



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 50th Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2016

District President's Report

To: The 50th Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod Assembled at Wisconsin Lutheran College, June 14 and 15, 2016

"I envy you." Those words or words to that effect were spoken to me by a member of the synod's Conference of Presidents at a dinner for seminary seniors the year I graduated. He then explained himself, saying his time for serving in the public ministry of Jesus in our synod was winding down; and there I was, very young and kind of wound up about getting into that ministry.

That veteran of the pulpit and soldier of the cross had scars on him, I'm sure. We all do, but he didn't speak of them. He spoke as one who would have liked to change places with me and would have in a heartbeat, if that had been possible and I had been willing.

He explained himself some more. "This is an exciting time to be alive in our synod and especially to be a pastor in it." He was right. It was the start of the 1970s. After severing fellowship ties with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod nine years before, the WELS was still learning and gearing up to become a nationwide Lutheran church body. On call day that year many of my classmates were assigned to new mission congregations from Massachusetts and Maryland to Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

I was one of them, and it was exciting to be involved in serving a very small new mission congregation in central Illinois that worshiped in the cleaned up store room of an insurance agency and also driving hundreds of miles each week to help small groups of people in other communities establish congregations. But you know what? I know how that gray-haired man who talked to me at that dinner felt. It is still an exciting time to be a member of the WELS and to be involved in her ministry and the ministry of her congregations.

In many ways, the world has shrunk in the last 46 years, but its need to hear and learn the Law and Gospel of God in Jesus Christ has not diminished. Not one bit. But the opportunities for our church body to make Law and Gospel known are countless, and new opportunities appear weekly and sometimes daily. The different resources available for us to seize those opportunities are also numerous, and the state of their art is constantly changing and expanding.

I have always found gatherings like a district convention helpful in helping me see, as Jesus wanted his original followers to see, that the fields of our generation are white for harvest. Too, I have always found gatherings such as this helpful in familiarizing me with existing and new implements and tools for planting, watering and harvesting. Finally, I have always found great assurance and encouragement in the worship, devotions and time with brothers in faith and work at this biennial gathering.

Your district officers and others have tried to plan this convention with those things in mind. I trust that the opening worship has been a good beginning. May God grant more of the same in the course of today and tomorrow.

“One in Christ”

This special offering to eliminate the synodical debt of \$4.7M over the course of the current fiscal year was authorized and kicked off by the 2015 convention of the synod. Elimination of debt repayment and debt service fees will free up money for use in funding other areas of the synod’s mission and ministry efforts.

Join me in thanking God for moving the hearts of many to present offerings in the last 11 months. Their gifts now total more than \$2M and, along with the usual operating budget allocation for debt repayment, repayment of the debt is in sight. If your church and her people have not yet had an opportunity to make their gifts, it isn’t too late to give them that opportunity. Promotional materials are still available from the Ministry of Christian Giving office, and “One in Christ” offerings may still be made after the end of this month.

Workers from and for One Generation to the Next

Each year at Martin Luther College and at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, I am amazed at the number and excitement of men and women who present themselves for assignment to positions of service as pastors, teachers and staff ministers. They are an awesome testimony to the love and power of the Spirit and Lord of the Church.

The Assignment Committee was able to assign all teacher candidates who were available to serve in any part of God’s vineyard. In addition, a good number of candidates who were available to serve in a limited geographical area due to marriage or a spouses occupation, were also assigned. The remaining individuals will continue to be assigned during the summer where and as appropriate.

Nine men and women presented themselves as candidates for staff ministry. Three of the candidates were assigned.

All the candidates for pastoral ministry were assigned. In addition to the usual assignments to serve as tutors and instructors at our WELS ministerial education schools and as pastors in established stateside parishes, two men were assigned to new home missions, two to cross-cultural ministries, and two to world mission ministries. One of those cross-cultural ministries is San Pedro (St. Peter) on Milwaukee’s near south side.

The following pastor candidates were assigned to our district: William Dunn (San Pedro/St. Peter, Milwaukee); Jason Free (Graduate assistant to the district president, place to be soon determined); and Lloyd Harter (Associate, Faith, Antioch). If any of those men are in the assembly this morning, I ask them to stand.

One vicar assignment was made to our district (St. John, Mukwonago). It is a vicar-in-missions assignment. As many of you know, a vicar is a seminary undergraduate, receiving in-field pastoral exposure, experience and training for one year under the supervision of an experienced parish pastor. The vicar returns to the seminary for one year after the vicar year.

The schools and churches of the district received 14 teacher candidates through the Assignment Committee. The candidates and their places of assignment are: Paul Braun (Good Shepherd, West Bend); John Kujath (Our Savior, Zion – One year); ChiSeon Kim (Jerusalem, Morton Grove – One year); Christopher Stollfuss (Word of Life School, Milwaukee); Haley Arndt (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee – Call made permanent); Carrie Hengeveld (Faith, Antioch); Janelle Radue (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee), Katelyn Smith (St. Marcus, Milwaukee – Call made permanent); Sarah Selle (Shoreland Lutheran High School); Alyssa Stuebs (Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake); Kristi Koelpin (Risen

Savior – One year call); Katherine Schultz (Atonement, Milwaukee – One year call); Elizabeth Sherwood (Siloah, Milwaukee – One year call); Erin Kelly (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee – One year call). If any of the men on this list is here in this hall, I ask them to stand.

We gladly welcome these new workers to serve the current and next generations with God's saving means of grace. Please welcome them to your congregation and school, your circuits and conferences. Encourage and pray for them.

Please join me in doing that right now, by standing and singing the hymn words before you:

Dear Lord, to your true servants give
The grace to you alone to live.
Set free from sin to serve you, Lord,
They go to share your living Word,
The Gospel message to proclaim
That all may know your saving name.

When all their labor seems in vain
Revive their sinking hopes again;
And when success crowns what they do,
Oh, keep them humble, Lord, and true
Until before your judgment seat
They lay their trophies at your feet.

It should be noted that the number of teacher and pastor candidate requests the Assignment Committee received was greater than the number of candidates. At New Ulm there were about 120 requests, of which 24 could not be filled. At Mequon there were 35 candidates, and 24 unfilled requests.

Prior to adjourning its meetings on the hills of New Ulm and Mequon, the Assignment Committee was polled for vacancies still existing in the districts they serve. They counted nearly 60 teacher vacancies and 67 vacancies for pastoral-trained men. The Southeastern Wisconsin District showed about 20 teacher vacancies and eight pastor vacancies. Two of the teacher vacancies are for school principal (Burlington and Thiensville). There are nine principal vacancies synod-wide.

I'm sure you know what I am going to say next: There are and will continue to be a great many opportunities for the next generation of men and women to serve Jesus and his people in the public Gospel ministry. The places in which they will be able to do that are truly varied and amazing! Invite the recruitment people from our ministerial education schools to your church and school, and continue your individual efforts to recruit and encourage sons and daughters in your church and school to seriously consider training so they can one day say with God's prophet: "Here am I. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

Our convention theme, "From One Generation to Another," reminds us that not only does a new generation of called workers come to our district, but called workers of older generations go. They go by calls or moves to other districts and by God's great and final call that takes them to heaven. In the past biennium a number of men in our district received that blessed call to rest from all their labors and to sing with all the saints and holy angels forever. They are retired pastors Daniel Malchow, Ernst Lehninger, and Larry Pautz; and retired teachers Donald Zimmermann, Gerald Johanning, Jerome Harders, and Arlyn Boll.

Please stand and join to sing, even as those men are singing now. Please stand.

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who their faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

You were their rock, their fortress and their might;
You, Lord their captain, in the well-fought fight
And in the darkness drear their one true light.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

A report of changes of ministry (calls, retirements, resignations, etc.) during the biennium is attached to this report. Please help me and the floor committee assigned that report by taking a minute or so right now to see if changes at your ministry site appear there. If changes are not there or are listed incorrectly, please get that information to Secretary Carter here at the front table as soon as possible.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

In my first report to this convention I felt compelled to publicly recognize and express thanks for the assistance and support I received during the biennium from leaders elected by the district. That feeling has continued and even increased in me over the years. The last two years were no exception.

First Vice President Joel Leyrer's ability to hear and read about a situation or issue, analyze it in the light of Scripture and formulate an evangelical and sequential course of action has been invaluable to me. In addition to managing the agenda for the district convention and conference, Second Vice President Jonathan Kolander has the great ability to keep before me matters that need praesidium attention and action and to give me gentle and timely reminders. Most all other convention and conference arrangements (and there are a great many of them) have been made by Secretary Billy Carter, whose organizational skills are superb and have served me and my work so very well all through this biennium.

You have chosen well the men whom you have chosen to be your circuit pastors. They have not only been willing to serve when I and others have called on them, but they are also interested in and intent on improving their knowledge and skills as circuit pastors. That is evidenced by their expressed desire that the praesidium arrange for an annual day and a half seminar for circuit pastors. The praesidium has done that in conjunction with the fall meeting of the District Council. That body is made up of the circuit pastors and the district chairmen and coordinators. It also had two spring meetings during the biennium. At those meetings district areas of ministry chairmen and coordinators report on and discuss existing programs and new initiatives that can assist district congregations and schools in their ministry.

I will very much miss consulting and working with all of those men and with all the delegates at this convention, but I will always carry in my mind the joyful hearts and humble spirits all those men have brought to their work and to me. Knowing many of them will continue to so serve and confident that our Lord will raise up men of like heart and spirit from the next generation, I am encouraged to know that his work will surely go on among us and result in joy for many, as it has for me.

May God so bless us, brothers!

Convention Consideration and Action

Convention time has been scheduled for all delegates to conduct the important work of electing a circuit pastor for your congregation. In view of what I said above, please give these elections the time and careful consideration they deserve. These men are much-needed arms of the district president.

There may be slightly more floor committees for this convention than for previous conventions. That is because this convention is being asked to consider and react to several items, some of which will be going to the synod convention next summer. One is the WELS Long Range Plan 2018-25 drawn up by the Synodical Council (p. 63 in the "Report to the Twelve Districts"). Another is a progress report from the Compensation Review Committee of the Synodical Council. Yet another is a Ministry of Christian Giving proposal to hold an annual synod-wide Missions and Ministry Sunday.

More formal action is being requested on a document titled: "Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship" (p. 23 in the RTTD). Written by representatives of the Church of the Lutheran Confessions (a church body not in fellowship with us since it was formed in the late 1950s), the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the WELS, it is being presented to all three church bodies this summer for their reaction.

