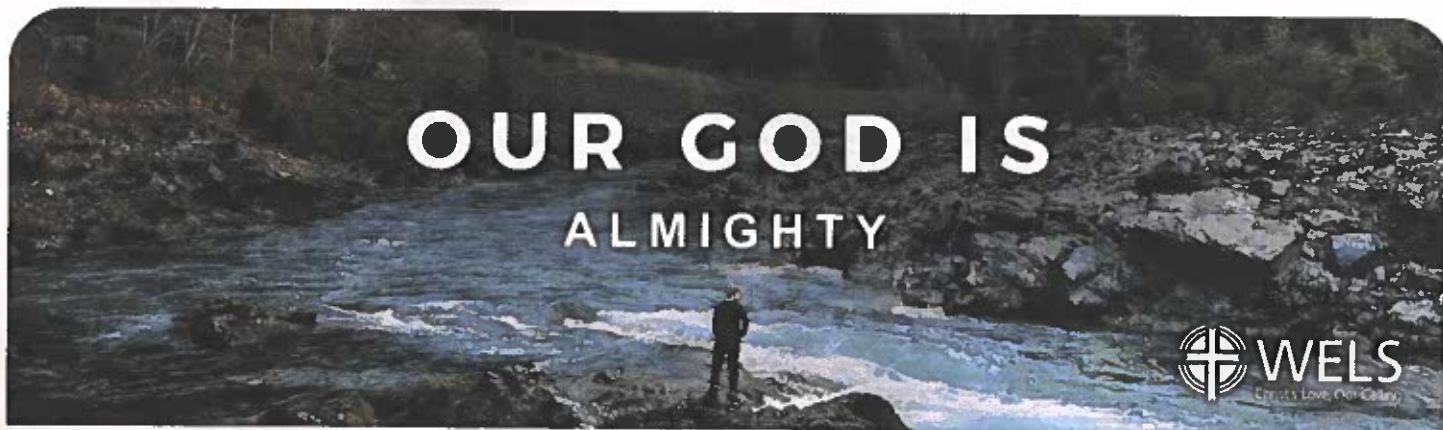


The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



How strong are you?

If you want to see incredible physical strength, watch “The World’s Strongest Man” competition. To win, the competitors have to do such demanding feats as lift 300-pound, round stones onto a pedestal, flip huge tires over and over, and pull large buses—in the least amount of time.

Such strength pales in comparison to the almighty power of the one true God.

God’s power isn’t limited to a competition, and he doesn’t use it to win prizes for himself. God uses his power for our benefit.

The greatest proof of God’s almighty power is when Jesus was raised to life after being crucified.

Jesus had the weight of the world on his back in the form of every sin of every person for all time. We rejoice because he was willing to lift the heavy weight of sin off us and endure the excruciating pain of dying on the cross in our place.

Jesus was humbled, but only temporarily. Three days later, God showed his almighty power when Jesus became the only person to overcome sin, death, and hell.

The Apostle Paul writes, “By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also” (1 Corinthians 6:14).

Jesus won the victory of eternal life. He gives the hope of heaven to all people. Now that is a feat of strength!

God is not done revealing his almighty power. On the Last Day, Jesus will return to earth to raise our bodies back to life and to reunite them with our souls. We may be weak, but God uses his strength for us. Trust in the power of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Worship with us during the Easter season. Together we can rejoice in God’s almighty power.



Holy Week Worship

<u>Palm Sunday, March 28</u>	8:00 and 10:30 AM
<u>Maundy Thursday, April 1</u>	3:30 and 7:00 PM
<u>Good Friday, April 2</u>	1:00 and 7:00 PM
<u>The Resurrection of Our Lord</u>	
<u>Easter Dawn, April 4</u>	6:00 AM (communion)
<u>Easter Day, April 4</u>	7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 AM

