HOMEMISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

"Like" the WELS Missions Facebook page at **fb.com/WELS Missions.**

SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS

Windsor, Colo. – WELS congregations in Ft. Collins, Loveland, and Greeley are supporting this new mission start in a rapidly expanding area in northern Colorado. There are currently 20 WELS families located in the target area, which has no Lutheran churches.

Wichita, Kan. – Messiah is looking to start a second site on the east side of the city to better serve the 650,000 people in the greater metropolitan area. The area population is expected to grow by 10% over the next 10 years.

Canton, Ga. – Members and leadership from Beautiful Savior in Marietta, Ga., have identified Canton, a quickly growing suburb of Metro-Atlanta, as a prime location to plant a new mission church. Population has doubled in the past 20 years and that growth is expected to continue.

Conroe, Tex. – Conroe, the northernmost suburb of Houston, is the fifth fastest growing city in the United States. Abiding Word in Houston, Tex., is helping this new mission get off the ground and running.

Lodi, Wis. (Unsubsidized) – Zion in Leeds, Wis., is establishing a second site in Lodi. They have already leased a ministry center where the 17-person ministry team hopes to launch worship this year. This mission is financially supported by Zion, but Home Mission status will give them access to support from their district mission board, mission counselors, and special grants.

SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS

Cross of Glory, Baton Rouge, La. -

Cross of Glory will receive shortterm financial support as they continue to build on the outreach momentum that began when their pastor arrived in 2017. They're currently the only WELS church able to reach the 750,000 people living in the parishes in and around Baton Rouge.

St. John, St. Paul, Minn. – St. John has called a bilingual pastor to serve the sizable Hispanic population in the area. The church is located right next to the Mexican Consulate; a portion of their facility is being rented by a Latino service organization; and there is already a Spanish women's Bible study being led by a pastor's wife who also works for a pregnancy resource center that's housed there.



Divine Savior, Delray Beach, Fla. – Divine Savior plans to call a full-time staff minister to assist in school outreach, discipleship training, and connecting new members with various volunteer opportunities. 120

students are enrolled in their school that started in 2018, with 230 expected next school year. That school growth is leading to church growth, and they expect to add around 50 members in the next few months based on current Bible information class attendance.



HOMEMISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Subscribe to weekly Missions Blogs at wels.net/subscribe.

SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS CONTINUED

Abiding Savior, Killeen, Tex. – Abiding Savior is located near Fort Hood, one of the nation's largest military bases. The church got a new pastor in 2019, added 13 new members in 2021, and is expected to continue growing with Home Missions support in the years to come.





Our Savior, Burlington, Iowa – Our Savior has been without a full-time shepherd for 12 years. They are currently being served by pastors from two other WELS churches, with elders leading services when pastors are unavailable. The 17-member core group is committed to outreach with

support from a new home missionary.

NEW UNSUBSIDIZED MISSIONS

Home Missions also approved unsubsidized mission status for Mt. Calvary in Redding/Anderson, Calif., and Living Faith in Midlothian, Tex. Home Missions provides assistance to unsubsidized mission congregations through its district mission boards, mission counselors, and synodical support staff, but does not provide direct financial support. Unsubsidized home mission congregations also have access to loans and grants from WELS Church Extension Fund and Home Missions.

100 MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS

WELS Home Missions is launching a new initiative to plant 100 new home mission churches and enhance 75 existing ministries from 2023-2033. This is a BIG challenge. But we prepare and we plan, and we ask God to bless it. Trusting in the Lord, we boldly move forward knowing God will bless us and his kingdom. Please pray for this initiative, talk to your district mission board about how you can get involved, and support this goal with your gifts. Learn more at **wels.net/100in10**.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We thank God for you! Home Missions is thankful for the generosity of so many. Your gift matters. The gospel is being proclaimed in new communities all around North America through new mission starts and existing home mission congregations. We are also grateful for our partnership with WELS Church Extension Fund and the services and grants they provide that help us reach out to the lost.

Pray for our neighbors who are still in darkness and consider how you can make a difference and share Jesus Christ with many. To give an immediate gift, go to **wels.net/hmgift**. Watch with us as the Holy Spirit changes earthly lives and opens the door to eternal life for our brothers and sisters in our own backyard.





Task Force Recommendations

Missionaries

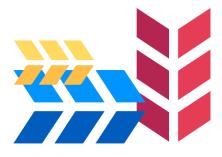
- The Board for Home Missions (BHM) has regular meetings with Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to discuss recruiting, encouraging, and equipping men to serve as church planters.
- Home Missions Administration and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary continue to meet at least annually to discuss items of current interest.
- Consider having more vicars serve in missions that are in the early years of existence through the Vicar in a Mission Setting (ViMs) program.

Money

- Train, equip, and encourage District Mission Boards (DMBs) to look at their missions with a critical eye.
- Acknowledge that DMBs are advocates for their missions and we all want each mission to thrive.
- Communicate and put into perspective why defunding may have to occur. i.e., stewardship of resources.
- Have DMBs use a green-yellow-red rating system for tracking their subsidized missions.
- Encourage flexibility and creativity of the DMBs, when appropriate, as to not to abandon a field where a mission is defunded. While this may not always be possible, it could mean that the DMB makes a request for subsidy that is significantly less but allows the people to still be served with the gospel.
- Encourage Church Extension Fund (CEF) to work with WELS Home Missions to find creative ways to reduce debt payments for our mission congregations.
- Consider ways to provide additional awareness/visibility for the best mission candidates and encourage/enable mission-minded donors to financially support these Home Missions efforts.

Internal Operations and Resources

- The Board for Home Missions Executive Committee (EC) establish and publish clear guidelines for budget submissions, including a corresponding budget narrative.
- The EC and Home Missions administration establish and communicate criterion for 2 and 3-year Mission Program Support Agreement (MPSA) renewal requests in addition to the 1-year requests.
- Each DMB will assign a member to review each individual New Start/ Restart/ Enhancement/MPSA request. This review to be part of the submission request.
- Train, equip and encourage DMBs to look at their requests with a critical eye.
- Maintain current EC member level (Chairman, two pastors, two laymen). As the initiative progresses, evaluate and pivot if necessary.
- Core group development and training is our most important "commodity", and we need to do a better job of strengthening this area of mission work.
- Continue to focus on how we can better transition and train our growing mission churches.
- Encourage DMBs to proactively communicate with their District President if they are having concerns that the missionary may not be the right guy.
- Recommend DMB chairman/members make themselves available to local Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) circuit meetings/rallies to be the focus of the rallies in fall '22 and/or spring '23 to communicate the initiative and their DMB pipeline, ways to support and get involved, etc.
- Continue to provide financial assistance to any mission effort seeking Praise and Proclaim training (this will require increased grant moneys to keep up with increased demand).
- Home Missions encourages DMBs to make use of Praise and Proclaim (in conjunction with Mission Journeys) at current home mission congregations and when exploring new mission fields and training core groups.





CONVENTION REPORT Summer 2022



Since 1993, WELS Church Extension Fund has been providing loans and grants to mission and mission-minded congregations so they can acquire land and ministry facilities to be used for gospel outreach.

HIGHLIGHTS of MINISTRY SUPPORT

- Over **2,900 WELS members, congregations, and affiliates** have entrusted WELS Church Extension Fund (WELS CEF) with **\$103.6 million** in member investments.
- In fiscal YTD 2021-22, \$18.8 million of new loans and \$2.4 million of new grant requests were approved.
- Since 1993, WELS CEF has provided **\$41.4 million of matching grants** to mission congregations and **\$11.0 million of special grants** to Home Missions.

All of this starts with our WELS congregations and members who invest in WELS Church Extension Fund. Your support is a tremendous blessing to God's kingdom.

LEARN MORE

If your congregation is thinking about a building project or land purchase, please consider applying for a loan through WELS CEF. Visit **wels.net/cef** or call **1-866-511-7793** to learn more.

The purchase of WELS CEF securities is subject to risks, which are described in our Offering Circular. The selected financial information above should be viewed in conjunction with our audited financial statements contained in the Offering Circular. The WELS CEF Offering Circular can be found online at wels.net/offering-circular. This is not an offer to sell, nor the solicitation to buy, our securities. We will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. WELS CEF certificates are unsecured general debt obligations. WELS CEF is not a bank or regulated financial institution. This offering is made solely by the Offering Circular.

Not FDIC or SIPC insured • Not a bank deposit • No WELS guarantee

Where investing in your future builds churches

WELS Church Extension Fund N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188 wels.net/cef • cef@wels.net • 1-866-511-7793





Pastors and congregations: How to share student information with WELS Campus Ministry

Why is it important to share the contact information for college students in my congregation with WELS Campus Ministry?

Almost every university in the United States and Canada has an assigned campus ministry contact pastor. Each contact pastor receives a list of WELS student that are attending their school. By sharing information with WELS Campus Ministry, these contact pastors know who the students are and can help them stay connected to Christ and strengthen their faith while at school.

What will WELS Campus Ministry do with this information?

WELS Campus Ministry will share the student's information with the contact pastor at their college or university. We will also periodically email students with requests for updated information and free subscription offers to *Forward in Christ* magazine and *Meditations* devotions (offered digitally and in print).

Who can share this contact information with WELS Campus Ministry?

Church employees and laypeople who are authorized to view and edit student information may do so by using the church's WELS Cloud account and credentials and following the steps below. Relatives of students can submit their student's information at <u>data.wels.net/CampusMinistry/CampusMinistry</u>.

Instructions:

Step One: Receive permission from the students to share their information with WELS Campus Ministry.

• Best practice: Send out an email/text/call to the graduating high school seniors at your congregation the summer after they graduate. Let them know that you plan to share their contact information with WELS Campus Ministry and explain why it's important.

Step Two: Go to "My WELS Cloud" (cloud.wels.net/my-wels-cloud/)

Step Three: Read the "Important Information" section. If you know your login information, select "Proceed to My WELS Cloud". If you need to reset your password or find your login information, click "Get Help."

Step Four: Once you're logged in, click "Campus Ministry Student Management" found in the center column under "Church."

• Campus Pastors: You will see a list of students attending your campus (or campuses). If you are a campus pastors and you have members of your church attending other campuses, you'll be able to toggle between the two lists using a link in the upper right area of the form.

Step Five: On the right-hand side of the page, click "View Home Congregation List".

Step Six: Add student information (by clicking the + on your left-hand side) and/or edit student information (by clicking the box to the left of the name then click the pencil icon next to the +). Information for the student's profile will appeal. Once finished adding/editing, click submit.

Step Seven: Repeat step five for all members who are college students.

WORLDMISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

"Like" the new WELS Missions Facebook page at **fb.com/WELSMissions**.

Pray for Ukraine: WELS members are giving generously to provide aid to and through members of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC), WELS' sister church in Ukraine, in the wake of the war. WELS has sent some of these donations to Direct Relief, an organization that provides immediate medical aid and supplies where they are needed most, but most of these gifts are sent directly to pastors or churches who help members and people in the community buy essentials. Most ULC congregations continue to hold worship, either in person or online, proclaiming the hope they have in Jesus. The ULC's bishop was even able to offer a brief devotion on Ukraine's National Radio that included reading John 3:16. Visit wels.net/ukraine for additional updates as they become available.



New chapter for Russian church: Missionary Luke Wolfgramm and his wife, Jennifer, left Russia and traveled to Albania four days after Russia invaded Ukraine. They have lived and served in Russia for the past 25 years. In his final days in the country, Wolfgramm was able to meet with church leaders to provide last-minute guidance and encouragement. WELS will continue to support the Russian church as it is able under current sanctions. The Wolfgramms will relocate to a new location in Europe to partner with Russia and other sister church bodies in their theological education and outreach efforts.