This year the RTTD was made available in digital form in early May with a printed copy arriving in June for delegates' use at convention. There will be an opportunity for the convention to react to this change.

An item for action by just our district comes as a result of a request from a group of people who have been gathering at St. John Church at Eighth and Vliet here in Milwaukee. A church existed by that name and at that location for generations, but it was suspended from district and synod membership by our district praesidium in the 1990s, because it chose to retain as pastor a man whom the district praesidium had suspended from the WELS ministerium for conduct unbefitting a public shepherd of the Good Shepherd. The group's request states that the group repudiates the actions of previous members of St. John congregation and that it is in agreement with the doctrine and practice of our synod. Their revised Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by our District Constitution Committee. In view of that, the group asks that the suspension be removed and that the group be accepted into membership of our district and synod. The request has been referred to a floor committee.

Looking ahead to next year's district conference, you will want to make a note about the dates. The conference will meet the first full week of June (the 6th and 7th) instead of the second full week. The change is because the National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts will have a strong emphasis on the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation next year and hopes to offer two satellite sites in other parts of the country. The main conference has been set for June 13-16 at Carthage College in Kenosha.

Finally, a request of the convention: Please come to order when order is called for after breaks. If you find yourself in a conversation that is not finished at that time, please take the conversation out of the hall and into the lobby.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor D. N. Rutschow

Membership Changes

The following accepted calls into the district during the biennium.

Pastors

Timothy Soukup (Salem, Milwaukee – 107th) from South Central District
Mark Kock (Resurrection, Milwaukee) from Minnesota District
Brian Koschnitzke (Zion, Bristol) from Minnesota District
Christopher Doerr (Northwestern Publishing House) from Northern Wisconsin District
Thomas Engelbecht (Christ, Pewaukee) from Western Wisconsin District
Peter Martin (Faith, Radcliff) from South Atlantic District
Jonathan Arndt (Reformation, Dousman) from Michigan District
Matthew Kiecker (St. John, Lomira) from Nebraska District
Bradley Wordell (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) from Western Wisconsin District
Michael Bartsch (Calvary, Milwaukee) from crm status
Gregory Lyon (Wisconsin Lutheran College) from Western Wisconsin District
Don Frelitz (Trinity, Union Grove) from Northern Wisconsin District
Aaron Strong (Grace, Milwaukee) from Arizona-California District
G. Philip Arnold (Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls) from Western Wisconsin District
Jonathan Kehren (Jerusalem, Morton Grove) from Arizona-California District
Joshua Bodden (Mount Calvary, Waukesha) from Western Wisconsin District
Benjamin Zak (St. John, Milwaukee) from South Atlantic District
Joel Gaertner (The Lutheran Home Association) from Northern Wisconsin District
Earle Treptow (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) from Nebraska District
Jacob Hoff (St. Paul, Franklin) from North Atlantic District
James Hein (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) from Minnesota District
John Cook (Zion, South Milwaukee) from Michigan District
Chad Walta (Christ, Milwaukee) from Nebraska District
Nathan Seiltz (WELS Multi-Language Publications) from Nebraska District
Matthew Schaeve (Faith, Sussex) from Michigan District
Philip Huebner (Wisconsin Lutheran High School) from South Atlantic District
Jordan Ertl (Atonement, Milwaukee) from Dakota-Montana District
Adam Gawel (St. Andrew, Chicago) from Michigan District
Jonathan Bare (International Recruitment Director, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)
from South Atlantic District
Micah Martin (St. John, Mukwonago) from Northern Wisconsin District

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

William Dunn (San Pedro/St. Peter, Milwaukee) from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Jason Free (Graduate assistant to the district president) from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Lloyd Harter (Faith, Antioch) from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

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

Nathanael Brenner (Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne)
Peter Bur (Sudanese Outreach)
Jeffrey Drake (Trinity, Hartford)
W. Joseph Gawel IV (Victory, Lexington)
Brock Groth (India)

The following teachers accepted calls into the district during the biennium.

Nicolas Bush (Salem, Milwaukee - 107th) from Michigan District
Bradley Nommensen (St. Paul, Cudahy) from Northern Wisconsin District
David Zank (Friedens, Kenosha - Call expanded to full time)
David Rust (St. John, Milwaukee - One-year call)
Chad Grayckowski (St. John Libertyville - One year call) from inactive
Fred Pahmeier (Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee - One year call) from inactive
David Porth (Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls - One-year call) from e/a (MLC)
Eric Fillner (Zion, South Milwaukee) from Arizona-California District
Samuel Kleinke (Shoreland Lutheran High School) from Michigan District
Seth Fitzsimmons (St. Paul, Muskego) from Nebraska District
Jon Woldt (St. John, Libertyville) from Western Wisconsin District
Micah Ricke (Wisconsin Lutheran High School) from e/a
Timothy Payne (St. John, Newburg) from Western Wisconsin District
Steven Haag (First, Lake Geneva) from Dakota-Montana District
Joshua Nelson (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee) from Western Wisconsin District
Adam Igl (St. John, Newburg) from Western Wisconsin District
Ryan Finkbeiner (Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee) from North Atlantic District
Scott Stevenson (St. Lucas, Kewaskum) from Northern Wisconsin District
Samuel Schlicht Word of Life School, Milwaukee) from Michigan District
Nathan Schultz (Peace, Hartford) from Western Wisconsin District
Joshua Johnson (Wisconsin Lutheran College) from Nebraska District
Derek Rabbers (St. John, Milwaukee) from e/a (MLC)
Jonah Gauger (Immanuel, Waukegan) from uncertified
Bruce Babler (Friedens, Kenosha) from Pacific Northwest District
Gabe Malliet (St. John, Burlington) from uncertified
Marc Meihack (Bethany, Kenosha) from e/a
Shaun Stannard (St. Marcus) from uncertified
Mark Hesse (Atonement, Milwaukee) from Western Wisconsin District
Christopher Arndt (Siloah, Milwaukee) from e/a (MLC)
Peter Iles (Wisconsin Lutheran High) from e/a
Josiah Willitz (Illinois Lutheran High School) from e/a- (One-year call later made permanent)
James Livingston (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School) from Northern Wisconsin District
Jeremiah Strassburg (Shoreland Lutheran High School) from Arizona-California District
Kurt Maciejczak (Salem, Milwaukee) from Minnesota District
James Weiland (St. John, Libertyville) from uncertified
Jeremy Maas (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) from Martin Luther College
Keith Hackbarth (St. John, Wauwatosa) from inactive
Jeffrey Knox (Siloah, Milwaukee) from uncertified
Marvel Taylor (Siloah, Milwaukee) from uncertified
William Fuerstenau (Bethany, Hustisford) from Northern Wisconsin District
Paul Kanzenbach (St. John, Milwaukee) from Minnesota District
Jeffrey Roloff (Siloah, Milwaukee) from Dakota-Montana District
Wade Witzsteiner (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) from uncertified
Daniel Hubert (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School) from uncertified
Alex Moore (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) from Western Wisconsin District
Andrew Duncan (St. John, Wauwatosa) from uncertified
Matthew Rieck (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) from South Central District
Jay Selle (Wisconsin, Racine) from e/a (MLC)

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

Paul Braun (Good Shepherd, West Bend) from Martin Luther College
Chi SeonKim (Jerusalem, Morton Grove – One year) from Martin Luther College
John Kujath (Our Savior, Zion – One year) from Martin Luther College
Christopher Stollfuss (Word of Life School – One year) from Martin Luther College

The following teacher candidate was assigned to a call in the district by the Synod Assignment Committee and was received into membership of the district at the last synod convention.

Kevin Lorge (St. Matthew, Iron Ridge)

The following accepted staff minister calls into the district during the biennium.

Joel Nelson (St. Paul, Muskego – One-year call, then made permanent)
Rick Kneser (WELS Ministry of Christian Giving counselor) from uncertified
Daniel Kock (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) from Martin Luther College (six-month call)
Levi Nagel (St. John, Milwaukee) from North Atlantic District

The following accepted calls within the district in the biennium.

Pastors

Philip Malchow (inactive) to Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School
(10-month emergency call and then made permanent)
Leonard Freeman (Zebaoth, Milwaukee) to Garden Homes, Milwaukee
(Part-time, limited duration)
Robert Fleischmann (Christian Life Resources) to St. Paul, Slinger
(Shared-time with Christian Life Resources)
Aaron Robinson (Wisconsin Lutheran High School) to Fairview, Milwaukee
Kevin Hundley (Bethany, Kenosha) to WELS Ministry of Christian Giving
(Gift Planning Counselor)
David Kehl (Atonement, Milwaukee) to WELS Multi-Language Publications Committee
(SE Asia)
Rodrigo Concha (St. Andrew, Milwaukee) to Centennial, Milwaukee
Troy Swenson (St. Lucas, Kewaskum) to Illinois Lutheran School, Crete

Teachers

Jason Lowrey (Shoreland Lutheran High School) to Wisconsin Lutheran College
David Zank (Friedens, Kenosha) to Friedens, Kenosha (Part-time call expanded to full time)
Samuel Hunter (St. John, Newburg) to Shoreland Lutheran High School
Chad Grayckowski (St. John, Libertyville) to St. John, Libertyville (call made permanent)
David Rust (St. John, Milwaukee) to St. John, Milwaukee (second one-year call)
David Porth (Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls – one-year call made permanent)
Fred Pahmeier (Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee – one-year call made permanent)
David Kren (Wisconsin Lutheran High School) to Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School
Paul Berger (Word of Life School) to Christ-St. Peter School
Justin Gut (Bethany, Kenosha) to Trinity, Waukesha
Joel Radue (Mount Calvary, Waukesha) to Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Philip Leyrer (Siloah, Milwaukee) to Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Timothy Mielke (St. John, Burlington) to Shoreland Lutheran High School
Gregory Rebernick (Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake) to Mount Calvary, Waukesha

Daniel Albrecht (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) to Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School
James Weiland (St. John, Libertyville – one-year call extended another year)
Scott Beyersdorf (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee) to David’s Star, Jackson
Christopher Bartsch (Siloah, Milwaukee) to Atonement, Milwaukee
Christopher Luebke (Siloah, Milwaukee) to St. Lucas, Milwaukee
John Freese (St. Philip, Milwaukee) to Zion, Hartland
Shaun Stannard (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Atonement, Milwaukee
Michael Henning (St. John, Wauwatosa) to Good Shepherd’s, West Allis
Peter Langebartels (Siloah, Milwaukee) to St. Marcus, Milwaukee

The following accepted calls out of the district.

