



## SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2019 District Conference

### Report of the District President

#### **Connecting to a Changing Culture** *Our Goal for Generations to Come*

No matter how much cultures change, people without the gospel in every generation face the same destiny: *“Their tombs will remain their houses forever, their dwellings for endless generations, though they had named lands after themselves”* (Psalm 49:11). What a reason that is to ask God to inspire us in our mission of connecting the people of various cultures in our generation with the only message that transcends generations and leads to a different land: *“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does”* (Psalm 145:13).

That emphasis of connecting people of changing cultures to the unchanging faithfulness of our Savior God is what we are asking God to impress upon our hearts in an increased way during our time together these two days. We pray our opening worship service with Prof. Degner’s sermon has begun that well for us, as we also pray will be the case for our devotions and for our keynote presentation by Pastor Jon Hein. As pastors, teachers, staff ministers and congregational leaders, we ask God to remind us that for Jesus’ sake our tombs will not remain our houses forever – and to empower us to find more and more ways to lead others to the kingdom that endures through all generations. I pray that our ears will be able to listen to every single report of our shared ministry which we will hear in these next days in a way that encourages us in our faith and motivates us to expand our labor in the Lord.

What I pray in connection with this report of the district president is that we will see some of the ways God has blessed our desire to connect more people to the Lord in our changing culture in our district and in our synod, especially as we prepare for the synod convention later this summer – a convention which will feature the theme from which our district emphasis is taken: *“For Generations to Come...”*

One important aspect of the work of the district president is to assist our congregations and schools in supplying candidates for vacant pastor and teacher positions. Without question this has been an especially urgent matter for many of us the last few years due to the fact that we have fewer candidates than open positions. We ask for God’s blessing in particular on those churches and schools where open positions at this moment are making it difficult to carry out gospel ministry at the level they would like. Thank you to the Commission of Lutheran Schools (CLS) – administrators and staff – for their tireless efforts on behalf of our congregations and schools in connection with our classroom vacancies.

As noted in recent publicity, the Conference of Presidents has approved the recommendation of an ad hoc committee under the direction of CLS to change the calling window from November 1 through the first Sunday in June to October 15 through April 15. The hope is that after Assignment Day at MLC, schools will know what their needs are, without having to worry about another of their teachers accepting a call as the school year closes. This will also give CLS more time to figure out how to help schools deal with remaining vacancies. This calling window change will be reassessed after two years.

In the midst of this shortage, God has blessed us with increasing numbers of former Lutheran Elementary School teachers who are seeking to re-enter the classroom, as well as some teachers not in our WELS system who are seeking “ministry certification.” We have sought to streamline the process for both situations by giving the district presidents more leeway in helping former WELS teachers receive “call eligibility” (formerly called “synod recertification”) and by reducing the amount of credits needed for ministry certification by one-fourth, while still presenting the same subject matter. While the number of ministry certification candidates from Wisconsin Lutheran College is not large, we also express our gratitude to the education department of WLC in holding up MLC’s mission of training teachers for Lutheran School ministry, but at the same time working with CLS in requiring the same ministry certification standards for those WLC graduates who are willing to consider Lutheran School ministry, if needed. This has been particularly helpful for our urban schools, which have been working faithfully with the district president and CLS to provide qualified teachers for their classrooms.

At last month’s Assignment Day proceedings at MLC, it was a joy to be able to welcome more called workers into fields of labor in our district. Candidates who are geographically limited continue to be assigned. To this point we have made thirty assignments in our district (permanent calls, one-year calls, and previous one-year calls either renewed or made permanent). All thirteen of our thirteen urban requests were able to be filled. Synodwide, approximately seventy-five teacher vacancies remain.

These are the assigned male teachers who will now become part of our District Conference through their assignments:

Spencer Jensen	Christ, Big Bend
John Marquardt	St. Philip, Milwaukee
Michael Sievert	Atonement, Milwaukee
Timothy Babinec	St. Philip, Milwaukee

The full listing of assignments is on the MLC website. The pastoral assignments are on the Seminary website.

We received two seminary graduates on Assignment Day at the Sem:

Paul Spaude	St. Matthew, Niles
Samuel Jeske	Our Shepherd, Crown Point

What a blessing to see the various cultures involved even in these ministry assignments! The counter-cultural message of the cross crosses cultures as our Lord keeps his promise that the message of the gospel is for generations to come. (Synodwide, about one hundred pastoral vacancies remain.)

What a blessing it also is to work with such ministry support in our district. It is a privilege to work with our district praesidium (Vice Presidents Joel Leyrer and Michael Woldt and Secretary Billy Carter) and with our nineteen circuit pastors and two assistant circuit pastors. Thank you to all of you for all your helpful advice and assistance. The praesidium meets on a monthly basis, and the circuit pastors meet as a group twice a year. In addition, the praesidium meets individually with the circuit pastors on a rotating basis in order to give them encouragement in their work and to receive from them helpful information as they serve the congregations and called workers in their circuit. (The three Wisconsin district presidents continue to work with a COP committee to determine ways to provide additional assistance for them as they carry out their work in these larger districts.)

Listed below are excerpts from the District President reports to the conferences this past year. Some of these items correspond to information in Synod President Schroeder's report in the Book of Reports and Memorials (BoRaM). To read his entire report, please see pages 5-10 of the BoRaM.

