

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



Sure and Certain of the Unseen

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

It is amazing that with only a few clicks on a computer, we can dramatically alter photos. Such capabilities have led us to be a bit more wary. We find ourselves saying, "Unless I see it with my own eyes, how can I believe that it hasn't been touched up? I'll believe it when I see it."

Often this cynical attitude can touch our spiritual life. How can I believe that God loves me and knows what is going on in my life considering all troubles and disappointments I have to deal with?

The Bible tells us, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." How can we be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see?

Think of a father and child playing the game where the father stands behind the child and tells him to fall backwards. The child, unable to see his father, still trusts that he is there and is certain that his father won't let him hit the ground. The child leans back and falls, fully convinced that his father will keep his word and

catch him, because his father has always proved trustworthy.

This is the kind of trust we can have in our heavenly Father. Though we did not see the creation or the crucifixion, though we were not present to witness Jesus rising from the Easter tomb, though we have not heard his actual voice forgiving our sins and promising his return, we believe.

How can we be so sure and certain? Because God's Word is true and trustworthy. Our forgiveness is certain because Jesus did die and rise from the dead. God's love for us today and every day is sure. Every promise our Father has made about our eternal future, he will keep.

Faith is sure and certain of unseen things because it takes God at his word.

WORSHIP WITH US

Thursday Evenings at 6:30

Sunday Mornings at 8:00 and 10:30

Online Service Uploaded to
www.zioncolumbus.org every Sunday by 8:00 AM

The Fall Harvest Mission

An Outreach Initiative at Zion

Selected Sundays in September & October



Zion Lutheran Church and School

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting	3 2:00 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 pm Worship-Communion	4 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	5
6 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship: Communion	7 No School Labor Day	8 7:00 pm Stewardship Board	9 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting 6:30 pm Council Meeting	10 6:30 pm Worship	11 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	12
13 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	14 6:30 pm *Board of Ed Meeting	15 6:00 pm PATZ Meeting	16 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting	17 6:30 pm Worship 7:30 pm Outreach Meeting	18 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	19
20 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	21	22	23 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting	24 6:30 pm Worship-Communion	25 Midterm 6:00 am Bible Breakfast	26
27 FALL HARVEST OUTREACH MISSION FESTIVAL 8:00 am Online Worship Posted 8:00 am Worship, Communion 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship, Communion	28	29	30 7:00 am Faculty Bible Study 9:15 am Pastoral Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Pastor-Principal Meeting			



Worship and the Mask Mandate

Loved ones of Zion,

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought." (1 Corinthians 1:10, NIV) We are people united in Jesus Christ. While we each have different experiences and backgrounds that lead to different opinions and political leanings, we are not to lose sight of the eternal things that unite us in Jesus: Our faith, our salvation, our mission to spread the good news of Jesus. As we face the ongoing health crisis in our country, many people are allowing and even promoting division. Let us not allow that in our church. We stay united by keeping our focus on the goal Jesus has given us: to communicate the gospel. No matter what your opinion about the decisions we make about precautions to take in public worship, please remember that they are not made to take a political stance or further divide us, but to communicate the gospel in the best way we know how, given the circumstances.

Because of the current mandate given by the governor of Wisconsin, we are requiring masks of all people who gather in our church building for worship.

Our reasoning for our change in practice follows:

- 1) *In faith, a Christian needs to follow God's 3rd Commandment "Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy" and worship God.¹* While it would be easy to say, "It's not worth the hassle" we need to hear God's Word for the strength of our faith. Your fellow believers need you to worship with them for their encouragement in that same faith.
- 2) *In faith, a Christian needs to obey God's 4th Commandment, "Honor your father and mother", and obey authorities under which God has placed us.²* The governing authorities, whom God has instituted have mandated this practice. There is some debate about whether or not we have to follow a "mandate" when this is not a law. There is some thought that if the authorities are not going to enforce something we don't have to follow it. However, God requires us to obey earthly authorities according to the spirit of the law, not just the letter.

¹ *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24–25, NIV)*

² *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves." (Romans 13:1–2, NIV)*

- 3) *In faith, a Christian needs to obey the 5th Commandment and will protect his neighbor's safety and well-being.* Freedom in Christ means that we, in love, gladly make the choice to do what is best for the safety and assurance of our neighbor. Romans 14:1–3³ directs us to assume that our fellow Christians make their choices out of faith in Jesus, without passing judgment unless something is blatantly sinful. However, Romans 13:8⁴ directs us to use our freedom to make choices in the best interest of our neighbors over our personal preferences. Wearing a mask in a public place, at the very least, assures people that you are looking out for their best interest.