Pastors

Benjamin Berger (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School) to Northern Wisconsin District
Paul Jansen (Holy Scripture, Fort Wayne) to Western Wisconsin District
Douglas Carter (St. Paul, Cudahy) to Western Wisconsin District
Daniel Schmidt (St. John, Lomira) to South Central District
David Pries (Bethany, Hustisford) to Northern Wisconsin District
David Cooper (crm) to Northern Wisconsin District
Peter Prange (Jerusalem, Morton Grove) to South Atlantic District
John Backus (St. Paul, Muskego) to South Atlantic District
Mark Henrich (Atonement, Milwaukee) to North Atlantic District
Kelly Huet (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Martin Valleskey (Christ, Milwaukee) to South Central District
Dustin Yahnke (Faith, Sussex) to Western Wisconsin District
Philip Wilde (crm) to Western Wisconsin District
Timothy Otto (St. Peter/San Pedro, Milwaukee) to Arizona-California District
Adam Zimplemann (Zion, South Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District

Teachers

Timothy Kassulke (Mount Calvary, Waukesha) to Western Wisconsin District
Kristian Walta (First, Lake Geneva) to Northern Wisconsin District
John Schleis (Zion, South Milwaukee) to South Atlantic District
Luke Beilke (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to South Atlantic District
Kurt Gosdeck (St. Lucas, Kewaskum) to Northern Wisconsin district
David Tess (Wisconsin Lutheran College) to Minnesota District
Kirk Denoyer (Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Timothy Treder (Shoreland Lutheran High School, Somers) to Arizona-California District
Matthew Oppermann (Friedens, Kenosha) to South Atlantic District
Philip Hochmuth (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District
Jon Hermanson (Illinois Lutheran High School) to Minnesota District
Andrew Seefeldt (St. John, Burlington) to Minnesota District
Lance List (St. Paul, Cudahy) to Northern Wisconsin District
Nathan Dittrich (e/a) to Western Wisconsin District
Craig Hirschmann (St. John, Milwaukee) to Minnesota District
John Giddings (David’s Star, Jackson) to Northern Wisconsin District
Dennis Leckwee (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Neil Schlieve (Calvary, Thiensville) to Michigan District
Ryan Randall (St. Lucas, Milwaukee) to Minnesota District
Andrew Willems (Shoreland Lutheran High School) to Western Wisconsin District

Tyler Morgan (Word of Life, Milwaukee) to South Central District
Joshua Gibson (Faith, Antioch) to South Atlantic District
Jared Matthies (Our Savior's, Zion) to Western Wisconsin District
Kyle Gut (Good Shepherd's, West Allis) to Northern Wisconsin District
Philip Rehberger (St. John, Burlington) to Northern Wisconsin District
Roger Kramp (Mount Lebanon, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District

The following transferred membership into the district during the biennium.

Pastors

James Langebartels (retired) from Michigan District
Gary Tryggstad (retired) from Michigan District
Loren Lucht (retired) from Minnesota District
Richard Agenten (retired) from Western Wisconsin District
Stephen Lawrenz (crm) from Michigan District
John Hartmann (Africa) from Nebraska District

Teachers

Jonathan Hahm (retired) from Minnesota District
Jonathan Schoeneck (retired) from South Central District

The following had calls they were serving expire or their ministry position was eliminated and/or their call was terminated.

Pastors

Leonard Freeman (Zebaoth, Milwaukee)
William Schaefer II (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)

Staff Minister Daniel Kock (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)

The following transferred membership out of the district during the biennium.

Pastors

Daniel Krause (crm) to Northern Wisconsin District
Peter Bur (assigned from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) to Nebraska District
Brock Groth (assigned from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) to Arizona-California District
Daniel Falck (emeritus) to Nebraska District
Philip Birner (world missionary) to Northern Wisconsin District

Teachers

LeDell Plath (retired) to Western Wisconsin District
Michael Wiechmann (retired) to Arizona-California District

The following tendered resignations from ministry during the biennium.

Pastors

Philip Moore (Risen Savior, Milwaukee)
John Miller (St. Andrew, Milwaukee)
Loren Lindeman (Living Water, Wind Lake)

Teachers

Shawn Scherer (Friedens, Kenosha)
Jonathon Gross (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)

Erik Ankerberg (Wisconsin Lutheran College)
Shaun Luehring (Atonement, Milwaukee)
Chad Grayckowski (St. John, Libertyville)
Mark Gnewuch (Siloah, Milwaukee)
Matthew Miskowski (Salem, Milwaukee)
Marvel Taylor (Siloah, Milwaukee)
Joel Fischer (Good Shepherd, West Bend)
Timothy Koepsell (Risen Savior, Milwaukee)
Kevin Zimmermann (Shoreland Lutheran High School)

The following announced retirement from ministry during the biennium.

Pastors

Gerald Meyer (St. Paul, Muskego)
James Aderman (Fairview, Milwaukee)
David Peters (Trinity, Union Grove)
Paul Huebner (Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls)
James Sonnemann (Salem - East, Milwaukee)
Daniel Falck (Trinity, Hartford)
Forrest Bivens (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)
John Brug (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)
Stanley Stein (St. Lucas, Milwaukee)
Robert Gurgel (St. Lucas, Milwaukee)
David Beckman (India)
James Castillo (St. Paul, Slinger)
Douglas Semenske (St. Andrew, Chicago)
Robert Pasbrig (Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries)
James Kleist (Wisconsin Lutheran High School Foundation)
Charles Cortright (Wisconsin Lutheran College)
Timothy Bauer (Bethany, Hustisford)

Teachers

Thomas Mellon (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School)
Steven Enter (St. John, Newburg)
David Deibert (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School)
John Marten (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee)
George Povich (Shoreland Lutheran High School)
Douglas Nass (Wisconsin School, Racine)
Ned Goede (Wisconsin Lutheran High School)
James Martens (Grace, Waukesha)
Cary Haakenson (Wisconsin Lutheran High School)
Steven Zellmer (Wisconsin Lutheran High School)
Clarence Jenkins (Risen Savior, Milwaukee)
Darwin Schram (Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School)
Steven Carlovksy (Salem, Milwaukee)
David Neujahr (Zion, Hartland)

Staff Minister: James Schwartz (Ministry of Christian Giving)

The call of Teacher Taylor Traeder (St. Matthew, Iron Ridge) was terminated by the congregation.

The following were transferred to the Church Triumphant during the biennium

Pastors

Daniel Malchow (Retired), 7/10/15

Ernst Lehninger (Retired), 9/10/15

Larry Pautz (Retired), 6/3/15

Teachers

Donald Zimmermann (Retired), 3/15/15

Gerald Johanning (Retired), 3/15/15

Jerome Harders (Retired), 6/3/15

Arlyn Boll (Retired), 3/19/16

The following requests for restoration of pastor call eligibility status were granted by the praesidium during the biennium.

Philip Malchow (extension granted)

Philip Wilde (granted)

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

Teacher Daryl Weber as Lutheran Schools Coordinator

Pastor George Ferch as Circuit Pastor (Chicago Conference, Eastern Circuit)

Teacher Jason Snodie to Commission on Worship

Pastor Timothy Henning as chairman of the Ministry of Christian Giving

Pastor Thomas Schultz to Commission on Worship

Mr. Jonathan Laabs to the Commission on Worship

Pastor Nathan Cordes as Circuit Pastor (Chicago Conference, Central Circuit)

Pastor Thomas Kneser to Board of Appeals

Pastor Christian Winkel as Circuit Pastor (Milwaukee Urban Conference, Barnabas Circuit)

Pastor Aaron Robinson to Nominating Committee

Teacher Philip Krueger to Board of Appeals

Pastor Jason Hacker to the Constitution Committee

Teacher Nathan Hinz to the Nominating Committee

Teacher Christopher Avery to the Lutheran Schools Committee

Teacher David Dodge to Lutheran Schools Committee

Teacher John Melso to Lutheran Schools Committee

Teacher Scott Sievert to Lutheran Schools Committee

Other

Congregation closed: Zebaoth, Milwaukee (last worship service 12/28/14)



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 50th Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2016

Minutes of the 49th Biennial Convention June 10-11, 2014

Tuesday, June 10

The 49th Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District opened with a communion worship service held in the gymnasium of Wisconsin Lutheran College. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary President Paul Wendland was the preacher. Pastor Aaron Christie served as the presiding minister. The district officers served as lectors. A group of musicians and a choir led by Organist Mark Davidson and Choir Director Michael Marquardt accompanied the service.

After the service, President Rutschow called the Tuesday morning session of the convention to order in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

President Rutschow then 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 the morning break, Pastor Timothy Otto, 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, the Election Committee was given the floor to conduct the election for district president. Chairman Otto reported that the top four candidates were David Kolander, Jonathan Kolander, Joel Leyrer, and David Rutschow. Ballots for this election were distributed, cast, and collected.

Secretary Billy Carter read a resolution from the District Officers regarding several congregations who wished to change conferences and a conference who wished to split its two circuits into three smaller ones. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #1 - Change in Circuit and Conference Membership. The motion carried.

Secretary Carter made several announcements, including instructions regarding online access and printed materials.

President Rutschow spoke to the delegates about the elections for circuit pastors that would be taking place during the lunch break. He read what the bylaws say about the position, and noted the importance of that role for the work of our congregations and church body.

Elections Committee Chairman Otto announced that Pastor David Rutschow had been re-elected as district president. He wished him the Lord's blessings as he serves us for another two years.

Secretary Carter provided instructions regarding the lunch and the circuit pastor elections.

President Rutschow closed the morning session with a meal prayer.

At the beginning of the afternoon session, Elections Chairman Otto conducted the nominating ballot for the office of First Vice-President. After the ballots were cast and collected, Chairman Otto declared the nominations closed.

Pastor Jonathan Hein, director of the WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling, gave a presentation about the kinds of help that his office can offer congregations with their ministries.

Elections Committee Chairman Otto reported that the top three candidates for the position of district first vice president were Pastors David Kolander, Jon Kolander, and Joel Leyrer. Ballots for the election were distributed, cast, and collected.

President Rutschow introduced Pastor Paul Prange, WELS Ministerial Education Administrator, who presented his keynote essay, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word."

At one of the breaks in the essay, Elections Committee Chairman Otto reported the re-election of Joel Leyrer as first vice-president and asked the Lord's blessing on his continued work. The nominating ballot for the office of second vice-president was conducted. After all ballots were cast, it was moved and supported to close nominations. The motion carried.

Pastor Prange was thanked with a round of applause.

