



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Report of the District President

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor David P. Kolander



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Ministry of Christian Giving

Synod Report – BoRaM pages 32-38

CMO Subscriptions

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

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

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

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

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

Deadline for CMO and Stats next year will be Noon Central Standard Time, Friday, February 2, 2018.

CMO 2017 Update

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

How we can help you?

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

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

Rev. Kevin Hundley
Current Giving Counselor
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Enjoy the privilege the Lord has given you to support his work.

Pastor Tim Henning
Chairman, SEW District Ministry of Christian Giving



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

District Mission Board

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

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

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

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

Risen Savior, Milwaukee, WI

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

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

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

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

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

La Iglesia Luterana San Pedro, Milwaukee, WI

Past Fiscal Year - 2015-2016

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

Coming Fiscal Year - 2017-2018

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

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

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

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

Looking Forward in 2017-2018

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

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

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

Lamb of God, Lafayette, IN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Light of Life, Greenwood, IN

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

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

Living Word, Waukesha, WI

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

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

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

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

Point of Grace, Milwaukee - Campus Ministry Update

Highlights

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

Challenges and Focus

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

Prayer Request

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

Amazing Love, Frankfort, IL

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

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

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

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

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

Encouraging Mission Starts & Looking for Mission Potential -

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

Pastor Mark Wagner
Chairman, SEW District Mission Board

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SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

District Nominating Committee

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

Synodical Council pastor-at-large (2)

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

Synodical Council teacher-at-large

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

Board for World Missions, chairman (pastor)

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

Board for World Missions, layman

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

Board for Home Missions, chairman (parish pastor)

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

Board for Ministerial Education, chairman (parish pastor)

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

Board for Ministerial Education, teacher or staff minister

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

Board for Ministerial Education, layman (2)

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

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Governing Board, chairman (parish pastor)

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

Board of Appeals, pastor

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

Board of Appeals, teacher or staff minister

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

Board of Appeals, layman

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

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

Commission on Lutheran Schools, chairman
Timothy Mueller, Muskego, Wis.
James Henrickson, Dallas, Texas
James Sievert*, West Bend, Wis.

**Northwestern Publishing House Board of
Directors, parish pastor**
Daniel Habben, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada
Joel Schroeder*, Lenexa, Kan.
Joel Gawrisch, St. Paul, Minn.

**Northwestern Publishing House Board of
Directors, teacher or staff minister**
Luke Hartzell, Doral, Fla.
David Payne, Appleton, Wis.
Matthew Groth, Saginaw, Mich.

**Northwestern Publishing House Board of
Directors, layman (2)**
Dwight Luedtke, Troutville, Va.
Joel Raasch, Germantown, Wis.
A. John Wiley, Appleton, Wis.
Edward Wolf*, Slinger, Wis.

Pastor Jonathan Nitz
Chairman, SEW District Nominating Committee

SEW District Nominating Committee

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

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Lutheran Schools

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

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

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

Principal vacancies after assignments stand at 17.

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

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

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

Telling the Next Generation - Utilizing our Schools for Outreach

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

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

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

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

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

Voluntary Supplemental Contributions:

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

National School Leadership / Technology Conference:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

Worship

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

National Conference on Worship, Music & the Arts

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

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

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

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

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

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

Easter Vigil

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

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

History of Christian Worship Bible Class

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

Objectives:

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

Outline:

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

Luther and Music

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

Proclaiming the Gospel Through Music

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

Pastor Martin Wildauer
SEW District Worship Coordinator

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Tom Schultz..... 847-358-0230 pastor@byfaithalone.org
Jason Snodie 262-661-4726 jsnodie@school.faithantioch.org



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference Special Ministries

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

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

Resources on the Conference Website or Packet of Reports

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

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

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

Pastor Richard Waldschmidt
SEW District Special Ministries Coordinator



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2017 District Conference

2016 District Financial Report

Balance, 12/31/2015, Checking Account		\$7,022.20
Balance, 12/31/2015 Savings Account		\$20,087.19
Funds Available, 1/1/2016		\$27,109.39
Income, 2016		
Dues	\$38,336.95	
Convention Offering	\$2,645.75	
Farewell Gifts	\$6,592.50	
Interest	\$8.45	
Total Income, 2016		\$47,583.65
Expenses, 2016		
Postage	\$159.80	
Internet Hosting	\$326.10	
2016 Convention		
Arrangements	\$42,414.71	
Printing	\$3,068.00	
Worship	\$1,259.94	
Offering (One in Christ)	\$2,645.75	
Gifts	\$6,692.50	
Circuit Pastor Training	\$2,183.75	
Reformation (2015/2016)	\$2,000.00	
Transition Counseling	\$950.00	
Total 2016 Expenditures		\$61,700.55
Balance, 12/31/2016		\$12,992.49
Balance, Checking Account		\$896.85
Balance, Savings Account		\$12,095.64

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pastor William Carter
SEW District Secretary-Treasurer