- Congregational Services Administrator Jon Hein will be training the circuit pastors of the synod to provide counsel and resources in connection with assessing ministry planning and, if necessary, ministry consolidation or closing. This training process will start with our district at our Circuit Pastors training session in October 2019.
- Seminary President-Elect Earle Treptow will serve as an advisory member of the COP Doctrine Committee.
- The target date for the ad hoc committee's completion of the re-articulation of Man and Woman in God's World is Fall 2019, together with a Bible study for review by conferences, circuits and congregations. The hope is to have it available for District Convention review and feedback in 2020 and presentation to the 2021 Synod Convention for consideration and adoption.

The initial draft of this re-articulation was presented at our Circuit Pastors training session in October 2018 by Seminary Prof. Richard Gurgel, the chairman of the ad hoc committee. It was also mentioned in our June and September 2018 district praesidium mailings. The June mailing spoke of our rejection of the "Women and the WELS" paper by Dr. Bruce Becker and Dr. Paul Kelm as a guide for doctrine and practice among us. The September mailing included a response to that paper from a hermeneutical and exegetical point of view.

We continue to pray that the Lord will help us re-study and confirm for ourselves the beauty of God's design for all of us as brothers and sisters in Christ, as we work together to serve our Lord and to proclaim his saving name.

- In recent years regular meetings have been held between the Commission on Inter-Church Relations (CICR) and the Doctrine Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). Beginning next fall the COP Doctrine Committee will take the place of the CICR at those meetings. The reason for this is that the COP Doctrine Committee is a closer counterpart to the ELS Doctrine Committee.
- Last summer the convention of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) considered a proposed WELS/ELS/CLC Joint Statement. The convention said, "We acknowledge with joy that the 'Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship' is a scripturally sound presentation of doctrinal principles." The CLC neither formally accepted nor rejected the statement but instead resolved to make a final decision on the statement at its 2020 convention. The convention expressed the hope that discussions could continue in the meantime.

### **Online Biographical and Assessment Information**

- If you have not already done so, please update your record at WELS through the recently changed online process. This updated information helps district presidents and CLS prepare call lists and helps to ensure that the biographical information shared at such meetings is as accurate as possible. (Pastors: Once you have updated your information you will be asked to share it with your "reviewer," who is your circuit pastor. He will contact you to share any suggestions he might have and then ask you to "submit" your assessment to WELS.) (<http://cloud.wels.net/me>)

## Brief Summary of Key Events of 2018

- Vietnam
- Apache 125
- 12 Home Missions
- To the Ends of the Earth Evangelism Video
- Kids Connection 25
- International Youth Rally in Ohio
- Christian Aid and Relief continues in Puerto Rico
- Some increases in MLC enrollment

## Upcoming Dates

- |                               |                     |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| • District Worship Conference | July 13             | St. John, Wauwatosa |
| • Synod Convention            | July 29 – August 1  | MLC                 |
| • Seminary Symposium          | September 16-17     | Seminary            |
| • Ten for Ten                 | Fall                | Stewardship         |
| • Welcome Home                | October 27          | Means of Grace      |
| • National Conference         | January 21-23, 2020 | Chicago             |

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor David P. Kolander



## SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2019 District Conference

### Ministry of Christian Giving

Synod Report – BoRaM pages 22-25

You have seen the bumper sticker on the back of the RV heading down the highway. “We are spending our kids’ inheritance.” Recently I heard a soon to be retired person call a financial talk show on the radio. His question was about how he could make a plan to spend all of his savings and not run out before he died. He did not want to pass anything on to the next generation because they were all wealthier than he was already. A couple of days later I spoke with a person who had a similar plan to spend all he had before he died.

As loving parents and grandparents, we show concern for the generations yet to come. We teach and model a Christ-centered life in our homes. We promote and encourage Christian education on all levels. Beyond that we take financial steps to help the next generations. We save up to send them to Lutheran high schools. We establish college funds so they can better afford to pursue higher education.

As we promote Christian giving in our congregations, we do this with an eye on the generations yet to come. “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done” (Psalm 78:4 NIV). This passage is never far from our minds. This is why we financially support Sunday schools, early childhood ministries, Lutheran elementary schools, Lutheran high schools, a Lutheran college, and many more ministries that proclaim the gospel to young people.

This is also why we support the work of our synod. As we walk together we work together for the sake of the generations yet to come. Our Congregational Mission Offerings are the primary source of financial support for the synod’s work, including all the areas of ministry outlined in the Book of Reports and Memorials. Congregational mission offerings support our ministerial education system which supplies pastors, teachers, and staff ministers who preach and teach the good news about Jesus to the generations yet to come. Congregational mission offerings support home and world missions so that generations yet to come in many different places may know the only way to eternal life in heaven. Congregational mission offerings support the other areas of work in the synod, which assist congregations and schools to bring the Word of God to this generation and the generations yet to come.

#### **CMO Subscriptions**

Thank you for submitting your CMO subscriptions and statistical reports in a timely manner. This year 99% of all congregations in the WELS completed their CMO subscriptions and statistics. This is higher than the typical 95%.

Some have asked why the first Friday in February at noon is such an important deadline. That deadline is based on the schedule for Synodical Council meetings. The people in the MCG office at the Center for Mission and Ministry need time to process CMO and statistics after congregations submit them. The numbers are then used to prepare income estimates for the budget planning process.

Those estimates need to be done in a timely manner so that the members of the Synodical Council can review them and prepare for their meeting. In short, that deadline is not arbitrary. There is a reason for it. Thank you for meeting that deadline so that all involved can have the best information possible for planning the ministry of our church body.

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

Deadline for CMO and statistics next year will be as late as it ever can be: noon Central Standard Time, Friday, February 7, 2020.

