



Faces of FAITH

WELS MISSIONS



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Dear Fellow Witness,

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



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

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

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

Working together for him,

Keith Free

Keith Free
Home Missions administrator

HOME
MISSIONS
DISTRICTS





HOME MISSIONS

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

2018 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS

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

Faces of Faith—Meghan

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



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

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

2018 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS—UNSUBSIDIZED

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

Faces of Faith—Jeffry

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

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

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

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



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



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

2018 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS

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

Faces of Faith—Avery + Haileigh

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

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

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

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

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



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



Divine Peace—Rockwall, Tex., campus

Faces of Faith—Carter

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

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

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

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



Faces of Faith—Seng

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



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

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

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

JOINT MISSIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Faces of Faith—Thomas

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

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

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

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



PASTORAL STUDIES INSTITUTE



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

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

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

Faces of Faith – Matthew

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

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

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

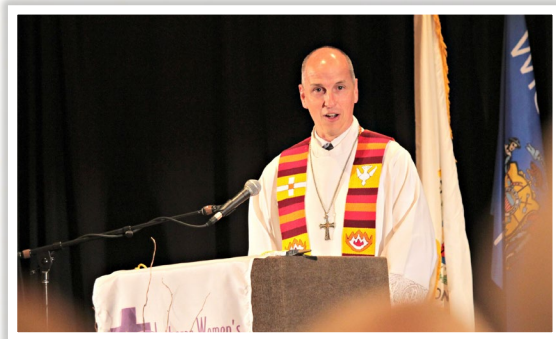


*From Matthew Cephus,
church leader at Royal
Family Fellowship
International
Congregation
in New Hope,
Minn., and
leader of 27
churches in
Liberia*

Dear Friends of Missions,

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

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



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

WORLD

Your fellow missionary,

Larry Schlomer
World Missions administrator



WORLD MISSIONS

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



WORLD MISSIONS

ONE LATIN AMERICA

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

Faces of Faith—David



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

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

Fast Facts

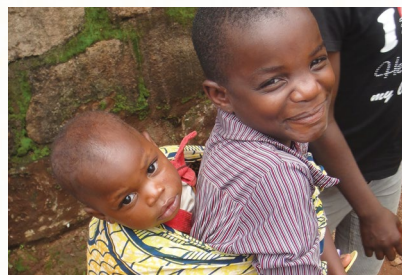
- Members of the 1LA team and other trained men in our fellowship offer live, online Bible classes in a program called **Academia Cristo**.
- The Academia Cristo Facebook page recently surpassed **1 million followers**.
- Individuals from every country in Latin America have taken **live classes** with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

AFRICA

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



South Sudanese refugee camp



Fast Facts

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



Faces of Faith—Stanley

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

From John Roebke, missionary in Africa

Faces of Faith—Violet

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



From Angela Sievert, CAMM Public Relations Coordinator

CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

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



Fast Facts

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

ASIA-PACIFIC RIM

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

Faces of Faith—Stefanus



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

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

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

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

From Greg Bey, friendly counselor in Indonesia



Fast Facts

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

EAST ASIA

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

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



Fast Facts

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

Faces of Faith—Larry

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

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



From Rob Siirila, missionary in Hong Kong

SOUTH ASIA

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



Fast Facts

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

Faces of Faith—Ashok + Vijay

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

From Mark Rieke, friendly counselor in India



Faces of Faith—Pakistan

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

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

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



MULTI-LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

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



Our Plan

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

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

EUROPE

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



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

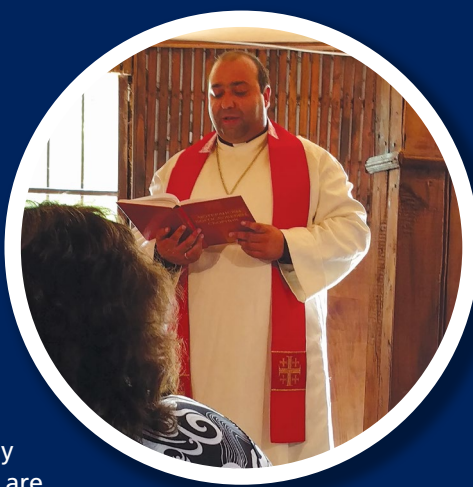
Faces of Faith – Itsov

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

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

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

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



APACHE RESERVATION

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

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



Three-Phase Outreach Plan

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

Faces of Faith—Bernard

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

From Debbie Dietrich, Native American mission communication coordinator



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

WELS Mission Journeys

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

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

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



WELS Church Extension Fund
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WELS CEF Activity Update

2017

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

Loans • Investments • IRAs

Loan and Grant Highlights

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

Operations and Support Highlights

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

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

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

The offering is made solely by our offering circular.

✦ Not FDIC or SIPC insured

✦ Not a bank deposit

✦ No synod guarantee

Where investing in your future builds churches.

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



ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

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

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

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

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

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

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

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

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

NORTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

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

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

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

SOUTH ATLANTIC DISTRICT

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

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

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

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

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

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

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

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WELS Church Extension Fund

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

INFORMATION TO INVEST WITH WELS CEF*

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

INFORMATION FOR A NEW WELS CEF LOAN

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

INFORMATION TO RENEW YOUR CURRENT WELS CEF LOAN

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

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

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

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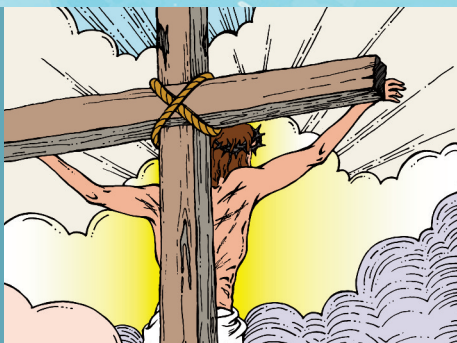
Multi-Language Publications

Bringing the Word to the World



MLP updates

Developing culturally fitting material



Working with local talent in East Asia

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

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

Working with local artists

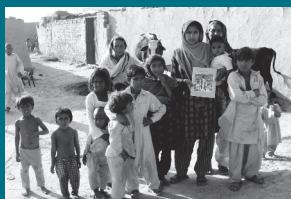


"Living in Faith" discipleship series
artwork by artist: Allie

How can you help this important work?

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





Expanding social media



More than one million followers

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

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

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

Developing new content



Translator workshop to improve skills

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

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

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

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

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



wels.net/mlp

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

WELS Christian Aid and Relief

Our Calling

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



Our Current Situation

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

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

General aide was provided to food pantries, inner city relief and general aid for called workers and congregational members suffering from extreme medical and financial burdens, totaling \$295,000.

Hurricane Relief was a major focus of our efforts this past year with grants totaling \$415,000 as of February 28.

Humanitarian Aid Projects

At their June 2017 meeting, WELS Christian Aid and Relief approved \$327,475 for humanitarian aid grants for FY 17-18. These projects help our missionaries reflect Christ's love to people in need, and also open doors to share the Gospel. Major items include health clinics, borehole drilling to provide clean water, support for a women's skill center, home based care for the chronically ill and dying, food assistance to the needy adult literacy classes, food and nutrition to orphans, medical equipment, and health clinics. Grants have increased recently to more home mission congregations especially welcoming new legal immigrants in cross cultural situations.

Home Missions receiving grants this year are:

Las Vegas, NV, Toronto, Canada, Texas, Boise, Idaho.

World mission fields receiving grants this year are:

Africa – Zambia, Malawi, Nigeria &
Central African Medical Mission

Asia Pacific Rim – Thailand and Indonesia,

Europe – Russia, Albania, Bulgaria, Ukraine

South Asia – Nepal, Pakistan, and India

Latin America – Mexico

Criteria for humanitarian aid project – A world or home mission project that meets a community need and opens doors to share the Gospel as part of the mission's outreach to their community.



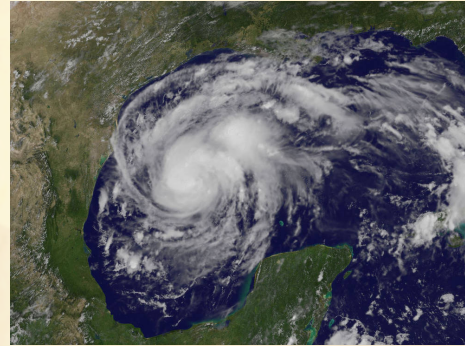
Medical and Financial Emergencies

Our committee also assists local congregations as they reach out to display Christian love and compassion to their members facing natural disasters, medical emergencies and financial crisis. Contact our chairman, Pastor Robert Hein to learn more about how we can match or even exceed your local efforts. This includes supporting congregational efforts to provide aid and relief to your community recovering from a natural disaster.

Our Current Situation continued

Hurricane & Diaster Relief Update

Christian Aid and Relief personalizes our efforts by working through our congregations and missions in the affected areas. We work through our pastors and synod and congregational leaders to make assessments and distribute aid. We bring in volunteers when requested to assist in the recovery effort.



Puerto Rico

Our liaison to Puerto Rico, Pastor Tim Satorius, keeps in contact with pastors and leaders of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church of Puerto Rico. Pastor Satorius and a representative from Christian Aid and Relief made a personal assessment visit to Puerto Rico in October. One church there was completely destroyed, another was damaged, and several homes of members were damaged. Groceries were provided to families in need. We sent an immediate gift of \$5000 through Direct Relief to assist those in need. We also sent \$5000 to provide meals for people in the church and community suffering from this disaster. This enabled members of the national church to provide meals for 50 people a day for four weeks.

In January 2018 President Mark Schroeder, World Mission Administrator Larry Schlomer, Director of Missions Operations Sean Young, and Pastor Tim Satorius made a personal visit to Puerto Rico to meet with national leaders and further discuss ways we can help. Christian Aid and Relief approved their proposal to engage a Spanish speaking WELS pastor for one year to serve as a consultant with the national leaders in developing a specific plan for recovery efforts and also strengthen our relationship with this National Church, assisting them with ministry enhancement and training workers. Pastor Larry Schlomer Sr. accepted this position. Specific rebuilding plans will be brought to Christian Aid and Relief for approval. Then we will recruit and organize volunteers to assist from our volunteer database.

Florida

Volunteers, with the help of our disaster relief trailers, assisted with the cleanup efforts in several affected communities. Those who have received assistance are most appreciative and wish to express their gratitude for a job well done. Pastors in the affected areas brought requests to us for immediate aid for their members through our District President Chuck Westra. This included generators and equipment, rental assistance while being displaced from home, and assistance with cost of repairs and replacement of furnishings. We assisted Abiding Grace, Covington, GA as their church suffered water damage from the storm and brought in volunteers to repair a roof at Calvary Lutheran Academy in Florida.



Our Current Situation continued

Hurricane & Diaster Relief Update

Texas

Volunteers from neighboring churches helped with the initial cleanup efforts in several affected areas. The equipment included in our disaster relief trailers was put to good use. We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers and a project coordinator who came in to help with rebuilding efforts. They did great work putting in countless hours repairing a parsonage and church at Christ our Savior, Angleton, TX, the school at Sienna Plantation Academy, and about 17 member homes in the Friendswood, TX area. The volunteers often express the joy they experience serving their Lord as they serve these people in their time of need. We have also received wonderful expressions of gratitude from the families we assisted. We also provided grants to replace furnishings and appliances to homes which were ruined by the flooding. Volunteers will complete a few more home repair projects in the Houston area in Spring 2018.



Antigua, Barbuda and Dominica

Assistance was provided to families displaced from Barbuda, who are staying with members and friends of our WELS mission, St. John, Antigua. 29 families received \$18,000 in immediate aid so far. Funds were also distributed to assist families in Dominica affected by the hurricane. Our liaison Pastor Tom Spiegelberg has visited Antigua and is helping us make further assessment of needs and opportunities.

We express our appreciataion to many volunteers, including from Builders for Christ, who have been a tremendous blessing to these recovery efforts.



A Look Ahead

Annually, Christian Aid and Relief reviews humanitarian aid grant requests forwarded to us from the Board for World Missions and Board for Home Missions. These projects help build bridges for proclaiming the Gospel to the people we serve in our mission fields.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief continues to look for ways to improve its communication to the members of our synod. “Lifeline” videos have been developed so that those who support our work can see firsthand how their gifts are being used. Our Web page www.welsnet/relief continues to offer timely information and a convenient way to donate online for Christian Aid and Relief projects. Members can also find us on Facebook at Christian Aid and Relief. Committee members and volunteers also make presentations to various groups to “tell our stories”, letting WELS members know about the needs and opportunities to help people through Christian Aid and Relief. DVD’s of Lifeline Videos and other written materials and photos are also available upon request. We are partnering with other WELS agencies, such as Kingdom Workers, Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service, and the nurses association to coordinate volunteers to assist in relief efforts when appropriate.

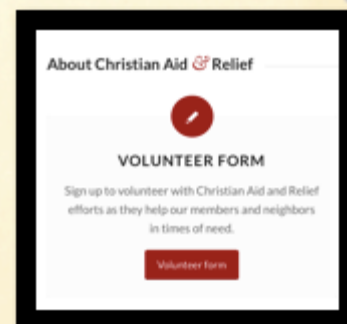


Action Items

- Pray for God to bless our ministry
- Visit wels.net/relief for more information, to view a Lifeline video, or to become a partner of this ministry
- Remember our ministry with special offerings
- Contact us to schedule a presentation for your church, school, or organization
- Follow us on Facebook, [fb.com/ WELSCChristianAidAndRelief](https://fb.com/WELSCChristianAidAndRelief)
- Sign up to become a WELS Christian Aid & Relief volunteer at wels.net/relief.

For More Information Contact. Committee Members

Rev. Robert Hein, chairman and reporter
Staff Minister Tom Hering, secretary
Rev. Bruce Marggraf
Rev. Richard Warnecke
Mr. Steve Wright
Mrs. Elizabeth Zambo, administrative assistant



Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2017 – 2018

Christian Aid and Relief continues to partner with the WELS Board for World Missions, Board for Home Missions, WELS Missionaries, and our sister congregations of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference around the world in funding humanitarian aid projects which reflect Christ's love through acts of kindness to people in need and builds bridges to proclaim the good news of God's love through Jesus. Below is a list of humanitarian aid projects for FY 2017-18 totaling \$327,475. We praise God for all those who helped to fund these projects through their special gifts!

Albania

Christian Aid and Relief provides funding for Christmas and Easter food baskets for needy individuals in their congregation and in their neighborhoods. Invitations and information about the congregation are shared with the recipients of the baskets.

Bulgaria

Funding has been granted to provide packages with food products, along with Christian books and brochures, for visitors to major festival worship services. With the Lord's blessing this will help build bridges to share the gospel with more people and to maintain connections for ongoing ministry contact.



CAMM – Central African Medical Missions

The Central African Medical Missions in Malawi and Zambia receive funding from Christian Aid and Relief for medical supplies and nutritional supplements for infants. CAMM currently provides medical care at four clinics which also serve as LCCA churches. These humanitarian efforts help serve as a bridge for proclaiming the gospel.

India

Medical aid to India has been approved to provide supplies for government and private hospitals and health clinics. This includes basic necessities such as blood pressure cuffs and thermometers, hospital beds, baby warmers, and more sophisticated equipment such as an instrument to test for glaucoma. Funds have also been granted for the digging of approximately 20 fresh water wells. As with most of the humanitarian work in India, these projects may not open new doors directly for gospel “bridge building,” but they will help to ensure that the doors to India will remain open for WELS counselors living and working there. These kinds of projects are necessary for our presence in India to continue; it is excellent and necessary PR with the local medical community, government officials, and other influential people.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2017 – 2018 *continued*

Indonesia

Funding has been granted to assist congregations in Indonesia to hand out staple food items to needy households in their neighborhoods. In some cases, books and school supplies will be given to needy children. The hope and prayer is that caring and sharing will provide a bridge with these people by letting them know the location of the source of the aid and by strengthening the churches' reputation and communication among their neighbors.

Malawi

Funding by WELS Christian Aid and Relief for boreholes dug in Mayaka and Nagome are now functional for the people in these villages for drinking, cooking and cleaning. These two wells open the door for the gospel message to be shared by allowing permanent churches to be built. A vicar will be called with the well nearby to supply water for his family. Vacation Bible school and other programs can now be held knowing that there will be water for the children to drink. Water is such a basic human need and without it there is no life. What a blessing to be able to provide water and at the same time provide the living gospel message for the people of Malawi to drink so they may enjoy eternal life!



