opening devotion, when we participate in the commissioning of brothers who will soon be entering foreign fields of labor. As of this writing, our hope is to have the commissioning of missionaries to Latin America, Malawi, and Nigeria/Cameroon. Please join us to send them off with our prayers and God's blessing.

We will also hear more about the home mission work being carried out in our district. Among those efforts are two recently approved ministries at Immanuel, Waukegan, (Hispanic work) and Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee (to assist the church connect to school families). Pastor Seth Haakenson is presently deliberating the call to Immanuel. Pastor David Bivens recently returned the call to Mt. Lebanon.

One important aspect of the work of the district president is to assist your congregations and schools in your mission efforts by being part of the process to supply candidates for vacant pastor and teacher positions. Without question this has been an especially urgent matter for many of us due to the fact that we have fewer candidates than open positions. With patience and wisdom which must be supplied from above, we are seeking to help in the best way that we can. We ask for God's blessing, in particular, on those churches and schools where open positions at this moment are making it difficult to carry on gospel ministry at the level they would like. Thank you to the Commission of Lutheran Schools – administrators and staff – for their tireless efforts on behalf of our congregations and schools.

(In this regard, one interesting thing which has developed, quite possibly in connection with prayers to reduce the shortage of candidates, is that a fair number of former LES teachers are seeking recertification after taking time off, and some teachers not in our WELS system are seeking synod certification. The district president's office and the MLC synod certification office follow up on these requests.)

At last month's Assignment Day proceedings at Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, it was a joy to be able to welcome more called workers into fields of labor in our district. Candidates from MLC continue to be assigned. To this point we have made thirty-three assignments in our district (nine permanent calls, eighteen one-year calls, and six previous one-year calls made permanent). The one-year calls normally involve one of two situations: 1) emergency calls and 2) urban

ministry calls. The urban ministry calls may then be made permanent after one year. In this report I will list the men who now become part of our Pastor-Teacher Conference: Jeffrey Rick (Illinois Lutheran High School), David Roekle (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove), Seth Zoellner (Trinity, Waukesha), Michael Martens (Trinity, Caledonia), and Travis Kretsch (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School). In addition, the calls of these men were made permanent: James Christensen (St. Marcus, Milwaukee), John Kujath (Our Savior, Zion), ChiSeon Kim (Jerusalem, Morton Grove, including Korean outreach), and Christopher Stollfus (Word of Life, Milwaukee). The full listings of assignments are on the MLC and WLS websites.

In our district we received two seminary graduates and two men who completed the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI). Aaron Voss was assigned to Living Water, Wind Lake, and Christian Marquardt was assigned to St. James, Milwaukee (Karen outreach potential (Myanmar refugees to Thailand)). PSI graduates Nixon Vivar will carry on Hispanic ministry at Cristo, Milwaukee, and Dr. Jordan Patrick will be based in the Pewaukee area as he works especially with those of the Hindu and Islamic religions.

What a blessing to see the various cultures involved even in these relatively few ministry assignments! The counter-cultural message of the cross crosses cultures as our Lord keeps his promise that the heritage of the gospel will continue its worldwide spread.

My present list shows eighteen district pastoral vacancies and some thirty district teacher vacancies in our early childhood centers, grade schools, high schools, and at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Synodically there are about sixty teacher vacancies and about one hundred pastoral vacancies. Percentage-wise, the amount of pastoral vacancies is apparently not considered a high amount by church statistic standards, but the teacher and pastor vacancies are problematic, nonetheless. God bless all of us as we work together to help these vacant ministries wherever we can, and God help us to encourage, pray for, and mentor future pastors, teachers, and staff ministers so that the Lord will allow more ministry opportunities to be seized and more ministry vacancies to be filled.

In this connection, please permit one brief encouragement. As we exhibit our gratitude for having the heritage of faith in our hearts (part of which is expressed in modeling joy in the public ministry for potential future ministry candidates), ask for God's guidance and direction in how we speak, write and present ourselves, particularly in regard to social media posts, "chats," electronic correspondence, etc. Resist Satan's temptation to say things – or to say things in a way – that are beneath the dignity of the gospel of Christ or that are sinful and inappropriate for God's people. The devil will flee from you as you put on the armor of God in this aspect of Christian life, just as he does when we call on God's name in all other areas of our service to our Lord. God give us humble hearts as we season our words with salt and treasure those who are inheritors of the heritage with us.

What a joy it has been to see the desire of our district to hold a joint commemoration of our Reformation heritage once the synodical plans could not be carried out. Thank you to District Worship Chair Martin Wildauer and Professor James Tiefel, who agreed to lead this Reformation 500 project. Professor Tiefel's report will give us more details about the festival worship service, which will be held at the Milwaukee Theatre on Sunday, November 5 at 3:30 pm.

It is also a joy to carry out district "team ministry" with Vice-Presidents Joel Leyrer and Jon Kolander and Secretary Billy Carter, as well as with our nineteen circuit pastors. Thank you to them – and to all of you – for all your prayerful assistance during this first year of my service in this office. Thank you also to the prayerful help and encouragement of former District President David Rutschow, whom the Lord blessed with twenty-four years of service to us as our president. The praesidium

meets on a monthly basis, and the circuit pastors meet as a group twice a year. In addition, the praesidium meets individually with the circuit pastors on a rotating basis in order to give them encouragement in their work and to receive from them helpful information as they serve the congregations and called workers in their circuit.

Among the many items the praesidium has in its consideration is working through questions which have been addressed to us about the man-woman roles and applications. The praesidium itself is re-studying God's Word on this and hopes to soon include the circuit pastors in this study. We are re-examining from Scripture our belief that the man-woman role is a universal principle which applies to home, church and society, as opposed to a principle which does not apply to society. Among the application questions is whether it is consistent with Scripture to allow women to serve alongside men in certain board positions. We ask for your prayers as we continue to go forward in this study so that we can apply God's Word to our lives in a confessional, evangelical and brotherly way.

We also have found great joy in working with our urban schools in seeking consistent calling guidelines for this challenging and expanding ministry. About twelve percent of our entire synod elementary school population and teaching staff is now part of our urban parental choice schools. Lutheran Schools Administrator Jim Rademan and I have met five times with the urban school principals in an effort to foster more awareness and mutual support. These meetings culminated in a March 2017 assembly of over forty representatives from the Seminary, MLC, WLC, Bethany Lutheran College, and other administrators in order to discuss ways to meet the needs of this field of labor. President Schroeder's Conference of Presidents report in the 2017 Book of Reports and Memorials (BORAM) comments on the fact that committees have been appointed to provide immediate follow-up to these discussions.

For more details on the work of the Conference of Presidents, in general, please take some time to give attention to Synod President Schroeder's eight-page report (pp. 5-12) in the BORAM. President Schroeder's report provides a good deal of information, updates, summaries and encouragements. One thing not mentioned in his BORAM report, but is a recent development on the COP, is the appointment of a COP committee to help maintain correspondence with the growing number of para-synodical groups in our synod, the great majority of which are in our district. We pray that this will be a helpful and appreciated way for these valued ministries to "walk alongside" the work we carry out as a synodical entity. May the Lord continue to give President Schroeder wisdom and strength as he oversees the ministry we carry out as a fellowship of believers.

God bless you, brothers, with that same wisdom and strength – and with the joy of knowing that God in his grace is using you to share with others our great heritage.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor David P. Kolander



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Ministry of Christian Giving

Synod Report – BoRaM pages 32-38

CMO Subscriptions

“They urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.” (2 Corinthians 8:4 NIV). The Macedonian churches were originally left out. They were not part of the effort. Paul did not even want to ask them to participate. He thought that it was not something they could do at that time. But they refused to sit on the sidelines. They would not be denied the privilege. What did they beg to have the chance to do? To give money to help the people in Jerusalem.

How often do your congregations urgently plead for the privilege of giving money? You are probably waiting for the first time. Christians who struggle with the sinful nature, the advertising pressure of this world, and the constant temptations of the devil struggle with thinking that donating to the church is a burden we all have to share, rather than a privilege we all desire. Your opportunities to support the work of the church on a congregational level, on a synodical level, and in para-synodical ministries, are all privileges you have as a child of God.

When you have trouble remembering that Christian giving is a great honor, recall what the Lord has given you. He has given you new life and eternal life through Jesus your Savior. How else can you respond except to use that new life to serve him? That is where the Macedonian Christians found the desire and ability to give generously. That is where you find that yearning and strength, too. *“They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.” (2 Corinthians 8:2 NIV).*

Thank you for submitting your CMO subscriptions and statistical reports in a timely manner.

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 Stats next year will be Noon Central Standard Time, Friday, February 2, 2018.

CMO 2017 Update

Offerings synod-wide are down 4.8% over last year for January through April, though the offerings are 102.1% of subscriptions. CMO dollars synod-wide: January, 2017–April, 2017 : \$6,029,801. As a district, we have remitted 99% so far this year, with a total of \$1,027,936.

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. Kevin Hundley
Current Giving Counselor
kevin.hundley@wels.net
262-237-2660

Enjoy the privilege the Lord has given you to support his work.

Pastor Tim Henning
Chairman, SEW District Ministry of Christian Giving



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

District Mission Board

“Lord, enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”
Acts 4:29

In the Spring BHM 2017 meeting, the SEW made two requests for New Start Enhancements, both of which were approved and funded:

- **Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee** – Parental Choice Campus Pastor; Pastor David Bivens has recently returned that call.
- **Immanuel, Waukegan** – Hispanic Bilingual Pastor; Pastor Seth Haakenson has received and is contemplating that call.

**We praise the Father, the Spirit and our Lord Jesus for the opportunity
to start these new mission efforts in our Southeastern Wisconsin District!**

Risen Savior, Milwaukee, WI

*“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”
Isaiah 49:6*

The universal character of the Gospel is particularly perceivable at Risen Savior. Our gracious God has blessed our ministry with a wonderful diversity of people of various countries: USA, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru. Many countries but one family in Christ.

Our regular or average attendance is about sixty people per worship service on Sundays. Our school continues to be a blessing for our congregation. About seventy percent of the church members who have children in school age attend our school.

A couple of special activities are a trademark of Risen Savior:

- **Traditional Hispanic Dance Group:** A group of over twenty dancers from 8 to 45 years old made by school students and members of the congregation. This group praise God with their dance talents and attract unchurched families to the congregation as they also serve as ambassadors of the Latin American culture. The group had made recent presentations at national and regional LWMS rallies and fund raising events for the church.
- **Prison Ministry:** Our church also sponsors a regular prison ministry at Racine Correctional Institution, in which we offer weekly bible studies centered on recovery through Christ to a group of Hispanic inmates who regularly average over twenty people in attendance.
- **Fiesta:** We are actually planning our annual fund-raising event to be carried out May 5, 2017. The theme of this event is “Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at Risen Savior” and is planned and executed by the members of the congregation.
- **Praise:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

La Iglesia Luterana San Pedro, Milwaukee, WI

Past Fiscal Year – 2015-2016

The 2015-2016 fiscal year was the first year of a two-year transition. In the first half of the year, Pastor Otto served as a vacancy pastor for Christ Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. Then in January, Pastor Otto took a call to Las Vegas. Through the rest of the year, St. Peter called several pastors before I was assigned in May to be the next bilingual Pastor. During the vacancy, work was being done to allow local Spanish leaders to undertake more of the inreach/outreach visits that needed to be done. BHMHOC Flunker handled the counseling and some of the preaching responsibilities and Seminary student David Strucely held Bible Classes, BIC classes, and inreach/outreach visits.

Coming Fiscal Year – 2017-2018

Much of my first year (2016/2017) has been spent getting to know the congregation, learning about Hispanic culture and our diverse community, and learning how to best serve those to whom I have been called. Much of this process, especially during the first six months, has revolved around learning how to do bilingual ministry. How do I run a bilingual bible class or worship service, how do I preach a bilingual sermon etc. This is still very much an ongoing process.

As the year has passed, I have continued to get to know the congregation and stabilize it after the vacancy. I am now looking to restart some of the “normal” activities of a church like Sunday School and Bible Class. Furthermore, I am focused on equipping God’s saints here at St. Peter to encourage personal evangelism and witnessing. In terms of outreach, we have focused on events after services that give members opportunities to invite friends and families. One such example was a special Three Kings celebration we held on January 8 this year. We had a visit from the Magi, a traditional sweet bread called Rosca de Reyes, and a piñata. We had more attendees and visitors than for either of our Christmas services. We are aiming to hold similar events at least once every other month.

Another way we have done outreach is through our school, Christ-St. Peter. Of the 220 or so students that the school has, about 40% of the students are not baptized, even more are not actively attending a church. This has given us an incredible opportunity to reach those who are in desperate need of their Savior. In cooperation with the school, we launched a baptismal program in which the pastors reach out to each family. This has resulted in several Baptisms thus far and even more Law and Gospel presentations. As of this month, it has even resulted in one person taking a BIC.

I have reviewed the current year because much of the plan for the coming fiscal year will be expanding and enhancing the programs that are currently in place. This includes equipping our members to better communicate their faith to their friends and families, those with whom they already have relationships. This also includes increasing outreach to the school students and families as there is such an evident opportunity. We are aiming to develop a comprehensive outreach program to the students and their families focusing not just on Baptism, but church attendance and confirmation as well.

Looking Forward in 2017-2018

We will be coming out of the second of two transitional years, the first a result of the vacancy and the second the result of having a brand-new pastor. In 2017-2018, we aim not only to continue and enhance current ministries, but also to develop and clarify our mission and vision as a congregation. This will help us engage and unite the congregation and give us clear goals to work toward.

Personally, I aim to continue growing in faith and knowledge of our Savior, to continue becoming accustomed to the rigors of being a pastor and missionary, to continue getting to know the congregation and learning about the community and cultures which I have been called to serve, and finally to further my Spanish abilities.

We pray for God’s continued blessing on this Bilingual mission of St. Peter/San Pedro.

Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN

Looking back at the past year, we are thankful for the blessings that God has given to our congregation and for the involvement of our members in our ministry. Some of the goals that we had set for our congregation were a growth in our young family outreach ministries. One of those ministries that we wanted to continue and expand was our Mornings with Mommy program. We had tried a few different types of advertisement for this program, but, once we connected with a woman who runs a local newsletter for kid-friendly activities called Macaroni Kids, our attendance began to grow. Now we regularly have twenty children and their parents attend our events twice a month and it has been a great program for our church and community.

There have been two instances that I have been informed of when a member of ours was out in the community and heard people talking about our Mornings with Mommy program and have been able to jump in and talk about our church. We have also been blessed to have two families who first were introduced to our congregation through this program take our Bible Information Class and become members this past year.

We also continued our annual soccer camp which has a positive impact on member involvement and community-wide. We had over 100 kids in attendance again this past year and had assistance from Illinois Lutheran High School for the second year. We have already had about a dozen inquiries into our camp for this summer again and we hope to open registration in February.

As a congregation, we set the goal of improving and expanding our adult Bible study and Sunday School programs. We expanded our Sunday School to two sessions of older and younger students (taught by a rotation of nine members) and our attendance has almost doubled. Our Sunday morning Bible study has increased, but not at the same rate. We pray that it might grow more in the coming year. We've also had success with monthly men's and women's groups that has fostered great relationships in the congregation and increased faith through the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

For the coming year, our annual congregational planning meeting is scheduled for April, but we do have plans for new outreach events and ministry goals. We are hoping to add a three-day art camp to our summer children's programs. There has been interest in the congregation for something like this and we feel like it could build on the success we've had with our soccer camp. We already have a curriculum planned, are in conversations with a youth group to help, and hope to hold it in July.

We are also hoping to take the next steps to have a permanent home for our congregation. In the early part of 2017 our land search identified, bid on, and purchased a piece of land that would help meet our short and long-term goals, including a childcare/daycare ministry.

Finally, we are planning on the pastor conducting every member visits for this next year. This was discussed among leadership to encourage growth in God's Word and to make sure everyone is on board and prepared for a possible building project. All the leadership and members who are aware of this plan are on board with this plan as well as we move forward on the congregations. These plans and other opportunities that may come before us we pray that God would bless in the coming year.

Light of Life, Greenwood, IN

Things are going well at Light of Life. We are now in our eighth year of ministry in Greenwood. We are stable and moving forward. Some items of present note:

- We will be confirming five young people on Palm Sunday.
- We will presently be partnering with “Praise and Proclaim Ministries” who will be helping us to develop and implement a strong and organized outreach and evangelism plan and effort.
- We are still working toward implementing a “Mommy and Me” program, probably to start in the fall.
- We will be having a Men’s Retreat in May.
- A new Women’s Bible Study has started up.
- We are starting to plan our Summer VBS, Theatre Camp, and Freedom Festival participation.
- We will once again be getting a Summer Assistant from the Seminary.

Living Word, Waukesha, WI

At Living Word, Waukesha, WI, we continue to rejoice at the blessings of our Savior God. Although we heard we’ll have to wait another year to build our first facility due to circumstances beyond our control, we see it as a blessing since it gives us more time to put meat and fur on the bones of our ministry plan. Our facility will focus on a coffee shop serving as the hub of our facility. We want people from the community to be in our building every day of the week.

We will especially focus on an after-school partnership with Waukesha West High School, which is just across the road from our land. Our initial meeting with the principal at West was very well received; in fact, he hopes we can build as soon as possible so we can benefit each other. Principal Ryan Patt said, “Waukesha West is excited to work with Living Word Lutheran to provide West students with a positive place for learning, sharing and recreation. We hope that this relationship helps our students grow even more as valuable members of our community.” Our facility will give West a place for students to go after school, since West isn’t equipped to supervise them after the school day. We’re very much looking forward to that partnership as we intentionally share Christ with these students and their families. We hope this can even be a model for other churches to follow, and we are now looking for donors who have a passion for outreach to high school students, especially those in the public school system.

We had a huge blessing this year with finances. After a special donation, the council encouraged our members to see if we could get to \$100,000 by the end of the year, and they responded by bringing the total to \$112,000. That’s pretty significant, considering that our entire three-year commitments to the Building Fund are only \$141,000. That tells me that our people are ready to give more than their commitments, probably because the building is closer now, and they’re seeing the building in sight.

With over \$300k currently in our Building Fund, we’re confident that we’ll be ready to execute an ambitious ministry plan when we build. We also had our highest attendance for Christmas this year. Our basketball ministry at Mt. Calvary, Waukesha (a congregation that has been a true blessing to partner with), has brought in forty young (and older) men who hear law and gospel every week – most of them unchurched. We have so many people coming that our own members have stopped coming because it’s so crowded. I like those kinds of problems! The Lord is good.

Point of Grace, Milwaukee - Campus Ministry Update

Highlights

- By God's grace, involvement in our ministry at UWM has continued improving. We've been averaging almost twenty students for Wednesday night Bible class and chapel. The group has set up a Facebook group page and there's a lot of communication going on between the UWM and MSOE chapters. Senior vicar Phil Janisch is doing an excellent job with our UWM chapter.
- By God's grace, our MSOE chapter continues to see increased attendance at their Bible class under the direction of Pastor Aaron Strong at Grace downtown. The relationship between Grace Lutheran and TPOG continues to go well.
- The renovation of the Campus House at UWM has used up the \$18,000 gift from St. Marcus. New furniture, new and increased lighting, complete repainting of almost all the downstairs, a new TV, uncovering old hardwood floors, sanding and restaining said hardwood floors, new carpeting in other rooms, etc. has exhausted the gift. A lot of volunteers have helped with special thanks to project manager Nell and interior designer Michelle from St. Marcus. Students from the UWM and MSOE chapters, members of the Board and the Ministry Team, members from St. Marcus and Grace all pitched in to help. God has truly blessed us! A special Open House will be held on Sunday, March 26, from 1:00-5:00 pm with a special Celebration Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication will start at 3:00 pm.
- The senior vicar program continues to be a blessing. Seminarian Philip Janisch serves as our senior vicar for the 2016-17 school year. Plus, the CMC is using his skills for a special project. This enables the senior vicar not to have pay anything for his rent.
- At the end of October, Pastor Thompson resigned his part-time call as Visitation Pastor at Christ in Pewaukee so that he could devote more time to serving The Point of Grace. Pastor Thompson plans on serving through the 2017-18 school year.
- Long time secretary and all-around servant, Paula Herbst, is retiring in June. She has served longer than anyone else on our staff and through the calls of numerous pastors. Her knowledge of campus work and young people will be missed.
- TPOG has joined a consortium of other WELS non-profits in Milwaukee and the Non-Profit Center in Milwaukee to discover and use best practices in a wide variety of ministry needs.
- At a recent Board of Directors meeting, the Board has decided not to replace Paula. Her duties will be covered by volunteers, Pastor Thompson, the new senior vicar, and duties like newsletters and mailings will be outsourced. It was also decided that next year's senior vicar would spend twenty hours per week at TPOG. (Currently he works ten hours for TPOG and ten hours for the CMC.) This way the senior vicar will have more time to develop the student ministry at UWM.
- Our annual Celebration Dinner will be held on May 4 at Saz's on State Street beginning at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Challenges and Focus

- Re-establishing and reinvigorating the Marquette Chapter. We have doubled our attendance at Bible class (from one to two).
- We're still figuring what our role is at WLC. Conversations with Pastors Shevey and Lyon, as well as students, have been helpful.
- We've taken the tentative steps of starting a chapter at Concordia University-Wisconsin.
- With Paula's retirement, the Board of Directors is analyzing how best to use our human and financial resources. There will be staffing changes for the coming school year.
- That Pastor Thompson not get over-whelmed by the realization of all the still needs to be done.

Prayer Request

Pray that the Lord will continue to bless our staff, our Board, our willing volunteers, and our efforts to grow our ministry at The Point of Grace.

Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL

Amazing Love gathered on Sunday, February 19 to celebrate eight years as a congregation! We reflected on God's grace and power to us his church, and we celebrated with free pizza after the service. We had over 200 in attendance and have found Facebook boosting as an effective way of promoting this mission.

Mornings with Mommy is going well, and we received our first worship visitor who came from that group! We are thankful for Marlena and Tabitha who are running this outreach arm and are doing tremendous work!

Renovations on the worship space will be underway soon. We held an open forum on March 5 to give a preview of what is coming and to receive feedback. We look to improve sound, lighting, seating, staging and presentation. Great things to come! Renovations will get underway by April or May.

God continues to bless things here! We are planning two services starting September 2017 on a trial basis to see if we can reach more people with the good news of Jesus and His Love!

Crossroads, Chicago, IL and Christ, Milwaukee - Hispanic (no new report)

Encouraging Mission Starts & Looking for Mission Potential -

Your District Mission Board is always ready to assist any congregation in our District with outreach opportunities - large or small. We continue to explore new areas where we could plant or assist in the start of a new congregation which is our primary function together with the Board for Home Missions. We will gladly meet with, talk with or advise any congregation or group of believers who would like to explore mission potential. Our approach will almost always fall into one of our four emphases: Mission Establishment; Mission Development; Mission Enhancement or Mission Enrichment.

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Chairman, SEW District Mission Board

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Chairman
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(262) 377-6363 (O)

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Secretary
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(404) 395-2865 (C)

Rev. Tim Flunker
Hispanic Mission Counselor
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For information:
Call Pastor Wagner
(262) 377-6363
Email oslc@wi.rr.com



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

District Nominating Committee

The work done by the Southeastern Wisconsin District Nominating Committee over the last year has largely been in support of the 64th biennial WELS convention coming up later this summer. Names of potential candidates were gathered by the members of the District Nominating Committee, and passed along for consideration by the synod Nominating Committee. Below you will find the names of those who have accepted nomination to the respective positions. The delegates in convention will elect one man for each position, unless otherwise noted. Incumbents are noted by an asterisk (*).

Synodical Council pastor-at-large (2)

Luke Boehringer, Davenport, Iowa
Joel Jenswold*, Hortonville, Wis.
Philip Kieselhorst, Westminster, Colo.
Jonathan Schroeder*, Sharpsburg, Ga.
Timothy Spaude, Greenfield, Wis.

Synodical Council teacher-at-large

James R. Moeller*, Watertown, Wis.
Benjamin Priebe, Appleton, Wis.
Gregory Thiesfeldt, New Ulm, Minn.

Board for World Missions, chairman (pastor)

David Bivens, Sugar Land, Texas
Aaron Christie, Waukesha, Wis.
Paul Janke*, Watertown, S.D.

Board for World Missions, layman

Glenn Bechler, Appleton, Wis.
Arlin Bornschlegel, Rochester, Minn.
Stephen Strecker, Plano, Texas

Board for Home Missions, chairman (parish pastor)

Joel Schulz, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
Wayne Uhlhorn*, Oceanside, Calif.
Matthew Vogt, Las Vegas, Nev.

Board for Ministerial Education, chairman (parish pastor)

John Bortulin, Mukwonago, Wis.
Joel Jenswold, Hortonville, Wis.
Duane Rodewald*, Simpsonville, S.C.

Board for Ministerial Education, teacher or staff minister

Adam Harvey, Hartford, Wis.
David Wilson, Manitowoc, Wis.
Gerald Zeamer, Jackson, Wis.

Board for Ministerial Education, layman (2)

Paul Hahm, Hilton, N.Y.
Richard Krahn, Oconomowoc, Wis.
Brent Nemmers, Allen, Texas
Peter Sahlstrom, Decatur, Ga.
Kenneth Teske, Powell, Ohio
Dean Waldschmidt*, Fond du Lac, Wis.

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Governing Board, chairman (parish pastor)

Jonathan Scharf, Covington, Ga.
Eric Steinbrenner, Livonia, Mich.
Joel Heckendorf, Greenville, Wis.

