



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

District President's Report

To: The 53rd Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod Assembled at Wisconsin Lutheran College, June 14 and 15, 2022

Setting Forth the Truth Plainly

As many of you are aware, in recent weeks scammers have used alleged emails from various district presidents, including myself, to try to deceive people into sending them money. We pray the Lord will turn the hearts of these people to himself in humble repentance, so they may hear the straightforward comfort of the gospel of Christ.

The apostle Paul encouraged us to refrain from deceptive speaking in any way when it comes to God's Word: *"Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God"* (2 Corinthians 1:2 NIV). What a blessing that someone has set forth the truth plainly to us so that we might know our sin and treasure God's forgiveness. What an honor to set forth that same truth plainly to others so they may join us in lives of Christian faith and devotion.

In that spirit I pray we are looking forward to Martin Luther College President Richard Gurgel's keynote address, which will emphasize the importance of encouraging one another, as we mutually struggle with how to set forth the truth plainly in the midst of dealing with various societal issues. We are grateful that he is able to be with us today.

I am also grateful to be with you today, though this is the last time I will be greeting you as your district president. As announced in the district registration email of mid-May, for the past year I have worked with President Schroeder and our district praesidium on transition plans in case the new Superintendent of Schools position for our district would not be filled. We have extended calls for this position for two years, but to this point no one has been led to accept the call. We will continue this calling process in October, but I have made the prayerful decision not to accept nomination for the office of district president for another term. It has been an honor to serve you in this way, but after six years in this office -- and after a total of fifteen years of serving on the praesidia of two districts -- I do not believe I am able to maintain this pace for another two years, at which time I would be sixty-seven years old.

However, as I also stated in the registration email, I believe this district needs to have another full-time person to provide adequate service. As a result, I have offered to serve as a non-praesidium assistant to the district president in an interim capacity for a period of six and possibly twelve months. It will be reviewed monthly. President Schroeder has approved this position, the call for which will be extended by our district praesidium, just as is the case for the Superintendent of

Schools. In the meantime, we will continue calling for Superintendent position. God-willing, someone will be in place for that position on July 1, 2023.

Another change in our praesidium will occur due to the request of Pastor Michael Woldt not to serve another term as our district's second vice-president. We are very thankful for his four-plus years of service in this capacity. We benefited greatly from his wise advice, which comes from an evangelical, pastoral heart.

Our other praesidium members are First Vice-President, Pastor Daniel Leyrer, and Secretary, Pastor Billy Carter. They both have been of invaluable assistance to me, and I express my gratitude to God for them.

In this connection, I pray for God's blessing on the election process we will soon begin, as we seek a new district president and have elections for the other positions, as well. (The Elections Committee will walk us through this process, as well as the process for electing board members for service in various capacities. Thank you to everyone who was willing to be nominated for consideration.)

I also express my gratitude to our twenty-one circuit pastors and assistant circuit pastors who oversee our district's nineteen circuits. Without their faithful work, the work of the district president would be extremely difficult to carry out. I also am thankful to their congregations for allowing them to carry out this extra and important responsibility.

An important part of our circuit pastor experience is the opportunity to meet twice a year to give updates on the ministry being carried out in their circuits, as well as to ask for advice on questions they might have. Every Fall we meet for an extra day for training in connection with some aspect of ministry. In Fall 2021, for example, Pastor Bob Fleischmann of Christian Life Resources gave us an overview of the various questions his office was dealing with in connection with the COVID issue, vaccines, etc. Next Fall Mr. Victor Vieth, a WELS member and a nationally recognized expert on child sex abuse, who is the Chief Program Officer of the Zero Abuse Project in St. Paul, Minnesota, will address our circuit pastors on items our churches and schools need to be aware of in this regard.

One of the key concerns of our churches and schools, of course, is the amount of vacancies we have in our pulpits and classrooms. Synodwide we have well over one hundred vacancies in both categories. I continue to pray that God will give you wisdom, patience and strength, if you are among those churches and schools dealing with a vacancy or vacancies. I am thankful for the extra work so many of you are doing to keep things going as well as possible in your ministry. This is something that needs to be at the forefront of our synodical and individual efforts to address. At our May COP meetings, President Schroeder was asked to establish a Task Force to develop a plan of action to address our teacher vacancies, in particular – and to report back to him by October. If you should be asked to participate in this study in some way, please do so.

We are very thankful for the WELS teachers who are currently teaching in the public sector and have come forward at this time to offer themselves as candidates for the public ministry. This has truly been a blessing. I pray that their process of ministry certification is a spiritual and professional blessing for all of them. At the same time, I encourage all of you to encourage more young men and women to consider attending Martin Luther College, our WELS College of Ministry. We are thank-

ful for the hard work MLC is putting into student recruitment, limiting student debt and improving the campus facilities. We are also thankful for the candidates MLC produces for ministry. This past May our district was able to receive twenty-nine assignments for schools among us, in addition to seven candidates who were reassigned to their current ministry. While we are saddened by the many vacancies which remain, we dare not forget to thank God for the blessing he has provided in these well-trained and willing candidates. Thank you to Martin Luther College - and to our WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools - for all their work to help our schools navigate this shortage, as well as to help us deal with so many other school-oriented questions which arise throughout the year.

We have the same situation at our Seminary. This year our district received two pastoral candidates, in addition to an associate for the new district president. We also received one vicar, who will be privileged to serve in a mission setting. We are already looking forward to next May, when we hope to have forty or more pastoral candidates, a nice increase from the twenty-seven men we had this year. What a blessing these candidates will be to Christ's church.

Additional items in connection with our called workers:

"Call Eligibility Review" and Ministry Certification (Teachers)

MLC Professor Dr. John Meyer and his team have updated the MLC website to reflect the changes we have made to our "recertification" process. You may recall that the new name for the process is "Call Eligibility Review." Please direct (D)MLC-trained teachers who are interested in call list eligibility to this link: <https://mlc-wels.edu/ministry-certification/call-eligibility-review/>.

Teachers who have not been trained at (D)MLC who would be willing to consider teaching in a WELS School may also find information on that process on the MLC website at this link: <https://mlc-wels.edu/ministry-certification/teachers/>. This process is called "ministry certification." (Formerly it was called "synod certification.")

Self-Assessment Forms (Pastors and Teachers)

If you have not done so recently, please take a few moments to update your record at WELS through the revised online process. This is especially needed to update your personal and family information, as well as assessment information (ministry preference and ability ranking). This updated information helps district presidents and the Lutheran Schools office prepare call lists and helps to ensure that the biographical information shared at such meetings is as accurate as possible. You also now have the opportunity to write a paragraph about your ministry goals and interests, as well as any other personal or congregational information that would be helpful for district presidents to be aware of. You also may list your top five strengths (Strengthsfinders). Go to this link to update your information: <https://cloud.wels.net/my-wels-cloud/>

Our church body continues to study and wrestle with applications involving the relationship of men and women in God's world and his church. Over the past several years we have worked on a rearticulation of the Male / Female theses of 1997. There has been much study of -- and input on -- the rearticulation drafts, and we look forward to more of the same in the year ahead. The current plan is that a final draft of the rearticulation will be made available to us later this summer or in the

Fall. Our continual prayer is that we say what Scripture says – no more and no less. God wants us as men and women to work together to his glory in a way that recognizes his will and plan for us. God bless our ongoing discussions, as we seek to walk together in the truth.

One key administrative item of the 2021 synod convention was the agreement to change our WELS pension plan from a “Defined Benefit Plan” to a “Defined Contribution Plan.” That change officially took place on January 1, 2022. It seems the changeover has gone quite well. However, if there are any problems that have come up or questions you are wondering about, do not hesitate to contact our WELS Benefit Plans Office.

The key mission emphasis from our 2021 synod convention was the approval of a plan to ask God to bless our efforts to open one hundred new missions over a ten year period, beginning in 2023. Clearly this is a huge undertaking, under God. One part of this undertaking involves our Congregational and Individual Mission Offerings. What a tremendous blessing from God that in the past couple of years our mission offerings have come in at a high level. The financial means to carry out our goals is there. What remains, of course, is the called worker resources needed to provide ministers for these efforts. We prayerfully entrust all of this to the Lord of the Church and to his dearly loved people. God help us to go forward with a sober-minded confidence, as we seek his guidance and wisdom. In this connection, we thank Pastor Keith Free, who recently concluded his service as our WELS Administrator for Home Missions, for serving as our preacher for our opening service. (Mission Offering Note: As has been the case for a number of years, we encourage congregations to consider setting aside ten percent of their overall budget as congregational mission offerings (CMO). This emphasis has resulted in great blessing, for which we praise God.)

Preparation for the 2023 synod convention comes in the form of the Report to the Twelve Districts (available online at <https://wels.net/about-wels/official-reports/rtttd/>). This document also serves as information for our district conventions. If you haven't yet done so, I encourage you to familiarize yourself with its basic contents. It provides an excellent summary of the great amount of ministry the Lord allows our church body to carry out in our nation and throughout the world.

That summary of ministry activity is also a large part of what our time together at this convention is all about. There are many different presentations that we will hear and see in these next hours today and tomorrow. I pray you will look forward to them, reflect on them, thank God for them, and pray the Lord will continue to bless our shared ministry. What a blessing to have brothers and sisters we can join with in sharing the gospel for the strengthening of those who know Christ and the conversion of those who don't.