After the conclusion of the essay, Elections Committee Chairman Otto reported that the three candidates for the position of second vice president were Pastors David Kolander, Jonathan Kolander, and Aaron Steinbrenner. Ballots were distributed, cast, and collected.

Mr. Ron Hillman, president of the WELS Church Extension Fund showed a video that featured many of the churches that had been built with the help of CEF and opportunities to invest with the fund. He then updated some of the information in the video.

President Paul Wendland of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary spoke on behalf of the Seminary. He spoke especially about the important work of recruiting the next generation of called workers and showed a video about the Seminary's work.

After several announcements, President Rutschow declared a break until 4:20 p.m.

After the break, Elections Committee Chairman Otto was given the floor and 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. The nominating ballot for the office of district secretary was con-

ducted. After all ballots were cast and collected, it was moved and supported to close nominations. That motion carried.

Professor Jeff Wiechmann of Martin Luther College spoke about the work that MLC does to train pastors, teachers, and staff ministers for ministry.

The delegates were shown a video about work being done by WELS World Missions around the world. Mr. Mark Schultz, a member of the WELS Board for World Missions, noted that copies of the video were available for congregations. He also introduced Pastor Richard Krause, chairman of the WELS South Asia committee, who introduced one of the leaders of the Lutherans our synod is helping in Nepal, who spoke about the blessings his group had experienced through our fellowship with them. He also spoke about the challenges of being a Christian and sharing the gospel in his country and asked for prayers for his country and the group of Christians gathered there.

Mr. Schultz also introduced Dr. Glen Thompson, WELS missionary to South Asia, who spoke about work being done in Hong Kong and in mainland China. He especially noted the work being done to train Chinese Lutheran pastors at Asia Lutheran Seminary. He asked the delegates to join him in a round of applause for Professor John Lawrenz, who recently retired after serving at Asia Lutheran Seminary during for the last ten years.

Elections Committee Chairman Otto then reported the results of the nominating ballot and conducted an election ballot for district secretary. Pastors Billy Carter and Tim Otto, and Teacher Craig Weide were nominated. Ballots for this election were distributed, cast, and collected. While the ballots were being cast, Chairman Otto pointed the delegates to the information in the convention materials regarding the ballot for other district offices that would be conducted the next day.

Staff Minister Mark Blauert, a member of the SEW District Mission Board directed the delegates to the board's report in the convention reports. He thanked two outgoing members of the District Mission Board and then thanked by name the missionaries who served in our district. He also noted several highlights from each of the mission congregations noted in the board's report.

Mr. Timothy Snyder, the SEW lay representative on the Synodical Council gave a presentation about the work the Council does to coordinate the work of the Synod.

Elections Chairman Otto reported that Pastor Billy Carter had been re-elected as district secretary and asked the Lord's blessings on his continued service.

After several announcements, President Rutschow thanked the delegates for the confidence placed in him by the delegates when they re-elected him as district president. The Tuesday afternoon session concluded with an evening devotion entitled, "Your Word Renews the Heart." Circuit Pastor Paul Jansen led the devotion based on the words of Psalm 73:21-28. Pastor Kyle Bitter served as the organist.

Wednesday, June 10

After Vice President Joel Leyrer called the morning session to order, we began the day with a morning meditation entitled, "Your Word Satisfies the Soul." Circuit Pastor Steven Neumann led the devotion based on the words of Isaiah 55:1-3. Craig Hirschmann served as the accompanist.

Vice President Leyrer then thanked the delegates for extending to him the privilege of continuing to serve the district for another two years and asked for their continued prayers for him and his work.

Elections Committee Chairman Otto presented the ballot for other district offices. He noted two changes to the ballot, one name added and another withdrawn. No other nominations were made from the floor. It was moved and supported to close the nominations. The motion carried. Ballots were distributed, cast, and collected.

Secretary Carter pointed the delegates to the minutes of the Tuesday session. The minutes were accepted without reading.

Secretary Carter presented the 2012-2013 Financial Report. He noted that the reason we maintain a treasury is because the district constitution requires the districts to provide the costs for their own conventions. He also noted some significant cost savings from the previous conference and this convention that may allow us to continue to reduce district dues in the future.

Vice President Leyrer then introduced WELS President Mark Schroeder who thanked the delegates for their support of the worldwide work of our synod with their offerings and prayers and highlighted some specific blessings in each of the areas of the synod's ministry. He also asked the delegates to consider the encouragement they have received or will be receiving from the circuit pastors to revisit their Congregational Mission Offering commitments.

He also spoke about the recent discussions between representatives of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He explained that the reason for those discussions is based on wording in the 1961 resolution that suspended fellowship with the LCMS that encouraged WELS leaders to have those kinds of meetings. He also noted encouraging statements made by current LCMS leaders that have made those discussions possible and beneficial.

He noted that the synodical debt is down from \$22 million to \$6 million and that the Conference of Presidents is discussing plans to have a special offering to eliminate that debt in 2015 and 2016.

The delegates thanked President Schroeder for his report and encouraged him in his work with a round of applause.

Pastor Tom Unke, a member of the WELS Ad Hoc Commission 2 gave a presentation that summarized the work the commission is doing to carry out its assigned task to identify ways to conduct the ministry that our synod leaders, boards, and commissions carry out in our behalf as efficiently as possible.

Pastor Kurt Lueneberg, director of the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, gave a presentation on the work that the MCG and its Giving Counselors do to encourage congregations and their members in their giving for the work of the Lord. He noted the Giving Counselors assigned to our district and encouraged the delegates to make use of them and other MCG materials available for congregational use.

Pastor Robert Hein, chairman of the WELS Christian Aid and Relief Committee, showed a video about humanitarian efforts in Nepal and elsewhere around the world.

After a break, Vice President Jon Kolander took the chair and thanked the delegates for the giving him the privilege of continuing to serve the district as second vice president.

Pastor Bryan Gerlach, director of the WELS Congregational Ministry Support Group, gave a presentation about the various ministries under the CMSG umbrella. Several of the directors of those ministries also gave presentations or spoke about their ministry.

Pastor Michael Hintz, director of WELS Evangelism, presented a few slides of information on behalf of Pastor Randy Hunter, chairman of WELS Adult Discipleship. He also presented information about Evangelism work. He showed a trailer for the new movie, "Come, Follow Me," a sequel to "The Road to Emmaus."

Elections Committee Chairman Otto reported the need for five runoff elections. Ballots were distributed, cast, and collected.

Teacher Greg Schmil, director of WELS Lutheran Schools, presented a few slides of information about the work of his commission. He also noted the personnel changes there, including James Rademan accepting the call to replace him as director as he leaves to accept another call.

Pastor James Behringer, director of WELS Special Ministries, presented a few slides of information about the work his commission does to help congregations reach people for whom disabilities or other issues may be barriers to serving them with the Word.

Pastor Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project, spoke about the work the Hymnal Committee is doing as they begin their work. He noted the importance of hymns to Christian worshippers to illustrate the way he understands the importance of this project.

Pastor Ray Schumacher, an editor at Northwestern Publishing House, gave a presentation about the work the publishing house does to prepare Biblically sound books and materials for WELS congregations. He especially noted the 100th anniversary of Forward in Christ and showed several videos about the other kinds of materials produced by the publishing house.

After Secretary Carter provided instructions for the noon meal, Vice President Kolander led the delegates in a prayer for the meal.

After the meal, President Rutschow took the chair and introduced Mr. Bill Truebenbach, who gave a presentation on the work of Jesus Cares Ministries and the Lutheran Home Association.

Pastor Don Thompson, who serves at The Point of Grace, the WELS campus ministry in Milwaukee, showed a video from a recent "Gathering" hosted by The Point of Grace and encouraged the delegates to make college students and others in that generation aware of the work the Point of Grace is doing.

He also introduced Mike Westendorf, TPoG's outreach director, who announced a series of events for college age students and young professionals entitled, "Awake and Alive."

Mr. Mick Scheuer, director of social fund raising at WELS Kingdom Workers, gave a presentation about the work this congregation does to help laypeople get involved in mission work and projects.

Mr. Josh Petermann, director of WELS Benefit Plans, gave a presentation on the health insurance and pension plans administered by WELS-BPO. He especially noted several impacts that the Affordable Care Act has had, and will continue to have, on the health insurance plan.

Teacher Steven Enter, Chairman of Floor Committee #2 – District President’s Report, presented his committee’s report. Vice President Kolander took the chair during the committee’s report.

Resolution #1 – Changes in District Membership was moved and supported. The motion carried.

Resolution #2 – Shortage of Called Workers was moved and supported. The motion carried.

Resolution #3 – Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) was moved and supported. The motion carried.

Pastor Thomas Kneser, Chairman of Floor Committee #4 – Resolutions, presented his committee’s report. President Rutschow took the chair back after Committee 2’s report was finished.

Resolution #1 – Convention Offering was moved and supported. The offering total was edited to \$2,569.02 due to a late offering given at the head table. The motion carried.

Resolution #2 – Special Recognition of Thanks was moved and supported. That motion carried.

Elections Committee Chairman Otto presented the report of his committee. It was moved and supported to accept the report. The motion carried.

Secretary Carter presented the slate of district delegates to the 2015 synod convention. It was moved and supported to ratify the list. The motion carried. Secretary Carter informed those who were listed as delegates and alternates that they would soon receive an email from him with more information and a link to an online response form.

After a few announcements, it was moved and supported to adjourn. The motion carried.

The convention closed with a devotion entitled, “Your Word Enlightens the Mind.” Assistant Circuit Pastor Michael Helwig led the devotion based on the words of 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. Craig Hirschman again served as the organist. The devotion included the installation of the district officers and the circuit pastors. The installation was conducted by Pastor Aaron Christie.