Board of Appeals, pastor

Joel Leyrer*, Wauwatosa, Wis.
Paul Naumann, Benton Harbor, Mich.
David Rosenau, Yalaha, Fla.

Board of Appeals, teacher or staff minister

David Knittel, Grove City, Ohio
James Moeller*, Watertown, Wis.
David Voss, Appleton, Wis.

Board of Appeals, layman

Mitchel Dietzel, Newborn, Ga.
Kennith Gosch*, Aberdeen, S.D.
Roger Price, Kimberly, Wis.

Commission on Evangelism, chairman

Donn Dobberstein*, Port Orange, Fla.
Kent Holz, Clarksville, Tenn.
Joel Thomford, Chesaning, Mich.

Commission on Lutheran Schools, chairman

Timothy Mueller, Muskego, Wis.
James Henrickson, Dallas, Texas
James Sievert*, West Bend, Wis.

**Northwestern Publishing House Board of
Directors, parish pastor**

Daniel Habben, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada
Joel Schroeder*, Lenexa, Kan.
Joel Gawrisch, St. Paul, Minn.

**Northwestern Publishing House Board of
Directors, teacher or staff minister**

Luke Hartzell, Doral, Fla.
David Payne, Appleton, Wis.
Matthew Groth, Saginaw, Mich.

**Northwestern Publishing House Board of
Directors, layman (2)**

Dwight Luedtke, Troutville, Va.
Joel Raasch, Germantown, Wis.
A. John Wiley, Appleton, Wis.
Edward Wolf*, Slinger, Wis.

Pastor Jonathan Nitz
Chairman, SEW District Nominating Committee

SEW District Nominating Committee

Rev Jonathan H Nitz, Chairman
Teacher Aaron J Bauer
Mr Ralph Engelhardt
Rev Michael T Feuerstahler
Teacher Nathan W Hinz
Mr James A Holm
Rev Matthew D Kuske

Rev David C Rau
Rev Steven K Ristow
Rev Aaron T Robinson
Rev Nicolas C Schmoller
Teacher Paul B Sriver
Mr Donald A Zastrow



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Lutheran Schools

Call Data and Recruitment: As of early April, there were between 140 and 150 active teacher vacancies. Call volume for teachers was up 18% over last year with 90 of 327 call lists used in the SEW District. Following MLC assignments, about 55 vacancies remain.

Of the 117 assignments made, 31 were assignments made permanent or reassignments (not included in the 140-150 number above).

ECM Director calls this year: 31 total, 8 still open, 12 accepted, 6 assigned, 1 assigned as assistant director, 1 as preschool only, 3 congregations decided not to call or filled in-house.

Principal vacancies after assignments stand at 17.

Strategies to recruit individuals for ministry from within the WELS congregational members have been a topic of discussion in a number of circles.

Milwaukee Parental Choice Urban School Principals have been meeting regularly with Director Rademan and SEW District President Kolander. A recent study indicated that those 12 elementary schools and one high school (which collectively represent about 14% of WELS-wide K-12 enrollment) have sought to fill 143 called teacher positions over the past three years. A meeting with urban school principals, representatives of CLS, the Commission on Ministerial Education, the Conference of Presidents, Martin Luther College, Wisconsin Lutheran College, and others occurred in March to discuss the called worker challenge.

New Teacher Induction: Training for all newly assigned SEW District teachers, second-year teachers, their mentors, and their principals will take place at St. Paul's, Muskego – Thursday, July 27 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Telling the Next Generation – Utilizing our Schools for Outreach

Combination effort of WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools and Commission on Evangelism.

Goal: Serving congregations of the WELS with planning, assistance, and resources for the implementation of outreach strategies utilizing their Lutheran elementary school and/or early childhood ministry.

Intended For: pastors, principals, ECM directors, education and evangelism leaders, and other interested congregational leaders and members. Seminar locations in SEW:

Past: Bethlehem, Germantown, WI on Saturday, May 13 (9 AM – 3 PM).

Future: Planning for early fall, 2017 in Libertyville, IL.

Voluntary Supplemental Contributions:

Synod Convention Memorial: Request changing *Voluntary Supplemental Contributions* to Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) to *Annual School Support Fee* based on School Enrollment.

National School Leadership / Technology Conference:

Plans are underway for the next School Leadership Conference, which will be held in conjunction with the WELS Technology Conference. The joint conference (name is yet to be determined) will be held June 24-27, 2019 at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Leaders from Lutheran Schools and WELS Technology are working together to plan the conference.

School Consulting Services Visit Requests: There have been 23 schools/congregations in contact with the Lutheran Schools office this past school year. Services that have been requested range from exploring a new start up ministry, potential expansion of a current ministry, revitalizing a struggling

ministry, and offering general support. The Lutheran Schools office is utilizing the services of our trained consultants to work with these congregations.

Ministry Development Plans, Formative and Summative Assessment: GEM team member Dr. Jeff Wiechman will be keynote at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teacher's Conference. The group continues to work behind the scenes with plans for a 2018 roll out.

Testing Task Force – The Testing Task Force has settled on providing the option of NWEA's MAP testing or ACT-Aspire. Cooperative purchasing agreements have been signed by both companies. CLSD is providing information regarding pricing, features, ordering, webinars, etc.

ECM Task Force: The task force continues to work on resources and projects that were identified as part of their work. These resources include: a Bible study for Chapter 1 of *Building Blocks*, a video of Pastor Jon Schroeder's presentation at MLC Evangelism Day on using ECMs for outreach, *Characteristics of High Quality, Mission Focused ECMs*-a tool that can be used by ECMs individually or as a consultant tool, update and revision of *Outreach Strategies for WELS Early Childhood Ministries*, and several others. A report is being drafted to summarize their findings and goals. This report will be shared with our Commission, the District Schools Coordinators, and Early Childhood District Coordinators.

WELSSA Accreditation: WELSSA continues to be gain interest among WELS schools as a catalyst for continual school improvement. Schools seek to improve by going through a comprehensive self-study, hosting a site visit, and developing a school improvement plan that is reviewed annually. Currently, there are 119 school accredited with WELSSA. There have been 32 site visits scheduled during the 2016-2017 school year, with nine of those being first time visits for schools seeking to become accredited with WELSSA. There are 26 visits already scheduled for the 2017-2018 school year.

Over the last few months, this new logo was developed and is available to schools that are currently WELSSA accredited.



Addendum: Schools that were originally accredited for K5-8 can seek accreditation for the 3K/4K programs by working through the addendum standards. Several schools have gone through this process already and are granted 3K-8 accreditation.

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Worship

For information about the work of our synod's Commission on Worship, see BORaM, pp. 51-54.

National Conference on Worship, Music & the Arts

Even if you didn't register to attend the conference presentations, you will still enjoy and be edified when you attend these events:

The Festival Concert	Tuesday, June 13 @ 8:00 pm
The High School Honor Choir	Friday, June 16 @ 11:30 pm

Did you know that highlights from past worship conferences – including presentations, photos, service folders, and audio samples – are available on the “Worship Resource Center” through wels.net? Professionally recorded musical highlights are available from Northwestern Publishing House.

Building on the National Conference on Worship, Music & the Arts

Many will return from the National Worship Conference excited about ideas and things they experienced. Why not fan that excitement into a flame throughout your whole congregation by attending a School of Worship Enrichment? Have you considered hosting or co-hosting a School of Worship Enrichment? Who couldn't benefit from a good worship tune-up?

- One day or one weekend option
- Review Lutheran principles of worship
- Excellent ideas for expanding worship variety
- Blend styles of worship
- Blend worship and outreach
- <http://worship.welsrc.net/school-of-worship-enrichment/>

Easter Vigil

Seminary graduate Douglas Van Sice prepared a scholarly review of the history and practice of the Easter Vigil for his Senior Thesis: The Mother of All Vigils: the Use of the Ancient Easter Vigil in 21st Century Lutheran Churches. (<http://essays.wls.wels.net/handle/123456789/4321>) His paper includes many common sense hints and helps along with a sample service folder. If you offer, or are considering offering, an Easter Vigil, this paper can be a great resource.

If you don't think that a separate Saturday evening Easter Vigil is practical or appropriate for your parish setting, elements of the Easter Vigil can be combined into a truly distinctive Sunrise Service that isn't just “Easter Lite.” Examples of a combined Easter Vigil / Easter Sunrise service are available from pastorwildauer@gmail.com.

History of Christian Worship Bible Class

A Bible class called “*The History of Christian Worship*” is available from Coordinator Martin Wildauer (pastorwildauer@gmail.com). The class is based on “*The Western Rite*” taught at last year’s Summer Quarter by Prof. Tiefel. The class includes discussion questions, leaders notes and PowerPoints.

Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of worship forms Christians have used over the last 2000 years, especially Lutherans, and particularly WELS.
- Realize that worship forms have always been changing as they build on what came before and adjust to current circumstances.
- Gain an appreciation for the gift we have inherited in our worship forms.
- Be prepared to receive and use the worship forms in our next WELS Hymnal.

Outline:

1. The Early Christian Church
2. A Growing Church, 300 – 600
3. The Medieval Church, 600 – 1500
4. Luther’s Reforms
5. Post-Luther, Europe
6. America, 1800 – 1941
7. America, 1941 – Present

Luther and Music

A study paper on “Luther and Music” is available from pastorwildauer@gmail.com. Worship leaders, musicians, teachers, pastors and others will find something useful in the historical review and practical application. Each section includes study questions.

Proclaiming the Gospel Through Music

- I. Preparing to Proclaim the Gospel through Music
- II. Proclaiming the Gospel through the Liturgy
- III. Proclaiming the Gospel through Hymns
- IV. Proclaiming the Gospel as Heirs of Luther
 - Treating worship seriously
 - Treating worship with a pastoral balance
 - Teach, teach, teach worship

Pastor Martin Wildauer
SEW District Worship Coordinator

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SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference Special Ministries

Name Change When the Board for Parish Services was reconfigured under the Conference of Presidents, it was renamed “Congregational Ministry Support Group” (“CMSG”). This summer, this division’s name will be simplified to **Congregational Services**. Like Special Ministries, all Congregational Services commissions are focused on providing resources (almost always free) to congregations. Notice how many free resources this report offers (and only asks for one thing from you).

If you read one thing: This year Special Ministries mailed posters and letters asking everyone to submit the names of members who are in the military. 1400 posters went out. Out of all those congregations and schools, only about 25 churches responded! We believe that there are about 1500 WELS / ELS members actively serving in the military, but our list of names has actually *decreased*! Go to the simple online referral site <http://wels.net/refer> While the form asks a lot of questions, the only information that must be entered for us to serve someone is the name and either an email or phone number to contact them. Our National Civilian Chaplain can collect the rest of the information. *This is the number one Special Ministries’ issue at this time.*

Resources on the Conference Website or Packet of Reports

1. Care Committee for Called Workers has designed simple guides help CCCW committees encourage called workers to inform themselves and plan for retirement. These are also available at the Special Ministries Resource Center: <http://csm.welsrc.net/called-worker-care>.
2. Committee on Mental Health Needs has revised its old brochures *Help for Mental Health Issues*, *When to Refer*, *Christian or Non-Christian Counselor*, and *Ask a Therapist* into attractive and up-to-date flyers. (Download them from the Resource Center: <http://csm.welsrc.net/mental-health-needs>.) In the conference materials, you will find a new booklet, *Therapy Models (Psychological Terms): A Brief Review of Counseling Models*, especially useful for pastors with its current information on all the techniques under the umbrella of “Therapy.”
3. Are you aware of all the resources for people in your church and community who are deaf or hard of hearing? We’ve included in the conference materials a flyer **MDHH is Here for You** which indicates all the resources available through Special Ministries.

Resource for Parents Conquerors through Christ has designed downloadable ebooks for parents. Parents can find helpful information on talking to their children about this critical subject at conquerorsthroughchrist.net/resources/ebooks. New titles include: “The Dangers of Pornography,” “Warning Kids About Pornography,” and “Correcting Kids Who Use Pornography.” Also on the website: an excellent, Christ-centered Bible study that addresses the issues of pornography.

Let’s Protect the Children Has your church adopted child abuse prevention policies? If not, read this thought provoking article on effective church policies on the website freedomforcaptives.com under the tab for “Resources” **Suffer the Children: Developing Effective Church Policies on Child Maltreatment.**

Pastor Richard Waldschmidt
SEW District Special Ministries Coordinator



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

2016 District Financial Report

Balance, 12/31/2015, Checking Account	\$7,022.20
Balance, 12/31/2015 Savings Account	\$20,087.19
Funds Available, 1/1/2016	\$27,109.39

Income, 2016	Dues	\$38,336.95	
	Convention Offering	\$2,645.75	
	Farewell Gifts	\$6,592.50	
	Interest	\$8.45	
Total Income, 2016			\$47,583.65

Expenses, 2016	Postage	\$159.80	
	Internet Hosting	\$326.10	
	2016 Convention		
	Arrangements	\$42,414.71	
	Printing	\$3,068.00	
	Worship	\$1,259.94	
	Offering (One in Christ)	\$2,645.75	
	Gifts	\$6,692.50	
	Circuit Pastor Training	\$2,183.75	
	Reformation (2015/2016)	\$2,000.00	
	Transition Counseling	\$950.00	
Total 2016 Expenditures			\$61,700.55

Balance, 12/31/2016	\$12,992.49
Balance, Checking Account	\$896.85
Balance, Savings Account	\$12,095.64

Costs for 2016 Convention were very similar to 2014. Printing costs, though, were about \$2,000 more. I hope to reduce these costs by asking other ministries to send hard copies of their reports.

Dues – As of May 30, forty calling bodies had not yet paid their district dues for 2017.

Gifts – Most of this category represents the gifts that were gathered and then presented to President and Pauline Rutschow for their farewell at the 2016 convention.

Circuit Pastor Training: Actual costs for the fall's circuit pastor training came in slightly below the amount we raised in the additional dues assessment. If costs come in low again this year, we may be able to reduce the amount of the additional dues assessment in future years.

The **Reformation** category includes district reimbursement for several of the circuit and conference Reformation services in 2015 and 2016.

Internet costs will be less in future years because the cost for FinalWeb is less than the combined cost of using Connect and the online registration service I had been using.

The **Transition Counseling** category has included counseling for workers transitioning out of ministry. In 2016, the officers also approved the cost of counseling for a worker looking to get back into ministry. 2017's report will also include some counseling recommended for workers in ministry.

Pastor William Carter
SEW District Secretary-Treasurer

Take Every Thought Captive – Make It Obedient to Christ

On Being a Lutheran at “Reformation 500”

Discussion Starter

It started with a bang – and I’m not talking about the nailing of Martin Luther’s theses. In order to elicit a reaction, the presenter announced: “21st century Lutherans have lost confidence in what it means to be a Lutheran.” Immediately there were shouts on both sides: “Absolutely” sounded from one corner; “No way” came from another. What do you think?

The statement was designed to be a discussion starter. Some here are wondering how “Lutheran” was meant to be defined – Is it to be understood as a general term for all who call themselves Lutheran? (Not all Lutherans are really “Lutheran,” are they?) Should I be thinking about my own Lutheran church body? What exactly does it mean to “be Lutheran”? Does this statement intend to reveal an identity crisis? What about this concept of “lost confidence”? What could give that impression? Is this how I feel as I consider my own confessional identity? Isn’t 2017 a “year of celebration” – why introduce the element of apprehension?

Historical Review – Nothing New

While you ponder how you would address this statement, it might be valuable to review, briefly, the historical context of the past centennial anniversaries of the posting of the “95 Theses.” We will find that in each instance Lutherans faced what might be called an “identity crisis.” When Lutherans commemorated the 100th anniversary in 1617, religious tensions inside the Holy Roman Empire were at a breaking point. The very next year marked the beginning of what would be one of the bloodiest “religious wars” in modern times – the Thirty Years War. In 1617 Lutherans inside the Empire were engaged in a struggle for their confessional identity, challenged both by Calvinistic Reformed movements and a resurgence of Roman Catholic power and prestige.

The 1717 anniversary came just a couple of years after the death of the French king Louis XIV. His attempt to extend France’s influence into central Europe also promoted a revival of Roman Catholicism – his revocation of religious toleration resulted in a mass exodus of French Calvinists to all parts of Europe and beyond. At the same time, German Lutherans were wrestling with the effects of a popular movement called “pietism,” which found fault with the practice of orthodox Lutheranism and encouraged a more personal, practical exercise of faith. Lutherans observed yet another significant Reformation anniversary in the face of social and cultural pressures to relax their confessional stance. Those pressures were intensified by the rationalist designs of the early “Enlightenment” which undermined doctrinal differences and advocated tolerance.

The strain did not wane as 1817 approached. At the outset of the 19th century Europe was adjusting to “life without Napoleon.” His far-reaching, yet ephemeral, Empire had subjected most of Europe to his political and military whims. After his defeat many European governments reacted by attempting to regain a sense of national identity. In Prussia (there was no “Germany” yet), Frederick William III used the 300th anniversary to initiate an ecumenical blending of Reformed and Lutheran churches in what was called the “Prussian Union.” Frederick initially promoted the Union by means of a new worship “Agenda.” In a September 1817 decree he wrote:

Under the influence of a better spirit, which sets aside the nonessential and holds fast to the fundamentals of Christianity on which both parties are agreed, I wish to see this God-pleasing work accomplished in my territories and to have it initiated at the coming centennial of the Reformation, to the honor of God and to the welfare of the Christian church. Such a truly religious union of both Protestant churches, which are separated only by external differences, is in accord with the great purposes of Christianity; it agrees with the first intention of the Reformers; it lies in the spirit of Protestantism; it furthers the ecclesiastical consciousness; it has wholesome effects on familial piety; it will be the source of many improvements in church and school which until now have been prevented only by confession differences.

To this wholesome unification, already so long and now so loudly desired and often attempted without success, in which the Reformed will not become Lutheran and the Lutheran will not become Reformed, but both will become one vital Evangelical Christian Church in the spirit of its holy Founder, no obstacle which has its source in the nature of the matter remains, as soon as both parties seriously and honestly desire such union in the true Christian spirit. In that spirit they will worthily express the thanks which we owe divine Providence for the invaluable blessing of the Reformation; and the memory of its great Founders will be honored in the continuation of their immortal work by this deed.¹

How would confessional Lutherans in 1817 have reacted to the statement: “19th century Lutherans have lost confidence in what it means to be Lutheran”? The “Evangelical” church remains the dominant influence in German Protestantism to this day. And very few confessional “Lutheran” churches remain in the very place of Luther’s reform. (Note history’s warning.) Significantly, those who opposed the Prussian Union were among the founders of the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods in America.

One hundred years later, in 1917, the world was embroiled in the catastrophe and convulsions of the Great War. The Germans in Germany wanted to celebrate Luther as a national hero; some Lutheran church bodies in America (including our own Wisconsin Synod) saw this 400th

¹ Carl S. Meyer, ed., *Moving Frontiers* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1964), 58.

anniversary as an opportunity to forge new alignments. Not all of the mergers were the product of genuine unity. In an essay titled “Luther at Marburg,” written to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Reformation, Prof. R. D. Biedermann (Concordia, Springfield, IL) closed with this caution:

The *spirit* of the Zwinglians and of the Strassburg peacemakers, – frivolous treatment of Scripture-passages; twisting of the text to meet the demands of human reasoning; tendency to unite by ignoring doctrinal differences, or finding formulas pleasing both parts, – this “spirit so different” from that of Luther and his colaborers, is seeking entrance into each and every Lutheran synod or congregation, no matter how firmly they may have formerly held to the tenets of our dear Church. Let us beware!²

The centennial commemorations of the past were celebrated in the midst of social, political and spiritual anxieties and challenges to the heritage of Lutheran identity. (And what a testimony to God’s grace! Confessional Lutheranism survived through significant and serious assaults. That is the value of studying history – not only does it provide comparative perspective for present situations, it always supplies evidence of God’s enduring grace.) Are circumstances really any different today? We are living in a climate of terrorist insecurity, and the “progressive” nature of our advanced “millennial” culture seems to threaten anything that appears “old” or “outdated.” We find ourselves asking questions about how to stay “relevant” and “authentic.” It occurs to us that we live in a subjective (first-person, borderline narcissistic) world that is searching desperately for some sort of truth, but society is less and less accepting of anything that claims to be objectively true. Trends and statistics reveal a precipitous decline in church membership, attendance and involvement. To borrow a line from the hymn “Abide With Me”: “Change and decay in all around I see.” Much of our cultural milieu is anti-Christian, and, therefore, anti-Lutheran. But even “Lutheran” is not clearly understood or defined. Our church body, for instance, is not in fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the largest Lutheran entity in our country, for doctrinal and confessional reasons. Lutheran church bodies all stake a claim to an identity as “Lutheran” that is rooted in confessional statements, but how these should be comprehended or used is not uniformly understood or practiced.

There is, of course, nothing new under the sun. Martin Luther’s own reformation movement was, in many respects, a confrontation with decadent medieval culture. He was asking many of the questions that we still ask about how to preach and teach the Word of God to people who live in a setting that opposes the will and ways of God. Listen to Luther speaking toward the end of his life:

² R. D. Biedermann, “Luther at Marburg,” in *Four Hundred Years – Commemorative Essays on the Reformation of Dr. Martin Luther and Its Blessed Results*, ed. W.H.T. Dau (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1917), 87.

The longer the world stands, the worse it becomes. It seems that now, too, the world's wickedness is increasing. This is actually comforting to us Christians. Now, too, the more we preach, the less attention people pay. . . . People are bent on increasing wickedness and wantonness at an overwhelming speed. We cry out and preach against this; we say that the princes should hinder it. But what good does it do? It does, however, do us good in that we may expect the Last Day sooner.³

This should not be considered cold resignation on Luther's part, as though he had given up on the urgency of gospel proclamation. He remained a tireless preacher of Christ to his final days, but he was realistic about its impact (even as he was continually able to perceive the "good" even in the midst of "evil"). In the end, Luther's method and message was always a refocus away from self and directly on Christ. It is our goal to consider the elements of Luther's model of reform as we wrestle with the practice of our Lutheran faith in the 21st century. What is necessary and enduring, and why?

As we approach this 500th anniversary we are faced with questions about how to make Lutheranism "more attractive" in our present cultural context. We are asking questions about the viability and sustainability of the church. Put simply, the issue is about continuity and change – with continuity, generally speaking, considered the problem, and change the necessity. (Consider, for instance, the set of church-related conferences held under the ominous-sounding title "Change or Die." That may be enough to cause a 21st century Lutheran to lose confidence in what it means to be Lutheran.) Ultimately we are asking, in the name of Lutheranism, what must not change? We must be wary of feeling defeated as the world rushes past us and ahead of us. This is no time for fatalism, despondency, pessimism or any attempt to justify less-than-vigorous outreach efforts. If anything, the consideration of our Lutheran identity should reinvigorate the desire to evangelize – to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ and his forgiving love to the world around us. We look for answers in the Word and insights from the history of the church.

Take Every Thought Captive – Paul's Ministry Standard

Before we think more on and about Luther and the Reformation, we must pause for a moment to reflect on an episode from the ministry and teaching of St. Paul. This is more than just an aside. It seems to me that what follows supplies the church with essential guidance as it confronts challenges both to its message and its methods. It goes without saying, but there is a lot of Paul in Luther. The emphasis established by Paul in this bit of instruction from 2 Corinthians was precisely the paradigm Luther used in the process of reforming the church.

As Paul defended his approach to ministry in the face of opposition, he wrote:

³ Quotation found in Ewald Plass, *What Luther Says*, (St. Louis: CPH), #2172.

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, NIV84)

The title of this essay comes from the final phrase, and I think that the value of this instruction cannot be overestimated – especially when it comes to assessing matters of doctrine and practice. Paul was militant here, using the vocabulary of war – with fighting and weapons and demolishing strongholds and taking captive. He was not engaged in a mere “war of words”; this was a battle, “life or death” – so serious are such matters and decisions. Detractors had raised doubts about Paul’s methods and his message, his integrity and his authority. His “theology of the cross” seemed a bit weak and passive and even foolish; frankly, they preferred a “theology of glory.” So much of Paul’s writing to the Corinthian congregation is a defense of his theology and an appeal to find unity in Jesus Christ. Paul’s ways were so “un-Greek” – didn’t he understand the culture in which he was working? So much of the criticism leveled against Paul was rooted in comparison and competition.

There was more at stake than personal reputation. The “arguments” and “pretensions” (ὑψώματα, literally, “lofty thoughts”) were full of self-centered arrogance, pride and conceit, and they stood in opposition to the very “knowledge of God.” Paul’s “theology of the cross” (1 Corinthians 2:2) demolished such satanic lies with the truth of the hidden God in Christ. Perhaps we think here of Luther’s famous line from “A Mighty Fortress”: “One little word can fell him.”

“Pretensions” were not just first-century phenomena. Luther encountered similar issues, and so do we. Human arguments may take the following form (partial list):

- That salvation is a matter of personal effort
- That God didn’t create this world in perfection
- That God doesn’t have control of this world
- That there is no moral absolute
- That gender is a personal construct
- That baptism is simply a sign or symbol
- That the Lord’s Supper is just a meal
- That the Church is just humanly “organized religion”
- That the Bible is contradictory and the product of editing

Paul strengthens his point with a final piece of instruction: “We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” The image used here is that of a prison (Greek: αἰχμαλωτίζοντες). It was Paul’s way of saying that he did not allow any freedom (any license) to thoughts unless or until they conformed to the will and ways of Christ. If the message or method did not fall in line with the “theology of the cross,” it did not fall in line with the gospel of Christ. What Paul

did say was disciplined by the teaching of Christ. This is the Jesus Christ whom the writer to the Hebrews called “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13). So, as we wrestle with our own place in time and culture, we must continue to discipline our thoughts in this same way.