Mexico

Funding for the Costa Maya Ministries Education Center allows the mission in Mahahual to provide a place where the locals can come to hear the Word of God, receive a weekly meal and participate in Bible studies and other outreach opportunities.

Nigeria

Funds have been granted to Nigeria to help in the distribution of health care for people in great need, many of which are not members of the local church. The ability to offer care and provide humanitarian aid to Nigeria's unchurched will serve as a bridge for Christ the King and All Saints Lutheran Churches of Nigeria to invite villagers to church to hear the gospel. Funds will also be used to help offer pharmacy services and health education in rural areas demonstrating the loving care of Lutheran Christians. Aid will provide support for church members to visit rehab centers, hospitals, prisons, orphanages and health centers and to assist widows, widowers, and people with special needs.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2017 – 2018 *continued*

Nepal

Aid supplied to Nepal provides funding for health clinics. At each clinic, workers minister to the physical and spiritual needs of those who receive care. Christian literature is distributed. Clinics often lead to the formation of a Bible study group, and eventually have developed into local churches. Aid is provided to reach out to women in rural and remote areas to offer activities and sessions to improve basic skills. Offering these skills provides opportunities to share the gospel. Aid also provides textbooks for higher secondary level students in several districts in the Himalayan area near the Tibetan border. This opens doors for sharing the gospel in these areas and helps to train future leaders and teachers of the Christian church. Funds have also been granted to provide mosquito nets for victims of local flooding. These nets will protect people from mosquito-borne illnesses and even from snake bites. Providing these nets will provide opportunities to share the love and the hope they have through Christ.

Pakistan

In Pakistan, funding has been granted to provide medical care for many families and assist with crippling debt. The kindness shown to those in desperate need opens doors to share the good news of the Great Physician of both body and soul. Funding has also been granted to train women in basic skills like knitting, stitching, and embroidery. Each session begins and ends with a gospel devotion. By learning these skills, women can then support themselves and be spared ill treatment in the public market place and work safely from home to receive income to support their families as well as mission work in Pakistan.

Funding has been provided to help toward the cost of medical procedures needed by many families without the means to pay. This kindness shown to folks in desperate life and death situations provides opportunities to share the best news of a Savior. Aid has also been granted for food distribution at Christmas and Easter in neighborhoods bordering Christian homes and schools.

Russia

Funding has been granted to Russia to provide food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, and medicine for the needy. These gifts will allow for the Law-Gospel pamphlets to be distributed and to invite people to Bible instruction classes. This will let the workers' light shine in the area and grow their reputation of helping those in need. Aid has also been granted to assist institutions such as hospitals, rehab centers, orphanages, and half-way houses. The government values this work and presence, which is very important as it opens the doors for Bible classes and Christian counseling. Through this ministry, Christian literature is left in public schools, rehab centers, and other institutions. These efforts provide additional connections to the local congregations as they reach out to the villages.

Thailand

We continue to support the efforts of medically trained volunteers who travel to Thailand to set up week long medical clinics in our village churches. As these clinics draw people from both local and neighboring villages, they provide the missionaries and other workers with a unique bridge for presenting the gospel and for creating good-will presence for our churches through such care and service. Eye glasses and hearing amplifiers are two of the many gifts that are shared with the people. These gifts not only open their eyes and ears to the world around them, but open their hearts to a clearer understanding of the love that Jesus has for them through the witnessing of the unconditional love of those providing for their needs. VBS and ELS classes are offered and follow up contacts are made after the classes conclude.

Humanitarian Aid Projects June 2017 – 2018 *continued*

Ukraine

Funding has been granted to provide food assistance for war refugees and help for orphans. This assistance serves as a good Christian witness to many people and shows the love of God to many in great need. It also provides for the opportunity to share the love of God to those who join in worship.

Zambia

Christian Aid and Relief provides funding for home-based care that bridges the physical and spiritual care of the chronically ill and dying. This grant will help prepare the Christians in this ministry to better meet the needs of the community through acts of sharing God's gracious gift of salvation as they help those with AIDS, TB, Malaria, and other chronic and terminal illnesses. Funds have also been granted to support a literacy program. A person who is able to read and write is well positioned to do God's work more efficiently, especially where evangelism is concerned. The Central African Medical Mission in Zambia receives funding for medical supplies and medicines that help support the mission of communicating Christ's love and sharing caring concern for the physical needs of others. Another project will help touch the lives of people with special needs by providing wheelchairs, showing them the passion, love and mercy that Christ has for all people. This work of compassion is performed so the gospel may reach those in need.

Las Vegas, Nevada

In the Las Vegas, NV, area funding has been granted to assist in African refugee/immigrant Outreach. As new African immigrants arrive in this area, congregation members can welcome them, provide a welcome gift (cooking pots, dinnerware, toiletries, soap...), assist them in getting settled into the community, help with English needs, provide rides, and further assist with counseling, ESL training, etc. The intent of this ministry is to assist the refugee immigrants as they transition to life in America, using this opportunity to proclaim to them the gospel of Jesus through personal witness, worship services and Bible classes.

Texas

Congregations in several Texas communities have created outreach events that assist underprivileged families of school age children with much needed school supplies. In conjunction with backpacks and the supplies that are given to the children, Bible stories and videos are shared. Food for all is always part of the days' event, along with games and prizes for the kids. Parents receive information about the church and the programs that are offered throughout the year. Through this effort the congregations seek to encourage families to become a part of their church family and join in Christian fellowship and worship on a regular basis.

Toronto

Funds have been granted to Hope Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario, as they coordinate a Welcome Project. This project enables the congregation to provide valuable humanitarian assistance to newcomers to their area. The assistance can take the form of food, rental help, and guidance with other matters pertaining to their transition into the area. This project helps Hope Lutheran show Christ's love to new refugees.

God our Savior wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2: 3,4



SUMMER 2018

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPOTLIGHT

GRADUATION

This May, 31 students graduated, 27 with a Master of Divinity degree and four awarded a Master of Sacred Theology degree. The assignment committee placed 26 seniors who were receiving their first calls. Other assignments included four from the class of 2016. In addition, four were reassigned to one-year calls. At the same service, 26 middlers were assigned to congregations throughout North America to serve for their vicar year. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into his harvest field!



ACCREDITATION

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary hosted a preliminary visit from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). It is step one on our path of exploring accreditation. The visit was helpful and allayed many concerns about the process. While the seminary is still some distance away from accreditation itself, it looks very much as if—as a preliminary move—the seminary will receive an Associate Membership with ATS this summer.

We can see the value of accreditation both for our United States programs of continuing education and to offer support for our sister seminaries overseas. For them, affiliation with an accredited US seminary increases their credibility and the ease with which they can receive official recognition in their home country.

There are three steps to membership. Schools initially join as Associate Members upon a vote by the membership. Within five years, Associate Members are expected to pursue Candidate for Accredited Membership. Then, once a school has completed the requirements of the Commission on Accrediting, it is recognized with Accredited Membership. If at any stage it becomes apparent that our theology or mission would be compromised, the process would be halted from our side.

FACULTY NEWS

The governing board is putting a hold on issuing another call for a professor to teach New Testament and homiletics. President Paul Wendland has announced that at the end of the 2018–19 school year he will step down from the office of president and move into a fulltime teaching position in the New Testament department at the seminary. He has served as president since 2004. A call for nominations to fill the seminary president position has been sent out. When that position is filled, seminary administration and the governing board will determine what teaching areas need to be filled and ask for nominations to fill that need.



SEMINARY CHORUS

The Seminary Chorus went west on their tour this spring. They stopped at congregations in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Alberta.

PSI UPDATE - A VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

Last month, Professor Brad Wordell taught the doctrine of conversion in South Asia. “Whenever I visit one of our mission fields, goal #1 is ‘Do no harm and encourage the saints,’” shares Wordell. His “students” are Lutheran pastors who gather together four times a year in order to support their continuing education.

By the end of this brief Pastors Institute, these pastors were able to:

- Discuss key issues regarding the doctrine of conversion, including differing views.
- Define conversion and put it into the context of all the gracious activities of the Holy Spirit.
- Read the various conversion stories in the Bible with an eye towards God’s grace.
- Explain and defend the Bible’s teaching about conversion with key Bible passages.
- Articulate how the doctrine of conversion informs the doctrine and practice of their ministries.

One of the pastors in South Asia shares, “Because of sola scriptura and sola gratia, our study of conversion has made me proud to be a Lutheran pastor.”



WLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18-29: Summer Quarter

August 27, 7 pm: Opening Service

August 28: Classes begin

September 17, 10:30 am: WLS Alumni annual meeting

September 17-18: Symposium

October 6: Friends of the Seminary Day

October 12-15: Midterm break

November 21-23: Thanksgiving Break

December 9: The Seminary Chorus Christmas concert

December 22-January 6: Christmas break

January 7-18: Winterim

GROW IN GRACE: THE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

ADDITIONAL RETREAT IN 2018 ADDS TO CELEBRATION

From April 18–20, 2018, Grow in Grace hosted four Celebration of Ministry retreats. In addition to three retreats previously run, Begun in Grace (3 years since graduation), Renewed in Grace (10 years since graduation), and Excel in Grace (25 years since graduation), we welcomed Finish in Grace (35 years since graduation) to the celebration.



These pastors and their wives are invited to celebrate key ministry milestones together in a beautiful setting, San

Antonio, Texas. Each retreat holds a Bible study specific to their ministry milestone. In addition to the Bible study, each group participates in breakout workshops. The workshops are designed for attendees to dig deeper into topics of their choosing. Some popular topics include, time management, future financial planning, approaching retirement, and wearing multiple hats as pastors and wives.

Although the Bible study and workshops are highlights of the retreats, many pastors and wives look forward to seeing classmates and renewing old friendships. Pastor Jon Bare shares his thoughts, “[This retreat] comes at a good point in your ministry. You’ve learned a lot of things through ministry, you’ve experienced a lot of things and so have all your brothers and their wives in their ministry. You can come together and share in those experiences, share the joys, share the disappointments and your own failures, be open and honest with each other and grow together as fellow pastors and wives in ministry. This retreat gives you that opportunity, it rekindles friendships that you had with your brothers and their wives from years past and allows you to grow together to better serve God’s people.”



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE INFOCUS

Dear friends and fellow believers,

The apostle Paul makes Easter Sunday intimately personal for each believer. He writes to the church in Ephesus about an amazing reality we sinners sometimes forget. *I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know . . . his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms* (Ephesians 1:18-20).

For Christ's sake, the Father unleashes resurrection power in your heart and mine. Awesome power. Power that covered sin, defeated the devil, and destroyed death! The Spirit of wisdom and revelation unleashes that same power upon us. In Christ's resurrection we have power to crucify the sinful nature with its passions and desires. We have power to endure hardship like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. We have power to give an answer to everyone who asks us about the hope we have.

The reason is Easter: Christ's victory power is in our hearts and in our lives. And it becomes evident to all—and especially self—that when I am weak, then he is strong.

May we continue to proclaim to ourselves and others: He is risen! He is risen indeed! And may our Lord Jesus and his Spirit guide our conventions, providing wisdom and power for the gospel efforts in each of our 12 districts.



In Christ,
Rev. Mark Zarling

**Focus on
Southeastern Wisconsin
Page 4**

FOCUS on FACULTY

Retiring summer 2018



Prof. Lance Hartzell
DMLC '71

Professor of education & art
DMLC 1993-1995;
MLC 1995-2018



**Instructor
Jeneane Thiesfeldt**
DMLC '74

Piano & organ instructor
MLC 2001-2018

Celebrating ministry anniversaries

- **Prof. Ron Ohm DMLC '78:**
40 years
- **Prof. Cindy Whaley DMLC '76:**
40 years
- **Prof. Larry Lotito:** 25 years

Joining our faculty in 2018-19

- **Darrell Berg DMLC '88**
(education & art)
- **Catherine St. John '13**
(lead preschool teacher)
- **Alan Uher DMLC '87** (education)

Calls yet to be filled for 2018-19

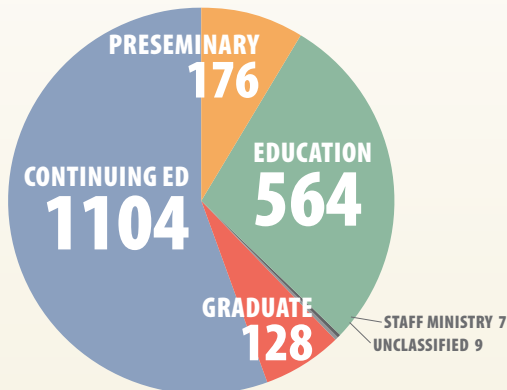
- Professor of special education
- Professor of theology and foreign language
- Professor of theology

In memoriam

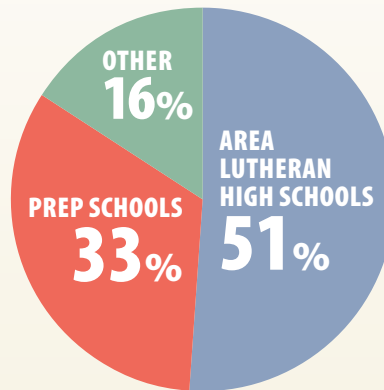
- **Prof. Howard Wessel 1933-2017**
- **Prof. Theodore Hartwig 1921-2017**
- **Prof. Arnold Koelpin 1931-2017**
- **Prof. Alan Spurgin 1949-2018**

2017-2018 MORNING,

ENROLLMENT: 1988



UNDERGRAD STUDENTS BY HIGH SCHOOL



OUR FIRST-YEARS

40 High Schools
21 States
4 Countries

3.46 Average HS GPA
24.3 Average ACT



TUITION, ROOM & BOARD

2016 Tuition \$13,980
2017 Room & Board \$5,510
Total \$19,490

2017 Tuition \$14,680
2018 Room & Board \$5,790
Total \$20,470

2018 Tuition \$15,410
2019 Room & Board \$6,080
Total \$21,490



ATHLETICS

1/3 Play NCAA D3 athletics
3/5 Play intramurals

9 of 16

D3 UMAC sports where MLC led in team GPA

3.82 women's volleyball
3.78 women's cross country
3.76 women's tennis
3.73 women's soccer
3.69 women's softball
3.57 women's basketball
3.36 men's tennis
3.35 men's soccer
3.08 men's baseball

EMERGENCY TEACHERS

6 Seniors filled emergency calls

MUSIC

1/2 Students took piano or organ lessons



1/20 Played in wind symphony

1/3 Sang in a choir

1/7 Participated in fall musical

FINANCIAL AID

\$2.2 Million institutional aid given



95% Students received scholarships, grants, loans, and/or work-study funds from MLC



RESIDENTIAL LIFE

4 Residence halls **98%** Students live on campus

35+ Students compelled to live in New Ulm homes next year due to campus housing shortage

VISITING LUTHER LANDS



96 Alumni tour participants

RECRUITMENT

ON CAMPUS

730 HS students attended Focus on Ministry weekends on campus

OFF CAMPUS

1,000s HS students visited by admissions counselors

CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT PROGRAM

\$400,000 Awarded

242 Students receiving grants

146 Participating congregations

NOON, & KNIGHT

GRADUATES

DEC 2017 **13** Education

MAY 2018 **109** Education
36 Preseminary
30 Master of Science

Note: **23 graduates** (14 education & 9 preseminary) have opted to teach abroad following graduation

DAYLIGHT USA MINISTRY ASSISTANCE

81 Students participated
38 Congregations received assistance
17 States & territories served



Strategic Plan Goal:

100% MLC student participation in Daylight USA

MLC 2017-18 "BEST COLLEGE FOR YOUR MONEY"

BACHELOR OF ART & SCIENCE

#1 in Minnesota Best College for Your Money



#3 in America Best Value



STAFF MINISTRY



25 25-Year anniversary of program

CONTINUING ED

1104 Students (mostly called workers) served
114 Courses (on campus, online, and on location)

GRADUATE STUDIES

13 Years in existence
3 Degrees offered

- MS-Education (instruction, leadership, special ed, and ed tech emphases)
- MS-Educational Administration (principal & EC director tracks)
- MA-Theological Studies

