



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

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*(included in the commemorative booklet)
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Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Welcome!

On behalf of the faculty and staff of WLC we are pleased to be serving as the host site for your 2018 SEW Convention, and hope you experience an edifying worship service as well as productive discussions and reporting sessions.

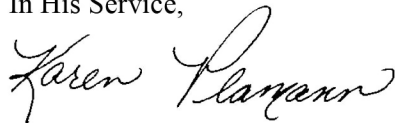
Although our event and conferences office and staff are responsible for the majority of the logistics required for your convention, we want to thank our Audio Visual and Information Technology departments, our facility management staff at Trinity Home Group, and our campus food service staff with Sodexo,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

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

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

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

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Plamann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Plamann" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Plamann
Director of Events and Conferences

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



Arizona-California DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

June 4, 2018

Brothers in Christ-

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

Greetings from the Arizona-California District! We cherish the bond of faith that unites us together in Christ, along with our partnership in the Gospel. It is our prayer that the Lord edify each and every one of you through worship and study at your upcoming conventions.

The Arizona-California District is planning to meet June 11-13, 2018 at the Embassy Suites in Scottsdale, AZ. The theme of our convention is *Our Great Heritage*. Dr. Mark Paustian will deliver the keynote address, *Communicating Christ in the 21st Century*.

May the Lord bless your time together. And may we all glorify God in our district and local ministries for the good of His kingdom!

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Steven P. Gabb, secretary
On behalf of the AZ-CA District

AZ-CA District Officers

Rev. Jon D. Buchholz
District President

Rev. David R. Clark
1st Vice President

Rev. Aaron D. Boehm
2nd Vice President

Rev. Steven P. Gabb
Secretary

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Dakota-Montana District

June 5, 2011

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As the Apostle Paul greeted the saints in Philippi, so the congregations and called workers of the Dakota-Montana District greet you: *"I thank my 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."* (Philippians 1:3-5) God's richest blessings as you meet in convention.

The Dakota-Montana District will convene June 12-13 on the campus of Great Plains Lutheran High School in Watertown, South Dakota. The theme of our 9th Biennial convention is "Press On To the Goal." In addition to the great blessings of worship and growth in God's Word, we look forward to a keynote presentation from Rev. Jon Hein titled "A Strategy for 21st Century Rural Ministry."

Thank you for your greetings extended to our District as we meet in convention and your prayers on our behalf.

We pray that the Word will strengthen you as you meet in convention. May God bless your study of His Word. May God also bless your convention sessions so that we may continue to bring glory to God forever in the best way possible and that the work of the Church in this world might be further blessed.

In service to Christ our Savior,

Rev. Ryan C. Wolfe, Secretary
Dakota-Montana District

Douglas L. Free
President

802 Elk Street
Rapid City, SD 57701-7556
Home: 605-342-2124
Church: 605-342-8804
dmdp@wels.net

Michael P. Enderle
First Vice President

PO Box 98
Clear Lake, SD 57226-0098
Home: 605-874-8477
Church: 605-874-2449
trinity@itctel.com

Kenneth L. Brokmeier
Second Vice President

807 Medary Ave. S
Brookings, SD 57006-3943
Home: 605-692-9249
Church: 605-692-6989
kenbrok@brookings.net

Ryan C. Wolfe
Secretary

108 11th St. NE
Mandan, ND 58554-2137
Cell: 701-989-9721
Church: 701-663-5344
pastor@redeemermanndan.com

Michigan District

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor John C. Seifert, President
907 Mattes Drive
Midland, MI 48642-3708

Pastor Paul S Naumann, 1st Vice President
1927 Broadway
Benton Harbor, MI 49022-6523

Pastor David A. Voss 2nd Vice President
1022 W. Grand River Ave.
Williamston, MI 48895-1231

Pastor Snowden G. Sims, Secretary
322 E. Stewart Ave.
Columbus, OH 43206-2726

June 5, 2018

Dear brothers of the WELS in Conference or Convention,

Greetings to you from the Michigan District! The 117th Pastor, Teacher, Delegate convention of the Michigan District will be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary - Saginaw, Michigan - June 11-13, 2018. The theme of the convention is: *Always be prepared to give an answer... 1 Peter 3:15*. Dr. Wade Johnston will present a paper entitled: *Apologetics in the Life of a Lutheran Christian*.

We plan to be about the business of our Savior God to serve the people entrusted to our care. We plan to digest the reports which have been shared by our Synod through the Report to the Twelve Districts and discuss them as a body of believers.

May the Lord bless your time together as brothers working for Jesus, our head! May he guide your discussions and season them with love! May his bless your decisions for his kingdom!

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)

In service to Christ,



Snowden G. Sims, Secretary
Michigan District, WELS



THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT PRAESIDIUM *of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod*

**Reverend Philip Hirsch
District President**

Lake Elbo Road
Manhattan, KS 66502
Cell: 785-313-0393
nedp@wels.net
manhattanhope@msn.com

**Reverend Phillip Sievert
First Vice President**

12051 Northaven Circle
Thornton, CO 80241
Office: 303-457-2408
Cell: 720-364-1002
pdsievert@aol.com

**Reverend Stephen Helwig
Second Vice President**

4742 N. 150th Street
Omaha, NE 68116
Office: 402-493-2550
Cell: 402-708-5843
pastorhelwig@gethlc.org

**Reverend Tyler Peil
District Secretary**

2100 Cedar Street
Stanton, NE 68779
tylerpeil@gmail.com
Office: 402-439-2288
Cell: 402-936-3655

June 4, 2018

Dear brothers,

We are grateful for the joy of calling you fellow members of the body of Christ and thank God for the encouragement of having coworkers in the Gospel! The blessing and peace of Christ be with and in you! The Holy Spirit fit you for service and do beautiful things with your labors in your district conventions!

We really appreciate the greetings you've sent and prayers you've offered for us.

Our district is meeting this week to be informed and carry out the purposes of the District, to do the work of the Church in our part of the world and by grace, be bond together in Christ. Our convention convenes June 4-6 for it's 51st biennial convention at Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School in Waco, Nebraska, under the theme: *The Word Made Flesh and Proclaimed*. Pastor Jon Micheel will present a paper titled: *God in the Center, Excerpts from Martin Luther's Bondage of the Will*. Professor Emeritus John Brug will present a paper titled: *Luther's Doctrine of the Word – The Incarnate Word in the Written Word*.

In Christ,

Tyler Peil, on behalf of your brothers in the Nebraska District

NORTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

*of the Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod*



31 May 2018

TO: The Assembled Districts of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Dear Brothers in Our Triune God,

Your fellow brothers of the North Atlantic District extend to you their greetings as you meet in convention during the month of June. It is our prayer that you will be refreshed in Word and Sacrament as you meet together to carry out the work of Christ's Kingdom.

The 18th Biennial Convention of the North Atlantic District will be held on June 5-6, 2018 at King of Kings Ev. Lutheran Church in Clifton Park, NY. The theme of our convention is **The Sower Sows the Seed**. Professor E. Allen Sorum (WLS) will present his paper entitled: **"Sowing the Seed in Other Soil"**. Prof. Sorum will focus on Jesus' restless, mission-committed heart. He will lead our delegates to consider how Jesus dealt with the challenges of ministry to plant the seeds of the Gospel.

We thank you for your greetings extended to our District as we meet in convention and your prayers on our behalf.

Although our conventions may be far apart, may our gracious Lord enable us as Districts of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to continue to walk together as we sow the seeds of the gospel throughout the world confident that our gracious God will bless our efforts to his glory!

Yours in our Triune God,

Rev. Peter J. Korthals

Rev. Peter J. Korthals
Secretary of the North Atlantic District (WELS)

North Atlantic District Officers

Rev. Donald Tollefson
President

Rev. Mark Johnston
1st Vice President

Rev. Timothy Ehlers
2nd Vice President

Rev. Peter Korthals
Secretary



WELS Northern Wisconsin District

Dear Brothers,

The Northern Wisconsin District sends its greetings as final preparations are made for the 51st Biennial Convention of the district. The theme chosen for the congregation is a reminder that whatever we do as we serve our Lord is not in vain. When the delegates of the district meet at Manitowoc Lutheran High School on June 12 and 13, 2018 we will hear reports of the work being carried out in our name and the name of the members of the other districts of our synod. This is work carried with the intent and purpose of giving all glory to our gracious God as we work together to proclaim the message of our Savior. May we always remember that whatever we do in the Lord is not in vain, but that he graciously is pleased with everything we do to serve him.

In our Savior's name,

Rev. Ronald C. Szep

WELS NWD Secretary



Pacific Northwest DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

District President

Rev. John W. Steinbrenner

13278 W Fig Street
Boise, ID 83713
(208) 375-3992 office
(208) 921-4748 home
pnwdp@wels.net

First Vice President

Rev. Joel I. Nitz

2729 Marvin Road SE
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 584-0354 cell/text
(360) 438-3732 office
reviiver@juno.com

Second Vice President

Rev. Jeremy A. Schulz

12913 82nd Ave Ct E
Puyallup, WA 98373
(253) 219-4361 cell/text
(253) 537-2919 office
pastor@faithtacoma.com

Secretary

Rev. Rob Guether

36400 Kimberly Drive
Kenai, AK 99611
(907) 690-1660 cell/text
(907) 283-6297 office
pastorguenther@gmail.com

June 4, 2018

Dear brothers in Christ,

Greetings to all of you from the Pacific Northwest District of the WELS. We pray that God will bless all of you as you meet in your district conventions. May the Lord strengthen your faith, the bond that connects us all in Christ, through your study of the Word. May the Lord's name be praised through all that you say and do, as you carry out his work with his wisdom and through his providence.

The 51st Biennial PNW District Convention will be held on June 12-13 at Evergreen Lutheran High School in Tacoma, Washington. Our Convention Theme is: "The Seed Sprouts and Grows." For our refreshment in the Word of God, WLS Professor E. Allen Sorum will present to us on cross-cultural outreach. He will share four silver bullets for successful urban cross-cultural gospel outreach in the Pacific Northwest.

At this year's convention we will also celebrate with joy the 100th anniversary of the Pacific Northwest District giving thanks to God for the blessings he's given and the promises he's made these past 100 years!

Thank you for your greetings extended to our District as we meet in convention and your prayers on our behalf.

May Jesus our Savior be with you, guide you in all your decisions, and bless the work he has given you to do. May he use all the ministries of our districts for his glory to spread the saving faith until the great day arrives when we will see him face-to-face!

Your brother and servant in Him,

Pastor Rob Guenther

Secretary of the Pacific Northwest District of WELS





Southeastern Wisconsin District

Rev. David Kolander
President
1650 N. Brookfield Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53045
(262) 782-3040
sewdp@wels.net

Rev. Joel Leyrer
First Vice President
7809 Harwood Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7831
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org

Rev. Michael Woldt
Interim Second Vice President
2770 Davids Star Dr.
Jackson, WI 53037
(262) 677-2412
woldtma@hotmail.com

Rev. William Carter
Secretary
615 Highland Ave.
P.O. Box 44
Brownsville, WI 53006
(920) 979-3087
sewsec@gmail.com

June 9, 2018

Brothers in Christ:

In John 8:31,32, Jesus tells those who believe in him that it is indeed the truth of God's Word that makes us free. It is holding on to Jesus' teachings in that Word that also makes us brothers, fellow disciples of our Lord. As you gather at your conventions this month to hear and learn more of his truth and to discuss the work we do together as his disciples, your brothers in the Southeastern Wisconsin District send you greetings and pray that the Lord would bless your time and work together.

The Southeastern Wisconsin District will hold its 51st Biennial Convention Tuesday and Wednesday, June 12 and 13, at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. We will convene under the theme,

"Looking Back... at a Century of God's Grace;

Moving Forward... with Prayer and Resolve."

As the theme suggests, our convention will acknowledge God's grace and commemorate the 100th anniversary of our first convention in several ways. Our opening service and devotions will make use of rites and musical settings that were available to the Church a century ago. President David Kolander will base his sermon in the opening service on those familiar words from John 8:31,32, the same text that his 1918 counterpart, Carl Buenger, preached on in the first opening service.

Vice President Joel Leyrer will also lead us in a study and discussion of the essay that Prof. August Pieper delivered in 1918, "The Despising of Grace Is the Death of the Church." Prof. Pieper's essay contains some very specific exposition of God's Law and some very beautiful insights into the nature of God's grace that we can expect will lead us, as it did the delegates in 1918, to appreciate even more our Savior's incomprehensible love for us and strengthen our resolve to faithfully proclaim his truth to the people of our time.

May God bless everything you do, brothers, both at your conventions and in your congregations and communities, to continue to hold onto and to proclaim his truth.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Billy Carter

Pastor Billy Carter, Secretary
WELS Southeastern Wisconsin District

WELS WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT



May 31, 2011

Dear brothers in Christ in WELS,

Please accept the greetings of your brothers in the Western Wisconsin District. God's blessings to your district as you carry out his work under his guidance and care.

The Western Wisconsin district is meeting at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI on June 15-17, 2011. Because of the many rural congregations in our district, our theme for this year is, *Rural Evangelism: To Every Town and Village*. We will focus our thoughts on three presentations:

- *Evangelism in Rural Ministry*, by Rev. Andrew Schult
- *Vocational Evangelism Applied to the Small Town*, by Rev. Joseph Fricke
- *New Churches Bring Jesus to New People*, by Rev. Nathan Strut

May the Lord of the Church guide and keep all of you as you travel, meet, elect and study. May all we do in our districts this year build God's Church and, above all, give him the glory

God's grace be with you all,

Rev. Galen J. Riediger

Secretary, WELS Western Wisconsin district

WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT PRESIDUM

PRESIDENT: REV. MICHAEL JENSEN

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: REV. BRETT BRAUER

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: REV. JEFF SEELOW

SECRETARY: REV. GALEN RIEDIGER



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

Proposed Agenda

Tuesday, June 12

8:00	Registration & Fellowship	
9:00	Opening Worship Service with Communion	Pastor David Kolander, Preacher
10:30	Greeting from WLC	Vice-President Richard Mannisto
10:40	Break	
11:00	District President Comments Election Committee	
11:15	Essay, Part 1	Pastor Joel Leyrer
12:00	Lunch and Circuit Pastor Elections	
1:30	WLC Announcement	Prof. Michael Berg
1:45	District President Report	Pastor David Kolander
2:15	Break	
2:25	Essay, Part 2	Pastor Joel Leyrer
3:10	Break	
3:20	The Point of Grace	Pastor Don Thompson
3:30	Synodical Council	Mr. Tim Synder
3:45	Ministry of Christian Giving	Pastor Kurt Lueneburg
4:00	Ministerial Education	Pastor Michael Woldt
4:15	Christian Aid & Relief	Pastor Robert Hein
4:30	Hymnal Committee	Pastor Michael Schultz
4:45	Northwestern Publishing House	Mr. Bill Ziche
5:00	Announcements	
5:15	Devotion	Circuit Pastor Jonathan Kehren (Chicago: Central)

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

Floor Committees meet in the evening

Wednesday, June 13

8:30	Morning Devotion	Circuit Pastor Lon Kuether (Chicago: Southern)
9:00	Elections Committee	
9:15	District Business (Minutes, Financial Report, Synod Delegates)	Pastor Billy Carter
9:30	Synod Presidium	Pastor James Huebner WELS First Vice-President
9:45	WELS Home & World Missions	Pastor Keith Free
10:15	Break	
10:30	District Home Missions	Mr. Steve Wolf
10:45	Congregational Services	Pastor Donn Dobberstein
11:15	Other Reports & Floor Committees	
12:00	Courtesy Resolutions / Announcements	
12:15	Closing Devotion & Installation of Officers	Circuit Pastor Ray Kimbrough (Milwaukee Urban: Timothy)

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

Dates of Future Conventions and Conferences

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

Conventions meet in the even numbered years at WLC.

Conferences meet in the odd numbered years at the Seminary.

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

Floor Committees (room locations in parentheses)

#1 – Elections: *Pastor Thomas Schultz, chairman*

(Siebert Center – Level B of the REX)

Pastors:

Mark Aufdemberge
Jeffrey Bonack
James Buske
David Carlovsky
John Gawrisch
Timothy Gerbing
Randy Hughes
Peter Schmidt
Martin Schoell
Thomas Schultz
Mark Wenzel
David Wierschke

Teachers:

Len Epple
James Groth
Matthew Grow
Nathan Hinz
Paul Huebner
Todd Jahns
Robert Sawall
Blair Schaper
Kurtis Seeger
Jeff Sitz
Kevin Sonntag
Gil Tatge
Brad Wetzel
Ken White
Marvin Wittig
Gerald Zeamer

Laymen:

Victory, Lexington
Our Shepherd, Crown Point
Heritage, Lindenhurst
St. Lucas, Kewaskum
Our Savior, Grafton
St. John, Mequon
Centennial, Milwaukee
St. John, Oak Creek
Fairview, Milwaukee
St. James, Milwaukee
St. Luke, Kenosha
Peace, Wilmot
Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Faith, Sussex

#2 – District President's Report and Resolutions: *Professor Daniel Ebeling, chairman*

(S105 – Main Level of Generac Hall)

Pastors:

Aaron Christie
Robert Dick
Timothy Henning
Timothy Kujath
Steven Lange
Daniel Leyrer
Charles Raasch
Dale Reckzin

Teachers:

Aaron Bauer
Alan Bitter
Robert Dusseau
Daniel Ebeling
Fonda Fischer
Timothy Mittelstadt
Timothy Rimpel
James Sievert
Paul Strutz
Steven Toth
Jeffrey Zilisch

Laymen:

Trinity, Crete
St. Matthew, Port Washington
St. Paul, Neosho
Nain, West Allis
Calvary, Milwaukee
St. John (Slades Corner), Burlington
St. Paul, East Troy

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

#4 - Steering: *Staff Minister Thomas Hering, chairman*

Teacher Thomas Hering Pastor David Kuehl

#5 - Copy Review: *Pastor Curtis Jahn, chairman*

(S141 - Main Level of Generac Hall)

#6 - Technology (Uploading Finished Resolutions): *Teacher Justin Gut, chairman*

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT **51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018**

Convention Information

Check in Tables (Name Tags and RttDs)

When you arrive at the convention, please check in at the table for your conference at the north end of the REX gymnasium. The six conference secretaries – or someone they have designated – will man these tables. There you will find your name tag and can pick up the pencil and paper you will need for elections, and booklet that includes the communion service and devotions, a translation of Professor Pieper's 1918 essay, and several pages of other historical information.

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 northeast corner of the gym or the REX lobby to register online to get yourself in the registration database. Use the icon on the desktop to open the online registration form. A link to the form is also available at: www.sew-wels.net/2018registration.

Excuses

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

Meals and Refreshments

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

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

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

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

Copies Available

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

Announcements/Messages

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

Wireless Internet

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

Power for Electronic Devices

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

Displays

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

Wisconsin Lutheran College

WELS Archives / WELS Historical Institute

WELS Church Extension Fund

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving

WELS Foundation

WELS Christian Aid and Relief

WELS Special Ministries

Conquerors through Christ

Lutheran Military Support Group

Central African Medical Mission

Institutional Ministries

WELS Kingdom Workers

The Point of Grace

Chaplains in Schools

Lutheran Science Institute

316NOW

Northside Lutheran Ministries

Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service

– Christian Family Solutions

WELS Nurses Association

Lutheran Girl Pioneers

Convention Reports and Proceedings

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

Membership List

Pages 23-41 of this document contain the official membership list of the district. Every attempt has been made to make it as accurate as possible. Every called worker has been placed in the conference and circuit where they hold congregational membership. 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).

Convention Evaluations

You may use the evaluation sheet on pages 47-48 to note any comments you may have about this convention and its arrangements. These evaluation sheets may be placed in the boxes located at the head table and the Technology Station at the back of the gym. There is a link to an online version of this form at the convention's page of the district's website, www.sew-wels.net/2018convention.

Questions

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

Thank You

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

Parliamentary Guidelines

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

Main or Principal Motion

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

Withdraw a Motion

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

Amending a Motion

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

Amend the Amendment

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

Postpone to a Definite Time

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

Postpone Indefinitely

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

Limit or Extend Debate

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

Point of Information

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

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

Parliamentary Inquiry

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

Division of a Question

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

Refer to a Committee

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

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

Previous Question or Call the Question

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

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

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

Lay on the Table or Tabling a Motion

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

Division of the Assembly

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

Point of Order

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

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

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

Appeal

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

Suspend the Rules

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

Call for the Order of the Day

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

Raise a Question of Privilege

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

To Recess

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

Objection to the Consideration of a Question

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

Adjournment

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

To Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn

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

Lunch Schedule and Circuit Meeting Locations

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

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

Room Legend

S1xx	Generac Hall – Main level
S2xx	Generac Hall – Upper level
Siebert	REX – Level B (lower level, north end)
REX-XX	corners of the gymnasium

12:00 Lunch Shift

- Circuit Meetings at 1:00

Western Lakes Conference

Northern Circuit	Siebert
Southern Circuit	S109

Shoreland Conference

Root River Circuit	S141
Southport Circuit	S151
Western Circuit	S105

Chicago Conference

Central Circuit	S241
Eastern Circuit	S251
Northern Circuit	S104
Southern Circuit	S115

12:30 Lunch Shift

- Circuit Meetings at 12:00

Kettle Moraine Conference

Corridor Circuit	Siebert
Flyway Circuit	S241
Hartford Circuit	S151
Ozaukee Circuit	REX - NW

Milwaukee Metro Conference

Eden Circuit	S104
Paradise Circuit	S251
WAMiWauG Circuit	S105

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Barnabas Circuit	S115
Philip Circuit	S141
Timothy Circuit	S109



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

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

DISTRICT CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VII Rights and Duties of the Officers

Section 1.

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

ARTICLE VI Officers

Section 5.

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

DISTRICT CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE VII
Rights and Duties of the Officers

Section 2.

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

ARTICLE VI
Officers

Section 5.

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

ARTICLE VII
Rights and Duties of the Officers

Section 3.

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

ARTICLE XX
Duties of Circuit Pastors

Section 1.

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

Nominations

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

Nominations from the District Nominating Committee

(all six year terms – vote for one for each position.)

Ministerial Education Governing Board Representatives

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Layman

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Tom Kissinger | Christ the Lord, Brookfield |
| 2. Paul Sherwood | Grace, Milwaukee |
| 3. Bill Strutz | Epiphany, Racine |

Luther Preparatory School, Teacher

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 6. Seth Fitzsimmons | St. Paul, Muskego |
| 7. Peter Gumm | Shoreland LHS, Somers |
| 8. David Leyrer | St. John, Wauwatosa |
| 9. Alex Moore | St. Jacobi, Greenfield |

District Mission Board, Layman

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 11. Mike Nichols | Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend |
| 12. Daryl Walther | Christ the Lord, Brookfield |

District Mission Board, Teacher

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 16. Nicholas Bush | Salem (107 th), Milwaukee |
| 17. Ryan Finkbeiner | Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee |
| 18. Jason Hagedorn | Shoreland LHS, Somers |

District Discipleship Coordinator

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 21. Aaron Bublitz | Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee |
| 22. Aaron Steinbrenner | Peace, Hartford |

District Special Ministries Coordinator

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 26. Scott Bergemann | Mt. Zion, Kenosha |
| 27. David Carlovsky | Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake, IL |
| 28. Richard Waldschmidt (i) | St. Jacobi, Greenfield |

District Board of Appeals, Pastor

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 31. Jason Free | Christ the Lord, Brookfield |
| 33. Randy Hughes | Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson |
| 32. Kirk Lahmann | St. John, Burlington |
| 34. Phil Schupman | Resurrection, Aurora, IL |

District Board of Appeals, Teacher

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 36. Jeff Dorn | Shoreland LHS, Somers |
| 37. Jamie Luehring | Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson |

District Board of Appeals, Layman

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 41. John Isleb | St. Paul, East Troy |
| 42. John Sampson (i) | Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne, IN |
| 43. Robert Stelter | St. Paul, Muskego |

Nominations from the District Council

(four year terms – vote for one)

District Nominating Committee, Chairman

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 46. Jonathan Nitz (i) | Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin |
| 47. Nicolas Schmoller | Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN |

District Nominating Committee - Chicago Conference -- Teacher

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 51. Bradley Essig | Resurrection, Aurora |
| 52. Duane Vance | Jerusalem, Morton Grove |

District Nominating Committee - Kettle Moraine Conference -- Pastor

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 56. Larry Mose | St. Matthew, Iron Ridge |
| 57. Paul Waldschmidt | Peace, Hartford |

District Nominating Committee - Milwaukee Metro Conference -- Layman

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 61. Mark Buske | Nain, West Allis |
| 62. Adam Goede | St. John, Wauwatosa |
| 63. Brian Treichel | St. John, Wauwatosa |

District Nominating Committee - Shoreland Conference -- Pastor

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 66. James Fischer | Peace, Wilmont |
| 67. Preston Heuer | First, Elkhorn |
| 68. David Wierschke | Trinity, Caledonia |

District Nominating Committee - Milwaukee Urban Conference

71. *(two more slots need to be filled)*
72.

District Nominating Committee - Western Lakes Conference -- Pastor

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 76. Jonathan Arndt | Reformation, Dousman |
| 77. Jacob Hoff | St. Paul, Franklin |
| 78. Steven Ristow (i) | Zion, Hartland |

Biographical Information for Nominees

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Governing Board – Layman

1 Mr. Thomas F Kissinger
W285 N3283 Lakeside Ridge Court
Pewaukee, WI 53072
Previous Church Offices: Elder
Congregation: Christ the Lord, Brookfield, WI
Age: 58 **Occupation:** Executive/ Attorney

2 Mr. Paul T. Sherwood
2527 W. Apple Tree Rd.
Glendale, WI 53209
Current District Offices: School Board Member, North Shore Christian Academy 2017-present
Previous Church Offices: Church Council 1996-2002 (Vice President for multiple years), Building Committee
Chairman 1998-2002, Church Council 2008-2014 (Vice President for multiple years), Window
Restoration Committee Chairman 2012-2013
Congregation: Grace, Milwaukee, WI
Age: 50 **Occupation:** Project Designer

3 Mr. William F Strutz
3728 Wyoming Way
Racine, WI 53404
Current Church Offices: Elder at Epiphany Congregation
Previous Church Offices: Epiphany Congregation; Congregation Secretary and Chairman, Wisconsin
Lutheran School; School Board Chairman
Previous District Offices: Calvary Academy, School for kids in crisis in Mulberry, FL; Ten year Board
member and Secretary
Previous Synodical Offices: Northwestern Publishing House; 12 year Board member and Secretary
Congregation: Epiphany, Racine
Age: 77 **Occupation:** Engineer (retired)

Luther Preparatory School Governing Board – Teacher

6 Mr. Seth J Fitzsimmons
S66W14055
Muskego, WI 53150
Congregation: St. Paul's, Muskego
Age: 34 **Occupation:** Principal

7 Mr. Peter A Gumm
4 Virginia Street
Racine, WI 53405
Current Church Offices: Board of Education member
Previous Church Offices: Board of Evangelism member
Congregation: Trinity, Caledonia, WI
Age: 35 **Occupation:** Teacher

8 Mr. David A Leyrer
8428 Kenyon Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Current Church Offices: Athletic Director
Congregation: St. John's, Wauwatosa, WI
Age: 45 **Occupation:** Teacher

9 Mr. Alex R Moore
9105 W Dosie Ave
Greenfield, WI
Congregation: St. Jacobi, Greenfield, WI
Age: 29 **Occupation:** Teacher/
Technology Director

District Mission Board -- Layman

- 11** Mr. Michael L Nichols
5226 High Ridge Trl
West Bend, WI
Congregation: Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend WI
Age: 51 **Occupation:** IT Manager
Previous Church Offices: Family Nurture Board Chairman, Family Nurture Board Coordinator
- 12** Mr. Daryl R Walther
21110 Heatherview Dr
Brookfield, WI 53045
Congregation: Christ the Lord, Brookfield, WI
Age: 62 **Occupation:** Engineer (retired)
Current Church Offices: Vice President / Board of Elders Chair
Previous Church Offices: President, Vice President / Board of Elders Chair, Board of Elders, Board of Stewardship, Board of Education
-

District Mission Board -- Teacher

- 16** Mr. Nicholas J Bush
W220N9418 Town Line Rd
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
Congregation: Salem (107th), Milwaukee, WI
Age: 33 **Occupation:** Principal
Current Church Offices: Chairman, Church & School Ministry Expansion Committee
Previous Church Offices: Vice-Chairman, California Lutheran HS Board of Directors
- 17** Mr. Ryan B Finkbeiner
8346 N. 111th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53224
Congregation: Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee, WI
Age: 37 **Occupation:** Principal/Teacher
Current Church Offices: Principal, Mount Lebanon Lutheran School, Board Member of Chaplains in School, Milwaukee, Board Member of Kingdom Prep Lutheran School, Milwaukee
Previous Church Offices: Board Member, Seat Expansion Task Force, Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI
Previous District Offices: Treasurer for North Atlantic District Lutheran School association
- 18** Mr. Jason T Hagedorn
1527 Sheridan Road Apt D
Kenosha, WI
Congregation: Bethany, Kenosha
Age: 43 **Occupation:** Teacher
Previous Church Offices: Chairman - First, La Crescent, MN
-

Discipleship -- Coordinator

- 21** Rev. Aaron R Bublitz
4815 N 60th St
Milwaukee, WI 53218
Congregation: Mt Lebanon, Milwaukee, WI
Age: 42 **Occupation:** Pastor
Current Church Offices: Board of Directors of Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Previous Church Offices: Board of Evangelism chairman
- 22** Rev. Aaron P Steinbrenner
1004 Center St
Hartford, WI 53027
Congregation: Peace, Hartford, WI
Age: 47 **Occupation:** Pastor
Current Church Offices: Pastor
Current District Offices: Circuit Pastor of the Hartford Circuit
-

Special Ministries – Coordinator

- 26** Rev. Scott W Bergemann
9132 8th Ave.
Pleasant Prairie, WI
Congregation: Mt. Zion, Kenosha, WI
Age: 37 **Occupation:** Pastor
- 27** Rev. David L. Carlovsky
9208 Ridgfield Road
Crystal Lake, IL
Congregation: Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake
Age: 64 **Occupation:** Pastor
Current Church Offices: Pastor
Current District Offices: Board chairman of IL/IN chapter of WELS Lutherans for Life (Christian Life Resources)
Previous Church Offices: School principal, along with being the pastor.
Previous District Offices: -SEW District Mission Board
Previous Synodical Offices: -Two terms on the National Board of Christian Life Resources (CLR), serving as secretary.
- 28** Rev. Richard A Waldschmidt (i)
4774 S 90th St
Greenfield, WI
Congregation: St. Jacobi, Greenfield
Age: 55 **Occupation:** Pastor
Current District Offices: District Special Ministries Coordinator
Previous Church Offices: Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries Board of Directors
-

District Board of Appeals – Pastor

- 31** Rev. Jason D Free
2200 Saratoga Rd
Brookfield, WI 53186
Congregation: Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Age: 27 **Occupation:** Pastor
- 32** Rev. Randall R Hughes
5441 Eden Ct
West Bend, WI
Congregation: Good Shepherd, West Bend WI
Age: 56 **Occupation:** Pastor of Student Life
Current Church Offices: Pastoral Review Committee, Furnishings Committee for Expansion Project
Previous Church Offices: Board of Elders, Stewardship Board, Joint School Board
Previous District Offices: Board for Youth Discipleship
Previous Synodical Offices: Youth Discipleship Committee
- 33** Rev. Kirk E Lahmann
501 Westridge Ave.
Burlington, WI 53105
Congregation: St. John's, Burlington, WI
Age: 35 **Occupation:** Pastor
Current Church Offices: Pastor, with oversight of education & school; family ministry; and outreach.
Previous Church Offices: Pastor, with specific oversight of administration; worship planning; and elder ministry.
- 34** Rev. Philip L Schupmann
1910 Richard St
Aurora, IL 60506
Congregation: Resurrection, Aurora
Age: 67 **Occupation:** Pastor
Previous District Offices: Circuit Pastor (24 years), District Nominating Committee, District Evangelism Board
Previous Synodical Offices: Chairman - WELS Committee on Relief (20 years), Member Committee on Program Review, Appeals Committee
-

District Board of Appeals -- Teacher

36

Mr. Jeff O Dorn
3033 95th St
Sturtevant, WI

Congregation: Bethany, Somers
Age: 54 **Occupation:** Teacher

Current Church Offices: Guidance Director - Shoreland Lutheran High School, Instructor, Coach

Previous Church Offices: Principal - LES

Previous Synodical Offices: Administrative Committee for Africa - member/secretary - 15 years

37

Mr. Jamie C Luehring
561 Carmine Ct.
Cedarburg, WI 52012

Congregation: Our Savior, Grafton WI
Age: 40 **Occupation:** School Principal

Current Church Offices: Our Savior Long Range Planning Committee

Current Synodical Offices: WELS Task Force on Standardized Testing

Previous Church Offices: Christian Board of Education Chairman & Member

District Board of Appeals - Layman

41

Mr. John A Isleb
1799 Kettle Ct.
East Troy, WI 53120

Congregation: St. Paul, East Troy, WI
Age: 57 **Occupation:** Civil Engineer

Current Church Offices: Chairman, Board of Evangelism, Church Council

Previous Church Offices: Strategic Planning Committee, Constitution Committee, Financial Secretary

Previous District Offices: District Mission Board

Previous Synodical Offices: Board for Home Missions, BHM Executive Committee, Joint Mission Committee

42

Mr. John R. Sampson (i)
2406 Windsong Court
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Congregation: Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne, IN
Age: 65 **Occupation:** Economic Development

Current Church Offices: President of the Congregation

Previous Church Offices: Chairman of the Congregation at St. Paul's Lutheran, Stevensville, MI, King of King's Lutheran in Kennewick, WA and Bethlehem, Carmel, IN.

Previous Synodical Offices: Appeals Committee

43

Mr. Robert L. Stelter
S69W14142 Tess Corners Dr Apt 104
Muskego, WI 53150

Congregation: St. Paul's, Muskego, WI
Age: 77 **Occupation:** Procurement & Property
Team Leader (retired)

Previous Church Offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Education, and other Boards and Committees over a period of many years.

District Nominating Committee - Chairman

46 Rev. Jonathan H Nitz
2955 S. Waukesha Rd.
West Allis, WI 53227
Current District Offices: DNC Chairman
Congregation: Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin, WI
Age: 53 **Occupation:** Pastor

47 Rev. Nicolas C Schmoller
929 King St
Lafayette, IN 47905
Current Church Offices: Pastor
Current District Offices: Member of the District Nominating Committee.
Previous Church Offices: Vicar, Admissions Counselor at MLC
Congregation: Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN
Age: 34 **Occupation:** Pastor

District Nominating Committee -- Chicago Conference, Teacher

51 Mr. Bradley Essig
810 Sullivan Rd
Aurora, IL 60506-1104
Current Church Offices: Principal, Grades 6-8
Congregation: Resurrection, Aurora, IL
Age: 26 **Occupation:** Teacher

52 Mr. Duane J Vance
8643 Fernald Avenue
Morton Grove, IL, 60053
Current Church Offices: Principal
Congregation: Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL
Age: 40 **Occupation:** Teacher

District Nominating Committee -- Kettle Moraine Conference, Pastor

56 Rev. Larry N Mose
N5414 Madison Rd
Iron Ridge, WI 53035-9749
Congregation: St. Matthew, Iron Ridge
Age: 59 **Occupation:** Pastor

57 Rev. Paul S Waldschmidt
991 Redtail Ct
Hartford, WI 53027
Previous District Offices: Circuit Pastor, Wisillowa South Circuit, Western Wisconsin District; Adult Discipleship Chairman, Western Wisconsin District
Congregation: Peace, Hartford
Age: 45 **Occupation:** Pastor

District Nominating Committee -- Milwaukee Metro Conference, Layman

- 61** Mr. Mark D Buske
1743 S 75th St
West Allis, WI, 53214
Congregation: Nain, West Allis, WI
Age: 55 **Occupation:** Marketing Director
Current Church Offices: Church President
Previous Church Offices: Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Pastor
Previous District Offices: Youth Discipleship District Coordinator
- 62** Mr. Adam M Goede
3238 N 86 St
Milwaukee, WI, 53222
Congregation: St. John, Wauwatosa, WI
Age: 37 **Occupation:** Supervisor, WELS
Ministry of Christian Giving
Current Church Offices: Board of Stewardship - Planned Giving since 2017, Board of Outreach committee member
Previous Church Offices: Board of Discipleship-Adult Discipleship 2010-2016, Board of Outreach - 2005-2008
- 63** Mr. Brian A Treichel
13925 James St.
Brookfield, WI 53005
Congregation: St. John, Wauwatosa, WI
Age: 52 **Occupation:** Business Manager at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Current Church Offices: President of congregation
Previous Church Offices: Vice-President, Board of Finance
-

District Nominating Committee -- Shoreland Conference, Pastor

- 66** Rev. James S Fischer
PO Box 37
Wilmot, WI
Congregation: Peace, Wilmot, WI
Age: 62 **Occupation:** Pastor
Current Church Offices: Pastor
- 67** Rev. Preston T Heuer
345 S Creek Dr.
Elkhorn, WI 53121
Congregation: First, Elkhorn, WI
Age: 33 **Occupation:** Pastor
Current Church Offices: Pastor
Previous Church Offices: Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, New London, WI
Previous District Offices: Northern Wisconsin District Commission on Youth and Family
- 68** Rev. David D Wierschke
7936 Nicholson Road
Caledonia, WI 53108
Congregation: Trinity, Caledonia, WI
Age: 52 **Occupation:** Pastor
Previous Church Offices: Shoreland Board of Directors
Previous District Offices: District Nominating Committee

District Nominating Committee – Milwaukee Urban Conference

71

72

District Nominating Committee -- Western Lakes Conference, Pastor

76

Rev. Jon E Arndt
S39W32887 County Road D
Dousman, WI, 53118

Congregation: Reformation, Dousman, WI
Age: 44 **Occupation:** Parish Pastor

Current Church Offices: Parish Pastor

Previous Church Offices: Parish Pastor

Previous District Offices: Circuit Pastor, District Mission Board Member, District Board of Appeals Member,

Previous Synodical Offices: Synod Convention Delegate

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Rev. Jacob M Hoff
3755 W Parnell Ave
Milwaukee, WI, 53221

Congregation: St. Paul, Franklin, WI
Age: 31 **Occupation:** Pastor

Current Church Offices: Pastor of Outreach

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Rev. Stephen K Ristow (i)
403 W. Capitol Drive
Hartland, WI 53029

Congregation: Zion, Hartland, WI
Age: 64 **Occupation:** pastor

Current District Offices: Nominating Committee



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

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.

