The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



One of the enduring memories of Chicago Cub fans is the late announcer Harry Cary. "Holy cow!" used to be one of his favorite sayings. We usually say, "Holy cow!" to express our surprise—not to point to a cow that is particularly well behaved. Cows can be big. Some people even may think they are pretty. But holy?

God expects people to be holy. He demands, "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2). Holy means sinless/perfect. Think about playing Little League baseball. Imagine your coach telling you that you have to get a hit every time you go up to bat, or you will be punished and never play again. That's impossible. Not even Christian Yelich can do that!

How can a loving God demand that we be holy? How can he say that if we sin just one time we deserve to go to hell? Isn't that cruel? Why does God demand the impossible? We can't be sinless, but there is someone who was.

That's Jesus. The Bible says, "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22). God gives us even better news! "God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Righteous means holy. God tells us that Jesus became sinful for us. How do we become righteous/holy? "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." (Romans 3:20-22).

God credits holiness to all who believe in Jesus as the one who saved them from their sins. What God demands; he provides! Everyone who believes in Jesus is considered perfect by God! Holy cow!

"This promise is for you and your children...'

This past month was busy with baptisms at Zion. We praise God and pray for the families of these children who became children of God by water and the Word!



Avery



Madeline



Shelby



Addilyn

Zion Lutheran Church and School

March 2021

| No School: Spring break 6:00 am Bible Breakfast Spring break 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 26 End of 3rd Quarter 6:00 am Bible Breakfast | | 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice | À | | 10:30 am K4 – 4 sing | |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| No School: Spring break 6:00 am Bible Breakfast Spring break 6:00 am Bible Breakfast 26 End of 3rd Quarter 6:00 am Bible Breakfast | | 31 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting | 30 VB Home vs Eastside 4:00 pm NO Catechism Grades 8 (Spring 1) Break) | 29 | Palm Sunday Online Worship Posted Worship, Communion K4 – 4 sing Bible Study n Worship, Communion | 8:00 am 8:00 am 8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 ar |
| Grade Play 6:00 am Bible Breakfast No School: Spring break 6:00 am Bible Breakfast | 25 | 24 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 3:30 pm Lent Worship 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lent Worship | 23 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 7 6-7, 8 | 22 | Lent 5 Online Worship Posted Worship Bible Study n Worship | 8:00 am 8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 an |
| 6:00 am Bible Breakfast | 18 No Spr | No School: Spring break St. Patrick's Day 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 3:30 pm Lent Worship 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lent Worship | 16 No School: Spring 5 break 5 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 9 6-7, 8 6:00 pm PATZ Meeting 7 | No School: Spring break | Daylight Saving Time starts Online Worship Posted Worship Bible Study n Worship | 14 Lent 4 8:00 am 8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 an |
| 1 7ion 5th 8th 12 13 | 11 Zio Gra | 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 3:30 pm Lent Worship 3:30 pm Junior Choir sings 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm Lent Worship | 9 10 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 7:00 am 9:15 am 7:00 pm Stewardship Board 1:30 pm 3:30 pm 3:30 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm | 8 6:30 pm *Board of Ed Meeting | LLHS A-team BB Tournament Online Worship Posted Worship, Communion Bible Study n Worship: Communion | 7 Lent 3 8:00 am 8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 an |
| 4 5 Grace in Action 6:00 am Bible Breakfast LLHS A-team BB Tournament | 4 2:00 pm Lad | 3 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 3:30 pm Lent Worship 3:30 pm K4 & K5 song recording 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lent Worship | 4:00 pm Catechism Grades 7 6-7, 8 1 3 3 3 6 6 7 | First Day of Women's History Month | | |
| Thursday Friday Saturday | Thur | Wednesday | Tuesday | Monday | Sunday | |

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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.