115 Degrees granted
128 Students
40 Courses
41 Professors (10 MLC & 31 adjunct)



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

#1 in America Best Value



#3 in America Most Affordable



NCAA SPOTLIGHT

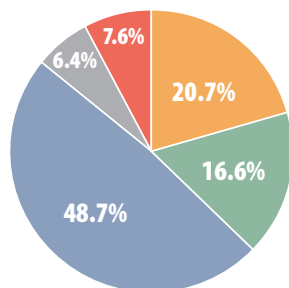
1 2018 UMAC Female Scholar-Athlete Leadership Award – given to MLC volleyball player **Kira Grev**

4 Seasons Kira won First Team All-UMAC and Academic All-UMAC honors

1,000+ Kills and hits by Kira



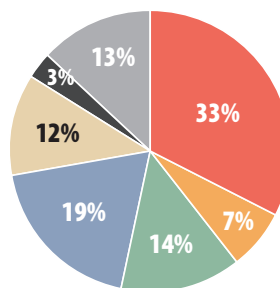
WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



FY 2016-2017*

Synod support (WELS/MLC)	20.7%
Gifts and bequests	16.6%
Tuition	48.7%
Government student aid	6.4%
Other	7.6%

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



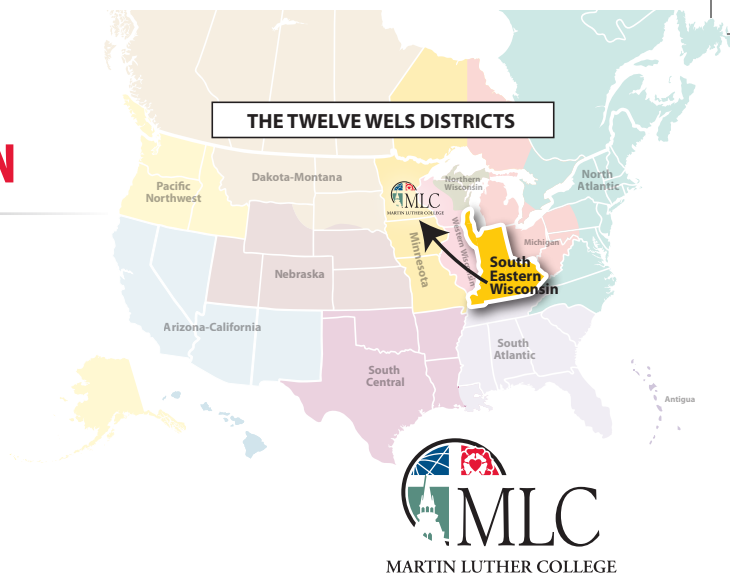
FY 2016-2017*

Instruction	33%
Instructional Support	7%
Student Services	14%
Environmental Services	19%
General and Administrative	12%
Mission Advancement	3%
Auxiliary Enterprises	13%

TOTAL BUDGET = \$20 MILLION

*2017-2018 Figures not yet available.

FOCUS on SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN



YOUR MAY 2018 GRADUATES

- 17 Education
- 9 Preseminary

HS VISITORS TO MLC

- Wisconsin LHS: 64
- Kettle Moraine LHS: 33 (pictured)
- Illinois LHS: 22
- Shoreland LHS: 21

CONGREGATIONS SERVED BY MLC'S DAYLIGHT USA

- School Chaplaincy-Milwaukee
- Living Word-Waukesha WI

YOUR MLC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

- Joe Archer DMLC '78
- Daniel Leyrer WLS '89
- Randy Matter (advisory)
- Paul Prange WLS '88 (Ministerial Ed administrator)
- Michael Woldt WLS '81 chair



New Campaign: With the permission of WELS Conference of Presidents, we will conduct a two-year capital campaign in conjunction with the 2020 silver anniversary of MLC. The title, "Equipping Christian Witnesses," not only reflects the mission of our institution—to train a corps of Christian witnesses to meet WELS ministry needs—but also the pillars of this campaign:

- **Recruitment:** Pray for more pastors, teachers, and staff ministers, and purposefully identify and encourage young Christians who could serve in these roles.
- **Financial aid:** Support the Congregational Partner Grant Program (CPGP), through which MLC matches congregations' gifts for their enrolled students, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000 per student every year.
- **Facilities:** Repair and augment campus spaces for ministry training: academics, student life, athletics, and the arts. With the help of two consulting firms, we are prioritizing our facility needs.

Endless Opportunities: Our Savior Jesus is *not* willing that any should perish. Never before in our synod's history have we seen so many mission opportunities. Hundreds of people all over the world are approaching WELS for scriptural instruction and evangelism assistance. Technology is enabling us to reach countless homes in many different countries with the gospel. And today's young Christians are travelers, eager to take the gospel anywhere in the world.

Deep Needs: We need more workers—not only to fill our vacancies, but also to grasp these new opportunities, to seize the day the Lord has provided us to impact the world with his Word.

Bold Prayers: "Equipping Christian Witnesses" is a celebration of God's goodness—not only for 25 years of MLC ministry, but for more than 150 years of the unconditional gospel in our midst. Pray boldly that we use this celebration to recruit with rigor countless Christian witnesses . . . to increase our financial support of our students . . . and to provide the necessary facilities to equip our students for their future ministries.

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Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletic Fields

1 No to Light Renovation

1. Press Box

1 Proposed

1. Sports Complex Fieldhouse
 - Shared locker rooms for field sports - home & visitor
 - Indoor practice turf
 - Game day support - concessions, restrooms, coaches, and officials
 - Team rooms
 - Satellite training room
2. Field Support Building

A Existing Site

- A Baseball field
- B Cobmpetition soccer and future lacrosse

A Proposed Site

- A Tennis courts
- B Competition softball field
- C (2) practice soccer fields
- D Practice softball field
- E Practice lacrosse field
- F Potential future track and field location



Campus Master Plan

The WELS Conference of Presidents granted permission for MLC to conduct a two-year capital campaign in conjunction with the 2020 silver anniversary. The title of this celebratory campaign, "Equipping Christian Witnesses," not only reflects the mission of our institution, but also the foundational goals of the campaign. The governing board and administration have already begun prayerful planning, seeking only to glorify the Savior and enhance the college's mission.

We will ask God's people for gifts to repair and augment campus spaces for learning, for student life activities and intramural events, for athletics, and for the arts. We engaged a consulting firm to assist with our planning by analyzing our facility usage. This Campus Master Plan reflects the work of that firm.

The majority of MLC's facilities are more than 50 years old. The Christians of that generation who gave so generously to the existing campus have been such a blessing to this ministry. Unfortunately, buildings are not timeless, even if what is spoken within them is. Now is our generation's turn. We pray that this developing site plan will guide the college through the next five decades, providing for both programmed maintenance and the construction of new ministry training facilities. Naturally, such a bold vision will be phased in over the years. In the next few months, we will carefully prioritize the implementation of this site plan relative to our ministry needs so we can utilize the thank offerings we receive in the wisest way.

"What is a Campus Master Plan?"

A Campus Master Plan is...

- an intentional, logical response to Martin Luther College's strategic plan, as well as, its mission and vision
- a living document
- a roadmap or compass
- a general direction for an institution's physical environment
- the outcome of an inclusive, data-driven, and consensus-building process
- flexible in order to address any new undertakings that occur as a campus evolves, but still provides an overall direction to inform campus development

A Campus Master Plan entails...

- assessment of a campus's existing spaces and places with regard toward how they currently, and will in the future, support the desired student experiences
- setting goals and objectives as an overarching guide to inform planning concepts, decisions of placemaking, and priorities
- identifying key successes and deficiencies in a campus's spaces and places
- developing a framework for optimizing existing space and correcting deficiencies

Martin Luther College : Master Plan Goals

- Learning environments that support the specific mission of Martin Luther College
- Stewardship of synodical gifts and resources
- Community Engagement at all levels – faculty, staff, and students; oneness in faith and community
- Gathering locations for various sizes indoor and outdoor
- Maximize use of existing spaces and multi-functional as appropriate
- Align and integrate spaces based on programs and services (functional adjacencies)
- Provide appropriate updates for campus living spaces

Martin Luther College's Campus Master Plan needs to support the Strategic Plan goals to:

- Nurture the learning experience
- Sustain and grow partnerships in the Great Commission
- Enhance the learning and living environment
- Empower our MLC personnel
- Be equipped to acknowledge God's gifts to this ministry from our constituents

This can be accomplished by building connections in the...

- **Physical Environment:** enhancing the campus to provide the desired student experience and support faculty and staff
- **Adjacencies:** being strategic about the locations of programs, functions, and services
- **People:** provide indoor and outdoor spaces that support building community and experiences
- **Sustainability:** being cognizant of resources (facilities, people, programs, processes, and fiscal) in all planning efforts

Campus Master Plan

1 No to Light Renovation

1. Wittenberg Collegiate Center
 - Auditorium and Forum space
 - Update furniture, finishes, academic technology in instruction spaces
2. Chapel of the Christ
 - 200p event/conferencing
 - Large choir room
 - Handbell choir room
3. Maintenance and Boiler House
 - Campus central receiving
 - potentially Environmental Services offices
4. President's House
5. Press Box

1 Proposed

1. Wittenberg Collegiate Center Addition
 - Welcome Center and Admissions
 - Auditorium Lobby and academic 3rd Space
 - Biology lab
 - Art gallery
2. Music Hall Entrance/ADA Addition
3. Music Center Addition
4. Luther Student Center Addition
5. Physical Education and Activity Center
 - Physical Education offices & instruction
 - 4-court and 200M indoor track
 - Fitness Center - non-athletes
 - Football locker room and support
6. Augustana and Concord Halls Additions
7. New Residence Hall - approx. 64 student beds
8. New Residence Hall - approx. 120 student beds

A Existing Site

- A Campus Mall
- B Christ statue and plaza
- C Martin Luther statue and plaza
- D Football competition field
- E Football practice field

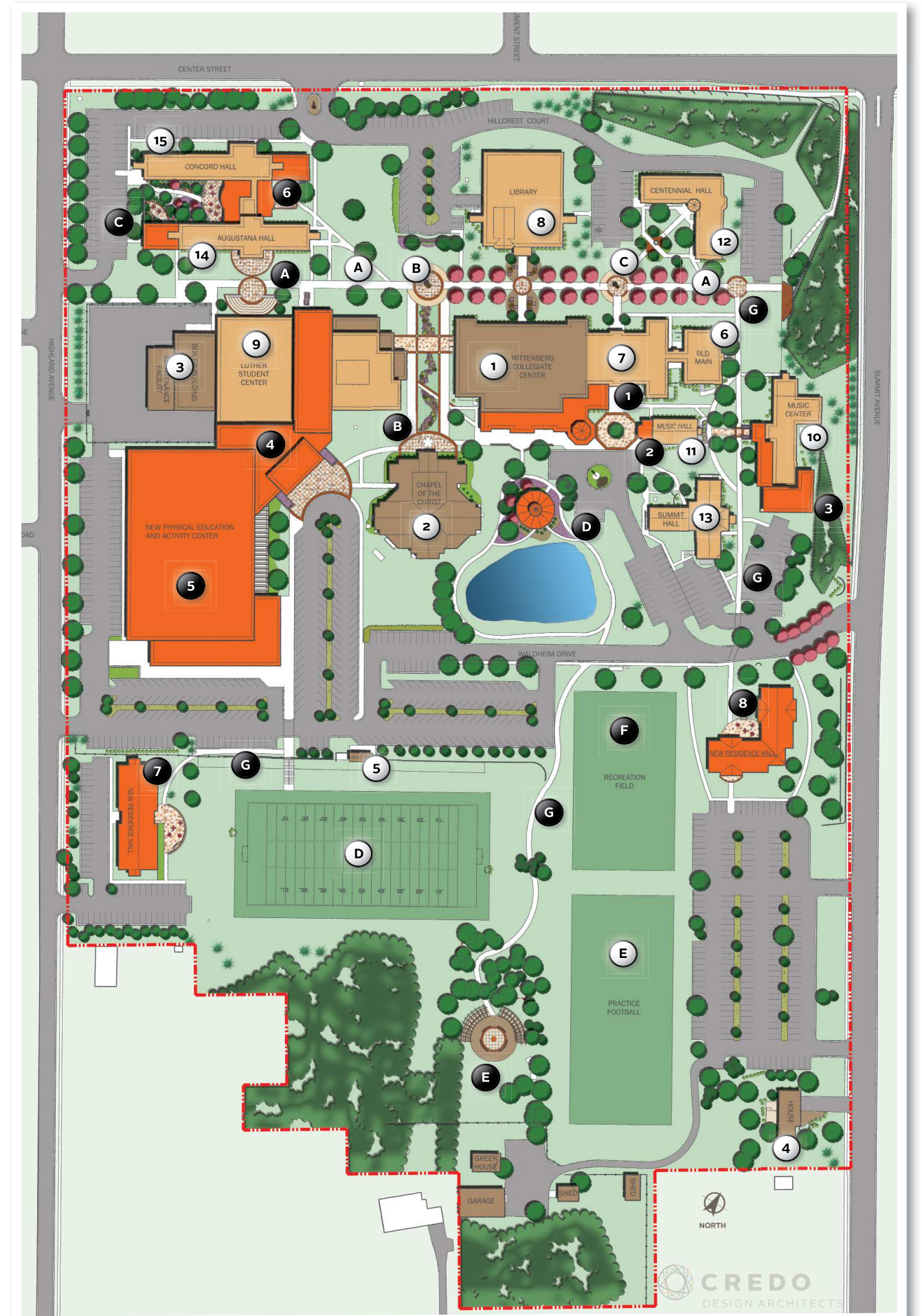
1 Medium to Full Renovation

6. Old Main
 - Full renovation of offices, instruction spaces, & 3rd spaces
7. Wittenberg Collegiate Center Link
 - Innovation Hub - STEAM lab, Teaching and Learning Center, academic student organizations, study/collaboration spaces
 - Administration area reorganization to improve welcome experience and student access to business services
8. Library
 - Expand makerspace, studios, group/collaborative study
 - Academic Success Center
 - Audio Visual Services
 - Active learning classroom
9. Luther Student Center
 - Student Leadership & Involvement – orgs. & government
 - Global Engagement – Cultural Diversity Center, International/Study Abroad/Teaching Abroad, Service Learning, Daylight Program, and Campus Pastor
 - Newspaper/Publications
 - Community building and gathering spaces
 - Cafeteria, Retail, Mail Center, & Graphic Arts/Print Shop
 - Health and Counseling
 - Locker and weightroom renovation
 - Existing Gym and auxiliary gym
10. Music Center
 - Music program offices and instruction
 - Art faculty and ceramics studio
11. Music Hall
 - Recital hall
 - Painting and drawing studio
 - Coffeehouse
12. Centennial Hall
13. Summit Hall
14. Augustana Hall
15. Concord Hall

A Proposed Site

- A Sitting stairs and stage/plaza
- B Chapel Plaza and rain garden
- C Augustana and Concord courtyard
- D Gazebo and walking path
- E Luther Hollow place-making enhancements
- F Recreation field
- G Campus connection walkways

--- Campus Property Line



LUTHER PREPARATORY SCHOOL



2018 SUMMER UPDATE



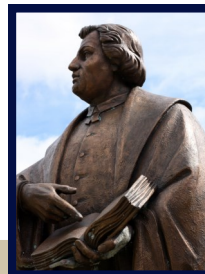
The members of the Luther Preparatory School Class of 2018. Their achievement was commemorated with a service of thanksgiving in the Luther Prep gymnasium on May 19.

Changeless Message, Timeless Mission

The Lord has blessed LPS with a highly ministry minded senior class. More than 70% of the 2018 graduates will continue at MLC. In the Prep department's 153 years of existence on our synod's Watertown campus only one time have more than thirty graduates continued their preparations for the pastoral ministry either at the former Northwestern College or present day MLC. Twice since 1995 Luther Prep has sent on 27 graduates for pastoral studies. **Thirty seven** graduates will enroll in the pastor track at MLC this fall.

We are delighted, humbled, and grateful for all of God's goodness and grace given to LPS. We are thankful for all the people in our church body (you) who continually support our ministerial purpose in so many ways.

Matthew Crass
LPS President



God needs a pastor, a preacher, a teacher, in His spiritual kingdom; you can supply Him with one...