Zion Lutheran Church & School

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 The Resurrection of Our Lord 6:00 am Worship: Easter Dawn, Communion 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 7:30 am Worship: Easter Day 9:00 am Worship: Easter Day 10:30 am Worship: Easter Day	5 No School: Easter Monday	6 VB Home vs Our Redeemer (A-team only at 4pm) 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7:45 pm Bible Information Class Online	7 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 6-7, 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice	8 VB Home vs Holy Cross 7:45 am Sanctuary Reserved for Cleaning 2:00 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Worship	9 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	10 Mission Journeys to Bonney Lake
11 Easter 2 Mission Journeys to Bonney Lake 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9-15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	12 VB Home vs St. John's, Pardeeville (B-team only) Mission Journeys to Bonney Lake 6:30 pm *Board of Ed Meeting	13 Mission Journeys to Bonney Lake 6:30 pm Music Recital 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 6:30 pm Stewardship Board 7:45 pm Bible Information Class Online	14 Mission Journeys to Bonney Lake 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Grade 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice	15 VB Away vs St. John's, Juneau Mission Journeys to Bonney Lake 7:45 am Sanctuary Reserved for Cleaning	16 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	17 Fine Arts Festival (FAF)
18 Easter 3 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9-15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	19	20 VB Away vs Peace, Sun Prairie 6:00 pm PATZ Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7:45 pm Bible Information Class Online	21 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Confirmation Rehearsal 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Council Meeting	22 7:45 am Sanctuary Reserved for Cleaning 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	23 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	24
25 Easter 4 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 10:30 am Confirmation Sunday 10:30 am Grades K-4-Sing 10:30 am Fellowship Hall in use	26 9:00 am Cleaning Sanctuary Monthly	27 6:30 pm Bible Information Class 7:45 pm Bible Information Class Online	28 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 6-7, 8 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice	29 5-8 Play Performances 7:45 am Sanctuary Reserved for Cleaning 6:30 pm Worship, Communion	30 Early Release: Teacher Inservice Midterm Bible Breakfast 6:00 am	

5 Reminders in Dealing with Disappointment and Loss



April 9, 2020

By [Julie Robles](#)

"It's not fair!"

This statement always makes me think of a certain Calvin & Hobbes cartoon. Calvin asks his parents why he can't stay up late like they do, and he gives a loud, capital letter-type wail: "IT'S NOT FAIR!" His dad calmly replies, "The *world* isn't fair, Calvin." Calvin walks away disappointed, saying to himself "I know, but why isn't it ever unfair in my favor?"

As we face our current global health crisis, here are many things that just "aren't fair" right now. People are out of work. Parents are trying to keep up their children's education. High school seniors are missing some last memory-making experiences. Weddings are cancelled, and loved ones aren't able to attend funerals. Many college graduations are postponed. Weeks and months of marathon training has become for nothing as races are cancelled. Even the ways that people usually deal with stress, such as getting together with friends or going to the gym, are no longer an option. So far, I can't think of anyone for whom this global "unfairness" is acting in their favor.

Here are key points to dealing with the changes, losses, and unfairness that has soaked our world:

#1. Acknowledge and accept your feelings.

It's okay to be sad, angry, frustrated, disappointed, or anxious during this uncertain time. In fact, it is more than okay – it's necessary! You need to process your pain in order to gain perspective. Communicate with a trusted friend or family member; explain what you are feeling and why.

#2. Find favor in the midst of unfairness.

Perhaps right now you feel a loss over a cancelled event, a job layoff, or something similar – but consider what you can unexpectedly gain. Often in our busy lives we use the excuse "I just don't have enough time" as the reason we can't bond more with our kids, improve our physical health, or pursue a new hobby. What about the unexpected blessing of suddenly having some extra time on your hands?

Realize that how you cope with disappointing situations will shape the way you deal with the future. Accept things you can't control, feel free to be upset by them, and then let them go. Focus on the good that is still around you, and be thankful for it. Use this opportunity to learn how to make the best out of an unfair situation. Even when life is unfair, you have the power to make it unfair in your favor.

#3. Respond to other people's losses with grace.