Council Names and Numbers

| 920-319-0018 |
|--------------|
| 920-382-4338 |
| |
| 608-225-8861 |
| 920-750-8763 |
| 920-296-1485 |
| 920-438-4014 |
| 608-239-5123 |
| 920-948-1746 |
| 608-516-5279 |
| 608-770-2498 |
| |

Get in Touch

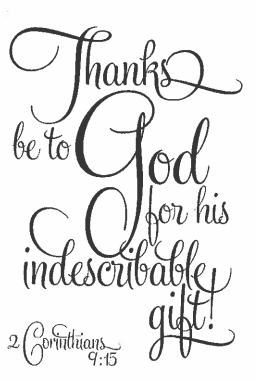
Church/School Office (920) 623-5180 office@zioncrusaders.com www.zioncolumbus.org

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



Greeter Schedule



March 7th

8:00am — E11 Delphine Schaefer 10:30am — L2 Laurie Kirchberg &

Pat Premo

March 14th

8:00am — E1 Jeff & Melody Krakow 10:30am — L3

Rick & Lisa Gentz

March 21st

8:00am — E2

10:30am — L5

Dave & Kathy Harle

Marcia Rewolinski &

Arlene Sennhenn

March 28th

8:00am — E4

10:30am — L7

Delmar & Carol Vick

Wayne & Darlene Powers

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.



March 3rd, March 7th & March 10th

7:00pm - March 3rd 8:00am - March 7th 10:30am - March 7th 7:00pm - March 10th

Team E5 Team L2

Kim Schilling (C) Ronald Knudson

Dale Schultz (C)
Daniel Schultz

Andy Tratar John Zandler Scott Brenner

Dylan Schultz Michael Hallberg Nathan Hallberg

Matt Vosberg

Henry Tews

March 14th, March 17th & March 21st

8:00am - March 14th

10:30am - March 14th 10:30am - March 21st

7:00pm - March 17th Team E6

Team L3

Jim Greiling (C) Matt Greiling Jim Kluetzman(C)
Gabe Uttech

Rick Gentz

AJ Uttech Michael Uttech

Hunter Sommer John Brey

Gary Schuhmacher

Bob Marousek Iordan Crave Tony Owens

March 21st, March 24th & March 28th

8:00am - March 21st

7:00pm - March 24th

8:00am - March 28th

10:30am - March 28th

Team E7

Team L4

Mike Vick (C) Troy Kehoe (A)

Bruce Zander (C) Kurt Zander (A) Kane Browskowski

Bruce Hatzinger Ron Yerges

Wyatt Browskowski

Jake Boness Brian Peck Jack Schultz Jesse Schultz

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.



Church Attendance

January

| Date | Total |
|----------------|-------|
| 3 | 179 |
| 7/10 | 236 |
| 1 4 /17 | 195 |
| 21/24 | 184 |
| 28/31 | 151 |
| | |

Membership Changes

Transfer Out:

Tyler & Brooke Kovalaske to St. Peters, Fond du Lac

Transfer In:

Sue Pankow

Ministrations

<u>Baptisms</u>:

- Hayden Olivia Tews
 Born 12/23/2020; Baptized 1/3/2021
 Parents: Henry & Dana Tews
- Madeline Harper Doman
 Born 10/7/2020; Baptized 1/16/2021
 Parents: Adam Doman & Sarah Klug
- Shelby Lynn King Born 1/15/2021; Baptized 1/23/2021 Parents: Johnny & Becky King
- Addilyn Ann Clark
 Born 7/20/2020; Baptized 1/30/2021
 Parents: Logan Clark & Alyssa Miller

Death:

None

Marriage:

None

Confirmation:

None



| Delores Hasenfuss | 4th | 90 years |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|
| Harriette Moll | 5t h | 91years |
| Wayne Moungey | 16t h | 84 years |
| Genevieve Setz | 24t l h | 82 years |

Zion's Ladies Society

Hopefully conditions will be better for our March 4th meeting than it was for our February meeting.