After the devotion, Secretary Carter thanked the delegates for giving him the privilege – and the joy – of serving the district for another term and asked them to keep him and the other officers in their prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor William R. Carter,
SEW District Secretary



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT
50th Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2016

2014-2015 Financial Report

Pastor William Carter
 SEW District Secretary-Treasurer

Balance, 12/31/2013, Checking Account	\$8,928.34	
Balance, 12/31/2013 Savings Account	\$14,073.31	
Funds Available, 1/1/2014		\$23,001.65

Income, 2014

Dues	\$37,427.70	
Convention Offering	\$2,664.02	
2013 Lodging Payments	\$240.00	
Thrivent Choice Deposits	\$50.00	
Interest	\$6.29	
Total Income, 2014		\$40,388.01

Expenses, 2014

Office expenses	\$245.81	
Postage	\$185.50	
Internet Hosting	\$294.40	
2014 Convention		
Arrangements	\$42,466.88	
Printing	\$1,880.00	
Worship	\$1,484.22	
Offering - MLC Tuition Assistance Fund	\$1,332.01	
Offering - WLS Heritage and Hope Offering	\$1,332.01	
Transition Counseling	\$70.00	
Total 2014 Expenditures		\$49,290.83

Balance, 12/31/2014		\$14,098.83
Balance, Checking Account	\$4,019.23	
Balance, Savings Account	\$10,079.60	

Income, 2015

Dues	\$33,769.90	
Conference Offering	\$1,795.95	
Thrivent Choice Deposits	\$16.00	
Interest	\$7.59	
Total Income, 2015		\$35,589.44

Expenses, 2015

Office expenses	\$48.51	
Postage	\$176.40	
Internet Hosting	\$0.00	
2015 Conference		
Arrangements	\$16,103.77	
Printing	\$2,625.94	
Worship	\$1,828.31	
Offering - MLC Tuition Assistance Fund	\$1,795.95	
Transition Counseling	\$0.00	
Total 2015 Expenditures		\$22,578.88

Balance, 12/31/2015**\$27,109.39**

Balance, Checking Account	\$7,022.20	
Balance, Savings Account	\$20,087.19	

Conference and Convention costs: The main reason we even have a district treasury is to cover the costs of our conferences and conventions. We continue to experience significant cost savings (about \$5,000 per convention and \$3,000 per conference) from our decision to go more “paperless” at our meetings. The larger balance at the end of this report exists because, while costs for conventions have been averaging about \$5,000 more than we collect in dues, costs for conferences are about \$5,000 less than we collect in dues. While we have probably reached the point of saving about as much as we’ll ever be able to save by going “paperless,” we should be able to keep district dues at the same level for quite a few years before we need to think about raising them again.

Other Expenses: 1) Over the past several years, we have paid for some 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. This help has been well-received.

2) The grant money we have been able to use the last several years to cover the cost of annual training for our circuit pastors has run out. The additional assessment to 2016 dues was made to cover the cost of continuing this annual training without the grant money.

3) There were no Internet expenses in 2015 because the synod stopped maintaining the Connect site. There will be expenses in future years from our new site on FinalWeb.

District Dues: At the time this report was prepared, there were about 24 congregations that had not yet paid their 2016 district dues. If you have misplaced your notices and do not know what you owe, please speak to Secretary Carter at some point during the convention.



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

50th Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2016

2017 Synod Convention Delegates

The 2017 WELS Convention will meet at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin the week of July 25-29, 2017. Of the 400 voting delegates, the Southeastern Wisconsin District is to provide 70 delegates: 23 laymen, 20 pastors/professors, and 27 male teachers/staff ministers.

About a week after the 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 be complete the online form as soon as possible. Congregations should select delegates and substitutes and have those men complete the online form before February 1, 2017.

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

Joseph Schlawin	<i>David Ernest</i>
Peter Martin	<i>Mark Anderson</i>
Jack Kelly	<i>Andrew Bauer</i>

Kettle Moraine Conference

Charles Raasch	<i>Dennis Bratz</i>
Nathan Seiltz	<i>Kurt Ebert</i>
Stanley Weinrich	<i>Joel Pless</i>
Michael Woldt	<i>Don Scheuerlein</i>
Matthew Kuske	<i>Peter Schmidt</i>

Metro Milwaukee Conference

Mark Kock	<i>Paul White</i>
Aaron Weber	<i>Daniel Marshall</i>
Benjamin Wessel	<i>Randal Siegel</i>

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Jon Hartmann	<i>James Buske</i>
James Behringer	<i>Christian Winkel</i>
Paul Steinberg	<i>Jeremy Mattek</i>
Aaron Robinson	<i>Christopher Doerr</i>

Shoreland Conference

Steve Neumann	<i>Michael Gorte</i>
Paul Brug	<i>David Rau</i>

Western Lakes Conference

Robert Frick	<i>David Kuehl</i>
Timothy Kujath	<i>Peter Panitzke</i>
Eric Roecker	<i>Andrew Fix</i>

Lay Delegate Congregations /Alternate Congregations

Chicago Conference

Shepherd of the Valley, Terre Haute, IN	<i>Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL</i>
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	<i>Glory to God, Tinley Park, IL</i>
Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL	<i>Light of Life, Greenwood, IN</i>
St. Matthew, Niles, IL	<i>Abiding Peace, Elgin, IL</i>
Palos, Palos Heights, IL	<i>Christ the King, Palatine, IL</i>
St. Paul, Grant Park, IL	<i>Immanuel, Waukegan, IL</i>

Kettle Moraine Conference

St. Luke, Knowles	<i>St. Lucas, Kewaskum</i>
Zion, Theresa	<i>St. Paul, Brownsville</i>
Calvary, Thiensville	<i>St. Paul, Lomira</i>
Morning Star, Jackson	<i>Emanuel, Hartford</i>
Our Savior, Grafton	<i>Good Shepherd, West Bend</i>

Milwaukee Metro Conference

Zion, South Milwaukee
 Apostles of Christ, Wauwatosa
 Divinity-Divine Charity, Whitefish Bay
 Good Shepherd's, West Allis

Messiah, Milwaukee
Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee
Jordan, West Allis
St. Mark, Brown Deer

Milwaukee Urban Conference

St. Philip, Milwaukee
 Redemption, Milwaukee
 St. Peter, Milwaukee

Christ, Milwaukee
Gethsemane, Milwaukee
Fairview, Milwaukee

Shoreland Conference

New Hope, Racine
 St. John, Oakwood
 Zion, Bristol

St. John, Slades Corners
Peace, Wilmot
Trinity, Caledonia

Western Lakes Conference

St. John, Lannon
 St. Paul, East Troy
 Living Water, Wind Lake

Living Word, Waukesha
Reformation, Dousman
St. Paul, Franklin

Teacher/Staff Minister Delegates**Teacher Delegates**

Schwall, Jay J
 Berger, Paul M
 Ziesemer, Jon L
 Pahmeier, Fred W
 Yerks, Troy D
 Gosch, Andre A
 Pasbrig, Jonathan T
 Lueck, Eric J
 Rust, David M
 Travis, Steven E
 Moldenhauer, Martin A
 Grunewald, Daniel K
 Hahm, Daniel B
 Matson, James M
 Buss, Robert J
 Washburn, Benjamin B
 Zank, David J
 Woldt, Jon D
 Amundson, Nathan K
 Bilitz, Matthew P
 Gut, Justin G
 Hahm, James A
 Larabee, Daniel J
 Rydecki, Matthew C
 Erbe, Jarrod L
 Grow, Matthew J
 Luehring, Jamie C

First Alternates

Marohn, Chad T
 Valerio, Brett
 Kopczynski, Keith J
 Meihack, Marc J
 Radue, Craig W
 Schafer, Stephen F
 Fink, Randel
 Gorsline, Todd D
 Gottschalk, Brian J
 Johnson, Joshua A
 Mannisto, Richard T
 Mielke, Timothy M
 Nowack, James A
 Bauer, Aaron J
 Bauer, Joshua J
 Hahm, Kevin E
 Krug, Nathan C
 Kuehn, Kerry K
 Luebke, Christopher J
 Nolte, Daniel C
 Walz, Justin C
 Dorn, Jeffrey O
 Friske, Mel J
 Inniger, Jeffrey A
 Kolander, Donald P
 Maas, Michael N
 Nommensen, Bradley A

Second Alternates

Scriver, Paul B
 Goede, Jason
 Poston, Kevin S
 Johnson, Daniel R
 Schulmeister, Nathan F
 Wetzell, Bradley P
 Albrecht, Michael P
 Allerheiligen, David L
 Avery, Christopher J
 Beck, Paul N
 Beyersdorf, Scott D
 Bitter, Alan A
 Bowe, Keith R
 Habeck, David L
 Hering, Thomas P
 Johnson, Daniel W
 Noon, Edward E
 Winkel, Jonathan W
 Zilisch, Jeffrey D
 Finkbeiner, Ryan B
 Langebartels, Peter A
 Randall, Ryan L
 Stevenson, Scott H
 Balza, Robert O
 DeRuiter, Michael P
 Fitzsimmons, Seth J
 Ganey, John



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 50th Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2016

Report of the District Mission Board

Victory of the Lamb – Franklin, WI (Pastor Ben Kuerth)

We dedicated our recently completed ministry center to the glory of God on January 10. It was such a joy to celebrate with our Builders for Christ friends who worked so hard and so well to help us complete our 16,300 sq. ft. facility! Earlier that morning during our regular Sunday services we had a special thank-you for our contractors and sub-contractors who also worked on our building.

Since moving into our new ministry center on December 20, we immediately began holding two services at 9:00 and 10:45 and have seen our attendance jump to around 300 per Sunday with first time guests from the community regularly coming to check things out. We were blessed to have 385 at our first Christmas Eve in our building. There are currently 16 people in the Bible 101 class.

On Ash Wednesday we hosted the band Koine for a special service that was well attended. On March 12 we'll be hosting an Easter for Kids event at our new church. And March 20 is our target for celebrating a community-wide grand opening at both our Sunday morning services. We'll then be having our first ever Holy Week services (which we could never do before in the movie theater) leading into our first Easter in our new church.

With God's blessings, we are looking to the future in regard to staffing. We've received a couple grant approvals to help fund a second pastor position and are currently pursuing additional grant funding through our District Mission Board. As God blesses us we hope to call for a discipleship pastor as soon as possible to help us stay focused on our outreach mission and also to help our new people become active members of the Body of Christ. (02-15-2016)

St. Andrew, Milwaukee, WI (Pastor Rod Concha)

Our relationship with St. Andrew's will be ending as the fiscal year is completed. During the fall we explored the potential of a merger with nearby Centennial, looking at a multi-site arrangement. This progressed but then fell apart. The reality is that the Anglo congregation cannot afford a full time pastor's salary / benefits package. Missionary Rod Concha will complete his work there in June. Vacancy pastor is Pastor Harold Hoepfner. (02-28-2016)

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

WLS graduate William Dunn was assigned to San Pedro on May 19. San Pedro is one of WELS oldest congregations, and its work among the Hispanics dates back to the middle 1980s. Over the many years, the congregation has evolved from a congregation that would cease to serve English-speakers (as it had ceased to serve German-speakers) into a congregation that understands that a bilingual approach - both Spanish and English in the worship service - is the pathway for the future.