Chicago Conference – Central Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Resurrection, Aurora, IL	Philip Schupmann	Bradley Essig
St. Andrew, Chicago, IL	Adam Gawel	
Good Shepherd, Downers Grove, IL	David Rutschow <i>(semi-retired)</i>	David Roekle
Abiding Peace, Elgin, IL	Joshua Free	
Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL	Jonathan Kehren (CP)	Duane Vance ChiSeon Kim
St. Matthew, Niles, IL	<i>Vacant</i>	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) <i>(retiring)</i> Seth Bode <i>(arriving)</i>	
Beautiful Savior, Fort Wayne, IN	Thomas Speidel	
Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne, IN	Nathanael Brenner	
Light of Life, Greenwood, IN	Scott Miller	
Peace, Kokomo, IN	<i>(vacant)</i>	
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	
New Life, Lake Zurich, IL	Andrew Bauer	
St. John, Libertyville, IL	Kevin Raddatz	SM Jon Woldt <i>James Weiland*</i> <i>Joel Westenberg*</i>
Heritage, Lindenhurst, IL	William Schubert (<i>arriving</i>)	
Christ the King, Palatine, IL	Thomas Schultz	
St. Paul, Round Lake Park, IL	Robert Meiselwitz	
Immanuel, Waukegan, IL	Steven Radunzel (CP) Seth Haakenson	<i>Jonah Gauger*</i>
Our Savior's, 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	SM Mark Blauert (<i>leaving</i>)
Zion, Crete, IL	Lon Kuether (CP) Michael Schneider	
Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL	Dustin Blumer	
Our Redeemer, Grant Park, IL	(<i>with Tinley Park</i>)	
St. Paul, Grant Park, IL	Paul Micheel (<i>arriving</i>)	
Palos, Palos Heights, IL	Colin Rieke	
Glory to God, Tinley Park, IL	Daniel Herold	
Our Shepherd, Crown Point, IN	(<i>Vacant</i>)	

Serving Other Ministries - Pastor

Troy Swenson	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
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Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

Philip Adickes (<i>arriving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	
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
Jeffrey Falck (<i>arriving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	
Nathan Hinz	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL
Jacob Lash (<i>arriving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	
Mark Kjenstad	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Nathan Krug (<i>leaving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Jeffrey Rick	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Timothy Rimpel	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Scott Sievert	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Jeffrey Spiaser	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Jeffrey Uhlenbrauck (<i>leaving</i>)	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL
Josiah Willitz	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Zion, Crete, IL
Donavan Zastrow	Illinois Lutheran Schools	Trinity, Crete, IL

Chicago Conference – Southern Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Pastor

William Godfrey

Zion, Crete, IL

Joseph Schlawin

Our Shepherd, Crown Point, IN

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 Bohn
	Timothy Wahl	Michael Maas
		Zachary Cvikel <i>(arriving)</i>
		Bradley Jensen <i>(arriving)</i>
		SM Tom Banaszak
St. Lucas, Kewaskum	Timothy Henning	David Stoltz <i>(leaving)</i>
	James Hoogervorst	Scott Stevenson <i>(leaving)</i>
		Mark Hesse
Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls	Peter Schmidt	Daryl Weber
	G. Philip Arnold	Michael Mittelstadt
		Timothy Voigt
		Travis Wendt
Good Shepherd, West Bend	Robert Hein	James Sievert
	John Paustian	Joshua Kramer
	Richard Lauersdorf	Paul Braun
	<i>(semi-retired)</i>	
Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend	Darren Knoll	Jason Fry <i>(arriving)</i>

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
Philip Malchow	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
Joel Pless	Wisconsin Lutheran College	David's Star, Jackson
Joseph Radsek	Institutional Ministries	Morning Star, Jackson
Benjamin Reichel	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Nathan Seiltz	Multi-Language Publications	Morning Star, Jackson

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers

Nathan Amundson	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Robert Balza	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Jeremy Bock	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Morning Star, Jackson
Ned Farley	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Morning Star, Jackson
Joseph Greefkes	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
James Haferman	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
SM Joe Hennen*	Wisconsin Lutheran College	

Kettle Moraine Conference – Corridor Circuit *(continued)*

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

<i>Daniel Hubert*</i>	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
SM Thad Jahns	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Todd Jahns	Wisconsin Lutheran College	David's Star, Jackson
Daniel Johnson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
<i>SM Rick Kneser*</i>	WELS Ministry of Christian Giving	Morning Star, Jackson
Matthew Linton	Kettle Moraine LHS	Good Shepherd, West Bend
James Livingston	Kettle Moraine LHS	St. Lucas, Kewaskum
<i>Dennis Miller*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Matthew Moeller	Kettle Moraine LHS	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Mark Nolte	Kettle Moraine LHS	Morning Star, Jackson
Edward Noon	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Jonathan Pasbrig	Kettle Moraine LHS	Trinity ELS, West Bend
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

Timothy Bauer	Morning Star, Jackson
Paul Huebner	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Kenneth Kolberg	Good Shepherd, West Bend
David Kuske	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Kenneth Lenz	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
Loren Lucht	Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend
Ronald Mehlberg	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Robert Michel	Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls
John Moldenhauer	Morning Star, Jackson
Martin Scheele	Good Shepherd, West Bend
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
James Pasbrig	Good Shepherd, West Bend
Jonathan Schoeneck	Morning Star, Jackson
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	Greg Obermiller
	John Warmuth(<i>semi-retired</i>)	Brian Papenfuss
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	

Kettle Moraine Conference - Hartford Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Peace, Hartford	Aaron Steinbrenner (CP)	Benjamin Washburn
	Jeremy Husby	Marvin Wittig
	Paul Waldschmidt	Nathan Schultz
	Robert Pasbrig (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
Trinity, Hartford	Jeffery Drake	
Crown of Life, Hubertus	Michael Helwig (<i>leaving</i>)	Eric Troge (<i>retiring</i>)
	Johnold Strey	David Stoltz (<i>arriving</i>)
Bethany, Hustisford	Jonathan Loescher	William Fuerstenau
St. Paul, Neosho	Joshua Kesting	
St. Paul, Slinger	Ben Golisch (<i>arriving</i>)	
	Robert Fleischman	
St. Paul, West Bend	Paul Reede (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
St. Peter, West Bend	<i>(w/ St. Paul, West Bend)</i>	
St. John, Woodland	James Castillo (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
Robert Fleischman	Christian Life Resources (<i>part-time</i>)	St. Paul, Slinger
Robert Pasbrig	Institutional Ministries (<i>semi-retired</i>)	Peace, Hartford
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers		
Joshua Johnson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Crown of Life, Hubertus
James Rademan	WELS Lutheran Schools	Peace, Hartford
Retired Pastors		
Richard Agenten	Peace, Hartford	
Delmer Kannenberg	Trinity, Hartford	
Walter Oelhafen	Peace, Hartford	
Myron Sordahl	Peace, Hartford	
Paul Seiltz	Crown of Life, Hubertus	

Kettle Moraine Conference - Hartford Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Teachers

Richard Ash	Peace, Hartford
Wayne Baxmann	Peace, Hartford

Kettle Moraine Conference - Ozaukee Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Redeemer, Cedarburg	Mark Rohrback	
Our Savior, Grafton	Mark Wagner	Joel Grulke Aaron Trimmer <i>(arriving)</i> SM Thomas Hering
St. John, Mequon	Jeremy Koehler	
Trinity, Mequon	James Tiefel <i>(part-time)</i>	
St. John's, Newburg	Kurt Schaser	Timothy Payne John Martin III Adam Igl
St. Matthew, Port Washington	Martin Wildauer	
Christ Alone, Thiensville/Mequon	Don Scheuerlein Kurt Ebert (CP)	Michael Albrecht Daniel Aswege

Serving Other Ministries:

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

Jonathan Bare	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Samuel Degner	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Richard Gurgel	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
John Hartwig	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Bill Tackmier	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
James Tiefel	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Trinity, Mequon
Earle Treptow	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Robert Wendland	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Bradley Wordell	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ Alone, Thiensville

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

David Bartelt	Kettle Moraine LHS	Redeemer, Cedarburg
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
Steven Staude	Christ Alone, Thiensville

Kettle Moraine Conference – Ozaukee Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Teachers and Staff Minister

SM Donald Borgwardt	Christ Alone, Thiensville
Leonard Collyard	Our Savior, Grafton
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	Timothy Paschke <i>(leaving)</i>
	Paul White	David Sellnow
		Kevin Sonntag
St. Michaelis, Milwaukee	George Enderle <i>(semi-retired)</i>	
Divinity-Divine Charity, Whitefish Bay	Robert Dick (CP)	

Serving Other Ministries

Serving Other Ministries - Staff Minister

SM Martin Rosewicz	Institutional Ministries	Divinity-Divine Charity, Whitefish Bay
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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
Centennial, Milwaukee	Greg Pufahl	SM Robert Garbe <i>(semi-retired)</i>
Messiah, Milwaukee	Curtis Golm (CP)	
Resurrection, Milwaukee	Mark Kock	
St. Lucas, Milwaukee	Peter Unnasch	Andrew Baxter
		Christopher Luebke
		<i>Peter Schwichtenberg*</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 <i>(leaving)</i>
		Nathan Hensler <i>(arriving)</i>

Milwaukee Metro Conference –Paradise Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries - Pastor

Joel Gaertner The Lutheran Home Association St. Paul, Cudahy

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

Philip Krueger Word of Life Lutheran School Centennial, Milwaukee
Christopher Stollfus Word of Life Lutheran School Centennial, Milwaukee

Retired Pastors

Robert Gurgel St. Lucas, Milwaukee
Stanley Stein St. Lucas, Milwaukee
Gary Tryggestad Centennial, Milwaukee

Retired Teacher

Norman Dux St. Paul, Cudahy

Milwaukee Metro Conference – WAMiWauG Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. Jacobi, Greenfield	Timothy Spaude Richard Waldschmidt	Brian Mensching (<i>leaving</i>) Joshua Walker (<i>arriving</i>) Alex Moore Paul Frisque Jeffrey Roloff Wade Witzlsteiner*
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(<i>leaving</i>) 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	
Serving Other Ministries - 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
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers		
William Braun (<i>semi-retired</i>)	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
Joel Davis	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Woodlawn, West Allis
Daniel Ebeling	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
<i>Kevin Festerling*</i>	Kingdom Prep	St. John, Wauwatosa

Milwaukee Metro Conference – WAMiWauG Circuit *(continued)*

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

Kevin Glaeske	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. John, Wauwatosa
Brian Gottschalk	Wisconsin LHS	Divine Peace, Milwaukee
Allen Greschner	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Wauwatosa
<i>Casey Holtz*</i>	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 <i>(retiring)</i>	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

Retired Pastors

James Aderman	Divine Peace, Milwaukee
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 Sebald	St. John, Wauwatosa

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Barnabas Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Atonement	Jon Hartmann Jordan Ertl	Todd Gorsline Christopher Bartsch Kevin Hahm <i>Cody Harms* (arriving)</i> Seth Herrmann <i>Brian Kent*</i> Samuel Schlicht <i>Shaun Stannard*</i> SM Stephen Schafer SM Kevin Poston

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Barnabas Circuit (*continued*)

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Calvary	Michael Bartsch (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
Fairview	Aaron Robinson	SM Greg Naumann*
Mt. Lebanon	Aaron Bublitz	Jonathan Winkel
	Nathanael Bourman	SM Michael Schuessler
	Vicar Adam Lambrecht	Robert Ceasar* (<i>arriving</i>)
		Ryan Halter*
		Daniel Johnson
		David Liebhard (<i>leaving</i>)
		Michael Pingel (<i>leaving</i>)
		Ryan Finkbeiner
Redemption	Christian Winkel (CP)	
Salem, Milwaukee (107 th)	Timothy Soukup	Nicholas Bush
	John Raasch	Daniel Grunewald
		Kurt Maciejczak
		Troy Yerks
St. James	Christian Marquardt	
St. Matthew	Jonathan Balge	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
James Behringer	WELS Special Ministries	Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee
Christopher Doerr	Northwestern Publishing House	St. James, Milwaukee
John Graf	WELS Ministry of Christian Giving	Atonement, Milwaukee
	(<i>semi-retired</i>)	
Thomas Kock	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Atonement, Milwaukee
Joel Otto	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers		
Ned Goede (<i>retiring</i>)	Wisconsin LHS	Atonement, Milwaukee
Kurtis Seeger	Wisconsin LHS	Atonement, Milwaukee
Cornelius Whiteside II*	Wisconsin LHS	Atonement, Milwaukee
Retired Pastors		
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	
SM James Esmeier		
Clarence Jenkins	Fairview, Milwaukee	
Paul Knueppel	Atonement, Milwaukee	
Gerald Lanphear	Salem (107 th), Milwaukee	
Carl Natzke	Atonement, Milwaukee	
David Ross	Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee	

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Philip Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ	Chad Walta Nixon Vivar	
Gethsemane	<i>Vacant</i>	
Grace	James Huebner Daniel Bondow Aaron Strong	SM Frederick Horn (<i>retiring</i>) SM Andrew Carter (<i>arriving</i>)
Risen Savior	Luis Acosta Peter Leyrer	Robert Dusseau Timothy McNeill Jonathan Rosenow Devin Boling* Christopher Rue*
St. Andrew	<i>Vacant</i>	
St. John (68 th)	David Bitter (CP) Benjamin Zak	David Rust* Robert Buschkopf Paul Kanzenbach Derek Rabbers Robert Sawall SM Levi Nagel
St. John (Vliet)	William Schaefer (<i>semi-retired</i>)	
St. Peter	Martin Schoell William Dunn	

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

James Becker (<i>retiring</i>)	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
Brian Doebler	Wisconsin LHS	St. John (68 th), Milwaukee
Kenneth Fisher	Wisconsin LHS	St. Peter, Milwaukee
Philip Huebner	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
John Schuetze	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Grace, Milwaukee

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers

Brett Baade	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	Christ, Milwaukee
Paul Beck	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Paul Berger (<i>leaving</i>) (<i>arriving</i>)	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School Chaplains in Schools	Christ, Milwaukee
Matthew Bilitz	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Keith Bowe	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
James Holman	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Richard Mannisto	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
James Matson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Martin Moldenhauer	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Milwaukee
Joshua Nelson (<i>leaving</i>) (<i>arriving</i>)	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School Wisconsin LHS	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

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Philip Circuit *(continued)*

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

Timothy Thierfelder	Wisconsin LHS	Grace, Milwaukee
Raine Vrable	Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	

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	<i>Vacant</i>	Adam Harvey Aaron Bauer Joshua Bauer <i>Nathan Bauer*</i> Joseph Blum David Dodge <i>(leaving)</i> Gerald Hosbach <i>Tyler Schoen*</i> John Wesenberg SM Paul Marquardt
Salem (Eastside) Siloah	<i>Vacant</i> Brady Coleman	Scott Anthony <i>(leaving)</i> Christopher Arndt <i>Jeffrey Knox*</i> Charles Ungemach <i>Jonathan Boche*</i> Andrew Becker <i>Robert Ceasar* (leaving)</i> James Christensen Levi Dunsmoor <i>(arriving)</i> <i>Cody Harms* (leaving)</i> Peter Langebartels <i>Josh Lepke* (leaving)</i> <i>Garret Mandeville*</i> Joshua Metzger <i>(arriving)</i> Lance Meyer <i>Bradley Reinhardt*</i>
St. Marcus	Mark Jeske James Hein Daniel Leyrer	

Milwaukee Urban Conference – Timothy Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
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St. Marcus <i>(continued)</i>		Elijah Riddle* <i>(leaving)</i> Eric Sandow* Curtis Sprewer* Kurt Stielow* Henry Tyson*
St. Philip	Raymond Kimbrough (CP)	Jason Schapekahn Fredrick Luehring Michael DeRuitter Mark Moldenhauer <i>(leaving)</i> Andrew Olson

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

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

Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

Andrew Gerlach*	Wisconsin LHS	Garden Homes, Milwaukee
Bret Hopf*	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Philip Leyrer	Wisconsin LHS	Siloah, Milwaukee
Chad Lindemann	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Joshua Metzger <i>(leaving)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Mark Moldenhauer <i>(arriving)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	St. Philip, Milwaukee
Mark Ricke	Wisconsin LHS	St. Marcus, Milwaukee

Retired Pastors

James Kleist	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
John Lawrenz	St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Ronald Muetzel	St. Marcus, Milwaukee

Retired Teacher

Harold Goede	St. Philip, Milwaukee
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Shoreland Conference – Root River Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
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Trinity, Caledonia	David Wierschke Brian Schmidt	David Habeck <i>(retiring)</i> Joel Schultz Michael Martens
St. John, Oak Creek (Oakwood)	Dale Reckzin	
Epiphany, Racine	Michael Zarling	
First, Racine	John Roekle (CP)	
New Hope, Racine	W. Russell Scoggins <i>(w/ St. Luke, Kenosha)</i>	
Trinity, Union Grove	Don Frelitz	

Shoreland Conference – Root River Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries - Pastors

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

Serving Other Ministries – Teachers and Staff Minister

SM Mark Blauert <i>(arriving)</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran School	
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
Paul Huebner	Shoreland LHS	First, Racine
Samuel Hunter	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Michael Koestler	Shoreland LHS	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	Trinity, Caledonia
Daniel Schulz <i>(leaving)</i>	Shoreland LHS	Bethany, Kenosha
Jay Selle	Wisconsin Lutheran School	First, Racine
Jeremiah Strassburg	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Paul Strutz	Shoreland LHS	Trinity, Caledonia
Scott Zondag	Shoreland LHS	Epiphany, Racine
David Zuberbier	Wisconsin Lutheran School	First & Epiphany, Racine

Retired Pastors

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

Retired Teachers

James Boehm	First, Racine
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	Stephen Schultz
	Peter Prange	Marc Meihack
Friedens, Kenosha	Michael Gorte	David Leonard
		Bruce Babler
		David Zank
Mt. Zion, Kenosha	Steven Neumann (CP)	
	Scott Bergemann	
St. Luke, Kenosha	W. Russell Scoggins	
	<i>(w/ New Hope, Racine)</i>	

Shoreland Conference – Southport Circuit *(continued)*

Serving Other Ministries - Pastor

Thomas Bauer	Shoreland LHS	Bethany, Kenosha (Somers)
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Serving Other Ministries - Teachers

Jeffrey Dorn	Shoreland LHS	Bethany, Kenosha
Jason Hagedorn	Shoreland LHS	Bethany, Kenosha
Samuel Kleinke	Shoreland LHS	Mt. Zion, Kenosha
<i>Gregg Pfarr*</i>	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 Ed Ungemach III Lloyd Harter	Craig Breitzkreuz <i>(arriving)</i> Keith Kopczynski Jason Snodie
St. John, Burlington	Kirk Lahmann Daniel Waldschmidt	Christopher Avery <i>Gabriel Malliet*</i> Timothy Sonntag Jeffrey Zilisch
St. John, Burlington (Slades Corners)	Jeffrey Halldorson	Benjamin Schramm
First, Elkhorn	Preston Heuer Wayne Meier <i>(semi-retired)</i>	Theodore Glodowski
First, Lake Geneva	Karl Schultz (CP) Peter Metzger <i>(leaving)</i>	Steven Haag Stephen Kamps
Peace, Wilmot	James Fischer	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastor		
Paul Prange	WELS Ministerial Education	St. John, Burlington
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers		
<i>Robert Edgington*</i>	Shoreland LHS	St. John, Burlington
James Groth	Shoreland LHS	St. John (Slades Cor.), Burlington
<i>Robert Musgrave*</i>	Shoreland LHS <i>(part-time)</i>	St. John, Burlington
Daniel Nolte	Shoreland LHS	First, Elkhorn
Paul Sriver	Shoreland LHS	St. John, Burlington
Retired Pastors		
Thomas Kraus	St. John (Slades Corner), Burlington	
Victor Prange	St. John, Burlington	
Retired Teacher		
Raymond Manthe	First, Elkhorn	

Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ the Lord, Brookfield	David Kolander Philip Casmer (CP) Jason Free	John Melso <i>(leaving)</i> <i>Ken Proeber (interim) (arriving)</i> John Kaesmeyer

Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Zion, Hartland	Stephen Ristow	John Freese Scott Nerby
St. John, Lannon	Gary Koschnitzke Andrew Fix	William Tomlin SM James Boggs
Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls	Eric Roecker <i>(leaving)</i>	Brett Kriese David Porth
Christ, Pewaukee	Richard Krause Thomas Engelbrecht Timothy Gerbing Richard Warnecke Dale Baumler <i>(semi-retired)</i>	
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 <i>(leaving)</i> Michael Pingel <i>(arriving)</i>
Trinity, Waukesha	Aaron Christie Lawrence Gates Scott Oelhafen	Justin Gut Matthew Rydecki <i>(leaving)</i> Seth Zoellner Garrett Buch <i>(arriving)</i>
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
Donn Dobberstein	WELS Evangelism	Trinity, Waukesha
Bryan Gerlach	WELS Worship	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Jonathan Hein	WELS Congregational Services	Trinity, Waukesha
Michael Hintz <i>(semi-retired)</i>	WELS Evangelism	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Gregory Lyon	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Jardan Patrick	International Friendship Center	Christ, Pewaukee
Eric Roecker <i>(arriving)</i>	WELS Evangelism	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Michael Schultz	WELS Hymnal Project	Trinity, Waukesha
Serving Other Ministries - Teachers and Staff Ministers		
Daniel Albrecht	Kettle Moraine LHS	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Alan Bitter	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Paul Burmeister	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Grace, Waukesha
James Brandt	North Shore Christian Academy	Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Andre Gosch	Wisconsin LHS	Living Word, Waukesha
James Hahm	Wisconsin LHS	Zion, Hartland
James Henkel	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Faith, Sussex
John Kolander	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
David Kren	Kettle Moraine LHS	Trinity, Waukesha
Joshua Lindner	Kettle Moraine LHS	Christ, Pewaukee
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

Western Lakes Conference – Northern Circuit *(continued)*

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

James Ott	Kettle Moraine LHS	Faith, Sussex
William Plamann	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
Joel Radue	Wisconsin LHS	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Darrell Roecker <i>(leaving)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	Trinity, Waukesha
Peter Schumacher	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
SM Craig Swiontek*	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Gilbert Tatge	Wisconsin LHS	St. John, Lannon
Steven Travis	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ, Pewaukee
SM Brett Valerio	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ, Pewaukee
Ryan Walz	Wisconsin LHS	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Steven Zellmer <i>(retiring)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	Trinity, Waukesha
Jon Zieseimer	Wisconsin Lutheran College	Christ the Lord, Brookfield

Retired Pastors

Kenneth Bode	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Robert Hartman	Living Word, Waukesha
Gerald Hintz	Grace, 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
Roger Festerling	St. John, Lannon
Michael George	Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Gerhard Gilbert	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Paul Jacobs	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Dennis Schultz	Christ, Pewaukee
Ronald Schultz	Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Gunther Thoms	
Terry Treuden	St. John, Lannon
Dale Walz	Christ the Lord, Brookfield

Western Lakes Conference – Southern Circuit

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
Christ, Big Bend	Gary Pufahl	Steven Janke
	James Naumann <i>(semi-retired)</i>	Craig Weide
Reformation, Dousman	Jonathan Arndt	
St. Paul, East Troy	Timothy Kujath	Kenneth White

Western Lakes Conference – Southern Circuit *(continued)*

Congregations	Pastors	Teachers & Staff Ministers
St. Paul, Franklin	Brian Adams Jacob Hoff	Nathan Schulmeister Lyle Timm Randall Willms
Victory of the Lamb, Franklin St. John, Mukwonago	Bill Limmer John Bortulin Micah Martin Donald Thompson <i>(semi-retired; arriving)</i>	James Schneck Steven Toth Brian Humann <i>(arriving)</i>
St. Paul, Muskego	David Kuehl (CP) Jeffrey Bonack Peter Panitzke Nathan Strobel	Seth Fitzsimmons <i>Josh Lepke* (arriving)</i> Kurt Steffen Justin Walz <i>(leaving)</i> Jeffrey Wetzel SM Joel Nelson SM Randel Fink
Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin	John Gawrisch Jonathan Nitz Jacob Schwartz	Timothy Mueller Daniel Larabee Shawn Riesop <i>(leaving)</i> John Schleis Micah Walz Eric Fillner <i>(arriving)</i> SM Brian Gulrud <i>(part-time)</i>
Living Water, Wind Lake	Aaron Voss	
Serving Other Ministries - Pastors		
Keith Free	WELS Home Missions	St. John, Mukwonago
Wayne Shevey	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
E. Allen Sorum	Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary	Christ, Big Bend
Donald Thompson <i>(semi-retired, leaving)</i>	The Point of Grace	St. John, Mukwanago
Serving Other Ministries – Teachers and Staff Minister		
Robert Anderson	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Steven Bremer <i>(leaving)</i>	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
<i>Peter Eppen*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
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
Mark Shambeau	Wisconsin LHS	St. Paul, Muskego
<i>SM Adam Volbrecht*</i>	Wisconsin Lutheran College	St. Paul, Muskego
Justin Walz <i>(arriving)</i>	Wisconsin LHS	St. Paul, Muskego
Bradley Wetzel	Wisconsin LHS	Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin

Western Lakes Conference – Southern Circuit *(continued)*

Retired Pastors

Andrew Backus	St. Paul, Franklin
Forrest Bivens	Victory of the Lamb, Franklin
Wayne Borgwardt	St. Paul, Muskego
Larry Ellenberger	St. Paul, Franklin
Herbert Lichtenberg	St. Paul, Muskego
Gerry Meyer	St. Paul, Muskego
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)

CRM Pastors

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

Terry Laabs

Local Congregation Not (Yet) Known

SM Lucas Faust* (WLC)	Nathan Krug (KMLHS) <i>(arriving)</i>
Simon Provan* (WLC)	Heath Butler (WLHS) <i>(arriving)</i>
Travis Kretsch (KMLHS) <i>(leaving)</i>	Matthew Sonntag (SLHS) <i>(arriving)</i>
Timothy McEachern (WLHS)	Matthew Rydecki (KMLHS) <i>(arriving)</i>
Casey Pufahl (WLHS)	Michael Wiechmann* (WLHS) <i>(arriving)</i>
Aaron Aanonsen* (WLC)	Harold Hoepfner (retired)
Jeremy Zima* (WLC)	Ryan Oertel* (WLC) <i>(arriving)</i>
Ryan Latterman* (WLC)	Shawn Sprewer* (Kingdom Prep) <i>(arriving)</i>
Andrew Schmiede* (WLC) <i>(arriving)</i>	Randall Strutz* (WLHS) <i>(arriving)</i>
Micah Hernandez* (WLHS) <i>(arriving)</i>	



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

Serving the District

DISTRICT OFFICERS

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

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Chicago Conference:

Chairman: Rev Andrew P Bauer
Secretary: Rev Frank J Italiano, Jr

Kettle Moraine Conference:

Chairman: Rev Kurt P Ebert
Secretary: Rev Steven D Bode

Milwaukee Metro Conference:

Chairman: Rev Joseph M Berg
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 Brian J Schmidt

Western Lakes Conference:

Chairman: Rev Jonathan E Arndt
Secretary: Rev Jason C Hacker

CIRCUIT PASTORS

Chicago Conference:

Central: Rev Jonathan P Kehren
Eastern: Rev George A Ferch
Northern: Rev Steven J Radunzel
Southern: Rev Lon P Kuether

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 Raymond Kimbrough

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

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

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

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Pastor

Rev Jonathan R Balge

Martin Luther College, Teacher

Teacher Joe E Archer

Martin Luther College, Pastor

Rev Daniel P Leyrer

Luther Preparatory School, Pastor

Rev Timothy J Spaude

Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Teacher

Teacher Stephen L Schultz

DISTRICT MISSION BOARD

Chairman: Rev Mark C Wagner

BHM Rep: Mr Steven W Wolf

Staff Minister Mark H Blauert

Rev John M Borgwardt

Dr James A Moore

Mr Steven J Mueller

Rev Michael D Zarling

MISSION COUNSELOR

Rev Edward P Schuppe

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

Evangelism

Coordinator: Rev David C Pagel
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
Rev Thomas J Schultz
Teacher Jonathan T Pasbrig
Teacher Jason A Snodie

Lutheran Schools

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

Discipleship

Coordinator: Vacant

Special Ministries

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

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN GIVING

Chairman Rev Timothy A Henning

GIFT PLANNING COUNSELORS

Current Giving: Rev Kevin D Hundley
Estate Planning: Mr Rick K Kneser

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Rev Jonathan H Nitz
Chicago Conference
Rev Nicolas C Schmoller
Teacher Nathan W Hinz
Kettle Moraine Conference
Rev Matthew D Kuske
Mr Donald A Zastrow
Milwaukee Metro Conference
Rev Michael T Feuerstahler
Mr Ralph Engelhardt
Milwaukee Urban Conference
Rev Aaron T Robinson
Teacher Aaron J Bauer
Shoreland Conference
Vacant (pastor)
Teacher Paul B Sriver
Western Lakes Conference
Rev Steven K Ristow
Mr James A Holm

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Rev Steven L Lange
Pastor Jason C Hacker
Mr John Stark

DISTRICT BOARD OF APPEALS

Chairman: Rev Thomas W Kneser)
Vacant (Pastor)
Teacher Paul B Sriver
Mr John R Sampson
Vacant (Pastor)
Teacher David W Bartelt
Mr Donald Groth
Prof John M Brenner
Teacher Jeffrey O Dorn
Mr Paul Kieselhorst

FORWARD IN CHRIST REPORTER/ DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Rev Scott T Oehlhafen

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Rev Jason C Hacker



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT **51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018**

SEW District Calendar

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

June 2018

- 21-24 Lutheran Women's Missionary Society National Convention
 KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI
26-29 WELS International Youth Rally (Discipleship)
- Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, OH

August 2018

- 2 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference Family Picnic
 The Buske Home, Milwaukee, WI
3 WELS Night at Miller Park
 Miller Park, Milwaukee, WI

September 2018

- 10-11 Chicago Pastoral Conference
 Palos, Palos Heights, IL
23-26 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
 Phelps, WI

October 2018

- 8 Milwaukee Metro Pastoral Conference
 St. John, Wauwatosa, WI
10-12 Convention for Seniors (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors - OWLS)
 Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI
16-17 Kettle Moraine, Shoreland, Western Lakes, and Winnebago
 Joint Pastoral Conference
 Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI
20 Celebration of Life Event (Christian Life Resources)
 Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, WI
25-26 Wisconsin State Teachers' Conference
 Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI
26-27 WALE Teachers' Conference
 Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee WI

November 2018

- 8 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
 St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee, WI

January 2019

- 8-9 Milwaukee Metro Pastoral Conference
Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI
- 9-11 Christian Giving Training (Ministry of Christian Giving)
WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, WI
- 10 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
St. John (Hillside), Milwaukee, WI
- 15 Shoreland Pastoral Conference
St. John, Burlington, WI
- 15 Kettle Moraine Pastoral Conference
Redeemer, Cedarburg, WI

February 2019

- 1 Deadline for Submitting CMO and Statistics
12:00 Noon CST
- 14 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
St. Marcus, Milwaukee, WI

March 2019

- 14 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
St. Matthew, Milwaukee, WI

April 2019

- 29 Milwaukee Metro Pastoral Conference
St. Lucas, Milwaukee, WI
- 30 Kettle Moraine Pastoral Conference
Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend, WI

May 2019

- 9 Milwaukee Urban Pastoral Conference
St. James, Milwaukee, WI

June 2019

- 11-12 SEW District Conference
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, WI
- 24-27 School Leadership Conference (EdTechLead19 – Lutheran Schools)
Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

July 2019

- 29-Aug 1 WELS Synod Convention
Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT **51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018**

Evaluation / Comments Form

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

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

Announcement Letter and Registration Info

On-Line Registration Process

Worship Services and Devotions

Keynote Address

Reports

Agenda/Format

Meals/Refreshments

Technology

Convention Materials

Going "Paperless"

Other Convention Arrangements

Other Comments

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT
51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018
Looking Back... at a Century of God's Grace
Moving Forward... with Prayer and Resolve

District President's Report

To: The 51st Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod Assembled at Wisconsin Lutheran College, June 12 and 13, 2018

Centuries of Grace

Certainly a highlight of the past biennium was our Reformation 500 observance last fall. What an opportunity to praise our Lord for those five centuries of grace. If you were among the 4,500 people who gathered at the Miller High Life Theatre on November 5, 2017 for our Reformation 500 festival worship service, I pray that it was a meaningful experience for you. Through Word and song we were built up and encouraged as we praised God for his unfathomable mercy in nailing our sins to the cross.

Thank you to all the congregations which made financial contributions to make it possible to rent the theatre and to appoint the "chancel" for worship. These contributions and district funds designated for the service covered the entire cost. In addition, the Reformation 500 offering of about \$25,000 was given in total to our District Mission Board to enhance mission projects in our Southeastern Wisconsin District. For this we praise God. God bless us all as we continue to rejoice that we are heirs of the Lutheran Reformation, and God give us joy as we continue to pass on that heritage of faith to the people of God in our churches and schools.

This week we observe the century of grace that God has given us as a Southeastern Wisconsin District of the WELS. One year after the 1917 merger of the Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin Synods, the Southeastern District of the new Joint Ev. Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin and Other States met for the first time at St. John, Burlington. I pray that our opening service, which sought to mirror that first service in 1918, filled you with the joy that comes from knowing that the truth of the simple gospel of Jesus' forgiving love has set you free.

I also pray that the various pieces of anniversary information contained in the convention materials, as well as Vice-President Joel Leyrer's guided discussion of the paper which Prof. August Pieper gave at that 1918 convention, will help you appreciate anew God's grace to you personally and to us as a church body. As we look back with gratitude, we have every reason to look forward with confidence. Thank you in advance to Pastor Leyrer for all his work in presenting this essay to us.

Appreciation

I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for your prayerful support during these two years I have served as your district president. In many ways it has been a learning experience together with you, as we have all sought to follow up on the twenty-four years of dedicated service of our previous district president, David Rutschow. I am especially appreciative of the assistance of the two vice-presidents, Joel Leyrer and Michael Woldt, and secretary, Billy Carter. Pastor Woldt agreed to fill the 2nd Vice-President vacancy after Pastor Jonathan Kolander accepted a call to another district. (Jon did continue to help us determine the convention agenda.)

Also much appreciated – and valued – are the nineteen circuit pastors who serve alongside the praesidium in our district. Their follow-up and oversight of the congregations in their charge is a very important aspect of our shared work. You have perhaps already received information about the election of your circuit's circuit pastor which will take place during this convention. If you have not yet received information about that, please be alert to announcements about it during the convention. The same appreciation goes to our various district board chairmen and board members. God bless you for serving in these extra ways above and beyond your other service to the Lord and his people. (The board chairmen and circuit pastors constitute our district council.)

In connection with the work involved in presiding over this district and the other two Wisconsin districts (Northern Wisconsin and Western Wisconsin), I am pasting in below Synod President Schroeder's comments in a recent Together article. Please note that the impetus for this did not come from the presidents of those districts, but from the Congregations' Committee of the Conference of Presidents: "It is becoming increasingly clear that the workload for presidents of the largest synodical districts has grown to the point where steps need to be taken to provide assistance and relief. Since we continue to believe that it is extremely vital that the district presidents remain in parish ministry, any solutions considered would maintain that approach. The COP hopes to have proposals for providing assistance to the presidents of the Western Wisconsin, Southeastern Wisconsin, and Northern Wisconsin Districts by next fall. The type of assistance may vary from district to district."

Pray for Workers

God has blessed us with over 51,000 communicant members in our district, as well as over 1,100 called workers, nearly 150 congregations, sixty grade schools, five area Lutheran High Schools, one College, our Seminary, and many early childhood centers. While a number of our congregations and schools are struggling from a human perspective, many others are expanding their ministries by adding associate pastors and more teachers due to expanding school enrollments and mission opportunities. (Please look forward to hearing about the increasing number of mission starts and enhancements in our district when the District Mission Board gives its report. Please also pray for Shoreland Lutheran High School and the congregations in the southeastern part of Wisconsin as they prepare for the arrival of FoxConn – and the thousands of jobs it is hoped will accompany that arrival during the course of the next decade.)

As has been often noted recently in synodical publicity, the challenge in connection with this blessing of ministry expansion is being able to supply enough called workers for all these ministry positions. While there might be several reasons for that, the simplest reason is that we have fewer candidates graduating from Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. This year, for example, the Seminary had 29 candidates, but there were 68 requests to receive a graduate. At the present time there are approximately 120 pastoral vacancies throughout the synod. The number of teacher vacancies is about 80, with 24 of them being principals and 7 being early childhood directors. In our district 24 congregations are seeking a pastor, though a few of them are "on hold" at the moment. The number of teacher vacancies in our district is in the 35-40 range.

We have seen this shortage coming, but by way of contrast, note that in the convention report two years it was stated that 24 pastoral graduate requests could not be filled, and that our overall vacancies were at 60 for teachers and 67 for pastors, with 20 and 8 of those being in our district, respectively.

One of the blessings of this challenge is that there has been an increasing number of former teachers who are requesting information on synod recertification, as well as other educators who are asking about synod certification. We are thankful for this, and we pray that this will gradually assist us in dealing with our present shortage. Special thanks in this connection goes to Dr. John Meyer and his staff at Martin Luther College. Dr. Meyer oversees our ministry certification program.

Another blessing of this challenge is the reminder to keep praying for more workers to enter the field of harvest, and to keep encouraging our young people to consider the public ministry. In addition to praying and encouraging, also ask for God's strength to model the joy that is yours as a child of God, who has the additional privilege of serving in the gospel ministry.

Perhaps the primary blessing of this challenge is the opportunity it gives us to put our trust in God's promises to provide for his people. There is very understandable worry and anxiety on the part of pastors, principals, church councils and school boards when they wonder when and how positions will be filled. I pray that we can encourage each other to calmly entrust our cares to the Lord, who so dearly cares for us. Please know that this is a daily concern of our Lutheran Schools office and the Conference of Presidents. God bless all the administrators and staff at Lutheran Schools for their great work – work which is carried out with an attitude of service to God's people.

One additional encouragement: With so many call meetings and call lists, it is a good reminder to practice discretion and confidentiality when talking about call meetings afterwards. That is one of the reasons, for example, that we ask for the call list information to be destroyed after each meeting. In this regard, please refrain from telling people that they were on a certain call list – or that they were not on a particular list. That can cause unnecessary confusion and misunderstanding. Thank you for your help on this.

Welcome to New Workers

I mentioned above the fact that we were not able to fill all the requests for graduates that we received. However, we thank God for the graduates of MLC and the Seminary that we were able to assign to our district at our assignment meetings during May. We received two pastor graduates, one staff minister candidate, and to this point fifteen teacher graduates (five men and ten women). Their names and assignments are listed elsewhere in the report. It is possible that none of the newly assigned candidates are present today, but if they are, I would ask them to stand so that we might acknowledge and welcome them. I would also like to acknowledge Stephen Wiesenauer, who was recently received by colloquy from the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. While studying at the Seminary, he provided assistance for one of our vacant congregations. He has accepted a call to serve in Southeast Asia. God bless Steve and his family.

In this connection, about thirty pastors and some two hundred teachers and staff ministers have accepted calls into our district in the past biennium. That is a lot of call activity! If any of you have started a new calling since June 2016, please stand so that we might also acknowledge you.

Updating Biographical Information in the WELS Database – Present Workers

One big help in the entire call process is having up to date information about our called workers, so that the district presidents and Lutheran Schools have that at their disposal when developing call lists. If you have not updated your information in a while, please consider making a note of it now and have it be an “action item” when you get back home.

Here is the information which the synod office provides for getting to the database.

Go to: cloud.wels.net/me

If you don't know your User Name, call WELS or:

- Go to the online synod directory
- Get to the file with your name and address information
- Click on your name at the top of the information
- Your user name will show up

If you don't remember your password, you can:

- Hit "Reset Password" after your User Name brings it up.

Congregational Mission Offerings

As you know, our Congregational Mission Offerings (CMO) are the foundational source of support for the work we do together in WELS. In 2017, the CMO of \$21.4 million was 0.7% more than commitments from congregations and 1.4% above 2016's receipts. That truly was a blessing.

For 2018, subscriptions show a 0.5% decrease from 2017 actual offerings. As a result, our challenge is keeping up with the 3.5% annual increase in the cost of maintaining current gospel ministry. Increases in operating costs such as wages, benefits, insurance and utilities continue to outpace the growth of CMO. Shortfalls mean that we have to use a greater amount of reserve funds to sustain ministries at our current levels. CMO growth of more than 3.5% would allow for the expansion of support programs for congregations, missions and our ministerial education schools. As we have done in the past, we encourage each of our congregations to consider designating 10 percent of the general fund offerings that they receive during the year as their CMO subscription. Some congregations are working toward that goal. Congregations that are already at or have surpassed that goal are encouraged to strive toward a higher goal and increase their percentage year by year, if the Lord gives them the ability to do so. God bless all your ministry work in your local congregation and our shared partnership in our synodical work throughout the world.

Key Emphases

Two items have received particular emphasis during the past two years: our Urban Schools and discussions about the relationship and roles of men and women according to God's Word.

Urban Schools

Our twelve urban schools in the Milwaukee County Parental Choice program would be by themselves the fourth largest district of schools in WELS, meaning that in essence we have "two districts" of schools in our Southeastern District. In addition, the challenge involved in securing and maintaining teachers can be a difficult one. Over the past two years the district president and the administrator of Lutheran Schools, Jim Rademan, have met at least seven or eight times with the principals of the schools. These meetings have provided good discussion and potential frameworks for more collaboration among the schools.

These meetings also resulted in a February 2017 meeting in Brookfield, at which a group of over forty representatives from the WELS praesidium, the Seminary, MLC, WLC, Bethany, Lutheran Schools, and urban school principals met to discuss possible ways to help with teacher recruitment, encouragement of students in the schools to consider public ministry themselves, and a possible satellite presence for MLC in Milwaukee, among other items. Ministerial Education Administrator Paul Prange is overseeing four different committees which have been working on these issues.

Thank you to all the urban school leaders for their mutual concern for the ministries they carry out. It truly has been a joy to prayerfully reflect on these important items with you.

Relationship and Roles of Men and Women

The other item which has resulted in many meetings and study sessions concerns the Bible's teaching on the relationship and roles of men and women. Most discussions have involved questions raised by some regarding the correctness of our stated doctrinal position that the head/helper relationship of men and women as interdependent people of God is a universal principle which applies to all areas of family, church and society. Since it is difficult to apply this principle in a world that does not operate on the basis of the gospel – and since the Bible gives specific applications of the principle only in the areas of marriage and the church -- there have been questions about whether it applies to society at all. Other questions have involved the biblical understanding of authority and whether women may serve on the boards of various organizations in our church body.

For the past nineteen months the praesidium has had extensive conversations, discussions and study periods with seminary professors, those questioning the doctrine, and others. The discussions have been cordial and brotherly. While there is no change in our position that what we believe is correct according to God's Word – that the principle does apply to home, church and society – what has become apparent is that there is lack of clarity among some about exactly how to explain that. For that reason we encourage you to study the "Heirs Together" Bible study that is now in its fourth edition, since it is seeking to regularly address current questions and concerns. As is continually the case, we also need to keep reviewing our public doctrinal statements so that they clearly state to people in our generation what we are saying – and what we are not saying – from God's Word.

We always need to continue reclaiming for ourselves the doctrines and principles of God's Word. We want to do so in a way that maintains the unity among us. At the same time, we need to give a clear biblical witness to those who raise questions regarding our established doctrine and also to those who might apply these principles in a legalistic manner.

Please continue to pray for all those involved in these discussions so that we might state and apply God's teaching accurately and in an evangelical way that leads all of us to value our high callings as God's children – both men and women.

Miscellaneous Items

The following informational items have been highlighted in the last year or so by Synod President Schroeder and/or the COP in the Together or through other publicity. They are repeated here for your reference.

NPH

Copyright Sensitivity

At our recent Conference of Presidents meeting we learned of the negative financial impact NPH is experiencing from churches and schools duplicating and reusing Christ-Light lessons and other materials. When NPH budgets the development costs for materials it produces, it bases its assumptions on anticipated sales of the materials. When churches and schools reuse or make copies of these materials, NPH is unable to offset its development costs. Simply stated, NPH loses money needed to sustain its ministry. Additionally, copyright laws exist to protect publishers from the negative financial impact of their materials being copied; copying NPH materials takes something “for free” when it should be purchased.

Reusing Christ-Light materials poses another concern. The Christ-Light Student Lessons are developed to provide an opportunity for parents to reinforce the lessons students learn in the classroom. Encouraging parents’ involvement and support can at times be challenging for a teacher. However, reusing the student lessons and not sending them home with students undermines a key objective of the curriculum and the important role parents play in the spiritual growth of their children.

Thank you for your attention to this concern and for your encouragement of the appropriate use of these important resources.

Store Closing and Other Changes

As you are likely aware, Christian publishing has faced many challenges in recent years. Overall interest in Christian books has deteriorated. Publishers affiliated with church bodies have declined significantly in number and size. For many retailers, there has been a dramatic shift by their customers toward purchasing online rather than at physical retail store locations.