That work of growing in grace and sharing God's grace is accomplished through setting forth the truth of Christ plainly – and not through the use of any deceptive methods or words which distort the message of our Savior. As we go about the task of proclaiming that truth, not only do we not “lose heart,” when we go through difficulties and dilemmas, but we also grow in our appreciation of how good God has been to us personally – and in our desire to share that truth with every person we can. God help you to speak – and to live – the plain truth of your Savior's forgiving love.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor David P Kolander
President, Southeastern Wisconsin District (WELS)

Membership Changes

The following have accepted calls into the district during the biennium:

Pastors:

David Meyer (St. John (Howell Ave), Oak Creek) from North Atlantic District
Jeremy Laitinen (Shoreland LHS, Somers) from Nebraska District
Derek Bartelt (First, Lake Geneva) from Arizona/California District
Paul Lindhorst (Ministry of Christian Giving) from Dakota-Montana District
Jeffrey Samelson (Christian Life Resources) from North Atlantic District
James Saatkamp (Resurrection, Milwaukee) from Michigan District
Bradley Taylor (Christ, Pewaukee) from South Central District
Keith Siverly (Kingdom Prep LHS) from Minnesota District
Erich Westphal (Centennial, Milwaukee) from Minnesota District
Justin Pomije (Trinity, Union Grove) from Michigan District
Jason Oakland (Wisconsin Lutheran College) from Northern Wisconsin District
Timothy Bode (St. John, Mukwonago) from Minnesota District
W Jeffrey Gunn (Amazing Love, Frankfort) from Arizona/California District
Matthew Mueller (Good Shepherd, West Bend) from Western Wisconsin District
David Ernest (Jerusalem, Morton Grove) from Western Wisconsin District
Noah Headrick (St. John, Burlington) from Northern Wisconsin District
Chris Cordes (Northwestern Publishing House) from Minnesota District
Jason Zahn (Trinity, Waukesha) from South Atlantic District
Joel Russow (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) from South Atlantic District
Jonathan Kruschel (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) from Western Wisconsin District
John Paustian (Reformation, Dousman) from Minnesota District
Paul Meier (Salem, Milwaukee) from Northern Wisconsin District
Daniel Marggraf (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson) from Western Wisconsin District
Michael Kuschel (First, Elkhorn) from Minnesota District

Teachers:

Michael Wisniewski (Bethany, Hustisford) from Western Wisconsin District
Brian Kasten (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) from South Atlantic District
Joel Koschnitzke (Shoreland LHS, Somers) from Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Matthew Lange (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha) from South Central District
Gary Gray (Peace, Hartford) from Arizona/California District
Nathan Scharf (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) from Nebraska District
Joshua Rimpel (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee) from South Atlantic District
Brad Gurgel (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha) from Minnesota District
Benjamin Edmunson (St. Philip, Milwaukee) from Northern Wisconsin District
Matthew Evans (St. Lucas, Milwaukee) from Arizona/California District
Micah Wendt (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) from Pacific Northwest District
Darrell Roecker (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson) from Northern Wisconsin District
Timothy Schubkegel (St. John, Burlington) from Dakota-Montana District

Staff Ministers:

Michael Babler (Victory of the Lamb, Franklin) from South Atlantic District

The following candidates were assigned by the Synod Assignment Committee to calls in the district in 2021 and were received into membership of the district at the last synod convention.

Pastors

Drew Day (First, Racine)

Isaac Hayes (St. John on the Hillside, Milwaukee)

Jacob Shepherd (St. Paul, Round Lake Park)

Teachers:

Zachary Bork (Salem, Milwaukee - one year assignment)

Andrew Eggers (St. Marcus, Milwaukee - assignment made permanent)

Aaron Fischer (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove - one year assignment)

Samuel Koepsell (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha - one year assignment)

Paul Kramer (Risen Savior, Milwaukee - principal training program)

Marcus Mortensen (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete)

Michael Schoenfeld (Kenosha Lutheran Academy, Kenosha - assignment made permanent)

Benjamin Walter (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson)

Samuel Koepsell (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha - assignment made permanent)

Staff Minister:

Michael Tracy (Chaplains in Schools, Milwaukee)

The following candidates were assigned by the Synod Assignment Committee to calls in the district in 2022 and have been accepted into the membership of the district:

Pastors

Joshua Busch (Glory to God, Tinley Park and Our Redeemer, Grant Park)

Caleb Klatt (Abiding Peace, Elgin)

Joel Krieger (graduate assistant to the district president)

Teachers:

Zachary Bork (Salem, Milwaukee - assignment made permanent)

Elliot Butler (Risen Savior, Milwaukee - principal training program)

Carrington Cunningham (Kingdom Prep LHS, Milwaukee)

Aaron Fischer (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove - one year assignment - second year)

Christian Kuether (St. Marcus, Milwaukee - assignment made permanent)

Luke Meihack (Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson)

Branden Mueller (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine - one year assignment)

Tyler Roecker (Shoreland LHS, Somers)

Ziwen Shi (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete - one year assignment)

Alexander Stoeberl (Atonement, Milwaukee - one year assignment)

The following accepted calls within the district during the biennium:

Pastors:

Jonathan Arndt (Reformation, Dousman) to St. John, Newburg

Thomas Kock (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) to Atonement, Milwaukee

Jonathan Bare (Joint Mission Council) to a joint call (JMC and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)

David Bivens (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) additional charge (member of the PSI team)
Bradley Wordell (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) additional charge (Grow in Grace)
Nixon Vivar (crm) to WELS World Missions, Waukesha
Luis Acosta (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) to WELS World Missions, Waukesha
Paul Waldschmidt (Peace, Hartford) to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon
Keith Free (WELS Home Missions) to St. John, Mukwonago
Ray Schumacher (Trinity, Waukesha & Northwestern Publishing House)
to Northwestern Publishing House
Jon Bare (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary & Joint Mission Council) to Asia Lutheran Seminary

Teachers:

Kevin Sonntag (Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee) to staff minister
David Ring (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine), principal (additional charge)
Jay Selle (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine) vice-principal (additional charge)
Paul Frisque (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) to Christ the Lord, Brookfield
Jonathan Rosenow (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) to St. Marcus, Milwaukee (Harambee Campus)
Joel Grulke (Our Savior, Grafton) to Trinity, Waukesha
Nathan Schultz (Peace, Hartford) to Our Savior, Grafton
Christopher Bartsch (Atonement, Milwaukee) principal, vice-principal (additional charge)
Sherman Carstensen (Morning Star, Jackson) to Peace, Hartford
Adam Harvey (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Morning Star, Jackson
Aaron Bauer (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Dean of Students (additional charge)
*Nathan Bauer** (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Principal (additional charge)
Aaron Kjensted (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Resurrection, Aurora
Jonathan Boche (Kingdom Prep LHS, Milwaukee) to Wisconsin Lutheran College
Jacob Schable (Christ-St. Peter, Milwaukee) to Shoreland LHS, Somers
Micah Walz (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) to Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee
*Devan Boling** (Risen Savior, Milwaukee) to Morning Star, Jackson
David Leyrer (St. John, Wauwatosa) to Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson
Michael Martens (Trinity, Caledonia) to Christ, Big Bend

The following inactive workers accepted calls to district congregations or schools during the biennium:

Pastors:

Gary Koschnitzke (retired) to Christ, Big Bend

Teachers:

Lyle Timm to St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee
Alexander Smith to Resurrection, Aurora
Samuel Schlicht to Atonement, Milwaukee
Sherman Carstensen to Morning Star, Jackson
Timothy Mueller, Jr. to Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin (interim principal)

Staff Minister:

Jeffrey Matteson to Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee

The following worker, who had been serving in a congregational assistant position, was declared "Call Eligible" and accepted a call to a district school during the biennium.

Seth Kock (St. Marcus, Milwaukee)

The following accepted part-time retirement calls in the district during the biennium:

Pastors:

Donald Thompson to St. John, Mukwonago
James Tiefel to St. John, Mequon
Steven Radunzel to Immanuel, Waukegan
Thomas Fischer to Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee
Lawrence Gates to Christ, Pewaukee

The following uncertified teachers or staff ministers accepted provisional calls to district congregations or schools during the biennium:

*Jeffrey Brown** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee
*Shelton Daniels** to Kingdom Prep LHS, Milwaukee
*James Flegel** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee
*Andrew Fink** to Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee
*Michael Strautman** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee
*SM Kevin Becker** to Grace, Milwaukee
*Philip Randall** to St. John, Milwaukee
*Michael Schlieve** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee
*Adam Pagel** to Shoreland LHS, Somers
*Jason Van Acker** to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee

The following have accepted calls out of the district during the past biennium:

Pastors:

Thomas Engelbrecht (Christ, Pewaukee) to Nebraska District
Greg Pufahl (Centennial, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District
Aaron Robinson (Fairview, Milwaukee) to Minnesota District
Gary Pufahl (Christ, Big Bend) to Arizona/California District
Daniel Waldschmidt (St. John, Burlington) to Minnesota District
Micah Martin (St. John, Mukwanago) to Northern Wisconsin District
Timothy Wahl (Morning Star, Jackson) to Arizona/California District
Paul Learman (Divine Peace, Milwaukee) to Michigan District
Jordan Ertl (Atonement, Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Jonathan Kehren (Jerusalem, Morton Grove) to Western Wisconsin District
Scott Oelhafen (Trinity, Waukesha) to Minnesota District
Joshua Free (Abiding Peace, Elgin) to Michigan District
Kyle Bitter (St. John, Wauwatosa) to Western Wisconsin District
Daniel Herold (Glory to God, Tinley Park / St. Paul, Grant Park) to Minnesota District
Michael Schultz (WELS Hymnal Project) to South Atlantic District

Preston Heuer (First, Elkhorn) to Minnesota District
Colin Rieke (Palos, Palos Heights) to Northern Wisconsin District
Benjamin Zak (St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee) to Arizona/California District

Joseph Radsek transferred his membership to a congregation in Western Wisconsin District

Teachers:

Joseph Blum (Garden Homes, Milwaukee) to Northern Wisconsin District
William Fuerstenau (Bethany, Hustisford) to Northern Wisconsin District
Seth Zoellner (Trinity, Waukesha) to Western Wisconsin District
Christopher Avery (St. John, Burlington) to Nebraska District
Jeffrey Roloff (St. Jacobi, Greenfield) to Dakota-Montana District
David Roekle (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove) to Arizona/California District
John Dorn (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) to Western Wisconsin District
Bradley Essig (Resurrection, Aurora) to Minnesota District
Frederick Luehring (St. Philip, Milwaukee) to Evangelical Lutheran Synod
John Schleis (Star of Bethlehem, New Berlin) to Northern Wisconsin District
James Brohn (Morning Star, Jackson) to Minnesota District
Jeffrey Falck (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) to Michigan District
James Hahm (Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee) to Minnesota District
Jeff Spiaser (Illinois Lutheran Schools, Crete) to South Atlantic District
Jay Selle (Wisconsin Lutheran School, Racine) to Northern Wisconsin District
Patrick Loroff (St. Lucas, Kewaskum) to Northern Wisconsin District
Nathan Hensler (Zion, South Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Jonathan Woldt (St. John, Libertyville) to Minnesota District
Bradley Jensen (Morning Star, Jackson) to Northern Wisconsin District
David Rust (Cornerstone, Milwaukee) to Western Wisconsin District
Paul Kanzenbach (St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee) to Nebraska District
Troy Yerks (Salem, Milwaukee) to South Atlantic District
Levi Dunsmoor (St. Marcus, Milwaukee) to Nebraska District
Glenn Metzger (St. Lucas, Milwaukee) to Pacific Northwest District
Christopher Stollfus (Word of Life, Milwaukee) to Dakota-Montana District
Paul Huebner (Shoreland LHS, Somers) to Minnesota District
Michael Wiechmann (Wisconsin LHS) to Minnesota District

The following called workers have either completed requirements for ministry certification or are in the process of completing requirements for ministry certification and thus are provisionally certified:

Teachers:

Daniel Hubert (10/1/2018)
Gabriel Malliet (10/31/2018)
Mark Leverence (7/1/2019)
Jason Nickels (7/1/2019)
Ryan Oertel (7/17/19)
Micah Hernandez (12/16/2019)
Jeremy Braun (3/5/2020)
Devan Boling (4/28/2020)
James Datka (5/15/2020)