We will review the items discussed at our February meeting and set a date in March for the Lutheran Womens Mission Society door collection. The money collected will be used to help synod mission work. The Home Mission project, The Pastoral Studies Institute, helps support men from different countries who want to become pastors for people of their nationality that live in North America. The World Mission Project, The Latin America Project, helps enhance our gospel ministry in Latin America. All ladies in our congregation are members of the LWMS.

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by March 19th.
Contact Sue Henning at
(608) 225-4853 or suchenning 28



(608) 225-4853 or <u>suehenning25@gmail.com</u> if you have any questions.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Financial Statement

| | Jan 21 | Jul '20 - Jan 21 |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | |
| Income Extra Synod Missions Income General Fund Offerings | 280.00 50,999.38 | 2,528.00 395,301.24 |
| LLHS Building Income Other Donations | 0.00 25.00 | 25.00 -4,773.45 |
| Other Reciepts | 443.00 | 7777.75 |
| Total Income | 51,747.38 | 393,858.54 |
| Gross Profit | 51,747.38 | 393,858.54 |
| Expense | | |
| Called Workers Salaries & Taxes | 27,968.00 | 198,706.99 |
| Church Supplies | 461.42 | 1,425.35 |
| Copier | 0.00 | 1,007.02 |
| Extended Care Expense | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Family Ministry Board | 0.00 | <i>-</i> 7.18 |
| Guest Pastor | 0.00 | 573.00 |
| Health Insurance | 8,418.39 | 50,441.73 |
| HRA Savings | 4,000.00 | 16,500.00 |
| Janitors | 1,142.71 | 7,807.97 |
| LLHS Building Expense | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| LLHS Expense | 2,850.00 | 19,350.00 |
| Maintenance | 5,391.77 | 19,364.62 |
| Meditations | 375.00 | 1,112.00 |
| Mileage | 500.00 | 3,196.24 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 75.41 |
| Organists | 463.13 | 3,541.16 |
| Outreach Board | -443.97 | 4,848.03 |
| Payroll Expenses | 278.00 | 2,208.25 |
| Pension Insurance | 9,622.00 | 11,022.00 |
| Postage and Delivery | 289.85 | 734.89 |
| Secretaries | 1,821.62 | 14,264.02 |
| Stewardship Board | 291.37 | 2,421.65 |
| Substitute Teaching | -120.42 | -60.67 |
| Sunday School/VBS | 0.00 | 298.45 |
| Synod Mission Expense | 5,980.00 | 41,228.00 |
| Telephone & Internet Expense | 169.95 | 1,925.68 |
| Utilities | 3,650.35 | 18,396.79 |
| WLCFS Expense | 250.00 | 1,075.00 |
| Worship | 0.00 | 3,627.75 |
| Total Expense | 73,359.17 | 425,109.15 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -21,611.79 | -31,250.61 |
| Net Income | -21,611.79 | -31,250.61 |
| | | |

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

January 2021

| Previous Month Assets | \$72.581.11 | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Total Transactions | \$6,137.30 | | New Church/School Total | Total |
| Total Current Assets | \$78,718.41 | + | \$73,797.98 | checking/savings |
| | | | Monthly Statements | |
| | Undesignated | Indesignated Cavings | | NEW Church/School |
| Previous Balance | 8 | \$3,994.56 atio | \$65,422.18 | \$2,668.52 |
| Monthly Transactions* | | | | \$0.00 |
| Current Balance | \$345.87 EXP | | | |
| Transactions | (\$150.00) Joan Marks | \$50.00 deposit 1-8 | \$705.00 deposit 1-4 | |
| | \$0.02 Interest | \$75.00 deposit 1-15 | \$755.00 deposit 1-5 | |
| | | \$455,00 deposit 1-29 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | \$574.00 deposit 1-8 | |
| | | | \$100.00 deposit 1-11 | |
| | | | \$80.00 deposit 1-12 | |
| | | | \$7.525.28 deposit 1-14 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | \$300.00 deposit 1-20 | |
| | | | \$185.00 deposit 1-21 | |
| | | | \$3.50.00 deposit 1-25 | |
| | | | \$80,00 deposit 1-26 | |
| | | | \$75.00 deposit 1-27 | The state of the s |
| | | | \$139.00 deposit 1-28 | |
| | | | \$2,345.00 deposit 1-29 | A DATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PART |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Monthly Transactions TOTAL | (5149.98) | \$580,00 | \$5,707.28 | \$0.00 |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL TRANSACTIONS | \$6,137.30 | Notes: | | |
| Interest Received | \$0.02 | | | |
| | | | | |