Everyone is affected to some degree by the changes happening in our world. True, some people's stress loads are lighter than others. For example, your sister may be upset that she has to re-learn algebra to help her teenager with homework, while you are a single mom and a nurse working overtime, trying to find babysitters for your five kids who are out of school, and – oh yeah, you're out of toilet paper. Or maybe you feel a bit guilty for being so stressed because you don't have it "as bad" as your best friend who just cancelled her wedding. Your loss is very real and very personal. So is your sister's. So is your friend's. So are the high school seniors who won't get to their last prom or their graduation. So is the multi-million dollar contracted basketball player whose season is suddenly over. Show empathy and grace to those dealing with any kind of loss. This is a hard time for everyone.

#4. Be a model.

All people around you notice how you respond to crisis and disappointment. Your kids, your friends, your fiancé, your boss, etc. are all seeing the side of you that has to deal with change and are watching your emotions that come with it. If you have people in your life looking up to you right now, remember them when you face a choice of how to respond.

Also, if someone who is struggling comes to you for help, listen nonjudgmentally and let them know that they are not alone. Check in on your loved ones –

OFTEN, because things are changing every day – to see how they are doing emotionally.

#5. Remember who is in control.

It is human nature to want to have control over our lives. When life is uprooted and there is little we can do to change it, it's normal to feel anxiety and worry. Find comfort in knowing that we have a great big God who remains in control so that we don't have to be. And not only is God in control, He already knows how this will all turn out. "You do not realize now what I am doing, but someday you will understand," (John 13:7). We don't know how; we don't know when; and we don't know why. But what we *do* know is that God's got this.

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

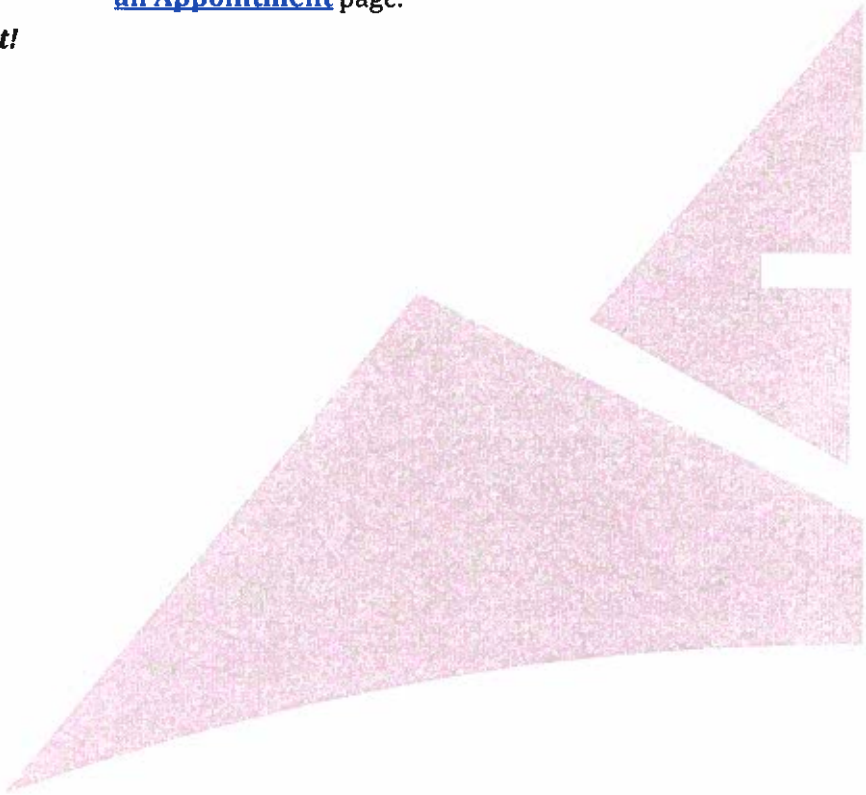
JULIE ROBLES is a Licensed Professional Counselor (MS, LPC-IT) With Christian Family Solutions



Do you or a loved one need counseling help?

To learn more about our video counseling services, visit

<https://christianfamilysolutions.org/> You can also get to know our counselors by visiting our **["Meet Our Providers" page](#)**. You can click on each provider's picture to read their bio and watch their video bio. Appointments with our counselors can be conveniently requested online through our **[Request an Appointment](#)** page.