### **CMO 2019 Update**

As of the end of April:

Synod-wide: \$6,077,653 or 104.8% of subscriptions (Last year at this point - \$6,128,082 or 100.9%)  
Southeastern Wisconsin: \$1,077,120 or 103.4% of subscriptions

We give thanks to the Lord that offerings have come in above subscriptions. We pray that continues. We also pray that God's people would be moved to increase subscriptions so that we may have the joy of using even more opportunities to proclaim that Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

### **How we can help you?**

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

Mr. Rick Kneser  
Deferred Giving Counselor  
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262-305-7688

Rev. Kevin Hundley  
Current Giving Counselor  
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262-237-2660

Pastor Tim Henning  
Chairman, SEW District Ministry of Christian Giving



## SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2019 District Conference

### District Mission Board

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

Last year was one of the best in recent history for new mission starts. By contrast, this year was really low due to lack of funding. Nationally, only one new start occurred in campus ministry. Locally, our one request for Bethany, Kenosha was deferred. The Joint Mission Counsel did vote to fund our Korean after school outreach position at Jerusalem, Morton Grove, Illinois (Gabby Kim) for another year. A request from Risen Savior, Milwaukee was denied. Here are summaries of our mission churches throughout the district:

#### **Living Word, Waukesha, WI (Pastor John Borgwardt)**

As we look forward to building our first facility this spring, we are making sure we are ready to open our doors. We had a three-week sermon series in January encouraging members to get into a good spiritual “rut” in 2019—spending three hours each week growing in our faith and showing and sharing it. We emphasized going to the Lord’s house every week and getting into Bible study every week so we understand how God’s love has changes us, and serving others and sharing the gospel every week. We can already see some positive results from our 3 hours/week series.

Although our adult confirmations were down this past year, the best evangelist in our congregation doesn’t let that get her down. She’s in her late 70s and has no problem sharing her faith with the time she has left—and says so every time I talk with her. It seems like every other month she’s bringing a new friend to worship from her apartment building. The latest was a woman also in her late 70s who had been in prison, is estranged from her family, and has had to deal with the scars her abusive father inflicted on her when she was a girl. She came to know God’s grace in prison but hadn’t connected to a church since she got out years ago. She was just waiting for someone to ask. She now comes every week, enjoying the fellowship of fellow believers who also are there to marvel at God’s grace. Pretty soon, the whole apartment building will be coming to church—at least that’s the goal.

#### **Christo - Hispanic Ministry, Milwaukee, WI (Pastors Nixon Vivar & Chad Walta)**

This year the Spanish service has been blessed with an average attendance between 40-75 people each Sunday. During the long months of the Greenfield Avenue construction work, the Spanish attendance declined a little bit because of the difficulty of parking their vehicles. But we had 18 baptisms for 2018, which was a great joy.

All of the Spanish-speaking families are taking turns to be in charge of the duties in church during the Sunday service. Every Sunday, we have a family that is in charge of welcoming the people, handing out the bulletins, collecting the offering, ringing the bell, turning on and off the lights, covering the piano, etc. We feel that this is an important step in the growth and maturing of the Spanish-speaking part of the congregation, and we pray that it continues as it has this year.

### **Immanuel - Hispanic Ministry, Waukegan, IL (Pastor Seth Haakenson)**

We began weekly worship services in Spanish on October 7, 2018. Prior to that I gathered a small group of about 10-15 in my home every other week for a Bible study. That morphed into a Sunday morning Bible study which subsequently morphed into our weekly church service. From our first official Sunday service to the end of the year we averaged 40 in attendance. About 15 have finished BIC and have yet to be confirmed. Another 15 are in the process of taking BIC with some being more consistent than others.

Most prospects are generated via word of mouth. We regularly see a new face or two in our Sunday worship. When I ask how they knew about us, they tell me that a friend invited them. The challenge is to continue following up with these prospects on a consistent enough basis to keep the church (and more importantly Jesus) before their eyes.

I had a funeral entirely in Spanish for a four-year-old girl who died of a brain tumor. Her family had come to our English classes for about two years during the time she was born. The Americans who provided the classes became their friends. Our weekly prayer group at Immanuel started because of this girl. I was asked to visit the family when the girl was close to death. Her funeral was held at Immanuel and more than 180 people (I think all but ten were Hispanic) were at the service. The family knows where she is, and the gospel message continues to reach more families with the comfort of the resurrection.

### **Grace - Second Site in Third Ward, Milwaukee, WI (Pastor Aaron Strong)**

Grace in the Ward began meeting in the Historic Third Ward of downtown Milwaukee in April 2018. A Grand Opening was officially held September 16 which allowed us to make a focused effort on connecting with the neighborhood and extending invitations to join us. Ninety people attended the Grand Opening service. While many of them were Grace members already, there were also many new faces. People were invited to bring non-perishable food items to donate to a local food bank and over 100 pounds of food was collected. The service was followed up with a brat fry in the park across the street from the meeting space where we were able to share free food and fun conversations with residents.

It is still a challenge to find the best ways to connect with people in this urban setting and to communicate the important gospel message to them, but God continues to slowly but surely allow us to share Jesus with new people. Since September we have added live musicians twice a month, had a Sunday of special music provided by Him & Her (Seth & Jenna Herlich), and celebrated Christmas with a special service and caroling on the streets of the Third Ward.

### **Mt. Lebanon - Campus Pastor, Milwaukee, WI (Pastor Aaron Bublitz)**

#### *Sharing the Means of Grace*

We held our semi-annual Baptism Sunday on December 16. On this one Sunday 17 of our students, five siblings of students and two parents of students received the gift of Baptism. So far this school year two parents of students have been confirmed and we currently have six others preparing for confirmation.