New connections in Myanmar: The Asia One Team has been in contact with leadership from a Lutheran church body in Myanmar after the group found Bible studies and sermons online from a WELS church in Wisconsin. Plans were being made to take teaching to the next level and proceed with conversations about fellowship when a coup began in January 2021. Since then, church members have been forced to scatter. Our missionaries have provided humanitarian aid in partnership with Christian Aid and Relief, and we pray conditions may improve enough for regular instruction to continue in the future.

Mission growth in Latin America: Due to the enormous growth stemming from *Academia Cristo* training efforts, the Latin America mission team has added five new missionaries to their team. This additional manpower will help follow up with contacts and continue training new Christians in grace-starved Latin America. In October 2021, WELS' sister churches throughout Latin America formed a new synod that

will allow these individual churches to do mission work and train pastors together. This new synod will also welcome any new churches formed out of *Academia Cristo* training efforts. Learn more about the growth in Latin America at **wels.net/latinamerica**.



WORLDMISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

Subscribe to weekly Missions Blogs at wels.net/subscribe.

Updates from Africa: Rev. Benjamin Foxen (Cross of Glory, Peoria, Ariz.) and Rev. Keegan Dowling (Abiding Word, Orleans, ON, Canada) recently accepted calls to serve as missionaries on the One Africa Team. Both will be moving to Lusaka, Zambia, in the upcoming months. Obadiah Lutheran Church in Uganda recently drafted a request for doctrinal unity/fellowship with WELS, which includes a summary of doctrine and practice and a report describing the relationship between their synod and WELS/One Africa Team. The prayer is that they will be brought into fellowship at the 2023 Synod Convention. Stay up to date on mission work in Africa by visiting **wels.net/africa**.

New gospel outpost in Brazil: Rev. Denício Godoy was ordained and commissioned by the Lutheran Church of Portugal as a missionary in Brazil in April 2022. Rev. Godoy connected online with Rev. Artur Villares from the Lutheran Church of Portugal, WELS' sister church, and took classes with him to be colloquized as a Confessional Lutheran pastor. Rev. Kenneth Cherney, Old Testament professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, provided support during that process. Rev. Godoy will begin outreach in Brazil as a mission arm of the Lutheran Church of Portugal, with support from the WELS Europe team and continued encouragement from Rev. Cherney. Learn more about the Lutheran Church of Portugal and how they came to connect with Pastor Godoy at **wels.net/portugal**.



New missionary to London and the U.K.:

Missionary Mike Hartman was commissioned as world missionary to London and the U.K. in February 2022. Since accepting the call, Hartman has taken multiple trips to London to meet the current core group, meet with members of other WELS' sister churches who have moved to the area, develop a full ministry plan, and explore housing and schooling options for his family. The Hartmans will be moving to London this summer. Continue to check on progress of this new mission field at **wels.net/london**.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We thank God for you! World Missions is grateful for the many, generous special gifts we receive throughout the year. Extraordinary things are happening all over the world every day. Your gift matters.

Please pray for the lost and consider how you can best make an impact on the millions of people who still need to hear the truth of the gospel. To give an immediate gift, go to **wels.net/wmgift**. Watch with us as the Holy Spirit changes earthly lives and opens the door to eternal life for our brothers and sisters around the world.



WELS CHRISTIAN AID AND RELIEF SPRING 2022 UPDATE

As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,

especially to those who belong to the family of believers. GALATIANS 6:10



Hein Completes Service as Chairman

On June 30, 2022, Pastor Robert Hein will finish his second of two terms as chairman of the WELS Christian Aid and Relief Commission. For 12 years Pastor Hein has guided the work of WELS CAR with wisdom, compassion, and a deep commitment to help those who are hurting. We thank Pastor Hein for his faithful service and wish him God's richest blessings in the future. Pastor Hein currently serves at Good Shepherd in West Bend, Wis.

New Grant Program Set to Begin

In spring of 2022, WELS Christian Aid and Relief will launch a new effort called the Community Care and Compassion Matching Grant Program. This annual program is designed to encourage more compassion ministry in the WELS by providing matching grants of up to \$2,500 to self-supporting WELS congregations who submit an approved plan to reach out with compassion in their communities. This grant can be used to support veterans who are struggling or victims of domestic violence. It can be used to encourage medical workers, police officers, fire fighters, and other first responders as they struggle through these difficult days. It can be used to help lonely seniors, underprivileged school children, or those who struggle with food insecurity. There are so many in need and so many ways to show compassion to them while also sharing with them the good news of our Savior. Watch for more information about this program in the near future!



WELS Christian Aid and Relief · daniel.sims@wels.net · 414-256-3204 N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive · Waukesha, WI 53188-1108



Disaster Relief Update

There seems to be no end to disasters in this broken world. WELS CAR views each one as an opportunity to help the hurting and reach out with the compassion of Christ.

WAUKESHA PARADE TRAGEDY

On Nov. 21, 2021, the driver of an SUV killed six people and injured sixty-two others by hitting participants and observers at the annual Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wis. In the aftermath of the tragedy WELS CAR partnered with Christian Family Solutions (CFS), a WELS-affiliated counseling service, to provide crisis counseling to those who witnessed this tragedy. Forty-two hours of Christ-centered counseling sessions were provided by a grant from WELS CAR. In addition, CFS staff provided an estimated 36 hours of consultation time with pastors, teachers, and other congregation, school, and community leaders to help guide psychological crisis response or provide other resources. We are grateful for our partnership with CFS and for the opportunity to work with them to assist those impacted by his horrific event.



KENTUCKY TORNADOES

On Dec. 10, 2021, a series of terrible tornadoes struck the south-central part of our nation killing at least 76 people and causing billions of dollars in damage. Thankfully, no WELS congregations or members were directly impacted by the

storms. Lack of a WELS congregation in the impacted area also means that we were unable to launch an on-site disaster relief effort. Instead, WELS CAR gave gifts totaling \$40,000 through Direct Relief, an organization that specializes in providing medical aid to those who need it.

COLORADO FIRES

On Dec. 30, 2021, hundreds of homes and other structures were lost as two wildfires swept through the Boulder, Colo., area. WELS CAR responded by providing a grant of \$2,500 to Peace Lutheran Church to assist those in need. The members of peace purchased and distributed gift cards for basic needs such as food, clothing, and lodging in the days immediately following the fire. They continue to look for ways to help the hurting. We thank Pastor Jason Thiel and the members of Peace for their compassionate efforts.

HURRICANE IDA

Hurricane Ida made landfall on the Gulf Coast way back on Aug. 29, 2021. However, WELS CAR continues to serve those impacted by the disaster. Most recently, volunteer teams traveled to

New Orleans to assist with repairs and roof replacement for several member families of Crown of Life Lutheran Church. Pastor Jonathan Kehl writes: "God never

leaves his people! He provides for our spiritual needs as well as our daily needs. He has given us a church body equipped with gifts and talents he uses to care for his people, and it's evident in the recovery of our city. Thank you for your eagerness in serving us in our time of need!"

Need a Preacher or Presenter?

Would you like to learn more about this vital ministry of compassion? Preachers and presenters are available for your church, school, or group. To request a speaker, go to **wels.net/relief** and fill out the speaker request form, or contact Pastor Dan Sims.

To learn more, make a donation, or volunteer, visit wels.net/relief and like us on Facebook at fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief.

If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact director Rev. Daniel Sims.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief · daniel.sims@wels.net · 414-256-3204 N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive · Waukesha, WI 53188-1108







MLC REPORT 2021-2022 SEMESTER TWO

ENROLLMENT

633 Undergraduates on campus

Representing **31** states and **7** countries



MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Part-time and full-time students

EDUCATION		PRESEMINARY	
104	Includes Staff Ministry First-year	2	Year of graduation 2025-26
107	Sophomore	42	2024-25
105	Junior	46	2023-24
104	Senior	38	2022-23
	Fifth-year	47	2021-22
7	Other	175	Total
458	Total		lotui

DECEMBER GRADUATES

7 Bachelor of Science in Education

- **Bachelor of Science**
- **Bachelor of Arts**
- 1 Assignment
- 0 Emergency Calls

CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER GRANT PROGRAM

569 Students supported269 Congregations participating

\$537,000 Given by congregations

Statistics demonstrate our need to match about \$500,000 in CPGP congregational gifts every year.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

73 ECE program students

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

- 78 Children
 - 4 Lead teachers
 - **7** Student teachers
 - 1 Director
 - **6** Staff



CONTINUING ED / GRADUATE STUDIES

- **312** Continuing Education students
- **145** Graduate Studies students
 - **13** MA Theological Studies
 - **55** MS Educational Admin
 - 40 Principal
 - **13** ECE Director
 - 2 Technology Director



- 77 MS Education 29 Instruction
 - 17 Leadership 18 Special Ed
 - 13 Ed Tech

NEW TEACHER INDUCTION

- **214** Beginning Teachers
- 148 Schools
- 148 Mentors







SPRING COLLEGE CHOIR TOUR

February 25 – March 6

The MLC College Choir looks forward to sharing God's Word in song in the Great Plains and South Central US this spring. Concerts are planned for South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Nebraska. Please plan to attend a concert near you, or follow the choir on Facebook to see videos from the concerts and stories from the students.

Visit **mlc-wels.edu/go/choir-tour** for more information.

NEW FACES COMING TO CAMPUS

The MLC campus family is thankful that the Lord is leading many talented servants to join our ministry at MLC. We will pray for those who will be considering additional positions on our campus this coming semester, and we pray for the many ministries that hope to fill vacancies soon. At the time of this report, the following people will be joining us on campus in 2022:

Melissa Berg - Director of Early Childhood Learning Center Isaiah Degner – Professor of Spanish Heath Dobberpuhl – Professor of Science Kayte Gut – Professor of Early Childhood Education Rachel Youngblom – Professor of Special Education

SAVE THE DATE - MLC DAY IS MAY 4!

Promote and celebrate ministerial education by <u>hosting an MLC Day</u> in your congregation!

Anytime between now and May 4:

Photograph your school, class, or faculty creating an MLC greeting.

Videotape an MLC shout-out, song, or skit.

Write a prayer for our students and staff.

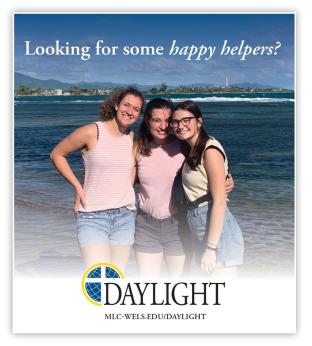
Share all of these with us by email or Facebook.

Gather an offering for your College of Ministry. Your gifts on MLC Day will help fund the Congregational Partner Grant Matching Fund, directly supporting MLC students.

Find more ideas at mlcday.com.

On MLC Day, May 4, we'll have a grand unveiling of all the schools' and congregations' prayers, posts, shout-outs, and songs!





DAYLIGHT – SERVING YOUR MINISTRIES!

The MLC Daylight Office coordinated the services of Hannah Westra, Emily Raymond, and Alaina Wiedoff for a Christmas break service project in Puerto Rico. This crew is working with Mi Dios Verdadero Lutheran Church in Guayama, Puerto Rico, to promote Academia Cristo, an outreach program for all of Latin America.

If you would like MLC students to support your ministry during their spring or summer break, contact MLC's Daylight Office at **daylight@mlc-wels.edu**.

If you have any questions related to this report or other matters related to our ministry, contact us at **mlcinfo@mlc-wels.edu**. Martin Luther College • 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073 • 507.354.8221 • mlc-wels.edu



MS in Education–Special Education

with optional MN Learning Disabilities Licensure

"When parents choose our schools for the Christian education of their children, we want to meet their children's needs with fully qualified and licensed teachers who are ready to collaborate with a team in support of their children."

Professor Kelli Green



Choose the Program That's Right for You

For Special Education Teachers Learning Disabilities Licensure

This option provides a complete training, preparing you to become a K-12 special education teacher with licensure for mild to moderate learning disabilities. Upon completion of this program, you will have the option of earning a Minnesota LD license (transferable to your home state).