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Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
Matt Weidner, Vice-Chairman	920-319-6017
Nick Uebelacker, Secretary	608-225-8861
Will Penterman, Treasurer	920-750-8763
Andrew Tratar, Education	920-296-1485
Bruce Zander, Elders	920-438-4014
Nils Johansson, Outreach	608-239-5123
Jim Greiling, Property	920-948-1746
Otto Mattke, Stewardship	608-516-5279
Craig Lathrop, Family Ministry	608-770-2498

Our Mission

The mission of Zion
Evangelical Lutheran Church
and School is to preach and
teach God’s saving Word in
all its truth and purity.

Get in Touch

Church/School Office
(920) 623-5180
office@zioncrusaders.com
www.zioncolumbus.org

Tim Schwartz, Pastor
(509) 480-2967
tschwartz24@gmail.com

Ben Zuberbier, Pastor
(920) 517-7940
pastorbenzuberbier@gmail.com

Alex Vandenberg, Principal
(507) 353-0719
avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com

Jim Grasby, Lakeside Principal
(920) 648-2321

Thanks
be to God
for his
incredible
gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15



April 1st - Maundy Thursday, April 2nd (Good Friday) & April 4th (Easter)

7:00pm - April 1st
7:30am - April 4th

Jeff Henning (C)
Matt Weidner
Rodney Hacht
Steven Hahn
Mike Vick

7:00pm - April 2nd
10:30am - April 4th
Team L5

Phil Manteufel (C)
Peter Lewke
Dave Harle
Paul Musser
Brian Baney
Eric Musser

April 4th (Easter)

6:00am - Team E2
Dale Schilling (C)
Dale Gajdosik
Randy Vick
Kenneth Schulz
Matt Yaroch
Nick Yaroch
Nate Yaroch

9:00am
Randy Koehn (C)
Andy Tratar
Noah Litherland
Dan Retzlaff
Matt Huber
Carter Huber

April 11th & April 18th

8:00am - **Team E3**
Randy Koehn (C)
Dan Retzlaff
Noah Litherland
Jim Stadler
Josiah Schwartz
William Penterman

10:30am - **Team L6**
Otto Mattke (C)
Paul Kehl (A)
Dennis Winter
Carl Wolf
William Mattke
Nils Johansson
Shaun Opsahl

April 25th & May 2nd

8:00am - **Team E4**
Mark Lindell (C)
Remington Lindell
Roger Weiland (C)
Bryce Weiland
Brett Weiland
Norman Weiland
Eric Turnquist (C)

10:30am - **Team L7**
Matt Huber (C)
Carter Huber
Jeremy Maas
Peter Klokow
Jack Klokow
Brady Grambsch
Michael Vertz

If you have any questions about the usher schedule, would like to be added as an usher or won't be able to serve any longer as an usher, please call Randy Koehn at (608) 296-4333.

Greeter Schedule



April 4th (Easter)

8:00am — E5
Emily Henning &
Nancy Huebner

10:30am — L8
Otto & Sheree Mattke

April 11th

8:00am — E6
Jim & Jenny Greiling

10:30am — L9
Bev Herold &
Nicole Henning

April 18th

8:00am — E7
Dale & Joyce Gajdosik

10:30am — L11
John & Sarah Brey

April 2th

8:00am — E8
Wilma Lenz &
Joan Herzberg

10:30am — L12
Nils & Lara Johansson

If you are interested in being added as a greeter or need to be removed from the schedule, please contact Melody Krakow at (920) 210-6323.



**Church Attendance
February**

Date	Total
4/7	208
11/14	164
17/21	326
24/28	280

Athlyn Herzberg 10th 86 years
Ray Owens 25th 85 years

Membership Changes

Transfer Out:

Randy & Raenee Schultz to Peace Lutheran, Sun Prairie.