### *Students Using Their Gifts to Serve*

In October our middle school had the chance to serve in many ways in worship. Over the course of the month, 48 students served by singing, playing instruments, ushering, serving snacks, greeting, and reading lessons. Six of our eighth grade students who will be confirmed accompanied Pastor Bublitz on visits to homebound members.

### *Encouraging Students to Consider Public Ministry*

We have taken three groups of students to tour Luther Preparatory School and a group of nine eighth grade students on a trip to visit Martin Luther College. This spring we will take a group of middle school students to tour Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

### **Jerusalem – Korean After School Academy, Morton Grove, IL (Ju Yeon (Gabby) Moon)**

Since August of 2018, Jerusalem Lutheran Church has made more structured efforts to reach out to the people in our community through a new program called After School Academy. We were very blessed to get much support and interests from our church and school families. While we were serving our church/school families, we saw the need for more outreach opportunities and have been striving to better reach the community. In order to do that, we have been regularly meeting with our outreach committee members and have been coming up with many great ideas, including handing out over 2,000 flyers about our church/school along with the information about the After-School Academy and placing an advertisement for the program on a Korean community website.

In January our church had a wonderful opportunity to share our Savior with four Korean students that came from South Korea for three weeks. Of those four students, three had never attended a church service before. It was truly amazing for us to help those students learn about Jesus and to witness how they enjoyed learning about God. By having those students here from South Korea, we were also reminded of potential of joint mission efforts.

As we know, God does not stop showering us with blessings. Our church has been blessed in countless ways, but God has blessed us with another opportunity to connect with the other sister congregation in South Korea. That church has been showing interest in sending some students to our church as well. Presently Jerusalem congregation has commenced a study to survey housing options to accommodate these potential students from multiple Korean Lutheran congregations. It is our prayer that we will work together to spread the blessing of the gospel to our community and to the communities that these Korean congregations serve. Please keep us in your prayers as we humbly serve our congregation and the community for the kingdom of our Lord God.

### **Wisconsin Lutheran School – Campus Chaplain, Racine, WI (Mark Blauert)**

Mark Blauert was installed in August to serve as the school chaplain at Wisconsin Lutheran School in Racine. The Lord of the Church continues to be with and bless the work carried out in Racine. On January 13, the first Sunday after Epiphany, Epiphany Lutheran Church observed The Baptism of our Lord with six baptisms, including two adults. Over three hundred souls attended a German Christmas service held at First Evangelical Lutheran Church on December 9.

The Racine churches are working at developing a vision and plan to reach out to the anticipated growth that is expected with the arrival of the company Foxconn in the coming years. In the fall, two workshops were held at Shoreland Lutheran High School featuring presenters from the Commission on Evangelism and Commission on Lutheran Schools as well as local leaders. The workshops presented the opportunities that are expected to come to the area with the arrival of Foxconn and suggestions to consider for developing strategies to reap the harvest.

### **San Pedro - Hispanic Ministry, Milwaukee, WI (Pastor Will Dunn)**

This Christmas season has been an exciting one at San Pedro! To end the season each year, we have a special bilingual Tres Reyes (Three Kings) service in which we invite the families of our community to worship with us, to learn about and meet the wise men, to receive a special gift from them, and finally to celebrate the day with a special Puerto Rican meal! The Three Kings service is our biggest Sunday morning outreach event of the year and as such, we have been trying to grow it each year. Last year we had about 160 people attend the service with about 60 children receiving a gift. This year with an attendance of about 250, we gave gifts to at least 117 children nearly doubling the number of gifts given from last year. Facebook has proved to be a very successful way to advertise this service. We thank God for the number of children and their families who attended and heard his gospel message about our true savior and king!

The other recent development is that we were finally able to order projectors for the sanctuary last month. Being able to add the visual element that projectors bring will be extremely beneficial in our multilingual environment. We are looking forward to their installation and implementation in the weeks to come!

### **Risen Savior - Campus Pastor, Milwaukee, WI (Pastor Luis Acosta)**

By God's grace things are going well here at Risen Savior, although we continue to deal with some challenges. On the positive side we are looking forward to a possible expansion. Please pray for that, since it will help us to reach more families and become closer to being self-sustainable. We were blessed with five new teachers, thirteen confirmations, and three quinceaneras from the Hispanic ministry in 2018. We began the new school year at almost full capacity, achieving consistently over 80% student retention which helps tremendously to keep and improve the school ministerial culture and academic performance. Three children from Risen Savior (including my daughter Andrea) are attending Luther Preparatory School. We hope to continue this trend to recruit more called workers from minorities in the future. An ongoing goal of Risen Savior is to focus on encouraging and influencing our students to become called workers. We are working more closely with LPS, Wisco, and Kingdom Prep helping to guide our students after they graduate.

Since the change of ownership of Luther Haven (Retirement Community) from WLCFS to a private party, the number of WELS members living there has declined drastically. This has affected the number of people attending our English services, and thus our finances. Please pray for this as we are requesting financial aid from the Board for Home Missions.

This past year we were reminded once again of the importance of sharing the message of Jesus in our ministry. For over a year, one of our students, Kel'Vern Taylor, was hospitalized with a rare blood disorder. He underwent treatment after treatment including a bone marrow transplant. Eventually

he was hospitalized and groups of his school family, teachers, and students visited him hoping to raise his spirits while having the opportunity to comfort him with God's Word during his illness.