This program is for you if you want to ...

- Recognize and serve the types of learning disabilities common in Lutheran Schools,
- Coordinate and provide special education services for all students,
- Collaborate professionally with school and community partners,
- Implement and monitor student IEPs/ISPs, and
- Ensure all students in the Lutheran School succeed.

For General Classroom Teachers MS in Education—Special Ed Emphasis

The non-license option is ideal for you if you're a general classroom teacher who wants to better undertand and serve your at-risk students and provide a more inclusive education environment for students with disabilities.

This program is for you if you want to ...

- Recognize and serve a range of student exceptionalities in your classroom,
- Successfully navigate the referral process,
- Implement accommodations in your classroom,
- Address reading and math delays,
- Serve students with learning disabilities,
- Help students with emotional/behavioral disorders be successful, and
- Create and teach lessons that help all students learn.

Our professors understand your needs and challenges as educators in Lutheran schools across the nation, and they embed practical applications in every course. Learn a new strategy today and apply it in your classroom tomorrow!

For More Information About Our Master's Programs, Visit mlc-wels.edu/graduate-studies/degrees/

Martin Luther College an accredited institution of higher learning

1.507.354.8221 or graduatestudies@mlc-wels.edu mlc-wels.edu/graduate-studies



CONTINUING EDUCATION MLC—Your Partner in Ministry

Interested in Taking a Course This Summer?

CONVENIENT

PRACTICAL

We Have a Variety of Courses for All Areas of Ministry

- Early Childhood
- Educational Technology
- Graduate Studies
- Instruction
- Leadership
- Post-Baccalaureate Licensure
- Ministry Certification
- Special Education



AFFORDABLE

Webinars for \$20 Micro-Credentials for \$50 Courses for Clock Hours for \$160/12.5 clock hours

- Continuing Ed Courses for Credit
 - 1000- to 4000-level courses for \$375/credit
 - 5000- to 6000-level courses for \$325/credit
 - 8000- to 9000-level courses for \$320/credit

Join the Fun—Attend a Summer Satellite Course



ANTIOCH IL EDU8103 Developing Home & School Relationships C Loomis Jun 27 - 28 Faith LES - Antioch IL

MORTON GROVE ILEDU8101 Intellectual, Social, & Emotional DevelopmentJ SallquistJun 16 - 17Jerusalem LES - Morton Gr IL

APPLETON WIEDU9550 Teaching the Way People LearnP TessJun 27 - 28Mt Olive LES - Appleton WI

EAU CLAIRE WIEDU8205 Teaching Writing in the Elementary SchoolP GrubbsJun 9 - 10St Mark LES - Eau Claire WI

FOND DU LAC WI

EDU8205 Teaching Writing in the Elementary SchoolP GrubbsJun 6 - 7Faith LES - Fond du Lac WI

MEDFORD WI EDU8538 Standards-Based Assessments C Whaley Jun 27 - 28 Immanuel LES - Medford WI

MILWAUKEE WI EDU9540 Principles of Christian Education R Klindworth Jun 6 - 17 Wis LHS - Milwaukee WI

OAKFIELD WI EDU8535 The Role of Grammar in a Balanced Language Arts Curriculum J Roux May 31 - Jun 1 St Luke LES - Oakfield WI

WATERTOWN WI EDU8538 Standards-Based Assessments R Rathje Jun 27 - 28 St Mark's LES - Watertown WI

EDU9509 STEM in Lutheran Schools J Carlovsky Jun 8 - 9 St Mark's LES - Watertown WI

ENG8602 Building and Maintaining Relationships A Robinson Jun 13 - 14 St Mark's LES - Watertown WI

NEW!! SPE9503 Serving Exceptional Students:
Trauma-Informed Christian SchoolsK GreenJun 15 - 17St Mark's LES - Watertown WI

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER COURSES BEGINS FEBRUARY 15!

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY A Ministerial Prep School of the WELS

SNAPSHOT SPRING 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Construction is always exciting. Last summer we saw the completion of our new press box and concession stand for our athletic events. Every day through my classroom window I would take note of the progress. First the foundation. Then the framing. Then the roof. The more it changed from day to day the more exciting it was to imagine our fans enjoying the finished project.

I will admit, though, that there were days that were less than stimulating. The days when the electrical was being installed there was not much happening to the untrained eye. When the plumbing was occupying days worth of work, the progress seemed almost non-existent. But how necessary those days were!

"Who despises a day of small things?" Zechariah 4:10a Those were the words of the Lord to Zerubbabel during the rebuilding of the temple. The temple that they were rebuilding was "small" by comparison to Solomon's that had been ruined. It was a real temptation to be frustrated when progress was minimal, and results were seemingly insignificant. But those days of small accomplishments were necessary for larger ones.

It has always been a temptation for the church to be frustrated by small numbers and even smaller progress. It is the devil's tool to see our collective work as small or insignificant on the global scale. Eleven disciples sent into a world that needed to hear the Gospel did not seem like enough. 300 of Gideon's men were certainly too small a number to defend Israel's honor against the Midianites.

There is that same temptation when we consider ministerial education today. A ministerial education school of less than 200 is (too) small. A class of 26 men from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is too few to meet the needs of the church.

When building we must remember that there are days of small things. Small words of encouragement can build bigger confidence. A small word of forgiveness may be life-saving water for a dying soul. A small school of teenagers knit together like a family can be built, by God's grace, into a great army of witnesses for the Lord.

How dare we despise the days of small blessings? What might look small or insignificant can, in the hands of our God, become great opportunities.

#smallschooladvantage bigschoolopportunity

Loving and serving Him,

Mart Jer

Rev. Mark Luetzow, President

MISSION SEMINAR

In early February, the Seminary Family was blessed with the opportunity to learn more about WELS World Missions. Missionary *Mike Hartman* was on campus to share with the faculty and the students the gospel mission work being done in Latin America. He specifically told how their team is using technology to reach multitudes of people in many countries. Between his presentations, students met in small groups with individual faculty members to discuss this mission work and mission work in general. Missionary Hartman sparked many wonderful conversations about how the gospel of Jesus Christ is being spread in foreign lands. The day concluded with our MLS international students presenting about their homelands of China, Korea, and Germany. Sharing their experiences from back home was a great way for all of our students to see how the Word of God connects believers around the world.





David, Bejing, China

WAKEFIELD TAKES 6TH IN STATE



Junior, Evan Wakefield, placed 6th (189lb) in the MHSAA Div. 4 wrestling finals.

www.mlsem.org

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

At the beginning of the school year we set a goal to have 20+ endowed scholarships to support MLS students who will continue their education at MLC. Our hope is two-fold: 1) that these scholarships will lessen the student debt of MLS students who pursue the public ministry, and 2) that the scholarships will be a source of encouragement for current and future MLS students that their alma mater will continue to support them even after their graduation. As we near the close of the school year we are confident that we will reach that goal. If you have an interest in establishing a new scholarship or supporting one of our current ones, please contact Pres. Mark Luetzow (mtl@mlsem.org).



ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

The MLS football team was recently named Academic All-State for the 2021 season. Each year the Michigan High School Football



Coaches Association awards All-State honors to four teams in each of the nine playoff divisions with the highest team GPA.





After a two year break, the MLS summer camps will be back in full swing this June! The various overnight and day camps emphasize teamwork, fundamentals, and skills for a variety of sports and activities in a positive, Christian environment. Campers also become familiar with the MLS campus and get to know new friends and future classmates. MLS Junior Autumn Wakefield thought back to her camp years and remarked, *"Honestly, the most fun part was running around campus with everyone after the camp was done for the day. I mean, that's where I met most of my future teammates."*

Visit misem.org/summercamps for more information and to register your child.



2022-23 APPLICATION UPDATE

It's not too late to apply to be a member of the Class of 2026!

We're excited to surpass our goal of 60 applicants! The application process takes less than 10 minutes and there is no application fee.

Go to mlsem.org and click on "Apply." We're excited to welcome all our new Cardinals!

Camp	Grades	Dates
Boys Basketball	5-9	June 13-15
Boys Football	7-9	June 15-17
Co-ed Fine Arts*	3-6	June 16-17
Father/Son Football	4-6	June 17-18
Girls Basketball	5-9	June 19-21
Girls Volleyball	5-9	June 21-22

*Fine Arts Camp is a day camp. All others are supervised overnight camps in the MLS dorm.



MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

2777 Hardin Street Saginaw, MI 48602 Phone: 989.793.1010 Fax: 989.401.7334



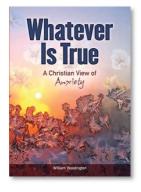
www.mlsem.org



God's Word for My Life

Visit us online at nph.net

Resources to Recommend to Those Facing Challenges



Although books on anxiety can be found anywhere, most of them tell the sufferer to help themselves. Written by William Woodington, **Whatever Is True: A Christian View of Anxiety** helps readers accept, rejoice in, and persevere through anxiety while leaning on God's Word. Softcover, 109 pages. <u>C1201814</u> - **\$12.99**

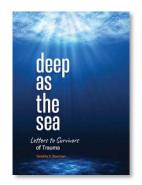
Purposeful Grieving: Embracing God's Plan in the Midst of Loss by Dr. Stacy E. Hoehl walks readers through the grieving process in 56 comforting devotions. Each devotion concludes with a prayer and two journaling questions. Softcover, 141 pages. <u>C0600764</u> - **\$12.99**

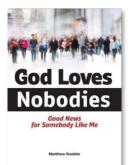




DISCOVERING YOUR ROLE in an EPIC Story **Your Life Has Meaning: Discovering Your Role in an Epic Story** addresses nihilism and other popular secular philosophies of our age. Pastor Luke Thompson invites readers, especially those in college, to view their lives as God does—full of meaning and created for his glory. Softcover, 155 pages. <u>C1500829</u> - **\$17.99**

NEW Deep as the Sea: Letters to Survivors of Trauma is a collection of letters addressed to those who have experienced a traumatic event or series of tragedies. Filled with empathy and spiritual wisdom, this book by Pastor Timothy Bourman helps believers find refuge in God and a new sense of purpose. Softcover, 117 pages. <u>C1201815</u> - \$13.99

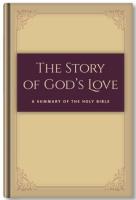


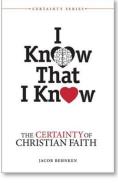


COMING SOON It's easy for believers to spend life pursuing worth through what they do and how much they achieve. **God Loves Nobodies: Good News for Somebody Like Me** by Pastor Matthew Doebler offers gospel-centered hope using biblical examples and humorous pop culture references. **Preorder copies for your members!** Softcover, 186 pages. <u>C1500834</u> - **\$18.99** *Available Summer 2022*

Resources to Recommend to Those New to the Faith

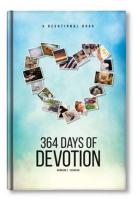
Reading the entire Bible can feel overwhelming for new believers. **The Story of God's Love** presents the full picture of God's salvation plan through select Bible readings in a simple, continuous account that draws from the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV). Its brief introductions, 250 easy-to-follow reading sections, and more will help new believers follow the revelation of God's love for them throughout Scripture. Hardcover, 388 pages. <u>C0105005</u> - **\$21.99**

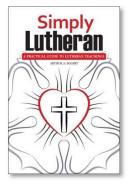




Many new Christians wonder, "How do I know my faith is genuine? How much belief is enough?" *I Know That I Know: The Certainty of Christian Faith* explores the biblical definition of faith and its relationship to important Christian topics, including good works and emotions. Softcover, 97 pages. <u>C1500800</u> - \$12.99

364 Days of Devotion: A Devotional Book offers a simple way for families and individuals to cultivate a devotional habit. Pastor Andrew C. Schroer engaging anecdotes and relatable life scenarios that point to what God reveals about himself in the Bible. Over the course of a year, readers will recognize God's love for them. Hardcover, 713 pages. <u>C0600767</u> - **\$29.99**