Transfer In:

None

Ministrations

Baptisms:

- 5. Avery Lynn Lapp
Born 2/2/2021; Baptized 2/7/2021
Parents: Lukas & Camille Lapp

Death

- 1. Beatrice Selje - Born 11/22/1928; Died 1/30/2021.
- 2. Mary Lou Howe - Born 7/6/1929; Died 2/2/2021.

Marriage:

None

Confirmation:

None

Zion's Ladies Society

Maundy Thursday is the first Thursday in April, so our April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8th at 2:00pm.



We will have our regular business meeting along with any other items that need to be discussed. We hope to see many of you there.

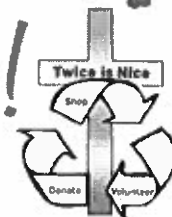
Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by April 21st. Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET
and donate to *Twice is Nice!*

907 W. Racine St. Jefferson, Wis.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Financial Statement

	Feb 21	Jul '20 - Feb 21
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Extended Care Reimbursement	1,045.36	1,045.36
Extra Synod Missions Income	213.00	2,741.00
General Fund Offerings	48,136.90	443,438.14
LLHS Building Income	0.00	25.00
Other Donations	363.00	-4,410.45
Other Reciepts	40.55	818.30
WLIM Income	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Income	50,798.81	444,657.35
Gross Profit	50,798.81	444,657.35
Expense		
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	27,758.87	226,465.86
Church Supplies	-113.50	1,311.85
Copier	0.00	1,007.02
Extended Care Expense	932.29	932.29
Family Ministry Board	76.66	69.48
Guest Pastor	0.00	573.00
Health Insurance	8,418.39	58,860.12
HRA Savings	3,000.00	19,500.00
Janitors	1,359.17	9,167.14
LLHS Building Expense	0.00	25.00
LLHS Expense	2,850.00	22,200.00
Maintenance	4,612.81	23,977.43
Meditations	0.00	1,112.00
Mileage	500.00	3,696.24
Miscellaneous	0.00	75.41
Organists	407.23	3,948.39
Outreach Board	0.00	4,848.03
Payroll Expenses	524.00	2,732.25
Pension Insurance	200.00	11,222.00
Postage and Delivery	44.66	779.55
Secretaries	1,921.20	16,185.22
Stewardship Board	246.53	2,668.18
Substitute Teaching	-106.00	-166.67
Sunday School/VBS	201.95	500.40
Synod Mission Expense	5,913.00	47,141.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	365.95	2,291.63
Utilities	6,074.98	24,471.77
WLCFS Expense	0.00	1,075.00
Worship	518.67	4,146.42
Total Expense	65,706.86	490,816.01
Net Ordinary Income	-14,908.05	-46,158.66
Net Income	-14,908.05	-46,158.66

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

February 2021

Previous Month Assets	\$78,718.41
Total Transactions	\$12,240.07
Total Current Assets	\$90,958.48

New Church/School Total	\$83,923.04
checking/savings	\$8,154.06

Accounts	Undesignated Checking		Explanation	Undesignated Savings		Explanation	Monthly Statements		NEW Church/School	
	Checking	Interest		Fund Savings	Interest		NEW Church/School	Fund Savings	NEW Church/School	Checking
Previous Balance	\$345.87			\$4,574.56			\$71,129.46		\$2,668.52	
Monthly Transactions*	(\$149.99)			\$2,265.00			\$1,971.00		\$8,154.06	
Current Balance	\$195.88			\$6,839.56			\$73,100.46		\$10,822.58	
Transactions	(\$150.00)	Joan Marks		\$365.00	2-12	deposit	\$5,483.00	deposit 2-1	\$3,486.00	deposit 2-18
	\$0.01	Interest 3-3		\$1,900.00	2-26	deposit	\$255.00	deposit 2-2	\$4,668.06	deposit 2-24
				(\$5,425.00)		mortgage 2-2	\$225.00	deposit 2-3		
				\$325.00		deposit 2-4	\$325.00	deposit 2-4		
				\$2,019.00		deposit 2-5	\$2,019.00	deposit 2-5		
				\$100.00		deposit 2-8	\$100.00	deposit 2-8		
				\$180.00		deposit 2-9	\$180.00	deposit 2-9		
				\$75.00		deposit 2-10	\$75.00	deposit 2-10		
				\$2,015.00		deposit 2-12	\$2,015.00	deposit 2-12		
				\$700.00		deposit 2-16	\$700.00	deposit 2-16		
				(\$5,425.00)		mortgage 2-16	(\$5,425.00)	mortgage 2-16		
				\$75.00		deposit 2-17	\$75.00	deposit 2-17		
				\$30.00		deposit 2-18	\$30.00	deposit 2-18		
				\$624.00		deposit 2-19	\$624.00	deposit 2-19		
				\$530.00		deposit 2-22	\$530.00	deposit 2-22		
				\$110.00		deposit 2-23	\$110.00	deposit 2-23		
				\$75.00		deposit 2-24	\$75.00	deposit 2-24		
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	(\$149.99)			\$2,265.00			\$1,971.00		\$8,154.06	
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$12,240.07									