Ethan Degner (5/22/2020)
Scott Martens (8/25/2020)
Cornelius Whiteside II (5/29/2020)
Justin Wintrone (7/1/2020)
Garrett Mandeville (8/26/2020)
Kevin Festerling (8/27/2020)
Daniel Hafenstein (8/31/2020)
Bradley Reinhardt (9/8/2020)
Simon Provan (9/10/2020)
William Roepke (9/14/2020)
Jay Sierzyn (10/28/2020)
Jonah Gauger (11/5/2020)
Jeremy Zima (11/5/2020)
Peter Eppen (11/9/2020)
David Menk (11/11/2020)
Gregg Pfarr (11/24/2020)
Peter Schwichtenberg (11/24/2020)
Taylor Chladek (12/2/2020)
Evan Woody (12/2/2020)
Mark Sievert (12/8/2020)
Christopher Rue (12/14/2020)
Seth Kock (12/15/2020)
Jeffrey Brown (1/1/2021)
Geoff Loper (5/11/2021)
Aaron Aanonsen (5/15/2021)
Ryan Latterman (7/28/2021)
Michael Wiechmann (7/28/2021)
Sherman Carstensen (8/4/2021)
Tyler Schoen (9/13/2021)
Randall Strutz (8/25/2021)
Donald Kudek (12/16/2021)
Nathan Bauer (1/12/2022)
Kurt Stielow (3/8/2022)
Scott Raymond (5/15/2022)

Staff Ministers:

Joe Hennen (12/10/2020)
Gary Schmid (12/10/2020)
Craig Swiontek (12/15/2020)
Adam Volbrecht (12/21/2020)
Jeffrey Matteson (7/18/2021)
Kevin Becker (1/1/2022)

The calls of the following workers expired or their positions were eliminated during the biennium:

Pastor:

Nixon Vivar (12/31/21)

Teachers:

John Marquardt (6/30/2021)

Stephen Roekle (6/30/2021)

The following called workers resigned during the biennium:

Pastors:

Joshua Bodden (6/30/2021)

James Hoogervorst (4/8/2021)

Teachers:

Christopher Arndt (7/15/2020)

Thomas McBryde (6/30/2021)

Wade Witzlsteiner (6/30/2021)

Ethan Rixe (6/30/2021)

Robert Ceasar (6/30/2021)

Dennis Leckwee (6/30/2021)

Timothy Mueller, Jr. (6/30/2021)

Marcus Mortenson (7/31/2021)

Alexander Smith (12/24/2021)

Spencer Jensen (1/31/2022)

Kevin Hahm (6/30/2022)

Jonah Gauger (6/30/2022)

Greg Obermiller (6/30/2022)

Daniel Unke (6/30/2022)

Joshua Kramer (6/30/2022)

Samuel Hunter (6/30/2022)

Michael Strautmann (6/30/2022)

The request of Troy Swenson to have his crm status reinstated was denied during the biennium:

The following members of the district have announced or entered retirement.

Pastors:

Mark Kock (8/31/2020)

Michael Bartsch (10/1/2020)

Dale Baumler (12/31/2020)

Kenneth Kappel (12/31/2020)

John Gawrisch (6/30/2021)

Robert Meiselwitz (7/18/2021)

Martin Schoell (6/30/2021)

John Brenner (6/30/2021)

Mark Braun (6/30/2021)

James Naumann (9/30/2021)

Curtis Jahn (12/31/2021)

Robert Dick (7/31/2022)

Thomas Fischer (4/30/2022)
Michael Feuerstahler (6/30/2022)
John Paustian (1/31/2022)
Philip Malchow (6/30/2022)
Ernst Wendland (6/30/2022)
Gregory Hermanson (7/31/2022)
Mark Wagner (6/30/2022)
Mark Jeske (5/31/2022)

Teachers:

Randall Watts (6/30/2021)
Robert Sawall (6/30/2021)
Keith Bowe (6/30/2021)
Thomas Hering (6/30/2021)
Randall Willms (6/30/2021)
Stephen Schultz (6/30/2021)
David Bartelt (6/30/2021)
David Rust (6/30/2022)
Allen Greschner (6/30/2022)
Jeffrey Sitz (6/30/2022)
Gary Gray (6/30/2022)
Gregg Pfarr (6/30/2022)

Staff Ministers:

Michael Schuessler (8/31/2020)
Joel Nelson (6/30/2022)
Gary Schmid (6/30/2022)

The following retired called workers transferred to congregations in our district during the biennium:

Pastors:

James Hoff from Michigan District
Roger Wahl from Western Wisconsin District
Martin Hahm from Arizona-California District
Larry Neitzel from Western Wisconsin District
Verlyn Dobberstein from Dakota-Montana District

Teachers:

Stanley Cole from Pacific Northwest District

The following retired called workers transferred to congregations in other districts during the biennium:

Pastors:

Dennis Bratz to Western Wisconsin District
Steven Lawrenz to Northern Wisconsin District
George Ferch to Western Wisconsin District

John Graf to Western Wisconsin District
Robert Meiselwitz to Arizona/California District
Timothy Kujath to Western Wisconsin District
Dale Baumler to Northern Wisconsin District
John Gawrisch to Western Wisconsin District
James Hoff to Northern Wisconsin District

Teachers:

Fredrick Mahnke to Western Wisconsin District
Eric Troge to Northern Wisconsin District
Ray Dusseau to South Atlantic District
Len Collyard to Arizona/California District

The following members of the district entered the Church Triumphant during the biennium.

Pastors:

George Enderle (8/13/2020)
Kenneth Lenz (10/19/2020)
Arthur Schupmann (11/24/2020)
Lloyd Huebner (12/8/2020)
Delmer Kannenberg (2/26/2021)
Mark Anderson (7/8/2021)
Daniel Buske (8/13/2021)
Robert Hartmann (9/7/2021)
Richard Balge (10/17/2021)
Don Thompson (12/15/2021)
William Godfrey (3/29/2022)

Teachers:

David Nelson (7/1/2020)
Donald Sebald (10/3/2020)
Michael Albrecht (8/14/2021)
Loran Schultz (11/8/2021)
Norman Dux (12/25/2021)
Larry Numerich (1/6/2022)
Jeffrey Dorn (2/26/2022)

Staff Minister

Daniel Hanke (2/11/2021)

Closures and Mergers:

The following congregations closed during the biennium:

St. Michaelis, Milwaukee (7/2/2020)
Calvary, Milwaukee (12/25/2020)
St. Luke, Kenosha (1/31/2021)
Divine Peace, Milwaukee (11/7/2021)

The following congregations merged during the biennium:

Epiphany and New Life in Racine merged to form Water of Life, Racine

Bethany, Friedens, and Mt. Zion in Kenosha merged to form New Life, Kenosha

Apostles of Christ, Wauwatosa merged with Christ, Pewaukee.

The following schools closed during the biennium:

Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee (6/30/2020)

Immanuel, Waukegan (6/30/2020)

The following schools merged during the biennium:

Bethany, Friedens Kenosha and Friedens, Kenosha merged to form Kenosha Lutheran Academy

The following workers accepted new calls to merged congregations and schools during the biennium:

Pastors:

Michael Zarling (New Hope, Racine) to Water of Life, Racine

David Pagel (Bethany, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Peter Prange (Bethany, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Michael Gorte (Friedens, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Scott Bergemann (Mt. Zion, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Steven Neumann (Mt. Zion, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

W Russell Scoggins (St. Luke, Kenosha) to New Life, Kenosha

Teachers:

David Leonard (Friedens, Kenosha) to Kenosha Lutheran Academy, Kenosha

David Zank (Friedens, Kenosha) to Kenosha Lutheran Academy, Kenosha

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

Pastor Joshua Free as Circuit Pastor, Central Circuit, Chicago Conference

Pastor Matthew Schaewe as District Forward in Christ Reporter

Layman John Isleb to the District Board of Appeals

Teacher James Hahm to the District Board of Appeals

Teacher Mark Blauert to the District Nominating Committee

Pastor Nate Bourman to the District Nominating Committee

Layman Joel Smith to the District Nominating Committee

Teacher Todd Gorsline to the District Nominating Committee

Pastor Philip Schupman as Circuit Pastor, Central Circuit, Chicago Conference



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT
53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

Circuit Changes - Resolution

Subject: CHANGES IN CONFERENCE AND CIRCUIT MEMBERSHIP
Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS 1), the district by-laws prescribe that “the district shall determine the number and boundaries of its conferences and circuits” (Article X, Section 1); and

WHEREAS 2), merging two circuits into one and disbanding a circuit and moving its congregations into other circuits or conferences involves changing the number of circuits and changing the boundaries of those conferences and circuits; and

WHEREAS 3), the Root River and Southport Circuits of the Shoreland Conference would like to merge into one circuit to be known as the Lakeshore Circuit; and

WHEREAS 4), the Eden Circuit of the Milwaukee Metro Conference would like to disband and its congregations have asked to join other circuits or conferences;

therefore be it

Resolved a), that the Southeastern Wisconsin District approve the request of the Root River and Southport Circuits to merge into one circuit, the Lakeshore Circuit; and be it further

Resolved b), that the Southeastern Wisconsin District approve the request of the Eden Circuit to disband; and be it finally

Resolved c), that the Southeastern Wisconsin District also approve the requests of the Eden Circuit congregations to join the circuits and conferences printed below.

- St. Mark, Brown Deer
 - to the Ozaukee Circuit of the Kettle Moraine Conference
- Abiding Word, Milwaukee
 - to the Barnabas Circuit of the Milwaukee Urban Conference
- Loving Shepherd, Milwaukee
 - to the Ozaukee Circuit of the Kettle Moraine Conference
- Divinity-Divine Charity, Whitefish Bay
 - to the Philip Circuit of the Milwaukee Urban Conference

Respectfully submitted,
The District Officers



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT 53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

Minutes of the 51st Biennial Convention June 12-13, 2018

Tuesday, June 12

The 51st Biennial Convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District opened with a communion worship service held in the gymnasium of Wisconsin Lutheran College. The service recalled the grace that God has shown to the district in the hundred years since its first convention in 2018 and was based on worship forms that were available to the Church in 1918. District President David Kolander preached a sermon based on John 8:31,32. Pastor Martin Wildauer served as the presiding minister. The other district officers served as lectors. Carl Nolte served as organist. A festival choir and brass ensemble directed by Staff Minister Levi Nagel also accompanied the service.

After the worship service, President Kolander introduced Vice-President Richard Mannisto of Wisconsin Lutheran College, who welcomed the delegates to the campus and showed a video about the college and its work.

After a break, President Kolander called the convention to order in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and gave a brief description of our work the next two days.

Pastor Thomas Schultz, chairman of Floor Committee #1 - Elections, highlighted the duties of district president listed in the district by-laws and conducted the nominating ballot for the office of district president. After the ballots were cast and collected, he declared the nominations closed.