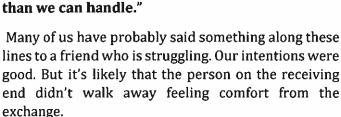
Why Do We Suffer?

By Julie Straseske, LPC

Christian Family Solutions

"If God brings you to it, he'll bring you through it."

"God never gives us more than we can handle."



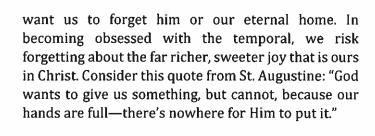
Not only can these types of platitudes communicate a lack of sympathy, the message they convey is misleading. The second example above is a common misquoting of Scripture, and Christians sometimes directly quote Scripture to make similar points.

Jeremiah 29:11 is a familiar and well-loved verse: "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD. 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This beautiful and comforting portion of God's Word speaks to God's love, wisdom, and the eternal joy in heaven that awaits all believers. But it can be tempting to take its message and communicate something different: "God will give me everything I desire in this world." Or: "God will work every earthly circumstance out in a way that's pleasing to me."

While Jesus walked this earth, he shared a very different message. He told his followers that they would be hated and persecuted (John 15:18) and that they would need to "take up their cross" of suffering as they followed him (Matthew 16:24). God inspired Peter to write that believers should "not be surprised" at their suffering, "as though something strange were happening" (1 Peter 4:12). Trials, tests, and tears are an inevitable part of the Christian life.

Why does God allow such suffering? In the book of Job, God answers the suffering man's cries not with answers, but with reminders of his power and love. We can't fully comprehend God's ways. However, he does provide some small glimpses into how he loves us in the midst of our struggles.

Our earthly sorrows point us to God. It's all too easy to become focused on worldly goals and rewards. Our Lord gives us plentiful blessings here, but doesn't



It is in suffering that the believer can often feel the loving tap on the shoulder from the Father, reminding us to focus on the unseen and eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18). Earthly difficulties often show us our lack of power and control. This can be terrifying or disheartening, until we are prompted to look to God's unlimited power and strength. When we are weak, then he is strong (2 Corinthians 12:10).

God also uses hardships to develop the faith and virtues of the Christian (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4). St. Paul, Mother Teresa, and Martin Luther King Jr. are all examples of imperfect Christians who became witnesses to others through their qualities, refined by suffering. Our loving Shepherd draws us nearer to him through suffering as well (Psalm 34:15). The comfort given to us by our heavenly Father is far greater and more complete than that provided by the most tender earthly parent.

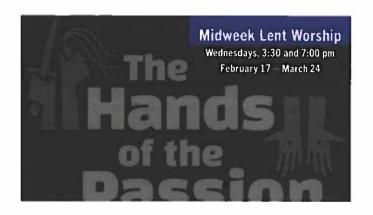
Another powerful way God works through our suffering is in the witness we can provide. The believer who remains kind, trusting, and hopeful while experiencing despair is a light to the unbelieving world, demonstrating power and comfort that can only come from Christ. The greatest witness I've seen in the last year is from a dear friend who has experienced great loss. Her joy and faith in the midst of sadness have been used by God to encourage and inspire many others. This friend has been clear that she maintains this attitude so that people will look at her situation and not see her, but the strength provided by her Savior.