Kel'Vern was called home to heaven by our Lord this past November. He was a little four-year-old my first year at Risen Savior and I got to see him grow physically, academically, and spiritually over his ten years here. I was there when Kel'Vern and his two brothers and sister were baptized. I was also present when we shed some tears at Kel'Vern's funeral as we heard some beautiful testimonials from our students and were comforted by God's Word in the same place he worshiped as a student.

Through all that sadness, confusion, and questioning why, the real mission of Risen Savior has become clearer than ever. Kel'Vern heard, lived, confessed, and shared Jesus each day he was alive. He also received the final reward of his faith in Jesus that he heard daily, and that was cultivated in the classrooms and hallways here. What clearer purpose than that can we have? Thank you for letting me share the story of Kel'Vern and reiterate the main reason Risen Savior exists as a church and school. Although Kel'Vern left us much sooner than we here on earth would have liked, he received that ultimate crown of salvation. For that I am thankful.

Pastor Mark Wagner  
Chairman, SEW District Mission Board

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## SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2019 District Conference

### District Nominating Committee

The following candidates have been chosen by the synod Nominating Committee to be presented to the delegates at the 65th biennial convention. The delegates will elect one man for each position, unless otherwise noted. Incumbents are noted by an asterisk (\*).

#### **Board for World Missions, pastor**

Glen Hieb\*, Cleveland, Ohio  
Timothy Satorius, Annandale, Virginia  
Nathan Wagenknecht, Anchorage, Alaska

#### **Board for World Missions, teacher**

Craig Breitzkreutz, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin  
Martin Plocher, Manitowoc, Wisconsin  
Chris Pluger, Watertown, South Dakota

#### **Board for World Missions, layman**

Keith Dickson, Virginia Beach, Virginia  
Paul Sauer, Hortonville, Wisconsin  
Mark Schulz\*, Milton, Wisconsin

#### **Board for Ministerial Education, teacher or staff minister**

Shawn Herkstroeter, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin  
Scott Loberger, Manitowoc, Wisconsin  
Daniel Markgraf, Cincinnati, Ohio

#### **Board for Ministerial Education, layman (2)**

Brent Nemmers, Allen, Texas  
Brian Scheele\*, Plymouth, Nebraska  
David Schroeder, Watertown, Wisconsin

#### **Michigan Lutheran Seminary Governing Board, chairman (parish pastor)**

Curt Backhaus, Tomah, Wisconsin  
Gregory Gibbons\*, Livonia, Michigan  
Harmon Lewis, Alpharetta, Georgia

#### **Luther Preparatory School Governing Board, chairman (parish pastor)**

John Bortulin, Mukwonago, Wisconsin  
Timothy Spaude, Greenfield, Wisconsin  
Aaron Steinbrenner, Hartford, Wisconsin

#### **Commission on Congregational Counseling, chairman (pastor, teacher, staff minister, or**

**layman)**  
Kent Holz, Clarksville, Tennessee  
John Koelpin, Dallas, Texas  
David Scharf\*, New Ulm, Minnesota

#### **Commission on Worship, chairman (pastor, teacher, staff minister, or layman)**

Aaron Christie, Waukesha, Wisconsin  
Jonathan Micheel, West Valley City, Utah  
Jon Zabell\*, Green Bay, Wisconsin

#### **Commission on Special Ministries, chairman (pastor, teacher, staff minister, or layman)**

Edward Frey, Nampa, Idaho  
Joel Gaertner\*, Cudahy, Wisconsin  
Richard Waldschmidt, Greenfield, Wisconsin

#### **Commission on Discipleship, chairman (pastor, teacher, staff minister, or layman)**

John Boggs\*, Royal Palm Beach, Florida  
Alexander Groth, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Joel Heckendorf, Reno, Nevada

#### **Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors, parish pastor**

Nathaniel Biebert, Austin, Texas  
Bruce Mueller, Gary, South Dakota  
Jared Oldenburg, Castle Rock, Colorado  
Daniel Schroeder, Modesto, California  
Luke Werre\*, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin  
Aaron West, Spokane, Washington

#### **Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors, MLC professor**

Brian Hennig, New Ulm, Minnesota  
Jonathan Schaefer, New Ulm, Minnesota  
Jeffrey Schone, New Ulm, Minnesota

**Northwestern Publishing House**

**Board of Directors, layman (2)**

Ronald Jorgenson, Clarkston, Michigan  
Jeremy Korell, Blair, Nebraska  
Dwight Luedtke, Troutville, Virginia  
Brian Schellpeper, Overland Park, Kansas

**Board of Appeals, chairman (pastor)**

Kenneth Cherney Jr.\*, Mequon, Wisconsin  
Jonathan Kolander, Orangevale, California  
Jonathan Voss, Remus, Michigan

**Board of Appeals, pastor**

Thomas Jeske\*, Omaha, Nebraska  
Daniel Lindner, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
David Rosenau, Yalaha, Florida

**Board of Appeals, teacher or staff minister**

Nathan Kieselhorst\*, Watertown, Wisconsin  
Erik Landwehr, Miami Springs, Florida  
Paul Leifer, Puyallup, Washington

**Board of Appeals, layman**

Bill Muhr, Chesapeake, Virginia  
Fred Pfothauer, Rogers, Minnesota  
Mark Werre, Viola, Wisconsin  
Shawn Wietbrock, Lindenhurst, Illinois  
Paul Wright, Mason, Ohio

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Jonathan H Nitz

Chairman, SEW District Nominating Committee

SEW District Nominating Committee

Rev Jonathan H Nitz, Chairman  
Mr Mark D Buske  
Rev Michael T Feuerstahler  
Mr James A Holm  
Rev Steven K Ristow  
Rev Aaron T Robinson

Teacher Paul B Scriver  
Teacher Charles E Ungemach  
Teacher Duane J Vance  
Rev Paul S Waldschmidt  
Rev David D Wierschke  
Mr Donald A Zastrow



# SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2019 District Conference

## District Discipleship Committee

### OUR MISSION

“Provide resources, encouragement, and training to assist congregations as they seek to strengthen individuals and families in their connection to Christ and their ongoing walk of faith.”