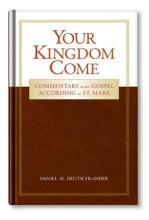


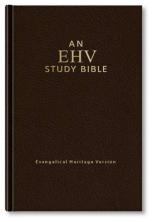
Simply Lutheran: A Practical Guide to Lutheran Teachings by

Arthur A. Eggert provides an ideal starting point for those wanting to understand the central topics of Lutheranism. This book presents a simple yet solid summary of Lutheran doctrine regarding the Bible, God's plan of salvation, and life in the church. Softcover, 325 pages. **C1500827** - **\$20.99**

Resources to Recommend for Encouraging Spiritual Growth

Written by Professor Daniel Deutschlander as one of his final works, **Your Kingdom Come: Commentary on the Gospel According to St. Mark** shares comprehensive and thought-provoking explanations of St. Mark's gospel, plus helpful cross references to the gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John, plus an appendix on *The Theology of the Cross*. Hardcover, 628 pages. <u>C1500833</u> - \$44.99





Featuring the text of the Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV), **An EHV Study Bible** offers thorough

historical and cultural explanations of Scripture from confessional Lutheran experts to help readers let Scripture interpret Scripture. This comprehensive study Bible also includes:

- Footnotes with alternate viable words or phrases
- Alternate Greek and Hebrew readings of the text
- Extra-biblical historical, geographic, and archaeologic information
- Maps, charts, timelines, and more

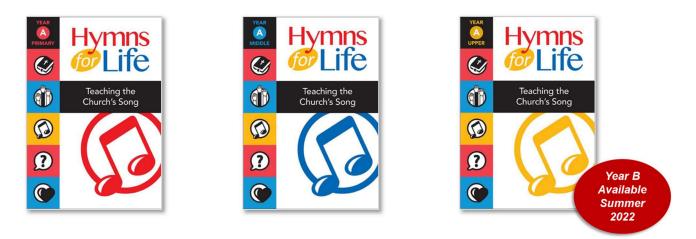
An EHV Study Bible will enrich believers' understanding of the context of biblical events and help them appreciate the significance of those events. Hardcover, 2,158 pages. <u>C0105004</u> - **\$59.99**

Forward in Christ magazine supports the ministry of pastors today by serving as a tool to encourage the faith of those they serve throughout the week.

Forward in Christ includes Bible studies, real life stories of faith that your members can relate to, and content that addresses timely and often tough topics from a confessional Lutheran perspective. It provides content that is relevant to your members' lives, deepens their biblical understanding, and empowers them to defend their faith.

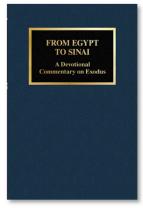


When you subscribe your congregation for the first 12 months, you will save **10% off** current bulk rates, a savings of up to **75% off** the cover price. **C931010**

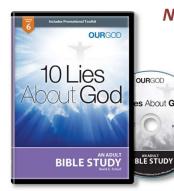


Introduced for this past school year, **Hymns for Life** Year A will soon be joined by Year B for the 2022-2023 school year. *Hymns for Life* is a three-year, multileveled hymnology curriculum for Lutheran elementary schools. Through the curriculum, students study 90 hymns while learning about each hymn's background and connection to their faith in Christ. The companion resource, <u>Hymn Sheets and</u> <u>Lyrics</u>, offers downloadable files of every hymn for use in digital presentations. Learn more at <u>nph.net/hymnsforlife</u>.

COMING SOON From Egypt to Sinai: A Devotional Commentary on Exodus by Paul Meitner connects the Israelites' journey through the wilderness to the Christian's daily struggle to trust in God alone. This devotional commentary will deepen the faith of believers through deepening their knowledge and appreciation of God's plan of salvation through millennia and in their lives today. Hardcover, 312 pages. **C1500835** Available Fall 2022



Customizable Bible Studies for Large and Small Groups



NEW 10 Lies About God tackles common false teachings that easily distort Christians' beliefs, such as "God just wants me to be happy" and "A God of love wouldn't send people to hell." This ten-lesson Bible study by David G. Scharf will equip your members to address these subtle errors with God's Word. Teaching Index: 6. CD or Download. <u>C2201193</u> - \$59.99

on Lutherans today. Teaching Index: 4. CD or Download. <u>C2201204</u> – **\$24.99**

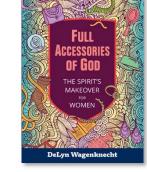
Here We Stand: The Legacy of Worms, 500 Years Later explores four foundational truths Luther stood for: grace, the royal priesthood of believers, Scripture alone, and serving others in Christian freedom. Based on the short film, *Here We Stand*, the study revisits Luther's famous stand at Worms and its impact



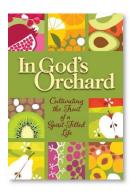
Their Conflict With Jesus Irreconcilable answers the questions,
"Who were the Pharisees and why did they oppose Jesus so vehemently?" This Bible study by Gary P. Baumler also reveals the dangers of self-righteousness both in Jesus' time and today among believers. Participants will learn that without relying on God's grace, Christians risk rejecting their Savior's work in favor of their own moralistic standards—just like the Pharisees. Teaching Index:
6. C2201201 - Printed booklet and C2201202E - Leader's Guide download. Available Summer 2022

Trustworthy Bible Studies for Women

Full Accessories of God: The Spirit's Makeover for Women explores the well-known armor of God verses in Ephesians 6:10-17. This convenient Bible study book by DeLyn Wagenknecht offers five daily personal readings and a closing section for group discussions. Teaching Index: 3. Softcover, 130 pages. <u>C1201801</u> - **\$14.99**



BIBLE STUDY



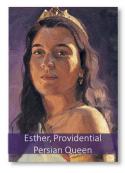
A Study of the Pharisees and Their Conflict with

> Written by six Christian women, *In God's Orchard: Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life*, focuses on the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22,23. Participants will learn how God nurtures each fruit through the gospel, how the sinful nature impacts them, and how Jesus demonstrated all of them perfectly.

Teaching Index: 4. Softcover, 114 pages. C2201198 - \$14.99

My 180: Loving God More follows its author Angie Molkentin as she seeks to grow in her understanding of God's love and helps her readers do the same through an active prayer life, regular Bible study, and spiritual role models. Softcover, 135 pages. <u>C1201810</u> - **\$15.99**

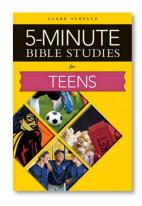


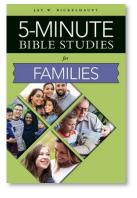


COMING SOON Esther: Providential Persian Queen by Lou Ann Mokwa invites women to rely on God's grace even in troubling circumstances and consider their role as Christ's ambassadors. These eight short lessons feature an opening prayer, references to other parts of Scripture, and thoughtful study and discussion questions. This study works well for personal and small group use whether in-person or online! **C2201205** *Available Fall 2022*

Bible Studies for Individuals

5-Minute Bible Studies: For Teens helps teens and young adults spend time in God's Word even with a full schedule of school and other activities. Featuring three messages each week for a full year, this book will help readers recharge with thoughtful questions, uplifting prayers, and relevant topics. Softcover, 160 pages. <u>C2201196</u> - \$15.99

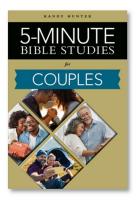




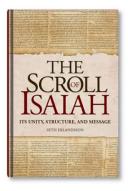
In **5-Minute Bible Studies: For Families**, Pastor Jay W. Bickelhaupt offers brief, insightful devotions to keep families connected to God and his Word throughout the week. Each of the 156 readings features thought-provoking questions and a short prayer to help families grow in faith and in their desire to serve their Savior. Softcover, 158 pages. <u>C2201195</u> - **\$15.99**

COMING SOON 5-Minute Bible Studies: For Couples helps

husbands and wives grow closer to God and each other. Written for married couples to help them grow comfortable with discussing and applying God's Word together, this book offers three studies each week for a full year. This new addition to the series provides a great resource to give newlywed couples following marriage counseling. Softcover. **C2201194** Available Fall 2022

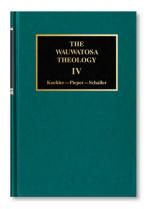


For Our Pastors

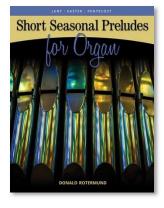


The Scroll of Isaiah: Its Unity, Structure, and Message is a onevolume commentary written by Dr. Seth Erlandsson, a well-published former Director of the Bible Research Centre of the Biblicum Foundation. Dr. Erlandsson focuses on the main topics of Isaiah, the overall structure of the book, misguided theories from modern scholars, and Isaiah's unity in authorship, audience, and message. Hardcover, 307 pages. <u>C1500830</u> - **\$39.99**

COMING SOON The Wauwatosa Theology, Volume IV continues the collection of German literary work from J.P. Koehler, August Pieper, and John Schaller to help mature and new pastors grow in their theological understanding and spiritual lives. This volume provides interesting insights into American Lutheranism at its watershed. All but one of the featured essays have never before been published in English. Hardcover. **C1500675** Available Fall 2022

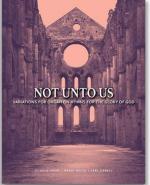


Worship Resources — Keyboard Sheet Music



Short Seasonal Preludes for Organ: Lent, Easter, Pentecost features familiar hymns for Lent, Easter, and Pentecost with these fughetta-style arrangements for organ. 52 pages. <u>C2700091</u>, **\$25.00**

Not unto Us: Variations for Organ on Hymns for the Glory of God features variations on five hymns glorifying God, including "All Glory Be to God on High" and



the new hymn "Before the Throne of God Above." 44 pages. **C2700088**, **\$23.00**

NEW Six Hymn Consolations by Raymond Haan features six short preludes of well-known hymns for funerals, meditative services, and general use from the Lent, Easter, Redeemer, and Hope and Comfort sections of *Christian Worship: Hymnal* for organ. 24 pages. **C2700090**, **\$19.00**

Worship Resources — Choral Music

NEW This choral arrangement of **I Run to Christ** by Chris Anderson and Greg Habegger introduces a hymn that is new to *Christian Worship: Hymnal* with piano and optional violin accompaniment. 12 pages. **C2806167**, **\$2.25**

NEW Composed by Aaron Keyes and Stuart Townend and arranged by Lynn L. Petersen, **My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone** is a comforting piece based on Psalm 62 that features cello and violin parts (available as downloads) along with optional congregational singing. 24 pages. **C2806166**, **\$2.75**

NEW Arranged by Linda Moeller for two-part equal voices, **O God, Be Gracious** features an optional C instrument part and congregational singing. This simple children's choral piece is a metric paraphrase of Psalm 4 that thanks God for his grace and protection. Download only, 9 pages. <u>C2809080E</u>, **\$11.95**

Christian Worship Resources



Christian Worship: Hymnal pairs past traditions with the best from new materials to foster joyful worship, prayer, and praise. Featuring over 600 hymns, three setting options for the order of service, and rites, devotions, and canticles, this hymnal feels both familiar and fresh. Hardcover, 1,050 pages. <u>C0303040</u> - **\$24.00**

Christian Worship: Psalter features the full text of all 150 psalms, at least two musical settings for each psalm, and more to widen the variety of options for worship services. Hardcover, 860 pages. **C0303043** - **\$22.00**





Designed to assist keyboardists, these volumes contain all of the essential accompaniment scores needed for congregational worship:

Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Services Spiralbound, 592 pages. <u>C0303045</u> - \$40.00

Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Hymns, Volumes 1, 2, and 3 Spiralbound, 1,547 pages. <u>C0303044</u> - **\$105.00**

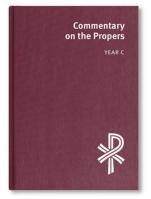
Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Psalter, Volumes 1 and 2 Spiralbound, 1,170 pages. <u>C0303046</u> - **\$70.00**