Martin Luther-1529

Contact us - 1300 Western Avenue, Watertown, WI 53094 • Phone (920) 261-4352 • On the Web: lps.wels.net

Recruitment Director, Rev. Evan Chartrand (920) 262-8101 • Donor & Alumni Relations, Sue Boulden (920) 262-8104

Changeless Message, Timeless Mission



LPS piano students playing in the first ever Monster Piano Concert in April.



Boffo the Boss is living up to his name during *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.



Soccer



Softball

Summer

June

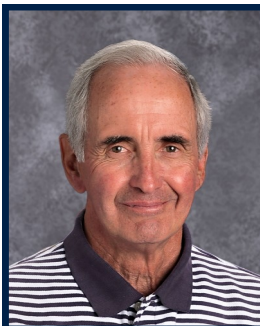
- 10-16 Boys Overnight Basketball Camps (2)
- 17-23 Girls Overnight Basketball Camps (2)
- 23-24 Parent-Daughter Overnight Basketball Camp
- 25-28 Little Hoopsters Basketball Day Camps (2)
- 29-July 1 Father-Son Overnight Basketball Camps (2)

July

- 8-14 Girls Overnight Volleyball Camps (2)
- 16-19 Little Spikers Volleyball Day Camps (2)

August

- 1 Football Practice-JV & Varsity
- 13 Cross Country Practice-JV & Varsity
- 14 Soccer Practice-JV & Varsity
- 15 Volleyball Practice-JV & Varsity
- 17-18 Registration/Orientation/Tennis Practice
- 19 Opening Service
- 20 Classes Begin



Paul Bertolus

Having served Jesus as a tutor at MLS, a teacher at Atonement Lutheran, and a professor, coach and athletic director at Northwestern Prep and Luther Prep for the past 36 years, Coach Paul Bertolus retired at the end of the school year. When asked what makes Luther Prep so special, Coach will respond by saying, "Three things...Ministry! Ministry! Ministry!"

Thank you, Paul, for your faithful service.

The blue-ribbon dessert auction at Gala XIII was truly spectacular with over \$11,000 raised!

Ski Team?

Pictured is the 2018 LPS Phoenix Track Team in mid-April. Practice was held on the campus sidewalks for several days.



Carnival
Gala 2018



SUMMER 2018

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.
Mark 16:15

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Change. Just a mention of the word brings strong emotions of vitriol and repulsion. For so many, change is not easily accepted or appreciated. For some it is not just an aversion or stubbornness that causes such strong emotions, but change can severely affect their mental health. Needless to say, change can be hard.

That word is being used on the MLS campus quite often this summer. We have experienced a change in leadership, faculty, dorm staff, support staff, office space, and the normal student body change from one year to the next. For many who remain on campus from the previous year, there have been roles and positions that have changed, duties that are changing, teaching assignments that are different from the previous year, extracurriculars that are shifting responsibilities and office mates that are new. Quite literally, we may have to wear name tags to help identify each other as we pass in the hallways!

What does not change? Our Lord and his grace! He is still the Lord who gives every good and perfect gift from his unmerited love. He is still the Lord who demonstrated to us the depth of his love by sending his Son to make the full payment for our sins. He is still the Lord who guides and protects us as the sheep of his pasture.



*What does
not change?*

*Our Lord and
his grace!*

Yes, in the midst of these changes at MLS the Lord of the Church is still the Lord of the Church. And because he is, the mission of our school remains the mission of our school: *The special purpose of Michigan Lutheran Seminary is to prepare high school students for the public ministry of the gospel, encouraging them to enroll in the WELS College of Ministry, Martin Luther College.*

As we settle into the coming school year and all of these changes, we ask for your patience and prayers. As you greet us, please don't hesitate to tell us who you are so that we can get know you better.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of MLS, we thank you for your support and prayers as we seek to serve our unchanging heavenly Father.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. (James 1:17-18)

Loving and serving Him,

Mark Luetzow, President

Faculty Comings and Goings

When the new school year begins next fall our faculty will have several new faces. **Prof. Joanne Kohler** and **Prof. Carl Weihrach** have retired after many years of faithful service at MLS. **President Joel Petermann**, **Prof. David Lecker** and **Instructor Darrell Berg** have accepted calls to serve in other locations. **Prof. Becky Berg** has resigned her call to accompany her husband in his calling. At the end of the school year **Instructors Brooke DeAnda, Nathan Guhl** and **Lauren Hansen** completed their one-year call. Finally, **Wesley Towne** has finished his two-year tutor assignment.



Prof. Joanne Kohler



Prof. Carl Weihrach

New to MLS will be **Rev. Mark Luetzow** - President, **Mr. Allan Ash** - Professor of Physics and Chemistry, **Mr. Justin Danell** - Professor of History, **Mrs. Haven Jacobs** - Professor of Spanish, **Mr. Jordan Schmitzer** - Professor of Biology and **Miss Katherine Van Alstine** - Instructor of Mathematics, who was assigned out of MLC to a one-year call. God willing, we will be blessed with an assignment from WLS to complete the faculty for the 2018-19 school year.

A System Worth Preserving

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



STUDENTS RECEIVE ACADEMIC AWARD

Three students from MLS received academic honors from the Tri-Valley Conference for their combined grades and ACT scores on Wednesday, April 25. **Kara Peter** (St. James, Portage), **Reese VanLue** (St. Luke's, Vassar) and **Joe Kieta** (Peace, Livonia) spent the afternoon at Saginaw Valley State University, had lunch with the school's administration, and were given medals for their accomplishments. Congratulations to these students and their families.



MLS Seniors Kara Peter, Reese VanLue & Joe Kieta

Our Mission

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

From the Admissions Dept.

We at MLS are convinced that the best way to reach the next generation of MLS students is to bring young students and their families to visit our campus. Did you know that a portion of the MLS recruitment budget is designated to help defray travel costs to visiting schools and families? This is what we call our "Joint Adventure," and we want to spend every cent of that fund each year.

Groups and families are welcome to come on any day that we have school, but if you are looking for a more organized event to attend, here are some things to look forward to:

FALL

CARDINAL FOR A DAY : K-8 Students attend classes and activities led by MLS students.

OPEN HOUSE: Focused recruitment for 5th-8th graders and their parents. Tour the school and talk to faculty and current MLS parents.

MUSICAL WEEKEND: Bring a group to attend our musical, *Beauty and the Beast*.

WINTER

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS: Bring your team to play against other WELS schools in one of our 4 basketball tournaments.

CARDINAL FOR A DAY: K-8 Students attend classes and activities led by MLS students.

OPEN HOUSE: Focused recruitment for 5th-8th graders and their parents. Tour the school and talk to faculty and current MLS parents.

SPRING

LOCK-IN: A lot of fun and very little sleep. Games. Snacks. Hymns. New friends. Don't miss this.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL I BE ABLE TO AFFORD SENDING MY STUDENT TO MLS?

MLS families come from a wide variety of financial backgrounds. We never want finances to be the thing that keeps a student from the opportunities that MLS offers. A lot of people get scared by the "sticker price," but the reality is that few pay that full amount themselves. All families can apply for financial aid. Many churches also take advantage of our 25% matching program to support students who go to MLS. You may also want to factor in that there are some things that you won't have to pay for if your student is at MLS in the dorms, such as gas money for daily trips to and from school as well as meals for a bottomless teenage appetite.

WHAT IF MY SON OR DAUGHTER DOESN'T WANT TO BE A PASTOR OR TEACHER? CAN THEY STILL COME?

Very few students know what they want to be at age 14. That's okay. If college students change their major 3 times on average, we aren't surprised that 8th graders don't know what they want to do yet. We simply ask that students keep an open mind while they are at MLS. We think that the public ministry is a great thing, and we want lots of young people to think about it seriously. We are going to give them opportunities to observe and experience ministry, and after that, they can make an informed decision. Either way, the church is going to be blessed by these young people. Some will be pastors and teachers. Some won't. But all of them will be prepared to be Christian servants wherever they land.

HOW CAN I SEND MY CHILD AWAY FOR HIGH SCHOOL?

When you send your child to MLS, you're not just sending them away. You're sending them TO something. You are planting them into a spiritual community where they will have the opportunity to grow in their faith several times every day. You are sending them to a family of believers that will love and care for them. You are giving them good Christian friends and mentors. You're sending them to a place that will help you raise your child with you, not for you. If you're scared about sending your child to MLS for high school, that's okay. We'd be a little worried if you weren't. Over our 100+ years of experience, thousands of parents have done what you are thinking about. Don't take our word for it. Talk to them! Let us know, and we can put you in touch with some real live MLS parents.

THERE AREN'T MANY (OR ANY) OTHER STUDENTS FROM OUR CHURCH OR SCHOOL. WILL MY STUDENT MAKE FRIENDS?

If there's anything we have a lot of confidence in at MLS, it's that our students are like a family. MLS alumni are well known for having friendships that last past their time at MLS. Also consider this: most students arrive at MLS looking for new friends, so your student won't be alone. The majority of our dorm students are either the only student from their school or are from out of state. Many students meet their first friends at basketball tournaments, sports camps, and recruitment events. Come visit!



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

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

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

Philippians 1:3-5

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

A blend
of the WELSTech
Conference and School
Leadership Conference,
offering something for
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ministry tools, techniques, and
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His Hands

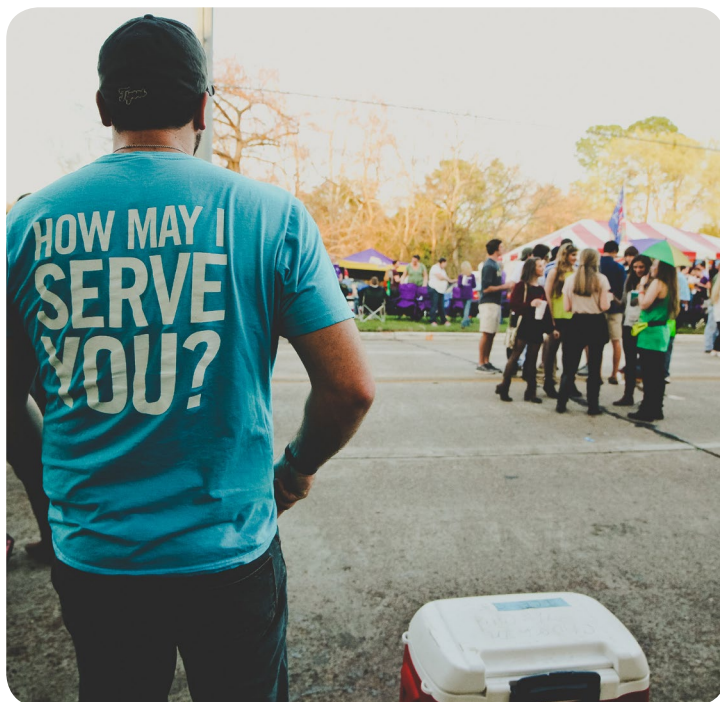
2018 Report to the Twelve Districts from the Commission on Special Ministries

In this issue...

Compassion leads to inclusion and outreach

WELS churches are hearing a lot about “compassion ministry.” The Commission on Special Ministries has advocated for compassion ministry since it was founded. Our motto is “Love in Action.” Christian compassion is not new or foreign to the church. The New Testament urges the followers of Christ to serve one another in love: “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

People who struggle with problems leave the church when no one at church reaches out to help them. We don’t have to have the answers. Maybe we don’t know where to find the answers. But we can say, “I



WELS Special Ministries

Look inside for these articles, addressing areas where Special Ministries seeks to help those who face barriers to regular worship.

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Mission for the Visually Impaired

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Keep your staff happy 7-8

Christian Therapists Network

Online course on Scriptural counseling 7

don't know how to help, but I want you to know I'm glad you're here. I'll pray for a solution. How I can help?"

Outreach is harder when people believe that churches are uncaring. Compassion ministry grows strong bonds with members who face challenges. Our concern for people in our community with special needs shows the public that the love of Christ is real.

If you love someone, you listen to them. If you listen to people with special needs, you'll find that they want to participate in the church. Hard of hearing people want to be on the church council. Blind people want other members to talk to them after church.

Love leads to inclusion. God has given all Christians gifts to serve, even if that Christian struggles with an addiction or has a developmental disability. It is well worth the effort to find ways to include people with special needs in serving. People are not defined by what they can't do. Instead, our churches are blessed when people with special needs can serve and not just be served.

Compassion ministry opens church doors to hurting or struggling people in the community. Families with relatives in jail are drawn to churches with active jail ministry. Members will invite families of children with special needs when Sunday School classes are prepared to include such children.

It doesn't happen without conscious effort. Compassion moves the congregation to extend invitations continually and to keep promoting their resources for people who might need them.

Special Ministries has resources and guidance for churches that have compassion on members of the church or of the community. We can help you demonstrate love in action.

*Learn more about WELS Special Ministries at wels.net/special-ministries or call 414-256-3241. Find resources, including the *His Hands* newsletter, at csm.welsrc.net.*



Deaf and Hard of Hearing

One size does not fit all

The Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MDHH) helps churches and other ministries serve two very different populations. Even among the deaf and the hard of hearing, a diversity of experience, challenges, and solutions exist. One size does not fit all!

Yet all people with hearing loss need Jesus. That reality unites the MDHH in striving to educate and provide resources for church leaders and members. People with hearing loss can worship and be active in their church.

MDHH can help you solve the "sign language challenge." A deaf visitor to a WELS church said that he learned to love Lutheran worship when he was in college, but he needed an interpreter. The church

Visually Impaired

Who is helping whom?

Technology is helping us to break down many Special Ministries barriers. The Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI) is a great example. For years, MVI had a printed catalog of resources. Of course, blind people could not read it! We assumed that a family member or friend would help our patrons choose materials.

Christian literature in Braille has always been available through this catalog. MVI also offers large print materials and audio cassette recordings of Christian literature and music.

Today, the MVI committee includes blind members. They use the computer with the assistance of technology called JAWS, which tells them what is on the screen. These leaders are guiding us to make quality spiritual resources available online. Within the next year, we hope to offer an online library of audio books. The resources are also available to anyone who has any disability that prevents them from reading a book. The MVI catalog will soon be revised so that the blind can search for themselves.

Learn more at wels.net/mvi. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/mvi.



contacted MDHH. The next Sunday the church had an interpreter and even several MDHH members to meet the man and assess his situation! Answering questions about interpreting and helping to locate interpreters are two MDHH services. An online course on American Sign Language and deaf culture is offered annually through Martin Luther College to broaden knowledge and skills among WELS members.

People with mild hearing loss shouldn't miss parts of the sermon. An Assistive Listening Device, such as the Williams Sound System and a headset, can help. For those who wear hearing aids equipped with a T-switch, a hearing loop can greatly improve understanding and participation in worship.

MDHH helps churches understand the importance of including deaf and hard-of-hearing members in worship and other activities, which brings wonderful blessings.

Both the deaf and hard of hearing were created to be part of the Body of Christ. MDHH helps churches understand the importance of including deaf and hard-of-hearing members in worship and other activities, which brings wonderful blessings. Far from needing pity, these brothers and sisters in Christ can bring spiritual perspectives, talents, and experience to the life of the church, usually with just a bit of help from technology. We serve each other with our gifts. That's how Jesus created his church!

Learn more at wels.net/mdhh. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/mdhh.



Freedom for the Captives

New abuse prevention training resources

How do we protect children from abuse? How can we prevent it entirely, or help a child when abuse is discovered? The mission of Freedom for the Captives (FFTC) is "Equipping the Body of Christ to protect children and empower abuse survivors." FFTC has developed online training and certification for WELS leaders at our churches, schools, and other organizations. The course is called "Standing Up for Children: A Christian Response to Child Abuse and Neglect." Training sessions can be scheduled by contacting Special Ministries (freedom@wels.net or 414-256-3241). Please include your name, phone, email and plan for using the training in your request for access.

Visit the website at freedomforcaptives.com.



Conquerors through Christ

Getting it right about moral issues

Have you ever expressed disapproval of pornography and been met with a blank look? After a generation of industry marketing, many accept porn as a healthy part of sexuality.