Once the congregation had a Hispanic pastor who only spoke Spanish - and they felt that they could develop a ministry that was self-supporting and self-sustaining. But after Pastor Tim Otto arrived in January of 2012, that changed. His work uncovered a myriad of families with parents from two separate cultural entities, and therefore two separate language preferences.

Pastor Otto wrestled with how to address that reality for two years, experimenting with showing English on a screen while he preached in Spanish to printing everything out on paper for all to read. The answer, for San Pedro, was somewhere in the middle.

The congregation is now happily worshipping about 55 people every Sunday in the second service, which has a Spanish feel to it. The liturgy is done in Spanish. The songs are sung in Spanish. There is a childrens' message that is done in English, and the sermon is completely bilingual. Both languages are heard.

That approach is loved. New members are attracted to the simple reality that they can worship alongside their teens and their younger children. There are families that travel almost 25 minutes one way to come to this service because they love this approach. And during a pre-call meeting, necessitated when Pastor Otto accepted a call to begin similar ministry in Las Vegas, NV, the congregation made it abundantly clear - bilingual is where it is. That is what works, and that is what they want for the future.

So, as the Lord of the Harvest determines who will serve at San Pedro, he will also equip him with the gifts and tools to serve a functioning bilingual community. In the meantime, the vacancy is covered by the BHMHOC, who is working with WLS Middler Strucely and local bilingual men to serve the congregation with worship on Sunday. (02-15-2016)

Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN (Pastor Nick Schmoller)

There are many things that we praise God for here at Lamb of God. One of the things that we are encouraged by is the increase in worship attendance and membership. We are regularly worshipping in the 40s and we praise God for every person who worships with us.

This past year we started a new program for outreach in the community. It is a Mornings with Mommy program where parents and children ages 0-5 can come with their parents for educational, theme-based activities. We regularly have around 20 children in attendance now and it has built some great relationships with new prospects who don't have church homes in the community. We pray that it will continue to do this and that those relationships will continue to grow.

Recently we held a one-day marriage seminar at our church. We had six couples in attendance including one prospect family whom we had initial contact through our soccer camp. Everyone had positive things to say about the seminar and we hope to do another one in the fall.

We recently had some members of the district mission board come to Lafayette to look at a piece of land that we have been exploring. They were encouraged and excited about the possibilities that this piece of land would bring for our congregation. We are still gathering information from our realtor and getting a land engineering estimate to see if we should move forward with making an offer on this land.

We are looking forward to our fourth annual soccer camp. We already have 100 signed up for the camp. The dates for the soccer camp are June 6-10. We pray that this would be another outreach effort that will put us in contact with new families in our community. (05-23-2016)

Light of Life, Greenwood, IN (Pastor John Stelljes)

For six-and-a-half years now, we at Light of Life have been growing together as a congregation and going with the Gospel of Jesus into our community. With the start of a new calendar year we also start gearing up for another year of ministries. A few things on the horizon are: Easter (March), Spring Open House for the Community (May), Men's Leadership Retreat (April), VBS (June), Theatre Camp (July), TCW Team of teens from Immanuel Lutheran in Greenfield, WI (June), the Greenwood Freedom Festival (June), and Establishing a "Task Force" to look into some kind of child care/preschool ministry.

We are putting together mailings and developing outside banners for most of our events and I am constantly amazed at the excitement and energy of our members, who are eager to do outreach. And now that, FINALLY, the roadwork around our church is *nearly* completed, our members feel as though we can truly bring people to our door, since people can now actually get to our church! We are excited about this year, and are praying God richly blesses our efforts in sharing the gospel in our community. (02-15-2016)

Living Word, Waukesha, WI (Pastor John Borgwardt)

In early January, we had a meeting with Jim Seipmann – the developer of the subdivision where we own our land. He said that he has plans to put roads in this May, which is good news for us since we wouldn't have the money to put the roads in ourselves. But, he said the same thing last year, so we'll have to wait until spring to see if he's serious this time. He's also looking to see how much we'd be willing to contribute to the cost of the intersection and roads getting into the subdivision, but since we don't have much money, told him we'd love to help, but we really can't. Pray for this, brothers, because we are beholden to Mr. Seipmann for the subdivision getting built so we can gain access to build our facility. But we have to keep telling ourselves – all in the Lord's time.

We ended the year with a good number of adult confirmands – nine – so we are very grateful for the Lord's blessing on our efforts. But we are also very much looking forward to a new facility. We have contacted the Western Lakes Conference Chairman, Pastor Gary Pufahl from Christ, Big Bend, to see if our mother congregations can help us generate enough funds to help us build. I've also invited our Congregational Shepherd, Steve Wolf, and Planned Giving Counselor Rick Kneser to attend the meeting in February to see if they have any insight into funds that might be available. Right now, two things remain in front of us before we take the next step of building – access to the land and raising enough money to build it, but it looks like those things will be falling into place. We appreciate your prayers on those important "details" to the Lord of the Church. (01-16-2016)

Christ, Milwaukee - Hispanic (Pastor Chad Walta)

Cristo, located on the corner of 23rd and Greenfield, is one of the original five congregations who joined together to work in Spanish outreach on the south side of Milwaukee. In 2005 Pastor Martin Valleskey, after serving for two years at LPS as a tutor, was installed as missionary on the south side. He worked faithfully with all five congregations, until he settled at Christ to begin worship. In 2008 they started worship in Spanish, and since that date they have been worshipping faithfully every Sunday in Spanish.

Unlike the other Spanish missions on the south side of Milwaukee, Cristo knows that it will work primarily and almost exclusively in Spanish for the near future. This part of Milwaukee is home to many of the most recent immigrants who speak Spanish that arrive to Milwaukee. The use of ESL over the years has been successful not only in helping Spanish-speakers adjust to their new surroundings, but also in getting people in contact with the Gospel.

While the school addresses the need to share the Gospel in English among the children, Cristo worships an average of 50+ people in Spanish every Sunday. Fellowship is vibrant. Stewardship is growing. Leadership is slowly being cultivated to assist the Spanish-speaking pastor.

In October of 2015, Pastor Valleskey left Cristo, accepting a call to do Spanish work elsewhere. Pastor Chad Walta accepted the call and was installed on January 17th, 2016. He is currently being trained and oriented by BHMHOC Flunker to help him focus on getting to know his sheep, teaching them the Scriptures and preaching well in Spanish. He is showing enthusiasm for the effort that lies before him around Cristo – the people are new to the area, new the Scriptures and new to fellowship at a church.

Pastor Walta is assisted by PSI student Nixon Vivar, who teaches BIC classes every week, serves as the liturgist most Sundays and helps related to the newcomers into the neighborhood. A generous grant from BHM and WLS supports the PSI student's work. For that we are most grateful. (02-15-2016)

Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL (Pastor Dustin Blumer)

Amazing Love will complete its subsidy from the BHM in June, 2016. God has richly blessed his people there. It's amazing to think all God has done in a little over seven years! We will never forget we were able to start because of God's people throughout the WELS who gave generously to Congregational Mission Offerings. We are thankful to be on our last year of subsidy, and are thankful for the support of the synod. For all the support whether it be the direction of mission counselors, mission mentors, or financial support and guidance.

God continues to build his church here in with slow and steady growth. Most recently he brought musicians who have helped us build our own praise band. He has brought great leaders for teen ministry, women's ministry, men's ministry, and our Leadership Team.

We are looking to renovate our worship space in the beginning of 2016. We hope to add new lights, drywall, new chairs, carpeting, and improvements to HVAC. Overall, it will be a much improved space for worship. We hope to have this project completed by Easter 2016.

When it comes to outreach, we held our Soccer Camp this past year, and had our first visiting family from that effort! We walked in a Fall Fest parade and are now looking forward to Christmas for Kids. We also continue to preach and teach on the importance of a personal invitation. We created a business card invitational for all to use.

We continue to pray for visitors and new people to reach with the Gospel of Christ. It's his blessing in the past that gives us confidence for his blessing in the future. (02-15-2016)

Crossroads, Chicago, IL (Pastor Mike Borgwardt)

Stuff Happening:

- After a year wending its way through the Chicago permit process, Crossroads' new awning is up, and so is the number of walk-ins.
- With the help of a grant from Christian Aid and Relief, Crossroads is set to meet our first refugee family in several years.
- Crossroads celebrated our 10-year anniversary in October.

Stuff in the Works:

- Crossroads volunteers are hoping to start a Crossroads Kids Club, a weekly after-school Bible program at the local public elementary school
- Pastor Mike filling a vacancy of sorts at Emmaus Lutheran on the West Side. (04-05-2016)

New Hope, Racine, WI (Pastor Phil Janke)

Our Risen Savior continues to bless! Our Risen Savior continues to touch individual souls of all kinds, and that is certainly evident at New Hope. One by one the Holy Spirit has been bringing new people into our midst and the Word does its work. We have passed our 40th year of ministry as a congregation without too much fanfare. The members as a group said, "Let's wait till the 50th to have a bigger celebration." That says something about the peoples' mindset. We've taken a couple steps away from worrying about being able to financially support this ministry and a couple steps towards thinking long term as the Lord blesses us. That said, the loss of some dedicated

saints (through moves on earth or into heaven) is still felt, and perhaps a little more in this small church. All in all, things are moving forward and remain positive.

One of the biggest blessings recently is the addition of a Jesus Cares Ministries: Worship at the Cross service. Going on over a year now, we've established some good relationships through this ministry. The members have really bought into this ministry as well. They love it! In a little over a year, we believe that this is a key part of our ministry. Regular attendance at this once a month Saturday service is between 25-30, with 5-8 regular participants with different abilities. We appreciate your prayers for this ministry in our corner of God's World.

We are anticipating our sixth year of soccer camp the last week of June. We are again planning on serving 75-100 3-13 year olds. Lord willing we'll finalize some long range plans in April and May that will give us some direction for the next 5-10 years. There is much to do! To God be the glory.

Point of Grace, Milwaukee - Campus Ministry Bi-annual Update for the 2015-2016 School Year

UWM: We finally have our campus house fully back for our own use. It's great to once again have a place we call home. The Campus House is open Mon.-Thurs. from 11am to 4pm. On Wednesday evenings Bible class begins at 7:30 (avg. of 5-6) followed by chapel at 8:30 (avg. of 7-8) followed by fellowship and snacks. The fellowship following chapel is a great blessing that helps bond our students and staff. For the first time, the students are also doing a service project: helping to feed students at Lighthouse Youth Ministries. The students enjoyed doing it so much last semester that they're doing it twice this semester. Vicar has started a Sunday evening fellowship time.