This may seem a strange topic for a counseling blog—isn't the point of counseling to help people decrease their suffering? Is this goal in conflict with God's reminder that all Christians will suffer, and that he will provide blessings through the suffering? If we refer again to God's Word, we find that this is not the case: "Praise be to the God...of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings

of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

The Holy Spirit urges believers to reach out to others with the comfort we have received from God. Doing so is a major goal of Christian counseling, and of Christian relationships in general. Additionally, helping people alleviate their distress due to depression, anxiety, or relational issues can leave them better able to serve God and witness to others.

However, our primary goal isn't to remove all pain for ourselves and others and create a type of heaven here. The goal is to lovingly—through our relationships, our acts of service, and through our words—point others toward Jesus. He is the one who suffered the ultimate pain (crucifixion and separation from God) so that we wouldn't have to. His pain means that our pain is fleeting and temporary, and a perfect eternity awaits us. Until then, it is our comfort to rest in his arms, and it is our joy to encourage others to do the same.



If you are struggling due to difficult circumstances in your life and feel you would benefit from speaking with one of our Christian counselors, please visit our Request Appointment page, or call us at 800.438.1772 to schedule an appointment.

TOGETHER



February 2, 2021

With the Lord

Rev. John Moldstad, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), was suddenly and unexpectedly called to his heavenly home last Friday from an apparent heart attack.

President Moldstad was my classmate and friend, and he has been the president of our sister synod throughout my time as WELS synod president. John was one of the most self-effacing and humble men I have ever known. He loved to tell jokes, often making himself the object of his humor. More important, President Moldstad was a strong defender and promoter of confessional Lutheranism and the teachings of the Scriptures. All who knew him would agree that he was a man with a pastor's heart.

Our entire synod extends condolences to his wife, Joslyn; to the Moldstad family; and to our brothers and sisters in the ELS. But even in a time of painful loss, we join with them in praising our gracious God for taking another faithful believer to his Savior's side, where he now knows the perfect joy and peace that Christ won for us and all believers.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Rev. John Moldstad obituary

ev. John Arthur Moldstad Jr., 66, of Madison Lake, Minn., was called to his heavenly home unexpectedly on Fri., Jan. 29, 2021. He died with the sure hope of eternal life through his Savior Jesus Christ, who promised, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies" (John 11:25).

He was born April 6, 1954, in Bagley, Minn., to Rev. John, Sr. and Gudrun (Madson) Moldstad. He was baptized the same day by his father in the hospital and was confirmed at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minn.

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He studied at Bethany Lutheran High School in Mankato for one year before transferring to Martin Luther Academy in New Ulm, Minn., where he met his future wife, Joslyn Marie Wiechmann. John went on to study at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato; Northwestern College in Watertown, Wis.; and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mankato. He later completed a Master of Sacred Theology at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wis.

John married his high school sweetheart, Joslyn, on July 30, 1977. Their union was blessed with 7 children and 14 grandchildren. He and Joslyn recently moved to their new home on Lake Washington, where they planned to retire. They enjoyed many wonderful memories with their children and grandchildren at the lake.

John was a third generation pastor, serving first as vicar at Bethany Lutheran Church in Princeton, Minn., and then as pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, S.D.; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lake Havasu City, Ariz.; and Faith Lutheran Church in Oregon, Wis. In 1994 he was called to serve as New Testament professor at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. In 2002 he was called to serve as the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a role in which he served until his death. It was his fervent desire that all come to know their Savior Jesus Christ that through Him they may have forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

John was preceded in death by his mother, Gudrun, and three infant siblings. He is survived by his wife, Joslyn; his father, John Sr. (June); his brother, Rev. Donald (Gina); his sister, Lois Fick (Paul); his children, Rachel Renee, John Andrew (Amanda), Rev. Matthew James (Joni), Michael John (Annie), Andrea Elizabeth Hopkins (Kyle), Joshua Ryan (Rachel), and Brittany Rachelle Cordes (Tony); and 14 grandchildren, with 2 more on the way.