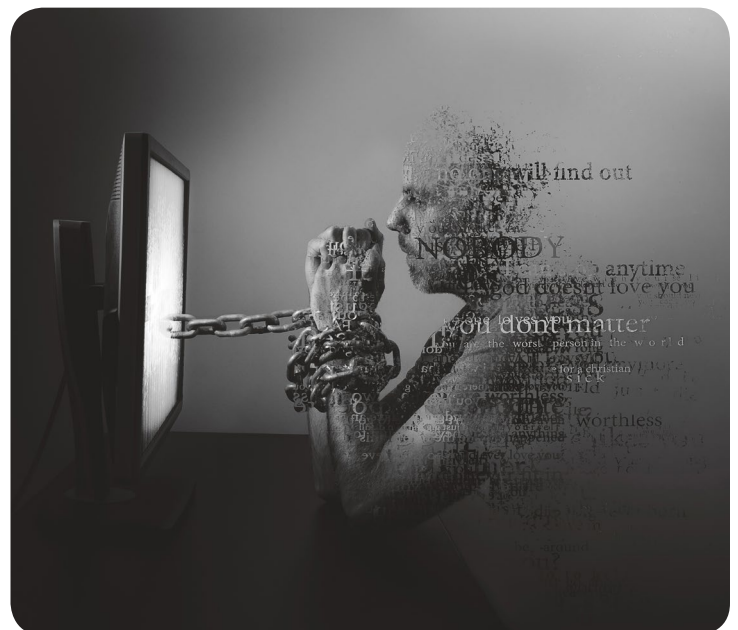
So Christians may be relieved that the dangers of pornography are receiving greater scrutiny and awareness. Recent criticism has focused on its connection with the devastation of sex trafficking, or the impact of sexual addiction.

The topic absent from the public forum is sin. Using porn has a corrosive effect. It not only harms a marriage, but our relationship with God. Even if no sex trafficking is involved and no addiction occurs, something is dying in the human heart. The prayer, "Create in me a pure heart, O God," can become empty words. Guilt and shame take over.

Conquerors through Christ continues to prepare resources to help Christians reject, resist, and recover from porn. An excellent Bible study, "Bought at a Price," and e-books for parenting are available on their website. New materials for high school students are in production.

It's not enough to say that porn is wrong. God has provided a path to return to him through forgiveness in Christ and the power of his Spirit. Let's get the message out!

Visit the website at conquerorsthroughchrist.net.



Parish Nursing

Personalizing our church family's love

What congregation doesn't need people with gifts of teaching and administration? Many tasks require someone who is good at interacting with people, quick with Christian insight and encouragement, and being generally helpful.

Did you think "parish nurse" when you read the description above? Maybe you've never had such a position and think it an unnecessary addition to the church worker list. But WELS churches with an active parish nurse program will strongly recommend it. "Church family" evokes an image of caring for each other, and parish nursing personalizes that love.

A WELS parish nurse is a currently licensed Registered Nurse (RN) who promotes both physical and spiritual wellness in the congregation. The parish nurse conducts a wellness-based and non-invasive practice, and the ministry is performed according to the congregation's mission statement and under the direction of the pastor.

Christ Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, Minn., summarizes the work this way: "The primary purpose of the congregation is to spread the Gospel of Salvation in Jesus Christ. In addition, a congregation serves as a 'home' and a 'family' to its members who have not only spiritual needs but also physical, emotional, and psychological needs . . . The Ministry. . . is one way to encourage this sharing of God's love and the growth of faith among those with special needs related to health."

Well-trained parish nurses can be a great blessing to your family of faith.

Well-trained parish nurses can be a great blessing to your family of faith. Pastor Mike Woldt of David's Star Lutheran Church, Jackson, Wis., lists these advantages:

- Good training will help parish nurses share the law and gospel message of Scripture with the people they serve.
- Good training will help parish nurses function within the framework of the congregation and in partnership with the called leaders of the church.
- Good training will help parish nurses recognize opportunities for serving God's people with the abilities they possess and the skills they have cultivated as practicing nurses.

Learn more at the Parish Nursing area of welsnurses.net, the website of WELS Nurses Association.



Support Groups

Help for the hurting

Mutual support and Christian encouragement can turn a crisis or a burden into spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with Christ. That's why churches are turning to support groups to serve their members and the community.



Addiction support groups are not new. WELS Special Ministries, along with WLCFS—Christian Family Solutions, promote Christian spiritual components missing from the standard twelve-step program.

Believers faced with a variety of challenges can benefit from support groups. For example, Samaritan Partners is a Special Ministries program to help caregivers. A Christian who provides care for a parent, spouse, or child shoulders heavy responsibilities and can easily feel isolated. A regular gathering of caregivers can bless church members with fellowship and encouragement. As a bonus, it can serve as an outreach to the community.

We want to develop resources for grief support groups. If you have skills or interest in this area, please contact Special Ministries (specialministries@wels.net or 414-256-3241).

Do you know hurting people in your congregation or community that could benefit from a support group? Our resources and experts can help you avoid common pitfalls in getting a gathering going.

Contact Special Ministries at 414-256-3241 or specialministries@wels.net.



Prison Ministry

Remembering those behind bars

Many would be surprised to learn that the early Christian church needed to do prison ministry. Yes, needed. John the Baptizer and Jesus were incarcerated, of course. The Book of Acts relates several instances of the apostles being jailed. Many followers of Jesus were locked up for the “crime” of being a Christian.

That’s why the New Testament instructs: “Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” (Hebrews 13:3)

Prison Ministry was organized to provide WELS seniors a way to “remember those in prison” in a distinctly gospel-based structure for volunteering. From the start, pen pal opportunities and Bible study correspondence focused on sharing the gospel. The original structure was well thought out, and today is no longer limited to senior involvement.

Our ministry to men and women behind bars has grown and been refined as we understand more about the experience of incarceration and how much impact Bible study can have. The central office and our volunteers respond quickly to letters and correspondence course tests, recognizing the isolation of those who are doing time. We continually bring Christ and His salvation into our communication, understanding that everyone needs to know about their Savior, including those who struggle with their guilt alone in a prison cell.

Prison Ministry also trains WELS and ELS laypeople to serve inmates in local jails through Jail Ministry Team Training (JMTT), in keeping with our emphasis on empowering face-to-face ministry.

For more information on volunteering or receiving training, call 507-354-3130 or e-mail prisonministry@wels.net.

Learn more at wels.net/pm. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/pm.

To add an inmate to the mailing list, go to wels.net/refer.



Military Services

Guarding the faith of our faithful guardians

Military men and women defend us. They willingly serve our country. Their training prepares them to be leaders, achievers, warriors. We might think that these people don’t need a thing, except maybe a call from home or a package of items that are hard to get when you’re far away.

Few people consider the spiritual needs of our military men and women. Yet during those years in service, they may face life-or-death situations. They encounter pressures that civilians would never guess come with military life. They may feel they are sinning when they use violence against the enemy, not understanding the role that God has for them.

This is why we need you to provide WELS Military Services with contact information for members in the military. Our 125 Military Contact Pastors, our National Civilian Chaplain Paul Ziemer, and European Civilian Chaplain Don Stuppy understand the issues. If our service members connect with God’s Word, then instead of drifting away from their faith, they often gain a new appreciation for the Lord and his Word. Please go to wels.net/refer for the sake of the spiritual needs of those who serve us!

Learn more at wels.net/military. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/military.

To add a service member to the mailing list, go to wels.net/refer.



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Inclusion can be the key

C.S. Lewis once pointed out that “membership” came into common language through Paul’s writing about the “Body of Christ.” He said that the world wants to define a “member” in terms of how all members are alike.

In the Body of Christ, the members are not the same, but they belong to each other. Family members (mother, father, child, grandparent) are also very different. They use their position to love and help each other. Members are not alike and don’t have to be the same in order to serve God’s purpose.

How many members of your church can you identify as intellectually or developmentally disabled? Statistically, one in six children have one or more developmental disabilities! Many of these do not remain members of the church when they grow up. Yet God created them to be members of his body.

WELS Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry (IDDM) seeks to help congregations share the gospel with those who have

WELS Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry (IDDM) seeks to help congregations share the gospel with those who have special education needs.

special education needs. We are also passionate about helping churches to be a Christian network for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families. Our partner, Jesus Cares Ministry, is a prime supplier of Christian education materials to conquer this barrier. IDDM’s resources help churches to include special needs families in worship, fellowship, and serving.

Inclusion of adults and children with these challenges will flow from our faith that Christ died for all, and all people need to hear that. Jesus calls us to love and serve one another. We want each person, regardless of ability, to see their place as a member of the Body of Christ. When we strive to be inclusive, challenges will lead to joys. Let IDDM help your church, or connect your family to others who can help. We belong to each other!

Learn more at wels.net/liddm. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/liddm.

To add a special needs individual to the mailing list, go to wels.net/refer.



Chaplain Certification

Going outside the walls

In case it escaped your notice, people are not generally breaking down the doors of our churches, asking us to serve their spiritual needs. There is usually plenty of room in our pews.

But outside the walls, an enormous mission field awaits. Some of those souls are unable to attend regular worship, while others are simply ignorant of their greatest need. Even if they have questions about God, they may not know whom to trust for reliable answers.

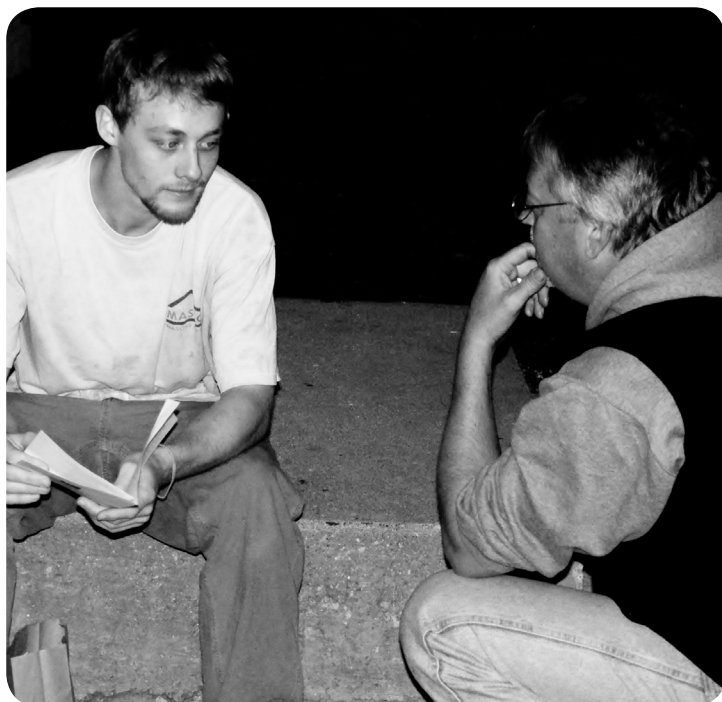
So we need to go outside the walls, and chaplaincy is an excellent way to do that. Chaplains seek to bring the comfort of a compassionate, listening heart to hurting souls. So they go to meet people where they are, sometimes in a time of tragedy or great loss, and bring with them a human, caring presence. In some cases, that compassion will open a door to direct—or redirect—a lost sheep to the Good Shepherd.

There are opportunities for chaplaincy in many areas: in hospitals and care facilities, in jails and prisons, in police and fire agencies, on

There are opportunities for chaplaincy in many areas: in hospitals and care facilities, in jails and prisons, in police and fire agencies, on campuses and in locker rooms, at everyday workplaces and at once-in-a-lifetime disasters.

campuses and in locker rooms, at everyday workplaces and at once-in-a-lifetime disasters. And if someone is going to be there, don't we want it be someone who can properly apply law and gospel?

Chaplain Certification classes, offered online through Martin



Luther College, demonstrate to public institutions that a chaplain has completed a certain level of spiritual guidance training appropriate to serve those within that institution. Required courses include Communicating Forgiveness, A Spiritual Approach to Addiction Counseling, and Chaplaincy Issues and Fieldwork.

Earning a Chaplain Certificate does not, by itself, qualify one for a call into the public ministry, but it surely makes the student more qualified to minister to souls.

Learn more at mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate, or contact Rev. Robert Dick, chairman of the Chaplain Certification Committee, at chaplaincert@wels.net.



Care Committee for Called Workers

Keep your staff happy

The Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW) exists to provide assistance to WELS calling bodies, their called workers, and other staff. Every calling body can benefit from having a committee focused on supporting and encouraging its workers. The CCCW has resources that can help you establish a new care committee or improve one that is already in place.

Calling bodies can support their called workers in several areas:

- **Spiritual support** can involve encouraging personal prayer and Bible study, staff Bible study, and other opportunities for the strengthening and expression of faith.
- **Physical needs** begin when a called worker accepts a call. The new worker may need assistance securing housing, locating doctors, dentists, banks, auto repair shops, etc. Ongoing discussions may involve salary and benefits, vacation policy,

Christian Therapists Network

Online course on Scriptural counseling

The WELS/ELS Christian Therapists Network initially focused on finding counselors who are members of our churches. Now the Network is launching an online class for masters-level therapists. "Acting on Hope I: Peace, Comfort, and Hope in Christ Crucified and Arisen" (PSY9501) will be offered through Martin Luther College.

"Acting on Hope I" is the basic course in the Acting on Hope/Bible-Based Counseling Curriculum. As students learn from each other, the teacher, and the textbook, they will develop their own way of using Scripture in counseling sessions that will best honor the Word of God, best help their clients, and that will respect and use evidence-based counseling best practices and methods.

The one-credit course is worth 25 clock hours and lasts for ten weeks. Tuition is \$310. The instructor is Rev. Alan Siggelkow, LCSW, a former parish pastor who taught pastoral counseling at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for 20 years.

Learn more at mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/registration/new-student-registration or contact Alan Siggelkow at ahsiggelkow@gmail.com.

home repair and improvement, tax preparation, and providing support in emergency situations.



- Support for **intellectual needs** means encouraging called workers to continue their education. The calling body is encouraged to subsidize the cost of continuing education, including travel and child care expenses.
- **Emotional support** includes offering assistance to alleviate stress or deal with workplace conflicts. This is especially important when personal or family counseling may be needed. You can show appreciation by recognizing personal and professional anniversaries with gifts, providing a meal during busy times, arranging child care for an evening out, or inviting the called worker over for dinner.
- **Retirement planning** and investing should be addressed as early as possible in a worker's career. It is important to understand the WELS pension plan, Social Security, and personal investing such as the WELS Shepherd Plan. By using the available tools and resources, each worker can become financially literate and develop a long-term plan for a comfortable retirement. Calling bodies are encouraged to help build their workers' retirement accounts either through matching contributions or a lump sum contribution.

The synodical CCCW serves local committees and workers by producing user-friendly resources, such as a how-to video for starting a local care committee and retirement planning tools.

Learn more at wels.net/cccw. Find resources at csm.welsrc.net/cccw.

Hand in Hand with WELS Special Ministries

To learn more about WELS Special Ministries, visit wels.net/special-ministries.

To subscribe to the e-mail version of *His Hands*, visit wels.net/subscribe.

To refer military personnel, prisoners, or people with developmental disabilities for Special Ministries resources, visit wels.net/refer.

To support WELS Special Ministries, visit wels.net/support-special-ministries.

For assistance in making a gift to Special Ministries, contact the Ministry of Christian Giving, 800-827-5482.





WELS Foundation

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Annual Report 2017

Helping people support ministry



Mission & vision

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

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

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



Organization overview

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

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

DISTRIBUTION TO SYNOD MINISTRIES

FY2015-FY2017

Over the last three years WELS Foundation has been privileged to administer and distribute \$22,046,172 in donor directed gifts to various WELS ministries.