President Kolander introduced First Vice-President Joel Leyrer, who presented the first half of the essay that Prof. August Pieper delivered at the 1918 convention, entitled, "The Despising of Grace Is the Death of the Church."

President Kolander spoke to the delegates about the elections for circuit pastors that would take place during the lunch break. Secretary Billy Carter also made several announcements and described the schedule and procedure for lunch and the circuit pastor elections. President Kolander led the delegates in a prayer that thanked the Lord for the truth of God's Word and for the meal.

After the lunch break, Professor Michael Berg of Wisconsin Lutheran College announced WLC's plans to offer a one-credit course on Apologetics.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported the top five candidates nominated for district president. When a discrepancy was noted between the names that were presented and the numbers on the ballot, President Kolander asked the committee to resolve the discrepancy and then return to conduct the election ballot.

President Kolander asked Vice President Joel Leyrer to take the chair while he presented the President's Report. President Kolander began by asking us to observe a moment of silence for the members of the district who had entered the Church Triumphant during the biennium. He also thanked the Lord for blessings to our district in its one hundred years and thanked the district, the other officers, and the circuit pastors for their help and encouragement since he was elected. He also reported on the work he had done preparing call lists for congregations and noted the assignment of new called workers into the district. He asked the Lord to bless our efforts to support the work of

the synod through their congregation mission offerings. He noted the efforts being made to help our expanding urban schools find teachers for their classrooms, as well as the study and discussions which have taken place in connection with questions raised about the doctrine of the roles of men and women and some of its applications. He also highlighted several items that had been mentioned in recent issues of "Together."

During a break in the President's report, Elections Chairman Schultz reported that the top five candidates nominated for district president were Pastors Jon Bortulin, Aaron Christie, David Kolander, Joel Leyrer, and Steven Neumann. After the ballots for the election were distributed, cast, and collected, Chairman Schultz declared the election closed.

President Kolander introduced Missionary John Hartmann, who brought greetings from the other missionaries in Zambia and thanked the delegates for their support of our mission work.

After a brief break, Elections Chairman Schultz announced that Pastor David Kolander had been re-elected to the office of district president. President Kolander's announcement that he was accepting the call extended to him in that election was met with a round of applause. Chairman Schultz then read the by-laws description of the work of the district vice presidents and conducted the nominating ballot for the office of first vice president. After the ballots were cast and collected, he declared the nominations closed.

First President Leyrer continued his presentation with the second half of Prof. Pieper's 1918 essay, "The Despising of Grace Is the Death of the Church."

During a break in the essay, Elections Chairman Schultz reported that the top four candidates nominated for first vice president were Pastors Aaron Christie, Joel Leyrer, Gary Pufahl, and Michael Woldt. After ballots were distributed, cast, and collected, the election was declared closed.

During another break in the essay, Elections Chairman Schultz announced that Pastor Joel Leyrer had been re-elected to serve as the first vice-president of the district. Vice President Leyrer's announcement that he was accepting the call extended to him in that election was met with a round of applause. Chairman Schultz then conducted the nominating ballot for the office of second vice-president. After the ballots were cast and collected, the nominations were declared closed.

After reading most of the original essay, Vice President Leyrer presented several questions that he encouraged the delegates to take the time to consider after they returned home from the convention.

After a brief break, Elections Chairman Schultz announced that the top four candidates nominated for the office of second vice president were Pastors Aaron Christie, Gary Pufahl, Don Scheuerlein, and Michael Woldt. After ballots were distributed, cast, and collected, the election was declared closed.

Pastor Don Thompson presented a report on changes in the ministry at The Point of Grace, the campus ministry serving students at several colleges and universities in the Milwaukee area, which will now involve pastors of local congregations working with students and helping them be active in those local congregations. Pastors James Hein of St. Marcus, Milwaukee and Aaron Strong of Grace, Milwaukee also spoke about the blessings the students and their congregations were experiencing through this ministry.

President Bill Ziche of Northwestern Publishing House presented a video report on the difficult decisions that NPH has made this year, including closing the retail store, in an effort to keep NPH on a stronger financial footing.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported that Michael Woldt had been elected to serve as second vice president of the district. Vice President Woldt's announcement that he was accepting the call extended to him through that election was met with a round of applause. Chairman Schultz then read the by-laws description of the responsibilities of the district secretary and conducted a nominating ballot. After the ballots were cast and collected, nominations were declared closed.

Pastor Robert Hein, chairman of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, presented a video on the help that had been provided for victims of hurricanes in the Caribbean and in Texas and humanitarian aid efforts being made in connection with mission efforts in several foreign fields and communities in our country.

Pastor Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project, gave a presentation on the progress toward the publication of a new WELS Hymnal, which has a target release date of Advent 2021 for the first of the worship books that will be published in connection with the project. He also described some of the features that are planned for those additional books and several digital products.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported that the top five candidates nominated for the position of district secretary were: Pastors Kyle Bitter, Billy Carter, Aaron Christie, and Andrew Fix, and Teacher Casey Pufahl. After ballots were distributed, cast, and collected, the election was declared closed.

Tim Snyder, the district's representative on the Synodical Council, gave a presentation on the work the Council does to oversee the finances of the synod.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported that William Carter had been re-elected to serve as the secretary of the district. Secretary Carter's announcement that he was accepting the call extended to him in that election was met with a round of applause. Chairman Schultz noted that the elections for the other offices slated for election at this convention would be held tomorrow and encouraged the delegates to take a look at the slate of nominees and their bios provided in the convention materials before the election takes place tomorrow.

Secretary Carter also noted that the District Council had been unable to find two teachers from the Milwaukee Urban Conference who were willing to be nominated for a position on the district nominating committee. He noted that it would be important to receive two nominations from the floor for that position in order for an election to take place. He also noted that we would accept nominations of pastors or teachers for that position.

Dan Ebeling, chairman of Floor Committee #2, District President's Report and Resolutions, asked the delegates to provide him with any corrections that might need to be made to the Membership Changes report in the District President's report.

After several announcements from Secretary Carter and others, Pastor Kurt Lueneburg, administrator of the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving, gave a presentation on the work his ministry does to encourage the congregations and members of the synod in the grace of giving.

The Tuesday session concluded with a meditation led by Circuit Pastor Jon Kehren. The meditation made use of the order of Vesper from the 1917 hymnal and focused on Romans 6:12-20, which was the text for one of the other worship services at the 1918 convention. Pastor Aaron Christie served as the organist.

Wednesday, June 13

The Wednesday session opened with a meditation led by Circuit Pastor Lon Kuether. The devotion made use of the alternate Order of Morning Service from the 1917 hymnal and focused on Acts

19:23-40, which was the text for one of the other worship services at the 1918 convention. Teacher David Porth served as the organist.

After the devotion, Elections Chairman Schultz directed the election ballot for the remaining district positions. Teachers Christopher Arndt and Charles Ungemach were nominated from the floor for the Milwaukee Urban Conference position on the nominating committee. Those nominations were seconded and carried. After ballots were distributed, cast and collected, Chairman Schultz declared the elections closed.

Secretary Carter pointed the delegates to the minutes of the 2016 convention, which had not yet been approved. It was moved and supported to accept those minutes. That motion carried.

Secretary Carter presented the 2016-2017 Financial Report. He noted that our current dues were completely covering the costs of our conferences and conventions and that he didn't expect that we would need to adjust district dues for a long time. He also noted some of the other ways that district funds had been used during the biennium, including covering the costs of counseling for called workers, and serving as a place to gather donations for a gift to former President David Rutschow and to cover the costs of the special Reformation service in November 2017. He also reported that the almost \$25,000 that had been gathered as a thank offering in connection with that service had been disbursed to the district mission board to help fund more mission efforts within the district.

Secretary Carter also asked for the delegates' help to report any corrections in the membership list and noted that he had worked with the synod's technology people to provide the district secretaries with access to parts of the synod's database that would help them in their work and that he was already seeing the benefits that were expected to come from that effort.

Secretary Carter also presented the slate of delegates, congregations, and alternates who would represent the district at the 2019 Synod convention at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. He asked the delegates to check to see if there were any errors that they noticed in that slate. It was moved and supported to approve the slate of delegates with one correction. The motion carried. Secretary told those whose names appeared on the slate, including the alternates, to expect more information soon, to fill out the online pre-registration form, and to clear their schedules of anything that couldn't be re-arranged.

Pastor James Huebner, first vice president of the synod, brought greetings from President Mark Schroeder and second vice president Joel Voss and encouraged the delegates to keep turning to God's Word to find the strength and confidence to keep serving our Savior in a world that offers so many obstacles to God's truth. He also thanked the delegates, lay and called, for all their work and service to the King and the kingdom and asked God's blessing on our work. He reported that two new district presidents had been elected at other conventions: Pastor Dennis Klatt in the Minnesota District and Pastor Snowden Sims in the Michigan District.

In response to questions from the floor, Vice President Huebner reported on the informal discussions being held with representatives of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Professor John Brenner of the synod's Committee on Interchurch Relations also reported on the status of the joint statement on the Termination of Fellowship that had been drafted by a committee with representatives from our synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

Pastor Keith Free, administrator of the synod's Board for Home Missions, reported on our synod's work in Home Missions and World Missions. He showed a video that summarized the work being done in fields around the world and in communities throughout the United States and Canada, including the work the Church Extension Fund does to help mission congregations finance building projects and Mission Journeys, a program that matches volunteers with opportunities to help mis-

sion congregations with their work. He invited delegates to celebrations that would be taking place to observe the 125th anniversary of our mission work among the Apaches. He especially highlighted the opportunities we've had to meet with groups around the world who had discovered us online and wanted to learn about our Scriptural teachings, including a group in Vietnam. He also invited the delegates to try out a new phone app that regularly shares mission stories.

Elections Chairman Schultz reported the results of most of the elections from this morning's ballot and the need for runoff elections for six of those elections. After ballots for those runoffs were cast and collected, the election was declared closed.

After a brief break, Mr. Steve Wolf, a member of the District Mission Board, gave a presentation on the work of the board. He thanked two members of the board who had completed service after two full terms. His presentation also highlighted the work of some of the mission congregations in our district, including the four new starts that were granted manpower this year, and a several sites that the board is considering for future work. He also noted that the Reformation thank offering will be used to enhance the work being done in the new mission starts that were approved this year. He encouraged the delegates to talk to the board about opportunities for mission work that they might see in their communities.