Notes:

Interest Received	\$8,154.06
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TOGETHER



March 16, 2021

Conference of Presidents addresses concerns about the Equality Act

Some have been asking about the potential impact of the proposed federal Equality Act on Christian churches and religious organizations, including our own synod. The Equality Act was first passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2019 but was not adopted by the U.S. Senate at that time. It was passed again by the House of Representatives on Feb. 25, 2021, and may well be introduced into the Senate in the near future.

The Equality Act seeks to make sexual orientation and gender identity a protected class, just like one's biological sex, under our nation's current federal non-discrimination laws. As a church we do not express opinions on purely political matters. However, the concern in this case is that aspects of the Equality Act could make it very difficult for the church to carry out its mission and could jeopardize our religious freedom to preach and teach God's Word faithfully.

At this point, there is much we don't know. For one thing, it is not known when or if the Senate will discuss the Equality Act, although it could be at any time. For another thing, if the Senate should pass the Equality Act, it is not known what specific restrictions would be imposed on Christian churches and institutions or what the result will be when legal firms appeal to the courts in regard to religious freedom concerns.

This concern is due to the fact that in its present form the Equality Act appears not to provide for religious exemptions. It is possible, therefore, that identifying certain types of behavior as sinful could be considered unlawful hate speech under the provisions of this act. It could result in the loss of our tax-exempt status. It could also affect the ability of our colleges to receive federal funding for scholarships, grants, and loans for their students. There are several other ways in which carrying out our normal daily operations as churches and schools could potentially be affected in regard to things like facilities, health insurance policies, and sports programs.

Our entire focus as a Christian church is to proclaim God's law and gospel in order to convict people of sin and to assure people of forgiveness through the sacrificial death of Christ our Savior. We recognize that the only way for people to have an appropriate view of any situation of life, including matters of sexual identity, is to know and believe in Jesus. As a result, we do not believe that seeking to prevent a law from coming into existence will change anyone's heart. We also do not make it our goal to simply change anyone's external behavior. Further, we do not in any way condone behavior that shows hatred or disrespect to any individual. Such behavior is also sinful.

Our desire and responsibility, however, is to continue practicing our faith in humility and love, as we share with ourselves and others what God says in his Word for our eternal good. As individual Christian citizens, you may well exercise your citizenship by contacting your U.S. senators to express any concerns you may have. We encourage all of you to pray that, if the Equality Act should become law, no aspect of the law will be allowed to compromise our ability to share God's Word freely. In other words, pray that religious exemptions be maintained, as has been the constitutional right the Lord has allowed us to enjoy for many years. While the Bible does not guarantee that right, it has been a blessing that we have cherished. If that should not be the case, then we further encourage your prayers that the Lord would give us the boldness and courage to be faithful to him, no matter the earthly consequences, as we work together as brothers and sisters in Christ to continue to carry out our Savior's mission. The work of God's kingdom will always move forward.

We will certainly keep alert to further developments and communicate those when appropriate.

God, have mercy on us and give us your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.


Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

LWMS announces plans for 2021 convention

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) announced via Facebook Live on March 7 that its 2021 convention, originally planned for June 24-27, 2021, in Sharonville, Ohio, will be virtual again this year.