Lessons from Luther’s Reform

During this 500th anniversary year, we do well to consider the lessons that can be learned by reviewing the “model” that is Luther as he “took every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ.” Luther set a pattern to follow for a church that wants to “watch its life and doctrine closely” (1 Timothy 4:16). Luther’s reform remains relevant, pertinent and applicable; there are aspects of his theological “rediscovery” that we *must* continue to teach as precisely and distinctly and carefully as he taught them.

Dr. Erik Herrmann (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis) explained perceptively that “Luther’s 95 Theses were written as a protest against bad pastoral care.”⁴ Indeed, Luther’s reformation transformed church practice from the cold, indifferent, “institutional” rituals of medieval Roman Catholicism to a model of personal pastoral care. Luther could debate theology with any scholarly theologian, but doctrine was not about the “ivory tower” for Luther. He wanted peasants and politicians, craftsmen and knights to hear the true Word of God and to nurture their lives as Christians. He had the mind of an academic but the heart of a pastor.

It should be recalled that the first of Luther’s theses was about the proper understanding of repentance. “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent’ [Matthew 4:17] he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” There is, perhaps, no more basic message in all of Scripture than “Repent.” Yet the biblical understanding of repentance, especially in its broadest sense or usage, is not always very clearly taught. In Luther’s day, the Roman Catholic teaching about repentance was woefully inadequate, in not confusing, false and corrupt. Priests taught that sinners needed to come to confession and recall their sinful behavior. They would then grant absolution and assign some sort of “satisfaction” for the temporal punishment due sin. Indulgences were involved in the last part of this process. Catholics were not supposed to understand the granting of indulgence as though it were absolution – or the forgiveness of sins. Indulgences were simply part of the restoration process, a way to “fill in the holes” left by the damage of past sin. Sinners could tap into the “treasury of merits” – the bountiful supply of saintly works – to assist in this effort. And, unfortunately, that is exactly what people began to think – that repentance was a matter of personal effort, a kind of occasional *quid pro quo* exchange.

⁴ Erik Herrmann, “Reformation Remembered,” <http://lutheranreformation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ref500-paper-ReformationRemembered.pdf>, 2.

Instead, Luther understood that “repentance” was God’s work in the hearts of believers by his Word and Spirit which both convicted and comforted sinners (through the application of law and gospel). He also taught that contrition and repentance (sorrow and faith) was a part of “daily” life (cf. the “Fourth Part” of Luther’s explanation of “Baptism” in *The Small Catechism*). For Luther the life of faith was a life of repentance. Believers were, at one and the same time, sinners and saints. The *simul iustus et peccator* paradox was at the core of Scripture’s portrayal of Christian life, and the implications were wide-reaching. It meant that justification (being declared righteous) and sanctification (living in the righteousness of Christ) were both “by grace alone.” Believers have the status of “saints” before God, but life will always remain a struggle between the “old nature” and the “new creation” (Romans 6 and 7). Sanctified living is not an effort to make the “old nature” better – some sort of personal reform movement. The “old nature” does not leave Christians once they come to faith. Nor can we reform the “old nature” and make it better. Neither are Christians partly sinner and partly saint. The “Formula of Concord” offered this explanation:

For the old creature, like a stubborn, recalcitrant donkey, is also still a part of them, and it needs to be forced into obedience to Christ not only through the law’s teaching, admonition, compulsion and threat but also often with the cudgel of punishments and tribulations until the sinful flesh is completely stripped away and people are perfectly renewed in the resurrection.⁵

Luther was a master of teaching Scripture’s paradoxes – its seeming contradictions – and of making important distinctions in Scriptural usage. He appreciated that the gospel itself was a paradox – that Christ conquered by a cross, that death brought life, that the “last would be first,” that the “humbled would be exalted.”

In his treatise on the evangelical application of Christian freedom titled *The Freedom of a Christian*, Luther wrote: “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”⁶ Luther was picking up on the paradox of Christian life – Christians are at one and the same time free and duty-bound. We are free from condemnation to eternal death. Christ has set us free from any sense that we must follow a prescribed set of laws to merit our salvation. We are free from any bondage to sin or Satan. We are free to love because we live in the security of our salvation, surrounded by the perfect love of Christ. Our freedom, then, is not an end in itself, nor is it a license to indulge our personal desires. Gospel freedom values the guidance of God’s Word. And faith creates a sensitivity to the needs of others – that they too can enjoy the love and peace we have through faith in Christ.

In Luther’s time, when “radical reformers” were making impatient adjustments to worship rites and practice, people were becoming confused, discouraged and misled. In their “freedom,” these people falsely thought that reformation was rooted in casting off the restraints of Roman

⁵ “Formula of Concord,” Solid Declaration, VI:24.

⁶ *Luther’s Works* (American Edition), Vol. 31, 344.

Catholic principle or procedure. The radicals, for example, were destroying images and instruments, as though these things were fundamentally wrong. They also urged monks and priests to marry – disregarding their freedom to make a choice in the matter. Luther urged patience, instruction and moderation. He did not want the people to equate reform with revolution. He did not want them to think of reform as merely consisting of outward changes. For Luther this was about matters of faith, and such matters required the application of love and the Word – “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).

Luther made the important distinction between “two kinds of righteousness.” These are sometimes distinguished by the terms “passive” and “active” – or, as Luther perceived them, *coram deo* (before God) and *coram mundo* (before the world). The Reformation breakthrough that “the righteous will live by faith” (Romans 1, Galatians 3) was just such a “lightbulb” moment because, by the Spirit’s guidance, he understood that there was a distinction in the use of the word “righteous” or “righteousness.” People are righteous before God when, by faith, they receive the righteousness of Christ – his obedience, perfection and forgiveness. This is a declaration of God that believers receive passively. With this new identity, believers actively live in love and obedience “before the world.” The distinctions between law and gospel and between justification and sanctification are no less integral to the use and understanding of “righteousness” in the Scripture, even as they are basic to the teaching of the “saint-sinner” paradox. Luther uncovered the true sense and meaning of grace. Since we are passive in conversion, grace was genuinely a free gift of God’s love. All Roman Catholic pretension about “infused grace” by which sinners would work out their salvation was shown to be fabricated and false.

Luther came to appreciate that salvation came from God to people – not in any way the other way around. There was no synergism involved in salvation. The means of grace were given by God through Christ to supply sinners with the promise and guarantee of salvation. The sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper were ways that God came to sinners with the blessed assurance of forgiveness in Christ.

A proper understanding of the sacraments was at the core of Luther’s Reformation teaching. Roman Catholicism, for instance, had allowed the “mass” to become a meritorious work by which the participant received a measure of God’s favor merely by participating in the sacrament. Catholic theologians referred to the supper as a “sacrifice.” Catholic doctrine tended to emphasize participation (the “work” itself) at the expense of faith (trust in God’s promises of grace). The entire Roman Catholic “sacramental system” (which also included baptism, confirmation, penance, marriage, ordination and last rites) stressed the merit of participation. Luther called for a return to the biblical interpretation and historical practice. He underscored that the plain words of Scripture involved a “mystery” that was grasped by faith alone.

Even some reformers at Luther’s time did not agree with his perspective. They wanted to create distance from Roman Catholicism by heading in an opposite direction. Ulrich Zwingli, a Swiss

theologian, taught that Christ was present at the Lord's Supper only in a spiritual, not bodily, sense. For Luther this explanation failed to correspond with the Bible's teaching. Zwingli and Luther famously disputed about this doctrine when they met personally at a castle in Marburg, Germany, in October of 1529. Luther also battled with other reformers regarding the doctrine of Baptism. The Anabaptist movement, which started in the 1520s, rejected the practice of baptizing infants because it did not seem reasonable to them. Those who had been baptized as babies were "rebaptized" as adults, hence the term "Anabaptist." Ultimately, for many who rejected Roman Catholic theology, Baptism became a sign that a believer had come to faith. The shift from an objective rite to subjective ritual was obvious.

For Luther the sacraments were an application of the forgiveness of sins. He labored passionately to put the focus back on what God was giving – real forgiveness in his Word and promise – through the sacrament. He used explanation and illustration to make things clearer, but he instructed that the blessings and benefits were a product of faith.

In 1525, Luther wrote one of his most famous treatises, called *On the Bondage of the Will*. He was responding to a piece by the humanist theologian Desiderius Erasmus titled *On the Freedom of the Will*. While Luther did not agree with Erasmus' position, he praised Erasmus for confronting "the heart of the issue." From his perspective the theological questions that revolved around the matters of the will were some of the most important and relevant issues to clarify. The very nature of "grace" was at stake. Salvation could not be a product of grace alone if the will (human assent) were part of the equation. Luther summarized the Bible's teaching in his explanation to the 3rd Article of the Apostles Creed (*Small Catechism*). He wrote: "I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."

For Luther the will was "bound" in sin and in slavery to Satan until freed in grace by the gospel. By faith the believer, then, has a new master and is bound to Christ. The idea that the human will was completely free to make its own decisions and choices in spiritual matters was scripturally foreign to Luther. But we should not extend Luther's perspective too far. He does not say that there is no such thing as a free will in humans. He limits the scope of that will to matters which are "under us" – that is, to secular matters.

The issue had been disputed by theologians for centuries before Luther, and the debate would continue after Luther's death, even among some of his closest colleagues. For Luther the resolution was found only in statements of Scripture, as contrary to human reason or experience as they might appear.

Luther wrote in his commentary on Genesis:

We have, of course, in a certain sense a free will in those things which are under us. For the divine mandate has constituted us lords of the fishes of the sea, of the fowls of the

air, and of the beasts of the field. These we kill whenever we please. We enjoy the food and the other useful things they supply. But in things pertaining to God, in matters which are above us, man has no free will at all. He is in reality as clay in the hand of a potter, clay which is merely worked on by power from without and is not active itself. Here, then, we choose nothing; we do nothing.⁷

Clarity about the biblical doctrine of the will is important because of the pervasive and, to some extent, persuasive appeal of “decision theology.” People like the sense that they play an important part in their coming to faith. Proponents of decision theology also claim that the Lutheran position is morally irresponsible—it does not demand enough “action” or “change” from the believer. Lutherans respond that God’s active work on the hearts of believers causes a change in attitude and action. Repentance, as described above, is truly “God’s work” as the Spirit operates through the means of grace to turn hearts and minds to the obedience of faith. To a great extent, this doctrine demands that we disregard what is appealing to reason and take God at his Word. That is what Luther learned to do – to “take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ.” Such teaching and preaching demands thorough, careful, precise, confessional expression.

Luther was ahead of his time in understanding the power of narrative to express and impress truth on hearers. His own personal reformation came through the experience of Scripture’s story – he fought the battles of the prophets, he lived the lives of the apostles. This was all very real to him. Most of all he came to understand that the life of Christ was, by faith, his life. Even as Christ’s death was his death, and Christ’s resurrection was his new life. Hermann noted:

Luther gave more intentional thought to how the Scriptures functioned as the Word of God. There is a saying that ‘there are some books that you read, and then there are some books that read you.’ For Luther the Bible was that second kind of book. He does not see the Scriptures primarily as the object of our interpretation, but rather we are the object as the Scriptures interpret *us*. Now this is not to say that Luther thinks there is no need to try to understand the text, or that Scripture requires no study and no explanation. It’s simply that for Luther the primary function of the Scriptures is to shape us, form us, to lead us into the new creation, to kill us and make us alive again.⁸

From the narrative of Scripture, Luther came to understand that the theology of the Word is the “theology of the cross.” This concept is multi-faceted and rich, with important (relevant word – “huge”) implications about how the gospel is communicated. It is a truth that requires reflection and meditation. It is the product of the Spirit’s insight and the wisdom of faith.

⁷ Quotation translation found in Ewald Plass, ed., *What Luther Says*, (St. Louis: CPH, 1959), #4669. Also found in *Luther’s Works* (American Edition), Vol. 1 (Lectures on Genesis 1-5), 84-85.

⁸ Erik Herrmann, “Reformation Remembered,” <http://lutheranreformation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ref500-paper-ReformationRemembered.pdf>, 4.

Already in the Heidelberg Disputation of 1518, Luther proposed that the true knowledge of God is “hidden in his suffering.” He perceived through Scripture that God revealed himself by hiding himself in Christ – what paradox! Luther’s theses compared and contrasted the “theology of the cross” with what he called the “theology of glory,” which is the religion of a person’s natural self. Shortly before his Transfiguration, a passing and partial glimpse of his glory as God, Jesus said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34). Followers of Jesus are called to a life of trust and self-denial. Christian life is a life of endurance and weakness and love. Thesis 21 of the “Heidelberg Disputation” reads: “A theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls the thing what it actually is.”⁹ Luther expanded on that “hard saying”:

This is clear: He who does not know Christ does not know God hidden in suffering. Therefore he prefers works to suffering, glory to the cross, strength to weakness, wisdom to folly, and, in general, good to evil. . . . God can be found only in suffering and the cross, as has already been said. Therefore the friends of the cross say that the cross is good and works are evil, for through the cross works are destroyed and the old Adam, who is especially edified by works, is crucified. It is impossible for a person not to be puffed up by his good works unless he has first been deflated and destroyed by suffering and evil until he knows that he is worthless and that his works are not his but God’s.¹⁰

The “theology of the cross” is clearly counter-cultural – it runs contrary to our natural religious sensibility, and it most definitely runs counter to 21st century American standards. And so? Lutheran theology does not fear to meet such resistance head on because the truth of Scripture and the power of God’s Spirit is behind such confession. And it should be abundantly clear, after this partial and cursory review of Luther’s scriptural insights, that the mode and means of expression need to be precise, reflective of paradox and doctrinal distinctions.

“Reimagining” Luther

How is “Lutheran” defined today? This is a question for our time; in Luther’s day the definition was, arguably, more clear. The lack of uniformity, in doctrine or practice, is confusing to people. A variety of factors, too numerous to detail, are involved in what has become the wide array and spectrum of “Lutheran.” Identifying some of the “pitfalls” can be instructive.

Reconstructing Luther’s history and his theological formation is not an easy task. The vast amount of literature on Luther and his theology testifies to that fact. Lutheran churches are constantly grappling with questions about what aspects of Luther’s teaching still resonate. The

⁹ *Luther’s Works* (American Edition), Vol. 31, 53.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

500 years of distance between Luther's time and our present setting make it impossible for Luther to "speak" to every imaginable situation that affects our particular cultural context. That half-millennium gap, and all of the intellectual and scientific "progress" that has occurred since the 16th century also make Luther less "relatable" for some. For many this is a ready-made excuse for changing and adjusting Lutheran theology. They reason that Luther, a university professor, would surely follow the pattern of modern scholarship. As if to say, "We cannot fault him for what he did not know in his time, but we consider that he would clearly espouse such teachings as, for instance, evolution or higher biblical criticism." So Luther is "modernized."

This is the kind of Luther that can be found in a book such as Timothy Lull's *My Conversations with Martin Luther*. Lull, who was the president of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (ELCA) in Berkeley, CA, wrote about imaginary conversations he had with Luther in his seminary office. The convention may seem a bit "hokey," but it allows the reader to understand the approach of a more "liberal" view of Luther and his theology. For Lull the issue of changing times and mores, the things "we *now* know," would have made Luther more amenable to interpretations and developments that a more conservative Lutheran might question. According to this perspective, changing societal norms mean that doctrine must adjust accordingly.

Precisely this type of thinking is behind the adage that asserts: "The reformed church is always being reformed." That expression did not originate with Luther, but there are those who claim that it conveys his spirit. The perspective has some merit if we understand it to mean that each generation needs to make the truths of God's Word its own – in a sense to rediscover them for themselves. Believers must communicate clearly God's truth to the next generation – from age to age. Luther would support whatever it takes to do just that – adjustments in language or style but never a departure from the doctrine of the Word. There is an expanded version of the phrase – "The reformed church is always being reformed by the Word of God" – which may reflect better how Luther might understand the church's "ongoing" reformation.

There is also a tendency to deconstruct Luther's teaching in search of its fundamental parts. To ask: what "themes" are a part of Luther's legacy? To boil Lutheranism down to a few basic features without comprehending the interconnectedness of Lutheran theology. There is a popular notion, for instance, that Luther's reform was chiefly about "freedom," so to be Lutheran is to promote freedom movements of all kinds – religious, social, political. In its extreme form, this view of Luther has led to support for the false teaching of "liberation theology" and its activism against political injustice. In a similar vein, some think that Lutheranism is about "protest." Since Lutherans were the first to be called "Protestants," at the Second Diet of Speyer in 1529, "protest" is essential to the name. To be Lutheran, according to this perspective, means to be imbued with a spirit that is willing to challenge anything that sets itself up as authoritative – even as Luther stood up to the pope and Roman Catholic authority. This type of reasoning may be especially attractive to post-modern thinkers.

Perhaps you have heard that to be Lutheran means to “preach the gospel.” Who would disagree with that statement? But Lutherans, even in Luther’s time, took this to an extreme and claimed that any teaching of the law would do damage to the pure gospel of grace. They reasoned that if justification by grace through faith was the doctrine by which the church “stands or falls,” then Lutherans should avoid such rules (laws) that put limits on grace. Antinomianism, as this teaching is called, is still alive and well. Today’s antinomianism is rooted in an understanding of God’s law as a vague and general directive to love, not in the objective delineation of God’s immutable moral will in its specific formulations. “Love” then becomes a legal command to demonstrate “acceptance” or “toleration.” The only sin, then, is to be “unloving.” To put it another way, anything which would restrict the free expression of love is wrong.

Another prevalent “theme” that is often highlighted, and misapplied, is Luther’s teaching of the “priesthood of all believers,” which has had ramifications for the doctrines of the church and its ministry. Some have taken this to be a license to serve and practice “ministry” according to personal design and desire. As a corollary there is often a strain of anticlericalism among those who misuse this tenet of Lutheran doctrine. In reality, Luther was merely mirroring the words of 1 Peter 2:9 – “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” Luther meant to emphasize that in Christ, the great High Priest, believers are justified, sanctified and made holy for service in his kingdom. He was undermining as artificial the Roman Catholic distinction that certain modes of living were “more holy” or privileged. Luther explained:

For although we are all priests, this does not mean that all of us can preach, teach, and rule. Certain ones of the multitude must be selected and separated for such an office. And he who has such an office is but a servant of all the others, who are priests. . . . This is the way to distinguish between the office of preaching, or the ministry, and the general priesthood of all baptized Christians.¹¹

Some time ago a Lutheran pastor, whose congregation no longer followed what he termed “traditional” practice, was asked what made his congregation “Lutheran.” He responded, “We have the sacraments.” For him the most distinctive marks of Lutheran identity were teaching the “real presence” and “baptizing infants.” There is no doubt that these are defining features, but confessional Lutheran theology, as we have shown, is not limited to its sacramental theology or practice. No doubt the pastor answered rather glibly; we are certain that he was more sensitive to Lutheran doctrine than his answer suggested. But his quick response may also have indicated that in terms of perception, those were the only features by which an observer could distinguish his congregation from other “mainline” Protestant churches.

¹¹ “Exposition of Psalm 110,” *Luther’s Works* (American Edition), Vol. 13, 332.

This litany of misapplications was meant to illustrate how dangerous it is to focus too much on a part at the expense of the whole. These attempts to catch the “spirit” of Lutheranism tend to be, generally speaking, well intentioned, but their narrow scope creates a caricature, not an enduring representation. They also tend to divide rather than unite. Scripture’s doctrine, like the human body, is both simple and complex, held together under one head, which is Christ.

Promote a “Lutheran Culture”

Writing at the turn of the 21st century, former president of Concordia University Irvine (CA), J.A.O. Preus III acknowledged:

Today we [the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod] seem always to be pulled in two opposite directions. In our search for order and stability in the face of the incursions of mainstream Evangelicalism, many of us today are looking to Rome and Constantinople. Many believe that the antidote for the cultural accommodation characteristic of American Evangelicalism is to be found there. Those who lament our catholic (or non-American) tendencies would pull us toward Geneva or Pasadena. But Lutheranism, if it wishes to remain faithfully confessional for our times, cannot allow itself to go in either direction. Both Rome and Geneva may offer many fresh insights that can be of service to us as we attempt to grapple with the challenges of today. At the same time, both of those directions take us to places we shouldn’t go. In fact, the core of Lutheran theology in the Confessions was articulated to a large extent in opposition to the theology of Rome and of Geneva.¹²

There is a good deal of insight in Preus’s perspective. The tendency when confronted with a challenge is, as he describes, to head in opposite, often extreme, directions, rather than seeking what Prof. Daniel Deutschlander has termed “the narrow Lutheran middle” – in this instance, the place of the Lutheran Confessions. Perhaps, we might wonder, whether the axiom is holding true – that the WELS trends about a generation behind the LC-MS. It seems to me that we are, in our time and culture, being forced to struggle with the question: What does it mean to be Lutheran? To ask: How does one preserve “Our Great Heritage . . . From Age to Age”?

If you would ask me if I have lost confidence in what it means to be a Lutheran, I would humbly, yet confidently, answer “no.” That is because “to be a Lutheran” means to trust that the Spirit of God uses the means of grace (Word and Sacrament) to call, gather, enlighten and strengthen the church. We profess that the Lutheran Confessions (*norma normata*) provide an accurate explanation of the doctrine of Holy Scripture (*norma normans*). That does not mean that I am “anxiety free.” What gives me a nagging, pit-of-my-stomach sense is, quite honestly,

¹² J.A.O. Preus III, “What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran Today? Addressing Contemporary Issues with the Historic Christian Faith,” in *The Pieper Lectures. Vol. 4 – What Does It Mean to be Lutheran?*, edited by John A. Maxfield and Jennifer H. Maxfield, (St. Louis: Concordia Historical Institute & The Luther Academy, 2000), 83.

history. All of us have heard the adage that those who do not learn from history are destined (or doomed) to repeat it. And yet, it seems, that very few lessons are actually learned. History so often does repeat itself – though rarely in exactly the same ways, often in similar ones. When addressing this issue with students I pose this question: What does history teach us – what path not to take, or how to take a bad path better? You catch my drift. Far too often we think that “learning from history” means that we can wander along a route that, in the past, led to serious problems, but, since we have identified the issues, we can be more successful in retracing these steps. The historical “wild card” is always the sinful human nature, which is unreformable and opposes the will of God at every turn. That is why the path of daily repentance is so vitally important. Does that mean there is no room for change? By no means. Time moves and institutions must adapt. But change should not occur without historical cautions in place and without regarding the value of the past – traditions are time-honored for a reason. At the same time, tradition does not need to be bound as closely to form as it does to principle and substance – although we should not be too quick to dismiss the link between substance and style.

So what does history teach?

- That Roman Catholicism did not end with Luther’s Reformation, and its appeal remains strong, in some respects, specifically because of its enduring history.
- That the interaction between Lutheranism and Reformed theology (in its many and varied forms) has never turned out well. Because it is born out of doctrinal indifference, the Lutheran (Scriptural) distinctions are always blurred.
- That the spirit of pietism is always lurking.¹³ And that spirit appeals especially to the desire for a subjective and emotional experience of God’s presence. It lingers especially where there is much criticism of church’s method and message.
- That you reap what you sow. I do not mean this in a Galatians 6 sense. Rather, we should not be surprised if the seeds of a false theology grow and choke out the flora of Lutheranism.

We cannot become paralyzed by the past. We must not sit on our hands in passive resignation or complacency. We ought, with great urgency and energy, do all that we can to spread the gospel in the days of grace that God provides. Truly, this is the goal of every day “the LORD has made” – to serve the cause of the gospel.

¹³ I have said very little specific to pietism, but I would recommend that you read Robert Koester’s study titled *The Spirit of Pietism* (NPH, 2013). A review of pietism is beneficial because it presents a historical analogy for the confrontation between Lutheran orthodoxy and the spirit of evangelicalism. Koester concludes: “Pietism teaches us that there are two basic versions of Christianity. In spirit of similar themes and vocabulary, these two versions are quite different. One stresses morality and the other stresses peace with God through forgiveness in Christ. The real fault of the Pietists is not that they stressed sanctification more than justification, as they are often accused of doing. Rather, their fault was that they changed true sanctification into morality – which we might define as good works cut loose from the foundation of the Scripture’s message of grace in Christ” (401).

Hear the urgency in Luther's tone as he lobbied leaders to support schools for children to hear and learn the Word of God (which, historically, is also part of a "Lutheran culture"):

O my beloved Germans, buy while the market is at your door; gather in the harvest while there is sunshine and fair weather; make use of God's grace and word while it is there! For you should know that God's word and grace is like a passing shower of rain which does not return where it has once been. It is highly necessary, therefore, that we take some positive action in this matter before it is too late; not only on account of the young people, but also in order to preserve both our spiritual and temporal estates. If we miss this opportunity, we may perhaps find our hands tied later on when we would gladly attend to it, and ever after have to suffer in vain the pangs of remorse.¹⁴

Surely, to frame this in "contemporary" terms, leadership and vision matter – Luther supplies ample evidence of this. So does passion, again Luther provides a remarkable example. He also understood the value of forging and nurturing personal relationships. And . . . he would advise each of us to spend our energy on substance over style.