77%

WELS NATIONAL MINISTRIES
\$17,013,047

5%

WELS AFFILIATED MINISTRIES
\$1,148,293

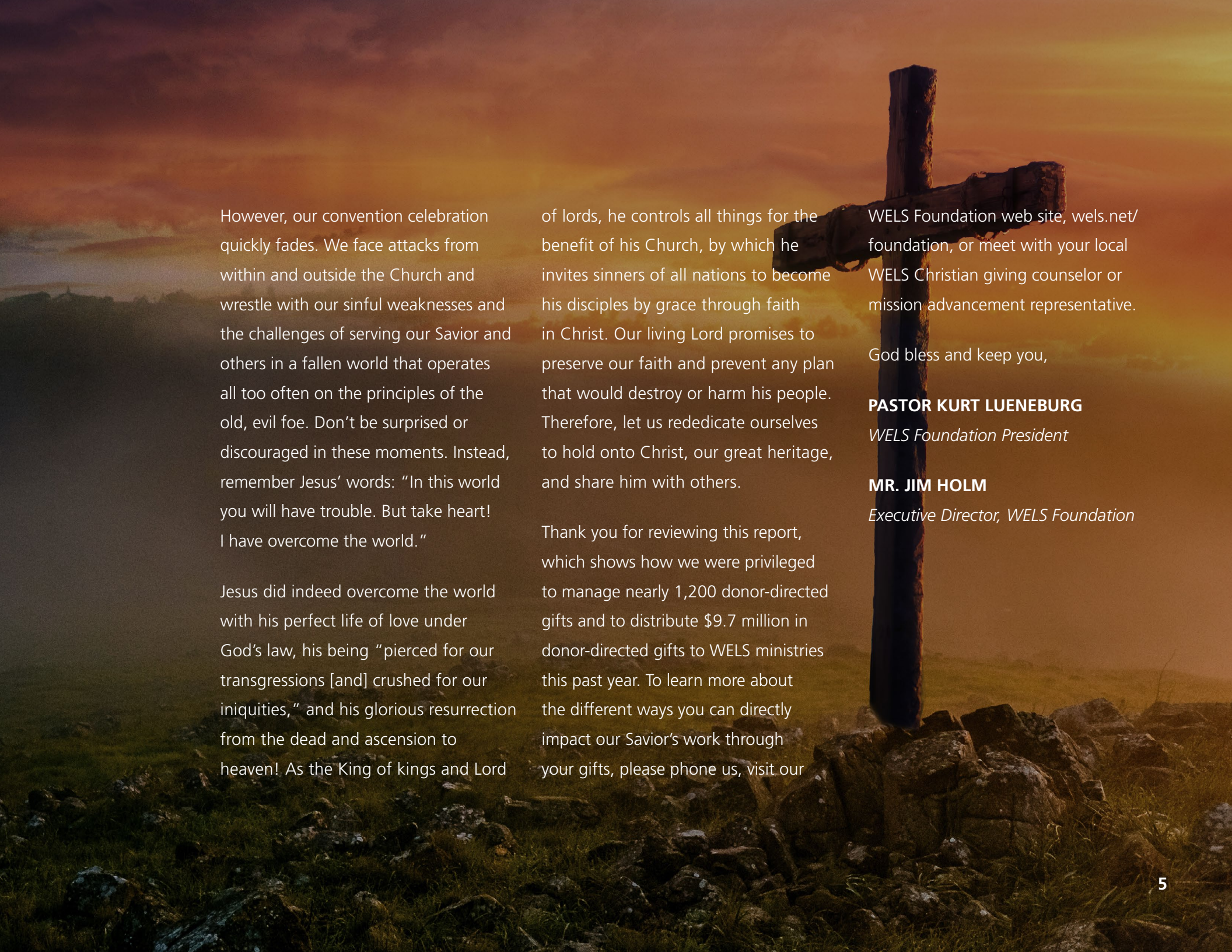
18%

WELS CONGREGATIONS
\$3,884,832

We thank the Lord for your generous gifts!

Dear Partners in Christ's kingdom of grace,

The 2017 synod convention celebrated "Our Great Heritage" in Jesus Christ—God's Son and the Savior of all sinners—and recommitted to studying and sharing Christ's love. We were filled with joy as we established fellowship with sister churches in Ethiopia, East Asia, and Hong Kong, and as we received reports of gospel endeavors from missionaries and ministry leaders. We felt more grateful to God for the rich spiritual and material blessings he's given us, and we asked him to bless our humble efforts to share the love of Christ with others. It was a wonderfully encouraging experience!



However, our convention celebration quickly fades. We face attacks from within and outside the Church and wrestle with our sinful weaknesses and the challenges of serving our Savior and others in a fallen world that operates all too often on the principles of the old, evil foe. Don't be surprised or discouraged in these moments. Instead, remember Jesus' words: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jesus did indeed overcome the world with his perfect life of love under God's law, his being "pierced for our transgressions [and] crushed for our iniquities," and his glorious resurrection from the dead and ascension to heaven! As the King of kings and Lord

of lords, he controls all things for the benefit of his Church, by which he invites sinners of all nations to become his disciples by grace through faith in Christ. Our living Lord promises to preserve our faith and prevent any plan that would destroy or harm his people. Therefore, let us rededicate ourselves to hold onto Christ, our great heritage, and share him with others.

Thank you for reviewing this report, which shows how we were privileged to manage nearly 1,200 donor-directed gifts and to distribute \$9.7 million in donor-directed gifts to WELS ministries this past year. To learn more about the different ways you can directly impact our Savior's work through your gifts, please phone us, visit our

WELS Foundation web site, wels.net/foundation, or meet with your local WELS Christian giving counselor or mission advancement representative.

God bless and keep you,

PASTOR KURT LUENEBURG

WELS Foundation President

MR. JIM HOLM

Executive Director, WELS Foundation



Giving support

CONSULTING SERVICES

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

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

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

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

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

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

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

A gift that pays income for life

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

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

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

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

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

AGE	PAY-OUT RATE*	TOTAL ANNUAL PAYMENTS	TAX-FREE PORTION	ALLOWABLE INCOME TAX CHARITABLE DEDUCTION
60	4.4%	\$440	\$294	\$2,909
65	4.7%	\$470	\$327	\$3,490
70	5.1%	\$510	\$371	\$4,099
75	5.8%	\$580	\$437	\$4,577
80	6.8%	\$680	\$530	\$5,021
85	7.8%	\$780	\$638	\$5,660
90	9.0%	\$900	\$756	\$6,295

**Rates and data as of September 1, 2017*

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

As of June 30, 2017, WELS Foundation administered 659 gift annuity contracts.

	2017	2016	2015
Opening Balance	\$ 9,353,448	\$ 9,751,245	\$ 9,950,074
Gifts Received	1,525,088	996,467	1,150,769
Net Investment Income (Loss)	577,644	(59,280)	6,952
Annuity Payments	(998,650)	(1,057,780)	(1,074,448)
Charitable Distributions	(305,348)	(277,204)	(282,102)
Ending Balance	\$10,152,182	\$ 9,353,448	\$ 9,751,245

A taxwise way of providing for children and church

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

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

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

As of June 30, 2017, WELS Foundation administered 162 charitable remainder trusts.

	2017	2016	2015
Opening Balance	\$ 30,435,782	\$ 32,326,183	\$ 31,836,659
Gifts Received	427,266	2,139,711	4,181,292
Net Investment Income (Loss)	3,049,336	(565,902)	(57,540)
Income Payments	(1,741,345)	(2,102,284)	(1,970,889)
Charitable Distributions	(2,110,363)	(1,361,926)	(1,663,339)
Ending Balance	\$ 30,060,675	\$ 30,435,782	\$ 32,326,183

A gift that creates a lasting legacy

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

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

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

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

As of June 30, 2017, WELS Foundation administered 48 donor advised funds.

	2017	2016	2015
Opening Balance	\$ 1,937,350	\$ 2,255,978	\$ 1,973,307
Gifts Received	473,274	527,218	1,032,728
Net Investment Income (Loss)	198,227	(44,801)	9,627
Charitable Distributions	(491,617)	(801,045)	(759,684)
Ending Balance	\$ 2,117,234	\$ 1,937,350	\$ 2,255,978

Ongoing, dependable support for ministry

WELS ENDOWMENT FUNDS

WELS MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

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

WELS MISSIONS ENDOWMENT FUNDS

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

WELS ORGANIZATIONS AND CHURCHES

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

As of June 30, 2016, WELS Foundation administered 300 endowment funds.

	2017	2016	2015
Opening Balance	\$ 70,465,335	\$ 23,756,822	\$ 20,882,225
Gifts Received	2,147,713	4,626,418	2,489,083
Net Investment Income (Loss)	8,614,988	1,143,610	272,549
Transfers In	0	42,123,563	797,481
Charitable Distributions	(2,361,978)	(1,185,078)	(684,516)
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 78,866,058	\$ 70,465,335	\$ 23,756,822



Financial summary

Summary financial information for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017, 2016, and 2015.

	AS OF JUNE 30, 2017	AS OF JUNE 30, 2016	AS OF JUNE 30, 2015
ASSETS			
Investments, cash, and cash equivalents	\$ 135,037,260	\$ 128,673,828	\$ 85,801,763
Property held for sale, life insurance, bequest, and other receivables	2,967,891	2,946,453	3,083,882
Total Assets	\$ 138,005,151	\$ 131,620,281	\$ 88,885,645
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 409,148	\$ 71,990	\$ 68,339
Gift annuities and trusts payable	25,879,632	24,554,333	28,623,568
Liabilities to outside beneficiaries	13,215,157	11,214,000	8,328,993
Investments held for WELS and schools	48,055,498	43,772,026	-
Net assets and funds held for WELS and WELS subsidiaries	50,445,716	52,007,932	51,864,745
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 138,005,151	\$ 131,620,281	\$ 88,885,645
SUPPORT AND REVENUES			
Gifts, memorials, and bequests	\$ 2,821,533	\$ 2,057,831	\$ 4,161,472
Net Investment and rental income	8,133,330	2,471,444	439,107
Trustee and administrator fees	687,297	645,756	618,211
Decrease in split-interest gift agreements	(4,588,993)	973,592	(701,757)
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 7,053,167	\$ 6,148,623	4,517,033
DISTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES			
Administrative expenses	\$ 585,958	\$ 630,331	\$ 650,944
Program expenses	598,530	641,520	625,750
Distributions to WELS and WELS subsidiaries	7,430,895	4,733,585	4,973,686
Total Distributions and Expenses	\$ 8,615,383	\$ 6,005,436	\$ 6,250,380
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (1,562,216)	\$ 143,187	\$ (1,733,347)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 52,007,932	\$ 51,864,745	\$ 53,598,092
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 50,445,716	\$ 52,007,932	\$ 51,864,745

A person is seen from the waist down, sitting in a white canoe on a body of water. They are holding a black paddle. The water is dark and reflects the light. In the foreground, there is a large, dark, abstract shape that looks like a shadow or a reflection. The overall tone is warm and slightly hazy.

Governing body

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

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



Board members

JAMES BRENN, *chairman*

term expires June 30, 2018
(South Atlantic District)

MARK SCHULZ, *vice-chairman*

term expires June 30, 2018
(Western Wisconsin District)

TIMOTHY BOERNEKE, *secretary*

term expires June 30, 2019
(Western Wisconsin District)

NATHAN BIRKHOLZ, *director*

term expires June 30, 2020
(Minnesota District)

MICHAEL BRERETON, *director*

term expires June 30, 2021
(Michigan District)

REV. KURT LUENEBURG, *director*

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

MARK MAURICE, *director*

term expires June 30, 2019
(Southeastern Wisconsin District)

REV. PAUL PRANGE, *director*

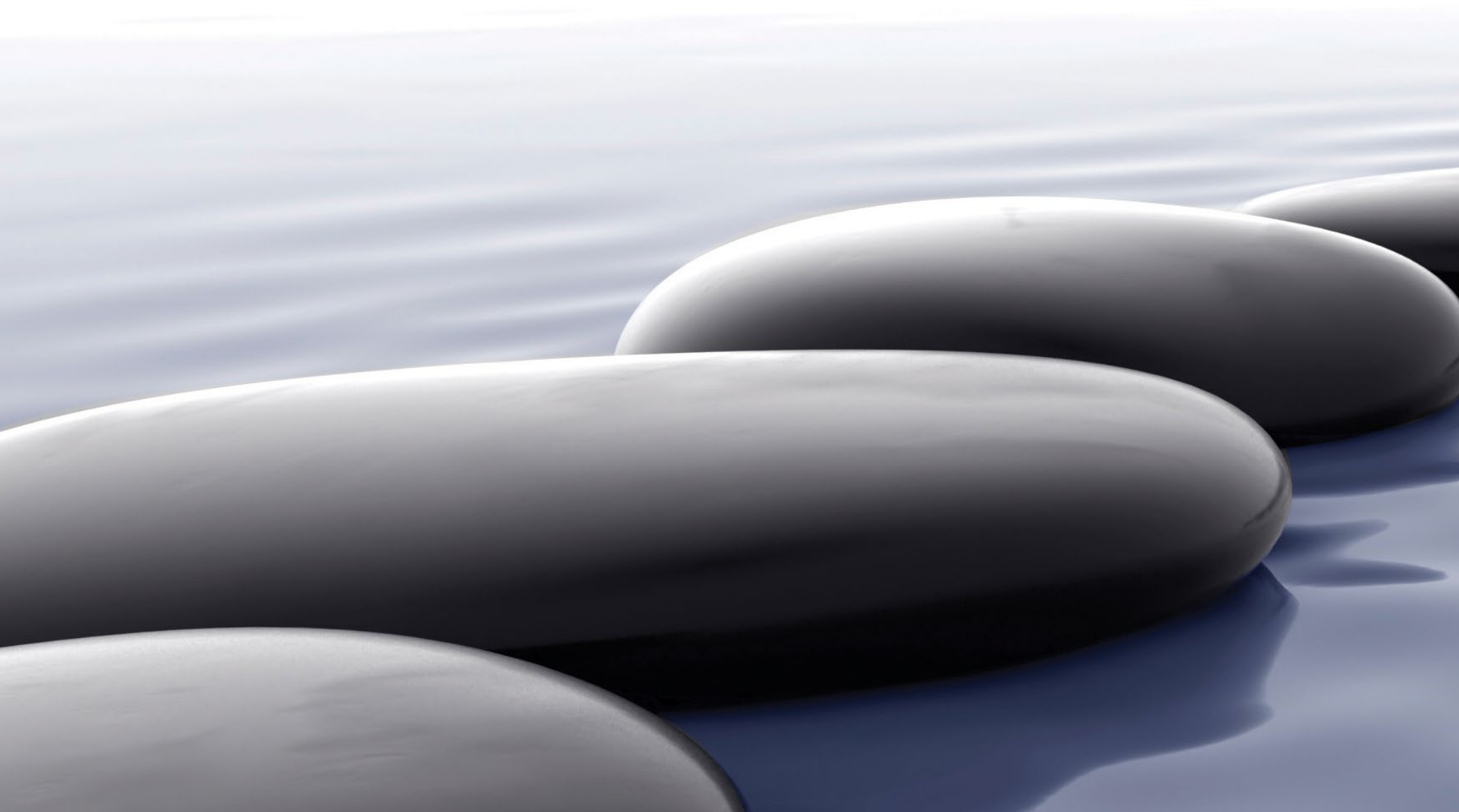
term expires June 30, 2019
(Southeastern Wisconsin District)

KURT SAMES, *director*

term expires June 30, 2019
(Minnesota District)



N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188-1108





WELS Investment Funds
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Annual Report

2017

*Strengthening and enhancing
ministry through professionally
managed investment portfolios*





WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF WELS MINISTRIES INVESTING THROUGH WELS INVESTMENT FUNDS?

- WELS Investment Funds was incorporated as a **support services subsidiary of WELS** in 1997 and currently manages more than \$200 million for more than 200 WELS and WELS affiliated ministries including WELS Foundation, Martin Luther College, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Luther Preparatory School, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, WELS Home and World Missions, several area Lutheran high schools, and more than 170 congregations.
- **WELS Investment Funds provides cost-effective, professionally managed investment portfolios exclusively for WELS and affiliated ministries.** By pooling our God-given talents and resources with other congregations we can take advantage of lower cost, institutional priced investment opportunities that are not available to smaller investment accounts. As more congregations and organizations invest in WELS Investment Funds, the cost reduction benefits also increase. It's a way we can help support each other.
- **WELS Investment Funds is easy to use.** Executive Director Jim Holm, CFP®, an employee of WELS, is available to meet with your organization, either in person or via phone, to discuss the various investment opportunities available through WELS. Our investment services specialist, Monica Peavy, is also available to guide you through the steps to open and maintain an investment account.

HOW DOES WELS INVESTMENT FUNDS SERVE MINISTRY?

WELS Funds are designed primarily for the investment needs of endowment funds, scholarship funds, and charitable trust funds that strengthen and enhance our ministry as a whole.

WHO CAN INVEST IN WELS FUNDS?