### CURRENT ROLL-OUTS

**10 for 10 stewardship emphasis** (suggested start up: after Labor Day)

*Goals:*

To help our people grow in their commitment, involvement and generosity that flows from the grace of giving.

To equip stewardship with gospel motivation as our people manage their blessings in a materialistic world.

To help congregations expand their ministry efforts with an increase of resources.

*Resources:*

- 3 Sundays of worship services that include in-service bible studies to teach and preach biblical principles
  - Week I: “Open Hearts” - Firstfruits Giving Week
  - Week II: “Open Minds” - Proportionate Giving Week
  - Week III: “Open Hands” - Sacrificial Giving Week
- Email devotions, giving packets, commitment card, giving tools
- 10 weeks of follow up spiritual motivationals in print and videos
- Step-by-Step Timeline to clearly map out what to do before, during, and after the 10-for-10 emphasis

Available for download by June 3 on [www.welscongregationalservices.net](http://www.welscongregationalservices.net).

### **“Welcome Home” Elder Training program**

As part of a WELS Congregational Services initiative to pursue the approximately 155,00 WELS member who attend less than five percent of the time, this twelve-chapter elder-training video series will guide congregations to get better organized, spiritually equipped and encouraged to carry out ministry to missing church family members. Accompanying guide-sheets will facilitate every congregation to ask the right questions that need to be asked in order to move the discussion from talk to activity. The series focuses on what to do before you go visiting, during the visit, and what the follow up is after the visit is over.

These resources will be accessible at [www.welscongregationalservices.net](http://www.welscongregationalservices.net) in June 2019.

## UPCOMING MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### *WELS Women's Ministry*

WELS Women's Ministry will host a women's conference July 18-20 at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin. The theme is "*Living Stones: Positioned to Thrive*," based on 1 Peter 2:5. The focus will highlight God's design and purpose for our Christian women in society, how to share Jesus at work or on the college campus, reaching out in love to another generation, serve alongside others in God's kingdom, and be encouraged and equipped to see how God intends for her to thrive in the unique situations he has placed her.

### *2020 WELS Youth Rally*

Planning is well underway for next summer's rally schedule, which will run June 23-June 26, 2020. The rally will take place at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn. The Youth Rally exists to provide youth and youth leaders from across the synod a large-scale worship, education, fellowship, recreation, and service opportunity that deepens commitment to Christ and his church.

### *Kids Connection video*

Kids Connection is a monthly ministry supplement well-suited for Sunday School, youth programs, and elementary schools. Congregations are encouraged to use it as one way to "connect kids to Christ and children around the world." This year marks the 25th season of this video for children, which presents church news as well as gospel truth to our youngest members. Churches can now do a "bundle" subscription of Kids Connection with its parent video, WELS Connection.

## A LOOK AHEAD

As part of Congregational Services' five-year plan to prioritize the goals of "opening the front door" (adding new members through outreach) and "shutting the back door" (encouraging members to remain a part of their congregation and synod), the Commission on Discipleship has established task forces for commonly identified needs and challenges that our congregations are facing such as marriage enrichment, Family Devotional Life, Teen and Youth Service, Member Assimilation, and Confirmation Resources. Initial reports will be made to the Commission on Discipleship by September 2019.

For a more expansive report, [Here is the direct link to the BoRaM](#).

Aaron Steinbrenner  
SEW District Discipleship Coordinator

### **Commission on Discipleship**

Rev. John Boggs, chairman  
Rev. Gary Pufahl, vice chair  
Rev. Jonathan Bergemann  
Rev. Aaron Bublitz  
Rev. Paul Schupmann  
Rev. Andrew Schwartz

### **Advisory:**

Rev. Donn Dobberstein,  
director of WELS Discipleship  
Prof. Thomas Kock,  
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary  
Rev. Raymond Schumacher,  
Northwestern Publishing House  
Prof. Mark Stein,  
Martin Luther College

### **District discipleship coordinators:**

Arizona-California - SM Michael Mundstock  
Dakota-Montana - Rev. Nikolas Haasch  
Michigan - Rev. Daniel Westendorf  
Minnesota - Rev. Matthew Ewart  
Nebraska - Rev. Daniel Frey  
North Atlantic - Rev. Joshua Olson  
Northern Wisconsin - Rev. William Monday  
Pacific Northwest - Rev. Andrew Schwartz  
South Atlantic - Rev. Joel Russow  
South Central - Rev. John Koelpin  
Southeastern Wisconsin - Rev. Aaron Steinbrenner  
Western Wisconsin - Rev. Scott Schwertfeger





# SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2019 District Conference

## Lutheran Schools

### 1. Ministerial Growth & Evaluation Process

The Ministerial Growth and Evaluation Process makes use of Scripture and research-based educational best practices and tools to assist teachers, peer coaches, principals, and early childhood directors in encouraging and supporting one another for strengthening both student learning and our schools. Training models include:



Module One: The WELS Teaching Standards;

Module Two: Coaching - A Formative Process

Module Three: Ministry Development Plans;

Module Four: Evaluation - A Summative Process

Some training events (four hours per module) have already taken place and many are being scheduled over the next year.