Northwestern Publishing House is not immune to these broader trends. Additionally, NPH is affected by trends within our own synod. Declining church membership and school enrollment have directly impacted demand for materials for our members and students. Despite many cost saving steps expenses continue to increase, compounding the impact of these trends.

In response to these challenging realities, the NPH Board of Directors and management have had to make a number of difficult decisions with the objectives of exercising good stewardship of limited resources, ensuring continuation of NPH’s ministry, and fulfilling the synod’s purpose of publishing literature that maintains our Lutheran doctrine and practice.

After much prayerful deliberation and consideration, it has been determined that the NPH retail store in Milwaukee will close this fall. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may cause.

You will still be able to order the resources and materials that you value from NPH. NPH will continue to publish new books, music, and other materials for our pastors, teachers, and WELS members. These new materials along with previously published NPH books, Bible studies, and curriculum will continue to be available through NPH’s website www.nph.net and by phone at 1-800-662-6022.

NPH will also continue to make church supplies and a selection of books and materials from other publishers available through its website www.nph.net and by phone at 1-800-662-6022. In addition, NPH will continue to publish *Forward in Christ*, *Meditations*, and *Wisconsin Lutheran Quarterly* periodicals.

We encourage you to visit the NPH website regularly to discover resources that will support your ministry and materials that will strengthen the faith of your members.

Please contact me at Bill.Ziche@nph.net if you have any questions regarding this change.

Serving you in Christ,

Bill Ziche
President, Northwestern Publishing House

John Hartwig
Chairman, NPH Board of Directors

Merging Congregations

The COP has begun to work with the Commission on Congregational Counseling to provide guidance to congregations seeking to merge or consolidate. The intent is to help those congregations to reconfigure their ministries in a way that results in healthy and, with God's blessing, growing congregations.

Scouting

The COP has received questions about whether the Scouting organizations have changed in a way that would make it possible for WELS members to participate. In response, the COP has begun a review of the current nature and organizational statements of those organizations to determine whether conflicts with biblical principles remain. The COP will release a report and Bible study once the study is completed.

Recent Synodical Council Recommendation Due to 2018 Tax Changes

The Synodical Council approved the policy change to reimburse called workers for the tax on moving expenses, since those are now considered taxable income: an additional 20% of moving expenses for called workers with minister of the gospel status (pastors, male teachers & staff ministers – additional amount to them due to being considered self-employed for social security purposes) and 13% for workers without minister of the gospel status (female teachers & staff ministers) to help defray the additional tax liability. This is the case whether the moving expense is paid to the moving company or to the called worker.

Guidelines for Special Conferences

As a growing number of individuals and groups within our fellowship are organizing special events and conferences, the COP offers the following guidelines:

If the event is solely for your district or regional in nature, please contact your district president well in advance and actively involve him as you begin making plans for the event because he is responsible for doctrine and practice in his district. If it is multi-district in nature, contact the synod president who will, in turn, contact the Conference of Presidents.

Give careful thought as to whom you ask to give presentations. As much as possible, we encourage using WELS presenters. We recognize that there may be people outside of our fellowship who have expertise in a particular field that may be helpful to your audience. If you feel compelled to recruit such a presenter, you will want to determine whether false doctrine could be brought into the presentation or spiritual truths could be taught. If that is the case, such a presentation should be avoided. Be sure to instruct presenters who are outside our fellowship about not opening or closing the presentation with prayer. It may be best to ask at the outset of your planning, "Is there someone in our fellowship who can share the same information, but with a Lutheran and scripturally sound point of view?"

We recognize that women may well be more appropriate for teaching women in many contexts. Be careful to observe the biblical roles of man and woman so that women are not teaching men in such a way as to exercise authority over men.

Good scriptural and Lutheran theology partnered with gospel motivation should drive all biblical presentations. Because we are rightly sensitive to "church growth" philosophy and methodology, evangelicalism, Romanism, a theology of glory, and other such false teachings, do any of your presentations appear to come from those backgrounds? Will people who see your promotional materials draw wrong conclusions? What message is being sent? What confession is being made?

Finally, the COP thanks you for keeping these guidelines under consideration as you plan events. The members of the COP want to support your efforts and are confident of your brotherly cooperation. They are always willing to answer any questions about these guidelines and will gladly offer clarification. May our Lord Jesus be glorified by all we do!

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor David P. Kolander

Membership Changes

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

Pastors:

Peter Prange (Bethany, Kenosha) from South Atlantic District
Michael Berg (Wisconsin Lutheran College) from Minnesota District
Bill Limmer (Victory of the Lamb, Franklin) from Western Wisconsin District
Johnold Strey (Crown of Life, Hubertus) from Arizona-California District
Jacob Schwartz (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) from Michigan District
James Hoogervorst (St. Lucas, Kewaskum) from Northern Wisconsin District
Jonathan Loescher (Bethany, Hustisford) from Arizona-California District
Benjamin Reichel (Kettle Moraine LHS) from South Central District
Colin Rieke (Palos, Palos Heights) from Arizona-California District
Brian Doebler (Wisconsin LHS) from Arizona-California District
Jonathan Hein (WELS Congregational Counseling) from South Atlantic District
Samuel Degner (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) from Northern Wisconsin District
Seth Haakenson (Immanuel, Waukegan) from Nebraska District
Brady Coleman (Siloah, Milwaukee) from Arizona/California District
Brian Schmidt (Trinity, Caledonia) from Western Wisconsin District
Peter Leyrer (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) from Minnesota District
Donn Dobberstein (WELS Discipleship) from South Atlantic District
Daniel Herold (Glory to God, Tinley Park/Our Redeemer, Grant Park)
from South Central District
Preston Heuer (First, Elkhorn) from Northern Wisconsin District
Nathanael Bourman (Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee) from South Central District
Scott Miller (Light of Life, Greenwood) from Michigan District
Michael Schneider (Zion, Crete) from Minnesota District
Heath Butler (Wisconsin LHS) from North Atlantic District
Seth Bode (Bethlehem, Carmel) from Minnesota District
Benjamin Golisch (St. Paul, Slinger) from South Atlantic District
Paul Micheel (St. Paul, Grant Park) from Northern Wisconsin

Teachers:

Daniel Aswege (Calvary, Thiensville) from Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Timothy McEachern (Wisconsin LHS) from Western Wisconsin District
Joseph Greefkes (Kettle Moraine LHS) from Michigan District
Jason Hagedorn (Shoreland LHS) from Western Wisconsin District
Mark Nolte (Kettle Moraine LHS) from Northern Wisconsin District
Casey Pufahl (Wisconsin LHS) from Minnesota District
David Zuberbier (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine) from South Atlantic District
Mark Shambeau (Wisconsin LHS) from Western Wisconsin District
Theodore Glodowski (First, Elkhorn) from Minnesota District
John Schleis (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) from South Atlantic District
David Leonard (Friedens, Kenosha) from Western Wisconsin District
Greg Obermiller (St. John, Lomira) from Northern Wisconsin District
Aaron Trimmer (Our Savior, Grafton) from Michigan District
Jeffrey Falck (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) from Nebraska District
Zackary Cvikel (Morning Star, Jackson) from Western Wisconsin District
Matthew Sonntag (Shoreland LHS) from Arizona/California District

Bradley Jensen (Morning Star, Jackson) from Nebraska District
Levi Dunsmoor (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) from Western Wisconsin District
Brian Humann (St. John, Milwaukee) from Pacific Northwest District
Joshua Walker (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) from Michigan District
Philip Adickes (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) from Nebraska District
Craig Breitzkreuz (Faith, Antioch) from Western Wisconsin District

Staff Minister:

James Boggs (St. John, Lannon) from South Central District

Teacher Mark Rieke (Wisconsin LHS) became a member of the district when he transferred his membership to a congregation in our district from Western Wisconsin District.

The following candidates were assigned by the Synod Assignment Committee to calls in the district in 2017 and were received into membership of the district at the last synod convention.

Pastors

Christian Marquardt (St. James, Milwaukee)
Jardan Patrick (International Friendship Center, Pewaukee)
Nixon Vivar (Christ, Milwaukee)
Aaron Voss (Living Water, Wind Lake)

Teachers

James Christensen, Jr. (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) (*midyear assignment*)
Joshua Lindner (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson)
Michael Martens (Trinity, Caledonia)
Jeffrey Rick (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete)
David Roekle (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove)
Seth Zoellner (Trinity, Waukesha)
Travis Kretsch (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson)

The assignments of the following candidates were made permanent by the Synod Assignment Committee in 2017.

Pastor Jason Free (associate to the District President)

Teachers

James Christensen, Jr. (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)
ChiSeon Kim (Jerusalem, Morton Grove)
John Kujath (Our Savior, Zion)
Jeremy Maas (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)
Christopher Stollfus (Word of Life, Milwaukee)

The following candidates were assigned by the Synod Assignment Committee to calls in the district in 2018 and have applied for membership in the district:

Pastors

William Schubert (Heritage, Lindenhurst)
W. Russell Scoggins (New Hope, Racine/St. Luke – Oasis Youth Center, Kenosha)

Teachers

Garrett Buch (Trinity, Waukesha)
Nathan Hensler (Zion, South Milwaukee)
Jacob Lash (Illinois Lutheran Schools)
Raine Vrable (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee)

Staff Minister Andrew Carter (Grace, Milwaukee)

The assignment of Teacher David Roekle (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove) was made permanent by the Assignment Committee in 2018.

The following accepted calls within the district during the biennium:

Pastors:

Daniel Leyrer (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) to St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Paul Steinberg (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Chaplains in Schools, Milwaukee
Robert Wendland (Malawi) to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon
Nathan Strobel (Wisconsin Lutheran College) to St. Paul, Muskego
Eric Roecker (Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls) to WELS Evangelism

Teachers:

Mark Hesse (Atonement, Milwaukee) to St. Lucas, Kewaskum
Andrew Becker (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Dean of Instruction/Curriculum (*additional charge*)
Charles Ungemach (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Siloah, Milwaukee
Timothy Sonntag (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha) to St. John, Burlington
Paul Sriver (Shoreland LHS, Somers) to President
Daniel Nolte (First, Elkhorn) to Shoreland LHS, Somers
Michael Koestler (St. Lucas, Milwaukee) to Shoreland LHS, Somers
Andrew Baxter (St. Lucas, Milwaukee) to Principal, *additional charge*
Troy Yerks (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee) to Salem, Milwaukee
Mark Kjenstad (Illinois Lutheran Schools) to Activities Director, *additional charge*
Samuel Schlicht (Word of Life, Milwaukee) to Atonement, Milwaukee
Matthew Linton (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) to Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson
Christopher Avery (Bethany, Kenosha) to St. John, Burlington
Micah Walz (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) to Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
Todd Jahns (Kettle Moraine LHS) to Wisconsin Lutheran College
Stephen Schultz (Faith, Antioch) to Bethany, Kenosha
Jeffry Roloff (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) *call made permanent*
Nathan Krug (Illinois LHS, Crete) to Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson
Justin Gut (Trinity, Waukesha) to Principal, *additional charge*
Mark Moldenhauer (St. Philip, Milwaukee) to Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee
Justin Walz (St. Paul, Muskego) to Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee

David Stoltz (St. Lucas, Kewaskum) to Crown of Life, Hubertus
Joshua Metzger (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee) to St. Marcus, Milwaukee
Michael Pingel (Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee) to Mt. Calvary, Waukesha
Eric Fillner (Zion, South Milwaukee) to Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin
Matthew Rydecki (Trinity, Waukesha) to Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson
Joshua Nelson (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee) to Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee
James Brandt (Wisconsin Lutheran College) to North Shore Christian Academy, Milwaukee
David Leonard (Friedens, Kenosha) to Principal, *additional charge*
David Zank (Friedens, Kenosha) to Vice-Principal, *additional charge*
Adam Harvey (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Principal, *additional charge*

Staff Ministers:

Randel Fink (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee) to St. Paul, Muskego
Kevin Poston (St. John, Lannon) to Atonement, Milwaukee
Mark Blauert (Trinity, Crete) to Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine
Paul Berger (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee) to Chaplains in Schools, Milwaukee

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

Pastor William Schaefer to St. John (Vliet), Milwaukee

Teachers:

Jeremy Bock to Wisconsin Lutheran College
Fredrick Luehring to St. Philip, Milwaukee
Jacob Unke to Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake
Jeffrey Roloff to St. Jacobi, Greenfield

Staff Minister Jason Fry to Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend

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

Pastors:

Roger Zehms (emeritus) to St. John, Lomira
David Rutschow (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove)
Dale Baumler (emeritus) to Christ, Pewaukee
Mark Braun (emeritus) to Wisconsin Lutheran College
Robert Pasbrig (emeritus) to Peace, Hartford
Donald Thompson (Point of Grace)
James Naumann (emeritus) to Christ, Big Bend
John Warmuth (emeritus) to St. John, Lomira
Paul Reede (emeritus) to St. Paul/St. Peter, West Bend
James Castillo (emeritus) to St. John, Woodland
Donald Thompson (emeritus) to St. John, Mukwanago

Teachers:

William Braun (emeritus) to Wisconsin Lutheran College
Kenneth Proeber (emeritus) to Christ the Lord, Brookfield (*interim*)

The following uncertified teachers accepted provisional calls in the district during the biennium:

Teachers:

Kurt Stielow* (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Dean of Instruction/Curriculum (*additional charge*)
Garret Mandeville* (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)
Ryan Halter* (Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee)
James Weiland* (St. John, Libertyville)
Brian Kent* (Atonement, Milwaukee)
Peter Schwichtenberg (St. Lucas, Milwaukee)
Aaron Anonsen* (Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee)
Jeremy Zima* (Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee)
Ryan Latterman* (Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee)
Elijah Riddle* (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)
Bradley Reinhardt* (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)
Andrew Schmiede* (Wisconsin Lutheran College)
Micah Hernandez* (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee)
Cornelius Whiteside II* (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee)
Michael Wiechmann* (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee)
Kevin Festerling* (Kingdom Prep, Milwaukee)
Robert Ceasar* (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee
Ryan Oertel* (Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee)
Shawn Sprewer* (Kingdom Prep, Milwaukee)
Josh Lepke* (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to St. Paul, Muskego
Randall Strutz* (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee)
Nathan Bauer* (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Dean, (*additional charge*)
Cody Harms* (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Atonement, Milwaukee

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

Pastors:

David Waterstradt (Palos, Palos Heights) to Arizona-California District
James Langebartels (emeritus) to Western Wisconsin District
Alan Gumm (Hope, West Chicago) to South Atlantic District
Keith Tullberg (Siloah, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District
Philip Janke (New Hope, Racine) to Northern Wisconsin District
David Rockhoff (Friedens, Kenosha) to Michigan District
Aaron Dolan (First, Racine) to Northern Wisconsin District
Luke Italiano (St. Luke, Kenosha) to Michigan District
Emile Burgess (Trinity, Caledonia) to Minnesota District
David Ernest (Glory to God, Tinley Park/Our Redeemer, Grant Park)
to Western Wisconsin District
David Rau (First, Elkhorn) to Minnesota District
Tod Vertz (St. Paul, Grant Park) to Northern Wisconsin District
Jonathan Kolander (Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls/Germantown) to Arizona/California District
Nathan Cordes (St. Matthew, Niles) to Minnesota District
Kenneth Bittorf (crm) to Western Wisconsin District
Ian Headrick (Christ, Big Bend) to North Atlantic District
Paul Zell (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) to South Atlantic District
John Stelljes (Light of Life, Greenwood) to Minnesota District

Daniel Babinec (St. John, Woodland) to Michigan District
Benjamin Kuerth (Victory of the Lamb, Franklin) to South Atlantic District
David Peters (Epiphany, Racine) to Minnesota District
Martin Bentz (Trinity, Crete) to Minnesota District
Joshua Bishop (Peace, Kokomo) to Michigan District
Jeremy Mattek (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District
Robert Jensen (Gethsemane, Milwaukee) to South Central District
Matthew Schwartz (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove) to Northern Wisconsin District
Michael Helwig (Crown of Life, Hubertus) to Western Wisconsin District
Peter Metzger (First, Lake Geneva) to Dakota-Montana District

Teachers:

Benjamin Raddatz (Our Savior, Grafton) to South Central District
Matthew Heyn (Illinois Lutheran Schools) to Arizona/California District
John Ganey (Trinity, Waukesha) to Western Wisconsin District
Paul Kelm (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) to Minnesota District
Tyler Weinrich (St. John, Libertyville) to Northern Wisconsin District
Scott Wagner (Resurrection, Aurora) to Dakota-Montana District
Jacob Unke (Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake) to South Central District
Nathan Hochmuth (Shoreland LHS) to Northern Wisconsin District
Michael Marquardt (Peace, Hartford) to Minnesota District
Bryan Sriver (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove) to South Central District
Brandon Stubalt (Mt Lebanon, Milwaukee) to Arizona/California District
Chad Marohn (St. John, Lannon) to Northern Wisconsin District
David Dodge (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Jeffrey Uhlenbrauck (Illinois LHS, Crete) to Northern Wisconsin District
Brian Mensching (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) to Minnesota District
David Liebhard (Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District
Darrell Roecker (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District
Alan Uher (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha) to Minnesota District
Shawn Riesop (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) to Northern Wisconsin District
Scott Stevenson (St. Lucas, Kewaskum) to Arizona/California District
Daniel Schulz (Shoreland LHS, Somers) to Northern Wisconsin District
Robert Buss (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Steven Bremer (Wisconsin LHS) to Nebraska District
Scott Anthony (Siloah, Milwaukee) to Arizona/California District
David Habeck (emeritus) to Pacific-Northwest District (*semi-retired*)
John Melso (Christ the Lord, Brookfield) to Western Wisconsin District

Travis Kretsch (Kettle Moraine LHS) received an assignment from the Assignment Committee in 2018 to Pacific-Northwest District.

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

Teachers:

Scott Wagner (Resurrection, Aurora) (6/30/17)
Stephen Schultz (Faith, Antioch)
Elijah Riddle (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)

The call of the following worker was terminated during the biennium:

Staff Minister *Steven Schroeder* (Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee)

The following called workers resigned their calls during the biennium:

Pastor Rodrigo Concha (6/24/2016)

Teachers:

David Reinemann
*Eric Condia** (6/30/2016)
Douglas Stellick (6/30/2016)
Alan Scharrer (7/16/2016)
Evan Eisenmann (8/6/2016)
Andrew Mundt (9/1/2016)
Joel Moeller (12/4/2016)
Jason Lowrey (6/30/2017)
Michael Sebald (6/30/2017)
Micah Ricke (6/30/2017)
Zach Wiegman (6/30/17)
Christian Ristow (6/30/17)
Jeffrey Roloff (3/31/17)
Fred Pahmeier (6/30/17)
Mark Heckendorf (9/1/17)
Matthew Rieck (8/16/17)
Jeremy Maas (9/22/17)

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

Pastors:

David Rutschow (7/2016)
Joel Jaeger (6/2017)
Walter Oelhafen (10/2016)
Ronald Mehlberg (6/2017)
James Korthals (8/2017)
Michael Hintz (12/2017)
Mark Braun (6/2017)
Charles Papenfuss (6/2017)
Mark Anderson (6/2017)
John Mattek (6/2017)
Peter Kassulke (8/2017)
Roger Zehms (7/2017)
Kenneth Kolberg (12/2017)
Donald Thompson (10/2017)
Steven Staude (12/31/2017)
Stanley Weinrich (11/2017)
George Ferch (6/2018)
James Becker (6/2018)

Thomas Knickelbein (6/2018)
Paul Reede (1/31/2018)
Robert Jensen (5/31/2018)
Joseph Schlawin (5/31/2018)

Teachers:

Mel Friske (10/19/2016)
Carl Nolte (12/2/2016)
Jeffrey Inniger (6/2017)
Roger Festerling (6/2017)
Daniel Schmal (12/2016)
Terry Treuden (6/2017)
Leonard Collyard (6/2017)
William Braun (12/2017)
David Habeck (6/30/2018)
Jay Schwall (6/2018)
Eric Troke (6/2018)
Steven Zellmer (6/2018)
Ned Goede (6/2018)
Timothy Paschke (7/31/2018)

Staff Minister Fritz Horn (6/2018)

The following retired called workers transferred their membership to congregations in our district during the biennium:

Pastors:

Hermann John (emeritus) from Arizona-California District
Gerald Hintz (emeritus) from Western Wisconsin District

Staff Minister Dennis Fletcher (emeritus) from Western Wisconsin District

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

Pastors:

Charles Papenfuss (emeritus) to Evangelical Lutheran Synod
James Korthals (emeritus) to Western Wisconsin District
Joel Jaeger (emeritus) to Western Wisconsin District
Stanley Weinrich (emeritus) to Northern Wisconsin District
Leonard Freeman (emeritus) to Arizona-California District
Kurt Grunewald (emeritus) to Western Wisconsin District
John Mattek (emeritus) to Northern Wisconsin District
Peter Kassulke (emeritus) to Western Wisconsin District

Teachers:

David Neujahr (emeritus) to Arizona-California District
Merlyn Kruse (emeritus) to Minnesota District

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

Pastors:

Herbert Kruschel (8/19/2016)
David Beckman (10/20/2016)
Charles Tessmer (10/27/2016)
Harry Wiedmann (12/13/2016)
Paul Manthey (10/21/2016)
Martin Janke (12/10/2017)
Wernor Wagner (1/22/2018)
William Bernhardt (4/14/2018)

Teachers:

Walter Sebald (2/20/2017)
Melvin Schwartz (6/7/2017)
Harold Hosbach (2/12/2018)
Ronald Unke (4/26/2018)
Robert Adrian (5/7/2018)

Staff Minister:

David Niederstadt (11/8/2016)

The request of David Peters for restoration of pastor call eligibility status was granted by the praesidium during the biennium.

The following called workers completed requirements for synod certification during the biennium:

Teachers:

Ned Farley (Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee)
John Werner (Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee)
Scott Zondag (Shoreland LHS, Somers)
James Henkel (Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee)

Staff Ministers:

Michael Schuessler (Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee)
Martin Rosewicz (Institutional Ministries)

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

Pastor Martin Bentz as Circuit Pastor (Chicago Conference: Southern Circuit)
Pastor Matthew Kiecker as a member of the District Evangelism Committee
Teacher Steven Schultz to fill a vacancy on the Michigan Lutheran Seminary Governing Board
Pastor Daniel Leyrer to fill a vacancy on the Martin Luther College Governing Board
Pastor Michael Woldt as Interim Second Vice President
Pastor Jonathan Kehren as Circuit Pastor (Chicago Conference: Central Circuit)
Layman John Stark as a member of the District Constitution Committee
Pastor Thomas Kneser as Chairman of the District Board of Appeals

Pastor Lon Kuether as Circuit Pastor (Chicago Conference: Southern Circuit)

Pastor Raymond Kimbrough as Circuit Pastor (Milwaukee Urban Conference: Timothy Circuit)

Other:

The following congregations merged during the biennium:

Calvary, Thiensville and Trinity, South Mequon merged to become
Christ Alone, Mequon/Thiensville

The following congregations closed during the biennium:

Emmanuel, Hartford (11/13/2016)
Hope, West Chicago (12/2016)
Zum Kripplein Christi, Iron Ridge (6/11/2017)

The following school closed during the biennium:

St. Paul, Brownsville (5/31/2018)



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT **51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018**

Minutes of the 50th Biennial Convention **June 14-15, 2016**

Tuesday, June 14

The 50th Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District opened with a communion service held in the gymnasium of Wisconsin Lutheran College. Outgoing District President David Rutschow was the preacher. Pastor Martin Wildauer served as the presiding minister. The district officers served as lectors. Valerie Floeter served as organist. A festival choir directed by Teacher Michael Marquardt and the worship ensemble "Soli Deo Gloria" led by Patricia Backhaus also accompanied the service.

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

After a break, President Rutschow called the convention to order in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

President Rutschow asked Vice President Joel Leyrer to take the chair while he presented the President's Report. During his report, President Rutschow introduced the graduates of our ministerial education schools who have been assigned to our district who were in attendance. He asked us to welcome them to the district with the singing of a hymn prayer. President Rutschow asked the delegates to double check the list of membership changes included in his report. He also asked the delegates to thank the Lord for the work of the pastors and teachers who were called to their eternal home to heaven during the course of the biennium with the singing of a hymn.

After the President's report, President Rutschow spoke to the delegates about the elections for circuit pastors that would take place during the lunch break. Secretary Billy Carter also made several announcements.

President Rutschow then introduced Pastor Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project, who showed a video that provided an update on the progress of the committees working on the various components of the project.

Elections Chairman Borgwardt reported that the top four candidates nominated for district president were Pastors Aaron Christie, David Kolander, Jon Kolander, and Joel Leyrer. Ballots for this election were distributed, cast, and collected.

President Rutschow closed the morning session with a meal prayer.

At the beginning of the afternoon session, Elections Chairman Borgwardt reported the need for a runoff ballot for district president. The three remaining candidates were David Kolander, Jonathan Kolander, and Joel Leyrer. The ballots were cast and collected.

Mr. Timothy Snyder, the district's lay representative on the Synodical Council gave a report on the work of the Council. He briefly reviewed the work the Council does in our behalf to manage the finances of the Synod. He highlighted recent work on the new Long Range Plan and the synod's Compensation Plan.

President Rutschow introduced Pastor Peter Prange, a former member of our district who currently serves at Living Word in Gray, Tennessee, who presented the first part of his keynote essay, "Embracing the Cross: A Reformation in the Pastor's Study."

During a break in the essay, Elections Chairman Borgwardt reported the need for another runoff election for district president. David Kolander and Joel Leyrer were the remaining candidates. After the ballots were cast and collected, the election was declared closed.

At another break in the essay, Elections Chairman Borgwardt reported the election of David Kolander as district president. Pastor Kolander thanked the delegates for the trust they placed in him with their votes. He also asked for some time to discuss this call with his family, the current officers, his associate and his congregation's lay delegate, and the circuit pastors. He told the delegates that he expected to be able to announce a decision after the afternoon break.

At the conclusion of Part One of the essay, Pastor Joel Voss, second vice president of the synod, spoke on behalf of the synod praesidium about the challenges and opportunities we face as a church body. He thanked the delegates for the trust that has been shown the leaders of the synod as they serve in our behalf and for the commitment to the gospel shown by the members of our congregations. He also thanked President Rutschow for his years of service to the district and the synod.

Pastor Prange returned to the podium for Part Two of his keynote essay, "Embracing the Cross: A Reformation in the Pastor's Study."

Vice President Leyrer took the chair after the afternoon break. The delegates were given the opportunity to react to Pastor Prange's keynote essay. It was moved and seconded to receive the essay with thanks. The motion carried and Pastor Prange was thanked with a round of applause.

Mr. Mark Schultz, member of the synod's board for World Missions, presented a report from the board that highlighted work in mission fields all around the world. He introduced Pastor Richard Krause, who serves as the chairman of the SE Asia Administrative committee. After noting the countries where his committee oversees our missions, he introduced retiring Missionary David Beckman and thanked him for his work. He also introduced Dr. Patrick Jordan from Pakistan, who is now living in the United States and enrolled in the Pastoral Studies Institute. Dr. Jordan introduced his wife, Aneela, who serves as a translator, and his son John, who is in the pastor track at Martin Luther College. He gave a report on the tremendous need for the Gospel in Pakistan and some of the work that is taking place there.

Pastor David Kolander announced his decision to accept the office of District President. He asked the delegates to pray that the Lord would bless his work and that he would allow everything he does as president to be done to God's glory. Vice President Leyrer expressed thanks to the Lord, on behalf of the presidium and the delegates, for Pastor Kolander's decision and pledged their support for Pastor Kolander's work as our president.

Elections Chairman Borgwardt read the district by-laws that described the responsibilities of the vice presidents. Nominating ballots for the office of first vice president were cast and collected.

Dr. Glen Thompson, academic dean of Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong, reported on work being done there and across Southeast Asia.

Pastor Paul Prange, administrator for the synod's Board for Ministerial Education, reported on the work of our ministerial education schools. He especially emphasized the continuing need for students to train for the teaching and preaching ministry.

Pastor Don Thompson, who served The Point of Grace, the campus ministry in the Milwaukee area, reported on work being done with students on several college campuses.

Elections Committee Chairman Borgwardt reported that the three candidates for the position of first vice president were Pastors Aaron Christie, Jonathan Kolander, and Joel Leyrer. Ballots were distributed, cast, and collected.

Pastor Robert Hein, chairman of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, showed a video focusing on the tenth anniversary of the help provided by the committee and others after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. He also gave a report that summarized other ways the committee helps and serves.

Elections Chairman Borgwardt reported that Pastor Joel Leyrer was re-elected as first vice president. Vice President Leyrer thanked the district for their confidence in him and prayed that the Lord would continue to bless his work. Chairman Borgwardt noted that the nominating ballot for second vice president would take place immediately after the morning devotion the next day.

After several announcements from floor committee chairmen and Secretary Carter, the Tuesday session closed with a devotion led by Circuit Pastor Christian Winkel. The devotion made use of the Gathering Rite on the Word of God and focused on Our Great Heritage of God's Word with a devotion based on Matthew 7:15-27.

After the close of the session, Pastor Jon Balge served as master of ceremonies for a celebration of the ministry of outgoing district president David Rutschow. Speakers included several of the officers who had served with President Rutschow during his time in office. Vice Presidents Leyrer and Kolander presented President Rutschow and his wife Pauline with a plaque commemorating his service and a monetary gift gathered from members of the district.

Wednesday, June 15

The Wednesday session opened with a devotion led by Circuit Pastor Nathan Cordes. The devotion made use of the Service of Morning Praise and focused on Our Great Heritage of Christian Education with a devotion based on 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Elections Chairman Borgwardt highlighted the sections of the district by-laws that described the responsibilities of the vice presidents that especially apply to the office of second vice president. Nominating ballots for the office of second vice president were cast and collected.

Secretary Carter pointed the delegates to the minutes of the Wednesday session of the 2014 convention, which had not yet been approved. It was moved and supported to accept those minutes. That motion carried.

Secretary Carter presented the 2014-2015 Financial Report. He especially noted the cost savings we were continuing to experience from the decision to stop printing convention materials for all delegates. He mentioned the recent decision of the District Council to make an additional assessment to cover the cost of an annual training session for circuit pastors that had previously been covered by grant moneys.

Secretary Carter also presented the slate of delegates, congregations, and alternates who would represent the district at the 2017 Synod convention at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis-

consin. He noted one correction that needed to be made and asked if any delegates noticed any others. It was moved and supported to approve the slate of delegates. The motion carried.

Pastor Kurt Lueneberg, Administrator of the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, presented a report on the work of his commission. He highlighted the One in Christ debt elimination offering, the work of the Christian giving counselors, and resources available from the MCG office.

Elections Committee Chairman Borgwardt reported that the three candidates for the position of second vice president were Pastors Aaron Christie, Jonathan Kolander, and Jeremy Mattek. Ballots were distributed, cast, and collected.

Pastor Lueneberg also presented the report of the WELS Foundation and WELS Investment Funds.

Secretary Carter noted a correction for the dates of the 2017 synod convention on the report of the slate of convention delegates.

Pastor Mark Wagner, chairman of the District Mission Board and member of the WELS Board for Home Missions, presented the board's report that highlighted the work of quite a few WELS mission congregations around the country. He also noted highlights from the work of some of the mission congregations in our district.

Elections Chairman Borgwardt reported that Pastor Jonathan Kolander had been re-elected as second vice president of the district and asked the Lord's blessing on his continued service. Vice President Kolander thanked the delegates for the privilege of continuing to serve in this office.

Chairman Borgwardt noted the responsibilities of the district secretary listed in the by-laws. Nominating ballots for district secretary were cast and collected. Chairman Borgwardt also reminded the delegates of the larger ballot for the remaining district offices that was included in the convention materials and asked them to take some time to look over the ballot before those elections would take place.

Mr. Joshua Peterman, director of WELS Benefit Plans, reported on the work the commission does to administer our benefit plans. He especially noted all the work the committee was doing to ensure compliance with the Affordable Care Act and the committee's decision not to proceed with the previously announced decision to discontinue Plan #1 in the health plan.

Elections Chairman Borgwardt reported that the three nominees for district secretary were Pastors John Bortulin, Billy Carter, and Andrew Fix. Ballots for this election were distributed, cast, and collected.

Mr. Dan Nommensen presented a report on behalf of WLCFS: Christian Family Solutions.

Mr. Martin Spriggs, WELS Chief Technology Officer, reported on the work of the WELS Technology Group. He especially noted the work being done on the new database, WELSource, the use of WELSCloud for updating called worker information, and the new WELS mobile app.

Elections Chairman John Borgwardt announced that Pastor Billy Carter had been re-elected as district secretary and asked the Lord's blessings on his continued work. Pastor Carter thanked the delegates for the privilege and joy of using his gifts in this way and asked that the Lord bless his work with President Kolander as he had blessed his work with President Rutschow.

President Rutschow conducted the installation of the district officers and circuit pastors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor William R. Carter, SEW District Secretary

Secretary Carter was excused for the remainder of the convention and Pastor Robert Pasbrig recorded the minutes beginning at 10:48 a.m.

President David Rutschow called the assembly to order after the morning break.

Pastor Bryan Gerlach reported for the Congregational and Ministry Support Group. He, and nearly all of the following presenters, used power-point as part of their presentations. Gerlach also presented information about the Commission on Worship.

Pastor John Borgwardt, Chairman of the Elections Committee, directed the election ballot for various district positions. After ballots were collected, he declared the election closed.

Pastor Michael Hintz reported for the Commission on Evangelism.

Pastor David Pagel shared a number of district evangelism efforts and opportunities.

Pastor Gerlach presented a report for the Commission on Congregational Counseling.

Pastor James Behringer reported for the eight divisions of the Commission on Special Ministries.

Pastor Gary Pufahl reported for the Commission on Adult Discipleship.

Pastor Borgwardt conducted a run-off ballot for two district positions. After the ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

Pastor Bryan Gerlach presented the report for the Commission on Youth and Family Ministry.

James Rademan reported for the Commission on Lutheran Schools.

Pastor Jason Hacker reported for the Lutheran Ministry Support Group. Those present who have served our county in the military were asked to stand. They received a round of applause.

Pastor Borgwardt presented one more run-off election. After the ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

At 12:01 p.m., President Rutschow led the group in a dinner prayer. The session adjourned for the noon meal, box lunches served in the meeting room.

The afternoon session was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by President Rutschow.

William Ziche presented a report for Northwestern Publishing House. He also shared information about the Reformation 500 celebration plans. A two-minute trailer promoting the PBS two hour Luther movie was shown.

Mr. Bill Flickinger offered information about the WELS Shepherd Plan.

Pastor Joseph Radsek presented the report for Institutional Ministries (Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries) using power-point. The ministry is celebrating its 115th anniversary. A short video was viewed.

Mr. Bill Truebenbach presented a video depicting the work of The Lutheran Home Association.

All of the speakers were thanked for their presentations.

Teacher Paul Patterson, Chairman of Floor Committee #2, District President's Report, presented the committee's printed report.

Resolution #1 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #2 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #3 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #4 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #5 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #6 was moved, supported and carried. The assembly gave a standing round of applause to Pastor and Mrs. David Rutschow and joined in singing the Common Doxology. President Rutschow, also for his wife, thanked the group.

Seminary Professor Bill Tackmier, Chairman of Floor Committee #3, Church of the Lutheran Confession, presented the committee's printed report.

Resolution #1 was moved, supported and carried. A wording revision was accepted by the committee.

Pastor John Borgwardt, Chairman of Committee # 1, Elections, presented the committee's final report. After amendments, it was moved and supported to adopt the report. The motion carried.

Pastor Robert Pasbrig, Chairman of Floor Committee #4, Compensation Review, presented the committee's printed report.

Resolution #1 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #2 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #3 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #4 was moved and supported. The resolution was defeated.

Resolution #5 was moved, supported and carried with a slight wording revision.

Chris Avery, Chairman of Floor Committee #5, Long Range Plan, presented the committee's printed report.

Resolution #1 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #2 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #3 was moved, supported and carried.

Resolution #4 was moved, supported and carried.

All committees were thanked for their work.

President Rutschow thanked the group for their attendance and for coming to order promptly. He also expressed another special Thank You for the gift given by the district to himself and his wife last evening.

It was moved and supported and carried to adjourn at 2:35 p.m.

The closing devotion was led by Pastor George Ferch and included a special blessing to retiring District President David Rutschow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Robert W. Pasbrig, Secretary pro tem



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

2016-2017 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	
Thrivent Choice Deposits	\$0.00	
Interest	\$8.45	
Total Income, 2016	\$47,583.65	

Expenses, 2016

Office expenses	\$0.00	
Postage	\$159.80	
Internet Hosting	\$347.10	
2016 Convention		
Arrangements	\$42,414.71	
Printing	\$3,068.00	
Worship	\$1,259.94	
Offering - WELS (One in Christ)	\$2,645.75	
Gifts	\$6,692.50	
Circuit Pastor Training	\$2,183.75	
Reformation (2015/2016)	\$2,000.00	
Counseling	\$950.00	
Total 2016 Expenditures	\$61,721.55	

Balance, 12/31/2016		\$12,971.49
Balance, Checking Account	\$875.85	
Balance, Savings Account	\$12,095.64	

Income, 2017

Dues	\$37,798.25	
Conference Offering	\$1,860.00	
Reformation 500 Pledges	\$40,442.30	
Reformation 500 Thank Offering	\$24,747.72	
Thrivent Choice Deposits	\$0.00	
Interest	\$6.22	
Total Income, 2017		\$104,854.49

Expenses, 2017

Office expenses	\$377.52	
Postage	\$188.00	
Bank Charge	\$16.08	
Internet Hosting	\$252.00	
2017 Conference		
Arrangements	\$16,676.03	
Printing	\$2,624.00	
Worship	\$1,676.08	
Offering	\$1,860.00	
Gifts	\$100.00	
Circuit Pastor Training	\$1,895.80	
Reformation 500		
Publicity	\$2,640.75	
Venue	\$20,029.56	
Worship	\$13,985.73	
Honoraria	\$4,850.00	
SEW District Mission Board	\$24,747.72	
Counseling	\$650.00	
Total 2017 Expenditures		\$92,569.27

Balance, 12/31/2017

		\$25,256.71
Balance, Checking Account	\$5,154.85	
Balance, Savings Account	\$20,101.86	
Circuit Pastor Training Balance		\$1,532.45
General Fund Balance		\$23,724.26

Notes from the Financial Report

Conference and Convention costs

The main reason we even have a district treasury is to cover the costs of our conferences and conventions. After several years of reducing costs and adjusting dues, we seem to have hit the “sweet spot” where we shouldn’t need to increase district dues again for a long time. The higher balance at the end of 2017 is right where we should be between the lower expenses in a conference year and the higher expenses in a convention year.

Other Expenses

In the last several years, and especially in this biennium, we have used our treasury to cover other costs and to gather and disburse funds for some special gifts and projects, including...

- 1) Several years ago, the district resolved to use district funds to pay for transition **counseling** for called workers who have left the ministry. This is the same kind of counseling that Help Teams are offering to transitioning called workers in other districts. The additional expenses in this category in this biennium went to cover the costs of some counseling for called workers seeking to re-enter ministry and for other counseling recommended by the presidium for current called workers. These expenses have been reported to and approved by the district council.
- 2) The district council has also approved an additional dues assessment for congregations to cover the cost of continuing to schedule annual **training sessions for the circuit pastors** after the grant money that was available to all twelve districts for such training had been used up. We reduced that assessment this year because costs for this training have come in below budget.
- 3) In 2016, our treasury was used as a place to hold the gifts that congregations and individuals directed toward a **farewell gift** for President and Mrs. Rutschow as his 24 years of service as district president came to a close at the 2016 convention. Note: the additional money in this expense category each year went to gifts presented to district officers as they either observed ministry anniversaries or stepped down from the presidium (to accept a call to another district).
- 4) The money listed in the expense category for **Reformation** in 2016 went to reimburse circuits and/or conferences for special services in the years leading up to the 500th anniversary in 2017. A plan for these services was approved by the district council several years ago.
- 5) The 2017 report includes the much larger expenses for the **district-wide service** for the 500th **anniversary of the Reformation** at the Miller High Life Theater in downtown Milwaukee last November. Congregations pledged about \$40,000 in donations to help cover the cost of publicity, renting the venue and planning and preparing for the special service. We needed to use about \$1,000 of district funds to cover the costs, not because those costs came in over budget, but because several congregations didn’t send the amounts they had pledged.
- 6) We also gathered a **thankoffering** for mission work within the district at that service. Individuals and congregations also sent in other gifts for that thankoffering, which brought the total amount directed to the district mission board to just under \$25,000.

It would probably be good for the district to approve/ratify the decisions to use the district funds for these other purposes. Please know also that Secretary Carter intends to speak to the other district secretaries about other ways that they might be using their district funds.

District Dues

At the time this report was prepared, there were eighteen congregations that had not yet paid their 2018 district dues, including two who had not yet paid their 2017 dues. If you have misplaced your notices, please ask Secretary Carter to print you another copy.

Other Items from the District Secretary

District Membership List

I'd like your help in making sure that the membership list on pages 23-41 of the Information section of the convention materials is as accurate as it can be. Besides checking that your name is spelled correctly and that you are listed with the correct serving body, please also check the following...

Non-Parish Workers – All those serving joint schools, high schools, and post-secondary schools, as well as all those serving as synod administrators or other institutions, agencies, or para-synodical groups should be listed as a member of the congregation where they hold membership in the "Serving Other Ministries" section of each circuit.