According to studies (albeit studies that have not been fully reviewed or time-tested) mask-wearing protects people from potentially harmful droplets that spread disease.



For some, the necessity of wearing masks will lead to a decision that many have already made about worshiping in public: they will not. We respect that decision and so will continue to offer weekly online services. New online services are posted each Sunday at 8:00 AM and changed out on our local cable station every Tuesday by 3 PM. We will also renew our encouragement to make an appointment with our pastors to receive private communion if you are not going to worship with us in our scheduled services.

It's a scramble to keep up with constantly changing circumstances. We appreciate your understanding that we are changing our practices in a way that best continues to communicate God's life-saving, unchanging gospel to each other and the world around us.

God's blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Schwartz tschwartz24@gmail.com

Pastor Zuberbier pastorbenzuberbier@gmail.com

³ *"Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them." (Romans 14:1–3, NIV)*

⁴ *"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8, NIV)*

THE FALL HARVEST MISSION

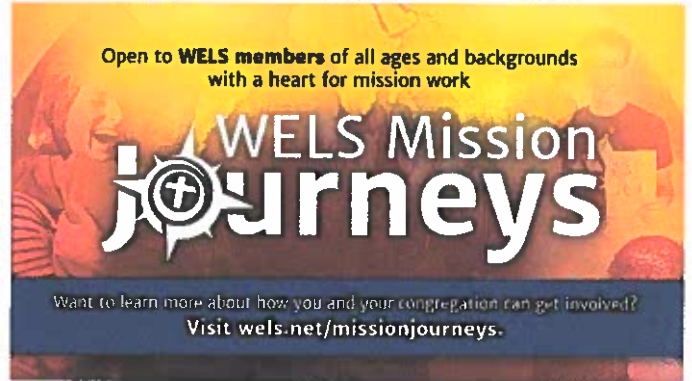
Look for Worship, Study and Ministry Opportunities for Zion in September and October

September 20: World Missions



Guest Speaker: **Pastor Nathan Seilz**, former missionary to the Dominican Republic now with Publications for Latin America

September 27: Home Missions



Guest Speaker: **Mr. Shannon Bohme**, WELS Mission Journeys

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Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
Don Lamb, Vice-Chairman	920-382-4338
Nick Uebelacker, Secretary	608-225-8861
Brady Weiland, Treasurer	920-285-7362
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
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Tim Schwartz, Pastor
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tschwartz24@gmail.com

Ben Zuberbier, Pastor
(920) 517-7940
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Alex Vandenberg, Principal
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avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com

Jim Grasby, Lakeside Principal
(920) 648-2321

Thanks
be to God
for his
indescribable
gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

Greeter Schedule



September 6th

8:00am — E14

John & Jane Evers

10:30am — L8

Otto & Sheree Matke

September 13th

8:00am — E1

Jeff & Melody Krakow

10:30am — L9

Bev Herold &
Nicole Henning

September 20th

8:00am — E2

Dave & Kathy Harle

10:30am — L11

John & Sarah Brey

Septmeber 25th

8:00am — E4

Delmar & Carl Vick

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.



August 30th & September 6th

8:00am - Team E4

Mark Lindell (C)

Remington Lindell

Roger Weiland

Bryce Weiland

Brett Weiland

Norman Weiland

Eric Turnquist

10:30am - Team L7

Matt Huber (C)

Carter Huber

Jeremy Maas

Peter Klokow

Jack Klokow

Brady Grambsch

Michael Vertz

September 13th & September 20th

8:00am - Team E5

Kim Schilling (C)

Ronald Knudson

Andy Tratar

John Zandler

Scott Brenner

Matt Vosberg

10:30am - Team L1

Tom Schultz (C)

Aaron Larson

James Kopfer

Dayne Kopfer

Brandon Lee

Brian Vierck

September 27th & October 4th

8:00am - Team E6

Jim Greiling (C)

Matt Greiling

Rick Gentz

Hunter Sommer

John Brey

Bob Marousek

Jordan Crave

10:30am - Team L2

Dale Schultz (C)

Daniel Schultz

Dylan Schultz

Michael Hallberg

Nathan Hallberg

Henry Tews

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 July 2020

Date	Total
2/5	168
9/12	185
16/19	213
23/26	199
30	52

Ministrations

Baptism:

- 7. Christian James Perez
Born 12/11/2002
Baptized 7/30/2020



Art Sharpee	18th	91 years
Allyn Kitzerow	24th	86 years

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by September 18th. Contact Sue Henning at (608) 225-4853 or suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Zion's Ladies Society

We are planning to start having meetings on Thursday, September 3rd at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. For the safety and protection of everyone, we are asking all attending to wear a mask and social distance. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.