Christian Worship: Altar Book provides pastors with all of the most commonly used orders of service and necessary resources for leading congregations in worship. Hardcover, 405 pages. **C0303051** - **\$100.00**

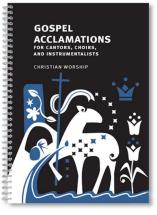
Christian Worship: Agenda contains special occasional rites and services that are not found in the Pew Edition or Altar Book, including installations of called workers, new member reception, and building dedication. Hardcover, 149 pages. <u>C0303052</u> - **\$50.00**





Christian Worship: Commentary on the Propers, Year C provides pastors and other worship planners with commentary on lectionary elements, including prayers of the day; Gospel Acclamations; and Old Testament, epistle, and gospel readings. Hardcover, 377 pages. <u>C0303049</u> - **\$50.00**

Christian Worship: Gospel Acclamations for Cantors, Choirs, and Instrumentalists provides the alleluia refrain melody, guitar chords, and full chant harmonization for all the proper verses of the Gospel Acclamations for Years A, B, and C from the lectionary. Spiral bound, 183 pages. <u>C0303066</u> - **\$20.00**

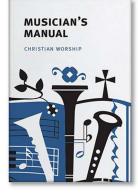




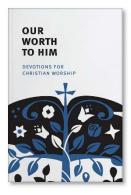
NEW Christian Worship: Planning Guide features a complete Scripture index of 18,000 entries for hymns and hymn suggestions for each Sunday, festival, and appointed lesson, to help pastors and planners outline church services efficiently. Spiralbound. **C0303053** - **\$35.00**

NEW Christian Worship: Pastor's Companion helps pastors minister outside the sanctuary, in places such as private homes or hospitals, and includes a number of intercessory prayers. Pastors can keep this convenient collection of rites in a vehicle or bag for any situation. Hardcover. <u>C0303054</u> - **\$55.00** Available Fall 2022





NEW Christian Worship: Musician's Manual is a helpful aid for musicians and other worship leaders that explains the history, practices, and meanings behind Christian worship as these topics relate to Christian worship principles, the church year, the Divine Service, worship arts, and more. **Encourage your musicians to preorder a copy!** Softcover. **C0303057 - \$30.00** *Available 2023*



Our Worth to Him: Devotions for Christian Worship is a collection of brief daily devotions by Pastor Mark Paustian that explore the purpose of worship, the meanings of worship service aspects, and what truly takes places as believers gather in God's house. As you read, you will gain a fresh understanding of the church year, the sacraments, the worship space, and much more. <u>C0303058</u> - **\$15.00**

COMING SOON Christian Worship: Foundations is a pastor's manual that reviews Bible-based worship principles, practical insights on the use of music and the arts, and commentary for all services in *Christian Worship: Hymnal* and *Christian Worship: Agenda*. **Preorder your copy today!** Spiralbound. **C0303055 -\$35.00**

View all available *Christian Worship* Hymnal Suite volumes at **<u>nph.net/hymnorder</u>**.

Thank you for your continued support of your synod's publishing house. As our way of saying thank you, here is a special coupon for you! Use it on your next NPH purchase online at **nph.net** or over the phone at **800-662-6022**.



Prices are subject to change without notice. All orders are subject to shipping, handling, and sales tax where applicable.

www.nph.net



Our Calling

The Commission on Worship (C/W) exists to help parishes in their central activity of worship that glorifies God and strengthens his people. Music and liturgy consume much of the commission's time, but "worship" includes far more: an interest in the style, the forms, and the setting of worship; in preaching; in liturgical orders and rites; in church music for the congregation, choir, soloists and instruments; in architecture and ecclesiastical arts.

Worship is the heart of all parish life, the time when the greatest number of members gathers to proclaim the gospel and receive God's life-giving power in Word and sacrament. Worship is also a congregation's key point of contact with guests.

If you have never explored the work of the Commission on Worship, you can get a good idea its scope by reviewing content at the Congregational Services website as well as the older Commission on Worship website (above), which still contains the greatest amount of Worship content.

Our Current Situation

Hymnal Project

Most members of the C/W in recent years have been preoccupied with the WELS hymnal project and its several ancillary volumes. This massive project receives only brief mention here since many details about the new hymnal "suite of resources" are available at <u>christianworship.com</u>. This website also gives details about video and other resources designed to help individuals and congregations



explore and introduce the new hymnal. These resources were planned for congregations that have already decided to purchase the new hymnal, for those still exploring, and for those who do not expect to begin the process until sometime in the future.

NPH began taking pre-orders in early 2021. Congregations that placed orders before the middle of June received hymnals in fall. In the summer of 2021 the Hymnal Introduction Program in cooperation with "The Foundation" from Congregational Services, released various resources to assist with long range worship planning. These included the new lectionary, hymn suggestions, and plans for both a cautious and a more ambitious introduction of new musical materials. The goal with these plans was to allow each congregation to decide how and when to best use new materials without overtaxing worshipers or accompanists.

The new hymnal suite of resources is available here: <u>online.nph.net/church-supplies/categories/hymnals-songbooks/christian-worship-suite.</u>

As of the end of March 2022, more than half of WELS congregations had begun using new hymnal resources, and more than 400 congregations had subscribed to the *Service Builder* program. For a variety of reasons, adoption of the new hymnal is not expected to be as rapid as adoption of the 1993 hymnal. But thus far adoption of both the hymnal and *Service Builder* are well above projections.

A soft launch of *Musician's Resource* is planned for spring of 2022. This initial release focuses on public domain materials, providing a wide variety of musical scores.

Congregational Services Resource Center

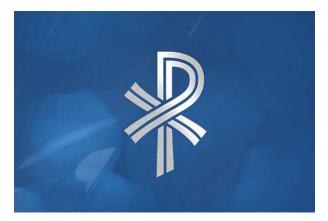
In addition to new hymnal content at <u>christianworship.com</u>, other resources are available at <u>welscongregationalservices.net/hymnal-introduction-resources</u>. These include several video presentations and study packages, introductory scripts, a hymnal dedication rite, and hymn sing and concert videos.

Two of the newest resources are:

- "Just starting to explore the new hymnal?" available under More Resources at <u>welscongregationalservices.net/hymnal-introduction-resources</u>. This can be especially helpful for a congregation or individual just now starting to explore the new hymnal suite of resources.
- Service Builder orientation videos available at the website above. Beginning in April a series of tightly scripted videos is being posted. These complement the earlier and longer webinars available at <u>online.nph.net/servicebuilder</u>.

An ongoing feature that began in February of 2022 is "Hymnal Highlights." These provide commentary and recordings of new hymns that congregations may share by email or social media. The goal is to boost familiarity with and appreciation of the new hymns. The hymns selected are chosen from suggestions in the Year C Planner (available at "The Foundation").

The C/W office also partnered with WELS Communications to feature during Lent 2022 videos based on "The Seven Words" (CW 436). All seven videos plus two versions of all stanzas in sequence are available here <u>forwardinchrist.net/videos</u> (as well as WELS Facebook).





A Look Ahead

In addition to ongoing resources related to release of the new WELS hymnal, future C/W activity includes:

Beginning in spring of 2022 both *Preach the Word* and *Worship the Lord* will focus on a variety of outreach themes—preaching that raises outreach culture and encourages personal witnessing, and "worship and outreach" stories from a variety of congregations.

The next national worship conference: as of this writing, a date has not been set, whether in 2023 or 2024.

For additional information, contact Rev. Bryan Gerlach, 414-256-3265 or bryan.gerlach@wels.net.

Rev. Bryan Gerlach, reporter

Rev. Jon Zabell, chairman, Green Bay, WI Rev. Jason Hacker, secretary, Waukesha, WI Rev. Jacob Behnken, Midland, MI Mr. Harvey Dunn, Loveland, CO Teacher Michael Marquardt, St. Paul, MN

Advisory:

Rev. Bryan Gerlach, director Mr. Jeremy Bakken, Northwestern Publishing House Prof. Aaron Christie, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Prof. Craig Hirschmann, MLC, New Ulm, MN Rev. Michael Schultz, Hymnal Project Director





Product Overview







WELS Commission on Evangelism District Convention Update - 2022

Everyone Outreach

Everyone Outreach is a program designed to help congregations build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is thinking about and participating in outreach. The program kicks off with a two-day workshop where participants discover thought habits that may be keeping them and their congregation from reaching out with the gospel as well and as often as they would like. Following the workshop, resources are provided that help create new thought habits resulting in new behaviors and, Lord willing, more outreach.

171 congregations have expressed interest in the program. 10 workshops were held in the Fall of 2021. 27 were held January–May of 2022. 18 workshop facilitators were trained in August 2021, and another 20 were trained in January 2022.

Learn more about Everyone Outreach at www.everyoneoutreach.com

Congregational Evangelism Kit

The *Congregational Evangelism Kit* provides video-based training for congregational evangelism leaders and teams. It explains the importance and implementation of tools such as:

- creating a prospect database
- capturing prospect information
- creating a welcoming worship atmosphere
- Come and Go strategies

A pastor or evangelism team can work through the kit, putting each tool in place and, when finished, have all the basic evangelism elements functioning.

The Congregational Evangelism Kit is available at https://welscongregationalservices.net

One by One

This Bible study is based on Pastor David Rosenau's keynote presentation at the WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership in January of 2020. Using powerful personal stories and drawing from his wealth of experience both as a detective and a parish pastor, Pastor Rosenau helps Christians understand why it is so important to see every soul as a treasure and why we want to be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to share the gospel with each one.

One by One is available at https://welscongregationalservices.net



Let's Go!

This Bible study provides online, video-based personal witness training. It teaches a simple, three-part approach that any Christian can put into practice. 1) Love the unchurched people God has brought into your life. 2) Listen carefully to their thoughts, beliefs, concerns, etc. 3) Lead them to the gospel. *Let's Go* can be used by both large and small group Bible studies as well as by individual Christians.

Let's Go is available at https://welscongregationalservices.net

In Season and Out of Season

This Bible study, based on the Apostle Paul's evangelism experiences in the city of Philippi, seeks to encourage and equip God's people to share the gospel in any and every situation. The three-lesson, video-based bible study can be used in large or small group settings.

In Season and Out of Season is available at www.welscongregationalservices.net.

Christmas Eve and Easter Resources

The Commission on Evangelism provides outreach resources for Christmas Eve and Easter as part of the Congregational Services resource called *The Foundation*. The resources include graphics, a promotional video, postcards, and more.

You can access resources for Easter outreach at <u>https://welscongregationalservices.net</u> under *The Foundation*.

WhatAboutJesus.com

<u>WhatAboutJesus.com</u> is an outreach website produced by the Commission on Evangelism. It aims to be a source of information and inspiration for those seeking to know more about the Bible and its message. Congregations are encouraged to make their members aware of it so they can direct unchurched acquaintances to it.

Daily Devotions

Daily Devotions are brief, daily encouragements from God's Word. They are produced both in print as well as via podcast. The devotions appear on the home pages of wels.net and WhatAboutJesus.com. They are also posted on WELS Facebook. Additionally, devotions are sent to about 10,500 e-mail subscribers every day.



Evangelism Certificate Program

The WELS Commission on Evangelism offers evangelism courses through the Martin Luther College online continuing education program. These evangelism courses are intended for laypeople and called workers to help them lead their congregations with planning and implementing efforts to reach more people with the gospel. These courses make up the Evangelism Certificate Program at Martin Luther College. There are three one-credit courses: The Mission of the Church, 2) Practical Evangelism for Congregations, and 3) Friendship Evangelism.

Information is available at <u>www.wels.net/evangelism</u>

School of Outreach

The *School of Outreach* seminar shares key components of a congregational evangelism program. Participants work with workshop leaders to develop outreach plans and strategies. Congregations can contact their district evangelism coordinator to schedule a workshop.