Read and teach "Lutheran" theology. That bit of encouragement may sound simplistic, but the challenges of this unbelieving generation have caused so many to lose confidence that the "means of grace" actually work (which is the extreme case of losing confidence in what it means to be Lutheran). And, as we have seen, Scripture's theology runs counter to reason and is sometimes difficult to grasp and explain. Even the disciples often had trouble grasping what Jesus taught them. And Peter admitted that St. Paul wrote "some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do other Scriptures, to their own destruction (2 Peter 3). Diligently examine the Bible so that you are able to teach the truth and evaluate the "winds of change." Read the Lutheran Confessions. They are a gold mine of insight, expression and explanation. Teach the Catechism. Read Luther – not just "about Luther," but what Luther wrote. You may find yourself disagreeing with Luther on interpretation from time to time, but it is right for a "Lutheran" (even if Luther himself bristled at this label) to read what Luther wrote. I know that this is "anecdotal evidence," but the incident is worth citing. When I was in college, I distinctly remember a conversation in which several students voiced the objection of "reading too much Luther." Several of those involved in that discussion were ordained as WELS pastors. Not one of those who "protested" is a WELS pastor today. (History makes me anxious!)

Promote and embrace a "Lutheran culture" by taking every thought captive and making it obedient to Christ. We have every reason to be confident. In the midst of his emotional distress, God whispered to Elijah in the "still, small voice" and said, "Go back the way you came . . . *I reserve* seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal" (read all of 1 Kings 18 and 19 when you feel spent and distressed). Recall the lesson of God's

¹⁴ "To the Councilmen of all Cities in Germany That They Maintain Christian Schools," *Luther's Works*, (American Edition), 352-353.

power in the promises of his Word from the account of “The Rich Man and Lazarus” (Luke 16): “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them. . . . If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” A “theology of the cross” does not mean that we lose heart. Rather, we “give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord” because our “labor in the Lord is never in vain” (1 Corinthians 15).

I am not suggesting that there is no room for change or modification based on cultural context. It would be a mistake to think that Lutheran practice has to conform to the style of 16th century Saxony, or even to the form of the apostolic church. It is equally a mistake to disavow the historical past and adopt wholly a more culturally relevant (dare I say often “Evangelical”) form. The Christian church is a communion of saints – there is a line of faith that connects across time. I regularly say to students that “each generation needs to add its voice to the choir.” I then follow with the caution: “Just remember: you’re not the only voice in the choir.” I cannot say strongly enough that worship matters. Much of “our great heritage” as Lutherans is found in hymns and liturgical songs. I fear that we would be losing a lot if any generation decided on its own that the heritage of hymns no longer mattered and replaced the songs of worship with compositions that derive from and reinforce another theological perspective. If that should happen, the time will come when we will wonder what we have lost.

I am merely sounding a caution. Be sensitive and discerning when digesting the material of mainstream church builders and mega-church experts. They may understand cultural trends, but they are often theologically vapid and even deceptive. In a 2011 essay titled “Lutheran and/or Evangelical? The Impact of Evangelicalism on Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Pastors,” Rev. Harold Senkbeil offered this perceptive set of characteristics of Evangelicalism (abridged here):

First, among Evangelicals the Gospel is essentially mere historical information. It is information about Jesus Christ and His saving work on the cross, it’s absolutely true, and it’s crucial information. But that’s all it is. It’s information. From there on, it’s up to you. You must do something with that information by an act of the will and accept it for it to be of any benefit to you. In contrast, Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions define the Gospel as the “power of God for salvation” (Rom 1:17); it is an efficacious Word that does what it says.

Second, generally speaking Evangelicals seem to view sin as a moral blight, a glitch in the human character that can be overcome by making the right choices. Armed with the forgiveness of sins we are now freed to make those right choices and improve our lot. . .

Third, if sin is merely a blight rather than a cosmic disaster, then salvation becomes a repair job rather than a rescue story. And this repair job is a do-it-yourself job.

Finally, there is a limited understanding of God’s law among Evangelicals. The Law is understood as a friend to humankind. It stands to reason that if sin is a glitch rather

than a tragedy and if the Gospel is merely information rather than the efficacious power of God for salvation, then the Law will be understood inadequately.¹⁵

The pursuit of cultural relevance will inevitably draw the church closer and closer to Evangelical practice because it suits our “American style.” So the cautions have a place. At the same time, we must do all that we can to avoid a sectarian spirit that does not appreciate the *Una Sancta*.

The wisdom of Hermann Sasse is apropos as we conclude. He remarked in the “Foreward” to his notable study *Here We Stand*:

We are, of course, deeply grieved by the ridicule of the world, which points out that churches claim to be bringing to men the saving truth of the Gospel but cannot agree what this truth is; but the best thing we can do is to take seriously the doctrinal differences which divide the churches. For the Lord’s promise that the Holy Spirit will guide the church into all truth will certainly not be fulfilled unless we fear error and take the truth seriously.

... Our [Lutheran] church has never been ashamed to learn from other churches. Nor will it ever spurn what is good in them, what is correct, and what is in conformity with the Word of God. But in the Reformation’s *sola fide* our church has been entrusted with a heritage which it must preserve for all Christendom, even for those who still do not understand it today.¹⁶

A final thought: For some the convention theme “Our Great Heritage” sounds a bit too triumphalist. After all, the heritage is not about “us” – it is a gift of grace, and “great” is just too ... much. But, to be faithful to the origin of the theme, it is truly “God’s word” that is “our great heritage” – the emphasis was not intended to be placed on the pronoun as if we were the source of significance. There are also some who consider that “heritage” is exactly what is wrong with the WELS. From this perspective, too much history equals too little progress. Too much history results in static, complacent practice. Admittedly, this could be a temptation, but we are not advocating a nostalgic Lutheranism, which would not fit the model of Luther himself. Christ’s command is clear: to make disciples by going into the world with the means of grace. In obedience to Christ, we will also teach, “with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Timothy 4), “everything” that he commanded.

✝ Soli Deo Gloria

¹⁵ Harold Senkbeil, “Lutheran and/or Evangelical? The Impact of Evangelicalism on Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Pastors,” in *The Pieper Lectures. Vol. 12 – Evangelicalism and the Missouri Synod*, ed. John A. Maxfield (St. Louis: Concordia Historical Institute & The Luther Academy, 2011) 25-26.

¹⁶ Hermann Sasse, *Here We Stand*, translated by Theodore Tappert (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1938), Foreward, x.

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Dear Friends in the Southeastern Wisconsin District,

I was talking to district brothers Mike Swenson and Bob Lehninger several weeks ago. We were comparing notes about my 2014 trip to Lutherland and their trip, scheduled this coming October. I thought I was making a joke when I said, "Wouldn't it be incredible to be in Wittenberg on October 31?" They smiled. "That's exactly where we'll be." I'm glad I won't have to battle the crowds in *Lutherstadt* that day, but I confess I'm a little jealous.

I suppose the rest of us will be at work on that Tuesday in October, doing what we normally do on Tuesdays. On the Sunday that follows, however, we'll travel to Wittenberg in a different way and with a different purpose. We won't see the Castle Church where Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses. We won't visit St. Mary's where he and Kate worshiped and had their children baptized and where he preached hundreds of sermons. We won't walk through the halls of the Black Cloister where he lived and worked. But we will remember Martin Luther on November 5, not as a critical figure in western civilization, but as a humble servant whom the Lord Jesus chose to rediscover and restore the treasure of the gospel.

November 5 – 3:30 p.m. – Miller High Life Theatre

That's the basic information. Since our district worshiped in this space the last time (when it was known as the Milwaukee Theater), the venue has been magnificently remodeled with seating for 4,100. Located at 500 West Kilbourn Avenue in downtown Milwaukee, the theater is accessible via I-43, I-41, and I-94 for all the members of our district. Publicity for this service will include directions to the theater and information about parking.

Festival Funding

As plans for this celebration unfolded, someone wondered if there would be interest in a Reformation event in our very busy district. We decided to find out by asking for an indication of financial support. If pledges translate into interest, the leaders of our district are very interested! 86 congregations have pledged more than \$39,000 to fund this event. This level of support will enable us not only to prepare the service, but also to offer transportation assistance to the adult and children's choirs.

You have received a request from Secretary Carter to send him the money part of your pledge by June 5. We encourage you to do so.

Participants

The spoken Word and the Word in music will form the festival service; don't expect an abbreviated order of worship! Pastor James Huebner, First Vice-president of WELS, and well-known in our district, will be the preacher. Pastors from each of the district conferences will be involved to read and pray. Two choirs are being formed: an adult choir directed by Mary Prange and a children's choir directed by Sarah Zietlow Henrich. The goal is 300 voices in each choir. We've rented a large Rodgers organ (the theater doesn't have an instrument), and Kevin Becker, organist at Grace, Milwaukee, will be at the keyboard. An ensemble of brass and percussion players will add beauty and power to our singing. We have not

invited the choirs from our district's four Lutheran high schools since those groups will be very busy preparing for the WELS Choral Festival which celebrates its 50th anniversary in La Crosse on November 10-12. We will encourage them to join their own congregation's adult choir for this service.

Rehearsal Day – November 4

To prepare the music for this festival service, we will send copies of the music to all participants early in September; some of the music will be able to be used in congregational Reformation services on October 29 or November 5. We've set Saturday, November 4, as REHEARSAL DAY. Working with local organizers, we will schedule rehearsals in each district conference at a centrally located site and at a time that works best for the local congregations and schools. **We ask parish schedule planners to keep that Saturday open especially for adults and children who may be involved in the rehearsal.**

Publicity and Education

We are working right now to assemble and update email contact lists of pastors, school principals, congregations, and choir directors so that all communication can be clear and thorough. This report will be sent to all congregations tomorrow, June 7. We will be setting up a Reformation Service Facebook page and Twitter account. In the weeks that follow this report, pastors and school principals will receive a schedule of planned publicity releases which will be able to be used in a variety of ways: for personal and professional growth, for adult and child education, and for information about the festival service and offering. This report is also available on the district web site.

It isn't too early to consider the value of arranging coach or bus transportation from your congregation to the theater.

Reformation Thankoffering

A significant aspect of our publicity effort will be to announce and encourage a **Reformation 500 Thankoffering**. The goal of this special offering is to enable our District Mission Board to enhance mission efforts in our own district with gifts above and beyond funds received from the WELS *Every Neighbor, Every Nation* mission initiative. The primary emphasis will be to give the gift at the service, but we will also suggest ways to participate in the offering even if attendance at the service is not possible.

Reformation Leaders

The congregation's spiritual leaders are the critical components in any parish endeavor, including this one. Whether you serve as a pastor, teacher, or lay leader, we encourage you to take the lead in this celebration. The goal is not simply to fill the theater or to offer a generous thankoffering. The objective is to encourage the people of God to remember and give thanks for the Savior's great gospel gift which he restored to the church through the Lutheran Reformation. The celebration of the Reformation, in this year or any year, is really nothing more than a review of theology, i.e., the biblical truths which flow from the Scriptures and save our souls. May the Spirit bless our work together.

In his service,

James P. Tiefel

Southeastern Wisconsin District Conference
 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving
 Rev. Kurt Lueneburg





Scriptural encouragement

"No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD (Isaiah 54:17).

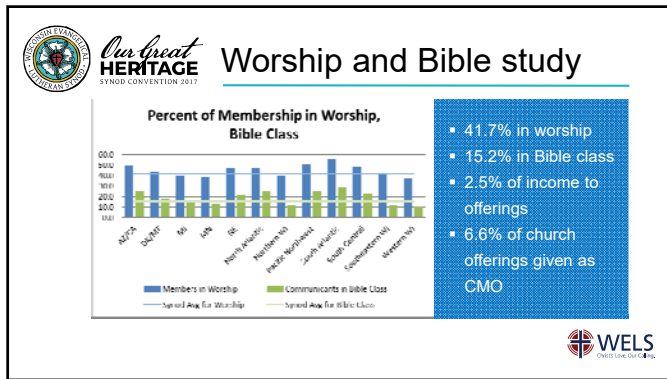


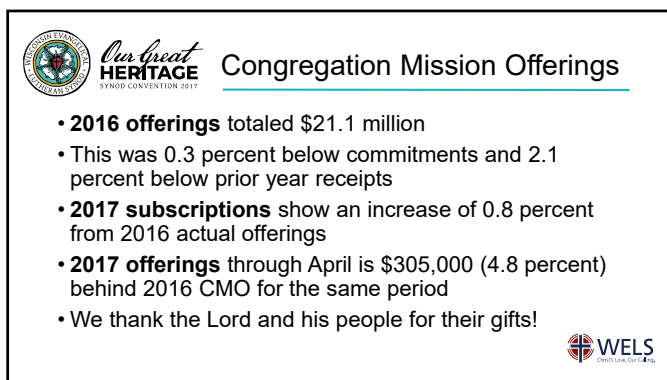


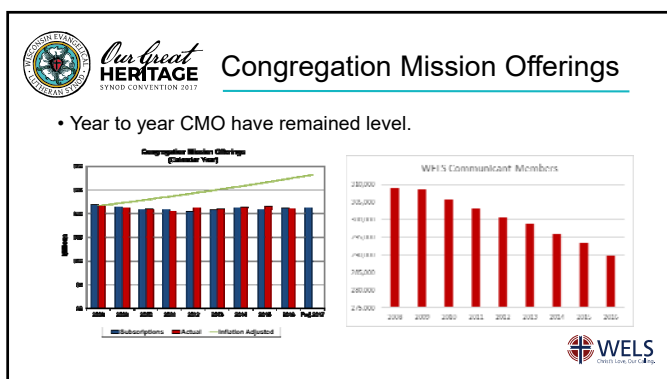
Scriptural encouragement

Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart (Psalm 119:111).











Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Congregation Mission Offerings

- CMO remains level while total church offerings increased.

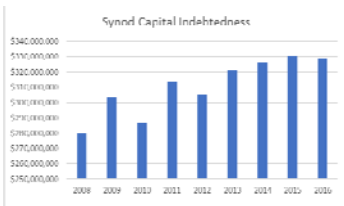




Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Congregation Mission Offerings

- CMO remains level while capital indebtedness increased.





Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Congregation Mission Offerings

- When setting CMO, aim for 10 percent of offerings. If at or above this goal, encourage your congregation to keep increasing.
- "Excel in this grace of giving....For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 8:7,9)





Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Congregation Mission Offerings

- WELS Connection
- Together e-newsletter
- Forward in Christ
- Annual Report
- Annual CMO setting materials





Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

"One in Christ" Debt Elimination

- Praise God - the effort to pay off our \$4.7 million debt was successful!
- From 7/1/15-1/1/17, 572 congregations and 2,273 individuals and other organizations gave \$3.1 million.
- \$1.6 in payments from FY16 budget





Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Individual offerings

Featured Video



WELS Foundation
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod



00:00 / 00:00 HD





**Our Great
HERITAGE**
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Individual offerings

Your giving counselors:

- **Rev. Kevin Hundley, Current Gifts**

Phone: 262-237-2660

E-mail: kevin.hundley@wels.net

- **Mr. Rick Kneser, Deferred Gifts**

Phone: 262-305-7688

E-mail: rick.kneser@wels.net





**Our Great
HERITAGE**
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Scriptural encouragement

Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him (Psalm 127:3).





**Our Great
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SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Individual offerings

3 in 10
have a will






Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Individual offerings

1 in 3
remember a
charity in their
estate plan









Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Individual offerings

In fiscal year 2016–17 (through April), WELS Christian giving counselors (11.8 full-time equivalents) conducted 2,906 free, confidential visits with God's people that helped facilitate \$4 million in gifts received and \$40.9 million in gifts expected for WELS.







Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Individual offerings

New opportunity: the qualified charitable distribution
Those 70.5 or older can make tax-free gifts to ministry from their IRAs.

Consider directing required minimum distributions to ministry to save on taxes, then use the cash you would have given to charity for other needs.







*Our Great
HERITAGE*
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Resources

An Encouraging Word

- Tips from those experienced in the area of stewardship
- News and updates on resources
- Prayers for synod ministry
- "Stewardship by the lectionary" devotionals based on weekly readings; share God's stewardship truths according to the pericope
- Cut and paste planned giving articles





*Our Great
HERITAGE*
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Resources

Stewardship program: *Joyful Generosity*

- Worship helps
- Bible study
- Personal devotions
- Shares the Bible's clear teachings on the management of our possessions





*Our Great
HERITAGE*
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Resources

Congregational planned giving program

- A guide for encouraging planned giving in your church using synod resources and the assistance of your local giving counselor
- Includes "quick starts" to promoting planned giving and setting up an endowment as well as more complex options





Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Mission and Ministry Sunday

- WELS will provide worship, Bible study, and other resources to aid in traditional-style mission festivals.
- This is a chance to recommit ourselves toward the Great Commission locally and through the opportunities God gives us as a synod.
- Special offerings can go to a designation chosen by the congregation or to "WELS Mission and Ministry" to support our daily gospel work.





Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Scriptural encouragement

For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name (Psalm 61:5).



Thank you!

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving
mcg@wels.net
800-827-5482



Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

WORLD MISSIONS

WELS MISSIONS OVERVIEW

To learn more about WELS Missions, subscribe to *Forward in Christ* magazine at wels.net/fic.



PAKISTAN



ALBANIA



UKRAINE



INDIA



CAMEROON

CAMEROON: The Cameroon mission field is working to develop financial programs to encourage independence for the Lutheran Church of Cameroon (LCC) as well as putting considerable effort towards the development of a sustainable worker training program, with hopes that the LCC will be able to continue the work with less support. A major piece of that puzzle is the acceptance of national pastor Israel of a call to teach at our worker training program.

MALAWI: The Malawi field has been focusing on strategic planning, working with the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA) to form a clearly defined program for LCCA ministry. In April 2016, the Malawi mission team met with representatives from the WELS Board for World Missions, the Administrative Committee for Africa, and all WELS missionaries in Africa to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of ministries and to plan future work.

NIGERIA: In Nigeria, All Saints Lutheran Church and Christ the King Lutheran Church Synods continue their faithful work and their fruitful fellowship with one another, with WELS, and with the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. Forty men are studying to qualify for pre-seminary enrollment. The Lord's work in Nigeria currently offers many opportunities that are a financial challenge for the Nigerian Lutheran Church, even though it has been blessed with unexpected gifts and donations.

ZAMBIA: Seminary programs are making good progress in training and standardizing methodology.

INDONESIA: Gereja Lutheran Indonesia (GLI) continues to proclaim the gospel in six major geographical regions of the country. Plans are being made to build a new multipurpose facility for worker training, publications, and administrative offices. The Asia Pacific Rim administrative committee of WELS and Kingdom Workers has partnered with GLI to plan and implement the building of the first GLI Lutheran Elementary school. Opportunities for outreach are numerous.

THAILAND: Mission starts in the Hill Tribe villages are meeting with success as national pastors reach out with the gospel. The church in Thailand is growing closer to realizing a constitution and organizational structure for a national church body.

PHILIPPINES: The native Philippine missionary serves a small flock of faithful believers in a suburb of Manila. They are using videos and printed materials from Multi-Language Publications (MLP) to reach out to the unchurched in their community and looking to begin ministering to prospects in outlying areas. A special focus is on early childhood ministry.

WELS MISSIONS

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WORLD MISSIONS

WELS MISSIONS OVERVIEW

If you would like to support Missions,
please visit wels.net/give.

EAST ASIA: In East Asia, five missionaries are training new believers and support 52 lay missionaries whose 300-plus students meet weekly around God's word in Bible classes. More than 50 students receive training through Christian Studies Institute classes, and over 150 students study online weekly with a WELS Chinese pastor based in the United States. Six churches have been started by local leaders, and five other groups are organizing into churches. In Hong Kong, new believers are being trained to serve in churches throughout East Asia. Asia Lutheran Seminary professors serve more than 80 students, 16 of which study full-time at the Asia Lutheran satellite seminary. Missionaries help strengthen fellowship ties with the Hong Kong-based church, Salem, and the church in Taiwan. WELS Multi-Language Publications provides Chinese Lutheran materials, which are being distributed through bookstores, e-book platforms, and online social networks.

ALBANIA: The national pastors continue to reach out with the gospel to give hope to needy souls in this poor Eastern European country. Plans are underway to celebrate the mission field's 20th anniversary in 2016. The new seminary student (the son of a national pastor) has completed the first level of studies and has begun the second. The Durres congregation has maxed out their storefront space with 80-90 in worship on a weekend.

INDIA: Despite a 20-month single vacancy and four-month double vacancy, the CELM seminary continues to train 42 men for the public ministry and continues to offer continuing education to our 45 graduates on a regular basis. The field has an active translation and publications program in addition to building one to two new chapels every year on a self-help basis. WELS Christian Aid and Relief annually funds humanitarian aid (well digging and medical supplies) to show Christian love. Seven children's homes care for the physical and spiritual needs of 205 children, and one elementary school offers instruction in God's word to 220 children—all outside the WELS budget.

NEPAL: In Nepal, only one half of one percent of the people are Christian. In spite of the small percentage of Christians, the mission in Nepal is being blessed by God in extraordinary ways. For the past seven years, more than 100 leaders of the church gather for seven to 10 days to attend workshops every spring and fall. In the morning, they study the Bible. In the afternoon, they practice teaching what they learned in the morning. Seventeen workshops have been conducted.

PAKISTAN: More than 47,000 people have been enrolled in the Bible correspondence and teaching school. In spite of the threat of persecution, the gospel is being shared boldly. 10,000 copies of *The Promise* have been published in Pashtu – the language of the northwest tribal region of Pakistan. The *Kuske Catechism* has been translated into Urdu and *The Promise* into Punjabi, a third language of Pakistan. The Sunday school ministry cares for 840 children. 175 children who are among the poorest of the poor attend seven "non-formal schools" after working in the fields all day to learn the stories of the Bible and how to read and write in Urdu and English as well as other subjects. Recently a television broadcast to the Muslim world was begun. Humanitarian efforts in free medical clinics and midwife training classes open many hearts and minds to the love of Christ.

APACHELAND: Five Apache men are now serving the churches and various ministries as pastors and evangelists. A long-range plan for Native American ministry is being discussed by the leaders of the ministries with the goal to continue to preach the gospel, serve the people, and grow the ministries on the Apache reservations. Blessings are abundant at both Peridot and East Fork schools as enrollments are on the rise, and the high school is looking forward to adding grade ten.

WELS MISSIONS

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188
414-256-3243 • wels.net/missions



HOMEMISSIONS

WELS MISSIONS OVERVIEW 2017

To learn more about WELS Missions, subscribe to *Forward in Christ* magazine at wels.net/fic.



2017-18 HOME MISSIONS PROJECTS

Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Mt. Lebanon Lutheran church and school is enhancing its ministry with the placement of a second pastor. Blessed with a growing church as well as a growing school, a second pastor will allow the campus pastor to visit and spend more time with prospective families. After three years, the congregation plans to be able to cover the costs of the second pastor.

Waukegan, Illinois: Immanuel Lutheran is enhancing its ministry for additional outreach and programs to the Hispanic population. Funding for three years will allow a second pastor to join the ministry and do more extensive Hispanic outreach. After three years, the ministry will transition back to the bilingual pastor as the first pastor will retire.

Little Rock, Arkansas: While this congregation has not had a full-time pastor for some years, recently the Lord has blessed the ministry with new active lay families. A new direction is being undertaken and a graduate was assigned to be the full-time pastor. The surrounding community is also growing and Lord-willing, so too the ministry.

Westminster, Colorado: This is multi-site ministry that is starting a new second campus. The mission is in a growing western suburb of Denver. A core group of members want to be a part of this new mission

campus. Twenty members have been canvassing, and more than 100 new prospects were met with excitement. Core group training has taken place through Praise and Proclaim.

Hendersonville, North Carolina: This new mission start is the daughter congregation of Living Savior in Asheville, N.C., in the South Atlantic district. Worship services have been already held in Hendersonville with more than 100 in attendance, 16 of those were new visitors and 10 of those were the result of a door-to-door visit. The 17-member core group is committed to the effort and the financial support for this effort is note-worthy.

Huntersville, North Carolina: Grace Lutheran Church in Charlotte, N.C., is the mother congregation to help get Huntersville started. The pastor at Grace has been conducting worship services and has the support of nearly 20 core group members.

Chattanooga, Tennessee: The purpose of every home mission is to reach more souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ. By planting a mission in Chattanooga, the ministry effort will not only reach new people, but also serve WELS members. Currently there isn't a WELS church within 100 miles of Chattanooga.

WELS MISSIONS

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HOMEMISSIONS

WELS MISSIONS OVERVIEW 2017

If you would like to support Missions,
please visit wels.net/give.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

The WELS Campus Ministry Committee (CMC) is an eight-member committee of laymen and pastors who serve under the Board for Home Missions. The CMC exists to assist congregations in ministering to college students and other young adults with the means of grace so that they may grow in the faith and be trained for service in Christ's kingdom. These congregations reach out to about 6,500 students. Please consider finding someone in your congregation to gather each college-age student's educational plans and share it with the CMC.

To sign up and learn more about submitting information, visit wels.net/campus-ministry.

CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

Approximately 28 percent of the Board for Home Mission (BHM) budget for fiscal year 2017-18 is allocated to cross-cultural and multi-ethnic ministries. Not only does the BHM support assist ministries in North America, there are people groups which are reaching back to their country of origin to share the good news of Jesus Christ with family and friends.