Pastor Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Discipleship, gave a presentation on the work of all six commissions under the umbrella of WELS Congregational Services. He showed a video that especially highlighted the resources available from the Commission on Congregational Counseling. He also noted resources that would be available from the new commission of Discipleship, which is a combination of the former Commissions on Youth Discipleship and Adult Discipleship. He showed a trailer for the new outreach movie prepared by the Commission of Evangelism, entitled "To the Ends of the Earth," that will focus on Paul's mission work in the book of Acts, especially his interactions with people in the city of Philippi. He also showed a video about several emphases in the work of the Commission on Lutheran Schools. He noted several emphases of the Commission on Special Ministries, including resources for people dealing with abusive situations or with pornography, as well as resources for military personnel, veterans, and their families. He noted that planning had begun for a conference in 2020 on Lutheran Leadership that will especially focus on strategic ministry planning.

Pastor Michael Woldt, chairman of the governing board of Martin Luther College, highlighted items from the reports in the convention materials from all four WELS ministerial education schools, focusing on the good news that we have to share and the work the ministerial education schools do to prepare workers who share that good news.

Pastor Dan Ebeling, chairman of Floor Committee #2, District President's Report and Resolutions. President Kolander asked Vice President Leyrer to take the chair during this report.

Resolution 1 - Changes in District Membership was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 2 - Acceptance of Newly-Assigned Called Workers was moved, supported and adopted.

Resolution 3 - Convention Offering was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 4 - Special Recognition of Thanks was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 5 - Assistance with DP Workload in Three Largest Districts was moved, supported, and adopted.

Resolution 6 - Special Recognition of Thanks - was moved, supported, and adopted.

Vice President Leyrer thanked Chairman Ebeling and his committee for their work and their report.

President Kolander provided instruction for the box lunches and led the group in a dinner prayer. Sessions continued after everyone had picked up their lunch and began to eat.

Mr. Bill Meier, director of WELS Kingdom Workers, reported on volunteer opportunities available through a new service, Lutheran Volunteer Connect.

Pastor emeritus Martin Scheele reported on the work of the Organization of WELS Seniors (OWLS) and encouraged delegates to make their senior members aware of the opportunities for fellowship, education, and service available through the organization. He also invited seniors to their annual Convention for Seniors that will take place in Elkhart Lake in October.

Professor Joel Pless of Wisconsin Lutheran College, who also serves as president of the WELS Historical Institute, reported on some major work being done to refurbish the Salem Landmark church and some fundraising efforts to help finish the last part of that project, installing a new roof.

Pastor Thomas Schultz, Chairman of Committee #1, Elections, reported the results of the final run-off elections and presented the committee's final report. It was moved and supported to adopt the report with one correction. The motion carried.

President Kolander thanked Chairman Schultz and his committee for their work and their report.

President Kolander then thanked the delegates for their work at the convention and elsewhere. He also expressed his thanks to all who were involved in making arrangements for the convention, invited the delegates to take a look at the displays and take home an extra lunch on their way home, and asked God's blessings on all the delegates as they returned home and as they continue to serve him in their lives and ministries.

It was moved and supported and adopted to adjourn the convention at 12:23 p.m.

The convention closed with a meditation led by Circuit Pastor Raymond Kimbrough. The devotion focused on 1 Peter 2:9,10, which was the text for the sermon in the closing worship service of the 1918 convention. Outgoing circuit pastor George Ferch conducted the installation of the district officers and circuit pastors as a part of the devotion. Pastor Martin Wildauer served as the organist.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor William R. Carter, District Secretary



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT
53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

2020-2021 Financial Report

Calendar Year 2020

Balance, 12/31/2019, Checking Account	\$5,124.62	
Balance, 12/31/2019 Savings Account	\$10,111.27	
Funds Available, 1/1/2020		\$15,235.89
Income, 2020		
Interest	\$5.06	
Total Income, 2020	\$5.06	
Expenses, 2020		
Internet/Email Hosting	\$341.90	
Conferences/Conventions		
Elections	\$56.10	
Worship	\$189.98	
Circuit Pastor Training	\$2,135.25	
Gifts	\$100.00	
Total 2020 Expenditures	\$2,823.23	
Balance, 12/31/2020		\$12,417.72
Balance, Checking Account	\$2,301.39	
Balance, Savings Account	\$10,116.33	
Circuit Pastor Training Balance		-\$1,166.67
General Fund Balance		\$13,584.39

Calendar Year 2021

Balance, 12/31/2020, Checking Account	\$2,301.39	
Balance, 12/31/2020 Savings Account	\$10,116.33	
Funds Available, 1/1/2021		\$12,417.72

Income, 2021

Interest	\$1.87	
Total Income, 2021	\$1.87	

Expenses, 2021

Internet/Email Hosting	\$396.00	
Conferences/Conventions		
Arrangements	\$994.51	
Worship	\$140.00	
Circuit Pastor Training	\$2,703.61	
Counseling	\$750.00	
Gifts	\$100.00	
Total 2021 Expenditures	\$5,084.12	

Balance, 12/31/2021 **\$7,335.47**

Balance, Checking Account \$2,217.27

Balance, Savings Account \$5,118.20

Circuit Pastor Training Balance -\$3,870.28

General Fund Balance **\$11,205.75**

Pastor William R Carter,
Secretary-Treasurer

Notes from the Financial Report

Things Are Different in - and after - a Pandemic (including District Dues)

The last time we met in person for a convention back in 2018, this report noted that we had found the “sweet spot” for deciding how much to assess in conference dues right between the higher costs during a convention year and the lower costs during a conference year. I was even so bold as to state that “we shouldn’t need to increase district dues again for a long time.” But then came the pandemic. Because we didn’t have the usual expenses of a convention or a conference either of the last two years, we decided not to assess any dues either, because we knew that we had more than enough money to cover whatever other limited expenses we were expecting (see below).

When you add up the expenses we did have, though, including the costs of two fall circuit pastor training sessions, when the only income we had was \$6.93 cents in interest, we find ourselves with a balance in our accounts that won’t be enough to cover the higher costs of a convention year without a significant increase in our district dues. So we raised this year’s dues from \$40 to \$60 per certified male called worker and from 20 to 40 cents per communicant. This should be the only year we’ll need this increase. We should be able to bring the dues back to their previous level in 2023.

The same can’t be said, though, about the additional assessment that we’ve been charging to pay for our circuit pastor training sessions. Though the costs for those sessions were not significantly higher than in previous years (just over \$2,100 in 2020 and \$2,800 in 2021), spending that money without gathering the additional assessment means that the circuit pastor training fund owes the general fund almost \$3,900. We plan to increase the additional assessment for the next several years (from \$7 to \$10 per congregation and from \$1 for every 50 communicants to \$1 for every 40 communicants) so that that fund can repay the general fund over several years instead of trying to pay it all back all at once.

Notes on Our Expenses during the Last Two Years

- 1) The **Internet/Email Hosting** category now includes a monthly subscription to Google Suites in addition to our costs for Final Web for the district website. We signed up for Google Suites before the 2020 electronic elections because it offered a better, faster way to send bulk emails, which was important for the process we used for those elections. We still need to learn more about how we could use some of the other features of Google Suites for our communication.
- 2) The only expenses we had for the **electronic elections in 2020** was the cost for meals for the men who ran those elections. The amount listed under **Worship** in 2020 covered the cost of refurbishing our chalices after they were used by someone else. Our expenses for the **virtual conference in 2021** included costs for the people and resources of the WLC Technology. The amount under **Worship** covered the honoraria for the opening sermon and closing devotion.
- 3) We continue to use district funds to pay for transition **counseling** for called workers who have left the ministry. The additional expenses in this category in this biennium covered some counseling for called workers seeking to re-enter ministry and other counseling recommended by the presidium for current called workers. We now use Christian Family Solution’s Member Assistance Program (MAP) for this.
- 4) The **Gifts** category includes gifts from district funds for two district officers who celebrated ministry anniversaries during the biennium.

Dues Notices - For several reasons, the dues notices went out later than usual this year. Please make sure that your treasurer or business manager sees the notice and gets it paid, so that we can pay the bills for this convention in a timely manner.

Other Items from the District Secretary

District Membership List

I'd like your help in making sure that the membership list on pages 25-44 of the convention materials is as accurate as it can be. Besides checking that your name is spelled correctly and that you are listed with the correct serving body, please also check the following:

- **Non-Parish Workers** - All those serving joint schools, high schools, and post-secondary schools, as well as all those serving as synod administrators or other institutions, agencies, or para-synodical groups should be listed as a member of the congregation where they hold membership in the "Serving Other Ministries" section of each circuit.
- **Certification Status** - Called workers who are not yet ministry certified should be listed in italics on this roster. Please check to make sure that your own certification status, as well as that of those who serve your congregation or school, is listed correctly
- **Retirement Calls** - Please also check to make sure that I've got any workers serving in retirement calls listed correctly. Because the by-laws use the words "permanent call" to determine whether a called worker is a voting member of the district who's eligible to serve in an elected position or as a synod delegate, it's important to know if there's anything that's less than permanent about the calls that are issued to retired workers. Please let me know. *(Please also see the last paragraph below for more about my work with a COP subcommittee to find better wording for the bylaws to eliminate some confusion caused by other "less-than-permanent" calls.)*
- **Retired Workers** - Because conferences like to invite retired called workers to their meetings, it's also good to know that our retired called workers are listed in the right congregations. Please check to see if the retired called workers in your congregations are listed correctly.
- **Membership Not (Yet) Known** - Please also check this section (mostly workers who were recently called into our district) to see if you can provide any missing information.

If you find discrepancies anywhere in the membership list, please contact me, so that I can have the correct information, and so that I can make sure that the WELS database also contains the correct information.

District Secretaries Subsite on the COP Cloud Site

In my last report, I noted that I had been working with WELS Tech guru Sallie Draper and Carla Martin, President Schroeder's executive assistant, to develop the first of what eventually became a full complement of reports from the new WELS database to help district secretaries in their work. I am pleased to report that this set of reports has been very helpful to all the district secretaries.

Efforts to Improve Bylaws Wording on Synod/District Membership

This biennium I've also had the opportunity to work with members of the CoP's Sub-Committee on Called Workers to find a way to improve the wording in the synod's bylaws that describe who is a voting member of the synod and its districts. Several decades ago that definition was amended to include men who were serving calls in their retirement so that they could be voting members and could be allowed to serve in district or synod elected positions. At the time, the phrase "holding a permanent call" was added to the definition in order to exclude retired pastors who were serving a vacancy. The increase in the number and variety of other less-than-permanent calls since that time (e.g., renewable retirement calls or one-year assignments), makes it important to find a different way to make the intended distinction. The search for better wording has proved elusive. I hope that we can find something in time for it to be addressed at the 2023 synod convention.



SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

53rd Biennial Convention + June 14-15, 2022

2023 Synod Convention Delegates

The 2023 WELS Convention will meet at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan the week of July 31 – August 3, 2023. Of the 400 voting delegates, the Southeastern Wisconsin District is to provide 68 delegates: 23 laymen, 20 pastors/professors, and 25 male teachers/staff ministers.