Certification Status- Called workers who are not yet certified should be listed in italics on this roster. Please check to make sure that your own certification status, as well as that of those who serve your congregation or school, is listed correctly

Semi-Retirement Calls – Please also check to make sure that I've got any workers serving in semi-retirement calls listed correctly. Because the by-laws use the words "permanent call" to determine whether a worker is a member of the district who's eligible to serve in elected positions or as synod delegates, it's important to know if there's anything that's less than permanent about the calls that are issued to retired workers. Please let me know.

Retired Workers – Because conferences like to invite retired called workers to their conferences, it's also good to know that we have retired called workers listed in the correct congregations. Please check to see if the retired workers who are members of your congregations are listed correctly.

Membership Not (Yet) Known

Please also check this section (mostly newer workers) to see if you can provide any missing information.

If you find discrepancies in any of the situations listed above, please contact me, so that I can have the correct information, and so that I can (see below) make sure that the WELS database also contains the correct information.

District Secretaries Subsite on the COP Cloud Site

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of working with WELS Tech guru Sallie Draper and Carla Martin, President Schroeder's executive assistant, to develop the first of what will eventually be a full complement of reports from the new WELS database that will help district secretaries in their work.

The initial results of this effort far exceeded the expectations I had going into it. Instead of static reports downloaded in Excel format, we've been given SSRS "live-look" reports with completely up-to-date information. The queries that were developed give us an accurate list of the voting membership of the district with all the information/fields that district secretaries will use in their work, including contact information, membership congregation and calling body, and all the dates needed to put together delegate rotations.

All of this is available on a secure subsite of the COP cloud site that also has the option of a shared documents folder that should help us share resources that we've discovered or developed that we think will be helpful for our brother secretaries. The way these tools have been designed will make them a tremendous blessing to our work. Having the access to these reports ourselves, without having to go through Carla Martin every time we need something from the database, will save her and us many hours per year.



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

2019 Synod Convention Delegates

The 2019 WELS Convention will meet at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota the week of July 29 - August 1, 2019. Of the 400 voting delegates, the Southeastern Wisconsin District is to provide 69 delegates: 23 laymen, 19 pastors/professors, and 27 male teachers/staff ministers.

About a week after this convention, these called workers and congregations will receive an email from Secretary Carter with needed information and a link to an online pre-registration. Called workers should complete the online form as soon as possible. Congregations should select delegates and substitutes and have those men complete the online form before February 1, 2019.

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

Pastor Delegates/ Alternates

Chicago Conference

Jonathan Kehren	<i>Kevin Raddatz</i>
Andrew Bauer	<i>Troy Swenson</i>
Thomas Schultz	<i>Lon Kuether</i>

Kettle Moraine Conference

Kurt Ebert	<i>Joshua Kesting</i>
Joel Pless	<i>Mark Rohrback</i>
Don Scheuerlein	<i>Kurt Schaser</i>
Peter Schmidt	<i>Johnold Strey</i>

Metro Milwaukee Conference

Paul White	<i>Joshua Yu</i>
Daniel Marshall	<i>Greg Pufahl</i>
Randal Siegel	<i>Eric Schroeder</i>

Milwaukee Urban Conference

James Buske	<i>Brady Coleman</i>
Christian Winkel	<i>Thomas Kock</i>
Christopher Doerr	<i>Chad Walta</i>

Shoreland Conference

Peter Prange	<i>David Wierschke</i>
Michael Gorte	<i>John Roekle</i>

Western Lakes Conference

David Kuehl	<i>Bruce Marggraf</i>
Peter Panitzke	<i>Gary Pufahl</i>
Richard Krause	<i>Michael Schultz</i>
Gary Koschnitzke	<i>John Bortulin</i>

Lay Delegate Congregations /Alternate Congregations

Chicago Conference

Glory to God, Tinley Park, IL
Light of Life, Greenwood, IN
Christ the King, Palatine, IL
Immanuel, Waukegan, IL
Bethlehem, Carmel, IN

Kettle Moraine Conference

Zion, Theresa
St. Lucas, Kewaskum
St. Paul, Lomira
Redeemer, Cedarburg
St. John, Lomira

Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN
Victory, Lexington, KY
St. Andrew, Chicago, IL
Trinity, Crete, IL
Peace, Kokomo, IN

St. John, Woodland
St. Peter, Kekoskee
St. Peter, West Bend
Trinity, Hartford
Trinity, West Mequon

Milwaukee Metro Conference

St. Mark, Brown Deer
 St. John, Oak Creek (Howell Ave)
 St. Jacobi, Greenfield

Centennial, Milwaukee
St. John, Wauwatosa
St. Lucas, Milwaukee

Milwaukee Urban Conference

St. Philip, Milwaukee
 Redemption, Milwaukee
 Christ, Milwaukee

Siloah, Milwaukee
St. Marcus, Milwaukee
St. Matthew, Milwaukee

Shoreland Conference

St. John, Oakwood
 Peace, Wilmet
 Trinity, Caledonia

First, Elkhorn
Faith, Antioch
Bethany, Kenosha

Western Lakes Conference

Reformation, Dousman
 St. Paul, Franklin
 Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin

Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls
Christ, Pewaukee
Christ, Big Bend

Teacher/Staff Minister Delegates**Teacher Delegates**

Luehring, Frederick M
 Aswege, Daniel D
 Burmeister, Paul R
 Lueck, Eric J
 Bock, Jeremy D
 Maciejcak, Kurt E
 Ricke, Mark E
 Matson, James M
 Hagedorn, Jason T
 Miller, Martin M
 Zank, David J
 Woldt, Jon D
 Gorsline, Todd D
 Groth, James S
 Buege, Joel A
 Meihack, Marc J
 Schafer, Stephen F
 Bauer, Aaron J
 Bauer, Joshua J
 Gut, Justin G
 Luebke, Christopher J
 Dorn, Jeffrey O
 Nowack, James A
 Nommensen, Bradley A
 Pufahl, Casey D
 Roloff, Jeffrey L
 Sriver, Paul B

First Alternates

Amundson, Nathan K
 Johnson, Daniel R
 Poston, Kevin S
 Schulmeister, Nathan F
 Wetzol, Bradley P
 Albrecht, Michael P
 Allerheiligen, David L
 Avery, Christopher J
 Beck, Paul N
 Beyersdorf, Scott D
 Bitter, Alan A
 Bowe, Keith R
 Hering, Thomas P
 Johnson, Daniel W
 Noon, Edward E
 Winkel, Jonathan W
 Zilisch, Jeffrey D
 deRuitter, Michael P
 Finkbeiner, Ryan B
 Langebartels, Peter A
 Walz, Micah J
 Kramer, Joshua R
 Martin, John E
 Schable, Jacob R
 Schapekahn, Jason L
 Schultz, Nathan L
 Wetzol, Jeffrey W

Second Alternates

Anderson, Robert C
 Brohn, James R
 Frisque, Paul A
 Grulke, Joel A
 Kaesmeyer, John L
 Kuehl, Timothy D
 Sawall, Robert L
 Schaper, Blair D
 Steffen, Kurt J
 Timm, Lyle W
 Toth, Steven F
 Uecker, Scott E
 Voight, Timothy A
 Weber, Daryl A
 Boggs, James R
 Fillner, Eric J
 Greefkes, Joseph R
 Gumm, Peter A
 Hackbarth, Keith J
 Herrmann, Seth E
 Hunter, Samuel A
 Mueller, Timothy P
 Nolte, Mark R
 Schramm, Benjamin J
 Mielke, Timothy M
 Harvey, Adam A
 Hochmuth, Timothy R



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

Report of the District Mission Board

In the Spring BHM 2018 meeting, the SEW made five requests for New Start Enhancements, four of which were approved and funded:

- **Epiphany & First Evangelical Lutheran Racine, WI** – Parental Choice Campus Pastor; Staff Minister Mark Blauert has received and accepted that call.
- **Trinity, Waukesha, WI** – Hispanic Bilingual Pastor; Not assigned from the Seminary, will be calling again soon.
- **Jerusalem Lutheran Morton Grove, IL** – Korean Cross-Cultural School Outreach funded by the Joint Mission Council (JMC); Teacher Gabby Moon (Kim) has received and accepted that call.
- **Grace Milwaukee, WI** – Outreach Pastor; Pastor Aaron Strong has already started his work at a Third Ward Theatre; Pastor Jon Scharf has received and is contemplating the call to replace him.

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

Grace, Milwaukee, WI (Pastor Aaron Strong) 05-2018

Grace's second site ministry called, *Grace in the Ward*, began meeting in April using a rented second-floor salon at the Broadway Theatre Center located in the Third Ward (158 N. Broadway). Each week Grace volunteers set up chairs, equipment, banners, and coffee to turn the salon into a place suited for church. An average of 40 people attends with new faces checking out the ministry each week. Already this ministry has connected with the unchurched, de-churched, and even Grace members who have lost connection to the church family.

The service is a reflection of Colossians 3:16, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Each Sunday is a unique blend of Bible study, preaching, and hymns that seeks to connect people to Jesus in a simple way.

Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee, WI (Pastor Aaron Bublitz) 10-2017

Nate Bourman was installed at Mt Lebanon by his father, Pastor Jim Bourman, on April 16. Nate will take on administrative role as associate pastor so that Pastor Aaron Bublitz can be freed up to serve as campus pastor of our MPCP school. Vicar Adam Lambrecht has served this past year as vicar through the ViMS (Vicar in Missions) program. When the SEW DMB met at Mt. Lebanon in May, we heard powerful life stories from Brandi & Duane about how the school and ministry there has enriched their families. We also heard story after story about baptisms / confirmations through the outreach of the school.

Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN (Pastor Nick Schmoller) 05-2018

In connection with our building project, in January we presented the building options to the congregation after a worship service and spent the next couple weeks gathering feedback through conversations and visits with the members. We have given a few revision requests to our architect and

are currently waiting to hear back from him regarding those. We introduced and set a goal for our capital campaign project at our annual congregational meeting. Our current goal is to raise \$70,000 for our down payment in cash and pledges by the early fall of 2019. We hope to have Builders for Christ help us with construction Spring 2019.

We had a fun fellowship gathering a few months ago where we did a movie night at our church to screen A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy. The kids who attended watched the movie "The Star" (an animated Christmas movie.) We had 25 people in attendance and had popcorn and theater boxed candy for snacks so it was a really fun atmosphere. Everyone suggested we do more of those sorts of things in the future.

Our Mornings with Mommy program is still going well with 15-20 kids attending each session. We have about 80 kids currently signed up for our summer soccer camp. We are receiving a group of helpers from Wisconsin Lutheran High School in Milwaukee this year. We have about 15 signed up already for our summer art camp too.

Immanuel, Waukegan IL (Pastor Seth Haakenson) 10-2017

Pastor Seth Haakenson arrived in Waukegan in the middle of August and was installed on September 24. His role is to serve Immanuel's congregation as the Pastor for Hispanic Outreach using his time to reach the Hispanics of Waukegan with the gospel. Immanuel's grade school is the primary outreach venue for the church consisting of a large Hispanic presence. Pastor Haakenson has been well received by the school's families and is in the process of setting up meetings with school parents. Another avenue for outreach is Immanuel's ESL class which meets weekly on Tuesday evenings. The class continues to bring in new prospects which can then be followed up with by Pastor Haakenson.

Of course, the Holy Spirit works in his own way and wherever he wants to. This became apparent when one of Immanuel's English-speaking members told Pastor Haakenson that he should follow up on her neighbor who speaks Spanish. Pastor Haakenson made a cold call and, lo and behold, the woman said, "Pastor, my family has been blessed with so much. The only thing we lack is God." Pastor Haakenson said he could help with that and adult information classes are now being held on Monday evenings.

Even more interesting is that during the evening of the first class, a friend came over and interrupted. She was invited to stay by the host and now she is attending weekly as well. Even more interesting is that the two daughters who at first did not participate have since begun participating along with a friend they brought along. So, from one Anglo member who does not speak Spanish, we now have five people studying the Bible on a weekly basis. Praise God!

Light of Life, Greenwood, IN (Pastor Scott Miller)

Pastor Stelljes left in late October, having taken the divine call to serve at Mt. Olive in Shakopee, MN. By God's grace, Pastor Scott Miller accepted the call to replace John, and was installed by Pastor George Ferch (who served as the vacancy pastor) on March 5.

Living Word, Waukesha, WI (Pastor John Borgwardt) 05-2018

At Living Word, Waukesha, WI, we continue to rejoice at the blessings of our Savior God. We've been stressing friendship evangelism since our founding, calling it the "Philip Plan." It reminds us of when Philip told his friend Nathanael to "Come and see" who Jesus was. Our members have been doing a great job of it recently, so we have several families in instruction classes.

As we look forward to a building, we want that “Philip Plan” mentality to continue. So we are planning to build a facility with a coffee shop so our own members will have a reason to invite friends and neighbors to our church that will be acting really as a community center. Although we’ve had to scale back our plans for our first building due to cost, we’ll still be able to have all the ministry we’ve envisioned in our first build. Those ministries include:

- a place for high school students to “hang out” after school through our partnership with Lighthouse Youth Ministries—and a ministry plan and harvest strategy to reach out to them and their families
- professional counseling through our partnership with Christian Family Solutions
- our children’s church called Faith Quest that is run by amazingly dedicated members
- a contemporary-style worship that is meant to attract a segment of our target area that other area WELS congregations haven’t been reaching

We hope all our ministries will be a complement to the ministries already being run at area WELS congregations with the intent that as we partner with them we will reach more of the unchurched with the gospel message.

We thank the Lord for his blessings: our CEF loan request was approved; Waukesha County gave us construction access to our land to build; despite the fact that the developer of the subdivision won’t be building this year, we still plan to move forward. We plan on breaking ground by September 30 and being able to dedicate our first facility to the proclamation of the gospel in late spring of 2019. We thank you for your prayers!

La Iglesia Luterana San Pedro, Milwaukee, WI (Pastor William Dunn) 05-2018

One of the blessings that I have found at St. Peter (San Pedro) as I am nearing the end of my second year, is that we have to do very little to search for ministry opportunities. There is so much opportunity in and around our community that the challenge is prioritizing where to put our concentrated efforts. With this in mind, earlier this year in January, we completed our mission and vision planning process. We now have a three-year vision that will help us focus our efforts. The plan is now to work the plan. We already have several events that resonate with the community. Our challenge is to turn use these contacts and relationships that are being formed into souls that are being won for Christ! We are continuing to reach out to our school families through our baptism program, we have started friendship Sundays, and we have started a youth group (as pictured). These are just a few of the ways we are seeking to better connect with families. God has already blessed us greatly through the conversations and excitement created as we developed our new mission and vision. We pray that God continues to pour out his blessings on us as we seek to “Build lives on Christ the Rock” over the next several years!

Christ, Milwaukee - Hispanic (Pastor Chad Walta) 05-2018

Pastor Nixon Vivar completed his Seminary PSI training and was installed as our new associate pastor in June 2017. Pastor Joel Jaeger retired on June 30th. Pastor Chad Walta who was originally called to serve chiefly as the Hispanic Pastor at Christ has moved into the Lead Pastor role and Christ is now blessed with two Spanish Speaking pastors who are currently working to learn their respective roles doing bilingual ministry. Christ-St. Peter had a great 8th Grade Catechism Examination and Baptismal Sunday. Pastor Vivar baptized three students from CSP, and I baptized one eighth grader. A week later, four of the eighth graders were confirmed at Christ, and a week after

that, four at St. Peter's. So this year, eight of the 23 eighth graders of CSP were confirmed, which is a major improvement over what has previously been done among us.

There is one ongoing ministry goal at Christ and that is to work to unify both English speaking and Spanish speaking families into one Christ Lutheran Church. Up to this point, ministry has been done in a separate way between the two families. However, the age of the English-speaking family at Christ, it's diminishing membership coupled together with the spiritual growth of the Spanish Speaking Family requires us to think of doing our ministry in a more unified way. Coupled together with this is a generation of Latino Young people who will carry forward the cross in the English language because it's their mother tongue while many of their parents and grandparents are chiefly English speakers. Continue to pray for this transition and we continue to give thanks for the support that our Mission Board offers!

Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL (Pastor Dustin Blumer) 10-2017

Amazing Love had the privilege of completing sanctuary renovations. The renovations included better lighting, sound, seating, and technology. It also included an altar that displayed "IT IS FINISHED" engraved on the side, along with Hebrews 10:10 engraved on the top. Jesus is the one sacrifice needed for all people given once for all. We encourage you to visit to see the completion of these renovations if in the area.

In September we moved to two Sunday services - a 9:00am and a 10:30am with the goal of reaching more people. By God's grace we've seen more visitors in September and we are thankful that with more options, more are opting in. We will re-evaluate this structure at the end of December and weigh its effectiveness.

Mornings with Mommy continues to be a great hit with an average of 35 moms and their children in class. Last year we met over 70 new families through that outreach, and one of the moms is in our BIC or Starting Point class. Reaching new people with the Gospel continues to be a joy! Like reaching Stacy who paused to thank me for teaching on the Trinity, because before she was confused that I was referring to three people during the service. We gave her a Bible and continue to emphasize God's saving grace. Working beside you all, we're still working and planning so that many more who we have yet to reach will hear about their Savior's love.

Crossroads, Chicago, IL (Pastor Mike Borgwardt) no report

Victory of the Lamb - Franklin, WI (Pastor Bill Limmer) no report

Point of Grace, Milwaukee (Pastor Don Thompson) 10-2017

- By God's grace, we have started our 2017-18 school year with a bang. We have had some of our best attendances ever at UWM and MSOE since I was called in 2012 to serve at TPOG, and our Marquette Bible class has experienced growth as well. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts to keep college students connected to their Savior through our ministry.
- New this school year is the involvement of St. Marcus congregation is our ministry at TPOG. Pastor James Hein leads our 7:15pm Wednesday night Bible class at the UWM Campus House. Part of our vision is to get local congregations involved and committed to campuses near their church. Last year Pastor Strong took over the Bible classes at MSOE and is doing extremely well in getting Grace congregation more involved in the campus ministry at MSOE. We're thrilled that St. Marcus is now getting involved with our ministry at UWM. Besides Bible class

with Pastor Hein, some members are serving a supper prior to Bible class. We are very thankful for St. Marcus's support and look forward to their continued involvement in the future.

- The renovation of the lower level of the Campus House is almost complete with a kitchen makeover done this past summer. Board members Sam Unnasch and Daniel Schroeder spear-headed the work.
- As mentioned in previous reports, with the help of a grant from the Siebert Foundation, TPOG has joined a consortium of four other WELS non-profits to discover better practices in raising funds for our ministry needs. With the grant our consortium hired Mr. David Wolfson, a professional consultant for non-profits. We've met with him three times over the past several months. He's become acquainted with our ministry through listening sessions, has helped us discover where we can improve, and has given us guidance and steps for making these improvements. One example of his help is a new "Board of Directors – Member Responsibilities and Roles" document that came about as a result of weaknesses we identified in our Board of Directors. That document is attached at the end of this report. In the near future we will identify our vision and create a plan to also identify donors to help us carry out that vision. Mr. Wolfson has been a blessing to us.
- Paul Burrie, a computer engineering student at UWM, has done a fantastic job of refurbishing and updating our website. His work is not done, but it already has a great new look and is much easier to find the various videos of past *Gathering* speakers. We are thankful that God has blessed us with Paul's talents before he graduates at the end of this current semester.
- Pastor Thompson and Concordia University of Wisconsin (CUW) Professor Patrick Steele (a WELS member) recently met with CUW President Dr. Ferry and Campus Pastor Smith to talk about starting a TPOG chapter at CUW. Although they support our efforts, they cannot allow us to have a WELS chapter on campus because that would then open the door for other denominations to do the same thing. As a result, Pastor Thompson has been in contact with Mequon area WELS pastors to discuss the possibility of a local congregation dedicating time, space and staff for a campus ministry dedicated to serving students at CUW. We pray God will bless these efforts.
- Daniel Schroeder, a recent graduate of WLC and now a grad student at UWM is our new financial secretary and administrative assistant. He lives in the upstairs apartment of the Campus House rent free in return for his services. Since taking over in June, Daniel's energy and work ethic has become very evident and much appreciated. Daniel has done a fantastic job of updating our newsletters for donors and partners, and also with the weekly TPOG Happenings that gets sent out to all the students on our student email lists. He also has been a great blessing to our staff and ministry. If you would like to receive either of these items, please email Daniel at daniel@tpog.net.
- Pastor Thompson is retiring at the end of the 2017-18 school year. The Board is working on plans to replace him for the 2018-19 school year.

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 - 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. We encourage a cooperative spirit among congregations to seek the lost for Christ, including coop-

erative cross-cultural ministry, multi-sites, campus pastors in voucher schools and exploration of new ministry starts.

Praise the Lord! – At one point (2012) we dared to consider 20 new mission ministries by the year 2020. At the time that would have seemed to be a stretch for the whole synod, let alone our SEW District. But, by God’s grace this year the BHM added 14 new ministries. In the past two years we’ve had 6 new ministries approved and funded in Southeastern Wisconsin. What an amazing God we have! What a field ripe for harvest before us! What blessings lie ahead of us! God has both the plan and the resources to build his kingdom, to save souls. We have the privilege of proclaiming and watching the seed (Word of God) take root and grow. Please pray for the mission efforts of our SEW District and throughout the nation as the church “**grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.**” (Eph. 4:16)

Rev. Mark Wagner <i>Chairman</i> 7180 Glencoe Drive Cedarburg, WI 53012 (262) 488-1899 (C) (262) 377-6363 (O)	Mr. Steven Mueller <i>Secretary</i> 8721 Callie St Morton Grove, IL 60053 (847) 967.1099 (H) (312) 203-3693 (C)	Rev. Edward Schuppe <i>Mission Counselor</i> 1042 Maria Drive McDonough, GA 30253 (678) 583-5231 (H) (404) 395-2865 (C)	Mr. Steve Wolf <i>BHM Lay Representative</i> 10640 Foxcroft Dr. Cedarburg, WI 53012 (262) 377-5588 (H) (414) 349-6229 (C)	Rev. Tim Flunker <i>Hispanic Mission Counselor</i> 1205 Pinecrest Rd Howard, WI 54313 (920) 434-7190 (H) (920) 217-2704 (C)
Mr. Mark Blauert 220 Crystal Lane Steger, IL 60475-1580 (708) 754-6742 (H) (708) 672-8125 (O)	Rev. Michael Zarling 4115 Farmington Ln Mt. Pleasant, WI 53403 (262) 994-2711 (C) (847) 637-5182 (O)	Dr. James Moore W2975 Hwy 60 Neosho, WI 53059 (920) 625-3901 (H)	Rev. John Borgwardt 2712 Sussex Lane Waukesha, WI 53188 (262) 547.9920 (H) (262) 347.9673 (O)	For information: Contact Pastor Wagner (262) 377-6363 oslc@wi.rr.com



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 51st Biennial Convention + June 12-13, 2018

Report of the District Ministry of Christian Giving

See Report to the Twelve Districts Online

As I write this report, the call service at Martin Luther College is a week and a half in the past. The Assignment Committee, the Conference of Presidents, is meeting at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to issue calls for the candidates graduating in a couple of days. These are exciting days for all involved, including the teacher and pastor candidates, their families, the worker training schools, the congregations receiving new pastors and teachers, and the Conference of Presidents.

There is one more group involved. The entire synod has reason to celebrate each spring as new workers are assigned to their first calls. As a synod we all work together to train workers who will continue to teach the truth of Scripture purely in our churches and schools. A large portion of Congregational Mission Offerings goes to ministerial education. This is a good thing. We all wish that we could support the worker training system even more. Every congregation is blessed by the training our pastors, teachers, and staff ministers receive. Every congregation is blessed to have the opportunity to support the training of workers in God's harvest fields.

By emphasizing ministerial education, I do not intend to slight the other areas of our synod's work. They are all important because they all have to do with the spread of the gospel. What great work the Lord has given us to do! What a privilege every member of every congregation has, from the toddler to the homebound senior, to participate in the mission of making disciples of all nations through their prayers, through their words of encouragement, and through their offerings.

CMO Subscriptions

Thank you for submitting your CMO subscriptions and statistical reports in a timely manner. Please do so again next winter. Each year the synod office sets the deadline for submitting Congregational Mission Offering subscriptions and information for the Statistical Report. This is a hard deadline. This is why so many reminders are sent out in advance. As soon as your congregation sets the number, go to your computer and submit it on <http://mcg.welsrc.net/cmo>. If you function on a fiscal year (e.g. 7/1 – 6/30), check periodically for this form to open and send in your information as soon as possible.

Deadline for CMO and Stats next year will be Noon Central Standard Time, Friday, February 1, 2019.

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.

2018 CMO synod-wide through end of April: \$6,128,082 100.9% of subscriptions, up 1.6% from last year at this time. SEW District: \$1,015,860, 98.7% of subscriptions. The Lord enable us to meet and exceed our subscriptions for the support of his work.

Other Christian Giving Efforts
WELS Endowment Fund Emphasis

The Lord continues to bless Missions and Ministerial Education through current and/or expected gifts to these funds, as well as investment gains. With God's blessing, WELS Foundation plans to make its eighth consecutive annual distribution from these endowments in July, 2018.

Report of Endowment Fund Totals as of April 30, 2018

Endowment Funds	December 2006-2017	2018 Thru 4/30/18	Cumulative Totals	Expectancies
WELS Min Education	4,993,947	64,828	5,058,775	10,613,441
MLC	2,915,600	-6,821	2,908,779	7,798,422
MLS	382,621	-798	381,823	138,356
WLS	1,884,522	-2,045	1,882,477	9,317,100
LPS	723,382	-1,789	721,593	547,750
WELS Mission	10,510,269	62,619	10,572,888	14,488,273
Home Missions	479,557	49,476	529,033	10,290,309
World Missions	2,499,270	46,734	2,546,004	5,271,428
Total	24,389,168	212,204	24,601,372	58,465,079

Distributions*	2015	2016	2017
WELS Min Education	142,915	157,561	169,443
MLC	90,323	96,873	101,433
MLS	12,925	13,587	13,898
WLS	62,335	64,619	65,777
LPS	18,218	19,629	22,116
WELS Mission**	347,472	361,810	370,844
Home Missions	14,288	15,308	16,258
World Missions	45,855	58,057	72,568
Total	735,331	787,444	832,338

*Distributions based on the three-year rolling average as of June 30

**Distributions are considerably higher since Mission Expansion Endowment balance as of 6/30/2007 was rolled into the new WELS Mission Endowment Fund

WELS Gifts/Bequests for the Fiscal Year

Unrestricted:	17-18	\$ 6,105,596	Apr 30, 2018
	16-17	\$ 8,804,116	
	15-16	\$ 7,076,727	
	14-15	\$ 9,870,572	
	13-14	\$ 8,675,351	

Temporarily Restricted:	17-18	\$ 8,239,057	Apr 30, 2018
	16-17	\$ 8,661,542	
	15-16	\$ 9,799,452	
	14-15	\$10,182,931	
	13-14	\$10,704,249	

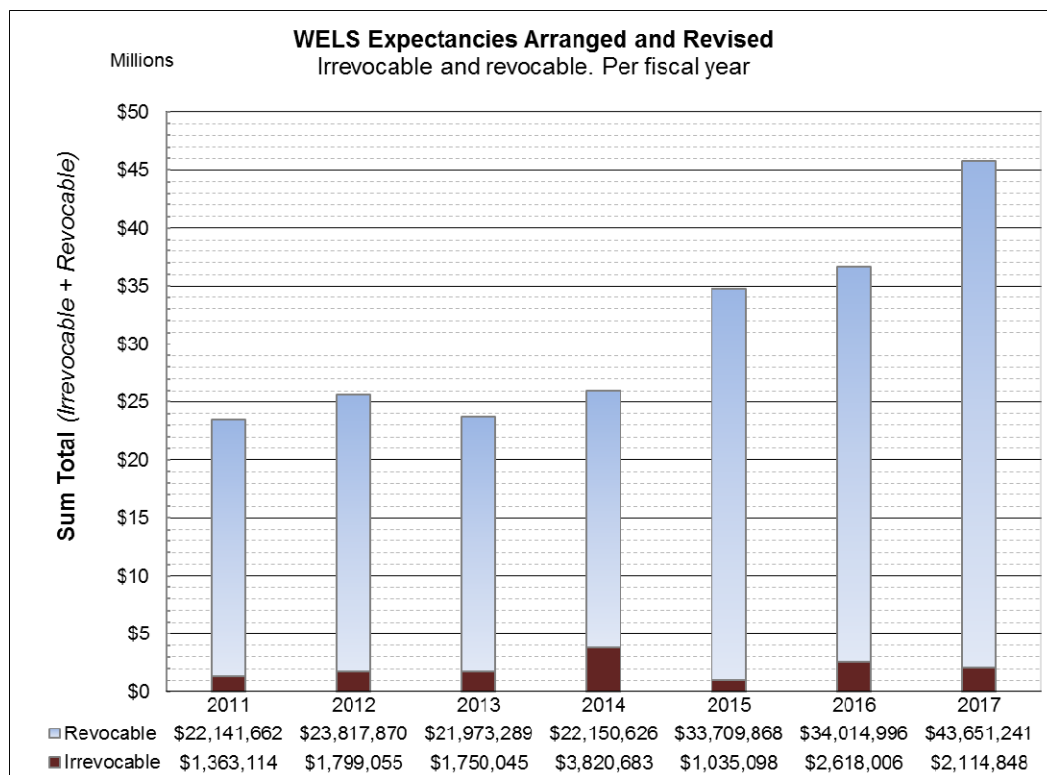
Permanently Restricted:	17-18	\$ 989,898	Apr 30, 2018
	16-17	\$ 885,117	
	15-16	\$ 1,659,298	
	14-15	\$ 5,386,733	
	13-14	\$ 1,119,948	

Gifts and/or bequests come from individuals/foundations who support WELS now with direct gifts or who arrange to make bequests after their souls enter heaven. These offerings to the Lord are precious responses to Christ's love for us! For assistance in encouraging such gifts/bequests, request a "Different Ways to Make Planned Gifts" presentation or a seminar on congregational planned giving (number 12 below) by calling 800-827-5482 (local: 414-256-3209).

Face-to-face Donor Nurture by Our Christian Giving Counselors (through 3/31/18)

<u>FYTD team goal</u>	<u>FYTD actual visits</u>	<u>FYT over/(under)</u>
2,808	2,521	(287)

WELS Deferred Expectancies Arranged and Revised



If your congregation would like to learn more about **Christian estate planning** and the resultant gifts that will benefit your ministry, please call your area's deferred CGC or phone our office (800-827-5482).

6. WELS Connection

May	Home Missions – Sparks, NV
June	Telling the Next Generation
July	Ministerial Education Endowment
August	Vicar in Missions – Denver, CO

Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity Appeal

This May, we will send a deferred charitable gift annuity appeal, sponsored by WELS Foundation, to all WELS members in our database who are 45-68. We commend the Foundation for offering this unique giving tool that enables WELS members to arrange deferred ministry distributions and current personal income payments.

IRA Charitable Distribution Opportunity

This May we will also mail a postcard to those in our database who are 69 and older promoting the opportunity for anyone 70.5 or older to direct qualified charitable distributions to WELS ministries from their IRA accounts. Distributions, including required minimum distributions, given directly to charity are tax-free for federal tax purposes and may be treated similarly by their state. In 2017, 38 donors gave \$987,711 to WELS ministry through their IRAs. We encourage our people to contact their financial/tax planner or a WELS Christian giving counselor (800-827-5482) to learn more.

Donor Advised Funds/Supporting Organizations Gifts and Distributions

	<u>Gifts to Supporting Orgs</u>		<u>Gifts to Donor Advised Funds</u>		
17-18	\$	-0-	\$ 1,229,606		Apr 30, 2018
16-17	\$	-0-	\$ 481,640		
15-16	\$	-0-	\$ 505,268		
14-15	\$	-0-	\$ 1,294,305		
13-14	\$	-0-	\$ 414,917		

	<u>Total DAF</u>	<u>to WELS</u>	<u>to WELS</u>	<u>to WELS</u>	<u>to Cong &</u>
	<u>Distributions</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Endowments</u>	<u>Agencies</u>
17-18	\$ 773,971	\$ 98,585	\$ 199,154	\$ -0-	\$ 476,232 Apr 30, 2018
16-17	\$ 413,555	\$ 74,017	\$ 47,572	\$ -0-	\$ 291,640
15-16	\$ 775,672	\$ 233,529	\$ 52,711	\$ -0-	\$ 489,432
14-15	\$ 704,336	\$ 247,800	\$ 65,907	\$ 2,250	\$ 388,379
13-14	\$ 507,574	\$ 147,129	\$ 46,619	\$ -0-	\$ 313,826

Faith Focused Finances

Faith Focused Finances is a Christ-centered, practical spiritual growth program that helps God's people aim their treasures toward their Christ-centered mission. Details can be found by clicking [Faith Focused Finances](#) at the MCG resource center of wels.net. The resources include the *Heart in Focus* financial course for all members and a revised School of Stewardship for congregational leaders. For more information or to request a presentation please call 414-256-3214.

Stewardship Programs

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving has published a stewardship program, *Joyful Generosity*, for congregations to use through 2018 (due to the heavy focus on the Reformation's 500th anniversary in 2017). The program includes six weeks of worship and Bible study materials as well as 21 personal devotions. You can find the program online at wels.net/stewardship.

Churches can also make use of *364 Days of Thanksgiving*, which features three weeks of worship and Bible study resources, as well as a daily devotional journal for individuals to note the abundant blessings they receive from our Lord Jesus.

Subscribe to *An Encouraging Word* (below) for tips and resources for year-round stewardship encouragement, including stewardship thoughts on the weekly lectionary readings.

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, WELS Discipleship, and Northwestern Publishing House worked together to prepare and send a survey to parish pastors to learn the needs of congregations related to teaching stewardship. The results of the survey will guide the planning of the next stewardship program in 2019.

Congregational Planned Giving Program

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving has developed a congregational planned giving manual to help congregations promote planned giving opportunities to members. It also provides guidance on starting an endowment for long-term ministry support as well as setting up a planned giving committee. The manual and related resources are available at wels.net/plannedgivingprogram.

***An Encouraging Word* E-newsletter**

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving (MCG) publishes an e-newsletter every other month intended to help congregations encourage joyful giving. Each newsletter contains several helpful resources including words of wisdom, ideas, news, and the latest synod resources. Subscribe by going to wels.net/subscribe.

WELS Christian Giving Training

This training at WELS Center for Mission and Ministry is open to advancement personnel at any WELS/ELS school or institution. It provides participants with in-depth material to help them serve God's people, encourages a common approach to serving WELS donors, and fosters networking and coordination with other WELS people working in this field. To register or receive more information for the January 9-11, 2019 training, please contact Karen Martinez at 414-256-3209 or karen.martinez@wels.net.

How we can help you?

Are you planning for fall? When is the last time your congregation hosted a Christian estate planning seminar? Your MCG counselor can assist you with information on the impact of your church's prayers and mission offerings, guest preaching and/or leading a stewardship or WELS ministry Bible study/presentation.

Here's the contact information for your planned giving counselors.

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

Remember to thank God for all the blessings he's given us.

Pastor Tim Henning
SEW Ministry of Christian Giving Chairman

Report of the District Lutheran Schools Committee

1. Call Data and Recruitment:

Following Assignment Day 2018, the current active teacher vacancies WELS-wide stand at 81. Interim plans are being made at the principal level where 24 principal vacancies remained after assignments. The CLS is aware of 7 ECM Director vacancies that remain.

Call guidelines continue to be shared at conferences, as well as in the E-News and Lutheran School Leader.

- Call window (for active teachers): November 1 through the first Sunday in June
- Active teachers can receive two calls per call season.
- Teachers are eligible to receive a second call no sooner than 6 weeks of the date of their last returned call.
- Active teachers are eligible for calls in their third year of service at a congregation (if they have taken a call to a new ministry).

Assigned teachers are eligible in their fourth year after assignment.

Call Request Format Change - All call requests should be submitted electronically. The principal and early childhood ministry director pre-call forms are part of the electronic request form. Congregations should first alert their district presidents of their desire to call and then request the link, or begin work on submitting the link.

2. Telling the Next Generation: The response to this new seminar has been very positive! There have been over 1000 attendees to date. Inquiries continue to come in. Those interested should contact evangelism@wels.net for more information.

3. EdTechLead19: Plans continue for the next School Leadership Conference, which will be held in conjunction with the WELS Technology Conference. The joint conference will be held June 24-27, 2019 at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells.

4. ECM Task Force: Among the current projects is the adaptation of the Leadership Candidate Training program as the WELS Early Childhood Emerging Leader Cohort. Additional tools for *Building Blocks* are being developed.

5. WELS Ministerial Growth and Evaluation Process: The goal is to proceed with an introduction of the new forms/process at the annual June district conventions, late summer training of trainers, presentations in the districts at conference to teachers in fall and spring of 2018-19, principal, director, and school leader training sessions throughout 2018-19. The plan is to have training opportunities at the EdTechLead19 Conference. CLS will begin collecting the new summative forms in June of 2020.

6. Accreditation: Site visits are being scheduled for the 2018-19 school year. We are anticipating 40 full site visits for next school year, with eight of them as first time schools. CLS will be looking to train new captains and will be seeking many more individuals to serve on teams.

7. **WELSSA EC Standards Task Force:** At the end of January, this group completed its initial walk-through and revision of the standards. The next step is to do a crosswalk to see how the standards align with those from other credible accrediting agencies. Cindi Holman and Tom Plitzuweit continue their roles as advisors/facilitators for this task force. The next WELSSA Task Force to be established will be for the LHS standards.
8. **Student Testing:** Currently 57 schools are registered with ACT-Aspire and 166 with NWEA MAP.
9. **Synod Certification:** A Conference of Presidents subcommittee has studied the courses offered, timetables, and communicating progress effectively. The group delivered their report at the April COP meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at: daweber@bethlehem-wels.org.

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

Report of the District Special Ministries Committee

Caring for strangers Caring for strangers is how early Christians drew pagan hearts to the gospel. Yes, they proclaimed the resurrected Savior from sin. Yes, they were devoted to apostolic doctrine and fellowship. But records from the early church and comments from nonchristian writers indicate that Christian compassion for strangers attracted interest in the gospel. WELS churches provide spiritual care and assistance for members who have disabilities. We call this “compassion ministry.” Jesus called it love. But what we do for our own members is often something needed by others in the community. We already visit our members in care facilities. Why not expand that – with the cooperation of the activities director – to provide worship services? Where we have worship services, why not expand that – with the cooperation of the activities director – to offer special events for the families of the residents (Mother’s Day Saturday, summer picnic, etc.)? Your Christian love and concern can create opportunities for the gospel for people you might never meet at your church.

“Excellent resource – best I’ve seen.” That praise came from a WELS foster parent who has taken abuse prevention training twice before seeing **“Standing Up for Children: A Christian Response to Child Abuse and Neglect.”** All WELS churches and schools need to be safe places where leaders actively work to prevent abuse. WELS Freedom for the Captives (FFTC) offers online training videos taught by experts Mr. Victor Vieth, the national director emeritus of Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center and Prof. John Schuetze, WELS seminary professor and counselor. The training consists of four videos with quizzes for each of the videos. Those who watch the videos and pass the quizzes will receive a certificate to show they have completed training. For a few larger conferences, Mr. Vieth is willing to do the training. For information or to get access, email freedom@wels.net.

Financial aid for continuing education via Chaplain Certification In fall 2018, the WELS Chaplain Certification Program (CCP) offers these three online courses: A Scriptural Approach to Addictions Counseling, Frontline Chaplaincy (for military, police, fire), and Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry. The cost for the Geriatric course is completely covered by a grant from the Citizens of Heaven Grant Program of Martin Luther Elder Care Ministries. Military Contact Pastors can receive a financial grant for the Frontline Chaplaincy Course through the generosity of the Lutheran Military Support Group. Financial aid may be available for any CCP course for people enrolled in the program. For more in-formation, email chaplaincert@wels.net.

About one third of your older members have hearing loss. When you greet people after service, count the number you see with hearing aids (and realize that not everyone who needs a hearing aid has one). The Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has resources to help your church keep hard of hearing members engaged in worship and participating in Bible class – you’ll find useful information on the Special Ministries Resource Center at csm.welsrc.net/mission-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing/. If your church is “hard of hearing” friendly (for example, has a loop or other assistive devices), that’s a good thing to share on your website and other publicity.

Looking for information to share about the struggle with pornography? Go to the Conquerors through Christ website conquerorsthroughchrist.net and scroll down. You'll find something for everyone, parents, women, teens, videos and book reviews! Put the CtC business cards in a discreet location and mention resources in your newsletter and sermons. Pastors have discovered that when they mention this struggle in sermons and Bible classes, members feel that they can seek help for their struggle.

Confirming and Communing Someone with Special Needs Years ago Special Ministries produced a book on the subject of preparing someone with developmental or intellectual disabilities for communion. The books became very out of date. Pastor Joel Gaertner, chairman of the Commission on Special Ministries and National Director of Jesus Cares Ministries, has rewritten this resource. If you would like a copy, email Joel at jpgaertner@tlha.org.

An extension of YOUR ministry The Special Ministries work done by Military Services and by Prison Ministry is designed to maintain and augment the gospel ministry of the local congregation and its called workers. We have awareness of the unique lives and challenges of military life or incarceration. Our resources are meant to assist you as you strive to keep your flock connected to Jesus. Please take a moment to consider which of your sheep are active duty military (that includes the National Guard and Reserves) or who might be in jail or prison. Go to wels.net/refer and put us in contact with them.

Retirement Planning Resources The Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW) has produced resources to help congregations (especially those with a CCCW) walk with their called workers through the resources available for retirement planning. Find them at welsrc.net/cccw.

Custom made solutions The Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI) can produce special confirmation resources for the blind or visually impaired, including Braille and large print. If you have an older member who needs large print, or who qualifies for materials for the blind, WELS spiritual materials can be sent to them for free. MVI is also available to help people whose ability to read is impaired in some way. The catalog is available at wels.net/visually-impaired. Contact Special Ministries for more information, specialministries@wels.net.