Trainings in SEW are coordinated using ALHS federation ties. Modules one, three, and four will be presented at the Education, Technology, and Leadership pre-conference Monday, June 24.

### 2. 2018-19 School Statistics

Annual statistics collection helps us recognize the many blessings, challenges, and opportunities that our schools face. Thank you to all the schools who share their statistics with us. Visit the CLS resource center [cls.welsrc.net/stats](http://cls.welsrc.net/stats) for a detailed summary report.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
ECM	10,595	10,911	10,754	11,126	11,270
LES	24,453	24,410	24,335	24,485	24,348
LHS	5,093	5,174	5,320	5,493	5,619
Prep Schools	675	643	645	616	611

### 3. Called Worker Profile Updates

All called workers are reminded to review their profile and self-assessment annually and to update it any time your contact information or availability to consider a call changes. Indicate status changes in the special circumstances areas of the self-assessment. These notes are kept confidential and are only available to district presidents and CLS team as they prepare call lists.

Visit [cloud.wels.net/me](http://cloud.wels.net/me) for more information and to access your account. You can also communicate status changes directly to your district president or the Commission on Lutheran Schools Office.

#### **4. Leadership Vacancies**

While the exact numbers change weekly, there are approximately **30** LES principal vacancies WELS-wide (fourteen in Wisconsin, two in Illinois); plus four with unclear Interim Plans; plus twelve with the pastor serving as Principal (four in Wisconsin). There are also **22** early childhood director vacancies WELS-wide (six in Wisconsin).

#### **5. Call Window for Teachers**

The Conference of Presidents has approved a two-year trial of the call window for active teachers being from October 15-April 15. The new window will go into effect October 15, 2019.

#### **6. New Teacher Induction (NTI)**

For ALL schools in the Southeastern Wisconsin District receiving a graduate, inclusion in the NTI program is assumed (\$1,000 fee). The NTI Meeting for new graduate teachers, their principals, and mentors is scheduled for the morning of Thursday, July 25 at St. Paul's, Muskego.

#### **7. National Education, Technology, and Leadership Summit**

Pre-conference: \$40/ \$100 One Day Pass: \$175

Regular Conference price: \$375. Schools that are supplemental contributors have received a discount code for \$50 off each registration.

Visit [welsedtechlead.com](http://welsedtechlead.com) for summit details and join the mailing list to receive Summit updates and announcements delivered straight to your inbox.

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



## SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2019 District Conference Special Ministries

**Cultivating a Heart for Souls** - One of the fruits of the Spirit is love, so you could make the argument that all Christians have a heart for souls already. But sometimes we only see the surface and aren't alert to the spiritual struggles that others have. People who struggle with addictions are ripe for the gospel, but are our churches welcoming and encouraging them? **"Recovery Friendly Churches"** is a new compassion ministry module (video and discussion guide) that will help your church encourage your members and welcome recovering people in the community. [welscongregationalservices/c010/](http://welscongregationalservices/c010/) Also new is a brief video by a WELS survivor of child sexual abuse. Please take a few minutes to listen to what Anita says in her Freedom for the Captives video. [welscongregationalservices/c003/](http://welscongregationalservices/c003/)

**New resource for the Blind** - Flash drives are nothing new, but they are replacing cassette tapes as the means for sharing audio recordings of *Meditations* and *Forward in Christ* using the National Library Services digital players talking book machines which are available to all who are blind. The Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI) is now putting audio recordings on flash drives. Your visually impaired or their families can subscribe by contacting MVI at [welsvisimp@wels.net](mailto:welsvisimp@wels.net) or 651-291-1536 or . If your church or school is looking for a mission project, MVI is very low in funds and needs support. Many volunteer opportunities (audio readers, Braillists, basic tech ability to upload files) are available.

**Online learning - Chaplains and Nurses** Throughout the year, Special Ministries teams offer excellent courses, often with financial aid. Starting in September you could take any of these online courses "Communicating Forgiveness," "Ministry to the Incarcerated and Their Families," and "Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry." For more information, see the MLC website [mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate/](http://mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate/) or email [chapcert@wels.net](mailto:chapcert@wels.net). This summer WLC offers an eight-week online course for becoming a parish nurse, which can be a great compassion ministry for members and the community. Learn more about the course and financial aid at [wels.net/parish-nurse-corner-spring-2019/](http://wels.net/parish-nurse-corner-spring-2019/)

**Please Let Us Know** - Can you imagine a young person leaving home, facing life and death situations and pressures to sin? It happens to our military members. Can you imagine someone who went to your Lutheran elementary school facing years in prison? WELS members and others we love get incarcerated. Please let us know about members who are in the military or who are in prison. In less than a minute, you can connect a member who is not able to attend your church with WELS military ministry or prison ministry. Just go to [wels.net/refer](http://wels.net/refer).

**"I look on the website, and if they don't have a policy to protect children, I won't even try them."** That would rule most churches out, don't you think? In fact, Special Ministries received a phone call from a woman who heard about our Standing Up for Children course and even took the training herself. She loved that WELS offers the training and asked that if we find out about a WELS congregation near her that we tell her about. She misses worshiping with a congregation but suffered sexual abuse and has stayed away ever since. Freedom for the Captives has devotions for survivors on their website. They can also provide sample policies and resources to help you protect children at [freedomforcaptives.com](http://freedomforcaptives.com). For more information, email [freedom@wels.net](mailto:freedom@wels.net).