Delegates who served at the virtual convention in 2021 have been given the opportunity to serve again. Their names appear in bold in the slates below. Checkmarks indicate a worker or lay delegate who has asked to serve again. Everyone else listed below will soon receive an email from Secretary Carter with needed information and a link to an online pre-registration form. Called workers should be complete the online form as soon as possible. Congregations should select delegates and substitutes and have those men complete the online form before February 1, 2023.

Everyone listed below, including alternates, should clear their calendars and be prepared to attend the convention. Alternates may be asked to fill a slot anytime up till about six weeks before the convention. Please respond quickly if Secretary Carter informs you that you need to fill a slot.

Pastor Delegates/ Alternates

Chicago Conference

Seth Haakenson ✓	<i>Lon Kuether</i>
Paul Horn ✓	<i>Dustin Blumer</i>
Andrew Bauer	<i>Adam Gawel</i>

Kettle Moraine Conference

William Carter	<i>John Cook</i>
Kurt Loescher	<i>Randall Hughes</i>
Nathan Ericson	<i>Martin Wildauer</i>
Darren Knoll	<i>Bradley Wordell</i>

Metro Milwaukee Conference

Daniel Marshall	<i>Joel Leyrer</i>
Erich Westphal	<i>Richard Waldschmidt</i>
Joseph Berg	<i>Curtis Golm</i>

Milwaukee Urban Conference

Brady Coleman	<i>Aaron Strong</i>
Brian Hackmann ✓	<i>James Hein</i>
Phil Huebner ✓	<i>Jeremy Wosje</i>
Christopher Doerr	<i>Paul Krueger</i>

Shoreland Conference

John Roekle	<i>Dale Reckzin</i>
David Wierschke	<i>Scott Bergemann</i>

Western Lakes Conference

Paul Nitz	<i>Colin Vanderhoof</i>
Jonathan Kruschel	<i>Brian Adams</i>
Andrew Glende	<i>David Kolander</i>
Jason Hacker	<i>Paul Lindhorst</i>

Lay Delegate Congregations /Alternate Congregations

Chicago Conference

St. Andrew, Chicago ✓	<i>Glory to God, Tinley Park</i>
St. Paul, Grant Park	<i>Our Redeemer, Grant Park</i>
Faith, Radcliffe	<i>Hope, Louisville</i>
Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake	<i>Amazing Love, Frankfort</i>
Zion, Crete	<i>Trinity, Crete</i>
Peace, Kokomo ✓	<i>New Life, Lake Zurich</i>

Kettle Moraine Conference

Zion, Theresa	<i>St. John, Lomira</i>
Trinity, Hartford	<i>Trinity, West Mequon</i>
Bethany, Hustisford	<i>Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls</i>
St. Paul, Lomira	<i>Shepherd of the Hills, West Bend</i>
Redeemer, Cedarburg	<i>Zion, Allenton</i>

Milwaukee Metro Conference**St. John, Wauwatosa ✓**

Jordan, West Allis

Resurrection, Milwaukee

*St. Lucas, Milwaukee**St. Paul, Cudahy**Woodlawn, West Allis***Milwaukee Urban Conference****St. John (Forest Home), Milwaukee ✓****Siloah, Milwaukee**

Risen Savior, Milwaukee

*Salem (Eastside), Milwaukee**Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee**St. Matthew, Milwaukee***Shoreland Conference****New Life, Kenosha****St. John, Burlington**

First, Lake Geneva

*Peace, Wilmot**Water of Life, Racine/Caledonia**First, Racine***Western Lakes Conference****St. Paul, Franklin****Christ, Pewaukee****Christ, Big Bend ✓***Faith, Sussex**Mt. Calvary, Waukesha**Trinity, Waukesha***Teacher/Staff Minister Delegates****Teacher Delegates****Daniel R Johnson****Joshua Walker****James Brohn****James Boggs****Matthew Linton ✓****Mark Blauert****John Freese****Michael Koestler****Paul Patterson ✓**

Paul Burmeister

Martin Miller

Ryan Walz

Daniel Markgraf

Benjamin Carlovsky

Kevin Poston

Paul Frisque

Joel Grulke

Blair Schaper

Lyle Timm

Eric Filner

Keith Hackbarth

Timothy Mielke

Jason Goede

Joseph Greefkes

Robert Dusseau

First Alternates

Adam Harvey

James Schneck

Joshua Seeger

Paul Snamiska

Duane Vance

Nicholas Bush

Zachary Cvikel

Stephen Kamps

James Livingston

Brian Papenfuss

Timothy Payne

Michael Strusz

Seth Fitzsimmons

Adam Igl

Jonathan Rosenow

James Braun

Michael Henning, Jr.

John Kolander

Philip Krueger

David Leyrer

Philip Leyrer

Mark Murphy

Levi Nagel

Timothy Rimpel

Timothy Sonntag

Second Alternates

William Strasser, Jr.

Timothy Thierfelder

William Tomlin

Jason Walz

Daniel Albrecht

Casey Holtz

Michael Pingel

Robert Balza, Jr.

Christopher Bartsch

Andrew Becker

Theodore Glodowski

Aaron Palmer

Marc Shambeau

Brian Humann

Thad Jahns

Kevin Klug

David Kren

David Leonard

Paul Marquardt

Joel Mattek

Timothy McEachern

Lance Meyer

Michael Mittelstadt

Joel Schultz

Jason Snodie

Report of the District Mission Board

The district mission board chairmen had their meeting with the WELS Board for Home Missions March 31 and April 1. There were several action items for the SEW that came out of that meeting.

1. Lamb of God in West Lafayette, Indiana had their four-year mission program subsidy agreements (MPSA) approved. That means they will receive four more years of funding from the BHM and then, Lord willing, they will be self-supporting.
2. Pastor Paul Horn at Lamb of God was approved for a Vicar in Mission Setting (VIM).
3. The new start initiative in Cedar Lake, Indiana was deferred. The Executive Committee felt that the core group for starting a mission in Cedar Lake needs to mature.

Mission Counselor Wayne Uhlhorn, along with the SEW DMB Chairman Michael Zarling, and DMB members Seth Bode and Steve Mueller will work with Pastor Kendall Cook on how to mature and create a committed core group. The plan is to bring the request back to the BHM in spring 2023.

MC Uhlhorn, Zarling, and Bode are also working to mature a core group in East Boone County, IN. The current core group is one family in Whitestown, Indiana. That family has asked Pastor Bode to start weekly women's Bible studies in Whitestown. The goal will be for the women to then invite their husbands and others for a BIC that Pastor Bode will start teaching in Whitestown. Lord willing, we will have a committed core group of new WELS converts when we bring East Boone County to the BHM next spring for a new start.

Pastor Paul Schupmann is working a mission initiative in Dekalb/Sycamore. IL-47 is the line between the SEW and WW districts. Like the other two new starts, we'll need to mature a core group.

We are encouraging circuit pastors, pastors, principals, teachers, and laypeople to contact any of our SEW DMB members if they see areas of growth where we can start a new congregation. Or let us know if there is a healthy congregation or Lutheran elementary school that could use three years of funding for an enhancement to their congregation's outreach or a school chaplain to harvest the ripe mission field within the grade school.

We can also help congregations who are barely hanging on to see the potential mission opportunities in their area with multicultural ministry or a church merger or something else.

Let us know where our SEW DMB can be of service in your area of Kingdom work.

Our district is committed to our BHM's goal of 100 new mission starts and 75 enhancements in the 10 years of 2023-2033. Perhaps you or others have some concerns about money and manpower with this decade-long outreach initiative. What follows are brief answers to those concerns.

Regarding money:

- We are working closely with Kurt Lueneberg and the Planned Giving Counselors to walk through the 100 missions initiative so that through their efforts donors can be directed to contribute towards it. Kurt and his team are eager to do their part in supporting our efforts.
-

- There is a “silent campaign” going on right now in an effort to have \$10M later this year when the campaign kicks off to raise money for the initiative. We already have about \$6M raised. When the campaign officially kicks off in fall, we want people to see that a significant amount of money has already been donated to this initiative.
- Also, there are churches that will be closing in the upcoming years. As we've seen in the past, some of those churches will be giving at least a portion of those proceeds to help with our 100 Missions initiative.
- In all this, we're working hard to provide ways for God's people to respond to this initiative and see how God chooses to bless our efforts, knowing that he is able to bless us in more ways than we could ask or imagine.

Regarding manpower and the concern that we don't have enough pastors and a lot of vacancies:

- We share that concern in the sense that we recognize there are vacancies in congregations and some of these vacancies have lasted a long time. It's tough on those congregations.
- We recognize the tension that exists between nurture and outreach. Which gets more focus? Congregations wrestle with that and so do we as a synod. Yes, we want our current congregations to be served by our well-trained pastors. At the same time, Christ's love compels us to seek the lost. In other words, it's “both...and” - both nurture and outreach are essential.
- Practically speaking, if we do scale back and don't aggressively plant new churches, we could be caught on our heels when the pendulum swings in the other direction and we have more pastor candidates than we have congregations. History shows that the pendulum will swing back in the other direction. Trends in our synod seem to indicate that may happen sooner than we think. So...
- We'd rather fail trying rather than fail to try. In other words, rather than assuming we can't do this because of the shortage of manpower, we'd rather try and see how the Lord provides for his church.
- We are doing things that give the Lord the opportunity to bless. MLC is taking steps to step up recruitment efforts, WLS is planning to add some things to the curriculum to better train future pastors to be church planters AND to offer winterim courses for current pastors so that we might increase the pool of pastors who can serve as church planters.
- Other areas of ministry within WELS are doing their part in carrying out this initiative. In the end, if we can say we did our best to accomplish this goal and the Lord blessed us with 75 new missions in 10 years, God be praised! Again, we'd rather fail trying rather than fail to try. As we try, let's see how God chooses to bless us, knowing that he can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. And however he blesses us ... God be praised!

May the Lord of the Church continue to bless our mission work together for the growth of Christ's Kingdom and to our Lord's glory!

Now to him, who is able, according to the power that is at work within us, to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20, 21)

Respectfully submitted,
Michael D. Zarling, Chairman

Report of the District Ministry of Christian Giving

See Report to the Twelve Districts, pages 22-25

It is a great blessing to meet in person for first district-wide gathering since 2019, the first district convention since 2018. Think about how much has happened since then. A global pandemic. A new presidential administration. Civil unrest and protests in our country. Changes in your congregations with baptisms and funerals, confirmations and weddings. Changes in your personal life. Changes in ministry. This list goes on. So much has happened since we last gathered.

One thing has not changed, and that is the good news of God's love. His love never changes. His promise of eternal life by grace alone through faith in Christ alone, as the Scriptures tell you, will not ever change. This provides the solid foundation for your life in the midst of the turmoil all around you. As your Savior tells you, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock" (Matthew 7:24,25 NIV).