Do you have a Seniors Organization at your church? For various reasons, WELS members who are in their senior years have been starting fellowship and service groups that are not connected to OWLS (the Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors). Recognizing this, but hoping to share the fun and fellowship of a national gathering of WELS seniors, the OWLS have announced that their fall convention will not be an OWLS only event, but the OWLS "Convention for Seniors." This year's event will be held October 10-12 at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. The theme of the convention will be "Finish Your Race" (a nod of the head to Elkhart Lake's famous "Road America"). Tours of the race course, Kohler Design Center or the Wade House (a stage coach hotel that is an historic site) will supplement the interesting workshops and the fellowship events of the convention. Interested in more information? Would you like Convention for Seniors materials to share with your senior members? Contact Convention Coordinator Werner Lemke (507)354-3929 or wandjlemke@msn.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Richard Waldschmidt
SEW Special Ministries Coordinator

Report of the District Worship Committee

*Summary of Worship Report to the Twelve Districts,
available in detail through wels.net.*

- **Importance.** Worship is the heart of all parish life, the time when the greatest number of members gathers to proclaim the gospel and receive God's life-giving power in Word and sacrament. A major component of "member satisfaction" and "visitor impact" is excellence in worship. **Excellence is not elitist.** The beautiful tone of children singing on pitch and with beautiful blend is impactful to anyone with ears to hear. **Excellence is not difficult.** Some musical selections are difficult, but others are actually quite simple. Excellence is doing the best you can with the resources you have!
- **Hymnal Project.** Nearly all of the Commission on Worship's efforts are focused on our new hymnal, scheduled for release in Advent 2021. Additional information can be found at: www.welshymnal.com.
- **National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts.** With over 1000 attendees, the national worship conference is the largest worship conference among North American Lutheran church bodies (including events sponsored by the pan-Lutheran Association of Lutheran Church Musicians), even though WELS is one of the smaller Lutheran synods. The 2017 triennial conference, with strong emphasis on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, was June 13-16, at Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis.
- **Double CD of 2017 worship conference highlights.** Selections from the 35 tracks range from soft solo piano to full orchestra, choir, and a "congregation" of 1,400. Included are tracks featuring Canticum Novum, Children's Choir, High School Honor Choir, Festival Choir, recitals, and newly commissioned selections. A limited edition release is available through NPH.
- **Worship conference resources.** Those who didn't attend the conference can still benefit from many of its resources. Free downloads (<https://worship.welsrc.net/worship-conference-2017>): workshop handouts, service folders, repertoire lists, presentation files (both PowerPoint and PDF versions), and photos. The plenary address by hymnal project director Michael Schultz was "A Reformation Perspective on Worship."
- **Worship the Lord.** Quarterly worship newsletters from 2003 are available online. Many of the topics discussed are timeless – valuable reading for church musicians and pastors, some useful for study by worship committees or boards of elders (those usually charged with responsibility for worship). Two recent series of articles dealt with renovations and church architecture.

Lutheranism 101 Worship: A Review

Maybe you are familiar with the Lutheranism 101 series from Concordia Publishing House. There is even a web site: www.lutheranism101.com.

There are separate books for: The Course (a review of the Catechism), The Lord's Supper, For Kids, Holy Baptism, Worship. The books are paperback and written in a winsome style. Many sidebars and graphics help to explain and expand on points in the text. In general, the books are a good introduction to Lutheranism and can be especially useful for those who are new to the Lutheran faith. What follows is a review of "Lutheranism 101: Worship," (Written by Thomas Winger. General Editor Scot Kinnaman. Copyright © 2017, Concordia Publishing House).

The task of writing a comprehensive book on worship that is only 175 pages long is nearly impossible. Winger does a very good job of summarizing the history of Christian worship, focusing on the principle of interaction with God from the Old Testament times through the New Testament era. The copious quotes from the Lutheran Confessions are wonderful! The many explanations of the historic terms we use in worship are great! He gives an excellent list of reasons why it is wise to follow the lectionary. He gives an excellent summary of the role of the choir in Lutheran worship. He explains and illustrates the important concept of the sacramental vs. sacrificial aspects of worship. He covers vestments, paraments, architecture, the organ & other instruments, and more. He is totally focused on grace through Word and Sacrament. Study and Discussion Questions at the end of each chapter are also very helpful.

Yet, there are some caveats.

Winger seems to find some sort of biblical precedent for every part of the service (General Prayer, the historic canticles, etc.) as if they were mandated for each service. Without directly saying so, I got the impression that if one doesn't have each of his listed items in a service, then you aren't doing what God wants you to do. For as much as we defend and use and see the benefit of the parts of the historic service, we always need to guard against making them a New Testament law.

He often talks about the Liturgy or the Lectionary as if they were people who decided what was best for the Church of all time, instead of tools that the Church has developed and refined. It might seem like splitting hairs, but there is an important difference. Maybe I can illustrate the two mind-sets with these summaries of the *Sanctus*:

The *Sanctus* (*Holy, Holy, Holy*) is found in the Bible in Isaiah 6:1-3. Obviously, it is God's Word and he wants us to use it. The consistent use of the *Sanctus* by the Church over the centuries is proof that God wants us to use it. Therefore, to have a service with the *Sanctus* just wouldn't be right.

vs.

The *Sanctus* is a wonderful reminder that we are approaching our high and holy God, just like the prophet did in Isaiah 6:1-8. Throughout the centuries, the *Sanctus* has helped believers focus their attention appropriately. Although we are free to use it or not use it, it certainly seems wise and beneficial to make it a regular part of our worship.

Winger also gives the impression, again without saying it specifically, that the Lord's Supper is a divinely commanded part of every Divine Service. He seems to suggest that it's not an authentic service if the Sacrament is not offered. To reinforce his emphasis, he finds some reference to the Lord's Supper in many Bible accounts which simply describe believers eating.

At one point (p. 30), Winger also says that Jesus works, "...through the pastoral ministry He instituted..." which seems to reflect the LCMS understanding of ministry. He could have easily said "gospel ministry," or just, "ministry."

Teaching why we do what we do in worship, the preeminent activity of the Christian congregation, is not just informational for our people, but also edifying since the very content of worship is the gospel. Don't hesitate to offer a Bible Class on some aspect of our worship practices or to bring out those points in sermons. Instead of *Lutheranism 101 Worship*, however, I would encourage you to use *Christian Worship: Manual* or some other publication by NPH as a basis for your study. While *Lutheranism 101 Worship* can be a helpful reference book on the worship leader's shelf, I would hesitate to endorse it fully.

Recent Article from www.welshymnal.com

WELS Congregations Sample Service Materials for the New Hymnal

Apr 23, 2018 by Jonathan Bauer

Last year, one-third of WELS congregations were invited to sample and review service materials for our synod's next hymnal (the other two-thirds had been previously invited to participate in sampling either hymn or psalms resources).

135 congregations participated in this field testing effort, sampling materials from September through November of 2017. Congregations were first asked to introduce a new service text and progression, using canticles that were already familiar to their congregation. After familiarizing themselves with the text and progression of the service, congregations were asked to introduce a new set of canticles by composer Ricky Manalo. At the conclusion of the testing period, feedback was sought from pastors, musicians, and congregation members.

Feedback on the Service Text

In developing the service materials for the new hymnal, it has been the goal of the Rites Committee to provide both clarity and consistency among the services used for the congregation's main weekly services. We want people to know the function of each element of the service and for each service element to serve the same function in each service.

In response to sampling this revised service text and progression, congregations expressed appreciation for the consistency and clarity it provided. For example, the canticle "Lord, Have Mercy" (Kyrie) will not be connected with the confession of sins but will be a series of petitions on the basis of God's mercy following the absolution. The Verse of the Day will now be called the Gospel Acclamation and people will stand prior to it, making it clearer that this service element is not a sung response to the Second Reading but rather serves to prepare us for the hearing of the Gospel. Worship leaders and worshipers responded favorably to these elements of the service.

Perhaps the part of the service where the response was most negative was related to the post-Communion conclusion of the service. The "Song of Simeon" (Nunc Dimittis) was not included as a standard element of the service but was replaced by a note indicating the optional inclusion of a hymn or canticle following distribution. The Rites Committee will revisit this issue as they finalize the services for the new hymnal. While it remains to be seen how many and which specific ones, we can say with certainty that musical settings of the Song of Simeon will be included somewhere in the new hymnal - even if it is in a separate "Canticles" section and not within the services themselves.

Feedback on the Service Music

It has also been the goal of the Rites Committee to provide both familiar and new musical settings for the orders of service. As mentioned above, one of each was provided as part of this testing ef-

fort. There were a variety of reactions to the new canticles that were provided. For example, one respondent said, “Excellent tunes. Best available that I’ve heard,” while another offered, “the canticles remained a struggle to the end of the field test.”

To some extent, this mixed reaction is to be expected any time someone is asked to learn something new. The specific canticles that were provided, while certainly accessible, have elements that take some time to fully master. It should be noted that the same characteristics that cause a canticle to take longer to learn also keep a canticle from becoming stale over the lifetime of a hymnal.

Our current plan is to include three main orders of service in the printed hymnal (besides other services like Morning Praise and Evening Prayer). One of those orders of service will include canticles already familiar to WELS worshipers and two will include new canticles. Additional canticles, including ones already familiar to us, will be made available digitally.

We sincerely thank all the congregations that participated in this field testing effort for their time, effort, and feedback. The feedback we receive from testing efforts like this is very valuable as we finalize the patterns of worship that will assist the next generation as they gather around life-giving Word and Sacrament.

Zahn Scholarship at MLC

At Martin Luther College, there is a: Professor Meilahn P. Zahn Memorial Scholarship for the Advancement of Lutheran Worship in Christian Education. Scholarship winners are undergraduate students who demonstrate God-given abilities in music through the creation of a work that promotes Lutheran worship and/or Lutheran music education. There were two winners this year. The first was an original hymn by Raquel Freese called, “We Marvel.” It celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation reflecting the four “solas” of the Lutheran faith. The second, by Zachary Scharlemann, is a set of timpani parts to accompany the organ and congregation for various Hymns of the Day found in our hymnal. These parts are a simple and practical way of using timpani through the year, instead of only on festival services. Please contact me (pastorwildauer@gmail.com) if you would like a copy of these works.

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

Many have returned 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/>

District Worship Committee

Martin Wildauer 262-416-8521 pastorwildauer@gmail.com
Jon Pasbrig..... 602-748-7180 jon.pasbrig@kmlhs.org
Tom Schultz..... 847-358-0230 pastor@byfaithalone.org
Jason Snodie 262-661-4726 jsnodie@school.faithantioch.org



Faces of FAITH

WELS MISSIONS



W I S C O N S I N E V A N G E L I C A L L U T H E R A N S Y N O D



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Learn how at wels.net/missions



Dear Fellow Witness,

In a recent Missions blog, one of our home missionaries in Atlanta, Ga., told us about a woman he met at a local festival named “Rachel”. She was an atheist—an atheist with a great deal of anger towards God, other Christians, and her childhood church. As Rachel and the home missionary talked more during their Bible basics lessons, her anger began to soften. She had never heard of God’s unconditional love to sinners before. Through the teaching of law and gospel and by the Holy Spirit’s working, a heart was changed. (To read the full story, visit wels.net/immediate-blessings-in-atlanta-ga.)



This story and the many others you’ll read throughout *Faces of Faith* are important reminders of why WELS devotes itself to reaching the lost through home missions. WELS Home Missions currently supports 130 congregations with financial subsidy or district mission board/mission counselor assistance in 35 states, Canada, and English-speaking West Indies. Home Missions also supports more than 32 campus ministries.

Through Home Missions, WELS members have more opportunities to rescue souls from the fires of hell—directing them to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Home Missions has a wonderful

responsibility from our church body to start and support missions so more “Rachels” can joyfully confess faith in the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Working together for him,

Keith Free

Keith Free
Home Missions administrator

HOME
MISSIONS
DISTRICTS





HOME MISSIONS

Every spring, the Board for Home Missions (BHM) and the BHM Executive Committee prioritize requests for new missions and ministry enhancements. In 2018, 23 requests were received. On April 13, 2018, the BHM approved support for seven new mission congregations as well as support to enhance mission-minded ministry at seven other congregations.

2018 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS

- **Reno, Nev.**—Two area congregations are partnering to start this congregation in the Northern Valleys area of greater Reno. On March 25, 2018, the first worship service was held; 63 people attended.
- **Phoenix, Ariz.**—Crosswalk, Phoenix, is opening a second site to reach out into downtown Phoenix.
- **Joplin, Mo.**—A strong core of WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod members from the two nearest churches are helping support this mission.
- **Brandon, S.D.**—Near Sioux Falls, this new congregation includes core members from two WELS churches and an Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregation.
- **Milwaukee, Wis.**—Grace in downtown Milwaukee, one of WELS' original congregations, is establishing a new location in the area known as the Third Ward.

Faces of Faith—Meghan

Meghan Wierschke, one of our new members, recently wrote the following words on her Facebook page describing how God blessed her using The Vine:



It was easy for me to worry about finding a job, moving across the country, or getting acclimated in a new area. But my Father in heaven knows what I need and has surely provided for me through The Vine community. I rolled into town with my trailer in tow, not really knowing what to expect. It's too much of a coincidence not to see the connections. God has put The Vine here to help me get established and to grow in faith, and I hope he will continue to use me to help this congregation take root. We are small in number, but with our outreach mindset we hope to plant seeds of faith in the community so that others may grow to become part of The Vine. I ask that you keep our growing church in your hearts and prayers through this new year, and that the Lord may provide comfort for others through The Vine, as he has done for me!

From Kevin Schultz, missionary at The Vine, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

2018 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS—UNSUBSIDIZED

- **Hobart, Wis.**—Mount Olive, Suamico, Wis., is starting a second site in Hobart. The congregation is calling a second pastor to begin this new ministry.
- **Horicon, Wis.**—Members of St. John's, Juneau, Wis., see an opportunity to reach out in nearby Horicon, where 90 members of St. John's live. Saturday worship services began in Horicon in June 2018.

Faces of Faith—Jeffry

I met Jeffry during my second week of ministry. The millennial man quietly sat on the end of his friend's couch during my first ever visit to a member's home. He never believed in God and had a strong aversion to "religious talk." Somehow, he started checking out a few worship services. Then he started checking out a midweek Bible study. While his worship and Bible study attendance waxed and waned throughout the year, he never completely fell off the radar. Then, in late 2017, Jeffry said, "Pastor, I want to get baptized."

We poured over the Catechism, soaking in every beautiful verse that mentions "washing" or "renewal" or "rebirth" or "baptism." At the end of one of our grueling sessions, his usually calm demeanor changed in a flash and he blurted, "Wow, I really need to get baptized!" On January 21, 2018, God officially made Jeffry a part of his family.

It's for moments like those that pastors and Christian men and women work long hours. Rejection is always personal. Skeptical looks are always hurtful. Sunday statistical progress is often untraceable. But Jeffry is living proof that God works through everyday, gospel-bearing persistence.

From Ryan Kolander, missionary at Palabra de Vida, Detroit, Mich.



WELS has more than 550 campus ministries across the United States and Canada. Pastors in these ministries serve students in a variety of ways, including Bible studies, activities, and mailing materials. If you or someone you know is in or entering college, connect with WELS Campus Ministry at wels.net/campus-ministry.



WELS Church Extension Fund (CEF) provides loans to mission churches to purchase land and help build worship facilities. CEF grant programs are also a blessing to home missions. Since 1993, more than \$33 million has been granted to mission congregations. Thanks to CEF assistance, 12 home missions have dedicated worship facilities in 2017 and 2018.

2018 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS

- **Crown of Life, Corona, Calif.**—This multi-site mission currently has four different locations for worship. Home Missions funding will support a third pastor.
- **Faith, Anchorage, Alaska**—A second bilingual pastor will allow Faith to enhance its Hispanic ministry.
- **Grace, Seattle, Wash.**—Two congregations will be combining to restart their ministry in the heart of Seattle. Funding will allow a full-time pastor to again serve at Grace.
- **Ascension, Harrisburg, Penn.**—Remaining members of Ascension are ready to restart their congregation. They have demonstrated they are willing to take on ministry responsibilities and support outreach efforts that will be guided by their next pastor.
- **Shepherd of the Hills, Knoxville, Tenn.**—A group of members are ready to restart their congregation after a longer-term pastoral vacancy. With the congregation back on its feet, they hope to begin a preschool ministry to jump start their outreach efforts.
- **Trinity, Waukesha, Wis.**—Trinity hopes to reach out to a large population of Hispanics in their community by bringing in a bilingual pastor to lead the ministry.
- **Epiphany and First, Racine, Wis.**—These two Racine congregations currently operate a joint Lutheran elementary school. Home Missions funding will allow the school to call a staff minister or teacher to coordinate outreach efforts to unchurched families.

Faces of Faith—Avery + Haileigh

“Last week I thought Christianity was just about living a certain way, but now I know it’s about Jesus forgiving my sins.”

So said Avery (pictured left) on the Wednesday after she attended a church (our church) for the first time in her life. Except for the gospel itself, this pastor’s ears have perhaps never heard sweeter words.

Haileigh (pictured right), Avery’s friend and fellow junior at Fenton High School, had helped with our soccer camp three weeks earlier. She had come to our church for the first time the very next day, and then brought Avery a couple weeks later. Even though they are the only ones from their respective families who are currently interested in learning more about Jesus, fast forward seven months from that Wednesday: Avery and Haileigh are getting confirmed and Avery is being baptized!

God did it again—he raised a soul from death to life!

From Nathan Loersch, missionary at Shepherd of the Lakes, Fenton, Mich.



The multi-site church movement is all about reaching more people with the gospel—and this new strategy has already been blessed with success in many WELS congregations. Having one church in several locations allows congregations to reach different communities while enjoying practical benefits such as shared resources, efficient organization, and cost-effective programs. Home Missions currently supports 23 congregations that are part of multi-site ministries. To learn more about how your congregation might benefit from a multi-site ministry, consider attending the WELS National Multi-Site Conference. Visit wels.net/missions for more information.



Divine Peace—Rockwall, Tex., campus

Faces of Faith—Carter

When I was first starting off my ministry in Laramie, Wyo., I received a phone call from a family friend. His granddaughter was dating a young man named Carter who had just enrolled at the University of Wyoming. Carter (pictured below) was not a church-goer as far he knew, so the request was simple: "Look Carter up when you have a free minute. Who knows, maybe you can share Jesus with him too."

I had been a pastor in a home mission setting for just over six months. I was thrilled to have someone to follow-up with! One problem—I didn't have his contact information. Thankfully, I happened to know a young man who was in the same class as Carter. They were even friends! Next thing I know, Carter is a regular attendee at our weekly campus ministry events and Sunday worship. Carter began taking our Bible basics class and was one of Living Shepherd's first adult confirmands.

Carter has now graduated and has taken a job in the small Wyoming community of Buffalo, about four hours north of Laramie. We don't have a church in Buffalo, so Carter and his fiancé Emily (pictured below) are helping us get our second site off the ground. Currently they worship with us each week via our worship livestream on Facebook. It's our hope that sometime in 2018 the Lord will bless us with a facility in Buffalo where Carter and Emily can begin to invite friends to join them!

From Peter Zaferos, missionary at Living Shepherd, Laramie, Wyo.



Faces of Faith—Seng

At the age of four, my parents (who are shamans) enrolled my siblings and me into Sunday school to keep us occupied. Even though I didn't speak or understand English, being at church made me happy. As I walked into class, I was afraid because I didn't know anyone. I observed and nodded yes to everything. At the end of class, I remember praying for the first time. I didn't understand what to do so my Sunday school teacher held my hands, gently placing them together, brushed her hand down my face to close my eyes, and began to talk. When she talked, I felt at peace. My body was calm, and I felt safe.



Later that day, I asked my sister if her class did the same. She told me, "Yes, it's called praying. We pray when we want to talk to God. When we're happy, mad, sad, or just want to talk." A few months later, my family left the church. Even though I didn't fully understand who God was or what my class taught me, I understood how to pray and continued to throughout my life. Through prayers, God was there at my happiest moments and through my hardest life challenges. Through him I survived an abusive marriage, divorce, custody battle for my two girls, and getting laid off work.

After I was laid off, I accepted a job at a school where I met my current pastor's wife and her brother who were part of the evangelism team at Immanuel Hmong Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn. As they both encouraged me to continue to seek God and for my small family to visit the congregation, my daughters and I became members in August of 2016. After Pastor Pheng Moua baptized me, I prayed to God, "Even after 26 years you have not forsaken me."

From Seng Xiong, member at Immanuel Hmong, St. Paul, Minn.

JOINT MISSIONS

WELS Joint Missions oversees any mission opportunity that is a combination of both Home and World Missions. This includes people-group ministries (connecting people with the same language and culture) and cross-cultural ministries (outreach from one culture to another).

Joint Missions recognizes that the world is continually shrinking, and our synod's ability to reach even more people-groups seems never-ending. We are committed to connecting our resources to reach all peoples both stateside and abroad. One of the top priorities of Joint Missions is to strengthen the partnership with Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in support of the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI), while continuing to focus on current ministry to Hmong, Hispanic, South Asian, Sudanese, and Vietnamese cultures.

- Joint Mission's goal is to establish 15 healthy people-group ministries and identify 15 new people-group ministry opportunities by 2020.
- Hmong theological training in Vietnam through the **Global Hmong Committee** has borne fruit—

the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam has grown from 65,000 to 100,000 members in the past 3 years.

- The communist government in Vietnam has invited WELS to build a **theological training facility** in Hanoi. WELS is currently the only Protestant church with official governmental permission to work with the Hmong in Vietnam.
- **Twenty WELS congregations** currently hold worship in Spanish and English.
- Christ Lutheran Church in Pewaukee, Wis., will be the location of an **International Friendship Center (IFC)** pilot program to reach out to South Asian populations.
- Joint Missions is working closely with **Friends of Vietnam**, a ministry out of Peace in Jesus Lutheran Church in Boise, Idaho, that reaches out by supplying English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teachers to universities in Vietnam and assisting students who desire to come to the United States to study at WELS schools.

Faces of Faith—Thomas

I was in the middle of a Bible basics class when a Sudanese man politely interrupted, "May I join you?" Thomas had been an evangelist in South Sudan for three years before the civil war that erupted in December 2013 forced him to return to Canada, where he is a citizen. A Sudanese friend who had recently joined our congregation had told him, "St. Paul is a good church. They have a good pastor. They teach good doctrine. You should come."

Four years later, Thomas has brought three other Sudanese families to our congregation and has invited many more. A recent Sudanese visitor told me, "Thomas has been inviting me for months. I finally came today." His invitation is the same one Thomas received, "St. Paul is a good church. They have a good pastor. They teach good doctrine. You should come."

But like most Sudanese, Thomas has a strong desire to share the Lutheran teaching he has learned with his people in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. Last year, he traveled to Gambella, Ethiopia, to provide hygiene training and share a gospel pamphlet in the Nuer language entitled, *Do you really have Jesus?* This spring that same group is returning with a Nuer catechism to distribute. Thomas is now a "good" Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) student, who hopes to one day become a "good" pastor, sharing the "good" doctrine among the Sudanese—both at home and abroad.

From Michael Vogel, Global South Sudanese Committee chairman and pastor at St. Paul, Calgary, Alberta, Canada



PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE



The Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, in partnership with WELS Joint Missions, guides and assists non-traditional students through their pre-seminary and seminary training, providing a flexible path to ministry.

The PSI has connected with students through congregational ministry to immigrants and refugees here in the United States and Canada, as well as through WELS world mission work. The PSI is able to evaluate and serve these groups that want support, training, and a connection to a church body that shares the gospel message in its truth and purity.

Through the PSI, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary professors teach and consult on curriculum at seminaries and Bible institutes around the world that are in fellowship with WELS. Each year the PSI team serves well over 100 students.

Faces of Faith – Matthew

In July 2015, while in search of a place to worship with my congregation, I met Pastor Klatt of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hope, Minn. After reaching doctrinal agreement, my congregation—which consists primarily of African immigrants—began worshiping in Holy Trinity’s sanctuary. Pastor Klatt encouraged me to check out the Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) program. What a blessing that turned out to be.

In addition to the congregation I serve here in the U.S., God has privileged me to supervise 27 churches in Liberia, West Africa. Members of my congregation and I travel there twice every year for leadership/pastoral training and an annual church conference. Our last church leadership training seminar was attended by 86 congregational leaders, and over 500 laypeople and leaders attended the general conference held in December 2017. I am thankful for the Lord’s timing as he brought me into contact with Pastor Klatt and the PSI just as the door opened for me to strengthen my connections with these congregations.

Thanks to the various PSI courses I have completed so far, my level of insight has increased. I have a clearer understanding of Christian doctrine from the Word of God. My preaching and teaching styles have changed because I now look at the context of the Scriptures and let the Bible speak for itself rather than basing my words on human reasoning and traditions. Through the PSI courses I learned about the “three alones”: grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone.

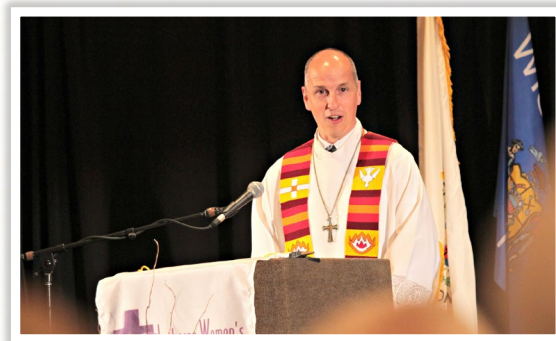


*From Matthew Cephus,
church leader at Royal
Family Fellowship
International
Congregation
in New Hope,
Minn., and
leader of 27
churches in
Liberia*

Dear Friends of Missions,

Christ's love is the greatest treasure we share as we walk together toward our heavenly home. It is a treasure that goes to work in our hearts and moves us to share Christ's compassion for the lost. There are so many in this world who do not know that this love in Christ is God's gift to us all. For this reason, WELS World Missions is eager to carry out our calling to preach the good news to every nation. Into a world that desperately needs it, our missionaries and national church partners bring the light of God's Word. With this powerful tool deployed and in the hands of the Lord of the Church, our work is bearing much fruit. You'll hear more stories of the gospel at work throughout *Faces of Faith*.

Our five-man Board for World Missions (BWM)—made up of a combination of pastors, teachers, and laymen—volunteer their time to develop overall strategy for World Missions and appoint members of eight administrative committees. These administrative committees work on behalf of the BWM to facilitate mission outreach in their respective fields. While WELS World Missions work has put us in touch with over 200,000 people, that does not mean our global work is done. Seven billion people live on this planet with us. We have before us the largest mission field the world has ever seen.



Your World Missions team rejoices in the ongoing support of the members of WELS. Your prayers, attention, and gifts allow us to continue this work that is at the heart of being a Christian church body. The numbers in our fellowship in the United States may be stable, but the numbers overseas are booming. The Lord has been using us to share the gospel in expected and unexpected places. God still opens doors. May the Lord bless our work together as we take the treasure of Christ's love and share it with a world that will be lost without it.

WORLD

Your fellow missionary,

Larry Schlomer
World Missions administrator



WORLD MISSIONS

- has a partnership with churches in **50 different nations**;
- celebrates **125 years of mission work** in 2018;
- is in fellowship with more than **105,465 Lutherans** around the world;
- serves more than **75,000 baptized members** in Lutheran churches on our fields;
- has **44 missionaries** in the field conducting outreach and training national pastors;
- supports **13 teachers** and more than **60 laypeople** as they reach out to children and adults with the gospel;
- is exploring outreach opportunities in **14 prospective new mission fields**;
- is training more than **170 men** to become pastors in their own countries; and
- partners with national churches worldwide that have called nearly **400 national workers** who serve the spiritual needs of more than **700** congregations and preaching stations.



ONE LATIN AMERICA

The One Latin America (1LA) mission team exists to train any Spanish speaker, no matter where they might be located, on how to read God's Word and share it with others. The 1LA team casts a wide net on the Internet and through social media, with a focus on those who would like to learn how to start small Bible study groups, which, in turn, plants more congregations. Imagine a never-ending chain of people telling each other about Jesus. The team is excited about upcoming opportunities in multiple new nations, including Paraguay and Ecuador, and having a base of operations in Miami, Fla.

Faces of Faith—David



David Theys was a Lutheran without a church. Living in the colonial city of Salta in far northwestern Argentina, the bookstore owner gathered his family around the Word of God, but he was looking to gather together with others. From a friend of a friend he heard about the work that the 1LA team was doing online. He was interested and signed up for a class . . . and then another class.

After demonstrating a deep commitment to biblical teaching and a strong desire to share the gospel with others, David was visited by Missionary Phil Strackbein and his wife. They spent days at David's house discussing what the Bible says. After those conversations, David expressed his desire to become a confirmed, confessional Lutheran and his desire to share the Word with others. In the coming year, David will begin to gather people around the Word of God in Salta while using Academia Cristo materials and communicating with the 1LA mission team. Pray for the effort in Salta, Argentina.

Fast Facts

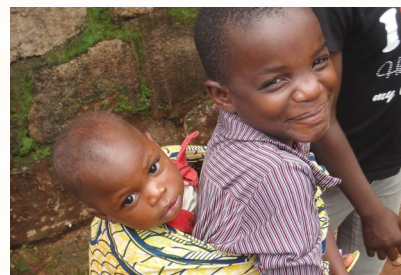
- Members of the 1LA team and other trained men in our fellowship offer live, online Bible classes in a program called **Academia Cristo**.
- The Academia Cristo Facebook page recently surpassed **1 million followers**.
- Individuals from every country in Latin America have taken **live classes** with the 1LA team.
- The waiting list for Academia Cristo online classes has over **1,000 names** on it.
- The 1LA team conducts **in-person visits** with those in online classes who are interested in on-the-ground work, value God's Word in its truth and purity, and show gifts to start such work.
- Two 1LA missionaries relocated to **Ecuador** in summer 2018.

AFRICA

Mission work in Continental Africa is changing. WELS' established missions—Malawi, Zambia, Cameroon, and Nigeria—focus on assisting the national synods and their churches as they mature, while also helping with their pre-seminary and seminary programs. The new work before WELS missionaries is outreach, as individuals and church groups in **nine additional African countries** have reached out to us and the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA) for fellowship and theological training. In response to this new gospel call, the One Africa Team was organized to coordinate WELS missionaries and resources. The One Africa Team is accountable for visiting the groups and synods seeking partnerships, teaching confessional Lutheran doctrine, and encouraging mission expansion.



South Sudanese refugee camp



Fast Facts

- The four established mission fields of Africa (Nigeria, Cameroon, Malawi, and Zambia) make up about **75 percent of all baptized souls** in WELS world mission fields.
- **Exploratory mission work** is occurring in Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.



Faces of Faith—Stanley

Pastor Stanley Daile's story illustrates Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." Born in Zambia, Stanley's biological parents gave him up for adoption. Instead of experiencing a tragic childhood of exploitation, Stanley was adopted by LCCA Pastor Akim Daile and grew up wanting to be a pastor himself. As part of the Chitumbuka-speaking minority in Northern Malawi, Stanley was at a slight disadvantage until he mastered the Chichewa tongue spoken by the majority of Malawians. No doubt his buoyant attitude and outgoing personality played a big part in this accomplishment. After six years of study, Stanley was assigned to Mtendere (Peace) Lutheran Church in Malawi, a congregation with a long history of many different pastors. Ten years later, the Lord's hand is evident in this congregation's stability and growth. Mtendere now has an active youth program and is a thriving church body, but Pastor Daile asks, "WELS members, please continue to pray for the youth in our church that they do not fall away." We give thanks that the Lord set apart Pastor Daile to faithfully serve this urban congregation in a neighborhood of crime and poverty.

From John Roebke, missionary in Africa

Faces of Faith—Violet

Violet Chikwatu has always wanted to help: “Malawi is a country where people are suffering from various types of diseases. I have travelled to many places and have seen that we don’t have enough medical personnel to assist. I have a passion to help, which is why I became a nurse.” Even Violet’s pastor at Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Lilongwe, Malawi, saw her passion for helping others at a very young age: “Violet has been talking of working with the Lutheran Mobile Clinic for a very long time. Her knowledge and skills make her a great fit.” Thanks to funds from the CAMM Althea Sauer scholarship fund, Violet enrolled in the Daeyang College of Nursing after finishing school. She successfully passed her nursing exam in 2017 and was offered a full-time position with the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in February 2018. Her trust in God and the blessings God provided her is a visual representation of CAMM’s mission in action.



From Angela Sievert, CAMM Public Relations Coordinator

CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

The Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) started in 1961 in Lumano, Zambia. Today, CAMM oversees a permanent clinic called the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Centre in Zambia on the same property as one of the Lutheran churches of Central Africa. CAMM also operates the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi that travels to four different villages throughout the week. The buildings used in these villages serve as clinics during the week and as churches on Sundays. The Zambia clinic is completely run by national health care workers, and the Malawi clinic is served by two U.S. employees who work alongside other nationals. Prior to clinic work starting for the day, a brief devotion is given to all who attend. Both clinics focus on providing Christian counseling and testing for HIV, education and treatment of malaria, immunizations, wellness education, and treatment of other minor injuries or illness. By partnering with the Lutheran Church of Central Africa and WELS missionaries, CAMM provides help for the spiritual and physical needs of the people in Zambia and Malawi.



Fast Facts

- CAMM relies solely on donations to continue operation.
- The Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi saw **43,598 people** in 2017.
- The Zambia clinic hosts **Children’s Health Week** twice a year to provide Vitamin A and deworming supplements.
- An average of **13,187 children** per year, under the age of 5, are seen for wellness visits and immunizations at the Malawi clinic.
- **6,986 patients** tested positive and received treatment for malaria at the Malawi clinic in 2017.

ASIA-PACIFIC RIM

WELS' mission work in the Asia-Pacific Rim occurs in a wide variety of countries and cultures—from Buddhist Thailand to Muslim Indonesia to Communist Vietnam to Roman Catholic Philippines. While each field is unique, the focus remains the same. WELS seeks to provide solid theological training to local workers, who in turn conduct gospel ministry in a way fitting for their culture. Some of the fields are well-established; like Indonesia, where the national church runs a fully accredited seminary. In other fields, opportunities are just beginning to present themselves. In Vietnam and the Philippines, the Lord is connecting us with people who are hungry for the refreshing truth of the gospel. In many of these countries, WELS' work is done in partnership with groups like Multi-Language Publications, the Pastoral Studies Institute, and WELS Christian Aid and Relief.

Faces of Faith—Stefanus



Stefanus came from a small village in Indonesia. His parents had come to faith when he was a small boy, offering their home as a gathering place until a small church building was erected by Gereja Lutheran Indonesia (GLI), WELS' sister church body in Indonesia. Already at the age of 15, Stefanus sensed a distinct difference between the faith of his ancestors and the teachings of the Bible. The former was a law-based system consisting of rules and regulations, which he had failed to keep as a child. The latter was based on

God's undeserved love for sinners. In the Bible he saw his sins, but he also saw his Savior and his salvation.

Life took Stefanus away from his small village but not away from his church. The GLI pastor from his new town visited him faithfully, and it was not long before the idea of becoming a pastor himself was planted in his heart.

Stefanus is now a pastor in the small village he grew up in. Recently he was chosen to serve as the chairman of a key GLI administrative board that governs Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Lutheran, the theological seminary of GLI. Whether in the congregation among his family and friends, or in the classroom full of young men training for ministry, he is a blessing to GLI as he continues to tell generations of God's mighty acts.

From Greg Bey, friendly counselor in Indonesia



Fast Facts

- In the 3 years WELS has been providing theological training to the leaders of the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam, the church body has **grown from 65,000 to 100,000** members and formed 53 new churches.
- WELS is the only Protestant church with **official governmental permission** to work with the Hmong in Vietnam.
- The communist Vietnamese government has invited WELS to build a **theological training facility** in the capital city of Hanoi—*what an amazing opportunity!*
- Gereja Lutheran Indonesia (GLI) continues to build congregations in a nation that is home to **12.7 percent** of the world's Muslim population.
- In the **Philippines**, future called workers are connecting with WELS via the Internet.
- Professors from **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary** regularly teach courses in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

EAST ASIA

Due to government policies in East Asia aimed at restricting Christian activities, security is an ever-present concern as WELS works in East Asia. Local leaders are on the front lines of ministry, faithfully carrying on gospel work while missionaries assist leaders in the background. More than 500 souls are being served the Bread of Life each week. Because of security concerns, groups cannot be too large. Sermon-based Bible studies are being used for groups without a shepherd. Downloadable video sermons feed God's people, and prepared questions help the leader guide discussion afterwards.

Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong is using online instruction to extend the reach of worker training. Exciting opportunities abound as they blend live teaching with Internet-based learning platforms. They offer training for lay workers leading groups, as well as pastoral training for full-time students. Seminarians gather monthly in a central location to meet face-to-face with a professor for a week. All serve as leaders or helpers in their home churches.



Fast Facts

- There are currently **7** congregations and **11** church plants in East Asia.
- **150 people** were baptized in the last two years.
- **5** national pastors serve God's people full-time in East Asia.
- **20** other "tent-maker" leaders shepherd new groups that are starting throughout the country.
- At Asia Lutheran Seminary, there are **6 full-time seminarians** and **22 men** enrolled in **ministry training**.
- **11** nationals teach ministry training courses at Asia Lutheran Seminary.

Faces of Faith—Larry

Sometimes you're looking for a wife, and God wants to give you eternal life. Ask Larry. . . . Fifteen years ago, Larry lived in Hong Kong but didn't know Jesus. He then met a girl who was a member at a South Asian Lutheran Evangelical Mission (SALEM) church. She made it clear to him, "If you want to spend time with me on Sunday, you know where I am." He came to church, but only to chase a girl.

There were no other Christians in his family. Larry felt he could handle life by himself without God. But sitting in the church next to his girlfriend, he heard God's Word through WELS missionaries and local pastors. His doubts about Jesus gradually disappeared. He got married, and a year later he was baptized. Larry now comes every Sunday with his wife and two children. He's the head of the evangelism committee. He's the first to talk with non-Christian visitors. He's not afraid to tell his story. You can start out with wrong motives, but God doesn't care. Ask Larry. He found a wife and hope in eternal life!



From Rob Siirila, missionary in Hong Kong

SOUTH ASIA

WELS mission work in South Asia reaches into India, Pakistan, and Nepal.



Fast Facts

- Since 2002, our mission in Nepal has grown from 2 people to **4,000 members** and is in 33 of the country's 77 districts.
- Despite threats from suicide bombers and the Taliban, the church in Pakistan has grown to **58 house churches, 21 Sunday Schools** with 891 children, and 10 non-formal schools where children who work all day in the fields learn how to read and write.
- Nepali Christians have opened a door for outreach to **Tibetan refugees**. When they return to their homeland of Tibet, our prayer is that they share the gospel with others.
- Plans are being made to open a **Bible institute** in Pakistan in 2018, where leaders will be trained in God's Word and learn how to teach his Word to others.

Faces of Faith—Ashok + Vijay

What does WELS need to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in a country where few people speak English? You really need two men. One who has been seminary trained to train other men to be pastors, and one who has been seminary trained to translate materials into the language that the people speak. By God's grace we have two such men in Southern India. **Pastor Ashok Rao** and **Pastor Vijay Kumar** were in the first class to graduate from Christ Evangelical Lutheran Ministries' seminary in 2002. In the 15+ years since their graduation, these two men have faithfully served their church. Pastor Ashok was originally a school teacher. After his graduation he stepped back into the classroom as an instructor for those who were beginning their training to be a pastor. And Pastor Vijay, an Indian university graduate, took up the work of translating materials into the Telugu language. These materials are now used in more than 150 congregations. We thank the Lord for these men and the blessing that their work has been for thousands of others, and we pray that they will continue to serve for years to come.

From Mark Rieke, friendly counselor in India



Faces of Faith—Pakistan

There it was—a booklet about Jesus, hidden in a crack at the top of a wall in a public bathroom. Though she was a Muslim, “Rasham” started to read it. She was safe here . . . no one would see her. The more she read, the more she wanted to learn. She answered the questions at the end of every chapter and took the test at the end of the book. “Who left this booklet in the bathroom?” she wondered, “Someone like me is reading this and doesn’t want anyone to see her.” She knew a person could be killed if they were seen reading Christian literature.

Rasham saw a cleaning woman and wondered, “Could she be the one?” She approached her and asked, “Did you hide this book in the bathroom?” Caught off guard the cleaning lady simply replied, “Yes.” Quickly Rasham told her, “I, too, have been reading this book. Do you have more?”

She knew where to find more. Thanks to the cleaning woman, Rasham studied all 12 booklets in the Bible Teaching Series from Multi-Language Publications. She even took them to her family and studied them with her husband and children. Thanks be to God that this family was able to learn more about Jesus!



MULTI-LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Multi-Language Publications (MLP) has printed more than 2.9 million items in more than 52 languages to date. Today, MLP has incorporated audio, video, and online training resources to its offerings. The MLP Christian literature library is available to assist and enhance outreach for churches in fellowship with WELS and for use in places where WELS does not have resident missionaries. The majority of MLP products are evangelism and Bible study materials to be used by anyone who sees a need for ministering to others in Christ.



Our Plan

- Reach **100 million people** with evangelism materials in 10 years
- See **200 million people** using discipleship materials in 10 years

“First of all I thank MLP who printed such an informative book. I got this book and studied and was blessed. By studying, I came to know about Jesus’ life. I thank Jesus who died for my sins and gave me eternal life. Now I am saved.”

EUROPE

WELS World Missions conducts gospel outreach throughout Europe, preaching Christ's grace in Russia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine while supporting sister church bodies in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Portugal, Latvia, and the Czech Republic. The focus of European mission work is changing. Instead of leading congregations, missionaries will focus on equipping and training national pastors to lead their own congregations. The Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) is partnering in this work, making training visits to Germany, Sweden, Russia, and Ukraine.