Information is available at <u>www.wels.net/evangelism</u>

Evangelism Day at Martin Luther College

The Commission on Evangelism partners with the faculty of Martin Luther College to enhance the evangelism training of students at the college. In November 2021 the sixteenth annual Evangelism Day was conducted. Students were reminded of the importance of reaching the lost and encouraged to be evangelism influencers in their ministries.

Telling the Next Generation

Telling the Next Generation is a workshop developed by the Commission on Evangelism, the Commission on Lutheran Schools, and Early Childhood Ministry. The program serves congregations with planning, assistance, and resources for the implementation of outreach strategies utilizing a Lutheran elementary school and/or early childhood ministry.

Learn more at <u>www.welscongregationalservices.net</u>



Outreach Newsletters

The Commission on Evangelism annually offers *Outreach Newsletters* to WELS congregations. The newsletters each consist of a devotional article targeted at congregations' prospects. There are twelve newsletters offered each year.

The newsletters can be downloaded, free of charge, at <u>www.welscongregationalservices.net</u>.

Rev. Eric Roecker, reporter

WELS Commission on Evangelism Rev. Douglas Tomhave, chairman Rev. Jay Bickelhaupt Rev. Joseph Fricke

Advisory: Prof. Samuel Degner, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Rev. Eric Roecker, Director



WELS Historical Institute Remember the past

May 2022

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

In July 1872, the landscape of the Lutheran church in America was forever changed when six confessional Midwestern Lutheran church bodies founded the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America together. It had not been easy. Our Lutheran forefathers dialogued with one another patiently and persistently to discover, promote, and strengthen among themselves the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. They did this by boldly voicing a common commitment to the holy Scriptures and an unqualified subscription of the Lutheran Confessions. While they realized and confessed that they would never achieve perfect unity this side of heaven, they rejoiced in the fundamental unity that the Spirit had managed to forge between them. That God-given unity prompted them to celebrate their bonds of Christian fellowship and to seek ways to work together in carrying out the kingdom work Jesus has given his Church to do as we await his glorious return.

When Professor Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther stepped into the pulpit of St. John, Milwaukee on July 10, he could not help but express his thanksgiving to God.

Look and see here a multitude of representatives from six church bodies which, only a few years ago, stood opposing one another, as enemies at war—today they praise God and the Father of our LORD JESUS Christ in one spirit with a single voice ... [and gather] to discuss, as fellows in one faith, as sons of one church, and as laborers in one work, in brotherly unity, the means to achieve the single goal that has been placed before them, and that motivates them all as servants and children of one church. O blessed and holy day! Some day even our children and children will recount it with joy.

As the children and grandchildren of those "children's children," the members of the WELS Historical Institute believe it is most fitting to consider what the Lord Jesus accomplished among confessional Lutherans in America in the years leading up to 1872 and to "recount it with joy," as Walther suggested we ought. In light of his words, a service of thanksgiving will be held at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church (804 W. Vliet), Milwaukee on Sunday, July 10, 2022, beginning at 2 p.m., as this

day marks exactly the 150th anniversary of the opening service and first session of the Synodical Conference's inaugural convention. Wisconsin Lutheran College Professor em. Dr. Mark Braun will serve as the preacher. Over the years, Dr. Braun has written extensively on the history of the Synodical Conference, including *A Tale of Two Synods*, which recounts the events that led to the unfortunate demise of the Synodical Conference in the 1960s.

Following the service and **beginning at 3 p.m.**, Pastor Peter M. Prange will be offering **a presentation entitled "The Synodical Conference: Founded on Fundamental Unity,"** which briefly outlines the rationale and history of the Synodical Conference's founding in 1872. He will share details of his extensive research into the doctrine and practice of church fellowship among those Lutherans who founded the member synods and the Synodical Conference, as well as some of the doctrinal and practical concerns that brought them together as one. He is in the process of publishing three volumes entitled *Wielding the Sword of the Spirit*, which recount this history and grapple with the principles and practice of church fellowship that were enunciated and employed by our Synodical Conference forefathers. You may be surprised by what you find out. We invite you to participate in his presentation and consider what he has discovered and uncovered.

If you are unable to attend this special event, both the service and the presentation will be videorecorded and made available on the **new WELS Historical Institute website** that is currently under construction. The institute's plan and prayer is to have the website operational by early July. You'll be able to find it at <u>www.historywels.org</u> or <u>www.welshistoricalinstitute.org</u>.

We at the WELS Historical Institute look forward to seeing you at St. John, Milwaukee on Sunday, July 10 to celebrate with us this momentous event in American Lutheran history!

In Christ,

Rev. Benjamin & Scharler

Rev. Benjamin P. Schaefer WELS Historical Institute Promotions Committee, Chairman



THE SYNODICAL CONFERENCE Celebrating the 150th Anniversary

On July 10, 1872, Professor Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther stepped into the pulpit at Pastor Johann Bading's church, St. John, Milwaukee, and exclaimed, "O blessed and holy day!" He was preaching the opening sermon at the inaugural convention of the **Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America** and expressing his unmitigated joy that he had lived to see this day. With the Spirit's help, six confessional Lutheran church bodies in the American Midwest had forged a gospel ministry partnership that could and would have a profound impact on American and world Lutheranism for decades.

But had these synods discovered complete doctrinal agreement? They hadn't, nor did they expect to find it. Instead, the Synodical Conference was founded on what Walther described as "fundamental unity," as Pastor Peter M. Prange will explain in his presentation **"The Synodical Conference: Founded on Fundamental Unity"** to mark the 150th anniversary of the Synodical Conference's first convention. How did our forefathers define fundamental unity? Come and find out.

A **service of thanksgiving** will precede the presentation. Professor em. Dr. Mark Braun, Wisconsin Lutheran College, will serve as the preacher. Dr. Braun has written extensively on the history of the Synodical Conference.



Where:	St. John Ev. Lutheran Church 804 W. Vliet Street Milwaukee, Wis.
When:	Sunday, July 10, 2022 Service of Thanksgiving – 2 p.m. Presentation – 3 p.m.

WELS Foundation Focus on Charitable Gift Annuities

CONVENTION REPORT Summer 2022



"You hear about things that WELS Christian Aid and Relief is doing in Africa for communities that really have a need, and that community then is also hearing the gospel from the people who are there to help them out. The support that we can give through a charitable gift annuity will help provide that, and that's something that can be carried on after we're in heaven." —**ARNIE NOMMENSEN**

After 35 years of teaching, retired WELS member Arnie Nommensen began serving in a different way: as a WELS Christian giving counselor.

In his role, Arnie met a WELS member who made guite an impression on him. This member had seen firsthand the blessings of charitable gift annuities, so Arnie helped this believer set up multiple charitable gift annuities to leave a legacy of faith. Motivated by this example and out of thankfulness for God's blessings, Arnie knew that setting up charitable gift annuities to support the Lord's work was also right for him and his wife,



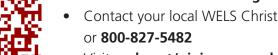
Carol. They knew that long after they are in heaven, their charitable gift annuities will continue to support the ministries they love, like providing physical and spiritual support in Africa through WELS Christian Aid and Relief.

WELS Foundation helps God's people support the ministries they care about.

One of those ways is through a **charitable gift annuity**, which can provide guarterly income payments for life, in addition to significant tax benefits. When the Lord calls you home, the remainder will be distributed to the ministry or ministries of your choosing. WELS Foundation can assist donors through every step of setting up a charitable gift annuity.

Learn how a **charitable gift annuity** can benefit ministry:

- Scan the QR code to watch the video of Arnie and Carol's full story
- Visit wels.net/charitable-gift-annuity



- Contact your local WELS Christian giving counselor at mcg@wels.net
- Visit wels.net/givingcounselors



WELS Investment Funds

CONVENTION REPORT Summer 2022

Your strong partner in ministry

Since 1997, WELS Investment Funds has been providing investment portfolios for the benefit of WELS, its schools, its congregations, and other affiliated organizations



The benefits of WELS Investment Funds to ministry

If your congregation has or is looking to start an endowment or scholarship fund, or has other long-term investment needs and are looking for more information, WELS Investment Funds may be right for you.

WELS Investment Funds currently manages approximately \$300 million in assets, which includes \$77 million for 245 congregations and WELS-affiliated ministries. By pooling our God-given talents and resources, we can take advantage of lower-cost, institutionally 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 increase.

Reacting to market volatility by Bill Burns, CFA, senior investment consultant at Vanguard

- Market downturns aren't rare events. You will likely endure many of them in your lifetime.
- Losses can sting, but it's important to keep a long-term perspective if you don't need the money soon.
- Timing the market is futile. The best and worst trading days happen close together.
- Staying the course (and rebalancing) can pay off. But altering your asset allocation can be costly. (Please note: We continue to monitor and rebalance the WELS Funds as needed.)

Visit wels.net/welsfunds or scan the QR code to read Vanguard's article "How to react when markets drop."

TOTAL RETURN %	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	1 YEAR	5 YEAR	10 YEAR
WELS Balanced Fund	-6.26%	-3.66%	-0.01%	8.68%	7.88%
TOTAL RETURN %	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	1 YEAR	3 YEAR	10 YEAR
WELS Endowment Fund	-6.47%	-3.21%	0.89%	11.63%	N/A

WELS Funds returns* as of March 31, 2022

Both the Balanced Fund and Endowment Fund are suitable for long-term investment needs, such as scholarship and endowment funds. The Balanced Fund is comprised of approximately 60% equity and 40% fixed income, and the Endowment Fund is comprised of approximately 75% equity and 25% fixed income.

*Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The performance data is current as of March 31, 2022, and is subject to change at any time based on market and other conditions. Participating in WELS Funds is subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested. Withdrawals are payable by WELS Funds exclusively from the net assets of WELS Funds. Accounts are not protected or insured by the FDIC or SIPC and are not guaranteed by WELS or any other person or entity.

Learn how WELS Investment Funds can benefit your ministry:

• Visit wels.net/welsfunds

• Contact Executive Director Jim Holm at jim.holm@wels.net or 414-256-3206





UTHERAN COLLEGE

SUMMER 2022 REPORT

THE VALUE OF A WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE EDUCATION

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

PARTNERS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

A \$2,000 renewable scholarship will be given to students who graduate from a Christian high school and enroll at WLC.

MERIT AWARDS

Merit Awards for qualifying freshmen enrolling in Fall 2022 will range from \$10,000 to \$18,000 per year, based on GPA and optional test scores, for a lifetime value of \$40,000 to \$72,000. Learn more at wlc.edu/scholarships.

NATIONALLY RANKED

WLC is ranked 18th in the nation by *Washington Monthly* in its 2021 listing of Bachelor's Colleges. The publication also included WLC in its ranking of **Best Bang for the Buck Colleges**; WLC is 15th on a list of 371 ranked schools in the Midwest.

For 2022, U.S. News & World Report rates WLC as one of the Top 20 Regional Colleges in the Midwest. WLC also was included in the U.S. News rankings for **Best Value Schools**, ranked 14th among Regional Colleges in the Midwest.



Greetings from your ministry partners at Wisconsin Lutheran College! I pray that God richly blesses your service and fellowship at your WELS District Convention this summer.

For 50 years, Wisconsin Lutheran College has prepared students to embrace their faith and step into the world as devoted Christian servant leaders. During their time at WLC, students grow both spiritually and academically, encouraged by faculty

and staff dedicated to helping students realize their God-given purpose.

WLC is an independent college affiliated with the WELS; as your partner we train the future lay leaders of our church. At Commencement this past May, we sent our largest graduating class ever of Christian business leaders, nurses, healthcare professionals, artists, computer scientists, and more into the world to impact and influence their workplaces, communities, and families.

We thank God for your partnership, and may He continue to bless our ministry!

In Christ's Service,

Daniel John

Dr. Daniel W. Johnson President, Wisconsin Lutheran College



The WLC Class of 2022 was comprised of students from 20 states representing 41 academic programs. WLC's 18 nursing grads (above) will begin serving in healthcare settings this summer while preparing to take the NCLEX exam.