It has been awhile since our last meeting, so we have a number of things to discuss. There will be an election for a secretary and a treasurer, various committee schedules as to what we are allowed to do, look over our handbook, plus other items. Membership dues of \$5.00 can also be paid.

We hope everyone will feel safe in attending. If not, feel free to come to a later meeting.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Financial Statement
July 2020**

	July 20	<i>Estimated Monthly Budget</i>	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Extra Synod Missions Income	285.00		
General Fund Offerings	51,053.19		
LLHS Building Income	-		
Other Donations	(6,958.73)		
Other Receipts	-		
<i>Transferred from Undesignated</i>	-		
<i>FMUB Revolving Line of Credit @ 3.5%</i>	-		
WLCFS Income	-		
WLIM Income	-		
Total Income	44,379.46		
Expense			
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	30,482.14	28,152.17	337,826.00
Church Supplies	343.73	454.17	5,450.00
Convention/Cont' Education	-	83.33	1,000.00
Copier	-	275.00	3,300.00
Elders Board	-	20.83	250.00
Family Ministry Board	-	350.00	4,200.00
Guest Pastor	-	125.00	1,500.00
Health Insurance	131.39	8,504.17	102,050.00
HRA Savings	3,000.00	1,500.00	18,000.00
Interest Expense	-	166.67	2,000.00
Custodial	911.68	1,950.00	23,400.00
LLHS Building Expense	-	-	-
LLHS Expense	2,750.00	2,750.00	33,000.00
Maintenance	1,284.23	4,150.00	49,800.00
Meditations	362.00	125.00	1,500.00
Mileage	156.00	500.00	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	-	12.50	150.00
Organists	326.99	566.67	6,800.00
Outreach Board	-	666.67	8,000.00
Payroll Expenses	298.60	308.33	3,700.00
Pension Insurance	400.00	3,556.67	42,680.00
Postage and Delivery	42.45	150.00	1,800.00
Secretarial	1,499.60	2,144.17	25,730.00
Stewardship Board	274.99	291.67	3,500.00
Substitute Teaching	-	-	-
Sunday School/VBS	-	250.00	3,000.00
Synod Mission Expense	5,785.00	5,500.00	66,000.00
Telephone & Internet Expense	368.94	291.67	3,500.00
Utilities	(6,672.73)	1,827.08	21,925.00
WLCFS Expense	75.00	-	-
WLIM Expense	-	-	-
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	-	1,250.00	15,000.00
Worship	-	545.83	6,550.00
Total Expense	41,820.01	66,467.58	797,611.00

Zion Lutheran Church - Estate Funds Report

Report for the Month of:

July 2020

Previous Month Assets	\$127,912.08
Total Transactions	\$3,612.07
Total Current Assets	\$131,524.15

New Church/School Total	
	\$126,288.54
Checking/savings	

Accounts	Undesignated Checking	Explanation	Monthly Statements		Explanation
			Undesignated Savings	New Church/School Fund Savings	
Previous Balance	\$395.78		\$4,989.82	\$120,987.86	
Monthly Transactions*	(\$149.99)		\$0.00	\$3,762.06	
Current Balance	\$245.79		\$4,989.82	\$124,749.92	
Transactions	(\$150.00)	loan Marks		\$4,865.00	7-1 deposit
	\$0.01	interest		\$125.00	7-2 deposit
				\$210.00	7-3 deposit
				\$1,880.00	7-6 deposit
				\$80.00	7-7 deposit
				(\$5,425.00)	7-7 mortgage payment
				\$265.00	7-8 deposit
				\$574.00	7-10 deposit
				\$85.00	7-13 deposit
				\$130.00	7-14 deposit
				\$1,805.28	7-15 deposit
				\$225.00	7-16 deposit
				\$40.00	7-17 deposit
				\$205.00	7-20 deposit
				\$265.00	deposit
				(\$5,425.00)	7-21 mortgage payment
				\$75.00	7-22 deposit
				\$1,259.00	7-23 deposit
				\$25.00	7-24 deposit
				\$574.00	7-24 deposit
				\$335.00	7-27 deposit
				\$130.00	7-28 deposit
				\$862.78	7-29 deposit
				\$219.00	7-30 deposit
				\$378.00	7-31 deposit
Monthly Transactions TOTAL	(\$149.99)		\$0.00	\$3,762.06	
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	\$3,612.07				
Notes:					
Interest Received				\$0.01	