MULTI-SITE CONGREGATIONS

The multi-site approach to congregational ministry is growing as a way to reach more people and bring mission work to more congregations by starting new churches in new locations. Under the multi-site model, a congregation has two or more physical locations, but is organizationally one congregation with one financial budget.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (CEF)

This non-profit lending agency assists missions in buying land and building a worship facility / buying a facility which is renovated into a worship facility. In addition to granting low-interest loans, since 1993, CEF has also provided more than \$30 million in grants to qualifying

mission churches. Starting in fiscal year 2017-2018, CEF has set up an endowment which should payout around \$800,000 each August to assist Home Missions in starting more missions. To learn more or to invest in CEF, go to cef.wels.net.

MISSION SUPPORT

Home Missions is thankful for its budget from Congregational Mission Offerings of \$5,555,000 for fiscal year 2017-18 as well as special gifts to Home Missions. In addition, the Joint Mission Council through its endowment payout, is contributing \$170,000 this coming fiscal year to help support North America cross-cultural ministries.

The Board for Home Missions (BHM) is made up of 29 members: 14 pastors, 14 laymen from the district mission boards, and Chairman Rev. Wayne Uhlhorn. Rev. Keith Free, Home Missions administrator; Rev. Larry Schlomer, World Missions administrator; Mr. Sean Young, director of Mission Operations; and seven full-time staff members serve Home and World Missions at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry.

SPECIAL GIFTS

Special gifts to WELS Missions have allowed WELS as a church body to reach more souls by way of opening new missions and supporting new ministries. To offer a special gift or for more information, visit wels.net/give.

We thank the Lord for those who support the ministry of our church body. Through these gifts we can reach many souls with the precious gospel of Jesus Christ.

WELS MISSIONS

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WELS Christian Aid & Relief

Volunteer Application Form

Title: Mr./Mrs./Dr./Pastor_____	Marital Status:_____
First Name:_____	Spouse's First Name:_____
Last Name:_____	Last Name:_____
Address:_____	Land Phone:_____
Address 2:_____	Cell Phone:_____
City:_____	Email:_____
State:_____	Pastoral Reference:_____
Zip:_____	Church Name:_____
Phone:_____	Church Phone:_____
Phone Type: Land Line/Cell_____	*Insurance:_____
Email:_____	Policy Numbe:_____
Date of Birth:_____	Name on Insurance:_____
T-Shirt Size_____	<small>* All accidents are covered by volunteer's primary insurance, next by any additional personal insurance. Additional medical expenses can be applied for to WELS insurance Church Mutual.</small>

Emergency Contact Information

First Name:_____
Last Name:_____
Address:_____
Address 2:_____
City:_____
State:_____
Zip:_____
Phone:_____
Phone Type: Land Line/Cell_____
Email:_____
Relationship to Volunteer:_____



SUMMER 2017

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

This year, Senior Paul Spaude is serving as our student recruiter. He makes about two presentations a week at area grade schools and reaches out to high schools and prep schools. The seminary also hosted a Grade School Chapel Service in December. The service encouraged 300 students and 50 chaperones from 13 Lutheran elementary schools in their walk with Christ and gave them the opportunity to visit with seminarians, explore the campus, and learn more about the path men take to become pastors.

For high school students, we offer Taste of Ministry. This allows area Lutheran high school students the chance to tour campus, observe a class, worship in chapel, hear from Pres. Wendland, and listen to student presentations about dorm life, studies, jobs, mission trips, and their seminary experience.



As part of a recruitment for ministry tour, Michigan Lutheran Seminary students visited the seminary.

For the second year, we are hosting Seminary Scurry. This 5K gives our seminary friends and neighbors the opportunity to spend a morning on campus and see where future pastors are being trained. With a kids' fun run, it gives us the opportunity to encourage them to consider the ministry.

SENIOR THESIS PRESENTATIONS

As part of the requirement for graduation, each senior completes a thesis—a capstone paper in an area of their choosing. In March, students presented their research and papers on campus. The diversity of the theses reflects the diversity of the students' interests within the body of Christ. Topics ranged from ministering to recovering alcoholics to preaching the Law to Christians, from a pastor's struggle as both sinner and saint to equipping Christian soldiers before their deployments, from reaching out to former prisoners to ministering to men who had a dysfunctional father figure.

“You spend so much time poring over ancient texts,” said President Paul O. Wendland. “The essay gives you an opportunity to discover something new for yourself, to investigate a problem or issue and write something about it.”

This year Peter Schlict and Nathan Schulte won the Timothy and Titus Awards for their work. These awards recognize the high caliber of work and reflect how the seminary continues to train the next generation of those who will preach the gospel. All the theses are available at essays.wls.wels.net.



PSI UPDATE

Nixon Gregorio Vivar Gomez graduates this May from the Pastoral Studies Institute. Nixon qualifies for the status of “non-traditional” student for the pastoral ministry on multiple levels. Most obviously, as an immigrant from Ecuador, coming to the United States in 1999 as an optimistic 21-year-old with no English skills, Nixon has already earned the title, “non-traditional.” What makes Nixon especially unique is that his journey to become a WELS pastor has taken 15 years.

Much life was squeezed into this 15-year journey. Nixon married Carla. The couple had two sons, Lucas and Samuel. Nixon became a “permanent resident” of the United States and learned English. Nixon and Carla bought a home. A constant in Nixon’s life and also his married life over the years has been their service to God’s people on the south side of Milwaukee. Nixon and Carla have served under the supervision and encouragement of half a dozen WELS pastors in various churches. Nixon completed courses while struggling through issues of employment, citizenship, extended family, and young children. But this May, Nixon will receive the prize for which he has labored. He will graduate from our seminary through the Pastoral Studies Institute. All of his pastors and teachers praise God for helping Nixon accomplish this task. Nixon has received the strongest recommendation from all of his mentors.

Congratulations, Nixon and Carla. May God continue to use you to proclaim his praises.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16, 7 pm: **Vicar Call Service**
May 18, 10 am: **Call Day Service**
May 18, 7 pm: **Graduation Concert**
May 19, 10 am: **Graduation**
June 19-30: **Summer Quarter**



GROW IN GRACE: THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

UPCOMING CHANGES TO SUMMER QUARTER

For years, pastors have had a choice of ways to participate in Summer Quarter: on the seminary campus, online or at a satellite location. Although Mequon has been a great location, in the future we hope to become more accessible to pastors in outlying districts. Therefore, beginning in 2019, Grow in Grace will provide a program with the intensity and variety of an on-campus experience, but in the other 11 districts. It will also allow pastors who are pursuing the Master of Sacred Theology Degree to have more opportunities to take a course in their area of study.

Summer Quarter 2017 and 2018 will remain on campus in Mequon and unchanged by this future planning. Beginning in 2019, Summer Quarter will go “on the road” during odd numbered years and take place in Mequon during even numbered years.

CELEBRATIONS OF MINISTRY ADDS FOURTH RETREAT

The success of the Celebration of Ministry Retreats, which began in 2012 with one retreat, has now grown to four retreats. These retreats are held for pastors and their wives who have reached key milestones in their ministry. In previous years, Grow in Grace has invited pastors who are celebrating three, 10, or 25 years since graduation to celebrate in sunny San Antonio. Beginning in 2018, pastors celebrating 35 years since graduation will be invited to join Grow in Grace on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. To the classes of 2015, 2008, 1993, and 1983, watch for your invitations coming in late May!



From the President

Grace alone. Faith alone. Scripture alone. Christ alone.



Those Spirit-worked convictions filled Martin Luther and changed his life. Those same convictions are etched on the four outside walls of the Chapel of the Christ.

We pray that the Spirit again unleash his omnipotence through the Word and etch those convictions upon the hearts and souls of the campus family at MLC, and in so doing change lives.

This year is not simply an historical review of amazing events. This year is not just an occasion to have some special lectures and events to contemplate a spiritual heritage.

It is a yearlong opportunity to pray. To pray petitions of gratitude to our Savior Jesus, that he raised up a sinful human as an instrument of his Word to restore clarity to the preaching and teaching of the gospel. To pray petitions asking that the Savior continue the Spirit's breath of reformation upon each heart and soul at this place. To pray petitions that the reformation remain an ongoing reality in all our hearts and souls.

Music Ensembles on Tour

Tour season for the MLC College Choir extended from February 17 to April 2. The 60 choir members and their conductor, Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer, performed 10 concerts in Texas and New Mexico and conducted mini-tours in Minnesota and Wisconsin, performing 18 works in their program. You can view the home concert, which includes the tour program, on the MLC Streams page. The 42 members of the Wind Symphony, under the direction of Professor Erin Meissner, will take their spring concert on the road in May, with stops in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ontario. Plan to attend a performance near you or follow the group online at the MLC Facebook page.



Daylight USA – Here We Are, Send Us!

Martin Luther College students are eager to prepare for ministry, and they are even more eager to participate in ministry experiences across the United States. The MLC Daylight program has matched hundreds of future pastors, teachers, and staff ministers with congregations who have benefited from help in reaching out to their communities.



In groups of various sizes, MLC students sign up to assist with sports camps, vacation Bible school, neighborhood canvassing, and other outreach activities during spring and summer break. After a recent short-term mission in New York, one student wrote, "Rewards of ministry are always abounding. I can confidently say my attitude for the ministry has been strengthened." Another wrote, "Being a messenger of the gospel is such a blessing and privilege." They are eager to help your congregation! If your congregation would benefit from one or more students assisting in outreach this summer or next spring, contact MLC campus pastor John Boeder. He will help you plan a short-term mission that will be a blessing to the students and to your gospel outreach.

Commencement 2017 by the Numbers

Official graduation totals for our May 13 commencement service:
Total – 145, Education – 94, Preseminary – 33, Graduate Studies – 18

MLC Day May 3!

MLC Day was a day of celebration for our college and all who support our ministry.

Pray, Share, Give was our focus of our third annual event. That focus guided out messages shared with all our online friends and supporters. We are grateful for the 1,575 unique visitors to our MLCDay.com page!

Pray for our mission and ministry. We posted prayers that our supporters sent in for our students and our programs. Thank you for your heart-felt messages sent from 21 different churches and schools!

Share our message with friends. Those who have a heart for ministerial education visited our website. Visitors from 49 states and 46 countries made their mark on our MLC Day map. They shared their photos, videos, and messages with our thousands of Facebook friends!

Give to support our work. This year our goal was to fund 100 Congregational Partner Grants for MLC students at \$1,000 a student. A generous donor matched the first \$50,000 donations dollar for dollar. Thank you to all who made our total of \$95,000+ contributions possible!



Alumni Tours Popular

The 2017 tour to the Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, and other notable Kentucky sites had an overwhelming response, with two buses completely sold out. A June 18-July 4, 2018, tour to the LutherLands, Austrian Alps, and Italy is being planned, with promotional and registration materials slated to go out in August. Guides and chaplains for the journey will include President Mark Zarling and Professors Jim Danell, Paul Koelpin, and Keith Wessel. The tour is open to all WELS members. Those interested in being added to the mailing list should contact Steve Balza at alumni@mlc-wels.edu or [507-217-1731](tel:507-217-1731).



Congregational Partner Grant Program

The success of MLC's new Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP) surpassed all expectations. The God who *is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine* allowed for 54% of the 2016-2017 incoming first-year students (106) to receive their congregation's grant (\$87,000) and MLC's dollar-for-dollar match, for a total of \$176,000. The MLC Governing Board approved expansion of the program to rising first-year and sophomore students for this upcoming 2017-2018 school year.

Congregations have found that the CPGP has become a very tangible way for members to support sons and daughters of the congregation who are training for the public ministry. At the same time, students at MLC receive much encouragement in knowing that others are praying for them and supporting them financially.

Go to mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid/congregational-partner-grant-program for more information.



Year Two of MLC Direction

MLC Direction is the financial literacy program at MLC that offers students guidance on many financial topics to help them become better stewards of their finances now and in the future. New this year were two required group sessions: juniors focused on credit and making smart financial decisions, and first-years focused on basic money management.

Approximately 100 graduating seniors, 85 first-year students, and 10 transfer students completed a personal consultation with MLC's financial literacy coordinator first semester of 2016-2017.

If you have questions related to this report or other matters related to our ministry at Martin Luther College, contact us at mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu.

facebook.com/mlcwels
twitter.com/connect2mlc
vimeopro.com/martinluthercollege/promotional-videos
instagram.com/martinluthercollege





DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JUNE 21!

NEW THIS YEAR! Air Conditioning in the Dorms for Those Who Register Early!

SUMMER COURSES FOR PASTORS

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE CAMPUS

Ninth Annual

HEB9002 HEBREW REVIEW JULY 10-14, 2017



Monday 8:00 am – Friday 12:00 pm
1 Credit

Instructor: Dr. Mark Paustian
paustima@mlc-wels.edu

The Summer Hebrew Review is designed for busy parish pastors who desire to regain and enhance their skills for working in the original language of the Old Testament. It will also benefit students in the WELS worker training system whose studies have been interrupted and who now intend to continue their theological training.

Eleventh Annual

HEB9001 HEBREW INSTITUTE JULY 17-21, 2017



Monday 8:00 am – Friday 12:00 pm
1 Credit

Instructor: Professor Thomas Nass
nasstp@mlc-wels.edu

The Summer Hebrew Institute is an upper-level course in biblical Hebrew for pastors with a strong interest and ability in Hebrew. The heart of the course this summer will be the rapid reading of Ezekiel in Hebrew (about 22 pages from 12 chapters). This will be the first time that the institute has taken up one of the major prophets, and it will push us into some fascinating content.

For your convenience, the Hebrew courses are scheduled so you can take one or both.

GER9001 GERMAN INSTITUTE JULY 17-21, 2017



Monday 8:00 am – Friday 12:00 pm
1 Credit

Instructor: Professor Jim Danell
danelljc@mlc-wels.edu

The Summer German Institute is an upper-level course in theological German for pastors with a strong interest and ability in German. Students will improve their ability to read theological German for content, increase their theological German vocabulary, locate online digitized texts by confessional Lutheran theologians, and read older German utilizing online dictionaries.

COSTS

Tuition & fees (<i>for one course</i>)	\$315
Tuition & fees (<i>for two courses</i>).....	\$610
Room & linens.....	\$80/wk
Lunch plan only (M-F)	\$25/wk
14-meal plan.....	\$60/wk

REGISTER EARLY! Limited number of
air-conditioned rooms available.

Register at mlc-wels.edu/go/ce

**Registration deadline for
all on-campus courses is
June 21, 2017.**

*For questions about the course,
please contact the instructor.*

*Please direct all other questions to
continunged@mlc-wels.edu, 507.354.8221 x 365*

WELS Evangelism Certificate

This certificate program is intended to be used by lay and/or called workers in congregations to gain the understanding and skills to lead, create, and participate in congregational evangelism efforts.

The goals of the Evangelism Certificate program are to develop congregational evangelism leaders who understand the scriptural foundation for a congregation's evangelism ministry, can evaluate and plan congregational evangelism efforts, are equipped to give an answer for the hope they have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15), and seize opportunities for personal evangelism in all aspects of their lives.

Participants in the program will complete three online 1-credit courses to earn an Evangelism Certificate. These three 1-credit courses were developed with the goal of keeping costs low and the time commitment reasonable for the participants.



WELS Chaplain Certificate

There is a growing need to share the love of Christ with people who are experiencing special life situations, including but not limited to those who are serving in the military or confined to hospitals, correctional facilities, and/or other private and public residences. WELS called workers and lay workers are increasingly drawn to participate in such ministries.



As these opportunities for gospel ministry increase, those specializing in this ministry are required to be better trained and to carry qualifying credentials, certificates, and appropriate degrees for various forms of chaplain care. The WELS Chaplain Certificate has been designed and implemented to prepare and qualify pastors and lay workers for these specialized ministries.



WELS Congregational Assistant Program

The mission of the Congregational Assistant Program, under the guidance of Martin Luther College, is to assist pastors in training qualified and confident leaders in their Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) congregations. CAP provides a range of biblical and practical courses available to all WELS members to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our curriculum will have your members studying Bible history and doctrine, training in evangelism, witnessing to those of other faiths, teaching Bible studies, and learning more about Christian family and leadership.

The work an assistant may do depends on the congregation's needs and the worker's talents. Some areas of service include outreach, evangelism, senior ministry, youth and family ministry, adult spiritual growth, visitation ministry, and mentoring and coordinating volunteers. An assistant call could take the form of a volunteer or a salaried position.

Courses are typically taught by the local pastor and are often



scheduled as part of the congregation's regular scheduled Bible studies, which help to minimize extra work for the pastor while expanding opportunities for nurturing within the congregation.

Our program enrolls men and women of all ages who are either currently serving or merely seeking spiritual enrichment. Their common interest is a desire to know their Lord and Savior more intimately.

**Call Dr. Lawrence Olson or Tami Lott
for more information at 507.354.8221.**



Educational Technology

On Campus

EDT8001 02 Activities in Using the SMART Board 1 credit

Philip Dretske Jul 17 - 20 MLC - New Ulm MN

EDT8018 02 SMART Board for Intermediate Users 1 credit

Philip Dretske Jul 17 - 20 MLC - New Ulm MN

On Location

EDT8001 01 Activities in Using the SMART Board 1 credit

James Grunwald Jun 26 - 29 Luther Prep - Watertown WI

EDT8017 03 Using Google Tools to Communicate, Create, and Collaborate 1 credit

Carolyn DeLorme Jun 12 - 30 Online

EDT8018 01 SMART Board for Intermediate Users 1 credit

James Grunwald Jun 26 - 29 Luther Prep - Watertown WI

Online

EDT8011 01 Dynamic Classroom Presentations 1 credit

Martin Spriggs Jul 10 - 28 Online

EDT8101 01 Technologies for Preschool – 2nd Grade

1 credit

Robert Martens Jul 10 - 28 Online

EDT8501 01 Multimedia Apps for the Classroom 1 credit

Richard Bakken Jun 12 - 30 Online

Early Childhood

On Campus

EDU3102 01 Infant and Toddler Educare 3 credits

Jennifer Mehlberg Jul 10 - 21 MLC - New Ulm MN

On Location

EDU8103 01 Developing Home & School Relationships

1 credit or 12.5 clock hours

Cheryl Loomis Jul 27 - 28 Country Inn and Suites
Port Orange FL

EDU8108 01 Preprimary Curriculum Essentials I

1 credit or 12.5 clock hours

Susan Haar Jun 15 - 16 Jerusalem LES
Morton Grove IL

EDU8108 02 Preprimary Curriculum Essentials I

1 credit or 12.5 clock hours

Jennifer Mehlberg Jun 29 - 30 Good Shepherd LES
Burnsville MN

EDU8109 02 Preprimary Curriculum Essentials II

1 credit or 12.5 clock hours

Susan Haar Jun 20 - 21 Fox Valley LHS
Appleton WI

PED8101 01 Physical and Motor Development

for Preprimary 1 credit or 12.5 clock hours

Daniel Gawrisch Jun 22 - 23 Zion LES - Hartland WI



MLC classes pertained directly to what I do in my classroom. I've become a more effective teacher, and my congregation benefits. They see firsthand that their teachers are concerned with honing their skills.

Cynthia Lange, St. Luke -- Vassar MI

Webinars

WEB0102 01 Differentiating Instruction to Benefit All

Learners 4 clock hours

Carrie Pfeifer Jul 17 - 24 Online

WEB0104 01 Instructional Strategies for Students with

Attention Disorder 4 clock hour

Carrie Pfeifer Jul 10 - 17 Online

WEB0105 01 Instructional Strategies for Students with

Literacy Disorders 4 clock hours

Carrie Pfeifer Jul 24 - 31 Online

WEB0106 01 Instructional Strategies for Students with

High-Functioning Autism 4 clock hours

Carrie Pfeifer Jun 19 - 26 Online

WEB0201 01 Principles of Public Speaking 4 clock hours

D. Sellnow/L. Czer Jun 7 - 14 Online

WEB0801 01 Teaching the Faith: Will We Instruct or

Indoctrinate? 4 clock hours

David Sellnow Jul 26 - Aug 2 Online

READY-TO-GO

Faculty Inservices for the Entire Year

PDS0102 02 Six Highly-Effective Teaching Strategies

John Meyer Online

PDS0103 02 Helping Every Child Succeed

Cynthia Whaley Online

PDS0801 02 Conflicting Worldviews

Steve Thiesfeldt Online

PDS0802 02 Foolishness of God

Steve Thiesfeldt Online

Register for a course today at mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education

PRACTICAL

Courses for All Areas of Ministry

- **Master of Science in Education**
Emphases in Educational Technology, Instruction, Leadership, Special Education
- **Master of Science in Educational Administration**
Principal, Early Childhood

Courses Directly Applicable to Your Classroom

- Learn it
- Apply it in your classroom
- Get feedback from instructors and colleagues

Expert Instructors Who Understand WELS Schools

- WELS members
- Experts in their fields of study from a variety of institutions



As you go through the MLC master's program, you get a chance to use it in your classroom along with the support of the instructor.

*Joanna Smith
MS Ed '16*

CONVENIENT

All Courses Online

- 36 credits required
- Customizable schedule – finish in 18 months to 7 years

Fits into Your Life Right Now

- Teach full time
- Raise a family
- And finish your master's degree

Match Your Master's Degree to Your Ministry

- 50 courses available with plans to develop more
- Courses in technology, instruction, leadership, special education, and early childhood available to everyone

The flexibility of the program allowed me to further my ministry at the place where I was serving, to be a father, and to be a husband, and it allowed me to grow in my knowledge of leadership.

*Brian Mensching
MS Ed '12*



AFFORDABLE

According to "The Best Master's Degrees" website, there are 280 colleges across the country offering online master's programs in education. Of them, *MLC ranks third most affordable.*

Today is the day to join the other 124 educators currently enrolled in the program. MLC has awarded 92 MS Ed degrees since it began its master's program in 2005.

My school and church congregation were very supportive financially and gave me a lot of encouragement to go into this.

*Michael Peek
MS Ed '12*



LUTHER PREP

Summer 2017 Update



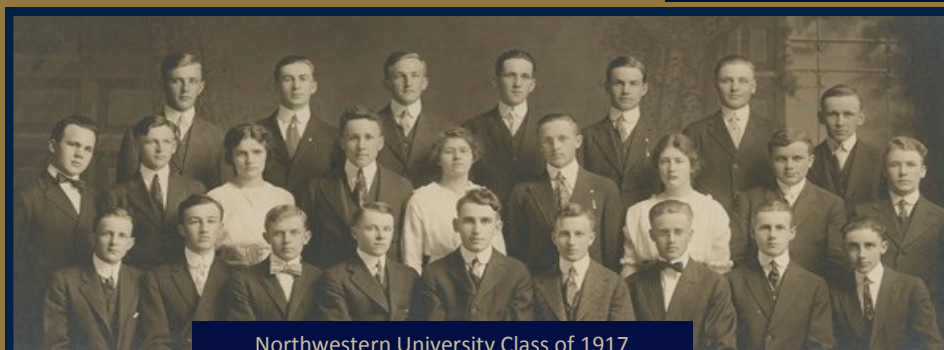
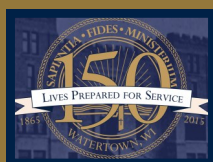
The 90 members of the Luther Preparatory School Class of 2017 officially completed their high school training on May 20, 2017. The achievement was commemorated with a service of thanksgiving in the Luther Prep gymnasium.

CHANGELESS MESSAGE AND TIMELESS MISSION

A German pastor 500 years ago, named Martin Luther, was on a mission. His mission was to refocus the world on the Bible's message of salvation by God's grace alone. Luther Preparatory School continues the work of its namesake by proclaiming the uniquely Lutheran message of the three solas - Sola Gratia (grace alone), Sola Fide (faith alone), Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone). That changeless message of Scripture centered on full and free salvation won by Christ is the message of Luther Prep.

Hand in hand with that message goes a mission. This mission is to proclaim this precious message of salvation by God's grace alone to all people. This mission happens in the everyday lives of all believers, but especially in the lives of Christian pastors and teachers. Martin Luther expressed this mission when he wrote in 1529, "God needs a pastor, a preacher, a teacher in His spiritual kingdom; you can supply Him with one." God chooses to spread his saving message through people like you and me, and he needs more pastors and teachers to serve as full-time Gospel proclaimers. That timeless mission of supplying God's church with pastors and teachers is the mission of Luther Prep.

Matthew A. Crass, President
Luther Preparatory School



Northwestern University Class of 1917

May 20, 2017 was LPS graduation day. This marks a high point in the first phase of preparation for the public Gospel ministry. That first phase is the beginning of an eight, nine, or twelve year program of training for a Prep grad. At the end of phase two 25 will have attended MLC for four or five more years to become Lutheran elementary or high school teachers, or staff ministers. The 13 men from the LPS Class of 2017 who continue their preparation for the pastoral ministry will go on for four more years at WLS. Classmates who have made other plans for their future have been prepared each day for the last four years to enter the world as future dedicated laymen and women of their congregations. Pray for all of them as they continue the tasks of service that lie ahead of them.

LPS Summer 2017 Update



LPS Grads from WLS



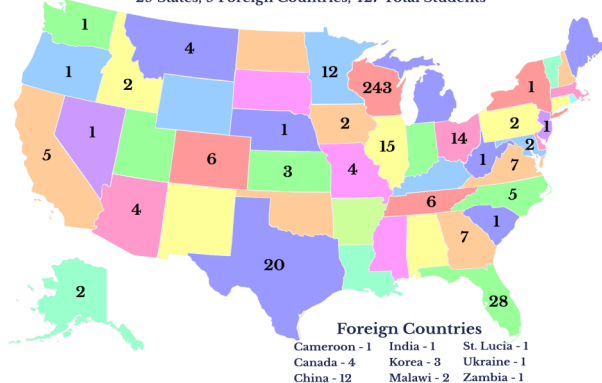
L-R: Ross Chartrand, Nathan Schulte, Jacob Jenswold, Peter Schlicht, Samuel Crass, Joshua Jensen, LPS President Matt Crass. Missing is John Schwartz.