WELS' only resident missionary in Europe, **Rev. Luke Wolfgramm** (middle), works closely with national pastors **Alexei Fehringer** (left) and **Arkady Sedelnikov** (right) of the Concord Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia.

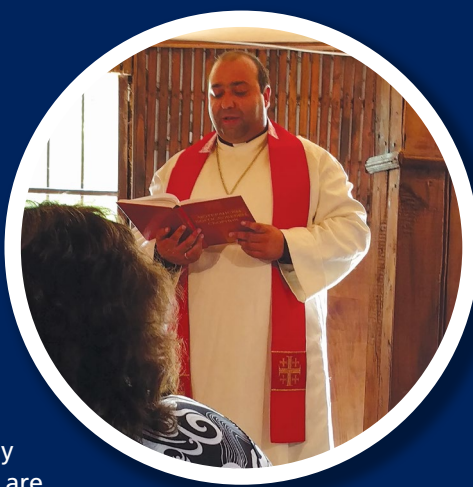
Faces of Faith – Itsov

God can turn any adversity into unexpected blessing. **Iliyan Itsov**, a Roma (or gypsy) from Bulgaria, suffered injuries from a serious car accident early on in life. While he was recovering, his pastor asked him to consider becoming a pastor in the Bulgarian Lutheran Church. After completing the three-year seminary program in Ukraine, a different issue presented itself: The Bulgarian Lutheran Church had no place for him to serve. The WELS Board for World Missions stepped in and called Iliyan to begin a new mission effort, called Outreach to Roma.

Following the example of St. Paul in Acts, Itsov gathers interested people in a village, asks them to select a leader, and then provides that leader with training and materials to use. Itsov may visit two or three times a month, but in his absence the leader conducts worship by reading sermons Itsov provides. Five groups, scattered across Bulgaria, are worshipping regularly. In addition, the Outreach to Roma van regularly hauls seven or eight people to services in Dunavtsi, Bulgaria.

Even after Itsov battled serious health issues, the Lord continues to use Itsov's ministry. During a worship service in the village of Zlataritsa in November 2017, 21 people were baptized. In March 2018, 20 people were confirmed there. We pray that Outreach to Roma will see a growing number brought to the gospel as God turns the adversity of Roma people's earthly lives into eternal blessings.

From John F. Vogt, WELS Regional Coordinator for Eastern Europe



APACHE RESERVATION

2018 marks the 125th anniversary of WELS' world mission work on the Apache reservation in Arizona. To celebrate their history, Apache Christians look forward—to the hundreds of Apache family members and neighbors who still need to hear the gospel, and to the 535 other Native American tribes in North America who do not know Jesus as their Savior. Three ministries have been selected as areas of focus for this special anniversary year:

1. **Apache Christian Training School (ACTS):** ACTS provides training and resources to prepare Apache Christians for ministry leadership on the reservation. Expansion is needed to meet the needs of current congregations and train workers for future outreach to other reservations.
2. **Lutheran Church of the Open Bible, Whiteriver, Ariz.:** Additional trained workers are needed as Open Bible looks to expand outreach opportunities, small group study and support groups, addiction recovery ministry, grief counseling, youth ministry, and worship opportunities.
3. **Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School:** With enrollment rising from 75 to 130 in four years, expansion is needed to catch up with growth and prepare for additional gospel outreach in the future.



Three-Phase Outreach Plan

- **Expand** current ministry at ACTS, Lutheran Church of the Open Bible, and Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School.
- **Connect** Apache Christians across the 4-million-acre reservation and within nine current congregations via a new website, preparing and encouraging all church members for personal evangelism.
- **Begin** outreach to the 535 other Native American tribes in North America.

Faces of Faith—Bernard

Bernard Dale is a shining light in the Apache Lutheran Church. He continues to take Apache Christian Training School (ACTS) classes in hopes to serve more effectively as a leader in the church, the Apache community, and prayerfully one day in a paid position! But life and service hasn't been easy. Bernard, a life-long member of Shepherd in the Pines Lutheran Church in McNary, Ariz., fell away from God's way. He got involved in drugs and alcohol, and one night sustained nearly-fatal stab wounds in an attack. In his state of injury, feeling worthless and useless, he fell into depression. Once he came back to church, he started to feel comfortable again and was asked to serve. First in small ways: cleaning, helping at events, going to Bible study. Now he hungers for the deep study of God's Word; attends Bible class several times a week; and volunteers at church, in the recovery ministry, at children's music camps, and more! Bernard says, "Serving the Lord feels great. . . . Try it, don't give up, because it'll make your day awesome!"

From Debbie Dietrich, Native American mission communication coordinator



Open to **WELS members** of all ages and backgrounds
with a heart for mission work

WELS Mission Journeys

The **new** WELS program for
short-term mission trips

WELS Mission Journeys, the official WELS program for short-term mission trips, provides an opportunity for all WELS members to walk together in the Great Commission. Through **church- or school-based volunteer trips** to WELS mission fields at **home** and **abroad**, members have the opportunity to engage in Christian service. Pre-trip training led by a congregational team leader equips volunteers to have significant impact during their trip. While volunteering, the learning and sharing of outreach ideas will allow teams to explore how they can use their God-given abilities to lead an outreach event upon their return home. With the Lord's blessing, these trips will inspire a lifelong journey of service and outreach for all who volunteer.

Want to learn more about how you and your congregation can get involved?
Visit wels.net/missionjourneys.



WELS Church Extension Fund
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WELS CEF Activity Update

2017

WELS CEF's mission is to provide financing through loans and grants to mission congregations so they can acquire land and ministry facilities to be used for gospel outreach.

Loans • Investments • IRAs

Loan and Grant Highlights

- ✦ \$19.6 million of new loans and \$2.3 million of new grant requests were approved in fiscal year 2016-17.
- ✦ 56 total origination projects were approved, including nine land purchases, seven new facility projects, and 40 other projects including renovations, increases, and refinances.
- ✦ Seven congregations were approved for new construction loans with final loans expected to total \$15.4 million.
- ✦ One mission congregation purchased existing facilities; eight mission congregations purchased land sites; and one mission completed a parsonage purchase.

Operations and Support Highlights

- ✦ WELS CEF was blessed with an operational surplus of over \$3.5 million for fiscal year 2016-17.
- ✦ WELS CEF's \$149.8 million loan portfolio includes loans to 216 WELS congregations and affiliates.
- ✦ Investment special rate offers added \$10.9 million in new investments to aid the CEF lending program.
- ✦ Over 3,400 WELS members, congregations, and affiliates have entrusted WELS CEF with \$96.8 million in member investments.
- ✦ \$32.9 million of matching grants to mission congregations and \$4.9 million of special grants to Home Missions have been provided by WELS CEF since 1993.
- ✦ WELS CEF has been blessed with an average retention rate of 84.2% for maturing member investments.
- ✦ WELS CEF has maintained a base interest rate of 4.00% for new loans to mission congregations in addition to its matching grant programs for land and facility projects.

Consider helping WELS CEF with our goal of assisting WELS congregations by investing with CEF, sending a gift, or informing others about our mission and financing programs.

The purchase of WELS CEF securities is subject to risks which are described in our offering circular. This is not an offer to sell you our securities, and we are not soliciting you to buy our securities. We will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. These securities are neither offered nor available for sale in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, or the District of Columbia.

The offering is made solely by our offering circular.

✦ Not FDIC or SIPC insured

✦ Not a bank deposit

✦ No synod guarantee

Where investing in your future builds churches.

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



ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Crown of Life –
Riverside, Calif., campus
crownoflifechurch.net
(remodel)

CrossWalk Ministries –
Laveen, Ariz.
crosswalkphoenix.com
(land purchase)

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

Eternal Rock –
Castle Rock, Colo.
eternalrock.org
(land and facility purchase)

Carbon Valley – Firestone, Colo.
carbonchurch.com
(land purchase)

Living Shepherd –
Laramie, Wyo.
livingshepherd.com
(land purchase)

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Shepherd of the Lakes –
Fenton, Mich.
myshepherdchurch.com
(land purchase)

NORTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Gethsemane – Raleigh, N.C.
gethsemane-raleigh.org
(facility construction)

Ascension – Jacksonville, N.C.
welsalc.com
(land purchase)

The Way – Fredericksburg, Va.
thewaychurchva.com
(parsonage purchase)

SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Risen Savior –
Lakewood Ranch, Fla.
rsavior.com
(facility construction)

Peace – Trinity, Fla.
peacelutheran-east.com
(land purchase)

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Holy Word – Austin, Tex.
holyword.net
(refinance)

Calvary – Dallas, Tex.
calvarydallas.org
(refinance)

Christ the Rock –
Round Rock, Tex.
ctrx.net
(land purchase)

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Palos – Palos Heights, Ill.
paloslutheran.org
(facility remodel)

Pilgrim – Menomonee Falls, Wis.
pilgrimcares.org
(facility expansion)

Lamb of God – Lafayette, Ind.
loginlafayette.com
(land purchase)

Congregations listed above have recently completed projects with financing from WELS CEF. Visit their websites to learn more about the congregations and see how WELS CEF resources are assisting WELS congregations.

Where investing in your future builds churches.

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



WELS Church Extension Fund

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

INFORMATION TO INVEST WITH WELS CEF*

- ✦ For answers to investment questions and the forms that will need to be reviewed and completed to make an investment with WELS CEF, visit wels.net/cef and click on "Investment information."
- ✦ Investment Specialist – Greta Wagner, Phone: (414) 256-3289, E-mail: Greta.Wagner@wels.net

INFORMATION FOR A NEW WELS CEF LOAN

- ✦ Get started with reviewing the *Loan Program Overview and Application Process* document on the WELS CEF website. Go to cef.welsrc.net and click on "Loan Applications."
- ✦ Loan Origination Manager – Rory Vircks, Phone: (414) 256-3270, E-mail: Rory.Vircks@wels.net

INFORMATION TO RENEW YOUR CURRENT WELS CEF LOAN

- ✦ Find a summary document named *Renewal Process for a current WELS CEF Loan* on the WELS CEF website. Go to cef.welsrc.net and click on "Loan Applications."
- ✦ Loan Servicing Manager – Brian Roser, Phone: (414) 256-3273, E-mail: Brian.Roser@wels.net

**A complete overview of WELS CEF can begin on our website, wels.net/cef
Toll-free phone: (866) 511-7793 • E-mail: CEFcustomerservice@wels.net**

Consider helping WELS CEF with our goal of assisting WELS congregations by investing with CEF, sending a gift, or informing others about our mission and financing programs.

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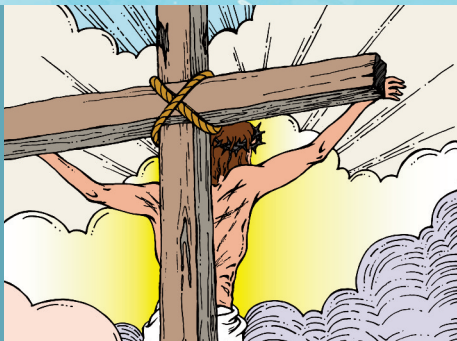
Multi-Language Publications

Bringing the Word to the World



MLP updates

Developing culturally fitting material



Working with local talent in East Asia

Multi-Language Publications (MLP) supports world mission fields with translations of existing English books into Chinese for training and outreach. A new initiative is underway to work with local writers and artists to develop culturally fitting materials with an appealing Asian flavor that will engage educated, young adults living in heavily populated cities throughout East Asia. The new materials are uniquely designed to reach an educated, urbanite demographic in new ways, but with the same saving message of the gospel.

MLP's East Asia coordinator is helping cultivate the local contributors as they write online devotions for social media, develop a discipleship series titled, "Living in Faith," and design complimentary illustrations for the series. Distributing the pure gospel becomes more urgent as East Asia's regulations and censorship of outside influences of Christianity grow tighter each day. MLP, along with WELS brothers and sisters in East Asia, are working together to create usable resources for future generations.

Working with local artists

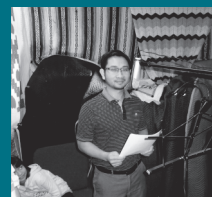
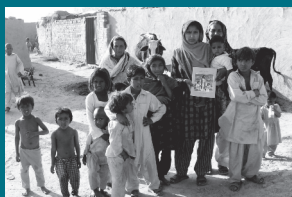


"Living in Faith" discipleship series
artwork by artist: Allie

How can you help this important work?

- **Pray** for all of the staff and volunteers who help produce confessional Christian literature and other mass media to share with the world
- **Use** these materials yourself to reach out to your congregation, friends, and family
- **Share** the story about MLP and its goal to go and make disciples in many languages
- **Stay connected** through our printed, or online newsletter. Visit wels.net/mlp to be added to our mailing list
- **Shop** for MLP products at online.nph.net/mlp





Expanding social media



More than one million followers

Multi-Language Publications (MLP) and WELS world mission field in Latin America are celebrating the three-year anniversary of the Academia Cristo online training and church multiplication program. By God's grace, Academia Cristo has more than one million followers on Facebook. The milestone is especially encouraging because it has led to connections with potential leaders that are looking to start churches in areas where there is no WELS presence. Academia Cristo is globally connecting Spanish-speaking men who, through the online program, will be equipped to start churches to faithfully proclaim

God's Word. WELS world missionaries and national pastors serve as mentors to the new group leaders while MLP assists in the production of biblically sound liturgy, worship and Bible study materials for use by the start-up house churches. The resources are available on the Academia Cristo website, while the Academia Cristo Facebook page ignites interest and sign-up for the online courses. This unique training method teaches Bible lessons and, at the same time, teaches students how to share the lessons, or any lesson from the Bible, with others.

WELS missionaries and Academia Cristo teachers recently met with 16 men in Latin America interested in further training, including leaders in five countries outside the current reach of WELS World Missions. The follow-up meetings with active online students are another way to offer continuing support for church multiplication in new areas around the world.

Developing new content



Translator workshop to improve skills

Multi-Language Publications (MLP) is partnering with WELS World Mission's One Africa Team to provide an opportunity for translators to improve their skills. Those from Africa, Nepal, and India who seek training can attend the once-in-a-generation workshop from July 17 to 27, 2018. Dr. Ernst R. Wendland will conduct the ten-day workshop in Lusaka, Zambia.

Dr. Wendland has been serving in Zambia for 50 years as seminary professor and translation coordinator. As a member of the Zambia Bible Society, he has been involved with the

production of twelve different Bible translations. Translation is as much of an art as a science because no two languages convey concepts in exactly the same way. To illustrate, in John 3:16, the Greek New Testament literally says, "Thus indeed loved God the world that the Son the only begotten he gave that everyone believing in Him not should perish but might have life eternal." Is it possible to understand the meaning of this literal translation? Absolutely. Is this something that your seventh grade confirmation student will find easy to memorize, or for you to listen to on a Sunday morning? Not especially.

The coursework will include hands on practice of translating texts from English into local languages, as well as insights into simplifying English texts prior to translating them. One of the translators is a visually impaired woman from Ethiopia who is also fluent in Braille. Other translators are coming from Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Sudan, India, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Cameroon. There is great value in bringing translators together from various parts of the world so that they can share their experiences and insights into the translation process.

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit miraculously granted the apostles the ability to speak foreign languages. Although it takes great patience and determination to learn another language today, our attitude is the same as the apostles, "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). As new listeners hear the gospel message proclaimed in their mother tongue, may the Holy Spirit add them to the number of people being saved.



wels.net/mlp

Multi-Language Publications is a program of WELS' Board for World Missions

WELS Christian Aid and Relief

Our Calling

WELS Christian Aid and Relief serves as our synod's "ministry of compassion," bringing physical relief to victims of natural disasters in the form of cash grants, food, clothing, and medical supplies. Christian Aid and Relief also partners with WELS missionaries to support humanitarian aid projects to help build bridges to proclaim the gospel. The mission of Christian Aid and Relief is drawn from the Scriptural encouragement, **"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."** Galatians 6:10 Because of all that Christ has done for us, we are eager to reflect Christ's love and compassion to those in need. We seek to personalize our efforts by conducting careful assessments and distributing our funds through our churches and missions. We bring in volunteers when requested to assist in the recovery effort.



Our Current Situation

Christian Aid and Relief is not funded in the WELS budget, but by the special gifts of WELS members.

From January 1st to December 31st, 2017 our total expenditures for relief projects were \$559,854. \$405,221 was expended for domestic relief efforts and \$154,633 for foreign relief efforts. In addition, \$327,475 was designated for Humanitarian Aid projects for fiscal year 2017-2018 which assist our missionaries in building bridges to proclaim the Gospel.

General aide was provided to food pantries, inner city relief and general aid for called workers and congregational members suffering from extreme medical and financial burdens, totaling \$295,000.

Hurricane Relief was a major focus of our efforts this past year with grants totaling \$415,000 as of February 28.

Humanitarian Aid Projects

At their June 2017 meeting, WELS Christian Aid and Relief approved \$327,475 for humanitarian aid grants for FY 17-18. These projects help our missionaries reflect Christ's love to people in need, and also open doors to share the Gospel. Major items include health clinics, borehole drilling to provide clean water, support for a women's skill center, home based care for the chronically ill and dying, food assistance to the needy adult literacy classes, food and nutrition to orphans, medical equipment, and health clinics. Grants have increased recently to more home mission congregations especially welcoming new legal immigrants in cross cultural situations.

Home Missions receiving grants this year are:

Las Vegas, NV, Toronto, Canada, Texas, Boise, Idaho.

World mission fields receiving grants this year are:

Africa – Zambia, Malawi, Nigeria &
Central African Medical Mission

Asia Pacific Rim – Thailand and Indonesia,

Europe – Russia, Albania, Bulgaria, Ukraine

South Asia – Nepal, Pakistan, and India

Latin America – Mexico

Criteria for humanitarian aid project – A world or home mission project that meets a community need and opens doors to share the Gospel as part of the mission's outreach to their community.



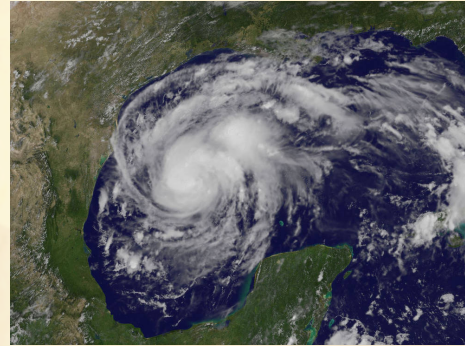
Medical and Financial Emergencies

Our committee also assists local congregations as they reach out to display Christian love and compassion to their members facing natural disasters, medical emergencies and financial crisis. Contact our chairman, Pastor Robert Hein to learn more about how we can match or even exceed your local efforts. This includes supporting congregational efforts to provide aid and relief to your community recovering from a natural disaster.

Our Current Situation continued

Hurricane & Diaster Relief Update

Christian Aid and Relief personalizes our efforts by working through our congregations and missions in the affected areas. We work through our pastors and synod and congregational leaders to make assessments and distribute aid. We bring in volunteers when requested to assist in the recovery effort.



Puerto Rico

Our liaison to Puerto Rico, Pastor Tim Satorius, keeps in contact with pastors and leaders of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church of Puerto Rico. Pastor Satorius and a representative from Christian Aid and Relief made a personal assessment visit to Puerto Rico in October. One church there was completely destroyed, another was damaged, and several homes of members were damaged. Groceries were provided to families in need. We sent an immediate gift of \$5000 through Direct Relief to assist those in need. We also sent \$5000 to provide meals for people in the church and community suffering from this disaster. This enabled members of the national church to provide meals for 50 people a day for four weeks.

In January 2018 President Mark Schroeder, World Mission Administrator Larry Schlomer, Director of Missions Operations Sean Young, and Pastor Tim Satorius made a personal visit to Puerto Rico to meet with national leaders and further discuss ways we can help. Christian Aid and Relief approved their proposal to engage a Spanish speaking WELS pastor for one year to serve as a consultant with the national leaders in developing a specific plan for recovery efforts and also strengthen our relationship with this National Church, assisting them with ministry enhancement and training workers. Pastor Larry Schlomer Sr. accepted this position. Specific rebuilding plans will be brought to Christian Aid and Relief for approval. Then we will recruit and organize volunteers to assist from our volunteer database.

Florida

Volunteers, with the help of our disaster relief trailers, assisted with the cleanup efforts in several affected communities. Those who have received assistance are most appreciative and wish to express their gratitude for a job well done. Pastors in the affected areas brought requests to us for immediate aid for their members through our District President Chuck Westra. This included generators and equipment, rental assistance while being displaced from home, and assistance with cost of repairs and replacement of furnishings. We assisted Abiding Grace, Covington, GA as their church suffered water damage from the storm and brought in volunteers to repair a roof at Calvary Lutheran Academy in Florida.



Our Current Situation continued

Hurricane & Diaster Relief Update

Texas

Volunteers from neighboring churches helped with the initial cleanup efforts in several affected areas. The equipment included in our disaster relief trailers was put to good use. We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers and a project coordinator who came in to help with rebuilding efforts. They did great work putting in countless hours repairing a parsonage and church at Christ our Savior, Angleton, TX, the school at Sienna Plantation Academy, and about 17 member homes in the Friendswood, TX area. The volunteers often express the joy they experience serving their Lord as they serve these people in their time of need. We have also received wonderful expressions of gratitude from the families we assisted. We also provided grants to replace furnishings and appliances to homes which were ruined by the flooding. Volunteers will complete a few more home repair projects in the Houston area in Spring 2018.



Antigua, Barbuda and Dominica

Assistance was provided to families displaced from Barbuda, who are staying with members and friends of our WELS mission, St. John, Antigua. 29 families received \$18,000 in immediate aid so far. Funds were also distributed to assist families in Dominica affected by the hurricane. Our liaison Pastor Tom Spiegelberg has visited Antigua and is helping us make further assessment of needs and opportunities.

We express our appreciataion to many volunteers, including from Builders for Christ, who have been a tremendous blessing to these recovery efforts.



A Look Ahead

Annually, Christian Aid and Relief reviews humanitarian aid grant requests forwarded to us from the Board for World Missions and Board for Home Missions. These projects help build bridges for proclaiming the Gospel to the people we serve in our mission fields.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief continues to look for ways to improve its communication to the members of our synod. “Lifeline” videos have been developed so that those who support our work can see firsthand how their gifts are being used. Our Web page www.welsnet/relief continues to offer timely information and a convenient way to donate online for Christian Aid and Relief projects. Members can also find us on Facebook at Christian Aid and Relief. Committee members and volunteers also make presentations to various groups to “tell our stories”, letting WELS members know about the needs and opportunities to help people through Christian Aid and Relief. DVD’s of Lifeline Videos and other written materials and photos are also available upon request. We are partnering with other WELS agencies, such as Kingdom Workers, Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service, and the nurses association to coordinate volunteers to assist in relief efforts when appropriate.

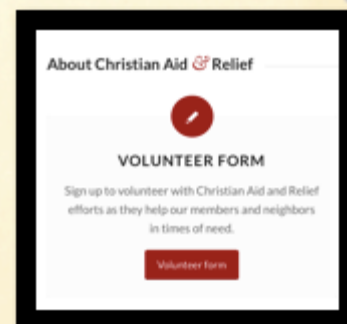


Action Items

- Pray for God to bless our ministry
- Visit wels.net/relief for more information, to view a Lifeline video, or to become a partner of this ministry
- Remember our ministry with special offerings
- Contact us to schedule a presentation for your church, school, or organization
- Follow us on Facebook, [fb.com/ WELSCatholicAidAndRelief](https://fb.com/WELSCatholicAidAndRelief)
- Sign up to become a WELS Christian Aid & Relief volunteer at wels.net/relief.

For More Information Contact. Committee Members

Rev. Robert Hein, chairman and reporter
Staff Minister Tom Hering, secretary
Rev. Bruce Marggraf
Rev. Richard Warnecke
Mr. Steve Wright
Mrs. Elizabeth Zambo, administrative assistant



Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2017 – 2018

Christian Aid and Relief continues to partner with the WELS Board for World Missions, Board for Home Missions, WELS Missionaries, and our sister congregations of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference around the world in funding humanitarian aid projects which reflect Christ's love through acts of kindness to people in need and builds bridges to proclaim the good news of God's love through Jesus. Below is a list of humanitarian aid projects for FY 2017-18 totaling \$327,475. We praise God for all those who helped to fund these projects through their special gifts!

Albania

Christian Aid and Relief provides funding for Christmas and Easter food baskets for needy individuals in their congregation and in their neighborhoods. Invitations and information about the congregation are shared with the recipients of the baskets.

Bulgaria

Funding has been granted to provide packages with food products, along with Christian books and brochures, for visitors to major festival worship services. With the Lord's blessing this will help build bridges to share the gospel with more people and to maintain connections for ongoing ministry contact.



CAMM – Central African Medical Missions

The Central African Medical Missions in Malawi and Zambia receive funding from Christian Aid and Relief for medical supplies and nutritional supplements for infants. CAMM currently provides medical care at four clinics which also serve as LCCA churches. These humanitarian efforts help serve as a bridge for proclaiming the gospel.

India

Medical aid to India has been approved to provide supplies for government and private hospitals and health clinics. This includes basic necessities such as blood pressure cuffs and thermometers, hospital beds, baby warmers, and more sophisticated equipment such as an instrument to test for glaucoma. Funds have also been granted for the digging of approximately 20 fresh water wells. As with most of the humanitarian work in India, these projects may not open new doors directly for gospel “bridge building,” but they will help to ensure that the doors to India will remain open for WELS counselors living and working there. These kinds of projects are necessary for our presence in India to continue; it is excellent and necessary PR with the local medical community, government officials, and other influential people.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2017 – 2018 *continued*

Indonesia

Funding has been granted to assist congregations in Indonesia to hand out staple food items to needy households in their neighborhoods. In some cases, books and school supplies will be given to needy children. The hope and prayer is that caring and sharing will provide a bridge with these people by letting them know the location of the source of the aid and by strengthening the churches' reputation and communication among their neighbors.

Malawi

Funding by WELS Christian Aid and Relief for boreholes dug in Mayaka and Nagome are now functional for the people in these villages for drinking, cooking and cleaning. These two wells open the door for the gospel message to be shared by allowing permanent churches to be built. A vicar will be called with the well nearby to supply water for his family. Vacation Bible school and other programs can now be held knowing that there will be water for the children to drink. Water is such a basic human need and without it there is no life. What a blessing to be able to provide water and at the same time provide the living gospel message for the people of Malawi to drink so they may enjoy eternal life!



Mexico

Funding for the Costa Maya Ministries Education Center allows the mission in Mahahual to provide a place where the locals can come to hear the Word of God, receive a weekly meal and participate in Bible studies and other outreach opportunities.

Nigeria

Funds have been granted to Nigeria to help in the distribution of health care for people in great need, many of which are not members of the local church. The ability to offer care and provide humanitarian aid to Nigeria's unchurched will serve as a bridge for Christ the King and All Saints Lutheran Churches of Nigeria to invite villagers to church to hear the gospel. Funds will also be used to help offer pharmacy services and health education in rural areas demonstrating the loving care of Lutheran Christians. Aid will provide support for church members to visit rehab centers, hospitals, prisons, orphanages and health centers and to assist widows, widowers, and people with special needs.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2017 – 2018 *continued*

Nepal

Aid supplied to Nepal provides funding for health clinics. At each clinic, workers minister to the physical and spiritual needs of those who receive care. Christian literature is distributed. Clinics often lead to the formation of a Bible study group, and eventually have developed into local churches. Aid is provided to reach out to women in rural and remote areas to offer activities and sessions to improve basic skills. Offering these skills provides opportunities to share the gospel. Aid also provides textbooks for higher secondary level students in several districts in the Himalayan area near the Tibetan border. This opens doors for sharing the gospel in these areas and helps to train future leaders and teachers of the Christian church. Funds have also been granted to provide mosquito nets for victims of local flooding. These nets will protect people from mosquito-borne illnesses and even from snake bites. Providing these nets will provide opportunities to share the love and the hope they have through Christ.

Pakistan

In Pakistan, funding has been granted to provide medical care for many families and assist with crippling debt. The kindness shown to those in desperate need opens doors to share the good news of the Great Physician of both body and soul. Funding has also been granted to train women in basic skills like knitting, stitching, and embroidery. Each session begins and ends with a gospel devotion. By learning these skills, women can then support themselves and be spared ill treatment in the public market place and work safely from home to receive income to support their families as well as mission work in Pakistan.

Funding has been provided to help toward the cost of medical procedures needed by many families without the means to pay. This kindness shown to folks in desperate life and death situations provides opportunities to share the best news of a Savior. Aid has also been granted for food distribution at Christmas and Easter in neighborhoods bordering Christian homes and schools.

Russia

Funding has been granted to Russia to provide food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, and medicine for the needy. These gifts will allow for the Law-Gospel pamphlets to be distributed and to invite people to Bible instruction classes. This will let the workers' light shine in the area and grow their reputation of helping those in need. Aid has also been granted to assist institutions such as hospitals, rehab centers, orphanages, and half-way houses. The government values this work and presence, which is very important as it opens the doors for Bible classes and Christian counseling. Through this ministry, Christian literature is left in public schools, rehab centers, and other institutions. These efforts provide additional connections to the local congregations as they reach out to the villages.

Thailand

We continue to support the efforts of medically trained volunteers who travel to Thailand to set up week long medical clinics in our village churches. As these clinics draw people from both local and neighboring villages, they provide the missionaries and other workers with a unique bridge for presenting the gospel and for creating good-will presence for our churches through such care and service. Eye glasses and hearing amplifiers are two of the many gifts that are shared with the people. These gifts not only open their eyes and ears to the world around them, but open their hearts to a clearer understanding of the love that Jesus has for them through the witnessing of the unconditional love of those providing for their needs. VBS and ELS classes are offered and follow up contacts are made after the classes conclude.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2017 – 2018 *continued*

Ukraine

Funding has been granted to provide food assistance for war refugees and help for orphans. This assistance serves as a good Christian witness to many people and shows the love of God to many in great need. It also provides for the opportunity to share the love of God to those who join in worship.

Zambia

Christian Aid and Relief provides funding for home-based care that bridges the physical and spiritual care of the chronically ill and dying. This grant will help prepare the Christians in this ministry to better meet the needs of the community through acts of sharing God's gracious gift of salvation as they help those with AIDS, TB, Malaria, and other chronic and terminal illnesses. Funds have also been granted to support a literacy program. A person who is able to read and write is well positioned to do God's work more efficiently, especially where evangelism is concerned. The Central African Medical Mission in Zambia receives funding for medical supplies and medicines that help support the mission of communicating Christ's love and sharing caring concern for the physical needs of others. Another project will help touch the lives of people with special needs by providing wheelchairs, showing them the passion, love and mercy that Christ has for all people. This work of compassion is performed so the gospel may reach those in need.

Las Vegas, Nevada

In the Las Vegas, NV, area funding has been granted to assist in African refugee/immigrant Outreach. As new African immigrants arrive in this area, congregation members can welcome them, provide a welcome gift (cooking pots, dinnerware, toiletries, soap...), assist them in getting settled into the community, help with English needs, provide rides, and further assist with counseling, ESL training, etc. The intent of this ministry is to assist the refugee immigrants as they transition to life in America, using this opportunity to proclaim to them the gospel of Jesus through personal witness, worship services and Bible classes.

Texas

Congregations in several Texas communities have created outreach events that assist underprivileged families of school age children with much needed school supplies. In conjunction with backpacks and the supplies that are given to the children, Bible stories and videos are shared. Food for all is always part of the days' event, along with games and prizes for the kids. Parents receive information about the church and the programs that are offered throughout the year. Through this effort the congregations seek to encourage families to become a part of their church family and join in Christian fellowship and worship on a regular basis.

Toronto

Funds have been granted to Hope Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario, as they coordinate a Welcome Project. This project enables the congregation to provide valuable humanitarian assistance to newcomers to their area. The assistance can take the form of food, rental help, and guidance with other matters pertaining to their transition into the area. This project helps Hope Lutheran show Christ's love to new refugees.

God our Savior wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2: 3,4



SUMMER 2018

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

GRADUATION

This May, 31 students graduated, 27 with a Master of Divinity degree and four awarded a Master of Sacred Theology degree. The assignment committee placed 26 seniors who were receiving their first calls. Other assignments included four from the class of 2016. In addition, four were reassigned to one-year calls. At the same service, 26 middlers were assigned to congregations throughout North America to serve for their vicar year. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into his harvest field!



ACCREDITATION

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary hosted a preliminary visit from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). It is step one on our path of exploring accreditation. The visit was helpful and allayed many concerns about the process. While the seminary is still some distance away from accreditation itself, it looks very much as if—as a preliminary move—the seminary will receive an Associate Membership with ATS this summer.

We can see the value of accreditation both for our United States programs of continuing education and to offer support for our sister seminaries overseas. For them, affiliation with an accredited US seminary increases their credibility and the ease with which they can receive official recognition in their home country.

There are three steps to membership. Schools initially join as Associate Members upon a vote by the membership. Within five years, Associate Members are expected to pursue Candidate for Accredited Membership. Then, once a school has completed the requirements of the Commission on Accrediting, it is recognized with Accredited Membership. If at any stage it becomes apparent that our theology or mission would be compromised, the process would be halted from our side.

FACULTY NEWS

The governing board is putting a hold on issuing another call for a professor to teach New Testament and homiletics. President Paul Wendland has announced that at the end of the 2018-19 school year he will step down from the office of president and move into a fulltime teaching position in the New Testament department at the seminary. He has served as president since 2004. A call for nominations to fill the seminary president position has been sent out. When that position is filled, seminary administration and the governing board will determine what teaching areas need to be filled and ask for nominations to fill that need.



SEMINARY CHORUS

The Seminary Chorus went west on their tour this spring. They stopped at congregations in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Alberta.

PSI UPDATE - A VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

Last month, Professor Brad Wordell taught the doctrine of conversion in South Asia. “Whenever I visit one of our mission fields, goal #1 is ‘Do no harm and encourage the saints,’” shares Wordell. His “students” are Lutheran pastors who gather together four times a year in order to support their continuing education.

By the end of this brief Pastors Institute, these pastors were able to:

- Discuss key issues regarding the doctrine of conversion, including differing views.
- Define conversion and put it into the context of all the gracious activities of the Holy Spirit.
- Read the various conversion stories in the Bible with an eye towards God’s grace.
- Explain and defend the Bible’s teaching about conversion with key Bible passages.
- Articulate how the doctrine of conversion informs the doctrine and practice of their ministries.

One of the pastors in South Asia shares, “Because of sola scriptura and sola gratia, our study of conversion has made me proud to be a Lutheran pastor.”



WLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18-29: Summer Quarter

August 27, 7 pm: Opening Service

August 28: Classes begin

September 17, 10:30 am: WLS Alumni annual meeting

September 17-18: Symposium

October 6: Friends of the Seminary Day

October 12-15: Midterm break

November 21-23: Thanksgiving Break

December 9: The Seminary Chorus Christmas concert

December 22-January 6: Christmas break

January 7-18: Winterim

GROW IN GRACE: THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

ADDITIONAL RETREAT IN 2018 ADDS TO CELEBRATION

From April 18–20, 2018, Grow in Grace hosted four Celebration of Ministry retreats. In addition to three retreats previously run, Begun in Grace (3 years since graduation), Renewed in Grace (10 years since graduation), and Excel in Grace (25 years since graduation), we welcomed Finish in Grace (35 years since graduation) to the celebration.



These pastors and their wives are invited to celebrate key ministry milestones together in a beautiful setting, San

Antonio, Texas. Each retreat holds a Bible study specific to their ministry milestone. In addition to the Bible study, each group participates in breakout workshops. The workshops are designed for attendees to dig deeper into topics of their choosing. Some popular topics include, time management, future financial planning, approaching retirement, and wearing multiple hats as pastors and wives.

Although the Bible study and workshops are highlights of the retreats, many pastors and wives look forward to seeing classmates and renewing old friendships. Pastor Jon Bare shares his thoughts, “[This retreat] comes at a good point in your ministry. You’ve learned a lot of things through ministry, you’ve experienced a lot of things and so have all your brothers and their wives in their ministry. You can come together and share in those experiences, share the joys, share the disappointments and your own failures, be open and honest with each other and grow together as fellow pastors and wives in ministry. This retreat gives you that opportunity, it rekindles friendships that you had with your brothers and their wives from years past and allows you to grow together to better serve God’s people.”



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE INFOCUS

Dear friends and fellow believers,

The apostle Paul makes Easter Sunday intimately personal for each believer. He writes to the church in Ephesus about an amazing reality we sinners sometimes forget. *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know . . . his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms* (Ephesians 1:18-20).

For Christ's sake, the Father unleashes resurrection power in your heart and mine. Awesome power. Power that covered sin, defeated the devil, and destroyed death! The Spirit of wisdom and revelation unleashes that same power upon us. In Christ's resurrection we have power to crucify the sinful nature with its passions and desires. We have power to endure hardship like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. We have power to give an answer to everyone who asks us about the hope we have.

The reason is Easter: Christ's victory power is in our hearts and in our lives. And it becomes evident to all—and especially self—that when I am weak, then he is strong.

May we continue to proclaim to ourselves and others: He is risen! He is risen indeed! And may our Lord Jesus and his Spirit guide our conventions, providing wisdom and power for the gospel efforts in each of our 12 districts.



In Christ,
Rev. Mark Zarling

Focus on Southeastern Wisconsin Page 4

FOCUS on FACULTY

Retiring summer 2018



Prof. Lance Hartzell
DMLC '71

Professor of education & art
DMLC 1993-1995;
MLC 1995-2018



Instructor
Jeneane Thiesfeldt
DMLC '74

Piano & organ instructor
MLC 2001-2018

Celebrating ministry anniversaries

- **Prof. Ron Ohm DMLC '78:**
40 years
- **Prof. Cindy Whaley DMLC '76:**
40 years
- **Prof. Larry Lotito:** 25 years

Joining our faculty in 2018-19

- **Darrell Berg DMLC '88**
(education & art)
- **Catherine St. John '13**
(lead preschool teacher)
- **Alan Uher DMLC '87** (education)

Calls yet to be filled for 2018-19

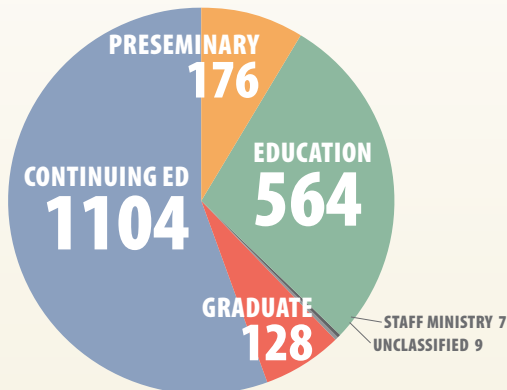
- Professor of special education
- Professor of theology and foreign language
- Professor of theology

In memoriam

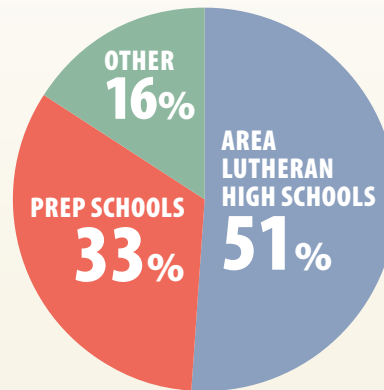
- **Prof. Howard Wessel 1933-2017**
- **Prof. Theodore Hartwig 1921-2017**
- **Prof. Arnold Koelpin 1931-2017**
- **Prof. Alan Spurgin 1949-2018**

2017-2018 MORNING,

ENROLLMENT: 1988



UNDERGRAD STUDENTS BY HIGH SCHOOL



OUR FIRST-YEARS

40 High Schools
21 States
4 Countries

3.46 Average HS GPA
24.3 Average ACT



TUITION, ROOM & BOARD

2016 Tuition \$13,980
2017 Room & Board \$5,510
Total \$19,490

2017 Tuition \$14,680
2018 Room & Board \$5,790
Total \$20,470

2018 Tuition \$15,410
2019 Room & Board \$6,080
Total \$21,490



ATHLETICS

1/3 Play NCAA D3 athletics
3/5 Play intramurals

9 of 16

D3 UMAC sports where MLC led in team GPA

3.82 women's volleyball
3.78 women's cross country
3.76 women's tennis
3.73 women's soccer
3.69 women's softball
3.57 women's basketball
3.36 men's tennis
3.35 men's soccer
3.08 men's baseball

EMERGENCY TEACHERS

6 Seniors filled emergency calls

MUSIC

1/2 Students took piano or organ lessons



1/20 Played in wind symphony

1/3 Sang in a choir

1/7 Participated in fall musical

FINANCIAL AID

\$2.2 Million institutional aid given



95% Students received scholarships, grants, loans, and/or work-study funds from MLC



RESIDENTIAL LIFE

4 Residence halls **98%** Students live on campus

35+ Students compelled to live in New Ulm homes next year due to campus housing shortage

VISITING LUTHER LANDS



96 Alumni tour participants

RECRUITMENT

ON CAMPUS

730 HS students attended Focus on Ministry weekends on campus

OFF CAMPUS

1,000s HS students visited by admissions counselors

CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT PROGRAM

\$400,000 Awarded

242 Students receiving grants

146 Participating congregations

NOON, & KNIGHT

GRADUATES

DEC 2017 **13** Education

MAY 2018 **109** Education
36 Preseminary
30 Master of Science

Note: **23 graduates** (14 education & 9 preseminary) have opted to teach abroad following graduation

DAYLIGHT USA MINISTRY ASSISTANCE

81 Students participated
38 Congregations received assistance
17 States & territories served



Strategic Plan Goal:

100% MLC student participation in Daylight USA

MLC 2017-18 "BEST COLLEGE FOR YOUR MONEY"

BACHELOR OF ART & SCIENCE

#1 in Minnesota Best College for Your Money



#3 in America Best Value



STAFF MINISTRY

25 25-Year anniversary of program

CONTINUING ED

1104 Students (mostly called workers) served
114 Courses (on campus, online, and on location)

GRADUATE STUDIES

13 Years in existence
3 Degrees offered

- MS-Education (instruction, leadership, special ed, and ed tech emphases)
- MS-Educational Administration (principal & EC director tracks)
- MA-Theological Studies

115 Degrees granted
128 Students
40 Courses
41 Professors (10 MLC & 31 adjunct)



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

#1 in America Best Value



#3 in America Most Affordable



NCAA SPOTLIGHT

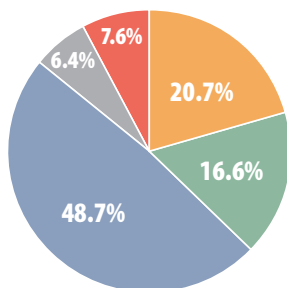
1 2018 UMAC Female Scholar-Athlete Leadership Award – given to MLC volleyball player **Kira Grev**

4 Seasons Kira won First Team All-UMAC and Academic All-UMAC honors

1,000+ Kills and hits by Kira



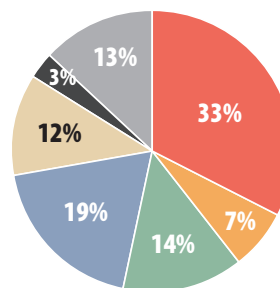
WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



FY 2016-2017*

Synod support (WELS/MLC)	20.7%
Gifts and bequests	16.6%
Tuition	48.7%
Government student aid	6.4%
Other	7.6%

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



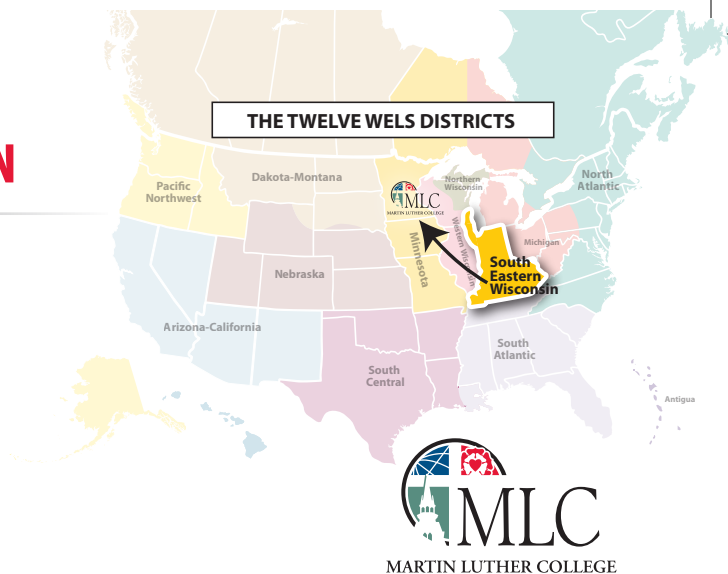
FY 2016-2017*

Instruction	33%
Instructional Support	7%
Student Services	14%
Environmental Services	19%
General and Administrative	12%
Mission Advancement	3%
Auxiliary Enterprises	13%

TOTAL BUDGET = \$20 MILLION

*2017-2018 Figures not yet available.