John was an active member of Peace Lutheran Church in North Mankato, where a funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 6, 2021. The committal will immediately follow at Norseland Lutheran Cemetery in St. Peter, Minn. Visitations will be held at Peace Lutheran Church on Fri., Feb. 5, from 4 to 7 p.m. and on Sat., Feb. 6, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The service will be livestreamed and can be viewed at www.peacemankato.com

Potential new world mission fields identified

ore than 7,000 people groups in the world live without access to the good news of Jesus Christ. With these unreached people groups and the Great Commission in mind, a group of three world missionaries were tasked with researching where WELS might have the opportunity to plant new world mission fields. "Sixty years ago, WELS World Missions sent missionaries to find prospects, plant churches, and raise up leaders," says Rev. Larry Schlomer, WELS World Missions administrator. "Today, most of our current missionaries are involved in mentoring and training leaders who will carry on the gospel ministry in many countries. We are searching for opportunities to go back to square one: where the only reason for heading to a new country is that they do not have Jesus."

Three new unreached people groups were identified as potential mission field opportunities:

Ethnic Thai in Thailand

While WELS has had a presence in Buddhist Thailand before, the Thai people have been largely unreached by previous efforts. Even most other missionary groups have focused on non-Thai, Hill Tribe people. The Thai are very proud of their language, history, culture, and religion, and leaving Buddhism for another religion is considered an abandonment of what it means to

be Thai. WELS has a small foothold with the Thai people, something other mission groups cannot claim after decades of work. WELS is in a unique position to build on a foundation already laid in Thailand to reach this new group.

Wolof people in Senegal

The country of Senegal in Western Africa has a population of almost 17 million people. The Wolof tribe makes up about 40 to 45 percent of the total population and is less than 0.01 percent Christian. Despite the fact that Senegal is an overwhelmingly Muslim country, the constitution staunchly defends freedom of religion and is a relatively peaceful and stable place. It would be the goal to send in two resident missionaries to begin sharing the gospel and gathering a congregation.

Tequila Villages of Mexico

Three WELS missionaries and a handful of other confessional Lutherans have visited villages in this region. No religious group other than Roman Catholics were found working there. Churches in the area are houses of Mary, not houses of God. It appears this may be one of those places where little to no gospel ministry is occurring at this time. While WELS has partnered with a national church in Mexico before, this area is largely unreached by confessional Lutheranism.

World Missions is also exploring outreach opportunities in London.

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More than 50 WELS-connected families have been identified for a potential new congregation in the capital of Great Britain. With the Lord's blessing, it is the prayer that such a congregation could provide a springboard for further work on the continent.

Plans are currently being made for more thorough follow-up research as well as multiple exploratory trips to each location. Schlomer says, "We pray that these explorations will allow us to send missionaries who will learn a language and culture from scratch, plant churches. and start the long journey of raising up leaders who will be able to pastor them in the future. While much more time is needed to investigate. plan, and prepare for potential mission work in these areas, please pray for these efforts as we look to share the gospel message in more places!"

Learn more about WELS World Missions at wels.net/missions.

New opportunities to offer pandemic relief

WELS Christian Aid and Relief has set aside \$200,000 to help WELS congregations offer pandemic relief to their communities. Congregations can receive up to \$2,500 in matching grant money to

provide aid to those who are struggling in their neighborhoods.

"Like no other time in most of our lives, people are hurting—both in our churches and in our communities. And we can help them," says Rev. Daniel Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. "God has blessed us with an abundance of daily bread and with the good news of the Bread of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a tremendous opportunity to bring relief to those struggling during this challenging time."

WELS Christian Aid and Relief already has distributed pandemic relief funding this year when it teamed up with WELS Home Missions to offer more than \$160,000 in matching grant money to 24 mission congregations.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief will offer these new matching grants to congregations until June 1 or when designated funds run out.

"What an opportunity to shine the light of Christ's love into our communities," says Sims. "May God bless our efforts in his saving name."

Learn more about WELS Christian Aid and Relief and these grant opportunities at wels.net/relief.