Any 501(c)(3) organization that is affiliated with WELS (i.e. listed in the WELS Yearbook). (Individuals and organizations located in Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, or Virginia may not invest in WELS Funds.)

HOW ARE THE FUNDS MANAGED?

WELS Investment Funds' Board of Directors has retained Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services® as the investment consultant for WELS Investment Funds. As a co-fiduciary, the investment consultant is responsible for making investment recommendations to the board. Once the recommendation is approved by the board, the investment consultant, after consideration of the WELS Investment Funds' investment policy statement and the various investment objectives and restrictions therein, has the discretion to implement and oversee the investment recommendations.

A copy of the most recent investment policy statement is available on the WELS Investment Funds' website.





WHAT IS WELS FUNDS INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY?

We believe that the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. From a human perspective, we utilize our knowledge, experience, and available professional resources to provide efficient and effective investment management. Ultimately, we acknowledge that it is the Lord who provides for our needs in the manner that is most beneficial for our individual and collective good.

We believe we can be better stewards by pooling our collective talents and resources. We recognize that each congregation or organization could develop their own investment policies, retain their own consultants, and invest independently in separate portfolios. However, we believe that together we can benefit from the collective knowledge and experience of the membership throughout our synod. Together we can also leverage economies of scale and utilize institutional priced investment opportunities when available.

MANAGEMENT

The Board of Directors of WELS Investment Funds is responsible for the operation of WELS Investment Funds, including the engagement of investment consultants. Directors serve three-year terms and are elected annually by the WELS Synodical Council.

The day-to-day affairs are carried out by its officers and other WELS employees. For administrative convenience, efficiency, and cost effectiveness, WELS Investment Funds leases its personnel from WELS. WELS also provides services relating to the processing of transactions, preparing investor account statements, and the preparation of corporate financial statements.

Additional information concerning the Board and officers and a copy of the most recent audited financial statements of WELS Investment Funds is available on the WELS Investment Funds' website.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dennis Walters
Chairman

Dennis Walters is retired and formerly vice president, administrative controller, and director of Corporate Financial Reporting for Cargill, Inc.



Seth T. Hansen
Director

Seth T. Hansen is the vice president, Project Management, Daktronics, Inc., a developer of electronic display systems.



Joel L. Luehmann
Vice Chairman

Joel L. Luehmann serves as director, Enterprise Risk Management, for Compeer Financial in Mankato, Minn.



Ronald Schmitz
Director

Ronald Schmitz is retired after a 34-year career as a financial consultant for AXA Advisors (formerly Equitable Life, N.Y.).



John G. Wenker
Secretary

Mr. John G. Wenker is a managing director at Nuveen Asset Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of TIAA-CREF. John was Head of Real Assets at Nuveen Asset Management until June 30, 2017, and will retire December 31, 2017.



Max D. Wenck
Director

Max D. Wenck is a co-owner of MorganMyers, Inc., a multi-million dollar communications consulting firm.



Jon C. Bruss
Director

Jon C. Bruss is the founder of Fortress Partners Capital Management, LTD. (an investment advisory firm).

HOW ARE THE DIRECTORS ON THE WELS INVESTMENT FUNDS' BOARD SELECTED?

Nominations are received from voting members of congregations throughout WELS. The nominees are then vetted by the WELS Human Resources director and the WELS Investment Funds Board of Directors. The Board makes a recommendation to the WELS Synodical Council. The final decision is made by the WELS Synodical Council. The Board of Directors is made up entirely of WELS members with relevant professional experience for service to WELS Investment Funds. The Directors have a heart for ministry and are dedicated to managing WELS Investment Funds to the benefit of invested WELS entities.

WELS members with the necessary skills and experience are encouraged to contact WELS Investment Funds or their pastor to learn more about the nomination process.



The Funds

The WELS Balanced Fund is managed mindful of the long-term investment goals of endowment and scholarship funds. Currently the target allocation for the WELS Balanced Fund is 60% in equity and 40% in fixed income. This target allocation is regularly reviewed by the Board of Directors and is subject to change. Approximately 90% of all investments in the WELS Funds are in the WELS Balanced Fund.

The WELS Equity Fund and WELS Income Funds invest in the same underlying mutual funds as the WELS Balanced Fund. They are available for those organizations who desire an asset allocation other than that offered by the WELS Balanced Fund.

All the mutual funds that comprise the WELS Funds have investment expenses significantly below the industry average. The weighted average expense ratios for the WELS Balanced Fund, WELS Equity Fund, and WELS Income Fund are 0.14%, 0.19%, and 0.06%, respectively.

WELS BALANCED FUND - As of December 31, 2017

The WELS Balanced Fund is the portfolio specifically designed for trust, endowment, and scholarship funds within WELS.

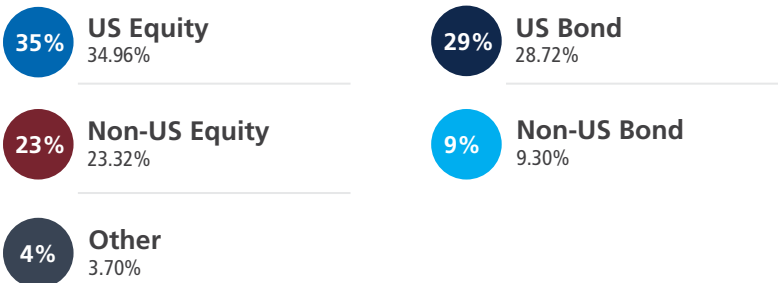
ANNUAL RETURN*	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr
Total Return %	3.5%	7.2%	16.2%	8.3%	5.8%

*Vanguard portfolio returns beginning 7/2016 are gross of WELS Investment Funds operating expenses.

Target Holdings

Vanguard Total Stock Market Idx I	18.0%
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index I	16.0%
Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade I	12.0%
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index I	12.0%
Vanguard Inter-Term Investment-Grde Adm	8.0%
Vanguard Morgan™ Growth Admiral™	6.3%
Vanguard Windsor™ II Admiral™	6.3%
Vanguard International Growth Adm	6.0%
Vanguard International Value Inv	6.0%
Vanguard Total Intl Bd Idx Institutional	4.0%
Vanguard Mid Cap Growth Inv	2.7%
Vanguard Strategic Equity Inv	2.7%

Asset Allocation



PORTFOLIO INSIGHTS - EQUITY

Equity investments are globally diversified across domestic and international large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap securities, including value, core, and growth styles.

The cornerstone equity holding is the Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund, Institutional Shares. This fund is diversified across over 3,400 domestic equities.

The Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund, Institutional Shares hold more than 6,000 equity securities, diversified across over 30 countries.

These two core equity index funds are complimented by four actively managed Vanguard mutual funds managed by firms including, Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Straus, LLC; Lazard Asset Management, LLC, and Ballie Gifford Overseas, LTD.

WELS EQUITY FUND - As of December 31, 2017

The WELS Equity Fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing in a portfolio of equity securities that is well diversified by industry and company size.

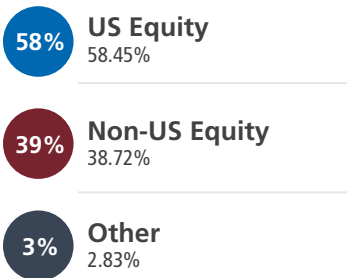
ANNUAL RETURN*	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr
Total Return %	5.6%	11.4%	25.4%	12.6%	6.5%

*Vanguard portfolio returns beginning 7/2016 are gross of WELS Investment Funds operating expenses.

Target Holdings

Vanguard Total Stock Market Idx I	30.0%
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index I	20.0%
Vanguard Morgan™ Growth Admiral™	10.5%
Vanguard Windsor™ II Admiral™	10.5%
Vanguard International Growth Adm	10.0%
Vanguard International Value Inv	10.0%
Vanguard Mid Cap Growth Inv	4.5%
Vanguard Strategic Equity Inv	4.5%

Asset Allocation



PORTFOLIO INSIGHTS – FIXED INCOME

The Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund, Institutional Shares, is invested in more than 8,000 investment grade, domestic fixed income securities. Holdings include U.S. Treasury, U.S. agency, and other domestic investment grade fixed income securities.

For diversification purposes, the Vanguard Total International Bond Index Fund is utilized. This Fund is diversified across over 8,000 international fixed income securities, representing 30 underlying countries. All holdings are currency hedged to the U.S. dollar, for risk management purposes.

The Vanguard Intermediate-Term Investment Grade Fund, Admiral Shares, and the Vanguard Short-Term Investment Grade Fund, Institutional Shares, are actively managed with an intensive credit analysis and risk controlled approach.

WELS INCOME FUND - As of December 31, 2017

The WELS Income Fund seeks to provide income by investing primarily in investment quality debt securities.

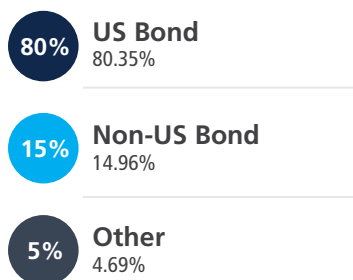
ANNUAL RETURN*	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	1 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr
Total Return %	0.3%	1.1%	3.2%	1.8%	4.0%

*Vanguard portfolio returns beginning 7/2016 are gross of WELS Investment Funds operating expenses.

Target Holdings

Vanguard Total Bond Market Index I	40.0%
Vanguard Short-Term Investment-Grade I	30.0%
Vanguard Interm-Term Investment-Grde Adm	20.0%
Vanguard Total Intl Bd Idx Institutional	10.0%

Asset Allocation



Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The performance data is current as of December 31, 2017, and is subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions. Participating in the WELS Funds is subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested. Withdrawals from the WELS Funds are payable exclusively from the net assets of the Fund. Accounts are not protected or insured by the FDIC or SIPC and are not guaranteed by WELS or any other person or entity.

OPERATING EXPENSES

All direct expenses and any expenses allocated by WELS related to the operation of WELS Investment Funds (e.g. rent for office space, utilities, financial, technological, and human resources expenses) are charged directly to the WELS Funds. While these expenses vary from year to year, for the fiscal year 2018, they are projected to be approximately 0.21% of the assets in the WELS Funds.

MONTHLY PROCESSING

WELS Funds' transactions are processed on the first business day of each month. Additions and/or redemption requests must be received by WELS Investment Funds at least one business day prior to month end for processing. Funds received prior to month-end will be held in a non-interest bearing cash account until processed. Redemptions proceeds will be deposited in the organization's bank account via direct deposit.

HOW TO INVEST

A custodial account agreement and custodial worksheet must be completed to establish a new account. All investments made pursuant to the custodial agreement will be held in the name of WELS Investment Funds (or such other entity selected by WELS Investment Funds) as nominee for the organization, with actual ownership of the investments remaining in the organization. Each organization investing in the WELS Funds will be assigned an interest (an "Ownership Interest") in the assets of each chosen WELS Fund reflecting the pro rata interest of the organization in the assets of the particular WELS Fund. The value of the organization's Ownership Interest may fluctuate as the value of the particular WELS Fund fluctuates.

MAILING ADDRESS

Investment and redemption requests should be mailed to:

WELS Investment Funds
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188-1108

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: welsfunds@wels.net
Phone: (877) 888-8953
Web: wels.net/welsfunds



OTHER WELS SUBSIDIARIES

WELS Church Extension Fund (CEF) exists to provide financing for mission-minded endeavors and projects that are under the direction of WELS Board for Home Missions. WELS CEF provides loans and grants to qualified mission congregations so they can acquire land and build or renovate ministry facilities—used as tools for gospel outreach. The money WELS CEF uses to provide loans and grants comes from two sources— investments and gifts. For more information, visit wels.net/cef.

WELS Foundation exists to assist God's people in support of God's ministry through the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. WELS Foundation provides a channel through which gifts can be administered for the benefit of local and national ministries by:

- Providing knowledgeable planned giving support to WELS Christian giving counselors and other WELS advancement representatives.
- Facilitating various giving opportunities, including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, donor advised funds, and endowment administration.

Visit wels.net/foundation for more information.

WELS Investment Funds is a charitable non-stock, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. It was formed in 1997 as a support services subsidiary of WELS to provide investment vehicles so that funds of WELS, WELS congregations, and other WELS related organizations could be invested to achieve the desires of the organizations and their donors.

WELS Investment Funds is not registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as a broker or dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. WELS Investment Funds, Inc. administers the WELS Funds for the benefit of WELS ministries pursuant to a claim of exemption from registration under the federal Philanthropy Protection Act of 1995.

Note that investment programs offered by WELS Investment Funds involve risk. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns, WELS Funds are not FDIC or SIPC insured, and may lose value. WELS Funds are not guaranteed by WELS or any other person or entity.

At this time, WELS Funds are NOT available in Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, or Virginia.



WELS Investment Funds
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188-1108
1-877-888-8953 • wels.net/welsfunds

316NOW: Gospel Outreach to China's 1.4 Billion Souls



316NOW is a ministry of WELS and ELS Lutherans who are committed

bringing the gospel to the Chinese people by empowering Chinese Christian leaders through Scripture study.

We pray the Spirit would use **316NOW** to assist these Chinese leaders in building and growing a network of spiritually united believers.



316NOW's teachers travel to China to personally meet, teach, and encourage our online students.



316NOW's In-China Ministries seeks to network our students in China so they can share what they have learned from the Scriptures, encourage each other, and join forces to tell others about God's grace in Jesus.

316NOW's Grace Bible Institute provides online training in theology, Scripture study, and practical ministry topics to Chinese Christian church leaders who desire our help.

Our courses include studies of

- The Gospels
- Romans
- Revelation
- An Old Testament overview
- A New Testament overview
- Law and Gospel
- The Lutheran Confessions
- Stewardship
- Sermon writing
- Leadership



316NOW's Joy-filled Children Of the World (JCW) is our program to share Jesus with children in China. JCW uses the internet to teach English as a foreign language to 9-15 year-olds. Often their parents also attend these classes. Bible stories are used as our basic course materials. We train American Christians to teach for JCW.



316NOW is committed to helping American Christians understand the Chinese culture and how it impacts the lives of believers there. We also encourage American Christians to partner with us in spreading God's message of grace throughout China.

You Can Help

There are 1.2+ billion people in China who are not Christians. You have a role to play in bringing grace across China NOW.

★ Stay current on Christianity in China by visiting 316NOW.org. Join the mailing list.

★ Pray for the spread of the gospel in China. Ask the Spirit's protection and empowering on the Christians he has placed there, on all the ways the gospel is being shared there, and on all our denomination's efforts to bring Jesus to more there.

★ Share this brochure with others. Ask them to become involved in bringing the gospel to China.

★ Give generously to support 316NOW and other WELS groups working in China.



Scan to give to 316NOW.

★ Volunteer: let us know about your training, experience, and ministry gifts. Email us at 316NOW@316NOW.org.