Senior Vicar Program: Senior seminarian Bryant Laude and family are living upstairs in our Campus House. He is responsible for UWM Bible classes and chapel services. He is doing a great job and is making great connections with the students. We pray that the vicar program will continue to help improve our ministry at UWM. The CMC has just informed us that they will be helping to fund the Vicar program by hiring the vicar to also do work for the CMC. This will also the Vicar to stay rent free while he serves both TPOG and the CMC.

MSOE: Pastor Aaron Strong, the evangelism pastor at Grace, downtown Milwaukee, is eagerly getting involved with the students and ministry at MSOE. We feel gratified that Grace and TPOG are working together to serve the students of MSOE. This is an answer to our prayer as we seek to get a local congregation to "adopt" a campus. This is our first effort and we are pleased with the results and the spirit of cooperation that exists. A TCW trip to Tennessee was just completed.

WLC: For the first time this April, TPOG is holding Bible Classes on the campus of WLC.

The Gatherings continue to be a blessing as students from all the campuses we serve (Marquette, MSOE, UWM, and WLC) gather together for study and encouragement. Most of these presentations are available for viewing online at www.tpog.net so that other campus ministries and youth groups might benefit from these speakers.

Case Statement: We have created and published a case statement which we're finding very helpful as a foundational guide to our own ministry, and as a handout to others to show them what we're all about. It was worth the great amount of time and effort to develop it.

Gifts and Grants: We were recently blessed with a \$2500 grant from the Siebert Foundation and an \$18,000 gift from St. Marcus' Gamm estate to fix up the very aging interior of our Campus House.

Looking Ahead: The Ministry here at The Point of Grace has changed dramatically in the 3½ years that I've been serving. God has blessed us with a very committed and hard-working core of paid staff and volunteers. We ask that you pray:

- that God give us wisdom as we move forward into the future, especially in our “adopt a campus” vision
- that God bless our high school outreach efforts so that students are more aware of our campus ministry, and WELS campus ministry in general
- that God bless our chapters with leaders and students so that we can not only maintain our ministries on the campuses we serve, but see them grow and thrive
- that God bless a resurgence in our work at Marquette

Submitted by Pastor Don Thompson (414-303-3887 or pastordon@tpog.net)

New Starts Granted: Funding was granted by the BHM for Centennial, Milwaukee, WI; and Jerusalem, Morton Grove, IL. Centennial is a Hispanic cross-cultural call which has gone out to Pastor Rod Concha. Jerusalem is a Korean cross-cultural call for teaching in the school and starting an after-school program. MLC graduate Chi Seon was assigned and will begin in July.

Continuing Mission Potential: Immanuel, Waukegan, IL; Victory of the Lamb, Franklin, WI; Erin Ministries, Erin, WI (multi-site with Christ, Pewaukee). Communicating with Hope Schools, Milwaukee; Evansville, IN; a number of other area congregations as we look for more places to sow the seed of the gospel.

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

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 (262) 347.9673 (O)

Report of the District Ministry of Christian Giving

Report to the Twelve Districts pages 26-28

"I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it." (Philippians 4:10 NIV). After encouraging the Philippian Christians to rejoice in the Lord always, and repeating the exhortation to rejoice, Paul wrote about why he was rejoicing. In the midst of their own poverty, the believers in Philippi not only expressed concern for Paul with their words, but with their financial support as well. They took the opportunity to send money to support this missionary. What a beautiful expression of their love for the Lord and his servant!

You also have concern for the missionaries who take the gospel to different parts of our country and our world. You have concern for the teachers and students at our ministerial education schools. You have concern for the agencies of the synod whose only goal is to see the good news about Jesus spread to every place on earth. You have concern for your local congregation's ministry, too. And you have the opportunity to show that concern. Your offerings show your concern for the Lord's work. They express your love for the Lord and his servants.

Those offerings not only benefit those agencies that receive your offerings. They are a credit to you, bringing you the joy of participating the spread of the gospel. *"Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. . . They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."* (Philippians 4:17-20 NIV).

CMO Subscriptions

Thank you for submitting you 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 Time, Friday, February 3, 2017.

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.

2016 CMO synod-wide through end of April: \$6,335,178, 102.4% of subscriptions, up \$211,798 (3.5%) from last year at this time. SEW District: \$1,045,157, 99.8% of subscriptions. (This is actually down about \$6,000 from last year at this time for our district). May the Lord enable us to meet and exceed our subscriptions for the support of his work.

Other Christian Giving Efforts

Debt Elimination: *One in Christ*

Fiscal-year-to-date totals through: 5/15/2016

One in Christ - Debt Elimination	Receipts	Donors
WELS congregations	\$1,021,379.20	446
Other organizations/Individuals	\$1,035,932.50	2058
Total:	\$2,057,311.70	2504

Debt at beginning of *One in Christ* = \$4.7 million. Offerings so far = \$2 million +. Scheduled debt payment this fiscal year = \$1.6 million. Needed to eliminate debt by June 30 = @\$1 million.

WELS Endowment Fund Emphasis

Report of Endowment Fund Totals as of April 30, 2016

<u>Endowment Funds</u>	<u>December 2006-2015</u>	<u>2016 Thru 4/30/16</u>	<u>Cumulative Totals</u>	<u>Expectancies</u>
WELS Min Education	4,016,806	159,355	4,218,735	9,692,188
MLC	2,505,732	43,616	2,574,826	5,963,971
MLS	326,489	8,024	337,860	138,356
WLS	1,554,806	27,950	1,598,500	8,267,400
LPS	468,509	7,727	480,967	507,750
WELS Mission	8,789,785	200,089	9,079,507	13,190,281
Home Missions	391,051	6,915	402,093	9,041,521
World Missions	2,059,543	36,181	2,117,237	3,531,704
Total	20,112,721	489,857	20,809,725	50,333,171

<u>Distributions*</u>	<u>July 2013 Distributions</u>	<u>July 2014 Distributions</u>	<u>July 2015 Distributions</u>
WELS Min Education	103,869	121,147	142,915
MLC	73,833	81,743	90,323
MLS	10,094	11,561	12,925
WLS	51,757	56,736	62,335
LPS	14,756	16,576	18,218
WELS Mission**	287,297	316,380	347,472
Home Missions	10,423	12,347	14,288
World Missions	38,639	41,970	46,855
Total	590,668	658,460	735,331

*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:	15-16	\$ 5,413,697	Apr 30, 2016
	14-15	\$ 9,870,572	
	13-14	\$ 8,675,351	
	12-13	\$10,401,602	
	11-12	\$13,766,405	
Temporarily Restricted:	15-16	\$ 7,682,172	Apr 30, 2016
	14-15	\$10,182,931	
	13-14	\$10,704,249	
	12-13	\$ 9,817,884	
	11-12	\$ 6,679,935	
Permanently Restricted:	15-16	\$ 927,746	Apr 30, 2016
	14-15	\$ 5,386,733	
	13-14	\$ 1,119,948	
	12-13	\$ 935,143	
	11-12	\$ 1,301,366	

Face-to-face Donor Nurture by our Christian Giving Counselors (through 4/30/16)

<u>FYTD team goal</u>	<u>FYTD actual visits</u>	<u>FYT over/(under)</u>
3,197	3,237	40

Donor Advised Funds/Supporting Organizations Gifts and Distributions

<u>Gifts to Supporting Orgs</u>		<u>Gifts to Donor Advised Funds</u>	
15-16	\$ -0-	\$ 505,268	Apr 30, 2016
14-15	\$ -0-	\$ 1,294,305	
13-14	\$ -0-	\$ 414,917	
12-13	\$ 2,828,206	\$ 699,033	
11-12	\$ 1,672,695	\$ 851,935	

DAF Distributions (15-16 gifts through April 30, 2016)

	<u>to WELS Funds</u>	<u>to WELS Schools</u>	<u>to WELS Endowments</u>	<u>to Cong & Agencies</u>	
15-16	\$ 405,251	\$ 94,729	\$ 52,711	\$ -0-	\$ 257,811
14-15	\$ 704,336	\$247,800	\$ 65,907	\$ 2,250	\$ 388,379
13-14	\$ 507,574	\$147,129	\$ 46,619	\$ -0-	\$ 313,826
12-13	\$ 411,816	\$ 10,183	\$146,910	\$ -0-	\$ 245,723
11-12	\$ 489,797	\$100,000	\$ 40,624	\$ -0-	\$ 349,173

Resources for Your Congregation

Stewardship Programs

364 Days of Thanksgiving focuses on how we can be thankful every day for the blessings God gives us. The emphasis includes three weeks of worship and Bible study resources. Churches can also bulk order the devotional journal at a discount for members to use to write down one thing they are grateful for each day of the year. Find [this program](#) on the Ministry of Christian Giving resource center at wels.net.

Subscribe to *An Encouraging Word* (below) for tips and resources for year-round stewardship encouragement, including stewardship thoughts on each Sunday's lectionary readings and the best Sundays in the church year for teaching stewardship.

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 (*Joyful Generosity*) for congregational leaders. For more information or to request a presentation please call 414-256-3214.

***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 www.wels.net/subscribe.

How we can help you?

Are you planning for fall? 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.

When is the last time your congregation hosted a Christian estate planning seminar?