Luther Prep Enters Parental Choice

By Governing Board resolution, Luther Prep has entered into the Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs for the 2017-2018 school year. In these programs Wisconsin parents who fall below a state determined income level receive a voucher from the State to pay their child's tuition. Luther Prep has received 43 applications, all of which are WELS students.

Luther Prep School Student Body 2016-17

29 States, 9 Foreign Countries, 427 Total Students



Spring at Prep



PHOTOS TOP LEFT-GRATEFUL BEASTS, SOFTBALL, SPRING, APRIL ARBOR DAY, TOP 11 TERTIANERS, GALA XII

LPS SUMMER 2017 EVENTS

JUNE

- 9-11 Father-Son Overnight Basketball Camps (2)
- 11-17 Boys Overnight Basketball Camps (2)
- 18-24 Girls Overnight Basketball Camps (2)
- 24-25 Parent-Daughter Overnight Basketball Camp
- 26-29 Little Hoopsters Basketball Day Camp

JULY

- 9-15 Girls Overnight Volleyball Camps (2)
- 31-Aug 3 WELS 64th Biennial Synod Convention

AUGUST

- 18-20 LPS Registration Weekend
- 21 Start of 2017-18 School Year

SEPTEMBER

- 22-24 Homecoming Weekend



A Message From The President

Unrest in the U.S. over President Trump's first 100 days. Bombing in Manchester, England. Missile launches in North Korea. Political turmoil in France. Heroine overdoses on the rise. Storms battering the midwest and south. These are all just some of the headlines that are or could be fixed on the mantels of our news media. Our world doesn't sound like such a great place to live. Suicides are at their highest levels since 1988. The gap between the "haves" and "have-nots" is growing. The diversity and dichotomy in the political arena is more pronounced and perhaps more animos than ever.

New government, change of leaders or new laws perhaps can make some improvement in this chaotic landscape, but only one thing can bring about real and lasting change. Only the gospel of Jesus Christ calms troubled souls and transforms unloving hearts. There is always a shortage of pastors and teachers because there is always the need for children and adults to be taught the life-changing truths of God's Word. That's not to say the gospel message will fix all the problems of society. However, the gospel gives people hope and peace in the midst of the chaos. The gospel moves people to put away animosity and violence and live in love and harmony with one another.

MLS needs to still exist because our world still needs the ministry of the new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit. MLS needs to continue to fill its seats with students so that our world has hope in the continued supply of servant-leaders who fix their thoughts on Jesus and teach others to do the same.

Serving Jesus with you,

Joel V. Petermann
Joel Petermann, President

End Of The Year Numbers

Ending enrollment for 2016-2017: 216

(Fr - 62; So - 54; Jr - 48; Sr 52) (103 boys, 113 girls)

Dorm students for 2016-2017: 135 (65%)

Applications for the Freshmen class of 2017-2018: 48

Applications for the upper classes for 2017-2018: 5

Applications accepted to date: 41 freshmen and 5 upperclassmen.

Graduating Class of 2017: 52

Percent going to MLC: 50% (26 of 52)

(6 pastor track, 20 teacher track)

International students in graduating class: 5 (2 going to MLC)

Costs for 2017-2018: Non-boarding: \$6635; Boarding: \$10,820

Did You Know?

26 MLS students of 240 incoming students at MLC

(MLS students = 10+% of incoming class)

MLS and LPS grads comprise 40-45% of incoming MLC class for 2017-2018

Total MLS students at MLC = 10% of entire student body

27 MLC graduates going to WLS - MLS = 5 of those (20%)

11 (13%) of the 85 organ students at MLC are from MLS

Our goal of at least 8 new students/year at MLS

from outside the MI district is being met

Faculty Changes

At the end of this school year we will be saying farewell to two faculty members, one tutor and an emergency instructor. **Professor Jon Huebner** accepted a call to teach at St. Croix Lutheran High School in West St. Paul, MN. **Professor James Wooster** is retiring at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. **Tutor Josh Schultz** has completed his two years of tutoring and has been assigned to Mountain View Lutheran Church in Great Falls, MT. **Elizabeth Broring**, who had been called as a one-year emergency instructor for Spanish, will complete her service and return to MLC to finish her schooling.

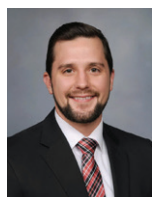
Meanwhile MLS has been blessed to have six incoming staff members. **Eric Scheuerlein** accepted our call to teach upper level math and will be arriving this summer. **Lauren Maertz** who has completed two years of tutoring was assigned for a third year as an instructor in the science department. She will teach biology, science electives and one phy ed section. **Alyssa Maertz** was assigned to replace Lauren as tutor in the girls' dormitory. **Ross Chartrand** was assigned from WLS to replace Schultz as tutor. **Nathan Guhl** was assigned as a one-year instructor to teach physics and chemistry. **Brooke DeAnda** was assigned as a one-year instructor to teach Spanish. We are thankful to the Lord of the Church for supplying us with a full staff again for next school year. MLS will likely begin the calling process for some permanent professors in the fall.



Huebner



Wooster



Schultz



Broring



Scheuerlein



L. Maertz



A. Maertz



Chartrand



Guhl



DeAnda

MLS UPDATE

MCG Activity At MLS

The week after graduation at MLS there will still be plenty going on at MLS. One thing that is noteworthy is the meeting of the Ministry of Christian Giving (MCG) on our campus from May 30 until June 2. The reason for this meeting on our campus is so that the Christian Giving Counselors (CGC) can see MLS and become acquainted with our faculty and facilities. Beginning in June, 2017 and through July, 2018, they will be sharing the case for MLS with their donor contacts in the WELS. In the fall of 2017, President Petermann will be traveling with them making visits in all 12 of our synod's districts to share the MLS story. This will take place as part of an opportunity that each of the BME schools has had to receive special emphasis from the MCG for a year. Please pray that the Lord blesses this campaign. It is a silent campaign which means that the WELS general membership will not be solicited for offerings. Gifts given through this campaign will be used for student financial aid, capital projects and to build up MLS financial reserves.



IMPORTANT DATES

FOOTBALL CAMP BEGINS

August 6, 2017

VOLLEYBALL AND CC CAMPS BEGIN

August 13, 2017

REGISTRATION (8 a.m.) & OPENING SERVICE (3:30 p.m.)

August 19, 2017

ORIENTATION DAY FOR STUDENTS

August 20, 2017

FIRST DAY OF 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

August 21, 2017



June 11-14, 2017

Girls' Basketball Camp - Grades 5-9

June 14-15, 2017

Girls' Volleyball Camp - Grades 6-9

June 18-21, 2017

Boys' Basketball Camp - Grades 7-9

June 21-23, 2017

Boys' Basketball Camp - Grades 5-7

June 21-23, 2017

Boys' Football Camp - Grades 7-9

June 24, 2017

Father/Son Football Camp - Grades 4-6

July 10-14, 2017

Fine Arts Camp - Grades 2-6

MLS Joint Adventure

The idea of sending a student to a dorm school like MLS or LPS sounds foreign to most families. In fact, only seven dorm schools exist in the state of Michigan. A campus visit to MLS, though, provides an opportunity for families to experience MLS. They can visit classes, worship in chapel, stay in the dorms, meet the students and faculty, and more.

Distance and cost of travel may keep some from planning such a visit, though. That is why MLS runs the Joint Adventure program each year. MLS sets aside money to help defray travel costs for families, congregations, and churches visiting MLS. MLS will reimburse a portion of travel costs up to \$500 as funds are available.

As you make plans for next year, please consider using MLS' Joint Adventure and make a visit to MLS possible.



A System Worth Preserving

The Wisconsin Synod has a unique and valuable gem in our four-school, three-tiered system. This system, unlike any other, is praised and envied by other churches. It continues to supply well-trained workers to a world that more desperately needs their message with each passing year.



Our Mission

The special purpose of Michigan Lutheran Seminary is to prepare high school students for the public ministry of the gospel, encouraging them to enroll in the WELS College of Ministry, Martin Luther College. Our role, so well aligned with the other three ministerial education schools of the WELS, ensures the supply of young men and women whose training enables them to carry out the great commission of our Lord.



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

2777 Hardin Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
Phone: 989.793.1010
Fax: 989.793.4213

I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5

MDHH is here for YOU

WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MDHH) has a variety of resources available to encourage and assist pastors, teachers, congregations, interpreters, families and members in their outreach to people with a hearing loss.

Available on the MDHH Resource Center (csm.welsrc.net/mdhh):

- "Assistive Listening Devices" flyer includes information on hearing loops and FM systems.
- VRI (Video Remote Interpreting) information.
- Directories of congregations with hearing loops, signed services.
- "Difficult Liturgy Phrases" flyer suggests sign solutions for interpreters in church.
- View a PowerPoint presentation sharing "10 Things to Know about Ministry to People with Hearing Loss."
- "Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sunday" suggestions.
- *Open to All* video at wels.net/deaf gives tips in serving the deaf and hard of hearing in the congregation.

Available upon request:

- MDHH brochure describes our mission/goals.
- "Understanding Hearing Loops" brochure shows how hearing loops work and answers questions.
- *By Grace Alone*, adapted, is the adult instruction manual for use with deaf adults. Introduction in MDHH Resource Center, manual free on request.
- *Jesus Loves the Little Children* Coloring Book shows how to sign the popular story.
- Lord's Prayer Poster illustrates the Lord's Prayer in sign language.
- Manual alphabet bookmarks.
- Offering envelopes encourage members in congregations to support MDHH's work.
- Placemats for use at church or school meals show the table prayer in sign language.



Video resources from Special Ministries:

- *Easy Bible Lessons* CD with 36 lessons/Bible stories written at two levels of reading and understanding, has stories, color pictures, teacher's guide, and crafts.
- *Signed Bible Stories* DVDs (4) feature the same 36 Bible stories in Pidgin Signed English.
- *Christian Worship: Signing the Lutheran Liturgy* DVDs (2) show the liturgies of *Christian Worship* in sign language.

Other resources:

- *Sign to the Lord a New Song*, the largest religious sign language dictionary, has almost 800 entries. Available at NPH.net.
- Signed songs and prayers on Youtube.com/welsdhh.
- Speakers/bulletin board display available. Contact MDHH@wels.net.
- American Sign Language class taught online through MLC.

WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Therapy Models (Psychological Terms)

**A Brief Review of Counseling Models
WELS Committee on Mental Health Needs**

Choosing a therapist to fit your needs can become a confusing experience. You probably will hear some “counseloreze”—the language of the counseling field—with which you are not familiar. Don’t worry, you are in the majority. Please remember: ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS WHEN YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. You have some important decisions to make, and it is important to make informed decisions!

Christians need to be aware of the different approaches their therapist may use in their counseling. Likewise, pastors need to have some idea of the counseling models used by the therapists to whom they refer their members. This pamphlet is not meant to be an introductory course to psychological theory. Rather, it is intended to serve as a quick reference guide. A glossary of the terms printed in *italics* is provided at the back of the pamphlet. All counseling models have something to offer when used by a trained therapist. Some theoretical approaches work better than others, depending on your psychological or relationship needs. Some therapists have integrated several counseling models into their personal approach to counseling.



Traditional Counseling Models

Psychoanalytic: This model follows the teachings of Sigmund Freud. The emphasis is on the client’s childhood experiences and relationships with the parents, and on the client’s *psychosexual development*. Psychoanalysis seeks to uncover the secrets of the *human psyche* hidden in the *unconscious mind*. Psychoanalysts attempt to develop a relationship of *transference* with their clients, in which the clients relate to their analysts just as they did to their parents in childhood. During this process the client’s *defense mechanisms* are identified and replaced with healthy behavior patterns. Psychoanalysis usually takes many years to complete with 1-3 sessions every week.

Psychodynamic: This model does not follow Freud’s idea of psychosexual development. However, stages of *social development* over the life span are still important in this model. Lifetime experiences are examined and defense mechanisms are identified. The client is helped in learning appropriate decision-making skills and behaviors. Psychodynamic therapy often involves long-term therapy, but not as long as psychoanalysis.

The psychoanalytic and psychodynamic approaches propose that our childhood

experiences can strongly influence our reactions in the present without our even realizing it. This does not mean that our present behaviors are the fault of our parents, nor that our past determines our future. However, it does provide us with information necessary and helpful for changing the negative influences of our past.

Client-centered or Rogerian: Carl Rogers believed that reality for the individual is the sum total of one’s experiences and *perceptions* over a lifetime. According to Rogers, the goal of achieving one’s potential can be attained in counseling provided that the therapist provides an atmosphere of *genuineness*, *unconditional acceptance*, and *empathy*. The counselors are non-directive in that they refrain from sharing their own beliefs, values, or opinions with the client. They offer neither approval nor judgment of the client’s decisions. This also is long-term therapy.

Cognitive: The basic concept of this model is that our feelings and behaviors are the result of the way we think. The cognitive therapist seeks to help the client identify *cognitive distortions*, *irrational beliefs*, or *negative self-talk*. The therapist helps the client replace these faulty thought processes with *reality-based thinking*, so that the client experiences healthy emotions

and relationships. Cognitive therapy tends to be *didactic* in nature, *directive* in approach, and *collaborative* in process.

Behavioral: This model is very “scientific” in nature in that the counselor and client only work on what can be observed and measured. A problem behavior is observed; a plan for changing it is implemented; progress is measured and reported. Behaviorists believe that individuals are shaped by their *environment*. Some behaviorists believe that we learn through *conditioning*. Others believe that we can learn by observing the behaviors of others and the *consequences* of those behaviors. In either case, the theory is that, if the *antecedent* or the *consequence* of the client's behavior is changed, then the behavior of the client will be changed as well.

Cognitive-Behavioral: This approach is a blend of cognitive therapy and behavioral therapy. The client's thought processes are identified as well as the antecedents and consequences of the client's behavior. The clients are helped to make healthy changes in both their way of thinking and their behaviors. All three—cognitive, behavioral, and cognitive-behavioral—models are considered to be short-term therapy (3-6 months, possibly more).

Family Systems: This model views problems as belonging to the family rather than to any one individual. Each family member both influences and is influenced by the other members of the immediate family and the extended family. *Subsystems* are identified within the family. *Family of origin* issues are studied. *Genograms* are used to chart behavior patterns and experiences across several generations of the extended family. Even though there may be a *focus client*, the entire family is involved in therapy, so that *dysfunctional* family interaction patterns can be changed. Family systems therapy is directive, collaborative, and medium-term (6-12 months, or more).

Adlerian or S.T.E.P.: Adlerian therapy is the basis for the Systematic Training in Effective Parenting or S.T.E.P. program. It is believed that no two siblings have the same family experiences due to their different *psychological positions* in the *family constellation*. Mutual respect within the family is

a primary goal of therapy. The *family atmosphere* is identified, along with the *goals* of the child's *misbehavior*. Parents are taught to modify their reactions to their children's misbehavior, to encourage and nurture appropriate behaviors, and to use *logical and natural consequences* to discipline their children. Therapy is short/medium-term.

Both Family Systems and Adlerian family counseling offer many benefits in dealing with problems within the family context. No individual lives in a vacuum. Having an understanding of the family dynamics provides insight into the individual's view of himself or herself.

Twelve Step: This model is used by many *self-help groups* (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous) and by most substance abuse treatment programs. The 12 steps of recovery begin with an admission of being powerless over one's addiction and a turning to a *higher power* of one's own choosing for help. The steps proceed through making an inventory of all wrongs, making amends for those wrongs, and helping others work through the 12 steps. Individuals are encouraged to take “one day at a time.” Self-help groups do not involve a professional therapist, while treatment programs and therapy groups are led by a therapist. Length of participation is up to each individual—some attend group meetings for the rest of their lives.

Medical Model: This model sees all mental disorders as being biological in nature; therefore, the primary treatment is *medication*. When medication is deemed necessary, it often is best to consult with a psychiatrist, because they have been trained in the prescribing and monitoring of psychotropic medications. Therapy often is used in conjunction with medical treatment. In fact, research shows that a combination of medication and therapy often produces the best results for the more severe disorders.

Eclectic: This means that the therapist is choosing from several theoretical models as the basis for their approach to counseling. However, usually there is one theoretical model that forms a foundation upon which certain aspects of the other theories are added. Usually eclectic

counselors practice short or medium-term therapy.

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing:

EMDR is often used with trauma victims. It is based on the *neurophysiological* hypothesis of “*Accelerated Information Processing*”. It is suggested that we have an innate physiological processing system in our brain that normally processes disturbing input in an *adaptive* manner. A trauma interrupts this adaptive information process and the traumatic memories are stored in an isolated *neuro network* that cannot connect with the other, more adaptive neuro networks. The use of *directed eye movements* together with *cognitive reprocessing* unblocks the traumatic information so that it can connect with adaptive thought processes, resulting in emotional relief and healing from the traumatic memories.

Solution-Focused: This is more a framework for therapy than a theory or model. It is adaptable to brief therapy (3-6 sessions or more). A problem is identified in terms of behaviors. *Exceptions* to the problem behavior in the client's life are identified as providing opportunities for change. A goal for counseling is explored. A solution plan is chosen that uses the client's present strengths and resources. The focus is on what changes can be made; emphasis is on the reality of the present.

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT): DBT was originally devised and found to be effective for working with people who have Borderline Personality Disorder and who are suicidal. DBT has since been found useful in treating many other mental health issues as well as providing practical training for people who wish to improve their relationship skills. DBT advances the concepts of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Mindfulness and other effective therapies to treat a wide range of mental health issues. DBT includes *skill* training to help people who have mental health issues stemming from patterns of poorly regulated emotions, impulse control, interpersonal relationships, and self-image. The four major areas of DBT are:



- Core Mindfulness (cognitive skills used to help people focus on issues)
- Distress Tolerance (for those experiencing crises or who are over whelmed)
- Emotional Regulation (to promote emotional stability and enhance positive emotions)
- Interpersonal Effectiveness (people skills)

A disclaimer: some of the mindfulness skills find their origin in eastern religions and modern American spirituality. It will be important to find a therapist who uses DBT and downplays the non-Christian spirituality of DBT. The therapist should focus on the positive skill training that is available for his or her clients in DBT. These mindfulness skills should not be about clearing the mind of all thoughts. They should be about making oneself aware of one's thoughts and one's thinking process so that the thoughts and the thinking process can become more positive.

Conclusion

It is important to be sure that your spiritual needs as a Christian will be served and/or respected in therapy. It is important that your therapist explain the theoretical approach that will be used in counseling. The more information you have, the better prepared you are in making decisions throughout your therapy experience. Remember that in all things God's Word is the final authority to which all else, including counseling models, must submit.

Glossary of Psychological Terms

Psychoanalytic

- ▶ *Psychosexual development*: our personality develops in early childhood through the positive acceptance of our own sexuality for the purpose of survival and pleasure.
- ▶ *Human psyche*: The human spirit, the life force or energy that drives a human to seek pleasure and reduce anxiety.
- ▶ *Unconscious mind*: Our thought processes that are beyond our awareness and yet influence our behaviors.
- ▶ *Transference*: The therapeutic process in which clients relate to their analysts just as they did to their parents in early childhood.
- ▶ *Defense mechanisms*: Behaviors driven by the unconscious mind to help the individual to cope with anxiety. The end result is that they tend to deny or distort reality.

Psychodynamic

- ▶ *Psychosocial development*: Our personality develops throughout our life span as we seek to establish a balance between the perception we have of ourselves and the perception we have of our place in a social world.

Client-centered

- ▶ *Perception*: An individual's interpretation of his or her world based on the person's personality, temperament, and life experiences.
- ▶ *Genuineness or Congruence*: The therapist is real in that he or she openly and honestly expresses any inner feelings or attitudes being experienced.
- ▶ *Unconditional positive regard or Acceptance*: The therapist possesses a deep and genuine caring for the client as a person, recognizing that the client has a right to his or her own thoughts and feelings.
- ▶ *Empathy*: The therapist develops an accurate understanding of the client's subjective inner experiences or "private world".

Cognitive

- ▶ *Cognitive distortions*: Inaccurate interpretations of the world around us lead to faulty assumptions and misperceptions that result in dysfunctional emotions and behaviors.
- ▶ *Irrational beliefs*: Rigid demands of others and unrealistic blaming of ourselves that result in emotional disturbance.
- ▶ *Negative self-talk*: Self-defeating and self-critical thoughts that exaggerate the negative aspects of ourselves, our experiences, and our future.
- ▶ *Reality-based thinking*: The ability to dispute irrational and distorted thinking resulting in realistic interpretations of our experiences, followed by appropriate feelings and behaviors.
- ▶ *Didactic*: Therapy is seen as an educational process in which the therapist is the teacher and the client is the learner.
- ▶ *Directive*: The counselor provides suggestions and ideas to help clients to accomplish the changes they desire to make in their lives and relationships.
- ▶ *Collaborative*: The therapist and client work together to accomplish the client's goals.

Behavioral

- ▶ *Environment*: This includes everything and everyone outside of the individual—all external influences experienced by the individual.
- ▶ *Classical conditioning*: A neutral event occurs at the same time with a stimulus that rouses or triggers a specific behavior. When this happens repeatedly, eventually the neutral event alone will trigger the behavior. For example, when Uncle Andy comes to visit (neutral event) he always brings little Johnny his favorite candy (stimulus), so Johnny always runs out to meet Uncle Andy to get the candy. Eventually Johnny will run out to meet Uncle Andy even when he doesn't bring candy.



- ▶ *Operant conditioning:* When a specific behavior repeatedly results in a positive outcome the behavior is reinforced and will continue. When a specific behavior repeatedly results in a negative outcome the behavior is discouraged and will be extinguished.
- ▶ *Antecedent:* That which happens immediately before a specific behavior.
- ▶ *Consequence:* That which happens immediately following a specific behavior.
- ▶ *Positive reinforcement:* A rewarding consequence that gives the person something he or she wants.
- ▶ *Negative reinforcement:* A rewarding consequence that removes something that the person does not want.
- ▶ *Punishment:* An adverse or unwanted consequence that is the result of a specific behavior. This will stop that behavior, but will not train the person to perform another behavior.
- ▶ *Modeling:* One individual observes another individual's behavior and the consequences that follow. If the first individual desires the same consequences he or she will imitate the same behavior.

Family Systems

- ▶ *System:* A family provides a social framework in which each member interacts with the

other members. The result is that any behavior or change by one member of the family instantly creates a responding movement within the family as a whole. Similarly any movement within the family as a whole instantly affects the behavior of the individual member of the family.

- ▶ *Subsystem:* Within the social framework of the family are various social relationships that operate within themselves as well as within the family system. These include husband-wife, parent-child, sibling, etc..
- ▶ *Family of origin:* A person's mother, father, and siblings.
- ▶ *Genograms:* A chart of a multi-generational family history.
- ▶ *Focus client:* The family member that is originally identified by the family as "the one with the problem".
- ▶ *Dysfunctional:* The interactions within the family are such that they impair the members of the family from experiencing a healthy and appropriate relationship.

Adlerian

- ▶ *Psychological position:* The perception or sense of belonging and significance with which each member of the family views his or her place in the family system.
- ▶ *Family constellation:* The birth order of each

child in the family—firstborn, middle child, baby of the family, only child, etc..

- ▶ *Family atmosphere:* The way parents relate with each other results in the attitudes, behaviors, and relationships that are practiced by all members within the family system.
- ▶ *Goals of misbehavior:* All behavior is “purposive” in that it accomplishes the subconscious goals of the individual. These goals include (1) getting the parent’s attention, (2) seeking to gain power over the parent, (3) seeking revenge for real or perceived wrongs by the parent, or (4) assuming disability and passively doing nothing requested by the parent.
- ▶ *Logical consequence:* What would logically follow a child’s misbehavior is used to teach the child the consequences of his or her behavior. For example, a child continues to complain about the food prepared by the mother. Because of this display of disrespect and ingratitude, the child’s plate is put away and the child is removed from the table without any food until the next regularly scheduled meal.
- ▶ *Natural consequence:* What would naturally follow a child’s misbehavior is allowed to happen to teach the child the consequences of his or her behavior. For example, a child refuses to come in to eat at supper time, because he wants to keep on playing. When the child comes in a half-hour later and asks to eat because he is hungry, the mother says, “I understand why you are hungry now. You refused to come in for supper. You will have to wait for breakfast tomorrow morning.” [Hunger is a natural result of refusing to eat.]
- ▶ *Family dynamics:* The continual changes that occur in the interpersonal relationships between family members and in the way that they interact with each other and with the family as a whole.

Twelve Step

- ▶ *Self-help groups:* A group of individuals



sharing common problems meet together to support and encourage one another in their individual efforts to learn to overcome or cope with their problems. Usually a portion of the meeting is devoted to education and a portion is set aside for group members to share their experiences.

- ▶ *Higher power:* A generic term for “god” that allows the individual to trust in the “god” of his or her choosing.

Medical Model

- ▶ *Psychotropic medications:* Drugs which affect the mind, emotions, and behavior, such as mood stabilizers, antidepressants, and stimulants.

EMDR

- ▶ *Desensitization:* The reduction of an individual’s anxiety in reaction to a specific stimulus.
- ▶ *Neurophysiological:* The various parts of the brain, their distinct functions, and how they interact with one another to process information (input) and behavior responses (output).
- ▶ *Accelerated Information Processing:* Neurological activity stimulated by rapid eye movement resulting in reality-based information being processed by the brain to effectively dispute self-defeating thoughts and memories.