August 4, 2020

WELS Center for Mission and Ministry deals with COVID-19

Congregations throughout the synod have been making many adjustments to their worship and ministry ever since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Even though many of us expected things to have returned to normal by now, that is not the case. Government mandates and advisories continue to have a varying impact on WELS congregations and schools. But, true to their mission, they continue to proclaim the saving gospel, and God's people continue to worship in spite of the obstacles.

Similar challenges have affected the work of the synod. In synodical and district activities, as well as at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry (CMM), our synod's headquarters in Waukesha, changes have had to be made.

Throughout the synod, all large gatherings, including district conventions, were cancelled this summer. In-person meetings were replaced with virtual online meetings whenever possible. The workers at the CMM were initially given the option of working at home if the nature of their work permitted it. When the lockdown was declared, all employees were required to work remotely. When the lockdown ended, employees returned to the office in two phases, first with 50 percent returning and then two weeks later with all back to in-person work.

Now things have changed again. Here in Wisconsin, the governor recently issued a statewide mask mandate. Workers at the CMM are complying with this mandate, wearing masks in all public areas. We continue the policy of no meetings or gatherings in the building; individual visitors are allowed in the CMM only by personal appointment.

The policies governing meetings and other activities at the CMM are under constant review, with the next re-evaluation scheduled for Aug. 12. At that time, we will be determining whether meetings scheduled for this fall at the CMM can take place. We pray for a time when things can return completely to normal—for our synod and for our entire country. In the meantime, we continue to place our trust in God's protecting and gracious care.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

New school year brings difficult decisions

WELS schools around the country were faced with the difficult job this summer of determining what school is going to look like in the fall, after the 2019–20 school year ended with online classes because of shutdowns due to the pandemic.

With 436 WELS schools serving over 42,000 students in 33 states—some with minimal numbers of COVID-19 cases and some considered “hot spots”—plans will differ across the country. But one thing is sure: “Sept. 1, 2020, is going to look different than Sept. 1, 2019, in every single one of our schools,” says Mr. James Rademan, director of the Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS).

While each plan will look different—with schools talking about in-person vs. virtual learning (or a combination of the two), face coverings, size of classes, social distancing, extracurriculars, disinfecting stations, and additional cleaning—Rademan says that the mindset he has seen from WELS schools as they determine how to proceed is remarkably similar: “Each one of the schools is really concerned about the safety of their students and their staff while trying to balance what is going to be best overall for the development of the children.”

Most WELS schools—including Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School (KML), Jackson, Wis. and Arizona Lutheran Academy (ALA), Phoenix, Ariz.—are planning to start the year meeting face-to-face at school. “Christian education is way more than just teaching in the classrooms,” says Mr. Jamie Luehring, principal at Kettle Moraine. “It’s the interactions the teachers have with the students, the mentorships, the

friendships, the support. You cannot do that as well virtually no matter how hard you try.”

That decision to start with in-person classes was not made in a vacuum. For both schools, it meant sending out a survey to parents and meeting with teachers during the summer to get opinions on the best options moving forward. “We believe parents need to be in the driver’s seat,” says Luehring. “We want to work with them to come up with the best solutions for their kids.”

But the collaboration went even further. Mr. Kurt Rosenbaum, principal at ALA, said that when their school’s task force began meeting in June, they looked closely at recommendations for reopening sent out by the Arizona Department of Education. He is in constant contact with the local health department to keep up with the latest health regulations. Representatives from all 26 WELS area Lutheran high schools and the two synod prep schools also met virtually multiple times this summer to offer ideas, support, encouragement, and prayers for one another as they determined the best plans for their schools.

For both ALA and KML, the majority of the parents supported in-person classes, “but we knew that there would be some families who would want to start slowly,” says Rosenbaum. To support those students and families, both schools are offering online classes as well. “We’re trying to be all things for all people,” says Luehring. “We understand everyone is in a different situation and we don’t want to lose those kids for the sake of the gospel.” Online classes will also offer an option for international students who may not be able to get back to campuses for the start of the school year.