One surprising blessing from the Lord in the time since the COVID pandemic began is what has happened with WELS Congregational Mission Offerings (CMO). Considering the economic damage caused by the pandemic, one might have expected the offerings for the synod's ministry to decrease and tough ministry decisions would have to be made. However, by God's grace, God's people responded with the highest ever CMO contributions. This was the case not just for one year, but for the last two years. And we are on track this year to make it three in a row. Thank you, leaders of congregations, for encouraging such generosity through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord bless us to continue in the joy of contributing to support the spread of the gospel of Jesus.

CMO Subscriptions

Thank you for submitting your CMO subscriptions and statistical reports in a timely manner. This year 98% of all congregations in the WELS completed their CMO subscriptions and statistics. This is an amazing percentage.

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 noon Central Standard Time, Friday, February 3, 2022.

How we can help you?

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

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

Rev. Paul Lindhorst
Current Giving Counselor
paul.lindhorst@wels.net
605-880-1583

Pastor Tim Henning
SEW Ministry of Christian Giving Chairman

Report of the District Lutheran Schools Committee

1. WELS National Education Conference

The WELS Education Conference will take place June 20-22, 2022, at the Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. A special keynote presentation and sectionals by Dr. Eric Jensen are scheduled for June 20.



2. Teacher Attrition Rates

The CLS Office reports the following teacher attrition rates from 7/01/21 to the present date:

Retirements: 61 (very similar to numbers from previous two years);

Resignations: 106 (down from 117 in fiscal year 2020-21; and 133 in fiscal year 2019-20). With approximately 3,000 active teachers in the WELS, the total attrition rate (173 teachers) for the past year is 5.7%.

3. Teacher Assignment Data and School Teacher Vacancies

This year, MLC yielded 74 (92 in 2021; 120 in 2020) teacher candidates who could be assigned anywhere (57 from graduating class and 17 from previous years). All of them were assigned.

In addition, 51 teacher candidates who were geographically limited received Calls for a total of 125 candidates assigned (168 in 2021; 150 in 2020).

After the Assignment Committee met, there were still at least 140 total vacancies for teacher-trained men and women synod-wide (at least 90 at this time in 2021, at least 50 at this time in 2020). Of those 140, 116 had brought Calls to the Assignment Committee that went unfilled.

Since MLC Assignment Day, another ten candidates have become available and have been assigned.

4. Opportunities to Serve

Do you know a fellow WELS member with an education degree not currently serving in WELS schools who might consider serving in a local WELS school? Encourage them to contact lutheranschools@wels.net, and they will be happy to discuss the process.

Do you know a WELS trained teacher unable to teach in a WELS school because of distance? The CLS office is collecting names of teachers who would be interested in supporting a WELS school with a teacher or special subject vacancy through virtual teaching. Please contact our office at lutheranschools@wels.net for more information.

5. Training Educational Leaders

The Principal Credential Cohort program invites individuals who have demonstrated three or more years of successful teaching experience, recognized leadership gifts and characteristics, and are not currently serving in a principal role to participate. The cohort provides support from mentors and fellow participants, three leadership training events and a 50% scholarship for graduate coursework through MLC.

The Emerging Leader Cohort for early childhood directors provides opportunities for those either not currently serving as an early childhood director or new to the director role with professional development and training. The cohort provides support from mentors and fellow participants, leadership training events and a 50% scholarship for graduate coursework through MLC. For more information or to nominate a teacher for either Principal Credential Cohort or Emerging Leader Cohort, contact the CLS office.

6. WELSSA

All WELSSA accredited schools are required to turn in their 2021-22 WELSSA Annual School Accreditation Report and School Improvement Plan to the WELSSA office by June 30, 2022. All schools were sent a personalized ASAR/SIP via Google Sheets last school year. The WELSSA office will be making some minor adjustments to the spread-sheet to reflect the new six-year cycle in the coming months. If a school needs access to their spreadsheet or would like to know which tabs are due for their school this year, please reach out to welssa@wels.net and a member of the team will help you.

If a school hosted a WELSSA site visit this year, they will be sent a new personalized ASAR/SIP based on the site team's recommendations for their new cycle in early May.

Reminder of Recent WELSSA Changes:

- A. More general "foundational documents" language in Standard 1
- B. Elimination of "Exemplary Status Accreditation" (Accredited; Accredited with Conditions; Not Accredited)
- C. Change from five to six-year timeframe between full Accreditation process

7. Christian Educators for Special Education (CESE) Conference August 2

Save the date for the Christian Educators for Special Education summer conference: August 2, 2022. You can attend his conference in person at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, Wisconsin.

Live and recorded virtual attendance options will also be available. Featured presenter, Greg Santucci, OTR (Occupational Therapist) the founding director of Power Play Pediatric Therapy will present: "You Must Be Regulated Before You Can Learn: How Sensory Processing, Safety, and Self-Regulation Impact Behavior and Learning."

8. Vector Solutions

Vector Solutions (formerly: SafeSchools) offers *Child Abuse: Identification & Intervention* and *Child Abuse: Mandatory Reporting* courses to help you deliver this important training to all staff in an easy-to-use format. Schools who are Lutheran Schools contributors have free access to this training tool. Contact Sarah Krause at CLS if you need help accessing these services.

9. Heart Imprints

This resource provides ideas for your chapel or children's message that coordinates with the scheduled readings for each Sunday and consists of a Bible reading, an object lesson, an outline that articulates the law and gospel, and a suggested order of service. Learn more at cls.welsrc.net/heartimprints, and download the resources. View the Heart Imprints Introduction for helpful tips for presenting devotions to children.

10. 2021-22 School Statistics

Teachers are encouraged to update their WELS Cloud profile and self-assessment at cloud.wels.net/me to ensure it reflects the most current information. Profiles are used to research and identify candidates for calls. Therefore, it is very important current ministry interests and relocation preferences/abilities are updated.

11. 2021-22 School Statistics

- Annual statistics collection helps us recognize the many blessings, challenges, and opportunities that our schools face.
- Visit the CLS resource center cls.welsrc.net/stats to view a detailed summary report.

Enrollment Growth/Decline 5 years

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
ECM	11,126	11,270	11,447	9,803	11,672
LES	24,485	24,348	24,394	24,618	26,586
ALHS	5,493	5,619	5,793	5,874	6,041
Prep Schools	616	611	599	581	605

12. Dates to Remember

June 20-22 - WELS Education Conference - Pewaukee, Wis.

June 28-July 1 - WELS International Youth Rally, Knoxville, Tenn.

July 26 - SEW New Teacher Induction Seminar @ St. Paul's, Muskego (AM)

August 2 - Christian Educators for Special Education Conference at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, WI.

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

Report of the District Worship Committee

Who we are

Jonathan Pasbrig, Pastor Thomas Schultz, and Jason Snodie serve as members of Southeastern Wisconsin District Committee. **Pastor Martin Wildauer** is not officially on the committee but his institutional knowledge is a blessing. **David Porth** did yeoman's work in helping to prepare the worship for our convention. Along with Sacristan Thomas Schultz, our musicians and worship leaders deserve our thanks. **Pastor John Bortulin** serves as the coordinator for the committee. He welcomes any input or questions you might have.

Summer 2022 Update

- You are encouraged to give attention to worship items highlighted in the RTTD (specifically pp. 20-21, pp. 106-107). Pastor Bryan Gerlach will also address the convention on the new hymnal suite. The commission's supplemental report to the RTTD is in the Other Reports section.
- The commission's older website at the WELS Resource Center has many useful resources: <https://worship.welsrc.net/>.
- Check out the Foundation Resources, including the popular WELS Preachers Podcast: <https://welscongregationalservices.net/the-foundation/>.
- As of the end of March, 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 the 1993 hymnal. But thus far adoption of 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.
- 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.
- At this time, the date for the next national worship conference is yet to be determined.

New Hymnal Resources

- An update on hymnal items that are available: <https://online.nph.net/christian-worship-hymnal-suite.html>
- RTTD p107 (<https://wels.net/about-wels/official-reports/rttd/>) lists items to be released “over the next year.” The earliest will be:
 - Christian Worship: Planning Guide - now shipping
 - Christian Worship: Commentary on Propers, Year A - goal to get this to the vendor May 16, so it can be printed and in-house by the middle of August.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor John Bortulin
SEW District Worship Coordinator
262-232-2202 - pastorjpb@gmail.com

Report of the District Special Ministries Committee

During this SEW convention, the WELS Congregational Services report will be in the form of a video. Please take note of these points of emphasis in Pastor Behringer's report.

1. **Circuit Presentations: Addressing the Mental / Spiritual Health Crisis.** A series of 90-minute online video presentations for WELS / ELS pastors and therapists will address mental health topics. A panel of pastors and therapists will discuss a topic where collaboration and cooperation between spiritual shepherds and professional Christian counselors can serve the needs of church members. The topical portion of each session will be recorded. After the recorded presentation, pastors and therapists will have time to ask questions and discuss. The number of WELS / ELS pastors and therapists in attendance at any presentation will be limited to offer more opportunity for attendees to participate in the discussion. Each mental health topic presentation will be repeated for groups of pastors who request the online learning session. Individual circuits or groups of pastors within organizations may schedule their own Effective Soul Care Partnership session. "Effective Soul Care Partnership" is a partnership between WLCFS Christian Family Solutions and WELS ELS Christian Therapists Network (a WELS Special Ministry). District Special Ministries Coordinators experienced a pilot presentation in May. You can visit the WELS ELS Christian Therapist Network website for updated information (www.christiantherapistnetwork.com). Contact Angela Glaeske at Christian Family Solutions (aglaeske@wlcfs.org) to schedule a case study at your next circuit meeting.
2. **Parenting children who have experienced trauma** is different from parenting children who haven't. Common parenting approaches often backfire. But there is hope! A self-paced, digital course, TBRI® 101, is now available through the Special Ministries' Light for Parents. This course offers an informal, yet thorough approach to Trust-Based Relational Intervention®, an evidence-based intervention for children from hard places of abuse, neglect, and/or trauma, including children who were adopted. Nearly eight hours of instruction cover the principles and strategies of TBRI® and offer practical tips for implementation. Parents will be able to work through the course at a pace and time that fits their lifestyle. A limited number of free trainings are available and will only be available to parents/grandparents/foster parents with children in their home. For further information or to apply for access to this course, please email staff@lightforparents.com.
3. **\$500 Grant from MDHH to congregations installing a hearing loop** - The Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering a grant of \$500 to any church that installs a hearing loop to assist the hard of hearing people in their ministry. For details see www.WELS.net/mdhh or email mdhh@wels.net.
4. **Child Safety is the emphasis of Freedom for the Captives.** Child Safety has always been a Christian issue. Early Christians rescued abandoned babies and organized orphanages. Luther

and Walther were ahead of their time in speaking against child abuse. WELS offers the most thorough abuse prevention resources of any faith community. Freedom for the Captives' website has new information every month – not only to make our churches and schools safer, but to recognize child abuse and respond to protect children. Have you looked at the website this month? www.Freedomforcaptives.com.