FOCUS on SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN



YOUR MAY 2018 GRADUATES

- 17 Education
- 9 Preseminary

HS VISITORS TO MLC

- Wisconsin LHS: 64
- Kettle Moraine LHS: 33 (pictured)
- Illinois LHS: 22
- Shoreland LHS: 21

CONGREGATIONS SERVED BY MLC'S DAYLIGHT USA

- School Chaplaincy-Milwaukee
- Living Word-Waukesha WI

YOUR MLC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

- Joe Archer DMLC '78
- Daniel Leyrer WLS '89
- Randy Matter (advisory)
- Paul Prange WLS '88 (Ministerial Ed administrator)
- Michael Woldt WLS '81 chair



New Campaign: With the permission of WELS Conference of Presidents, we will conduct a two-year capital campaign in conjunction with the 2020 silver anniversary of MLC. The title, "Equipping Christian Witnesses," not only reflects the mission of our institution—to train a corps of Christian witnesses to meet WELS ministry needs—but also the pillars of this campaign:

- **Recruitment:** Pray for more pastors, teachers, and staff ministers, and purposefully identify and encourage young Christians who could serve in these roles.
- **Financial aid:** Support the Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP), through which MLC matches congregations' gifts for their enrolled students, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000 per student every year.
- **Facilities:** Repair and augment campus spaces for ministry training: academics, student life, athletics, and the arts. With the help of two consulting firms, we are prioritizing our facility needs.

Endless Opportunities: Our Savior Jesus is *not* willing that any should perish. Never before in our synod's history have we seen so many mission opportunities. Hundreds of people all over the world are approaching WELS for scriptural instruction and evangelism assistance. Technology is enabling us to reach countless homes in many different countries with the gospel. And today's young Christians are travelers, eager to take the gospel anywhere in the world.

Deep Needs: We need more workers—not only to fill our vacancies, but also to grasp these new opportunities, to seize the day the Lord has provided us to impact the world with his Word.

Bold Prayers: "Equipping Christian Witnesses" is a celebration of God's goodness—not only for 25 years of MLC ministry, but for more than 150 years of the unconditional gospel in our midst. Pray boldly that we use this celebration to recruit with rigor countless Christian witnesses . . . to increase our financial support of our students . . . and to provide the necessary facilities to equip our students for their future ministries.

MLC InFocus is published by Martin Luther College Mission Advancement Office and is distributed free of charge to students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends. Owned and operated by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), Martin Luther College exists to serve the ministerial needs of the WELS. Comments are welcomed and should be directed to gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu or Laurie Gauger, MLC InFocus, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073.

1-507-354-8221 • mlc-wels.edu

Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletic Fields

1 No to Light Renovation

1. Press Box

1 Proposed

1. Sports Complex Fieldhouse
 - Shared locker rooms for field sports - home & visitor
 - Indoor practice turf
 - Game day support - concessions, restrooms, coaches, and officials
 - Team rooms
 - Satellite training room
2. Field Support Building

A Existing Site

- A Baseball field
- B Cobmpetition soccer and future lacrosse

A Proposed Site

- A Tennis courts
- B Competition softball field
- C (2) practice soccer fields
- D Practice softball field
- E Practice lacrosse field
- F Potential future track and field location



Campus Master Plan

The WELS Conference of Presidents granted permission for MLC to conduct a two-year capital campaign in conjunction with the 2020 silver anniversary. The title of this celebratory campaign, "Equipping Christian Witnesses," not only reflects the mission of our institution, but also the foundational goals of the campaign. The governing board and administration have already begun prayerful planning, seeking only to glorify the Savior and enhance the college's mission.

We will ask God's people for gifts to repair and augment campus spaces for learning, for student life activities and intramural events, for athletics, and for the arts. We engaged a consulting firm to assist with our planning by analyzing our facility usage. This Campus Master Plan reflects the work of that firm.

The majority of MLC's facilities are more than 50 years old. The Christians of that generation who gave so generously to the existing campus have been such a blessing to this ministry. Unfortunately, buildings are not timeless, even if what is spoken within them is. Now is our generation's turn. We pray that this developing site plan will guide the college through the next five decades, providing for both programmed maintenance and the construction of new ministry training facilities. Naturally, such a bold vision will be phased in over the years. In the next few months, we will carefully prioritize the implementation of this site plan relative to our ministry needs so we can utilize the thank offerings we receive in the wisest way.

"What is a Campus Master Plan?"

A Campus Master Plan is...

- an intentional, logical response to Martin Luther College's strategic plan, as well as, its mission and vision
- a living document
- a roadmap or compass
- a general direction for an institution's physical environment
- the outcome of an inclusive, data-driven, and consensus-building process
- flexible in order to address any new undertakings that occur as a campus evolves, but still provides an overall direction to inform campus development

A Campus Master Plan entails...

- assessment of a campus's existing spaces and places with regard toward how they currently, and will in the future, support the desired student experiences
- setting goals and objectives as an overarching guide to inform planning concepts, decisions of placemaking, and priorities
- identifying key successes and deficiencies in a campus's spaces and places
- developing a framework for optimizing existing space and correcting deficiencies

Martin Luther College : Master Plan Goals

- Learning environments that support the specific mission of Martin Luther College
- Stewardship of synodical gifts and resources
- Community Engagement at all levels – faculty, staff, and students; oneness in faith and community
- Gathering locations for various sizes indoor and outdoor
- Maximize use of existing spaces and multi-functional as appropriate
- Align and integrate spaces based on programs and services (functional adjacencies)
- Provide appropriate updates for campus living spaces

Martin Luther College's Campus Master Plan needs to support the Strategic Plan goals to:


- Nurture the learning experience
- Sustain and grow partnerships in the Great Commission
- Enhance the learning and living environment
- Empower our MLC personnel
- Be equipped to acknowledge God's gifts to this ministry from our constituents

This can be accomplished by building connections in the...

- **Physical Environment:** enhancing the campus to provide the desired student experience and support faculty and staff
- **Adjacencies:** being strategic about the locations of programs, functions, and services
- **People:** provide indoor and outdoor spaces that support building community and experiences
- **Sustainability:** being cognizant of resources (facilities, people, programs, processes, and fiscal) in all planning efforts



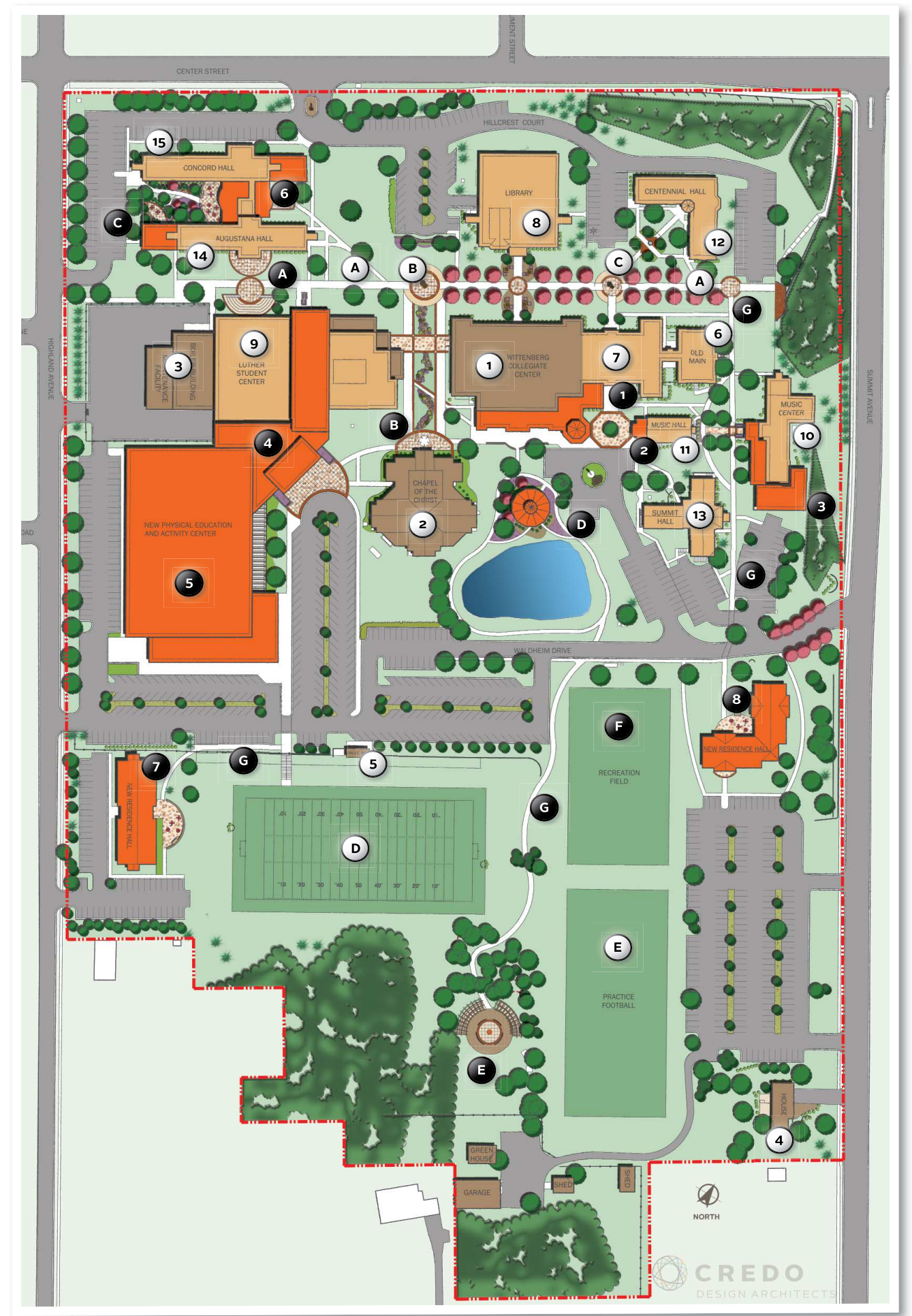
1 Medium to Full Renovation

6. Old Main
 - Full renovation of offices, instruction spaces, & 3rd spaces
 7. Wittenberg Collegiate Center Link
 - Innovation Hub – STEAM lab, Teaching and Learning Center, academic student organizations, study/collaboration spaces
 - Administration area reorganization to improve welcome experience and student access to business services
 8. Library
 - Expand makerspace, studios, group/collaborative study
 - Academic Success Center
 - Audio Visual Services
 - Active learning classroom
 9. Luther Student Center
 - Student Leadership & Involvement – orgs. & government
 - Global Engagement – Cultural Diversity Center, International/Study Abroad/Teaching Abroad, Service Learning, Daylight Program, and Campus Pastor
 - Newspaper/Publications
 - Community building and gathering spaces
 - Cafeteria, Retail, Mail Center, & Graphic Arts/Print Shop
 - Health and Counseling
 - Locker and weightroom renovation
 - Existing Gym and auxiliary gym
 10. Music Center
 - Music program offices and instruction
 - Art faculty and ceramics studio
 11. Music Hall
 - Recital hall
 - Painting and drawing studio
 - Coffeehouse
 12. Centennial Hall
 13. Summit Hall
 14. Augustana Hall
 15. Concord Hall
-  **Campus**

1. Wittenberg Collegiate Center Addition
 - Welcome Center and Admissions
 - Auditorium Lobby and academic 3rd Space
 - Biology lab
 - Art gallery
2. Music Hall Entrance/ADA Addition
3. Music Center Addition
4. Luther Student Center Addition
5. Physical Education and Activity Center
 - Physical Education offices & instruction
 - 4-court and 200M indoor track
 - Fitness Center - non-athletes
 - Football locker room and support
6. Augustana and Concord Halls Additions
7. New Residence Hall - approx. 64 student beds
8. New Residence Hall - approx. 120 student beds

A Proposed Site

- A Sitting stairs and stage/plaza
- B Chapel Plaza and rain garden
- C Augustana and Concord courtyard
- D Gazebo and walking path
- E Luther Hollow place-making enhancements
- F Recreation field
- G Campus connection walkways



LUTHER PREPARATORY SCHOOL



2018 SUMMER UPDATE



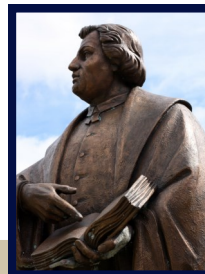
The members of the Luther Preparatory School Class of 2018. Their achievement was commemorated with a service of thanksgiving in the Luther Prep gymnasium on May 19.

Changeless Message, Timeless Mission

The Lord has blessed LPS with a highly ministry minded senior class. More than 70% of the 2018 graduates will continue at MLC. In the Prep department's 153 years of existence on our synod's Watertown campus only one time have more than thirty graduates continued their preparations for the pastoral ministry either at the former Northwestern College or present day MLC. Twice since 1995 Luther Prep has sent on 27 graduates for pastoral studies. **Thirty seven** graduates will enroll in the pastor track at MLC this fall.

We are delighted, humbled, and grateful for all of God's goodness and grace given to LPS. We are thankful for all the people in our church body (you) who continually support our ministerial purpose in so many ways.

Matthew Crass
LPS President



God needs a pastor, a preacher, a teacher, in His spiritual kingdom; you can supply Him with one...

Martin Luther-1529

Contact us - 1300 Western Avenue, Watertown, WI 53094 • Phone (920) 261-4352 • On the Web: lps.wels.net

Recruitment Director, Rev. Evan Chartrand (920) 262-8101 • Donor & Alumni Relations, Sue Boulden (920) 262-8104

Changeless Message, Timeless Mission



LPS piano students playing in the first ever Monster Piano Concert in April.



Boffo the Boss is living up to his name during *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.



Soccer



Softball

Summer

June

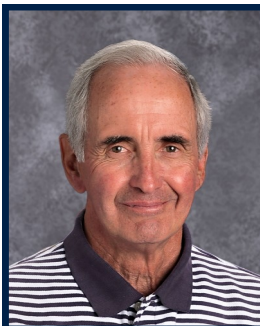
- 10-16 Boys Overnight Basketball Camps (2)
- 17-23 Girls Overnight Basketball Camps (2)
- 23-24 Parent-Daughter Overnight Basketball Camp
- 25-28 Little Hoopsters Basketball Day Camps (2)
- 29-July 1 Father-Son Overnight Basketball Camps (2)

July

- 8-14 Girls Overnight Volleyball Camps (2)
- 16-19 Little Spikers Volleyball Day Camps (2)

August

- 1 Football Practice-JV & Varsity
- 13 Cross Country Practice-JV & Varsity
- 14 Soccer Practice-JV & Varsity
- 15 Volleyball Practice-JV & Varsity
- 17-18 Registration/Orientation/Tennis Practice
- 19 Opening Service
- 20 Classes Begin



Paul Bertolus

Having served Jesus as a tutor at MLS, a teacher at Atonement Lutheran, and a professor, coach and athletic director at Northwestern Prep and Luther Prep for the past 36 years, Coach Paul Bertolus retired at the end of the school year. When asked what makes Luther Prep so special, Coach will respond by saying, "Three things...Ministry! Ministry! Ministry!"

Thank you, Paul, for your faithful service.

The blue-ribbon dessert auction at Gala XIII was truly spectacular with over \$11,000 raised!

Ski Team?

Pictured is the 2018 LPS Phoenix Track Team in mid-April. Practice was held on the campus sidewalks for several days.



Carnival
Gala 2018



SUMMER 2018

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.
Mark 16:15

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Change. Just a mention of the word brings strong emotions of vitriol and repulsion. For so many, change is not easily accepted or appreciated. For some it is not just an aversion or stubbornness that causes such strong emotions, but change can severely affect their mental health. Needless to say, change can be hard.

That word is being used on the MLS campus quite often this summer. We have experienced a change in leadership, faculty, dorm staff, support staff, office space, and the normal student body change from one year to the next. For many who remain on campus from the previous year, there have been roles and positions that have changed, duties that are changing, teaching assignments that are different from the previous year, extracurriculars that are shifting responsibilities and office mates that are new. Quite literally, we may have to wear name tags to help identify each other as we pass in the hallways!

What does not change? Our Lord and his grace! He is still the Lord who gives every good and perfect gift from his unmerited love. He is still the Lord who demonstrated to us the depth of his love by sending his Son to make the full payment for our sins. He is still the Lord who guides and protects us as the sheep of his pasture.



*What does
not change?*

*Our Lord and
his grace!*

Yes, in the midst of these changes at MLS the Lord of the Church is still the Lord of the Church. And because he is, the mission of our school remains the mission of our school: *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.*

As we settle into the coming school year and all of these changes, we ask for your patience and prayers. As you greet us, please don't hesitate to tell us who you are so that we can get know you better.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of MLS, we thank you for your support and prayers as we seek to serve our unchanging heavenly Father.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. (James 1:17-18)

Loving and serving Him,

Mark Luetzow, President

Faculty Comings and Goings

When the new school year begins next fall our faculty will have several new faces. **Prof. Joanne Kohler** and **Prof. Carl Weihrach** have retired after many years of faithful service at MLS. **President Joel Petermann**, **Prof. David Lecker** and **Instructor Darrell Berg** have accepted calls to serve in other locations. **Prof. Becky Berg** has resigned her call to accompany her husband in his calling. At the end of the school year **Instructors Brooke DeAnda, Nathan Guhl** and **Lauren Hansen** completed their one-year call. Finally, **Wesley Towne** has finished his two-year tutor assignment.



Prof. Joanne Kohler



Prof. Carl Weihrach

New to MLS will be **Rev. Mark Luetzow** - President, **Mr. Allan Ash** - Professor of Physics and Chemistry, **Mr. Justin Danell** - Professor of History, **Mrs. Haven Jacobs** - Professor of Spanish, **Mr. Jordan Schmitzer** - Professor of Biology and **Miss Katherine Van Alstine** - Instructor of Mathematics, who was assigned out of MLC to a one-year call. God willing, we will be blessed with an assignment from WLS to complete the faculty for the 2018-19 school year.

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.



STUDENTS RECEIVE ACADEMIC AWARD

Three students from MLS received academic honors from the Tri-Valley Conference for their combined grades and ACT scores on Wednesday, April 25. **Kara Peter** (St. James, Portage), **Reese VanLue** (St. Luke's, Vassar) and **Joe Kieta** (Peace, Livonia) spent the afternoon at Saginaw Valley State University, had lunch with the school's administration, and were given medals for their accomplishments. Congratulations to these students and their families.



MLS Seniors Kara Peter, Reese VanLue & Joe Kieta

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.

From the Admissions Dept.

We at MLS are convinced that the best way to reach the next generation of MLS students is to bring young students and their families to visit our campus. Did you know that a portion of the MLS recruitment budget is designated to help defray travel costs to visiting schools and families? This is what we call our "Joint Adventure," and we want to spend every cent of that fund each year.

Groups and families are welcome to come on any day that we have school, but if you are looking for a more organized event to attend, here are some things to look forward to:

FALL

CARDINAL FOR A DAY : K-8 Students attend classes and activities led by MLS students.

OPEN HOUSE: Focused recruitment for 5th-8th graders and their parents. Tour the school and talk to faculty and current MLS parents.

MUSICAL WEEKEND: Bring a group to attend our musical, *Beauty and the Beast*.

WINTER

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS: Bring your team to play against other WELS schools in one of our 4 basketball tournaments.

CARDINAL FOR A DAY: K-8 Students attend classes and activities led by MLS students.

OPEN HOUSE: Focused recruitment for 5th-8th graders and their parents. Tour the school and talk to faculty and current MLS parents.

SPRING

LOCK-IN: A lot of fun and very little sleep. Games. Snacks. Hymns. New friends. Don't miss this.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL I BE ABLE TO AFFORD SENDING MY STUDENT TO MLS?

MLS families come from a wide variety of financial backgrounds. We never want finances to be the thing that keeps a student from the opportunities that MLS offers. A lot of people get scared by the "sticker price," but the reality is that few pay that full amount themselves. All families can apply for financial aid. Many churches also take advantage of our 25% matching program to support students who go to MLS. You may also want to factor in that there are some things that you won't have to pay for if your student is at MLS in the dorms, such as gas money for daily trips to and from school as well as meals for a bottomless teenage appetite.

WHAT IF MY SON OR DAUGHTER DOESN'T WANT TO BE A PASTOR OR TEACHER? CAN THEY STILL COME?

Very few students know what they want to be at age 14. That's okay. If college students change their major 3 times on average, we aren't surprised that 8th graders don't know what they want to do yet. We simply ask that students keep an open mind while they are at MLS. We think that the public ministry is a great thing, and we want lots of young people to think about it seriously. We are going to give them opportunities to observe and experience ministry, and after that, they can make an informed decision. Either way, the church is going to be blessed by these young people. Some will be pastors and teachers. Some won't. But all of them will be prepared to be Christian servants wherever they land.

HOW CAN I SEND MY CHILD AWAY FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

When you send your child to MLS, you're not just sending them away. You're sending them TO something. You are planting them into a spiritual community where they will have the opportunity to grow in their faith several times every day. You are sending them to a family of believers that will love and care for them. You are giving them good Christian friends and mentors. You're sending them to a place that will help you raise your child with you, not for you. If you're scared about sending your child to MLS for high school, that's okay. We'd be a little worried if you weren't. Over our 100+ years of experience, thousands of parents have done what you are thinking about. Don't take our word for it. Talk to them! Let us know, and we can put you in touch with some real live MLS parents.

THERE AREN'T MANY (OR ANY) OTHER STUDENTS FROM OUR CHURCH OR SCHOOL. WILL MY STUDENT MAKE FRIENDS?

If there's anything we have a lot of confidence in at MLS, it's that our students are like a family. MLS alumni are well known for having friendships that last past their time at MLS. Also consider this: most students arrive at MLS looking for new friends, so your student won't be alone. The majority of our dorm students are either the only student from their school or are from out of state. Many students meet their first friends at basketball tournaments, sports camps, and recruitment events. Come visit!



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

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

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offering something for
everyone interested in exploring
ministry tools, techniques, and
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His Hands

2018 Report to the Twelve Districts from the Commission on Special Ministries

In this issue...

Compassion leads to inclusion and outreach

WELS churches are hearing a lot about “compassion ministry.” The Commission on Special Ministries has advocated for compassion ministry since it was founded. Our motto is “Love in Action.” Christian compassion is not new or foreign to the church. The New Testament urges the followers of Christ to serve one another in love: “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

People who struggle with problems leave the church when no one at church reaches out to help them. We don’t have to have the answers. Maybe we don’t know where to find the answers. But we can say, “I



WELS Special Ministries

Look inside for these articles, addressing areas where Special Ministries seeks to help those who face barriers to regular worship.

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Mission for the Visually Impaired

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don't know how to help, but I want you to know I'm glad you're here. I'll pray for a solution. How I can help?"

Outreach is harder when people believe that churches are uncaring. Compassion ministry grows strong bonds with members who face challenges. Our concern for people in our community with special needs shows the public that the love of Christ is real.

If you love someone, you listen to them. If you listen to people with special needs, you'll find that they want to participate in the church. Hard of hearing people want to be on the church council. Blind people want other members to talk to them after church.

Love leads to inclusion. God has given all Christians gifts to serve, even if that Christian struggles with an addiction or has a developmental disability. It is well worth the effort to find ways to include people with special needs in serving. People are not defined by what they can't do. Instead, our churches are blessed when people with special needs can serve and not just be served.

Compassion ministry opens church doors to hurting or struggling people in the community. Families with relatives in jail are drawn to churches with active jail ministry. Members will invite families of children with special needs when Sunday School classes are prepared to include such children.

It doesn't happen without conscious effort. Compassion moves the congregation to extend invitations continually and to keep promoting their resources for people who might need them.

Special Ministries has resources and guidance for churches that have compassion on members of the church or of the community. We can help you demonstrate love in action.

*Learn more about WELS Special Ministries at wels.net/special-ministries or call 414-256-3241. Find resources, including the *His Hands* newsletter, at csm.welsrc.net.*



Deaf and Hard of Hearing

One size does not fit all

The Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MDHH) helps churches and other ministries serve two very different populations. Even among the deaf and the hard of hearing, a diversity of experience, challenges, and solutions exist. One size does not fit all!

Yet all people with hearing loss need Jesus. That reality unites the MDHH in striving to educate and provide resources for church leaders and members. People with hearing loss can worship and be active in their church.

MDHH can help you solve the "sign language challenge." A deaf visitor to a WELS church said that he learned to love Lutheran worship when he was in college, but he needed an interpreter. The church

Visually Impaired

Who is helping whom?

Technology is helping us to break down many Special Ministries barriers. The Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI) is a great example. For years, MVI had a printed catalog of resources. Of course, blind people could not read it! We assumed that a family member or friend would help our patrons choose materials.

Christian literature in Braille has always been available through this catalog. MVI also offers large print materials and audio cassette recordings of Christian literature and music.

Today, the MVI committee includes blind members. They use the computer with the assistance of technology called JAWS, which tells them what is on the screen. These leaders are guiding us to make quality spiritual resources available online. Within the next year, we hope to offer an online library of audio books. The resources are also available to anyone who has any disability that prevents them from reading a book. The MVI catalog will soon be revised so that the blind can search for themselves.

Learn more at wels.net/mvi. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/mvi.



contacted MDHH. The next Sunday the church had an interpreter and even several MDHH members to meet the man and assess his situation! Answering questions about interpreting and helping to locate interpreters are two MDHH services. An online course on American Sign Language and deaf culture is offered annually through Martin Luther College to broaden knowledge and skills among WELS members.

People with mild hearing loss shouldn't miss parts of the sermon. An Assistive Listening Device, such as the Williams Sound System and a headset, can help. For those who wear hearing aids equipped with a T-switch, a hearing loop can greatly improve understanding and participation in worship.

MDHH helps churches understand the importance of including deaf and hard-of-hearing members in worship and other activities, which brings wonderful blessings.

Both the deaf and hard of hearing were created to be part of the Body of Christ. MDHH helps churches understand the importance of including deaf and hard-of-hearing members in worship and other activities, which brings wonderful blessings. Far from needing pity, these brothers and sisters in Christ can bring spiritual perspectives, talents, and experience to the life of the church, usually with just a bit of help from technology. We serve each other with our gifts. That's how Jesus created his church!

Learn more at wels.net/mdhh. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/mdhh.

* * * * *

Freedom for the Captives

New abuse prevention training resources

How do we protect children from abuse? How can we prevent it entirely, or help a child when abuse is discovered? The mission of Freedom for the Captives (FFTC) is "Equipping the Body of Christ to protect children and empower abuse survivors." FFTC has developed online training and certification for WELS leaders at our churches, schools, and other organizations. The course is called "Standing Up for Children: A Christian Response to Child Abuse and Neglect." Training sessions can be scheduled by contacting Special Ministries (freedom@wels.net or 414-256-3241). Please include your name, phone, email and plan for using the training in your request for access.

Visit the website at freedomforcaptives.com.

* * * * *

Conquerors through Christ

Getting it right about moral issues

Have you ever expressed disapproval of pornography and been met with a blank look? After a generation of industry marketing, many accept porn as a healthy part of sexuality.

So Christians may be relieved that the dangers of pornography are receiving greater scrutiny and awareness. Recent criticism has focused on its connection with the devastation of sex trafficking, or the impact of sexual addiction.

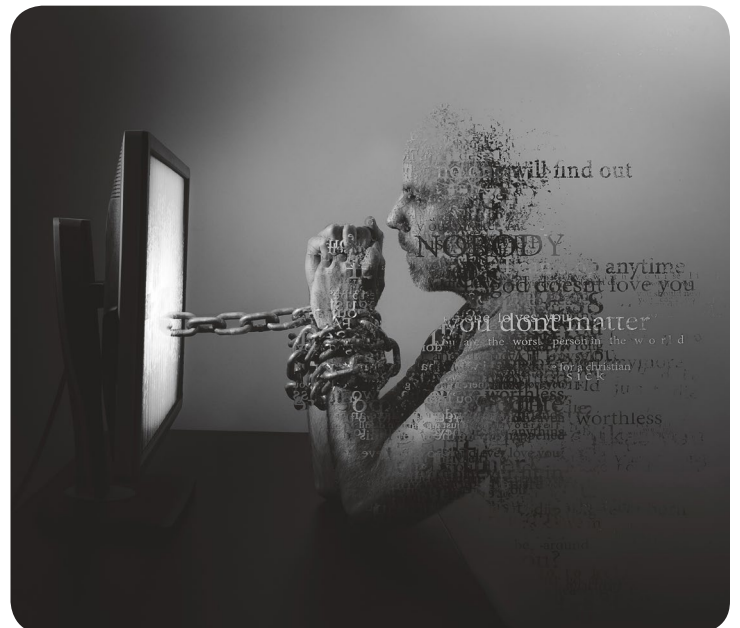
The topic absent from the public forum is sin. Using porn has a corrosive effect. It not only harms a marriage, but our relationship with God. Even if no sex trafficking is involved and no addiction occurs, something is dying in the human heart. The prayer, "Create in me a pure heart, O God," can become empty words. Guilt and shame take over.

Conquerors through Christ continues to prepare resources to help Christians reject, resist, and recover from porn. An excellent Bible study, "Bought at a Price," and e-books for parenting are available on their website. New materials for high school students are in production.

It's not enough to say that porn is wrong. God has provided a path to return to him through forgiveness in Christ and the power of his Spirit. Let's get the message out!

Visit the website at conquerorsthroughchrist.net.

* * * * *



Parish Nursing

Personalizing our church family's love

What congregation doesn't need people with gifts of teaching and administration? Many tasks require someone who is good at interacting with people, quick with Christian insight and encouragement, and being generally helpful.

Did you think "parish nurse" when you read the description above? Maybe you've never had such a position and think it an unnecessary addition to the church worker list. But WELS churches with an active parish nurse program will strongly recommend it. "Church family" evokes an image of caring for each other, and parish nursing personalizes that love.

A WELS parish nurse is a currently licensed Registered Nurse (RN) who promotes both physical and spiritual wellness in the congregation. The parish nurse conducts a wellness-based and non-invasive practice, and the ministry is performed according to the congregation's mission statement and under the direction of the pastor.

Christ Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, Minn., summarizes the work this way: "The primary purpose of the congregation is to spread the Gospel of Salvation in Jesus Christ. In addition, a congregation serves as a 'home' and a 'family' to its members who have not only spiritual needs but also physical, emotional, and psychological needs . . . The Ministry. . . is one way to encourage this sharing of God's love and the growth of faith among those with special needs related to health."

Well-trained parish nurses can be a great blessing to your family of faith.

Well-trained parish nurses can be a great blessing to your family of faith. Pastor Mike Woldt of David's Star Lutheran Church, Jackson, Wis., lists these advantages:

- Good training will help parish nurses share the law and gospel message of Scripture with the people they serve.
- Good training will help parish nurses function within the framework of the congregation and in partnership with the called leaders of the church.
- Good training will help parish nurses recognize opportunities for serving God's people with the abilities they possess and the skills they have cultivated as practicing nurses.

Learn more at the Parish Nursing area of welsnurses.net, the website of WELS Nurses Association.



Support Groups

Help for the hurting

Mutual support and Christian encouragement can turn a crisis or a burden into spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with Christ. That's why churches are turning to support groups to serve their members and the community.



Addiction support groups are not new. WELS Special Ministries, along with WLCFS—Christian Family Solutions, promote Christian spiritual components missing from the standard twelve-step program.

Believers faced with a variety of challenges can benefit from support groups. For example, Samaritan Partners is a Special Ministries program to help caregivers. A Christian who provides care for a parent, spouse, or child shoulders heavy responsibilities and can easily feel isolated. A regular gathering of caregivers can bless church members with fellowship and encouragement. As a bonus, it can serve as an outreach to the community.

We want to develop resources for grief support groups. If you have skills or interest in this area, please contact Special Ministries (specialministries@wels.net or 414-256-3241).

Do you know hurting people in your congregation or community that could benefit from a support group? Our resources and experts can help you avoid common pitfalls in getting a gathering going.

Contact Special Ministries at 414-256-3241 or specialministries@wels.net.



Prison Ministry

Remembering those behind bars

Many would be surprised to learn that the early Christian church needed to do prison ministry. Yes, needed. John the Baptizer and Jesus were incarcerated, of course. The Book of Acts relates several instances of the apostles being jailed. Many followers of Jesus were locked up for the “crime” of being a Christian.

That’s why the New Testament instructs: “Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” (Hebrews 13:3)

Prison Ministry was organized to provide WELS seniors a way to “remember those in prison” in a distinctly gospel-based structure for volunteering. From the start, pen pal opportunities and Bible study correspondence focused on sharing the gospel. The original structure was well thought out, and today is no longer limited to senior involvement.

Our ministry to men and women behind bars has grown and been refined as we understand more about the experience of incarceration and how much impact Bible study can have. The central office and our volunteers respond quickly to letters and correspondence course tests, recognizing the isolation of those who are doing time. We continually bring Christ and His salvation into our communication, understanding that everyone needs to know about their Savior, including those who struggle with their guilt alone in a prison cell.

Prison Ministry also trains WELS and ELS laypeople to serve inmates in local jails through Jail Ministry Team Training (JMTT), in keeping with our emphasis on empowering face-to-face ministry.

For more information on volunteering or receiving training, call 507-354-3130 or e-mail prisonministry@wels.net.

Learn more at wels.net/pm. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/pm.

To add an inmate to the mailing list, go to wels.net/refer.



Military Services

Guarding the faith of our faithful guardians

Military men and women defend us. They willingly serve our country. Their training prepares them to be leaders, achievers, warriors. We might think that these people don’t need a thing, except maybe a call from home or a package of items that are hard to get when you’re far away.

Few people consider the spiritual needs of our military men and women. Yet during those years in service, they may face life-or-death situations. They encounter pressures that civilians would never guess come with military life. They may feel they are sinning when they use violence against the enemy, not understanding the role that God has for them.

This is why we need you to provide WELS Military Services with contact information for members in the military. Our 125 Military Contact Pastors, our National Civilian Chaplain Paul Ziemer, and European Civilian Chaplain Don Stuppy understand the issues. If our service members connect with God’s Word, then instead of drifting away from their faith, they often gain a new appreciation for the Lord and his Word. Please go to wels.net/refer for the sake of the spiritual needs of those who serve us!

Learn more at wels.net/military. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/military.

To add a service member to the mailing list, go to wels.net/refer.



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Inclusion can be the key

C.S. Lewis once pointed out that “membership” came into common language through Paul’s writing about the “Body of Christ.” He said that the world wants to define a “member” in terms of how all members are alike.

In the Body of Christ, the members are not the same, but they belong to each other. Family members (mother, father, child, grandparent) are also very different. They use their position to love and help each other. Members are not alike and don’t have to be the same in order to serve God’s purpose.

How many members of your church can you identify as intellectually or developmentally disabled? Statistically, one in six children have one or more developmental disabilities! Many of these do not remain members of the church when they grow up. Yet God created them to be members of his body.

WELS Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry (IDDM) seeks to help congregations share the gospel with those who have

WELS Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry (IDDM) seeks to help congregations share the gospel with those who have special education needs.

special education needs. We are also passionate about helping churches to be a Christian network for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families. Our partner, Jesus Cares Ministry, is a prime supplier of Christian education materials to conquer this barrier. IDDM’s resources help churches to include special needs families in worship, fellowship, and serving.

Inclusion of adults and children with these challenges will flow from our faith that Christ died for all, and all people need to hear that. Jesus calls us to love and serve one another. We want each person, regardless of ability, to see their place as a member of the Body of Christ. When we strive to be inclusive, challenges will lead to joys. Let IDDM help your church, or connect your family to others who can help. We belong to each other!

Learn more at wels.net/liddm. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/liddm.

To add a special needs individual to the mailing list, go to wels.net/refer.



Chaplain Certification

Going outside the walls

In case it escaped your notice, people are not generally breaking down the doors of our churches, asking us to serve their spiritual needs. There is usually plenty of room in our pews.

But outside the walls, an enormous mission field awaits. Some of those souls are unable to attend regular worship, while others are simply ignorant of their greatest need. Even if they have questions about God, they may not know whom to trust for reliable answers.

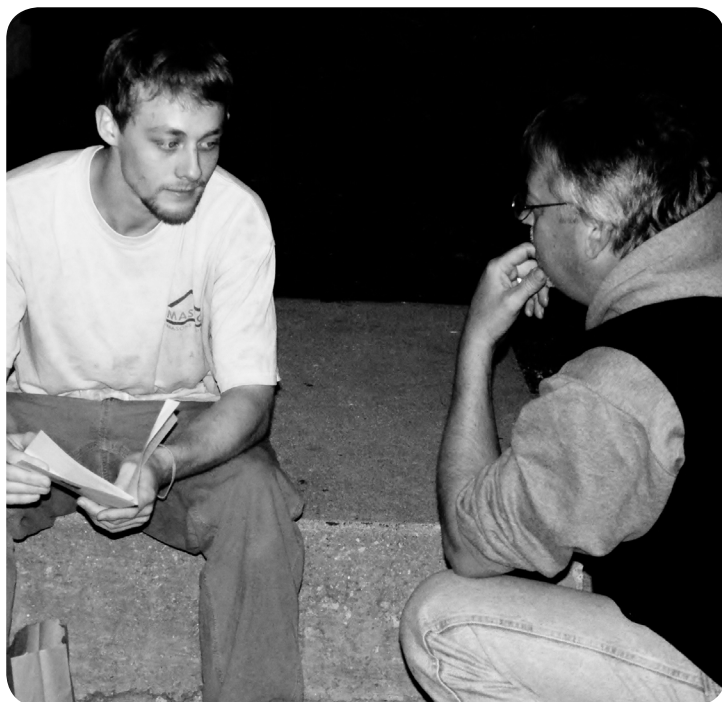
So we need to go outside the walls, and chaplaincy is an excellent way to do that. Chaplains seek to bring the comfort of a compassionate, listening heart to hurting souls. So they go to meet people where they are, sometimes in a time of tragedy or great loss, and bring with them a human, caring presence. In some cases, that compassion will open a door to direct—or redirect—a lost sheep to the Good Shepherd.

There are opportunities for chaplaincy in many areas: in hospitals and care facilities, in jails and prisons, in police and fire agencies, on

There are opportunities for chaplaincy in many areas: in hospitals and care facilities, in jails and prisons, in police and fire agencies, on campuses and in locker rooms, at everyday workplaces and at once-in-a-lifetime disasters.

campuses and in locker rooms, at everyday workplaces and at once-in-a-lifetime disasters. And if someone is going to be there, don't we want it be someone who can properly apply law and gospel?

Chaplain Certification classes, offered online through Martin



Luther College, demonstrate to public institutions that a chaplain has completed a certain level of spiritual guidance training appropriate to serve those within that institution. Required courses include Communicating Forgiveness, A Spiritual Approach to Addiction Counseling, and Chaplaincy Issues and Fieldwork.