“There are so many people with differing opinions; there needs to be a loving response to one another,” says Luehring. “As a loving Christian family, we are going to try to work through this together.”

In the end, “flexibility” may be the key word. “Most schools are developing two or three plans and are recognizing the need to be able to pivot based on the circumstances,” says Rademan. The Commission on Lutheran Schools is offering support, encouragement, and direction to WELS schools, while not prescribing any one direction. “We are encouraging them to follow CDC and local health department guidelines and to work with the resources in their community and the schools that are in close proximity to them,” says Rademan.

Some schools in “hot spot” locations—such as southern California—may have no choice but to start virtually. “You can plan and plan and plan, but you don’t know what will happen three days before school starts,” says Rademan. “It’s a time to use the gifts the Lord has given us and trust in the Lord. The path is going to be the path he’s seeking for us to take at this time.”

Available resources from CLS can be found at ds.welsrc.net.

57th annual LWMS convention goes virtual

Since 1964, the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS) has faithfully hosted annual conventions, gathering to joyfully praise God and support WELS mission work. The year 2020 was to be no exception. Plans were well underway for the 57th annual convention in Athens, Ga., in June. The theme, “2020 Vision for

Missions,” was chosen, and hours of planning were already complete.

Then the coronavirus pandemic swept the globe, and for the first time in 57 years, LWMS made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel its in-person convention.

“The decision to cancel was agonizing,” recalls LWMS president Mrs. Cynthia Natsis. “But by the end of April, it became obvious that travel and staying in hotels would be dangerous to our members.”

Despite its deep disappointment, the LWMS team adapted to the situation. If people couldn’t come to the convention, LWMS would bring the convention to them—by way of technology.

Through a partnership with WELS Missions, the LWMS convention was combined with WELS Taste of Missions—another in-person event that was cancelled due to the pandemic.

“Taste and See,” the combined virtual event, was born. LWMS and WELS Missions staff brainstormed how to offer key elements of both events in an engaging and interactive online format.

On June 27, the Taste and See virtual event launched. For two weeks, thousands of WELS members worldwide tuned in to view the opening and closing worship services, “Moments with Missionaries,”

videos, recipe tutorials from around the globe, the commissioning of new missionaries, and the inspiring LWMS flag presentation. Viewers even hosted “watch parties” for the opening and closing services.

Natsis is simply in awe of how God blessed the event. “Due to the new format, we were able to reach so many more people than if we had held it in person,” she says.

Mr. Sean Young, director of WELS Missions operations, was also thrilled with the number of Taste and See website visitors, totaling over 9,300. He says, “I thought we’d get a few thousand views. But from the opening service to the final day, God again demonstrated that we can’t pray audaciously enough! He continues to be glorified in the work his church on earth is able to do.”

Even during a pandemic, God advances his kingdom. Through Taste and See, God moved the hearts of his people to contribute the largest service offering to date for an LWMS convention: \$72,925.

“I am blown away at the generosity of my fellow believers and their love for spreading the good news about Jesus,” says Natsis. She and the LWMS board extend their gratitude to all who participated to support WELS mission work: “Thank you for making this time of uncertainty about the virus a time of rejoicing instead. God is good!”

Visit wels.tasteandsee.com to view more than 80 videos and additional resources from the event. The website also includes a handy checklist of available videos, which will remain online for at least a year.

Supporting WELS mission work through endowments

Thanks to the generosity of God’s people, WELS Foundation has been blessed to distribute \$3.1 million from more than 350 endowments through its endowment program this

year. Areas that benefited from the distributions include WELS missions, ministerial education schools, congregations, and other WELS-affiliated ministries.

One of those WELS-affiliated ministries that was blessed through endowment distributions was the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS).

Since 2015, WELS Foundation has distributed over \$26,000 to LWMS through two endowment funds. The annual distributions support WELS mission opportunities as selected by the LWMS board of directors. The monies are distributed above and beyond the annual mission collections of members and increase the impact of LWMS giving.

The endowment distributions also allow LWMS to address any immediate needs of WELS missions. For example, a July 2020 endowment fund distribution of \$7,976 was donated to support WELS Campus Ministry, in conjunction with its 100th anniversary.