WLC's psychology grads (above), who ranked in the 93rd percentile nationwide in the ETS Major Field of Study in Psychology test, plan to enter a wide range of fields including speech pathology, music therapy, neuroscience, criminal justice, case management, and clinical mental health counseling.



Furthering Their EDUCATION

More than 30 members of WLC's Class of 2022 will continue their education in a variety of fields this fall. A few examples: Grant Hammer (shown second from right with graduating members of the men's golf team) will pursue a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder. This summer he is interning with the Air Force Research Lab in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Abigail Raasch will begin graduate studies this fall at Palmer College of Chiropractic. This summer she is serving at an orphanage in Uganda. Sandhya Akella (pictured) will be



pursuing a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.



WLC seniors Sam Rodmyre (pictured below) and Kendra Schumacher. along with the Women's 4x400m Relay, gualified for the 2022 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships in May. The relay team (pictured above) of sophomore Anna Raasch, Schumacher, junior Grace Weide, and junior Brooke Graesslin finished 12th in the nation. Rodmvre, who will attend medical school this fall, finished 16th in the decathlon. Schumacher earned her second All-American honor this year with a fourth-place finish in the 200m final. She finished ninth in the 100m final.



Marine Biology FIELD RESEARCH

WLC professors **Dr. Ethan Degner** and **Courtney Moll '09** took eight students to Florida in January to participate in marine biology research. The trip tied together work that students are doing at WLC successfully growing coral in the marine biology lab. Students are conducting additional marine biology research in Grenada this summer.





Chalk Art EXHIBITION

The WLC Art Department held a chalk-drawing contest in April. Student artwork - which reflected the theme of "Peace" - lined the walkway in front of Generac Hall. Pictured above are WLC Professor of Art **Kristin Gjerdset** with her Ukrainian sunflower artwork and alumna **Lenka (Steffelova) Wendland '01**, who judged the student competition.







Interested in learning more about Wisconsin Lutheran College? Visit **wlc.edu/tour** to watch an intro video of our campus and to take a virtual tour. We encourage you to share this link with students who may be interested in exploring WLC.



Executive Director Report

June 2022

While working on an Acts 5 sermon text, I noticed a pattern. It could be our motto. WOW!

Wonders Opposition Witness

- God works wonders as he displays his power.
- Satan opposes God's work. Sometimes he stirs up enemies. Other times we are God's latest Job, God's shaming of Satan.
- God's children see the big picture which unbelievers can't see God is at work through it all. They witness to the world. "WOW! What God has done!"

When we are in the midst of COVID, struggling with cancer, burying our loved one, or dealing with the latest restriction limiting our access or distribution of materials, it may be hard or impossible to see anything good in the situation. Yet our faith knows this great Biblical truth: God is unfailingly at work. He works wonders, he wins, and we are his witnesses.

Viewing the last two years through the eyes of faith, we see God working faith in hearts because of COVID, making us closer and stronger through cancer, making heaven all the more real through death, and strengthening our resolve to tell others while there is still time.

- New volunteers have come forth to fill needed positions.
- Work is flourishing in jails that have re-opened.
- As I write this, GraceLinks devotional email ministry has grown to a "congregation" of 520 souls.
- This email ministry has also grown into a print ministry, and we are preparing our second printing of devotions for delivery to IM and Texas, where one of the largest prisons in America is being served.
- Donor response to recent visits was strong.
- IM's new website is finished, and social media relationships continue to grow. Our reach includes Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Our strategic planning is progressing. Expect a recommendation from the Ministry Planning committee. They have been vetting leadership teams to help us.

This process will include collecting StrengthFinders information as needed. By assessing Board and Staff gifts and communicating together, we can better examine future needs. We hope that together, we can:

- Determine both the needs of IM's future and the strengths each individual possesses;
- Like connecting puzzle pieces, we want to place each individual where their gifts are best suited for service.
- Help each individual anticipate where they would like to be in the future, in the big picture of IM's structure; and
- Create an atmosphere where joy accompanies faithfulness and satisfaction, encouraging accountability.

May all our work bring God glory.

– Phil Henselin



First Quarter 2022

Front-Line Worker Support*

When I arrived, she was screaming at the officer, and had even attacked him. I was proud of the officer. He kept a cool head. He told her, "I know you are upset. I know this is a difficult situation. This is the chaplain. If you will talk to him, I'm going to forget that you assaulted an officer."

Chaplains serve the public, helping both the individual and the one in authority, by bringing a caring heart. Chaplains are the hands and feet of Jesus, walking wherever there is pain. Most Front-Line Workers also have a caring heart, but often they can't express it as directly, because they are busy providing protection, stopping a problem, controlling the situation, and providing life-saving care.

Institutional Ministries is a liaison to your congregation, to provide help in reaching people behind walls. You probably don't think of Front-Line Workers as people behind walls. Neither do they. That's part of what makes it so hard for them to reach out for help when they, themselves, are in need. Being a Front-Line Worker makes one especially susceptible to moral injury and PTSD. If you have built a relationship with them in the past, it greatly increases the likelihood they will seek you out when they have need.

Have You Thanked Them?

Have you thanked them lately, for keeping a cool head when others let emotions rule, and for running into the very situations from which most of us would flee?

Your congregation probably did a lot of evangelism planning around Easter. One of your goals was community awareness. The month of May is a perfect opportunity to carry that to another step, both serving those who serve you, while providing powerful community awareness for your church.

May 1-7	Public Service Recognition Week Correctional Officer Appreciation Week
May 1-31, 2022	Military Appreciation Month
May 4:	International Firefighters Day (Permanent)
May 6:	National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day Military Spouse Appreciation Day National Nurses Day (permanent)
May 6-10:	National Nurses Week

May 11-27, 2022	National Police Week
May 15-23 <i>,</i> 2022	EMS Week
May 21, 2022	Armed Forces Day (Saturday)
May 30 & 31:	Memorial Day
October 28	National First Responders Day (Permanent)

It's Not Too Late

You may be thinking that it is too late this year, but think again. You aren't going to cancel Easter because you didn't buy door hangers. In the same way, you can start this year – even if it is only a prayer in church – and flesh it out more for the following year, building consistency into your plan.

What are some ways that you might be a servant to those who serve? To find out, interview them. Find out what would work for them and what they might appreciate most.

- Fundraise and buy needed equipment.
- Do a barbeque or other lunch. Invite the First-Responder group you choose and the public.
- Provide store-bought goodies for their break room.
- Give them gift cards for pizza with their family.
- The possibilities are as varied as your community, the group you want to recognize this year, and their respective situation.

You could also turn this into an educational situation. Institutional Ministries can provide a discussion on helping people with addiction, grief, moral injury, and PTSD. It is a great way to promote community awareness of the difficulty of the First-Responder's job, while offering future support.

Can This Really Work?

We offer you two strong examples of a local pastor having done this in his community. Contact these men. Ask them to tell you what they did, and why they believe it was a blessing to both congregation and community.

- Pastor Paul Schupmann St. John, Juneau, WI
- Pastor Robert Dick Divinity Divine Charity in Whitefish Bay, WI

God bless our joint efforts to share Christ with hurting hearts. - Phil

Pastor Philip Henselin, Executive Director

*This encouragement comes on behalf of both Institutional Ministries and The Association of WELS Chaplains (TAWC).

Where the Care of Soul is the Soul of Care

TLHA Quarterly Special Edition: Summer 2022

Connected through Prayer Requests

"But God has surely listened and has heard my prayer." (Psalm 66:19)

There is a specific time within Jesus Cares Ministries Worship at the Cross services for attendees to request prayers, and worship organizers discussed how this could be accomplished during Facebook Live's online streamed services.

Throughout the live services, Staff Minister Michael Hennig encourages online watchers to leave prayer requests in the comments.

During each live service, viewers can see each other's prayer requests, and Staff Minister Michael can share the prayers directly with the Lord.

Moriah, a 13-year-old who has cerebral palsy, and her dad, Pastor Patrick Feldhus (also one of our JCM consultants and chaplain at Hope Residence), often share their prayers in the comments section.



"She gets excited when the service begins," her dad explained. "But her excitement goes through the roof when Staff Minister Michael says her name and fulfills her prayer request."

Watch now! To see video of Moriah's prayer requests being fulfilled, visit bit.ly/Moriah_video.

Moriah, along with other JCM participants, greatly benefit from Worship at the Cross ONLINE and the other online resources.

"She can never get enough of God's Word. JCM's online resources are beneficial to Moriah and help her connect to people she would otherwise not have any connection with until she meets them in heaven," said Pastor Patrick. "We have rewatched the online services on many occasions, since it is a way to help her calm down."

There is nothing quite like the joy expressed when individuals with special needs, like Moriah, are included and come together to praise God and hear the Gospel in a fun and meaningful way.

Thanks to the work of JCM, more people than ever are getting the chance to experience that joy.



Shine your light by volunteering with a local JCM program. **Find a program near you by visiting tlha.org.**



Mark Hayes | Interim CEO

Rev. Joel Gaertner | VP of Ministry



Mentorship program at Heritage Homes leads to new hire

At Heritage Homes, Casey Schuett, Campus Administrator, and DesiRae Bliefernicht, Human Resources Manager, brainstormed ways to showcase their care community as an employer in the Watertown, Wis. community.

DesiRae reached out to the local high school to explore potential partnerships for students, and she connected with the teacher of a health observations course.

"We were grateful to hear back right away," said DesiRae. "As part of the class, students can shadow within local healthcare organizations. This type of engagement fits perfectly with what we were hoping to do."

Each week, a student from the class spends an hour a day at Heritage Homes.

"Typically, the student spends Monday with me. I will give a tour and go over what my job is," explained Casey. "The rest of the week varies but usually includes spending time in activities, human resources, nursing, and direct care. We also try to plan it depending on what the student's interests are."

In addition to highlighting Heritage Homes as an employer with a great work environment, team members hope to encourage young people to consider a future career in healthcare. The partnership encourages high school students to consider part-time opportunities once they turn 18.



"We hope to show individuals considering the field what this industry is like, helping them prepare and have an idea of what a future career might look like. "

> -Casey Schuett, Campus Administrator

No matter your age, now is a great time to become a part of the team at TLHA care community. **Apply at tlha.org/careers.**

Mark Hayes named Interim Chief Executive Officer

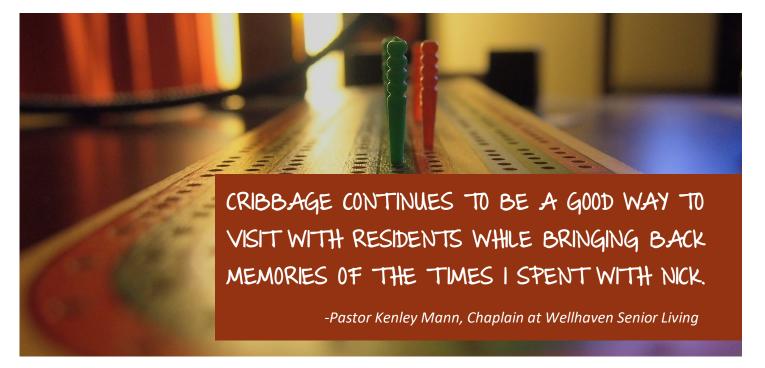
We are pleased to announce Mark Hayes will serve as the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Lutheran Home Association effective Friday, May 20, 2022.

"I am so honored to be asked to lead The Lutheran Home Association," said Mark. "I look forward to serving the team members, residents, and families of this special ministry."

Mark has been on the executive leadership team since 2017 in the role of the VP of Mission Advancement and then as the President of Ministry since 2020. Mark has a rich background in outreach, strategic planning, ministry development, and leadership.

He earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin, and a Master of Divinity from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin.