Earning a Chaplain Certificate does not, by itself, qualify one for a call into the public ministry, but it surely makes the student more qualified to minister to souls.

Learn more at mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate, or contact Rev. Robert Dick, chairman of the Chaplain Certification Committee, at chaplaincert@wels.net.



Care Committee for Called Workers

Keep your staff happy

The Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW) exists to provide assistance to WELS calling bodies, their called workers, and other staff. Every calling body can benefit from having a committee focused on supporting and encouraging its workers. The CCCW has resources that can help you establish a new care committee or improve one that is already in place.

Calling bodies can support their called workers in several areas:

- **Spiritual support** can involve encouraging personal prayer and Bible study, staff Bible study, and other opportunities for the strengthening and expression of faith.
- **Physical needs** begin when a called worker accepts a call. The new worker may need assistance securing housing, locating doctors, dentists, banks, auto repair shops, etc. Ongoing discussions may involve salary and benefits, vacation policy,

Christian Therapists Network

Online course on Scriptural counseling

The WELS/ELS Christian Therapists Network initially focused on finding counselors who are members of our churches. Now the Network is launching an online class for masters-level therapists. "Acting on Hope I: Peace, Comfort, and Hope in Christ Crucified and Arisen" (PSY9501) will be offered through Martin Luther College.

"Acting on Hope I" is the basic course in the Acting on Hope/Bible-Based Counseling Curriculum. As students learn from each other, the teacher, and the textbook, they will develop their own way of using Scripture in counseling sessions that will best honor the Word of God, best help their clients, and that will respect and use evidence-based counseling best practices and methods.

The one-credit course is worth 25 clock hours and lasts for ten weeks. Tuition is \$310. The instructor is Rev. Alan Siggelkow, LCSW, a former parish pastor who taught pastoral counseling at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for 20 years.

Learn more at mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/registration/new-student-registration or contact Alan Siggelkow at ahsiggelkow@gmail.com.

home repair and improvement, tax preparation, and providing support in emergency situations.



- Support for **intellectual needs** means encouraging called workers to continue their education. The calling body is encouraged to subsidize the cost of continuing education, including travel and child care expenses.
- **Emotional support** includes offering assistance to alleviate stress or deal with workplace conflicts. This is especially important when personal or family counseling may be needed. You can show appreciation by recognizing personal and professional anniversaries with gifts, providing a meal during busy times, arranging child care for an evening out, or inviting the called worker over for dinner.
- **Retirement planning** and investing should be addressed as early as possible in a worker's career. It is important to understand the WELS pension plan, Social Security, and personal investing such as the WELS Shepherd Plan. By using the available tools and resources, each worker can become financially literate and develop a long-term plan for a comfortable retirement. Calling bodies are encouraged to help build their workers' retirement accounts either through matching contributions or a lump sum contribution.

The synodical CCCW serves local committees and workers by producing user-friendly resources, such as a how-to video for starting a local care committee and retirement planning tools.

Learn more at wels.net/cccw. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/cccw.

Hand in Hand with WELS Special Ministries

To learn more about WELS Special Ministries, visit wels.net/special-ministries.

To subscribe to the e-mail version of *His Hands*, visit wels.net/subscribe.

To refer military personnel, prisoners, or people with developmental disabilities for Special Ministries resources, visit wels.net/refer.

To support WELS Special Ministries, visit wels.net/support-special-ministries.

For assistance in making a gift to Special Ministries, contact the Ministry of Christian Giving, 800-827-5482.





WELS Foundation

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Annual Report 2017

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

FY2015-FY2017

Over the last three years WELS Foundation has been privileged to administer and distribute \$22,046,172 in donor directed gifts to various WELS ministries.

77%

WELS NATIONAL MINISTRIES
\$17,013,047

5%

WELS AFFILIATED MINISTRIES
\$1,148,293

18%

WELS CONGREGATIONS
\$3,884,832

We thank the Lord for your generous gifts!

Dear Partners in Christ's kingdom of grace,

The 2017 synod convention celebrated "Our Great Heritage" in Jesus Christ—God's Son and the Savior of all sinners—and recommitted to studying and sharing Christ's love. We were filled with joy as we established fellowship with sister churches in Ethiopia, East Asia, and Hong Kong, and as we received reports of gospel endeavors from missionaries and ministry leaders. We felt more grateful to God for the rich spiritual and material blessings he's given us, and we asked him to bless our humble efforts to share the love of Christ with others. It was a wonderfully encouraging experience!

However, our convention celebration quickly fades. We face attacks from within and outside the Church and wrestle with our sinful weaknesses and the challenges of serving our Savior and others in a fallen world that operates all too often on the principles of the old, evil foe. Don't be surprised or discouraged in these moments. Instead, remember Jesus' words: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jesus did indeed overcome the world with his perfect life of love under God's law, his being "pierced for our transgressions [and] crushed for our iniquities," and his glorious resurrection from the dead and ascension to heaven! As the King of kings and Lord

of lords, he controls all things for the benefit of his Church, by which he invites sinners of all nations to become his disciples by grace through faith in Christ. Our living Lord promises to preserve our faith and prevent any plan that would destroy or harm his people. Therefore, let us rededicate ourselves to hold onto Christ, our great heritage, and share him with others.

Thank you for reviewing this report, which shows how we were privileged to manage nearly 1,200 donor-directed gifts and to distribute \$9.7 million in donor-directed gifts to WELS ministries this past year. To learn more about the different ways you can directly impact our Savior's work through your gifts, please phone us, visit our

WELS Foundation web site, wels.net/foundation, or meet with your local WELS Christian giving counselor or mission advancement representative.

God bless and keep you,

PASTOR 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 Lord calls him or her home, 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	\$294	\$2,909
65	4.7%	\$470	\$327	\$3,490
70	5.1%	\$510	\$371	\$4,099
75	5.8%	\$580	\$437	\$4,577
80	6.8%	\$680	\$530	\$5,021
85	7.8%	\$780	\$638	\$5,660
90	9.0%	\$900	\$756	\$6,295

**Rates and data as of September 1, 2017*

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, 2017, WELS Foundation administered 659 gift annuity contracts.

	2017	2016	2015
Opening Balance	\$ 9,353,448	\$ 9,751,245	\$ 9,950,074
Gifts Received	1,525,088	996,467	1,150,769
Net Investment Income (Loss)	577,644	(59,280)	6,952
Annuity Payments	(998,650)	(1,057,780)	(1,074,448)
Charitable Distributions	(305,348)	(277,204)	(282,102)
Ending Balance	\$10,152,182	\$ 9,353,448	\$ 9,751,245

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, 2017, WELS Foundation administered 162 charitable remainder trusts.

	2017	2016	2015
Opening Balance	\$ 30,435,782	\$ 32,326,183	\$ 31,836,659
Gifts Received	427,266	2,139,711	4,181,292
Net Investment Income (Loss)	3,049,336	(565,902)	(57,540)
Income Payments	(1,741,345)	(2,102,284)	(1,970,889)
Charitable Distributions	(2,110,363)	(1,361,926)	(1,663,339)
Ending Balance	\$ 30,060,675	\$ 30,435,782	\$ 32,326,183

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, 2017, WELS Foundation administered 48 donor advised funds.

	2017	2016	2015
Opening Balance	\$ 1,937,350	\$ 2,255,978	\$ 1,973,307
Gifts Received	473,274	527,218	1,032,728
Net Investment Income (Loss)	198,227	(44,801)	9,627
Charitable Distributions	(491,617)	(801,045)	(759,684)
Ending Balance	\$ 2,117,234	\$ 1,937,350	\$ 2,255,978

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 300 endowment funds.

	2017	2016	2015
Opening Balance	\$ 70,465,335	\$ 23,756,822	\$ 20,882,225
Gifts Received	2,147,713	4,626,418	2,489,083
Net Investment Income (Loss)	8,614,988	1,143,610	272,549
Transfers In	0	42,123,563	797,481
Charitable Distributions	(2,361,978)	(1,185,078)	(684,516)
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 78,866,058	\$ 70,465,335	\$ 23,756,822



Financial summary

Summary financial information for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, 2016, and 2015.

	AS OF JUNE 30, 2017	AS OF JUNE 30, 2016	AS OF JUNE 30, 2015
ASSETS			
Investments, cash, and cash equivalents	\$ 135,037,260	\$ 128,673,828	\$ 85,801,763
Property held for sale, life insurance, bequest, and other receivables	2,967,891	2,946,453	3,083,882
Total Assets	\$ 138,005,151	\$ 131,620,281	\$ 88,885,645
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 409,148	\$ 71,990	\$ 68,339
Gift annuities and trusts payable	25,879,632	24,554,333	28,623,568
Liabilities to outside beneficiaries	13,215,157	11,214,000	8,328,993
Investments held for WELS and schools	48,055,498	43,772,026	-
Net assets and funds held for WELS and WELS subsidiaries	50,445,716	52,007,932	51,864,745
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 138,005,151	\$ 131,620,281	\$ 88,885,645
SUPPORT AND REVENUES			
Gifts, memorials, and bequests	\$ 2,821,533	\$ 2,057,831	\$ 4,161,472
Net Investment and rental income	8,133,330	2,471,444	439,107
Trustee and administrator fees	687,297	645,756	618,211
Decrease in split-interest gift agreements	(4,588,993)	973,592	(701,757)
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 7,053,167	\$ 6,148,623	4,517,033
DISTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES			
Administrative expenses	\$ 585,958	\$ 630,331	\$ 650,944
Program expenses	598,530	641,520	625,750
Distributions to WELS and WELS subsidiaries	7,430,895	4,733,585	4,973,686
Total Distributions and Expenses	\$ 8,615,383	\$ 6,005,436	\$ 6,250,380
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (1,562,216)	\$ 143,187	\$ (1,733,347)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 52,007,932	\$ 51,864,745	\$ 53,598,092
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 50,445,716	\$ 52,007,932	\$ 51,864,745



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)

NATHAN BIRKHOLZ, *director*

term expires June 30, 2020
(Minnesota District)

MICHAEL BRERETON, *director*

term expires June 30, 2021
(Michigan 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)



N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188-1108



WELS Investment Funds
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Annual Report

2017

*Strengthening and enhancing
ministry through professionally
managed investment portfolios*





WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF WELS MINISTRIES INVESTING THROUGH WELS INVESTMENT FUNDS?

- WELS Investment Funds was incorporated as a **support services subsidiary of WELS** in 1997 and currently manages more than \$200 million for more than 200 WELS and WELS affiliated ministries including WELS Foundation, Martin Luther College, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Luther Preparatory School, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, WELS Home and World Missions, several area Lutheran high schools, and more than 170 congregations.
- **WELS Investment Funds provides cost-effective, professionally managed investment portfolios exclusively for WELS and affiliated ministries.** By pooling our God-given talents and resources with other congregations we can take advantage of lower cost, institutional priced investment opportunities that are not available to smaller investment accounts. As more congregations and organizations invest in WELS Investment Funds, the cost reduction benefits also increase. It's a way we can help support each other.
- **WELS Investment Funds is easy to use.** Executive Director Jim Holm, CFP®, an employee of WELS, is available to meet with your organization, either in person or via phone, to discuss the various investment opportunities available through WELS. Our investment services specialist, Monica Peavy, is also available to guide you through the steps to open and maintain an investment account.

HOW DOES WELS INVESTMENT FUNDS SERVE MINISTRY?

WELS Funds are designed primarily for the investment needs of endowment funds, scholarship funds, and charitable trust funds that strengthen and enhance our ministry as a whole.

WHO CAN INVEST IN WELS FUNDS?

Any 501(c)(3) organization that is affiliated with WELS (i.e. listed in the WELS Yearbook). (Individuals and organizations located in Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, or Virginia may not invest in WELS Funds.)

HOW ARE THE FUNDS MANAGED?

WELS Investment Funds' Board of Directors has retained Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services® as the investment consultant for WELS Investment Funds. As a co-fiduciary, the investment consultant is responsible for making investment recommendations to the board. Once the recommendation is approved by the board, the investment consultant, after consideration of the WELS Investment Funds' investment policy statement and the various investment objectives and restrictions therein, has the discretion to implement and oversee the investment recommendations.

A copy of the most recent investment policy statement is available on the WELS Investment Funds' website.





WHAT IS WELS FUNDS INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY?

We believe that the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. From a human perspective, we utilize our knowledge, experience, and available professional resources to provide efficient and effective investment management. Ultimately, we acknowledge that it is the Lord who provides for our needs in the manner that is most beneficial for our individual and collective good.

We believe we can be better stewards by pooling our collective talents and resources. We recognize that each congregation or organization could develop their own investment policies, retain their own consultants, and invest independently in separate portfolios. However, we believe that together we can benefit from the collective knowledge and experience of the membership throughout our synod. Together we can also leverage economies of scale and utilize institutional priced investment opportunities when available.

MANAGEMENT

The Board of Directors of WELS Investment Funds is responsible for the operation of WELS Investment Funds, including the engagement of investment consultants. Directors serve three-year terms and are elected annually by the WELS Synodical Council.

The day-to-day affairs are carried out by its officers and other WELS employees. For administrative convenience, efficiency, and cost effectiveness, WELS Investment Funds leases its personnel from WELS. WELS also provides services relating to the processing of transactions, preparing investor account statements, and the preparation of corporate financial statements.

Additional information concerning the Board and officers and a copy of the most recent audited financial statements of WELS Investment Funds is available on the WELS Investment Funds' website.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dennis Walters
Chairman

Dennis Walters is retired and formerly vice president, administrative controller, and director of Corporate Financial Reporting for Cargill, Inc.



Seth T. Hansen
Director

Seth T. Hansen is the vice president, Project Management, Daktronics, Inc., a developer of electronic display systems.



Joel L. Luehmann
Vice Chairman

Joel L. Luehmann serves as director, Enterprise Risk Management, for Compeer Financial in Mankato, Minn.



Ronald Schmitz
Director

Ronald Schmitz is retired after a 34-year career as a financial consultant for AXA Advisors (formerly Equitable Life, N.Y.).



John G. Wenker
Secretary

Mr. John G. Wenker is a managing director at Nuveen Asset Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of TIAA-CREF. John was Head of Real Assets at Nuveen Asset Management until June 30, 2017, and will retire December 31, 2017.



Max D. Wenck
Director

Max D. Wenck is a co-owner of MorganMyers, Inc., a multi-million dollar communications consulting firm.



Jon C. Bruss
Director

Jon C. Bruss is the founder of Fortress Partners Capital Management, LTD. (an investment advisory firm).

HOW ARE THE DIRECTORS ON THE WELS INVESTMENT FUNDS' BOARD SELECTED?

Nominations are received from voting members of congregations throughout WELS. The nominees are then vetted by the WELS Human Resources director and the WELS Investment Funds Board of Directors. The Board makes a recommendation to the WELS Synodical Council. The final decision is made by the WELS Synodical Council. The Board of Directors is made up entirely of WELS members with relevant professional experience for service to WELS Investment Funds. The Directors have a heart for ministry and are dedicated to managing WELS Investment Funds to the benefit of invested WELS entities.

WELS members with the necessary skills and experience are encouraged to contact WELS Investment Funds or their pastor to learn more about the nomination process.



The Funds

The WELS Balanced Fund is managed mindful of the long-term investment goals of endowment and scholarship funds. Currently the target allocation for the WELS Balanced Fund is 60% in equity and 40% in fixed income. This target allocation is regularly reviewed by the Board of Directors and is subject to change. Approximately 90% of all investments in the WELS Funds are in the WELS Balanced Fund.

The WELS Equity Fund and WELS Income Funds invest in the same underlying mutual funds as the WELS Balanced Fund. They are available for those organizations who desire an asset allocation other than that offered by the WELS Balanced Fund.

All the mutual funds that comprise the WELS Funds have investment expenses significantly below the industry average. The weighted average expense ratios for the WELS Balanced Fund, WELS Equity Fund, and WELS Income Fund are 0.14%, 0.19%, and 0.06%, respectively.

WELS BALANCED FUND - As of December 31, 2017

The WELS Balanced Fund is the portfolio specifically designed for trust, endowment, and scholarship funds within WELS.

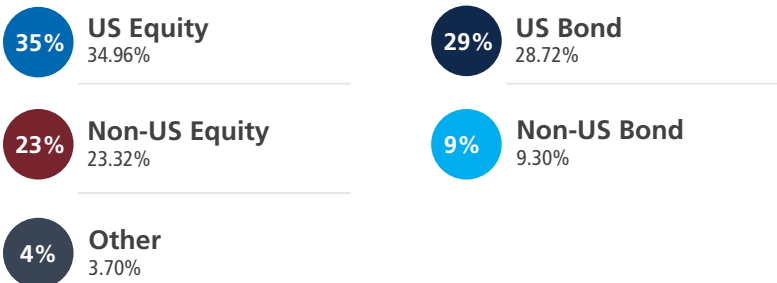
ANNUAL RETURN*	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr
Total Return %	3.5%	7.2%	16.2%	8.3%	5.8%

*Vanguard portfolio returns beginning 7/2016 are gross of WELS Investment Funds operating expenses.

Target Holdings

Vanguard Total Stock Market Idx I	18.0%
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index I	16.0%
Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade I	12.0%
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index I	12.0%
Vanguard Inter-Term Investment-Grde Adm	8.0%
Vanguard Morgan™ Growth Admiral™	6.3%
Vanguard Windsor™ II Admiral™	6.3%
Vanguard International Growth Adm	6.0%
Vanguard International Value Inv	6.0%
Vanguard Total Intl Bd Idx Institutional	4.0%
Vanguard Mid Cap Growth Inv	2.7%
Vanguard Strategic Equity Inv	2.7%

Asset Allocation



PORTFOLIO INSIGHTS - EQUITY

Equity investments are globally diversified across domestic and international large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap securities, including value, core, and growth styles.

The cornerstone equity holding is the Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund, Institutional Shares. This fund is diversified across over 3,400 domestic equities.

The Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund, Institutional Shares hold more than 6,000 equity securities, diversified across over 30 countries.

These two core equity index funds are complimented by four actively managed Vanguard mutual funds managed by firms including, Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Straus, LLC; Lazard Asset Management, LLC, and Ballie Gifford Overseas, LTD.

WELS EQUITY FUND - As of December 31, 2017

The WELS Equity Fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing in a portfolio of equity securities that is well diversified by industry and company size.

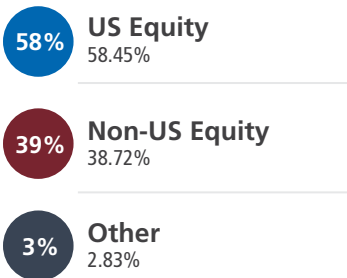
ANNUAL RETURN*	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr
Total Return %	5.6%	11.4%	25.4%	12.6%	6.5%

*Vanguard portfolio returns beginning 7/2016 are gross of WELS Investment Funds operating expenses.

Target Holdings

Vanguard Total Stock Market Idx I	30.0%
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index I	20.0%
Vanguard Morgan™ Growth Admiral™	10.5%
Vanguard Windsor™ II Admiral™	10.5%
Vanguard International Growth Adm	10.0%
Vanguard International Value Inv	10.0%
Vanguard Mid Cap Growth Inv	4.5%
Vanguard Strategic Equity Inv	4.5%

Asset Allocation



PORTFOLIO INSIGHTS – FIXED INCOME

The Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund, Institutional Shares, is invested in more than 8,000 investment grade, domestic fixed income securities. Holdings include U.S. Treasury, U.S. agency, and other domestic investment grade fixed income securities.

For diversification purposes, the Vanguard Total International Bond Index Fund is utilized. This Fund is diversified across over 8,000 international fixed income securities, representing 30 underlying countries. All holdings are currency hedged to the U.S. dollar, for risk management purposes.

The Vanguard Intermediate-Term Investment Grade Fund, Admiral Shares, and the Vanguard Short-Term Investment Grade Fund, Institutional Shares, are actively managed with an intensive credit analysis and risk controlled approach.

WELS INCOME FUND - As of December 31, 2017

The WELS Income Fund seeks to provide income by investing primarily in investment quality debt securities.

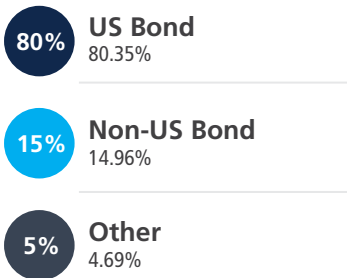
ANNUAL RETURN*	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr
Total Return %	0.3%	1.1%	3.2%	1.8%	4.0%

*Vanguard portfolio returns beginning 7/2016 are gross of WELS Investment Funds operating expenses.

Target Holdings

Vanguard Total Bond Market Index I	40.0%
Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade I	30.0%
Vanguard Inter-Term Investment-Grade Adm	20.0%
Vanguard Total Intl Bd Idx Institutional	10.0%

Asset Allocation



Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The performance data is current as of December 31, 2017, and is subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions. Participating in the WELS Funds is subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested. Withdrawals from the WELS Funds are payable exclusively from the net assets of the Fund. Accounts are not protected or insured by the FDIC or SIPC and are not guaranteed by WELS or any other person or entity.

OPERATING EXPENSES

All direct expenses and any expenses allocated by WELS related to the operation of WELS Investment Funds (e.g. rent for office space, utilities, financial, technological, and human resources expenses) are charged directly to the WELS Funds. While these expenses vary from year to year, for the fiscal year 2018, they are projected to be approximately 0.21% of the assets in the WELS Funds.

MONTHLY PROCESSING

WELS Funds' transactions are processed on the first business day of each month. Additions and/or redemption requests must be received by WELS Investment Funds at least one business day prior to month end for processing. Funds received prior to month-end will be held in a non-interest bearing cash account until processed. Redemptions proceeds will be deposited in the organization's bank account via direct deposit.

HOW TO INVEST

A custodial account agreement and custodial worksheet must be completed to establish a new account. All investments made pursuant to the custodial agreement will be held in the name of WELS Investment Funds (or such other entity selected by WELS Investment Funds) as nominee for the organization, with actual ownership of the investments remaining in the organization. Each organization investing in the WELS Funds will be assigned an interest (an "Ownership Interest") in the assets of each chosen WELS Fund reflecting the pro rata interest of the organization in the assets of the particular WELS Fund. The value of the organization's Ownership Interest may fluctuate as the value of the particular WELS Fund fluctuates.

MAILING ADDRESS

Investment and redemption requests should be mailed to:

WELS Investment Funds
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188-1108

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: welsfunds@wels.net
Phone: (877) 888-8953
Web: wels.net/welsfunds



OTHER WELS SUBSIDIARIES

WELS Church Extension Fund (CEF) exists to provide financing for mission-minded endeavors and projects that are under the direction of WELS Board for Home Missions. WELS CEF provides loans and grants to qualified mission congregations so they can acquire land and build or renovate ministry facilities—used as tools for gospel outreach. The money WELS CEF uses to provide loans and grants comes from two sources— investments and gifts. For more information, visit wels.net/cef.

WELS Foundation exists to assist God’s people in support of God’s ministry through the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. WELS Foundation provides a channel through which gifts can be administered for the benefit of local and national ministries by:

- Providing knowledgeable planned giving support to WELS Christian giving counselors and other WELS advancement representatives.
- Facilitating various giving opportunities, including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, donor advised funds, and endowment administration.

Visit wels.net/foundation for more information.

WELS Investment Funds is a charitable non-stock, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. It was formed in 1997 as a support services subsidiary of WELS to provide investment vehicles so that funds of WELS, WELS congregations, and other WELS related organizations could be invested to achieve the desires of the organizations and their donors.

WELS Investment Funds is not registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as a broker or dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. WELS Investment Funds, Inc. administers the WELS Funds for the benefit of WELS ministries pursuant to a claim of exemption from registration under the federal Philanthropy Protection Act of 1995.

Note that investment programs offered by WELS Investment Funds involve risk. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns, WELS Funds are not FDIC or SIPC insured, and may lose value. WELS Funds are not guaranteed by WELS or any other person or entity.

At this time, WELS Funds are NOT available in Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, or Virginia.



WELS Investment Funds
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188-1108
1-877-888-8953 • wels.net/welsfunds

316NOW: Gospel Outreach to China's 1.4 Billion Souls



316NOW is a ministry of WELS and ELS Lutherans who are committed

bringing the gospel to the Chinese people by empowering Chinese Christian leaders through Scripture study.

We pray the Spirit would use **316NOW** to assist these Chinese leaders in building and growing a network of spiritually united believers.



316NOW's teachers travel to China to personally meet, teach, and encourage our online students.

316NOW's Grace Bible Institute

provides online training in theology, Scripture study, and practical ministry topics to Chinese Christian church leaders who desire our help.

Our courses include studies of

- The Gospels
- Romans
- Revelation
- An Old Testament overview
- A New Testament overview
- Law and Gospel
- The Lutheran Confessions
- Stewardship
- Sermon writing
- Leadership



316NOW's In-China Ministries seeks to network our students in China so they can share what they have learned from the Scriptures, encourage each other, and join forces to tell others about God's grace in Jesus.

316NOW's Joy-filled Children

Of the World (JCW) is our program to share Jesus with children in China. JCW uses the internet to teach English as a foreign language to 9-15 year-olds. Often their parents also attend these classes. Bible stories are used as our basic course materials. We train American Christians to teach for JCW.



316NOW is committed to helping American Christians understand the Chinese culture and how it impacts the lives of believers there. We also encourage American Christians to partner with us in spreading God's message of grace throughout China.

You Can Help

There are 1.2+ billion people in China who are not Christians. You have a role to play in bringing grace across China NOW.

★ Stay current on Christianity in China by visiting 316NOW.org. Join the mailing list.

★ Pray for the spread of the gospel in China. Ask the Spirit's protection and empowering on the Christians he has placed there, on all the ways the gospel is being shared there, and on all our denomination's efforts to bring Jesus to more there.

★ Share this brochure with others. Ask them to become involved in bringing the gospel to China.

★ Give generously to support 316NOW and other WELS groups working in China.



Scan to give to 316NOW.

★ Volunteer: let us know about your training, experience, and ministry gifts. Email us at 316NOW@316NOW.org.

Photos are either owned by 316NOW or in public domain

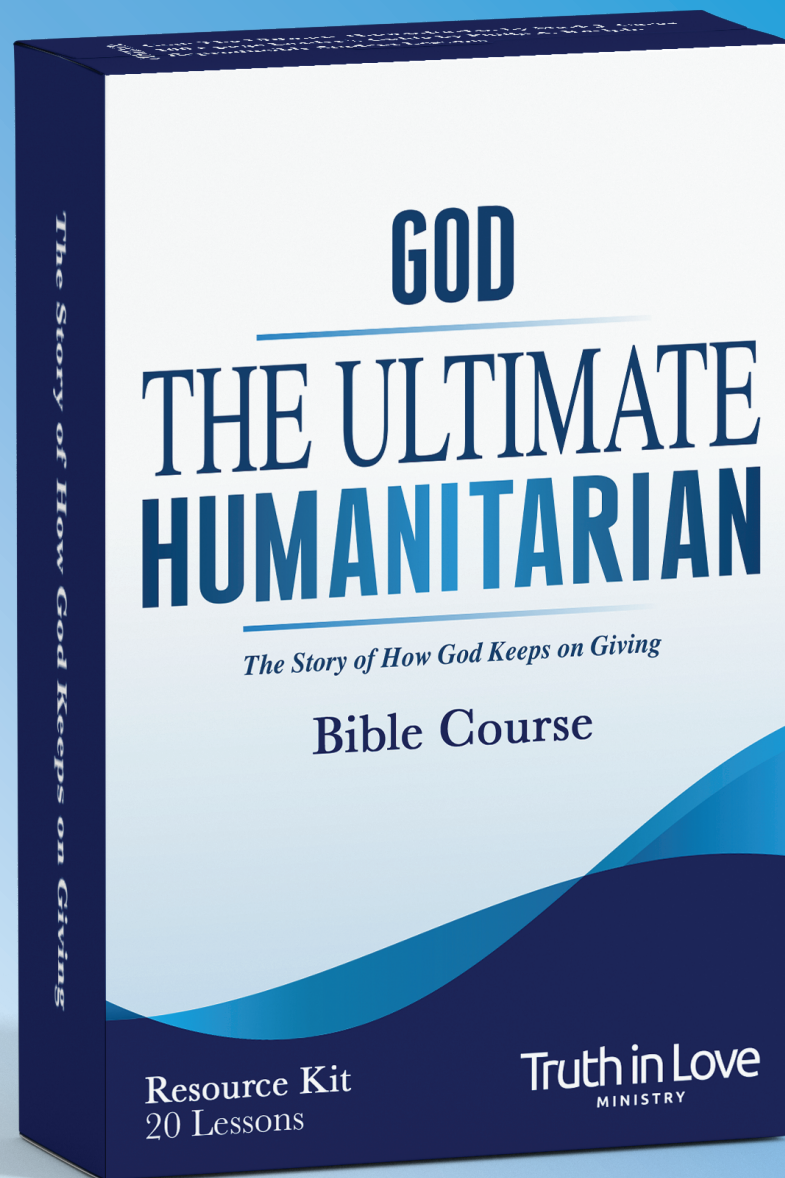


Learn more about 316NOW at 316NOW.org. You'll also find 316NOW on Facebook and Twitter. Follow us there to stay current on our ministry.



P.O. Box 28876
Greenfield, WI 53228





“What a delightful addition to our available resources in helping seekers find the true God!”
- Pastor Mark Jeske, Time of Grace

LOOKING FOR A COMPLETE BIBLE COURSE?

One with a complete leader's guide enabling anyone to lead it?

One that covers familiar topics in a fresh, new way?

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>> NOW AVAILABLE AT TILM.ORG

“IT COULD SERVE AS A MINI BIBLE INFORMATION COURSE.”

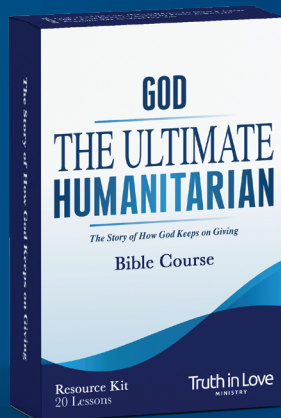
- Pastor Dave Valleskey, former president of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Since the release of *God – The Ultimate Humanitarian* by Pastor Mark J. Cares, many have suggested that we produce a Bible course to accompany the book. **You spoke, we listened.**

Pastor Phil Koelpin has written a 20-lesson course – one lesson for each book chapter. These lessons are accompanied by a 100+ page leader’s guide. From one pastor who field-tested the course: *“Comments in the leader’s guide are especially insightful, enhancing what is already an enriching, faith-based study. All will be blessed by it!”*

The course kit includes a copy of the book, the leader’s guide and reproducible student lessons.

For more content information, visit tilm.org/resources.



AVAILABLE NOW TILM.ORG/STORE

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT GOD – THE ULTIMATE HUMANITARIAN

I thought the book might be a dry doctrinal book, but once I started, I couldn't put it down! The author simplifies and clarifies the fundamental Biblical truths by giving concrete examples and vivid imagery in a conversational style. - **Ruth**

I've never read a book that has taken the most critical aspects of the Christian faith and made them so accessible to a wide audience.

- **Amazon Review**

I would wholeheartedly recommend this book to give to prospects or new Christians. It could also serve as a great supplement in teaching Bible Information Class or possibly even the textbook for such classes.

- **Pastor Ed Schuppe, Mission Counselor**

LAUNCH SALE! SAVE 25%

Bible Course Kit	\$49 \$36.75
Bible Course Kit and 12 Books	\$193 \$140
Bible Course Kit and 24 Books	\$289 \$225



CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES

2018 DISTRICT CONVENTION REPORT

35 YEARS OF DEFENDING LIFE



Christian Life Resources is a ministry of love dedicated to honoring life during all of its stages. Using Scripture to encourage and support, we are committed to helping others along life's way – while on their journey here on earth and into eternity.

**IN 2018 WE ARE
CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF
GOD'S GRACE UPON THIS
LIFE-AFFIRMING MINISTRY.**

35 WAYS TO PROMOTE LIFE



- 1) Pray for the CLR ministry, the CLR pregnancy care centers, *New Beginnings*
- 2) Conduct a Life Sunday in your congregation
- 3) Conduct a life-related Bible study
- 4) Arrange a Skype presentation with CLR's National Director, Pastor Robert Fleischmann
- 5) Sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter, *Life Light*
- 6) Sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter, *LifeWire*
- 7) Choose articles from *LifeWire* and include them in your church newsletter
- 8) Sign up to receive *Growing Branches*, the quarterly newsletter from *New Beginnings*
- 9) Ask for CLR's quarterly *Clearly Caring* magazine
- 10) Conduct a community blood drive
- 11) Maintain a bulletin board on current life and family events
- 12) Coordinate a "Change for Life" baby bottle event to support *New Beginnings*
- 13) Coordinate an effort to sign people up to be part of CLR's database
- 14) Encourage attendance at our annual CLR Celebration of Life Event
- 15) Promote a CLR pregnancy center affiliate closest to you (include updates in your newsletter); conduct a baby shower or diaper drive to help their clients or conduct a gift card drive from major retailers in order for the center to purchase needed items
- 16) Hold a gift card drive for *New Beginnings* to address their wish list of needs
- 17) Collect a door offering to help Christian Life Resources and/or *New Beginnings*
- 18) Consider a collection by your ladies' organization or Sunday School to support the CLR and/or *New Beginnings'* ministries
- 19) Add CLR and/or *New Beginnings* envelopes to your church offering envelopes
- 20) Get a CLR medical directive – at no cost
- 21) Contact the CLR office with life-related questions – we can help
- 22) Participate in CLR or *New Beginnings* fundraising events such as our annual Wine-Tasting Event or Golf Outing
- 23) Designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to CLR or *New Beginnings*
- 24) Designate CLR or *New Beginnings* as recipients of United Way donations
- 25) Go to AmazonSmile.com to designate CLR and have 0.5 percent of your purchases to be earmarked for our organization
- 26) Use our website: **we are launching a fresh look in the fall**
- 27) Consider being a part of your state's Right to Life organization
- 28) Adopt a shut-in – visit, provide a service, send a greeting
- 29) Subscribe to emails providing life-affirming updates such as NRL News, Life Action News, etc
- 30) Volunteer at a pregnancy center – visit Heartbeat International to find one near you
- 31) Volunteer at a local assisted living home or hospice
- 32) "Like" CLR or *New Beginnings* on Facebook
- 33) Follow CLR or *New Beginnings* on Twitter
- 34) Knit winter wear and donate to our pregnancy care centers that distribute practical assistance items to clients in need
- 35) If you are a nurse or other medical professional, provide blood pressure checks at church

OUR MISSION



THE MISSION OF CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES IS TO USE LIFE AND FAMILY ISSUES AS BRIDGES TO CONVEY THE LOVE OF GOD AND TO SHARE THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST.

- CLR and *New Beginnings* websites (www.christianliferesources.com, www.homeformothers.com)
 - Life Sunday materials
 - CLR Affiliate Access website (found at www.clraffiliate.com)
 - *Life Light*: the monthly e-newsletter of CLR – offers resources from CLR on a specific topic
 - *LifeWire*: the weekly e-newsletter of CLR – offers the latest life and family news, upcoming events, other newsworthy information
 - *Clearly Caring*-Mini publication on life and family issues (www.clearlycaring.com)
 - CLR Staff (800-729-9535) and info@christianliferesources.com
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HEALING & HELPING

MINISTRY UPDATE—SUMMER 2018



PASTOR MATTEK'S 2018 PREACHING SCHEDULE

6/3	Immanuel Waupaca, WI
6/17	Peace Wautoma, WI
6/21-24	LWMS Green Bay, WI
7/8	St. Peter Eldorado, WI
7/8	Zion Van Dyne, WI
7/22	Peace Milbank, SD
7/22	St. Johns Summit, SD
7/29	Peace Ostego, MI
8/12	St. John Manitowoc, WI
8/19	Immanuel Sault Sainte Marie, MI

Each year as I crisscross the United States and visit WELS and 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.

At each congregation I visit, I hear personal stories about how WLCFS-Christian Family Solutions has helped families and individuals. One man approached me after a service and said, "I'm married, and I have children. I'm gay. I want to thank your counselor for helping me to live the way God wants me to live." Clinical counseling, combined with the power of God's Word, can change lives.

If I haven't visited your church, I would love to come share more about our life-changing services with your members. 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!

Pastor James Mattek

Please see the back for 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.

OUR HEALING & HELPING MINISTRIES

Services Offered at WLCFS-Christian Family Solutions

NEW INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS

Offering a higher level of counseling care

What is an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)?

Often more intensive group counseling services are needed for those with deeper issues.

Our Intensive Outpatient Programs are unique in that they include a faith-based component to treatment.

IOP basics

- 3-hour group sessions, typically held 3-4 days per week
- Average group size: 6-10 members
- Treatment methods include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) & Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- Programs are available for adults and teens

What programs are currently offered?

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

Where are the programs located?

Programs are currently offered in Brookfield and Appleton, WI and Lakeville and Mankato, MN. Please contact us or check our website to see availability.

What are the steps to get started?

Please contact us at **800.438.1772**. For additional information, visit **www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org**.

COUNSELING SERVICES

What sets our counseling apart from others?

Our counseling services combine evidence-based therapeutic practices with the strength and comfort found in God's Word.

There are three ways to receive 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—Counseling via secure video in states where we have licensed counselors

Member Assistance Program—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)

Visit our website for clinic and program locations.

SENIOR SERVICES

Home Care

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

Senior Communities

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

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 day treatment 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.

Where the Care of Soul is the Soul of Care

TLHA Quarterly Special Edition: Summer 2018

13 individuals baptized at Jesus Cares Ministries program

Everyone had to wait their turn as a line formed in the front of the church at Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas.

"It was an amazing thing to witness, I've never seen a line at the baptismal font," said Faith Brown, Jesus Cares Ministries program coordinator at Abiding Word.

Thirteen JCM participants were baptized by Pastor Matthew Brown on Saturday, May 5. Eight were baptized at the church in front of congregation and family members; five were baptized in their home. All JCM participants were welcomed into God's family.

"What a wonderful day and great to see 13 people added to God's family through the waters of baptism," said Joel Gaertner, National Director of Jesus Cares Ministries. "It is great when our JCM programs make such opportunities available."

JCM assists congregations in reaching out to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and communities. To find a JCM program near you, visit thla.org.



Michael R. Klatt, President and CEO
Mark Hayes, VP of Mission Advancement
Rev. Joel Gaertner, VP of Ministry & Director of JCM
Rev. Curt Seefeldt, Director of Church Relations

THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION



Christian independent living with access to rehab

Since shoulder surgery in March, life has been different for Debra Spiller. With her arm in a sling and little to no movement, she can't drive and has had to do everything with just one arm. Fortunately, due to her living situation, she has been able to attend physical therapy and begin the rehab process.

Debra resides at KingsPath Senior Living, The Lutheran Home Association's newest care community, which is connected to Ridgeview Health Campus in Belle Plaine, Minn.

"I really like that it's convenient to the rehab," Debra said.

Debra has been working with a physical therapist through Ridgeview Rehab

Specialties program. Debra has an indoor walk to the Ridgeview area of the campus, a perk during the colder months.

"We have a close relationship with Ridgeview Belle Plaine Clinic and Rehab Specialists," said Barb Weicherding, Property Manager at KingsPath Senior Living. "With the addition of Ridgeview Home Health located on the second floor of our building, we are in the position to offer residents the option to aging in place while having access to a variety of events and activities."



*Think you could benefit from calling a place like KingsPath home?
Call (952) 873-5800 to schedule a tour.*

A resident and her caregiver join God's family

Tears of joy rolled down Brenda Peterson's cheeks as she sat in the chapel at Hope Residence. Sitting next to her was Shelly, whose radiant smile illuminated the room filled with their friends and family.

Shelly lives at Hope Residence, a disability care community in Belle Plaine, Minnesota; and Brenda is one of her caregivers. Living and working at Hope gave these women an opportunity to learn more about Christianity.

Together, they began to study the Bible with Pastor Ed Fredrich, chaplain of The Lutheran Home Belle Plaine campus. Brenda and Shelly chose to continue their lessons in order to be confirmed.

"Just knowing I will be saved makes me feel so good," Shelly said.

After completing their religious education, both Brenda and Shelly were ready to demonstrate their commitment to Christ in front of friends and family. So on that special day in the chapel, they were each baptized and confirmed!



"Like" The Lutheran Home Association on Facebook to read more heart warming stories from our ministry.

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
Wellhaven Senior Living,
River Falls, WI

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Bruce Becker, Matt Burow, Rev. Elroy V. Conratt, Jeff Davis, Lowell Hoffman (vice chair), Wayne Larson, Rev. Michael Muehlenhardt, David Oldenburg, Rev. Matthew C. Rauh (secretary), Tim Schuth (treasurer), Mark Schwan, Arvid W. Schwartz (chairman).



THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION

www.tlha.org | 888-600-8542



The 47th Annual PASTOR / TEACHER / STAFF MINISTER Golf Tournament
Edgewood Oaks Golf Course, West of 164 on Hwy L in Big Bend, WI

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018 – 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, JULY 16, 2018**. **THIS IS AN EARLIER DATE THAN PREVIOUS YEARS!!!** 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.

Please return your registration & payment of \$34.00 to:

Bob Garbe 4845 S. Racine Avenue New Berlin, WI 53146	Home: 262-679-0856 Cell: 414-732-9264 Email: rgarbe1@wi.rr.com
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Make checks out to Bob Garbe and enclose with registration.

Deadline for your PAID \$34.00 Registration is Monday, July 2nd.
 ~ Register early to reserve your spot as one of the 32 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.)

You can also register online by going to this URL:
<https://goo.gl/forms/ShttisunmoOid9eX2>

2018 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)