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

Mr. Carl Leibner
Deferred Giving Counselor
carl.leibner@wels.net
352-638-7221

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. **ECM Devotions:** The ECM Devotions have been available since September 2015 and currently have 336 subscribers. Plans are underway for the next year regarding themes, authors, and reviewers.
2. **ECM Task Force:** This past summer the Ad Hoc Commission 2 of the Synodical Council brought a resolution to the Synod Convention. This resolution focused on early childhood leadership and a well-defined mission and purpose for each early childhood ministry. In response to this resolution, a task force has been formed to discuss the resolution and consider potential next steps. The group will consider current statistics as well as a number of documents related to WELS early childhood ministry.
3. **Testing Task Force:** The current contract with Terra-Nova is extended for the 2016-17 school year. Just over 200 schools of the 313 WELS elementary schools participate. Cooperative purchasing has been negotiated by CLS with NWEA MAP, which is a formative assessment with the capability for longitudinal data. Currently 44 schools participate in MAP and we expect several more to participate in MAP for 2016-17. CLS is currently working with our vendor ECRUSS in an effort to determine if ACT-Aspire is the right choice for a summative testing platform.
4. **School Statistics Review:** The documents is available on the CLS website.
5. **Leadership Vacancies:** CLS is supporting the district presidents in constructing call lists for vacancies we are aware of at the following leadership levels: Elementary School Principals: 24, Secondary Superintendent: 1, ELS principal: 1, Retired limited duration principal:1, Early Childhood Director: 12.
6. **Leadership Candidate Training:** This one-year cohort will conclude with a two day event on June 20 and 21, 2016. Two of the eight men have received and accepted principal calls during this call season.
7. **New Teacher Induction:** MLC took two district coordinators and two lead mentors with them to the annual New Teacher Induction Symposium in February. DSC's and lead mentors conducted a teleconference in April to plan for supporting the new teachers to be assigned in May.
NOTE: For ALL schools in SEW receiving a graduate, inclusion in the NTI program is assumed (\$1,000 fee). NTI Meeting for new graduate teachers, their principals, and mentors scheduled for Thursday, August 4 (AM) at St. John's, Wauwatosa.
8. **CLS Staff Transition:** Ken Proeber is in the final months of his four-year interim service at the CLS office. He has been a tremendous blessing to CLS's ministry during the last four years of vacancies and transitions.
9. **Reformation 500 Teacher Conference/National Leadership Conference:** Jim Moeller from WW is serving as the chairman for the Reformation 500 teacher conference to be held on October 30-31, 2017, in downtown Milwaukee. CLS is the coordinating body for the teacher's conference. A pastor's symposium will run concurrent to the teacher conference.
10. The next **National Leadership Conference** is scheduled for June, 2019.

11. **Team Ministry Redesign:** Pilot schools have had three modules of training to discuss teaching standards, formative evaluation strategies, and ministry development plans. The committee meets again on May 14, with a face-to-face in during the month of June to review the summative assessment models. The target is for full roll-out to all schools by 2018. CLS is encouraging conference program committees to provide sectionals on the topic at district and federation conferences.
12. **WELSOURCE:** Electronic submission of teacher biographic data is still now a summer 2016 target. Changes will require that all WELS called workers have a WELS login for the 2016-17 school year. The decision on our part to not send out paper forms last summer due to a goal of an August 2015 launch which did not take place, has led to some challenges this year in the generating of up-to-date call information.
13. **Accreditation:** Rachel DiGiorgio continues to spearhead the logistics on visits for this school year. A total of 22 site visits will be made this school year. Three site visits were suspended and will be completed next school year. We are currently projecting 36-40 visits in 2016-2017. Several one-day site visits are being done this spring for Wisconsin Parental Choice Program schools needing to complete the 3K/4K Addendum standards.
14. **Council of American Private Education:** Jim Rademan attended the CAPE meetings in Washington DC on March 14 and 15. Representatives from 17 of the largest private and parochial school systems in the country along with 28 state CAPE leaders spent two days discussing ways to pre-serve and protect the freedoms of our schools from government regulation and creep.
15. **Telling the Next Generation:** On Saturday, April 9, ten congregations from the South Atlantic district met at Risen Savior in Orlando, FL for the first *Telling the Next Generation: Utilizing Schools for Outreach* workshop. This workshop is a joint effort of the Commission on Evangelism and CLS. The workshop is patterned after the Commission on Evangelism's School of Outreach. The three presenters for this initial workshop were Pastors Phil Huebner, Paul Steinberg, and Matt Brown. They will also develop leader's guides that can be used with future workshops. The goal is to provide at least one workshop in each of the twelve districts by the summer of 2017.
16. **Principal-Board Seminars:** This is a priority for the 2016-17 school year. A clear understanding of leadership roles is perceived as a need in our congregations and schools. Such as seminar could also address the philosophy and direction of the redesigned formative and summative staff evaluation tools due out in the summer of 2018.

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 50th Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2016

Report of the District Special Ministries Committee

New Referral Form The WELS website has had separate referral forms to supply names for military personnel, for prison ministry, and for people with special needs. Now there is a new, simplified form for all referrals at www.wels.net/referral.

WELS Military Services estimates that only 20% of the WELS/ELS military personnel are actually referred to us – we are working hard to make that 100%! Please give us the names of church members in the military (including National Guard and Reserves).

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry (IDDM) The new referral form can be used to give us the names of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who might appreciate receiving Christian cards and letters from IDDM. Many adults with special needs want to serve in their church and IDDM is recruiting a spokesperson to encourage churches to include men and women with disabilities in the life of the congregation according to their gifts. A position description and application can be found at www.wels.net/specialneeds.

Retirement Planning for Called Workers Christians who have been blessed by the ministry of a pastor, teacher, or staff minister, want that servant of the Lord to be financially secure when he or she can no longer work. The WELS Care Committee for Called Workers is preparing materials to help congregations assist their called workers to plan for retirement. The materials will be released this fall, but if you would like to receive the planning materials sooner, contact specialministries@wels.net.

WELS / ELS Seniors in Omaha The Organization of WELS Seniors (OWLS) invites all seniors in our WELS churches (retirees and / or over 50) to the October 11-13, 2016 convention at the Ramada Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The keynote speakers will share inspiring messages about how the harvest is being enlarged through Home Missions (Pastor Keith Free, WELS Missions), through missions in Russia and eastern Europe (Pastor Michael Ewart, former missionary) and through WELS Military Services (Pastor Paul Ziemer, WELS National Civilian Chaplain). Registration information can be found at wels.net/owls.

Tools for the Battlefield Special Ministries has Internet resources which are Christ-centered to help people resist and reject temptations to use pornography at www.conquerorsthroughchrist.net. A new ministry, Freedom for the Captives, offers resources on its website freedomforcaptives.com for survivors of child sexual abuse, and for those who minister to them, including information on policies to prevent abuse.

Chaplain Certification “Scriptural Approach to Addiction Counseling” by Professor Alan Siggelkow and “Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry” by Dan Krause are the two MLC online Chaplain Certification courses offered this fall. For more information on this program, check out the MLC website at: <https://mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate/>.

Free recruitment and training for developing a Jail Ministry WELS Prison Ministry has a grant that will cover travel and costs of training called workers and lay people to form a team that does ministry in the jail and after care. Our goal is to help every district do this rewarding outreach work. Contact our Jail Ministry Team Training at jmtt@wels.net.

Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) A new organization of WELS/ELS veterans is focused on strengthening our ministry to the military. The LMSG already has over 200 congregations with liaisons. Locally LMSG will focus on care for active duty military and their families, and on care for veterans, but they also have helped WELS Military Services fund travel and training to carry out its work.

Special Ministries Resources You will find a growing amount of resources for your congregation on the Special Ministries Resource Center (<http://csm.welsrc.net/>) In addition to what you find on that home page, use the WELS Special Ministries drop down menu at the top of the page to locate all the resources we have posted. The number of resources is growing every week!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Richard Waldschmidt
SEW Special Ministries Coordinator

Report of the District Worship Committee

Reformation 2016

Conferences of SEW District are encouraged to organize Reformation celebrations. By the end of June, the District Worship Committee will have a template available to help planning. There will be suggested lessons, hymns, choir pieces, etc., all under the theme: *Not in Ourselves - God's Gift of Faith.*

Reformation 2017 (from RTTD, page 30)

The synod is planning a special service in downtown Milwaukee on Oct. 31, 2017, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The service will be the culmination of continuing education opportunities for WELS called workers held at the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee on Oct. 30-31, including Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's annual symposium and the Wisconsin Lutheran Teachers' Conference, which will be inviting WELS educators nationwide to participate. The service will be held at the Bradley Center. Choirs from all WELS high schools will participate in the service.

Name of Jesus

The Minor Festival of The Name of Jesus (January 1) falls on a Sunday this next year. That's a Sunday of the year when most worship leaders are tired. In order to help pastors and worship leaders with their planning, the District Worship Committee will have a template with suggested lessons, hymns, choir pieces, sermon suggestions, etc. available by the end of July.

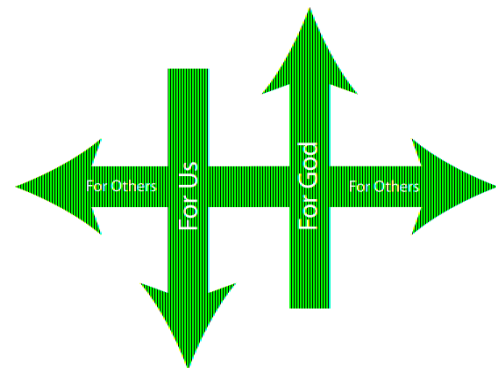
School of Worship Enrichment (SoWE)

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/>

Thought to Consider

We often use the phrase "worship service" to describe what happens when we come together as believers. It's a fine phrase, but if you look at it closely, you'll see that the phrase is redundant. Our worship is service! It is God's service to us (consider the German word for worship, *Gottesdienst*). He comes to us and serves us the banquet of salvation through Word and Sacrament. Yet, it is also our service to God. Worship is "worth-ship" as we demonstrate to God how much he is worth to us. We also serve one another as we encourage each other with the gospel. Everyone is both a target and a projectile of the gospel. How beautiful and rich is our worship experience. How blessed we are!



NPH Music Workshops

We strongly encourage congregations to send their church musicians to the NPH Music Workshops this summer. The cost of \$65 per person (group rates available) is an excellent deal for encouraging your musicians and giving them lots of great music resources and ideas.

Workshops in our SEW District:

Waukesha, Wisconsin

Trinity Lutheran Church

Saturday, July 9

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

NPH Christian Books & Gifts Store

Saturday, August 20 (9am - 12pm) Choral music only. Limited to 45.

Workshop Features

- Scripturally sound choir music for the church year from NPH and other publishers
- Practical music for choirs - large and small, children and adults
- Complimentary choir music
- Organ, piano, and keyboard music for beginner as well as advanced musicians
- Presenters who understand the needs of the church musician

Displays and Extras

- *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* and the full line of *Christian Worship* resources including *Christian Worship: Supplement*
- Choir, keyboard, instrumental, and handbell music suitable for Lutheran worship
- Children's songbooks and recordings including the Christ-Light music CDs
- Quality vocal and keyboard music for traditional, contemporary, and blended worship
- Lunch and refreshments provided

For more information or to register: www.nph.net/music/workshop

Luther and Music

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

Proclaiming the Gospel Through Music

I. Preparing to Proclaim the Gospel through Music

II. Proclaiming the Gospel through the Liturgy

III. Proclaiming the Gospel through Hymns

IV. Proclaiming the Gospel as Heirs of Luther

- Treating worship seriously
- Treating worship with a pastoral balance
- Teach, teach, teach worship

2017 WELS Worship Conference

June 13-16, Carthage College, Kenosha, WI

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