- *Adaptive*: Beneficial to the individual and/or relationship.
- *Neuro network*: The brain cell structure in which specific experiences and memories are stored. In a trauma situation it appears that such a brain cell structure is blocked or isolated from the messages of other cell structures that would allow the person to process the information in an adaptive manner.
- *Directed eye movements*: The therapist establishes a steady pace of eye movement along with a bi-directional movement of the eyes (e.g., side-to-side, up-down) for a determined duration of time.
- *Cognitive reprocessing*: Changing the individual self-defeating thoughts and memories about a specific trauma to thoughts that are reality-based.

Solution-Focused

- *Exceptions*: The situations, times, and circumstances in which a problem behavior does not occur.

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)

- *Dialectical or dialectics*: This has two meanings in DBT. The first is that dialectics is the world view of this type of therapy. This means that each one thing is always viewed as a part of the whole universe. The second meaning is that dialectics refers to the treatment approach and strategies used by the DBT therapist to effect change. These strategies reflect dialogue and relationship. Dialogue is most often the inner dialogue as a client focuses on an issue and considers it in relationship to the wholeness or reality of that one issue as it exists in respect to the client's total life and experience.
- *Skills*: Training in individual and inter-relationship skills is vital to DBT. The client must learn not only self-regulation skills but also skills for influencing his or her environment. The client will also need to

learn when to regulate his or her feelings, emotions, and cognitions.

- *Core mindfulness*: Mindfulness is the act of focusing the mind in the present moment without judgment and without attachment to the moment. This allows the client to have an inner dialogue on the issue or behavior and view the issue or behavior in relationship to the whole of his or her existence. The DBT manuals stress that this is a secular exercise and no spiritual or religious convictions are necessary for it to succeed. Mindfulness and distress tolerance are a part of the acceptance skills of DBT.
- *Distress Tolerance*: These are skills that are taught to people who are experiencing crises or who are over whelmed. These skills are designed to help people solve immediate crises without making things worse. The person is helped to accept reality when he or she cannot change it and when it is not what he or she wants it to be.
- *Emotional Regulation*: These are de-escalation skills in DBT. The goal of these skills is not to get rid of emotions, but to reduce emotional suffering. Emotional regulation and interpersonal effectiveness are change skills in DBT.
- *Interpersonal Effectiveness*: These are people skills. The goal is to train clients to be effective in relating to others so that they can achieve their own goals without alienating the other person or losing their own self-respect.

WELS Committee on Mental Health Needs

Commission on Special Ministries
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188-1108
414-256-3241 • specialministries@wels.net
wels.net/special-ministries

Care To Plan For Called Worker Retirement



Establish a local Care Committee for Called Workers within your congregation to provide ongoing support and encouragement for called workers and their families as they plan for expenses in retirement. Whether or not you have a Care Committee, designate a person to focus on retirement planning for called workers.

1. The committee should familiarize itself with the following resources that are available to assist with retirement planning:

a. WELS Pension

welsbpo.net/retirement/pension/

- Does the called worker understand the program?
- Has the called worker used the benefit estimator?

b. The Shepherd Plan

welsbpo.net/retirement/shepherd-plan/

- Is the called worker already participating?
- Has the congregation considered establishing automatic enrollment and/or providing matching contributions?

c. WELS VEBA Health Insurance

welsbpo.net/health/

- Does the called worker understand health insurance options in retirement?

- Does the called worker have a health savings account that should be considered?

d. Social Security

ssa.gov

- Has the called worker used the benefit estimator?
- Has the called worker set up an online account to track earnings?

e. CCCW Resources

welsrc.net/cccw

- Has the called worker reviewed the online retirement planning materials?

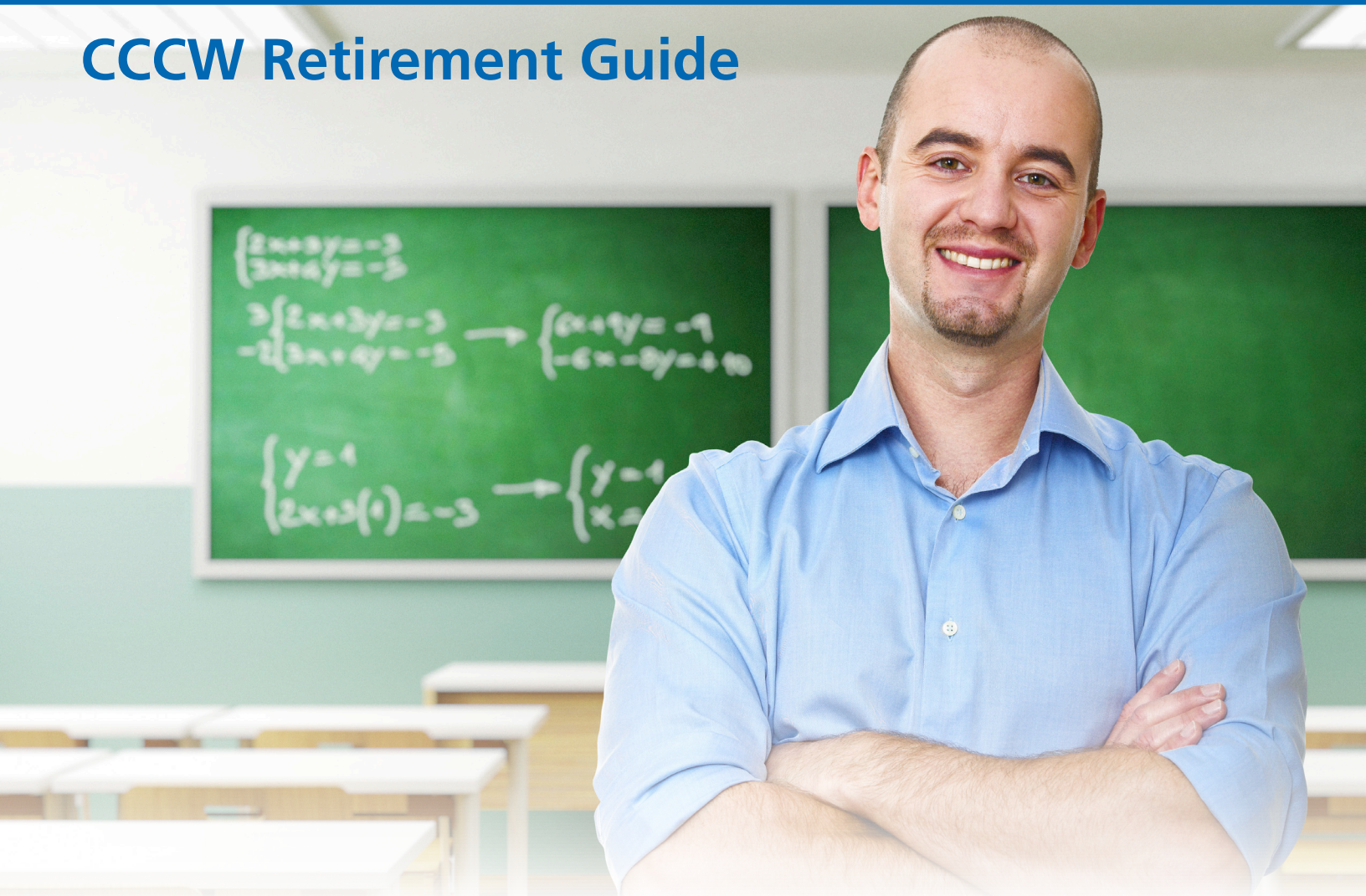
2. Meet with the called workers to review these resources and to encourage them to seek professional financial advice to coordinate a comprehensive plan.

3. Follow-up with the called worker on an annual basis to review updates and/or questions.

WELS Care Committee for Called Workers

Special Ministries
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188-1108
specialministries@wels.net

CCCW Retirement Guide



When a new graduate receives that first call it is understandable that planning for retirement is not at the top of the to-do list. The Care To Plan checklist and the additional information contained in this document can be used as a tool by the calling body to encourage their called workers to get an early start on retirement planning. It will also be helpful for those veteran workers who would like to begin or fine tune their retirement planning. Investing and financial planning in general can seem intimidating to some, and these materials are designed to simplify and streamline the process.

The following is an outline of topics that could have an impact on retirement planning. If there is a Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW) in place, a committee member can go through the checklist with the worker. If there isn't a CCCW in place, a volunteer should become familiar with the materials and assist the worker with the

process. Most workers will be able to implement a plan with the resources available. However, in some cases it might be wise to work with a financial professional.

- a. WELS Pension – The synod pension is a good building block for a retirement plan. While it is not likely that a retiree will be able to live on this income alone, it is a good start. The WELS website should be used to calculate potential scenarios.
welsbpo.net/retirement/pension/
- b. Social Security – Social Security is similar to the pension because it may not be enough to live on by itself, yet it is another important building block in a retirement plan. Making a decision on when a worker and possibly a spouse should begin to draw payments is often difficult and complicated. You should use the website to view your

personal information and calculate possible benefits, but it is recommended that you seek the advice of a professional to help maximize benefits when making decisions.

ssa.gov

- c. **Saving and Investing** – The third building block for retirement income is the one that the worker has the most control over. The best advice in this area is to start as early as possible, no matter how small the amount. Calling bodies can encourage this by offering matching contributions or automatic enrollment. Workers would be more likely to make contributions if they knew that the congregation was also contributing. With automatic enrollment, the worker would automatically be enrolled in a 403b plan unless they choose to opt out. The Shepherd Plan is the WELS-sponsored 403b plan and offers a good choice of investment options, including target date funds that will automatically adjust the risk level as you get closer to retirement. All necessary information is available on the WELS website. It is certainly an option for called workers to work with another firm or financial professional. If this option is chosen, keep in mind that the Shepherd Plan offers tax advantages in retirement that may allow you to make tax-free withdrawals. If this is the case, it is possible to transfer funds into the Shepherd Plan at or even after retirement.

welsbpo.net/retirement/shepherd-plan/

- d. **Health Insurance** – WELS VEBA is the health insurance carrier for the synod. They offer several options with various features and deductibles. For an individual or family that normally does not have a lot of health-related expenses, it may be a good choice to use the Health Savings Account option. Unused funds in HSA accounts may be invested and could be used to pay for health care costs in retirement. Contributions and withdrawals are tax-free.

welsbpo.net/health/



- e. **Housing** – Workers may rent, buy a home, or live in housing provided by the congregation. While there are pros and cons to each of these, if housing is provided it would be wise for the worker to invest an amount equal to a house payment each month as they will not be building up any equity for the future.
- f. **Life Insurance** – Term insurance is quite cheap for young people, so the best advice would be to get started early.
- g. **College Savings** – There are several options for college savings as well. Education Savings Accounts, 529 plans, and UTMA or UGMA accounts have different features. Often a Roth IRA is a good choice because of the flexibility in funding the account and making tax-free withdrawals of contributions.
- h. **Trust/Estate Planning** – An estate planner or attorney would be helpful in this area. One thing to consider is a living trust, which allows your assets to pass to your beneficiaries without going through the probate process, saving time and money. A living trust would also contain a will.

WELS Care Committee for Called Workers

Special Ministries

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive

Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188-1108

specialministries@wels.net



WELS Foundation

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Annual Report 2016

Helping people support ministry



Mission & vision

Placing memorial stones by the River Jordan (Joshua 4:4-9).

After the Israelites crossed the River Jordan to enter the Promised Land, they set up a stone memorial so that future generations would know the goodness of God. In the same way, WELS Foundation exists to help members whose gifts leave a monument of their faith that will be a blessing for many years to come.

Planned gifts provide funding for WELS congregations, schools, missions, and other affiliated ministries.



Organization overview

WELS Foundation exists to help God's people support gospel ministry through WELS. To carry out its mission WELS Foundation provides:

- knowledgeable planned giving support to WELS members through WELS Christian giving counselors and other WELS advancement representatives.
- various giving opportunities including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, donor advised funds, and endowment administration.
- a website, **wels.net/foundation** with help and information about giving opportunities and options.

DISTRIBUTION TO SYNOD MINISTRIES

FY2014-FY2016

Over the last three years WELS Foundation has been privileged to administer and distribute \$14,127,432 in donor directed gifts to various WELS ministries.

72%

WELS NATIONAL MINISTRIES
\$10,147,406

9%

WELS AFFILIATED MINISTRIES
\$1,324,732


19%

WELS CONGREGATIONS
\$2,655,294

We thank the Lord for your generous gifts!

Dear friends in Christ, who enables us to excel in the grace of giving,

Unless you serve on a congregational finance or stewardship committee, it's probably been a while since you've pondered the apostle Paul's heartfelt counsel: "We administer (the offering) in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man" (2 Corinthians 8:19-21).



WELS Foundation's board and staff cherish these words of God. By the Spirit's power, we daily live them as we help our fellow Christians arrange gifts to Jesus for his gospel endeavors. We believe that you honored the Lord when you presented him with gifts through WELS Foundation. We intend to honor Jesus as we administer your generous offerings, doing what's right in the eyes of the Lord and in the eyes of man. Along the way, we trust that our heavenly Father will guide our service to you and him—all to Christ's glory and the salvation of precious souls.

As you review this report, join us in thanking God for the many “liberal

(generous) gifts” that our Lord prompted his people to arrange for the benefit of his kingdom. What wonderful blessings!

To learn more about the different ways you can directly impact our Savior's work through your gifts, please call us; visit our website, wels.net/foundation; or contact your local WELS Christian giving counselor. We look forward to serving you and the ministries that touch your heart!

Yours in Jesus,

REV. KURT LUENEBURG,

WELS Foundation President

MR. JIM HOLM,

Executive Director, WELS Foundation



Giving support

CONSULTING SERVICES

WELS Foundation provides planned giving support to WELS members through WELS Christian giving counselors who are specifically trained in both the spiritual and financial aspects of planned giving. The WELS Christian giving counselors coordinate planned giving efforts with other WELS advancement representatives, congregational planned giving committees, or directly with donors and their advisors. Find your local Christian giving counselor at wels.net/christiangivingcounselor.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

WELS Foundation hosts monthly educational webinars. The monthly webinars include timely presentations on various planned giving topics such as Charitable Remainder Trust Essentials, Achieving Donor Goals with Gift Annuities, Working with Donors and Their Advisors, and Making the Right Choice between a Gift Annuity and a Charitable Remainder Trust.

The educational webinars are made available by WELS Foundation at no cost to WELS Christian giving counselors, advancement and development officers, and congregational planned giving committee leaders.

Contact WELS Foundation for recordings of past webinars or to participate in future sessions.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

A qualified charitable distribution allows a donor who is 70.5 or older to give up to \$100,000 directly to WELS charities from an individual retirement account (IRA). The amount distributed will be excluded from income for federal income tax purposes. This may be an especially useful gifting strategy for those who do not itemize their income tax deductions. The IRA distribution must go directly to a qualified charity. You can choose to direct the distribution to WELS Foundation, which in turn will distribute the money to one or more WELS ministries you designate and provide you with the proper acknowledgement. Interested donors will want to contact their WELS Christian giving counselor to find out more.

A gift that pays income for life

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a contract between a WELS member and WELS Foundation in which the member makes a gift of cash or securities in exchange for fixed annuity payments, generally for life. After the donor dies, the remainder of the gift is distributed to the congregation or ministry as designated.

Income payments from a charitable gift annuity may begin immediately, be deferred to a specific date in the future, or be deferred until an unspecified date in the future.

The donor receives an immediate income tax charitable deduction, and in most instances a portion of the gift annuity payments will be a tax-free return of the original principal.

Examples of benefits of a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity:

AGE	PAY-OUT RATE*	TOTAL ANNUAL PAYMENTS	TAX-FREE PORTION	ALLOWABLE INCOME TAX CHARITABLE DEDUCTION
60	4.4%	\$440	\$301	\$2,749
65	4.7%	\$470	\$334	\$3,363
70	5.1%	\$510	\$377	\$4,002
75	5.8%	\$580	\$443	\$4,503
80	6.8%	\$680	\$536	\$4,965
85	7.8%	\$780	\$644	\$5,622
90	9.0%	\$900	\$761	\$6,269

**Rates and data as of September 1, 2016*

This information is not intended as legal advice. For legal and tax advice, WELS Foundation encourages you to consult an attorney or tax professional. The figures cited in the examples are for hypothetical purposes only and are subject to change. References to income tax include federal income tax only. Individual state income taxes may impact your results.

As of June 30, 2016, WELS Foundation administered 649 gift annuity contracts.

	2016	2015	2014
Opening Balance	\$ 9,751,245	\$ 9,950,074	\$ 9,445,928
Gifts Received	996,467	1,150,769	824,432
Net Investment Income (Loss)	(59,280)	6,952	969,217
Annuity Payments	(1,057,780)	(1,074,448)	(1,085,934)
Charitable Distributions	(277,204)	(282,102)	(203,569)
Ending Balance	\$ 9,353,448	\$ 9,751,245	\$ 9,950,074

A taxwise way of providing for children and church

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

A charitable remainder trust (CRT) is created when donors transfer cash, securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds), or real estate into a charitable trust but keep a specified income interest—usually for their life or for a period of years for their children. When the trust ends

per the donor's designations, the property in the trust passes to their designated charitable beneficiaries, such as their church and/or synod.

As of June 30, 2016, WELS Foundation administered 164 charitable remainder trusts.

	2016	2015	2014
Opening Balance	\$ 32,326,183	\$ 31,836,659	\$ 27,062,436
Gifts Received	2,139,711	4,181,292	3,114,729
Net Investment Income (Loss)	(565,902)	(57,540)	3,934,105
Income Payments	(2,102,284)	(1,970,889)	(1,755,450)
Charitable Distributions	(1,361,926)	(1,663,339)	(519,161)
Ending Balance	\$ 30,435,782	\$ 32,326,183	\$ 31,836,659

A gift that creates a lasting legacy

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

A donor advised fund (DAF) is a charitable giving vehicle wherein an individual, family, or corporation makes an irrevocable, tax-deductible contribution of cash, securities, or other property to WELS Foundation and at any time thereafter can recommend grant distributions to qualified WELS ministries. The fund can be established with

current gifts, deferred gifts (such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts), and testamentary gifts (such as wills, revocable trusts, or beneficiary designations for life insurance policies or retirement accounts).

The WELS Foundation donor advised fund program provides an alternative to the private family foundation. WELS members can accomplish many of the same goals but with far less administrative work and expense.

As of June 30, 2016, WELS Foundation administered 48 donor advised funds.

	2016	2015	2014
Opening Balance	\$ 2,255,978	\$ 1,973,307	\$ 1,833,144
Gifts Received	527,218	1,032,728	426,333
Net Investment Income (Loss)	(44,801)	9,627	253,478
Charitable Distributions	(801,045)	(759,684)	(539,648)
Ending Balance	\$ 1,937,350	\$ 2,255,978	\$ 1,973,307

Ongoing, dependable support for ministry

WELS ENDOWMENT FUNDS

WELS MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

ENDOWMENT FUNDS provide direct and indirect financial assistance to students attending WELS ministerial education schools. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Martin Luther College, Luther Preparatory School, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary each have a separate endowment to which gifts may be directed.

WELS MISSIONS ENDOWMENT FUNDS

support the continued proclamation of the gospel to more and more people in our nation and the world by WELS missions programs. Gifts can be made to the fund for the benefit of mission work carried out in North America or missions worldwide. Gifts of any amount can be added to the synodical WELS Endowment Funds.

WELS ORGANIZATIONS AND CHURCHES

WELS Foundation also manages endowment funds for individual congregations, schools, and organizations to benefit ministry locally.

As of June 30, 2016, WELS Foundation administered 289 endowment funds.

	2016	2015	2014
Opening Balance	\$ 23,756,822	\$ 20,882,225	\$ 17,964,912
Gifts Received	4,626,418	2,489,083	693,478
Net Investment Income (Loss)	1,143,610	272,549	2,835,024
Transfers In	42,123,563	797,481	-
Charitable Distributions	(1,185,078)	(684,516)	(611,189)
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 70,465,335	\$ 23,756,822	\$ 20,882,225



Financial summary

Summary financial information for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, 2015, and 2014.

	AS OF JUNE 30, 2016	AS OF JUNE 30, 2015	AS OF JUNE 30, 2014
ASSETS			
Investments, cash, and cash equivalents	\$ 128,673,828	\$ 85,801,763	\$ 85,758,546
Property held for sale, life insurance, bequest, and other receivables	2,946,453	3,083,882	3,319,167
Total Assets	\$ 131,620,281	\$ 88,885,645	\$ 89,077,713
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 71,990	\$ 68,339	\$ 137,420
Gift annuities and trusts payable	24,554,333	28,623,568	26,956,280
Liabilities to outside beneficiaries	11,214,000	8,328,993	8,385,921
Investments held for WELS and schools	43,772,026	-	-
Net assets and funds held for WELS and WELS subsidiaries	52,007,932	51,864,745	53,598,092
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 131,620,281	\$ 88,885,645	\$ 89,077,713
SUPPORT AND REVENUES			
Gifts, memorials, and bequests	\$ 2,057,831	\$ 4,161,472	\$ 2,259,478
Net Investment and rental income	2,471,444	439,107	10,823,079
Trustee and administrator fees	645,756	618,211	571,645
Decrease in split-interest gift agreements	973,592	(701,757)	(3,355,516)
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 6,148,623	4,517,033	10,298,686
DISTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES			
Administrative expenses	630,331	\$ 650,944	\$ 627,558
Program expenses	641,520	625,750	646,087
Distributions to WELS and WELS subsidiaries	4,733,585	4,973,686	3,701,823
Total Distributions and Expenses	\$ 6,005,436	\$ 6,250,380	\$ 4,975,468
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	143,187	(1,733,347)	5,323,218
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	51,864,745	53,598,092	48,274,874
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 52,007,932	\$ 51,864,745	\$ 53,598,092

A person is seen from behind, sitting in a white canoe on a body of water. The person is holding a paddle. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and reflecting off the water's surface. The water is dark with some ripples and reflections of the light.

Governing body

WELS Foundation was established in February 1965 to receive and administer funds for religious, charitable, and educational purposes consistent with the principles of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). It continues to operate today as a subsidiary corporation of WELS.

The services of WELS Foundation are managed by a volunteer board of directors, more than half of whom are laymen representing financial, investment, trust or legal backgrounds. All directors are dedicated communicant members of WELS congregations; they know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and want to help their fellow believers honor our Savior with their gifts so more people come to know God's salvation. (Directors are elected to four-year terms by the WELS Synodical Council.)



Board members

JAMES BRENN, *chairman*

term expires June 30, 2018
(South Atlantic District)

MARK SCHULZ, *vice-chairman*

term expires June 30, 2018
(Western Wisconsin District)

TIMOTHY BOERNEKE, *secretary*

term expires June 30, 2019
(Western Wisconsin District)

PAUL BEITLICH, *director*

term expires June 30, 2017
(South Atlantic District)

NATHAN BIRKHOLZ, *director*

term expires June 30, 2020
(Minnesota District)

REV. KURT LUENEBURG, *director*

by virtue of his position as director of
WELS Ministry of Christian Giving

MARK MAURICE, *director*

term expires June 30, 2019
(Southeastern Wisconsin District)

REV. PAUL PRANGE, *director*

term expires June 30, 2019
(Southeastern Wisconsin District)

KURT SAMES, *director*

term expires June 30, 2019
(Minnesota District)



WELS Foundation

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188-1108

800-752-8940 • wels.net/foundation

Federal Tax ID 39-6084446



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIVES OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

SUMMER 2017 CONFERENCE REPORT

Greetings from Wisconsin Lutheran College! I pray that this finds you well and enjoying spiritual enrichment and fellowship with your partners in ministry. I thank our gracious Lord for your faithful service as together we share the Gospel with the next generation.

On May 20, we recognized the Class of 2017 at Commencement. Our undergraduates came to us from 18 states and represented 28 majors. We were honored to have **Rev. David Rutschow** as our keynote speaker at the service, and we presented Pastor Rutschow with WLC's Pro Gloria Dei Award for his life of distinguished service to God and His people.

Many graduates, such as **Austin Wagenknecht**, took full advantage of all WLC has to offer. Austin majored in both music and mathematics and was part of our Honors Program. In March, he presented the short opera "The Perfect Wife" in our Raabe Theatre as his Honors capstone project. Because of his leadership overseeing WLC's Student Employment program, Austin was named Midwest Association of Student Employment Administrators "Student Employee of the Year" for Wisconsin. Learn more about Austin on the next page of this report.

Graduate **Hannah Bartels**, a biology major from La Crosse, Wisconsin, earned the 2017 Impact Award from WLC, which is given to a student who has made a difference on our campus. Hannah served as president of the Student Senate, sang in the Wisconsin Lutheran Choir, tutored Sport and Exercise Science students, conducted genetic research with maize, and organized a volleyball tournament to benefit military veterans.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, I was privileged to witness many shining examples of our students' academic achievements and servant leadership. I am grateful that we are able to send our new graduates out to make an impact in a world in desperate need of Christian leaders. Please keep them in your prayers.

May God continue to bless you and your service in His Kingdom.

Dr. Daniel W. Johnson
President, Wisconsin Lutheran College



Donna Stollenwerk, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, with Wisconsin Student Employee of the Year **Austin Wagenknecht '17**



Rev. David Rutschow, former president of the Southeastern Wisconsin District, spoke at WLC's Commencement service in the Time of Grace Center. He also received the college's Pro Gloria Dei Award.