"We've been doing a lot of praying and brainstorming, and we came up with a solution for this year," said LWMS President Cynthia Natsis. "We have decided as a board that our 2021 convention . . . will have to be virtual again this year. We came to that decision because of many different circumstances, COVID-19 being the biggest one, of course." She continues to say that, at the time of the announcement, Ohio had gathering restrictions limited to 300 people and it's uncertain how that would change by June.

"We are excited to try our hand at another virtual convention. We have some exciting speakers," says Natsis. From Home Missions, Rev. Allen Kirschbaum, Spirit of Life, Caledonia, Mich., and Rev. Ryan Kolander, Palabra de Vida, Detroit, Mich., will be presenting. Gary and Beth Evans from the Central Africa Medical Mission, which is marking 60 years of service this year, will be talking about their work in Africa. From World Missions, Rev. Stephen Wiesenauer will share about the gospel work in East Asia. Additional workshops are also planned.

All videos will be posted June 24-27, 2021, on the LWMS convention website, which can be found by visiting lwms.org. View the entire announcement at fb.com/LWMS.WELS. 



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit wels.net/together.

TOGETHER



March 2, 2021

Synodical Council winter 2021 meeting

The Synodical Council (SC) held its winter meeting last week via video conference.

The SC reviewed the financial results of the last fiscal year as well as the end-of-calendar year results for Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). Across the board, both in terms of the synod's ministry financial plan and regarding the financial position of the synod's departments, schools, and subsidiaries, the financial situation of the synod is much healthier than was expected. The SC acknowledged thanks for God's blessings on our synod and its congregations.

In view of the healthy financial situation, the SC approved an expenditure of \$400,000 to be used to fund some of the items on the "unfunded priority list." The SC Ministry Committee, with input from the President's Advisory Council, will determine in April which ministries will receive this funding.

The SC gave its final approval to the ministry financial plan (budget) for the next biennium that will be recommended to the synod convention in July. The plan, adopted unanimously and with the support of the Conference of Presidents, calls for a 2 percent increase in expenditures in each of the next two years.

The SC also resolved to move ahead with its recommendation to change the synod pension plan from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. A defined contribution plan would work more like a 401(k), giving called workers their own retirement accounts. The details of the plan were shared last year and will be shared again this spring before being considered by the synod in convention in July.


The SC made the following appointments:

- To the Board of Directors of the WELS Church Extension Fund: Mr. Seth Hanson, Mr. Tim Gensmer, and Mr. Ron Kerr were re-appointed for another term.
- To the Board of Directors of the WELS Investment Fund: Mr. Joel Luehmann, Mr. John Wenker, and Mr. Seth Hanson were re-appointed for another term.
- To the Retirement Program Commission: Mr. Lee Miller was re-appointed for another term; Rev. James Turriff was newly appointed.
- To the VEBA Commission: Mr. James Gabriel was newly appointed.
- To the Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors: Mr. Joel Raasch, Mr. Matthew Groth, Rev. Steven Pagels were re-appointed for another term.

Communications Director Mr. Lee Hitter reported that during 2020 wels.net had more than two million visits to the website, with users in the U.S. and throughout the world making use of the digital content.

Technology Director Mr. Martin Spriggs reported that a third-party security firm was engaged to do a thorough assessment of hardware, software, security policies and procedures, as well as employee training. A preliminary report has been received and will be reviewed for appropriate recommendations to technology systems and practice. He also reported that hundreds of hours have been devoted to updating the CMM phone system to Microsoft Teams Telephony.

Director of the Ministry of Christian Giving Rev. Kurt Lueneburg reported that from 2010-2019 total congregational offerings have increased from \$295 million to just over \$345 million. Over that same period, the percent of congregations' dollars given to CMO has decreased from 7.1% to 6.2%. He also reported that over the past 15 years \$102 million has been given or committed to ministerial education and missions through the WELS endowments, managed by WELS Foundation. It is expected that distributions from these eight endowments will exceed \$1 million in 2021 for the first time.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit
wels.net/together.