**Special confirmation classes (deaf adults or persons developmentally disabilities)** The Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has used passages from *The Holy Bible: English Version for the Deaf* in Rolfe Westendorf's *By Grace Alone*. This manual should be used with a sign interpreter (a flow-through communicator who is not expected to do explaining.) Pastor Joel Gaertner, chairman of the Commission on Special Ministries and National Director of Jesus Cares Ministries, has rewritten the old Special Ministries resource, *Confirming and Communing Someone with Developmental Disabilities*. He also has recommendations on confirmation materials to use. Contact Joel via email at [jpgaertner@tlha.org](mailto:jpgaertner@tlha.org).

**Helps for Special Ministries on WELS Internet** Were you aware that there are three websites on which you can learn about Special Ministries? It can be confusing, but the purpose of each website is different:

1. [WELS.net](http://WELS.net) – This is the “news” source and the place where the organization is explained. All of the Special Ministries are not only described here, but most pages have a “Latest News” feature. **Tip** for accessing information on WELS.net: *Always “google” WELS + whatever you are looking for. Don’t try to find it by clicking around the WELS website, or using the search engine on the home page.* Visitors to Special Ministries on WELS.net will find a “Resources” button that takes them to downloadable resources at:
2. **WELS Resource Center** [welsrc.net](http://welsrc.net) or **Special Ministries Resource Center** [csm.welsrc.net](http://csm.welsrc.net) – Want the order form for Prison Ministry Bible Studies? Or access Memorial Day prayers (or other Military Services worship resources)? Looking for reading material about autism or the catalog for Braille resources? Most people will find these resources while reading on WELS.net, but you can go directly to the Resource Center (especially the Special Ministries Resource Center) and navigate from the home page, the tool bar at the top or a list in the right column and find interesting resources.
3. [WELScongregationalservices.net](http://WELScongregationalservices.net) This website also has resources, but these resources are for leaders. Resources will continue to be added regularly – sometimes you’ll find a title but nothing there yet. You can use the resources on the Congregational Services website to train your members or as a Bible class. **Tip:** When you go to the home page, you have several options for finding resources. First, scroll down and look at all the stuff that’s right on the landing page! Second, at the top of the page there’s a menu bar with intriguing titles, “Servant Training,” “Modules,” and “Schools of,” just to name a few. If you hover with your cursor over these words, you’ll see drop down menus. “Modules” has the most resources. Third, if you know what you want, there’s a little magnifying glass on that menu bar. You can put words like “Millennials” or “Compassion” and find videos and downloadable discussion guides. **Tip:** Don’t be so distracted by the video and information below it that you miss a key word just below the title: “Downloads” – clicking on that word reveals discussion guides and other materials.

Please keep Ministry to Visually Impaired and Prison Ministry in your prayers. Both ministries are facing difficult financial times

Pastor Richard Waldschmidt  
SEW District Special Ministries Coordinator



## SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 2019 District Conference

### 2018 District Financial Report

Balance, 12/31/2017, Checking Account	\$32,153.19	
Balance, 12/31/2017, Savings Account	\$20,101.86	
<b>Funds Available, 1/1/2018</b>		<b>\$52,255.05</b>
<b>Income, 2018</b>		
Dues	\$33,871.70	
Convention Offering	\$2,292.71	
Reformation 500 Pledges	\$6,875.00	
Reformation 500 Thankoffering	\$3,843.64	
Interest	\$5.84	
<b>Total Income, 2018</b>		<b>\$47,583.65</b>
<b>Expenses, 2018</b>		
Office Supplies	\$187.75	
Postage	\$170.00	
Internet Hosting	\$252.00	
Convention Arrangements	\$40,236.78	
Convention Printing	\$6,347.00	
Convention Worship	\$1,434.54	
Convention Offering	\$2,292.71	
Reformation 500	\$12,529.56	
Mission Board (thankoffering)	\$25,321.72	
Circuit Pastor Training	\$2,488.28	
Transition Counseling	\$300.00	
<b>Total 2018 Expenditures</b>		<b>\$91,560.34</b>
<b>Balance, 12/31/2018</b>		<b>\$ 7,583.60</b>
Balance, Checking Account	\$1,475.90	
Balance, Savings Account	\$6,107.70	
Circuit Pastor Training Balance		\$ 1,275.17
General Fund Balance		<b>\$ 6,308.43</b>

**Balances** - The opening balance is high because it includes Reformation funds that weren't disbursed until 2018. The closing balance may seem low, but it is quite normal after a convention year.

**Convention Costs** - were about \$2,000 less than in 2016, because attendance was a bit lower in 2018, but the centennial booklets added \$3,000 to printing costs. I have stopped asking ministries to send fifty copies of their reports, because it was costing them more to ship than it cost us to print.

**Dues** - As of May 30, thirteen calling bodies had not yet paid their district dues for 2019.

**Circuit Pastor Training:** This year's costs came in slightly higher than what we raised in the additional dues assessment. The current balance, though, may allow us to reduce the assessment again.

**Reformation 500** - Several pledges and thankofferings arrived in 2018. The only expense listed here is the final bill from the venue. The thankoffering brought in more than \$25,000 for district missions.

**Transition Counseling** - this usually includes counseling for workers exiting ministry. This year it also includes the cost of counseling the officers recommended for a current called worker.

Pastor William Carter, SEW District Secretary-Treasurer