Dr. Daniel W. Johnson, President of WLC, with 2017 Impact Award Winner **Hannah Bartels '17**

THE VALUE OF A WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE EDUCATION

Wisconsin Lutheran College generously invests in making a Christian college experience affordable because we know the positive impact WLC graduates are making around the world.

WLC is ranked as **one of the most affordable private colleges in the nation**. For 2016-2017, *MONEY* Magazine rates WLC 13th for affordability among private institutions in the country and first among private institutions in Wisconsin. WLC is the only private school in Wisconsin to be ranked within the top 25.

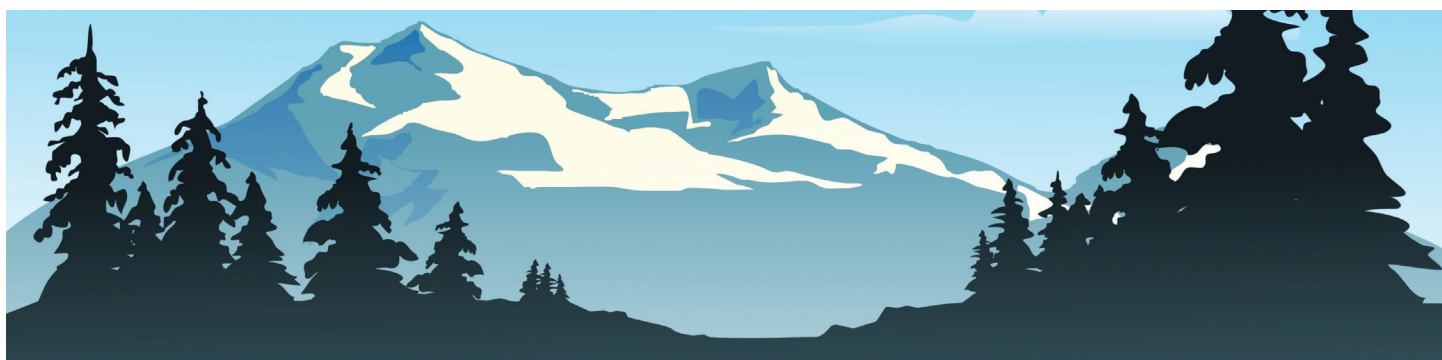
PARTNERS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

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 2017 will range from \$11,000 to \$15,000 per year, based on GPA and ACT or SAT scores, for a lifetime value of \$44,000 to \$60,000. Learn more at wlc.edu/scholarships.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE



2017 Washington and Alaska Concert Tour

The Wisconsin Lutheran Choir and Chamber Choir, under the direction of Dr. James A. Nowack, performed six concerts in Washington and Alaska May 23-31. The concert program featured sacred and secular choral works spanning several periods and genres. An homage to the Lutheran Reformation musical heritage included J.S. Bach's motet *Jesus My Great Pleasure*, Heinrich Schütz's *Also Hat Gott die Welt Geliebt*, and Martin Luther's treasured hymn *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*. Two 2017 graduates who were members of the Wisconsin Lutheran Choir reflected on their choral experiences at Wisconsin Lutheran College:



Austin Wagenknecht '17
Music/Mathematics
Yorba Linda, CA

"The Wisconsin Lutheran Choir has been an unexpected, tremendous blessing in my life. I came to Wisconsin Lutheran College with hardly any singing experience. Being a viola player, however, offered me a concert experience I will never forget. As I sat on stage with the Christmas Festival Orchestra in 2013, I could not see the choir due to my front-and-center position. I could only listen as the lyricism of Eric Whitacre's *Alleluia* swept over me like waves. The next year I auditioned for and joined the choir. Since I plan to continue studying music in graduate school, I value what I have learned from Dr. Nowack and the Wisconsin Lutheran Choir. More importantly, nothing in the world is better than uniting with others to create Christian music and experience a foretaste of the heavenly chorus. I love being part of a family dedicated to a mission: the performance of excellent music to God's glory." – Austin

"Four years ago, I contemplated where I wanted to go for a nursing degree. Wisconsin Lutheran College had always been on my radar, but the decision was finally made when I learned of WLC's Christ-centered college choir. The Wisconsin Lutheran Choir has been a solace and safe-haven for me through my most challenging times. Through the years, choir membership has further taught me about the beauty and power found in singing God's Word. At every rehearsal since my freshman year, I would step into the rehearsal hall, and I knew that for the next hour my time would be devoted to prayer, praise, and conversation with my heavenly Father. The Wisconsin Lutheran Choir has been an astounding blessing in my life and I will never forget it! Music is powerful, but when woven together with God's Word, its beauty is unfathomable." – Sarah



Sarah Burk '17
Nursing
North Mankato, MN

ABOUT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE



Wisconsin Lutheran College is a nationally ranked, independent Christian college in Milwaukee that serves nearly 1,200 traditional undergraduate, adult, and graduate students through on-campus and online programming. The college, which prepares students for lives of Christian leadership, is recognized for its academic excellence and superior student experience.

Visit wlc.edu/admissions to explore the options offered by WLC. To subscribe to the college's newsletters or follow the college on social media, visit wlc.edu/connect.



The Wartburg Project

District Reports

June 2017

The Wartburg Project is a group of WELS and ELS pastors, professors, teachers, and laypeople who are working together to pass our evangelical heritage from age to age by producing a new translation of the Bible called the *Evangelical Heritage Version* ® or *EHV* ®.

Progress Report

- The editing of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel is nearly complete.
- Northwestern Publishing House has print set-ups ready for all the historical and poetic books of the Old Testament.
- Some WELS, ELS, and LCMS congregations are using and evaluating the lessons for the 2016-2017 church year. They can be downloaded from the *Lectionaries* link on our website.
 - Permission to use the passion history and lections free of charge includes any congregational use including projection on a screen, broadcasts, and posting bulletins and sermons online.
 - As we complete the prophetic books, the Old Testament readings in this year's lectionaries will be updated to their final form. The lectionaries for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 should be the final form from the start.

2017 Preview Edition

NPH is now taking orders for the 2017 preview edition of the New Testament and Psalms. There are discounts for volume orders

Derived Works

NPH's files of the New Testament and Psalms are being converted to the necessary e-pub file formats to be used in various electronic online applications. When this is done, we can finishing licensing arrangements and begin production with the various publishers who are interested in using the EHV. We have had contacts with about eight authors or publishers concerning various works that will use or post the EHV.

Authors who wish to use the EHV in their works should consult the project's May report.

Study Documents

These documents can be downloaded from our web site.

- 1) *Getting Ready For EHV 2017*. This 30-page booklet contains four studies that introduce EHV 2017.
 - a. Why should I try the EHV?
 - b. What were the greatest difficulties encountered in producing the EHV?
 - c. What are some of the features that distinguish the EHV from other translations?
 - d. Becoming accustomed to a new translation

- 2) *Key Passages for a Doctrinal Evaluation of Bible Translations*: A comparison of key doctrinal passages on the basis of more than a dozen translations. This is a 30-page technical study that makes use of the Hebrew and Greek texts.
- 3) A similar study: *Principles of Bible Study Applied to Prophecy*

Coming Projects

By late fall, we should be working on a format, staff, and finances for a Wartburg Lutheran Study Bible.

WEBSITE See our website (wartburgproject.org) for more information relating to the EHV. See FAQ #15 on the name EHV. A paper explaining our name is posted in the "Library" section.

Sign up on the "Contact" page to receive free e-reports. Like us on Facebook to receive the latest updates posted there. (The purpose of our Facebook posting is not debate, but we've been able to share information with many people very quickly that way (sometimes more than 10,000).

We continue to be a "purely positive" effort, avoiding debates and controversy. We are just quietly trying our best to translate the Bible "to spread its light from age to age." So far, so good! God has richly blessed us. To God be the glory and praise for all of his blessings!



Institutional Ministries

*Sharing hope with those who need it most...
for 115 years!*

PASTOR'S CONFERENCE REPORT

April, 2017

Ministry Insights

""After Bible class today, one of my guys privately shared with me his concern about losing his faith. "What if I harden my heart like Pharaoh, or I cause God's Spirit to depart from me like King Saul." I encouraged him to stop focusing on what he might do, and stay focused on what God has already done for him in Christ. "Focus on that 'inseparable' love that God has for you in Christ," I encouraged, "and remember the Good Shepherd's promise to you: 'My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand/'" What a privilege it is to share the hope of Jesus Christ when people need it the most! Chaplain Radsek "

"I met a young man in jail who was sure that he had committed "the unforgivable sin" and was therefore eternally lost before God. He told me about his sins and was surprised to find out that Jesus had atoned for them all. We reviewed 1 John 1:7 "The Blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin," and I pointed out that in Jesus, there is free and complete forgiveness of sins, peace with God, and friendship. "Wow", he said, "I now feel at peace." He went away at peace with God and with himself. Chaplain K. Wenzel "As I introduced myself to the woman lying in the hospital bed, her eyes began to fill with tears and I wondered what I had stepped into. I then said her name, and instantly realized I was in the wrong room. This was not the person I was supposed to be seeing. I apologized, and was almost ready to leave the room when I saw the tears continue to well up in her eyes. 'Would it be ok if I stayed and we talked a little?' She nodded yes, her friend left the room, and I pulled up a chair. Before I had settled into the chair, she blurted out, 'I just don't know if there is a God in heaven.' God did it again, he put me where I needed to be." Chaplain M. Wenzel

Did you notice the similarity of those chaplains' stories? Satan, the careful historian of our sins, will constantly look for ways to trap our souls. It may be through the misuse of law from a misguided ministry. It may be through guilt, like Judas. But the solution is always the Gospel and the freedom the Spirit gives there. In the parish or an institution, we are partners proclaiming peace.

For more *Ministry Insights*, visit our website and "like us" on Facebook.

What We Can Do Better Together

- Be a clearing house to support those institutionalized in any way. Please notify us when you have someone institutionalized. We are happy to help serve that soul, whether personally or through our network of volunteers.
- Serve both inside and outside of prison. The rules of the State of WI don't allow a chaplain who serves an inmate to have any further contact upon the inmate's release. Our office provides the link so that ongoing care is given.
- Fill your pulpit and/or BC, giving you a breather, while teaching the story of Institutional Ministries.
- Support the expense of serving the institutionalized. Many falsely assume that synodical funds supplement this budget. Support comes solely from hearts that love this ministry. outside of synodical support.
- Broaden our coverage while helping pastors with need. Your dollars don't just serve our called chaplains. Some of you are our volunteers. Thank you for helping us extend our reach to more souls! Thank you, sister churches, for helping in that effort.
- Do outreach. If you haven't already done so, please note our new website address: www.IM.Life and on Facebook, www.facebook.com/InstitutionalMinistries

Celebrating 115 years of Partnership!

Thank you for helping us celebrate this milestone in our history and for helping the institutionalized learn about the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ. As we move into our 116th year in June, we thank God for the privilege of being His partner in this ministry, and for all the ministry partners he has given to us.

Connect with our online presence— www.IM.Life Friend us on Facebook

God's richest blessings to you, your family, your congregation and the Lord's ministry!

HEALING & HELPING

MINISTRY UPDATE—SPRING/SUMMER 2017

This update focuses on the services we provide throughout the country and the world

OUR HEALING & HELPING MINISTRIES

Our ministry is multi-faceted.
• counseling • home care • senior services



PASTOR MATTEK'S PREACHING SCHEDULE

6/4	Peace Wautoma, WI
6/11	St. John Markesan, WI
6/25	Christ the Lord Clearwater, FL
7/9	Trinity Belle Plaine, MN
7/23	Holy Cross Oklahoma City, OK
7/30	Bethany Appleton, WI
8/6	St Matthew Port Washington, WI
8/13	Messiah Olympia, WA
8/20	Mighty Fortress Hiram, GA

We are sharing our blessings!

Each year as I crisscross the United States and visit WELS/ELS congregations, I have the awesome opportunity to share the blessings our ministry has experienced. At each congregation, I talk about the compassionate work that we do each day: counseling those who are hurting, and caring for seniors as they age.

If I have ever preached and presented at your congregation, thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to share more about our healing and helping ministries.

If I haven't visited your church, I would love to! Please contact me at jmattek@wlcfs.org or **414.254.3916** if you would like me to preach and conduct Bible study at your congregation.

I thank God for his blessings, which have sustained this ministry for over 50 years. It is my prayer that God showers his blessings on us for years to come, so we are able to continue our work of healing and helping.

May God bless you and all those you serve!

Please see the back for a map and a list of our services.



262.345.5530 • 888.685.9522 www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org
W175 N11120 Stonewood Drive • Germantown, WI 53022

 CHRISTIAN FAMILY
SOLUTIONS

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE, INC.

SERVICES OFFERED AT WLCFS-CHRISTIAN FAMILY SOLUTIONS

Counseling

Counseling Clinics—Counseling services for all ages in our community clinics and for students at our grade school, high school, and college clinics.

Video Counseling (Telehealth)—Counseling via secure video in states where we have licensed counselors.

Member Assistance Program (MAP)—A customized way for churches, schools, and organizations to provide counseling services for their members (in person at our clinics or via secure video from anywhere).

Intensive Outpatient Programs

Counseling services are available when a higher level of care is needed.

Dual-Diagnosis Programs—For those who struggle with addiction coupled with mental health issues.

Mindfulness-Based Programs—For those who struggle with depression, anxiety, trauma, and other mental health issues.

Our Intensive Outpatient Programs are unique in that they include a faith-based component to recovery, drawing on the strength found in God's Word.

Child & Adolescent Day Treatment Program

Many urban students struggle with undiagnosed mental health and behavioral issues, which can prevent them from learning and functioning in the classroom.

Students in our program work with our team of professional staff for 3 hours per day, 5 days per week. The goal is to help students work through their issues so they can return to the classroom and begin to thrive academically, socially, and spiritually. *Our goal is to replicate this program in other urban schools.*

Home Care

Our compassionate and experienced caregivers provide individuals with personal care and assistance in their homes to help make their lives easier, while maintaining the highest level of independence.

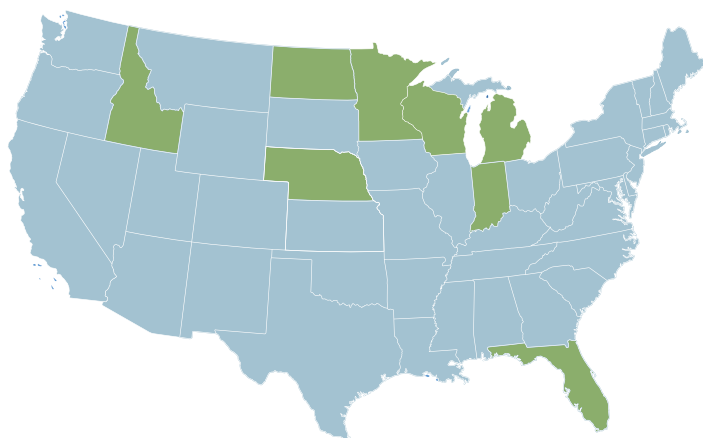
Senior Services

Christian Family Solutions is blessed to have two senior living communities:

The Gardens of Hartford—assisted living in Hartford, WI

Wisconsin Lutheran Living Center—assisted living in Milwaukee, WI

OUR SERVICES ARE OFFERED IN THE UNITED STATES AND WORLDWIDE!



- 41 Christian counseling clinics in 6 states (WI, MN, MI, FL, ID, NE)

15 Community Clinics

16 Urban School Clinics

8 High School Clinics

2 College Clinics

- Video counseling via telehealth in 8 states (WI, MN, MI, FL, IN, ND, ID, & NE)

- Worldwide counseling through our Member Assistance Program

- Assisted Living & Home Care services in Wisconsin

TLHA Quarterly

Summer 2017

Celebrating “where the care of the soul is the soul of care”

We are constantly inspired by our team members and volunteers, whose faithful service and passion for our ministry spread Christ’s love. At our annual board retreat in May, we celebrated nine of our longest-tenured team members for their years of service — 190 years among them! — and recognized four volunteers for sharing Jesus with others through our “Care of the Soul” award.

“Like us on Facebook to see more photos and keep up with the latest news.

Pictured: “Care of the Soul” award winners, Kathy and Jo Elle Augustine, with Michael Klatt (TLHA CEO) and Arvid Schwartz (TLHA board chair).



Brides’ grandma watches wedding live



Top: Valeria watches the wedding streaming live on the Internet in the company of family friend Lavonne Bratsch at Kingsway Retirement Living. Above: Kingsway team members purchased a special corsage for the grandma of the bride.



Valeria Schultz lives in memory care at Kingsway Retirement Living in Belle Plaine, Minn. and couldn’t fly to Texas for her granddaughter Jamie’s spring wedding. But with a little help from technology, it was just like she was there. Valeria dressed up, had her makeup done and wore a corsage for the Friday evening ceremony, which she watched on a live stream from 1,000 miles away.

It’s Never 2 Late (iN2L) technology made it possible. iN2L includes mobile kiosks with large monitors, as well as software with thousands of activities to engage older adults.

“We were even able to download the program for the wedding. It was a really interactive experience,” said Sharon Blume, Director of Health Technology Services at Kingsway. **“Rather than just turning on the TV, we looked for ways to make Valeria really feel like the grandmother of the bride.”**

“She was so happy for two days after, still talking about the wedding. And that’s very rare. Usually my mom doesn’t remember anything for more than 3 or 4 minutes,” said Joyce Lendt, one of Valeria’s daughters and aunt to the bride.

Kingsway Retirement Living is a vibrant community. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (952) 873-5900 or email info@tlha.org.



Michael R. Klatt, President and CEO
(952) 873-4750 | mklatt@tlha.org

THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION

www.tlha.org



Hope residence welcome new wheels!

Many thanks! Hope Residence, a disability housing community in Belle Plaine, Minn., welcomed a new handicapped-accessible van. A special thank you to all the friends, families and team members of The Lutheran Home Association who made this possible. Because of you, our residents will remain on the go— making safe journeys to all the special places they like to visit.

Keep tabs on Hope residents' trips and activities by liking "TLHA Belle Plaine Campus" on Facebook.



Ridgeview Belle Plaine Clinic opens June 5

Congratulations to our partner Ridgeview Medical Center as it announces the grand opening of its clinic in Belle Plaine, Minn. on June 5! The clinic is adjacent to KingsPath Senior Living, our newest community. Both are part of the Ridgeview Health Campus in Belle Plaine. KingsPath is scheduled to welcome residents October 2017 and leases are now available.

You can get a sneak peek at KingsPath by reserving a spot on our "dusty shoes" tour this summer. Contact Barb or Haley at (952) 873-4760 or info@tlha.org.



Honoring long-time JCM consultants

In December, two long-time Jesus Cares Ministries team members, Bill Truebenbach and Julie Luetke, will retire. **Generous ministry friends have given \$35,000 for a matching challenge! Every dollar donated will be matched \$0.50.** In the spirit of 2 Corinthians 9:13 and as a thank you to God for his grace show on the labor of these dedicated servants, we are asking you to consider a thank you gift to help carry on the work of JCM. We have created a "Bill Truebenbach and Julie Luetke JCM Endowment Fund" to provide a lasting and meaningful giving opportunity who want to remember Bill and Julie while providing gifts to grow JCM.

Donate online at www.tlha.org/donate or call (952) 873-4744.

OUR 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

KingsPath Senior Living,
Belle Plaine, MN

Kingsway of Beverly Hills,
Beverly Hills, FL

Kingsway Retirement Living,
Belle Plaine, MN

St. Michael's Assisted Living,
Fountain City, WI

The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine,
Belle Plaine, MN

The Lutheran Home: Cedar Haven,
Mankato, MN

Wellhaven Senior Living,
River Falls, WI

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Bruce Becker, Rev. Michael Berg, Matt Burow, Rev. Elroy V. Conradt, Jeff Davis, Lowell Hoffman (vice chair), Rev. Henry T. Koch, Wayne Larson, Bill Meier, Joel Meyer, David Oldenburg, Rev. Matthew C. Rauh (secretary), Tim Schuth (treasurer), Mark Schwan, Arvid Schwartz (chairman), Roger Toomey



THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION

I Am a Pioneer.

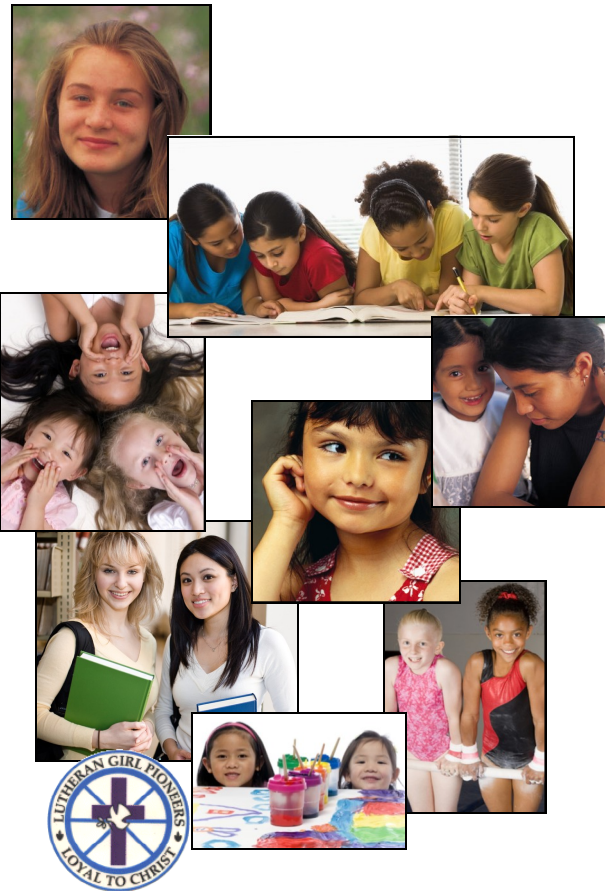
Who is a Girl Pioneer?

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
girpioneers@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 girpioneers@gmail.com www.lgp.org**

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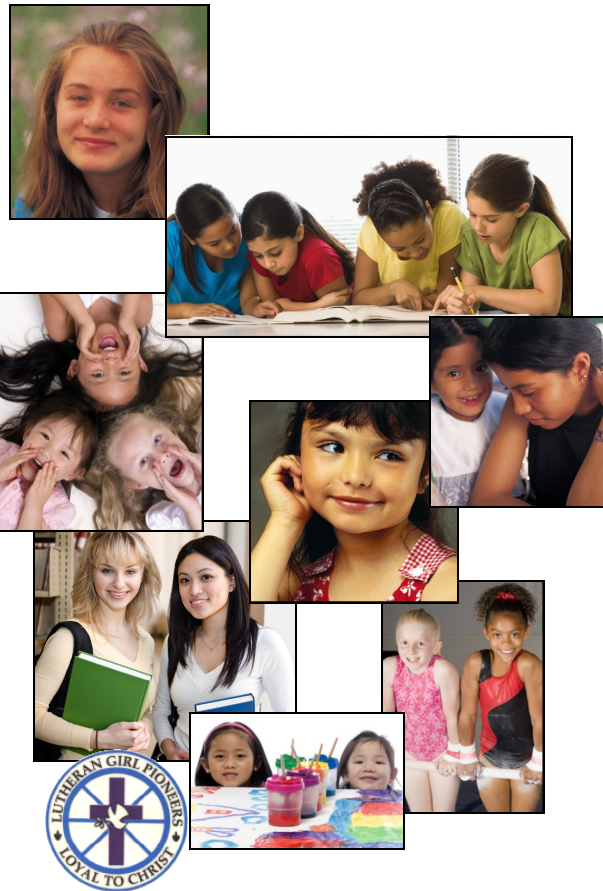
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The 46th Annual PASTOR / TEACHER / STAFF MINISTER Golf Tournament
Edgewood Oaks Golf Course, West of 164 on Hwy L in Big Bend, WI

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017 – Shot Gun Start at 8am

The SEWER OPEN (*SEWER = South Eastern Wisconsin Educators and Reverends*) has been held as an annual outing for fun & fellowship. The tradition continues this year on **MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017**. Clear your calendars! **Shotgun Start at 8:00am on the OAKS COURSE**! Food and drink can be purchased at the course.

Golfers will be placed into the following 6 flights based on the average score that you indicate on the registration form. Winners of all flights from the previous year are automatically moved up one flight.

- Pro Flight
- Champion Flight
- 1st Flight
- 2nd Flight
- 3rd Flight
- Senior Flight

If you are 65 or older, you may play in the Senior Flight and tee off from the Gold Tees. Otherwise, if you choose to play in one of the other flights, you will tee off from the white tees with everybody else.

Be at the course no later than 7:30am. Before your round, enjoy a putting contest at the practice green. After your round, stay for fellowship and prizes at the Edgewood Golf Course.

Please return your
 registration &
 payment of \$36.00 to:

Bob Garbe 4845 S. Racine Avenue New Berlin, WI 53146	Home: 262-679-0856 Cell: 414-732-9264 Email: rgarbe1@wi.rr.com
--	--

Make checks out to Bob Garbe and enclose with registration.

Early PAID Registration is ONLY \$33.00. Deadline is Monday, July 3rd.
Deadline for your PAID \$36.00 Registration is Monday, July 24th.

~ Register early to reserve your discounted spot as one of the 40 golfers in the SEWER Open ~

The SEWER Executive Team: Gary Pufahl, Greg Pufahl, Tom Kneser, Bob Garbe, & Paul Berger

(Cut off and return the bottom portion. Save the top for your information.)

2017 SEWER OPEN REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP _____

Requested Golf Partners ... 1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____

Average Score for 18?

or write "S" for Senior
 flight (65 or older)