Jesus' gift of eternal life

As a chaplain at Wellhaven Senior Living, Pastor Kenley Mann spends one-on-one time with each resident. He often brings along a cribbage board in the hopes that they might be able to play a game together. There's something special about Pastor Mann's cribbage board. It is homemade and was gifted to Pastor Mann from a Wellhaven resident, Nick Huttner, who was called home to heaven in 2020.

Pastor Mann learned that Nick had grown up Catholic but after joining the military had no church home and thus stopped hearing God's Word. The conversations would jump back and forth from humorous to serious.

During one of the games, Nick asked, **"Pastor, is Jesus my Savior because He showed me how to live or because He did everything for me?"** It was a joy for Pastor Mann to explain how Jesus had done everything for him to give eternal life to Nick as His gift.



Nick may be in Heaven but his legacy will live on in the memories of all who knew him. The Lutheran Home Association cares for souls like Nick. Learn more at tha.org.

DON'T SELL YOUR PROPERTY



until you've considered all your options

Avoid the hassle of selling your property or land by making a charitable gift to The Lutheran Home Association. Your gift will advance our ministry to share Christ's love with people entrusted to our care.

Contact our Mission Advancement office at (952) 873-4744 to learn more.

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

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

Dr. Bruce Becker, Rev. John Boeder, Jeff Davis, Lowell Hoffman (Board Chair), Jon Maertz, Rev. Michael Muehlenhardt, Randy Niemann, Rev. Matthew Rauh (Vice Chair), Tim Schuth (Treasurer) and Lance Schwartz (Secretary).

THE LUTHERAN HOME ASSOCIATION

SOULS CHANGED



Elizbeth, a volunteer at Wellhaven Senior Living, shares her time assisting our residents and team members within our care community. *"I've volunteered all my life and never felt so appreciated and welcomed. It's a privilege getting to know all the residents over these past years. A treasure of historic stories."*



Thanks to St. Michael's Assisted Living, Ken Haeuser can continue to live in the Fountain City community he has always called home. *"To come to a place like this to get better has been a blessing."*

Amy, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine leads an activity pairing physical activities with music. *"It's a joy to be a part of. What is wonderful about music is that anyone can participate, and music is something that your soul never forgets. The activities bring smiles and laughter to the residents."*



YOU'RE NOT ALONE - WE CAN HELP -

YOUR NEED

Hard questions need thoughtful answers. New challenges need new approaches. And sometimes old problems need a fresh – or more seasoned – perspective. Your ministry today is bumping up more and more against complicated issues of life, family, marriage, and sexuality, and it's hard to keep up with them all.

THE ISSUES

(Here is a sampling) Abortion, neonatal care, pregnancy, birth control, infertility, adoption, sexuality issues, health care, genetic engineering, vaccinations, organ/tissue transplantation, palliative care, endof-life issues, church-state concerns, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, ethical/bioethical quandaries (and the list keeps growing)



Rev. Robert Fleischmann National Director





Rev. Jeff Samelson Director of Ministry Advancement



Mrs. Brittany Jahns Donor Relations Associate



Mrs. Diane Fleischmann Information Services Coordinator



Mrs. Casey Stanke Creative Content Director



Mrs. Jennifer Bloomier Office Manager

LET US LEND A HAND

CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES stands with you in facing and understanding these challenges. We specialize in researching not just the latest concerns, but also the ones around the corner. We study the issues and then cast them before the light of Scripture so that we might provide God-pleasing counsel on them to the church as a whole and to you in your ministry. (See the next page for resources you can use right now – including our new podcast.)

8 IMMEDIATE RESOURCES



INSTANT RESOURCES:

 Visit: christianliferesources.com
 2) Receive Email Updates: christianliferesources.com/contact/

CONGREGATION RESOURCES:

3) Material for Life Celebration Event: christianliferesources.com/resources/ celebration-of-life-materials/

4) Request a Preacher/Presenter: christianliferesources.com/resources/ events/request-a-speaker/

CHRISTIAN LIVING RESOURCES:



5) Weekly Podcast:

christianliferesources.com/life-challenges-podcast/

6) Christian Medical Directive Statement:

christianliferesources.com/resources/ christian-medical-directives/

7) Educational Materials:

christianliferesources.com/downloadable-brochures/ (many are available as a free PDF or for purchase)

SCHOOL RESOURCE:

8) School Mission Materials: christianliferesources.com/school-missions



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PERSONALIZED ASSISTANCE

Email Us: info@christianliferesources.com **Call Us:** 414-376-0594 | 1-800-729-9535

Christian Life Resources | Box 56 | Richfield, WI 53076-0056





Healing & Helping Ministry Update

Christ-centered mental health and wellness resources | **2022 Report to WELS District Conventions**

The Front Lines of Spiritual and Mental Health

The uncertainty in our society since 2020 has brought about a pandemic of a different sort – one related to spiritual and mental health. <u>Christian Family Solutions</u> is a counseling care and services agency with more than 110 mental health counselors and professionals who serve many hurting people. As a WELS parasynodical, we are a trusted source for excellent mental health care that is integrated with the truth of God's Word.

We model our mental health care after Jesus' ministry. We offer excellent clinical care that addresses the needs of the body and mind, <u>and</u> we address the spiritual needs of flawed human beings who need to be assured of grace, mercy, and peace from a loving Savior.

When individuals or families face a mental health challenge, pastors and teachers are the front-line resources. Our called workers often need assistance if treatment beyond pastoral care is required. **That's where we come in.** We support congregations and schools as they wrap their arms around their members and students with mental health challenges, as well as the families that are profoundly affected.



Connect with Christian Family Solutions

- During business hours, the CFS staff can talk with you about care options available at CFS, including outpatient counseling, mental wellness and skills groups, and Intensive Outpatient Programs a higher level of care that provides the necessary intervention when symptoms are escalating.
 - NOTE: The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in emotional distress 24 hours a day at **800-273-8255.**
- If a congregation is part of our Member Assistance Program, that congregation's members can receive a referral to CFS through the pastor. Visits can be arranged in person or through secure video.



• Visit ChristianFamilySolutions.org for information and helpful resources.

Particular challenges for teens

"The challenges today's generation of young people face are unprecedented and hard to navigate. The effect these challenges have had on their mental health is devastating."

- December 7, 2021, U.S. Surgeon General advisory report, "Protecting Youth Mental Health"

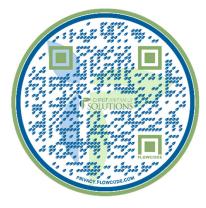
Our teens in particular are presenting with more acute symptoms and need referrals to quality Christian mental health care. Too often, we see that parents wait too long before referring a teen to professional care. We've created programming for our teens that addresses this acute need and is accessible anywhere in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

ARMOR for Teens is an intensive treatment program offered in person at our Lakeville or Mankato (Minnesota) clinics, our Brookfield (Wisconsin) clinic, or online in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. The online program works well in cooperation with school coursework and activities, or for those who are not near a treatment facility. **To refer students to counseling or to ARMOR for Teens, call 800-438-1772.**



How can we work together toward better spiritual and mental health?

- REFER people in need to Christian Family Solutions. CFS provides professional mental health outpatient counseling, school-based counseling, day treatment and intensive outpatient programs through our clinics in 7 states, at partner schools, and through secure telehealth services.
- **PRAY for our ministry as we strive to serve more and more hurting clients.** Your prayers and your referrals will help connect individuals and families to true healing, help, and hope.
- ASK the Lord to send more workers! One of our greatest limitations is the availability of Christian mental health care professionals. If you know a Christian mental health professional who may be interested in working with us, please contact us or visit www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org/careers.
- **DONATE to support our ministry.** Your gifts help us grow access and remove barriers to care.



Scan and view our 2022 Ministry Overview Video here. Thank you for your partnership!

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\equiv I Am a Pioneer.

Who is a Girl Pioneer?

We are dancers & writers. We are teens & first graders. We live with our parents & with our grandparents. We go to Lutheran Day Schools & to public schools. We love horses & the theater. We study & we play. We are campers & bakers. We live in big cities & rural farm communities. We play soccer & sing in choir. We are best friends & sisters.

We are Christians who love to learn about our Savior & love to share Him.

We are Girl Pioneers.

Loyal to Christ



For more information about the Lutheran Girl Pioneers, please contact:

Lutheran Girl Pioneers Christine Bohn, Executive Director W10376 Buttercup Lane Wautoma, WI 54982 608-781-5232 girlpioneers@gmail.com

Why Should My Congregation Have a Lutheran Girl Pioneers Caravan?

Lutheran Girl Pioneers (LGP) provides opportunities for our girls, ages Kindergarten through high school, to discover and develop interests in leadership, personal awareness, evangelism, nature, skills for independent living and so much more! The benefits girls receive from LGP go beyond the fun, fellowship and learning and extend to their living a Christcentered life within their family, church, school and community.

The Lutheran Girl Pioneer program is available to all girls of WELS or ELS congregations. LGP strives to inspire our girls to realize the joy of a Christ-centered life, living the LGP motto: "Loyal to Christ."

Starting a caravan is easy-give a call to the National Office and talk with Christine. She'll walk you through everything that needs to be done.

Lutheran Girl Pioneers will be a blessing not only for the girls you will serve, but also for the leaders and other adults involved. Through planning and executing each meeting, the leaders are in the Word. Some congregations also use Lutheran Girl Pioneers as an outreach tool, inviting the community to join their group, which begins with the girls themselves, but also leads families to your congregation.

There are "levels" within the LGP program: Sunbeams are Kindergarteners through second graders; Travelers are third and fourth graders; Trailblazers are fifth and sixth graders; Homesteaders are seventh and eighth graders; Spinners are girls who have been confirmed; Junior Leaders are high school aged girls ready to help lead. Girls earn charms for a bracelet when they complete each level and when they complete Special Achievements.

We would love to share with you more information about this vital program! It's through the love of our Savior that we serve and we want to serve your congregation, too! Please don't hesitate to contact the National Office with any questions you may have or to request more information.

Lutheran Girl Pioneers, W10376 Buttercup Lane, Wautoma, WI 54982 608-781-5232 girlpioneers@gmail.com



June 2022 District News from the Wartburg Project



Showers of Blessing

I will make them and the area around my hill a blessing. I will send the rain showers, down in their season. They will be showers of blessing (Ezekiel 34:26).

Our basic suite of EHV products is now complete. For showers of blessings, read:

- the basic print Bible from Northwestern Publishing House;
- the print study Bible from Northwestern Publishing House;
- the Microsoft EHV Computer Study Bible from the Microsoft Store;
- the Logos version of the EHV Study Bible available from Faithlife;
- a condensed Bible, *the Story of God's Love*, from NPH;
- a harmony of the Gospels, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ*, from NPH;
- EHV versions of Luther's Small Catechism from NPH and the ELS Bookstore.
- Other works available for free on the Wartburg Project website include a collection of Passion Histories and the lectionaries commonly used in WELS and the LCMS, including the readings for use with the new WELS hymnal.
- There are metric versions of the EHV available for our overseas users.

Spread the Word.

Widening Circles

We have given permission or licenses for use of the EHV in many projects, small and large, and are always open to proposals.

We recently granted a license to a missionary society in Hong Kong to print copies of the Gospels of John and Luke for free distribution for evangelism. John's Gospel is in print and is being distributed in Hong Kong and the UK.

There is a Swedish version of our Passion History, and our catalog for composers is being used in Sweden as well as in the United States.



To our knowledge the *Concordia Commentary: Deuteronomy* by Adolph Harstad of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is the first in-depth exegetical commentary to make extensive use of the EHV. A podcast dealing with this commentary is available at <u>podcasts.cph.org</u> and in all the usual podcast platforms. Harstad is also the author of the *Concordia Commentary: Joshua* from the pre-EHV era.

Daniel Deutschlander's popular commentary on Mark's Gospel from Northwestern is, to our knowledge, the first commentary based on the EHV translation. We hope for many more.