Photos are either owned by 316NOW or in public domain



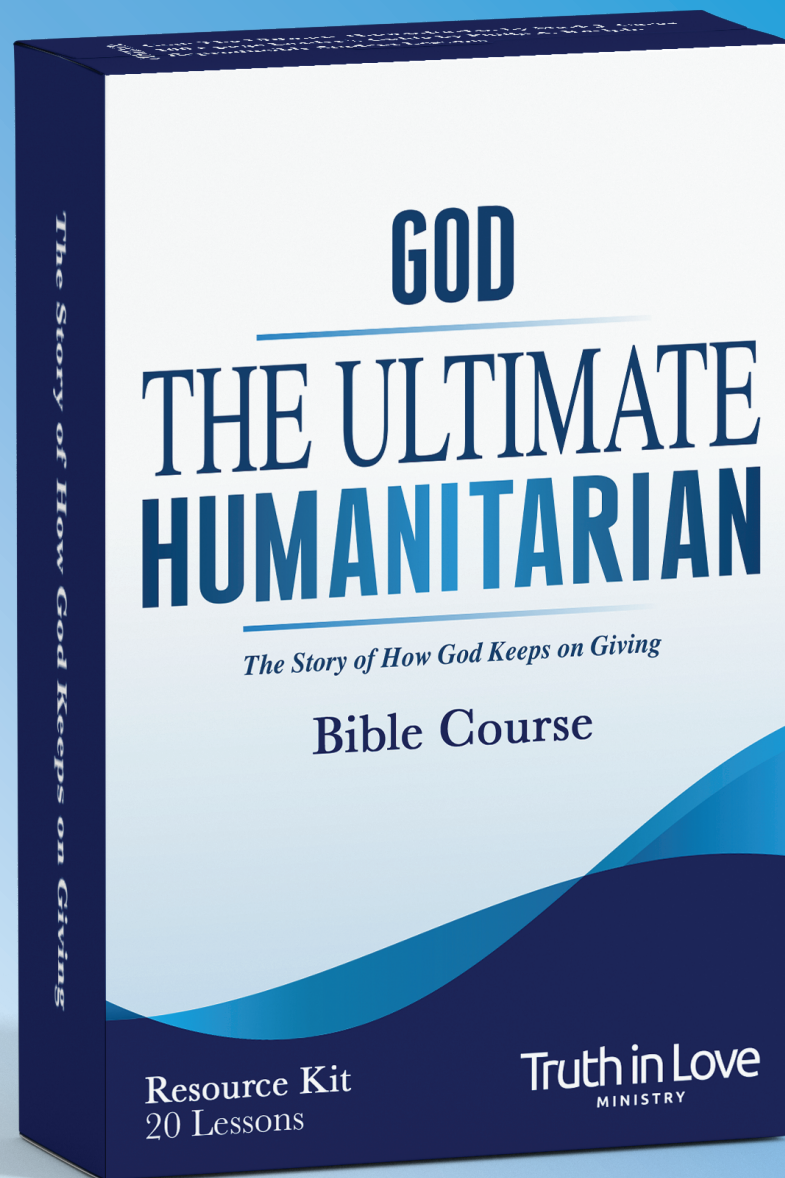
Photo: public domain

Learn more about 316NOW at 316NOW.org. You'll also find 316NOW on Facebook and Twitter. Follow us there to stay current on our ministry.

316NOW
Grace across China NOW

P.O. Box 28876
Greenfield, WI 53228

316NOW
Grace across China NOW



*“What a delightful addition to our available resources in helping seekers find the true God!”
- Pastor Mark Jeske, Time of Grace*

LOOKING FOR A COMPLETE BIBLE COURSE?

One with a complete leader’s guide enabling anyone to lead it?

One that covers familiar topics in a fresh, new way?

HERE IT IS!

>> NOW AVAILABLE AT TILM.ORG

“IT COULD SERVE AS A MINI BIBLE INFORMATION COURSE.”

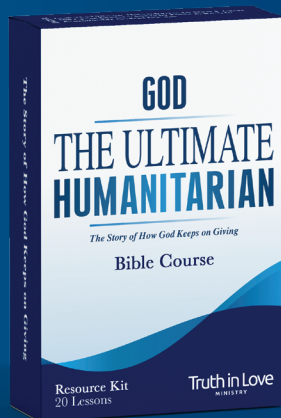
- Pastor Dave Valleskey, former president of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Since the release of *God – The Ultimate Humanitarian* by Pastor Mark J. Cares, many have suggested that we produce a Bible course to accompany the book. **You spoke, we listened.**

Pastor Phil Koelpin has written a 20-lesson course – one lesson for each book chapter. These lessons are accompanied by a 100+ page leader’s guide. From one pastor who field-tested the course: *“Comments in the leader’s guide are especially insightful, enhancing what is already an enriching, faith-based study. All will be blessed by it!”*

The course kit includes a copy of the book, the leader’s guide and reproducible student lessons.

For more content information, visit tilm.org/resources.



AVAILABLE NOW TILM.ORG/STORE

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT GOD – THE ULTIMATE HUMANITARIAN

I thought the book might be a dry doctrinal book, but once I started, I couldn’t put it down! The author simplifies and clarifies the fundamental Biblical truths by giving concrete examples and vivid imagery in a conversational style. - **Ruth**

I’ve never read a book that has taken the most critical aspects of the Christian faith and made them so accessible to a wide audience.

- **Amazon Review**

I would wholeheartedly recommend this book to give to prospects or new Christians. It could also serve as a great supplement in teaching Bible Information Class or possibly even the textbook for such classes.

- **Pastor Ed Schuppe, Mission Counselor**

LAUNCH SALE! SAVE 25%

Bible Course Kit	\$49 \$36.75
Bible Course Kit and 12 Books	\$193 \$140
Bible Course Kit and 24 Books	\$289 \$225



CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES

2018 DISTRICT CONVENTION REPORT

35 YEARS OF DEFENDING LIFE



Christian Life Resources is a ministry of love dedicated to honoring life during all of its stages. Using Scripture to encourage and support, we are committed to helping others along life's way – while on their journey here on earth and into eternity.

**IN 2018 WE ARE
CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF
GOD'S GRACE UPON THIS
LIFE-AFFIRMING MINISTRY.**

35 WAYS TO PROMOTE LIFE



- 1) Pray for the CLR ministry, the CLR pregnancy care centers, *New Beginnings*
- 2) Conduct a Life Sunday in your congregation
- 3) Conduct a life-related Bible study
- 4) Arrange a Skype presentation with CLR's National Director, Pastor Robert Fleischmann
- 5) Sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter, *Life Light*
- 6) Sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletter, *LifeWire*
- 7) Choose articles from *LifeWire* and include them in your church newsletter
- 8) Sign up to receive *Growing Branches*, the quarterly newsletter from *New Beginnings*
- 9) Ask for CLR's quarterly *Clearly Caring* magazine
- 10) Conduct a community blood drive
- 11) Maintain a bulletin board on current life and family events
- 12) Coordinate a "Change for Life" baby bottle event to support *New Beginnings*
- 13) Coordinate an effort to sign people up to be part of CLR's database
- 14) Encourage attendance at our annual CLR Celebration of Life Event
- 15) Promote a CLR pregnancy center affiliate closest to you (include updates in your newsletter); conduct a baby shower or diaper drive to help their clients or conduct a gift card drive from major retailers in order for the center to purchase needed items
- 16) Hold a gift card drive for *New Beginnings* to address their wish list of needs
- 17) Collect a door offering to help Christian Life Resources and/or *New Beginnings*
- 18) Consider a collection by your ladies' organization or Sunday School to support the CLR and/or *New Beginnings'* ministries
- 19) Add CLR and/or *New Beginnings* envelopes to your church offering envelopes
- 20) Get a CLR medical directive – at no cost
- 21) Contact the CLR office with life-related questions – we can help
- 22) Participate in CLR or *New Beginnings* fundraising events such as our annual Wine-Tasting Event or Golf Outing
- 23) Designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to CLR or *New Beginnings*
- 24) Designate CLR or *New Beginnings* as recipients of United Way donations
- 25) Go to AmazonSmile.com to designate CLR and have 0.5 percent of your purchases to be earmarked for our organization
- 26) Use our website: **we are launching a fresh look in the fall**
- 27) Consider being a part of your state's Right to Life organization
- 28) Adopt a shut-in – visit, provide a service, send a greeting
- 29) Subscribe to emails providing life-affirming updates such as NRL News, Life Action News, etc
- 30) Volunteer at a pregnancy center – visit Heartbeat International to find one near you
- 31) Volunteer at a local assisted living home or hospice
- 32) "Like" CLR or *New Beginnings* on Facebook
- 33) Follow CLR or *New Beginnings* on Twitter
- 34) Knit winter wear and donate to our pregnancy care centers that distribute practical assistance items to clients in need
- 35) If you are a nurse or other medical professional, provide blood pressure checks at church

OUR MISSION



THE MISSION OF CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES IS TO USE LIFE AND FAMILY ISSUES AS BRIDGES TO CONVEY THE LOVE OF GOD AND TO SHARE THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST.

- CLR and *New Beginnings* websites (www.christianliferesources.com, www.homeformothers.com)
 - Life Sunday materials
 - CLR Affiliate Access website (found at www.clraffiliate.com)
 - *Life Light*: the monthly e-newsletter of CLR – offers resources from CLR on a specific topic
 - *LifeWire*: the weekly e-newsletter of CLR – offers the latest life and family news, upcoming events, other newsworthy information
 - *Clearly Caring*-Mini publication on life and family issues (www.clearlycaring.com)
 - CLR Staff (800-729-9535) and info@christianliferesources.com
-



HEALING & HELPING

MINISTRY UPDATE—SUMMER 2018



PASTOR MATTEK'S 2018 PREACHING SCHEDULE

6/3	Immanuel Waupaca, WI
6/17	Peace Wautoma, WI
6/21-24	LWMS Green Bay, WI
7/8	St. Peter Eldorado, WI
7/8	Zion Van Dyne, WI
7/22	Peace Milbank, SD
7/22	St. Johns Summit, SD
7/29	Peace Ostego, MI
8/12	St. John Manitowoc, WI
8/19	Immanuel Sault Sainte Marie, MI

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

At each congregation I visit, I hear personal stories about how WLCFS-Christian Family Solutions has helped families and individuals. One man approached me after a service and said, "I'm married, and I have children. I'm gay. I want to thank your counselor for helping me to live the way God wants me to live." Clinical counseling, combined with the power of God's Word, can change lives.

If I haven't visited your church, I would love to come share more about our life-changing services with your members. Please contact me at jmattek@wlcfs.org or **414.254.3916** if you would like me to preach and conduct Bible study at your congregation.

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

May God bless you and all those you serve!

Please see the back for a list of our services.



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

 CHRISTIAN FAMILY
SOLUTIONS

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE, INC.

OUR HEALING & HELPING MINISTRIES

Services Offered at WLCFS-Christian Family Solutions

NEW INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS

Offering a higher level of counseling care

What is an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)?

Often more intensive group counseling services are needed for those with deeper issues.

Our Intensive Outpatient Programs are unique in that they include a faith-based component to treatment.

IOP basics

- 3-hour group sessions, typically held 3-4 days per week
- Average group size: 6-10 members
- Treatment methods include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) & Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- Programs are available for adults and teens

What programs are currently offered?

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

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

Where are the programs located?

Programs are currently offered in Brookfield and Appleton, WI and Lakeville and Mankato, MN. Please contact us or check our website to see availability.

What are the steps to get started?

Please contact us at **800.438.1772**. For additional information, visit **www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org**.

COUNSELING SERVICES

What sets our counseling apart from others?

Our counseling services combine evidence-based therapeutic practices with the strength and comfort found in God's Word.

There are three ways to receive counseling:

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

Video Counseling—Counseling via secure video in states where we have licensed counselors

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

Visit our website for clinic and program locations.

SENIOR SERVICES

Home Care

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

Senior Communities

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

The Gardens of Hartford—assisted living in Hartford, WI

Wisconsin Lutheran Living Center—assisted living in Milwaukee, WI

CHILD & ADOLESCENT DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM

Many urban students struggle with undiagnosed mental health and behavioral issues, which can prevent them from learning and functioning in the classroom. Students in our day treatment program work with our team of professional staff for 3 hours per day, 5 days per week. The goal is to help students work through their issues so they can return to the classroom and begin to thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

Where the Care of Soul is the Soul of Care

TLHA Quarterly Special Edition: Summer 2018

13 individuals baptized at Jesus Cares Ministries program

Everyone had to wait their turn as a line formed in the front of the church at Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas.

"It was an amazing thing to witness, I've never seen a line at the baptismal font," said Faith Brown, Jesus Cares Ministries program coordinator at Abiding Word.

Thirteen JCM participants were baptized by Pastor Matthew Brown on Saturday, May 5. Eight were baptized at the church in front of congregation and family members; five were baptized in their home. All JCM participants were welcomed into God's family.

"What a wonderful day and great to see 13 people added to God's family through the waters of baptism," said Joel Gaertner, National Director of Jesus Cares Ministries. "It is great when our JCM programs make such opportunities available."

JCM assists congregations in reaching out to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and communities. To find a JCM program near you, visit thla.org.



Michael R. Klatt, President and CEO
Mark Hayes, VP of Mission Advancement
Rev. Joel Gaertner, VP of Ministry & Director of JCM
Rev. Curt Seefeldt, Director of Church Relations

THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION



Christian independent living with access to rehab

Since shoulder surgery in March, life has been different for Debra Spiller. With her arm in a sling and little to no movement, she can't drive and has had to do everything with just one arm. Fortunately, due to her living situation, she has been able to attend physical therapy and begin the rehab process.

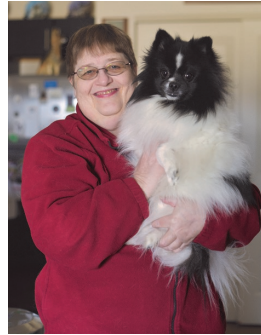
Debra resides at KingsPath Senior Living, The Lutheran Home Association's newest care community, which is connected to Ridgeview Health Campus in Belle Plaine, Minn.

"I really like that it's convenient to the rehab," Debra said.

Debra has been working with a physical therapist through Ridgeview Rehab

Specialties program. Debra has an indoor walk to the Ridgeview area of the campus, a perk during the colder months.

"We have a close relationship with Ridgeview Belle Plaine Clinic and Rehab Specialists," said Barb Weicherding, Property Manager at KingsPath Senior Living. "With the addition of Ridgeview Home Health located on the second floor of our building, we are in the position to offer residents the option to aging in place while having access to a variety of events and activities."



*Think you could benefit from calling a place like KingsPath home?
Call (952) 873-5800 to schedule a tour.*

A resident and her caregiver join God's family

Tears of joy rolled down Brenda Peterson's cheeks as she sat in the chapel at Hope Residence. Sitting next to her was Shelly, whose radiant smile illuminated the room filled with their friends and family.

Shelly lives at Hope Residence, a disability care community in Belle Plaine, Minnesota; and Brenda is one of her caregivers. Living and working at Hope gave these women an opportunity to learn more about Christianity.

Together, they began to study the Bible with Pastor Ed Fredrich, chaplain of The Lutheran Home Belle Plaine campus. Brenda and Shelly chose to continue their lessons in order to be confirmed.

"Just knowing I will be saved makes me feel so good," Shelly said.

After completing their religious education, both Brenda and Shelly were ready to demonstrate their commitment to Christ in front of friends and family. So on that special day in the chapel, they were each baptized and confirmed!



"Like" The Lutheran Home Association on Facebook to read more heart warming stories from our ministry.

COMMUNITIES AND PROGRAMS

Boessling Village Apartments,
Belle Plaine, MN
Faith Residence, Belle Plaine, MN
Heritage Homes, Watertown, WI
Highland Regency House,
New Ulm, MN
Hope Residence, Belle Plaine, MN
Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM),
Belle Plaine, MN
KingsPath Senior Living,
Belle Plaine, MN
Kingsway of Beverly Hills,
Beverly Hills, FL
Kingsway Retirement Living,
Belle Plaine, MN
St. Michael's Assisted Living,
Fountain City, WI
The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine,
Belle Plaine, MN
Wellhaven Senior Living,
River Falls, WI

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Bruce Becker, Matt Burow, Rev. Elroy V. Conratt, Jeff Davis, Lowell Hoffman (vice chair), Wayne Larson, Rev. Michael Muehlenhardt, David Oldenburg, Rev. Matthew C. Rauh (secretary), Tim Schuth (treasurer), Mark Schwan, Arvid W. Schwartz (chairman).



THE LUTHERAN HOME
ASSOCIATION

www.tlha.org | 888-600-8542



The 47th Annual PASTOR / TEACHER / STAFF MINISTER Golf Tournament
Edgewood Oaks Golf Course, West of 164 on Hwy L in Big Bend, WI

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018 – Shot Gun Start at 8am

The SEWER OPEN (*SEWER = South Eastern Wisconsin Educators and Reverends*) has been held as an annual outing for fun & fellowship. The tradition continues this year on **MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018**. **THIS IS AN EARLIER DATE THAN PREVIOUS YEARS!!!** Clear your calendars! **Shotgun Start at 8:00am on the OAKS COURSE!** Food and drink can be purchased at the course.

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

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

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

Please return your registration & payment of \$34.00 to:

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

Make checks out to Bob Garbe and enclose with registration.

Deadline for your PAID \$34.00 Registration is Monday, July 2nd.
 ~ Register early to reserve your spot as one of the 32 golfers in the SEWER Open ~

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

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

You can also register online by going to this URL:
<https://goo.gl/forms/ShttisunmoOid9eX2>

2018 SEWER OPEN REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP** _____

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

3) _____

Average Score for 18?

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