5. **His Hands (the Special Ministries newsletter) is back in a twice monthly format.** Twice a month, a blog article and some links in an email provide information on the many areas where Special Ministries provides resources for congregations to help people who cannot access gospel ministry without some sort of accommodation. Go to www.wels.net/subscribe to receive His Hands.

Chaplain Certification offers useful online learning opportunities, often with financial aid, even if you (or your lay leader) does not become a chaplain. In September these online chaplaincy courses will be offered: “Communicating Forgiveness,” “Ministering to the Incarcerated and their Families,” “Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry” (Free!), “The Spiritual Side of PTSD” and “Grounded in Scripture” a doctrinal course for those interested in ministry but have not had a foundational study of Scripture. For more information, see the MLC website www.mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate/ or email chapcert@wels.net.

Military Service can bring spiritual danger. Can you imagine a young person leaving home, facing life and death situations and pressures to sin? It happens to our military members. The dangers and the solutions are described in the video “Staying Close to God’s Word While in the Military.” www.csm.welsrc.net/military-resources/ If you have a member in the military or entering the military, refer them at www.wels.net/refer.

On the district level, the Samaritan Partners Caregivers Support Group continues to meet. Here is their invitation to join their group: *We have been gathering for Samaritan Partners since 2011 to support each other and share information that each of us has found out. Please let it be known that if Pastors know of a caregiver who may appreciate gathering with other caregivers to contact me for further information. Please contact Carol W at this email, schatzy999@yahoo.com, for questions or information. We meet outside during the warm months. Our group is intimate in numbers and confidential. We welcome all caregivers.*

Training for volunteer opportunities

- Prison Ministry offers mentor training, a valuable way to make a difference in the life of someone who has been released from prison. For more information and to refer someone, go to www.wels.net/prison-ministry or email prisonministry@wels.net.
- Mission for the Visually Impaired needs people who can do repetitive computer tasks (such as sound editing on a recorded book) or are willing to learn how to braille. To learn more, email welvisimp@wels.net.
- Military Services is looking for writers to create content on specific topics to help military members and families and churches that serve them.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Richard Waldschmidt
SEW Special Ministries Coordinator

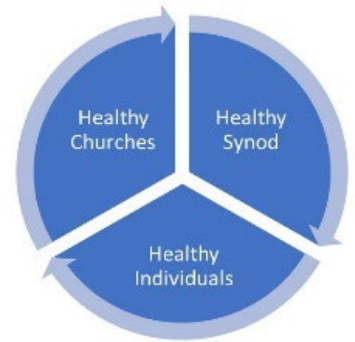
Report of the District Discipleship Committee

a supplemental RttD report available at
www.wels.net/about-wels/official-reports/rtttd/.

Our Calling

What is a “disciple?” Simply, it is a believer responding to Christ’s invitation, “Come, follow me.”

The WELS Commission on Discipleship exists to strengthen the connection of God’s people to Christ and to one another. To that end, our mission is “to provide resources, encouragement, and training to assist congregations and their ongoing walk of faith.” Because that walk of faith spans the totality of life, our calling encompasses ministry to all members of the Christian family in their unique callings: men and women, young children, teens, college-age and young adults, singles, parents, marriage spouses, etc.



At the Present

Marriage and Family Resources

Studies have shown there is a correlation between what happens in the homes of our members and congregational health. Every week, Commission on Discipleship provides a variety of resources in support of that important goal including:

- **Regular WELS Family Devotions** – published three times a week and including age-appropriate discussion questions, the 400-500 word devotions are meant to strengthen the family as parents engage their children in God’s Word and prayer. Congregations are encouraged to download them to their websites, share on their social media, or print for church/school families.
- **Marriage Moments** – sent every Monday, these two-minute videos strengthen the marital connection between husbands and wives—just a single thought from God’s Word to deepen their marital relationship. Christian homes benefit greatly when Christ is part of a couple’s daily life.

Youth Ministry

2022 WELS Youth Rally – For almost fifty years, thousands of youth and youth leaders have gathered every other year from across our church body in a large-scale event that connects them to Christ and each other. This summer’s rally is June 28 through July 1, at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. It will include daily worship opportunities, multiple keynotes to attend, 28 workshops offering something of interest for everyone, great food, recreation, and service opportunities. Some of the rally workshops will then be developed into online youth ministry resources and made available this fall to all congregations at www.welscongregationalservices.net.

For the past six years, **“Transformed” Teen Devotions** reach high school believers weekly at a critically-important age of life. Beginning this year, a **Teen Facilitator Guide** provides study helps for youth leaders to engage teens in a deeper conversation of Scripture that connects with real life. The resource is part of a broader menu of *The Foundation* resources on WELS Congregational Services website at <https://welscongregationalservices.net/the-foundation/>.

WELS National Leadership Conference - Plans are being made to invite teens and young adults to attend the upcoming Leadership Conference this coming January 16-18, 2023, in Chicago. The message is clear: our church body values younger generations in the body of Christ and sees their inclusion as an opportunity for encouragement and training. More information will be forthcoming mid-summer.

Women’s Ministry

“Won to be One” is the theme of the WELS Women’s Ministry Conference at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI on July 21-23, 2022. Women from all walks of life are invited to attend in six different keynotes and chose from dozens of breakout groups. The conference will identify barriers of our dis-attached, fragmented culture that get in the way of unity. Then, with a focus on the book of Ephesians, cultivate the richness of grace and unity to stand firm in the face of conflict, and extend grace in our everyday relationships. <https://wels.net/event/2022-wels-womens-ministry-conference/>

Every congregation has women who are eager to grow in the Word and desire to share it with others but want to better balance knowing Scripture well enough to teach. **Equip Women to Teach the Word** is an online training module for congregations that want to encourage and prepare women to serve as faithful teachers of God’s Word in different ministry settings. <https://welscongregationalservices.net/equip-women-to-teach/#toggle-id-1>

For more information, including how to subscribe to their bi-monthly newsletter, Advent by Candlelight resources, and an online **“Heirs Together”** Bible class starting this fall, go to <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/>.

A Look Ahead

The Commission on Discipleship is at various stages of development on a wide variety of programs and resources to address urgent and immediate congregation needs or long-standing ministry challenges.

Congregational Marriage Resources – A variety of online modules will be available beginning this fall including:

- A new set of *Marriage Maintenance* Bible studies. Each study comes with a short lead-in video that sets up the topic followed by an activity to put it into practice. The resource asks for a couple’s commitment of time to further their conversation based on God’s Word (study) and for direct marriage application (personal discussion).
- *Marriage Enrichment Module* – **“Keys to a Lasting Marriage”** is a three-part biblical, practical, interactive marriage resource facilitated by a pastor/staff minister/or strong lay leader(s). Each part has a student sheet, leader guide and an accompanying PowerPoint. Its use is

flexible to local ministry needs (inreach and outreach) and church calendar (three-hour marriage workshop, three weekly/monthly sessions, or three sessions spread out over a weekend retreat).

- *Pre-Marriage* – Incorporating Marriage Moment videos, this pre-marriage course covers topical and biblical areas of marriage for use by the pastor with a couple or in a small group setting.

Small Group Ministry - Pulse surveys show that many church members lack a strong connection to their church and to each other. This module will share several ways to approach using small groups and step-by-step instructions how churches can arrange for small groups in their ministry setting for better congregational connectedness and member care.

Youth Night - One of the effects of COVID-19 is the loss of momentum in youth ministry at the local congregational level. The goal of Youth Night is to bring together youth and youth leaders from area congregations in a two-hour evening event that encourages shared faith and fun in a larger setting. A Youth Night template with an accompanying kit of resources (planning guide, event coordination, youth involvement) will be ready by this fall.

Stewardship - What is an active church member? According to Barna Research, it is a person who goes to church once a month. Once a month. In a culture where God is diminished and self is promoted, will an hour a month sufficiently combat the rest of the 671 monthly hours lived in a post-biblical world? What are the key areas of “time” which may be sorely out of sync because of our culture? How does a stewardship of time trickle down into healthier faith and life?

This fall, a worship/Bible study series will double-down on God’s priorities for the critical asset called “TIME.”

Sunday school module - Help congregations assess their struggling Sunday school ministry and provide examples of various approaches to revitalize youth ministry.

Human Sexuality/Identity Task Force - Our church and school ministries will increasingly encounter an ideology and culture causing gender/identity confusion. Church members, students, called workers, faculties, and church leaders face a wide-range of struggles associated with it. How do we help them? How is it cloaked in Christian love? This task force brings together experienced called workers and lay leaders in key areas (counseling, classroom, church and school leaders, legal consultation) to clothe firm beliefs in Christian love and with resources that will support and equip called workers, faculties, and families.

It is truly a challenging yet exciting time for strengthening disciples in their following of Christ! May God bless our plan for him and our service to his people!

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Aaron Steinbrenner
District Discipleship Coordinator

Report of the District Constitution Committee

Constitution Committee's Work

From 2020-2022 the District Constitution Committee has received and reviewed twelve Constitution and Bylaw documents.

The District Constitution and Bylaws *require* congregations to submit new documents or revised documents to the District Constitution Committee:

The committee shall examine the constitution and bylaws of congregations applying for membership in the district and make its recommendation to the convention. In the years the district does not meet, it shall make its recommendations to the president, upon whose recommendation members are accepted at the convention of the synod. The committee shall also approve revisions of constitutions and bylaws of congregations of the district.

News and Encouragements

Clean Copy

We ask that the congregations submit the “cleanest” proposed document as possible. The Constitution Committee is not a “proofreading” committee. Formatting, spelling, margin errors, article and section numeration should be checked and re-checked before submitting the document to the committee.

Right of Appeal

Constitutions **MUST** include a “right to appeal” section. This is required by the constitutions of our districts. The Synod model suggests:

A lay person who has been subject to disciplinary action by this congregations shall have the right to appeal the action. The lay person shall be notified in writing by the congregation of the right to appeal within 30 days of the completion of the disciplinary action. Such an appeal must be filed with the president of the district to which the congregation belongs within 60 days of receipt of notification from the congregation.

Timeline

It takes three to four weeks for the District Constitution Committee to review and respond to a document. The document is to be submitted to the Committee **PRIOR** to being presented to a voters' meeting for approval. The timeline for turnaround maybe be longer depending on how many documents the Committee has submitted to it at a given time.

New “model” forthcoming

A new model Constitution and Bylaws should be coming in the nearer future. Congregations and organizations that are looking at revising their documents may want to consider delaying those efforts until the new model is published.

Members of the Committee (term ends):

Rev. Jason Hacker (2026) Grace, Waukesha

Mr. John Stark (2022) Grace, Waukesha

Rev. Kirk Lahmann (2024) St. John, Burlington

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jason Hacker, Chairman