To learn more about adding to an existing endowment or setting up an endowment for a ministry close to your heart, contact your local WELS Christian giving counselor at wels.net/giving-counselors. To learn more about WELS Foundation, visit wels.net/foundation, her WELS-affiliated ministries.



WELS
CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

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

WELS Campus Ministry celebrates 100 years

Life on a university campus can be challenging in many ways. For Christian students, the values and beliefs they have held for their entire lives not only can be in the minority, but those beliefs also can often be the object of ridicule and even attack. Add to that all of the other aspects of campus life that can be potentially harmful to their faith, and it's easy to see that we want to do all we can to provide the support and spiritual resources that our young people will need when they head off to college.

Our synod has recognized that need for a long time. In 1920, the first WELS campus ministry program began at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. For 100 years, thousands of young adults have found spiritual comfort, community, and encouragement through WELS campus ministries that have been carried out throughout North America. WELS Campus Ministry, a ministry of WELS Home Missions, continues to support congregations that serve college students during a critical transition time in their lives. The WELS Campus Ministry Committee currently provides about 30 campus ministries with financial support and assists hundreds of other congregations in their campus ministry outreach.

Due to COVID-19, WELS Campus Ministry held its conference virtually this year. Last week, campus pastors and others involved in campus ministries tuned in for a live video conference. The archived conference can be viewed online. Presentations included looking at effective ways to recruit and engage college students using technology and highlighting the various resources available to use in promoting campus ministry in congregations.

One of those resources is a Campus Ministry 100 toolkit, which provides tools for any congregation to be involved in campus ministry by either starting a campus ministry program or supporting their church's college students while they're away.

WELS Campus Ministry is encouraging all congregations to hold a special Sunday in 2020–21, giving thanks to the Lord for the 100 years it's been able to serve college students. Worship helps, a sermon, and promotional resources have been provided to host a campus ministry-themed Reformation service, mission festival, or Ascension service. Campus ministry speakers are also available to guest preach by request at wels.net/speaker-request.

Our WELS university and college students are a precious treasure. Keep encouraging them to hold on to the “one thing needful” and remember them in your prayers.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

For more information about WELS Campus Ministry, visit wels.net/cm100. If you are a college student or know a college student, don't forget to sign up with WELS Campus Ministry to get in contact with the nearest local campus pastor and receive free copies of Meditations devotions and Forward in Christ magazine.

New role for longtime missionary

Rev. Paul Nitz started in his new position as One Team counselor at the Center for Mission and Ministry this month.

Nitz had served for 27 years in Malawi, Africa, moving there with his wife, Susan, and their baby, Henry, following Nitz's graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, in 1993. During those years, he established churches, trained national pastors, and led the mission team as it explored new opportunities for outreach in Africa.

In his new position, Nitz will be working with “One Teams” in World Missions' seven different regions—Native America, Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia, East Asia, and Multi-Language Productions. These One Teams consist of stateside administrative committees that work with the missionary teams to conduct gospel ministry in each area.

“His number one priority is to work with the One Team leaders to provide them what they need to keep the ongoing ministry going,” says Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of

WELS World Missions. According to Schlomer, this means helping the teams determine “how to use the resources at hand so they don't drop any of the work they currently have going while being able to expand to meet the needs of new places.”

This position in the Missions Office was designed because of how quickly the number of world mission fields is expanding. WELS is currently maintaining contacts and relationships in 57 countries around the world—40 as mission partners and 17 as exploratory work. Just within the past seven years, WELS has grown in Africa from work in 4 countries to outreach possibilities in 13.

Schlomer says Nitz is uniquely prepared for this role. “He really has lived the goal of a mission, starting with raising up churches to training the pastors to lead those churches to stepping into a team that is looking to do the same for other mission fields. All of these things make him a trusted counselor and a trusted mentor for other people who are leading the teams in our world mission fields.”

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

Relief work from storms in Iowa continues

Cleanup is continuing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from storms that blew through the Midwest on Monday, Aug. 10.

The line of storms, called a derecho, had sustained winds of more than 100 miles per hour and damaged homes, downed trees, and left hundreds of thousands in Iowa without power. Good Shepherd, the WELS church in Cedar Rapids, sustained major roof damage and felled trees; most of its members also had extensive cleanup to do on their properties.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief and Good Shepherd quickly organized a work weekend and recruited volunteers to clean up the church property as well as the yards of members and their neighbors and friends. More than 50 people, including members of Good Shepherd and WELS members who traveled to the area, gathered last weekend to help.

"The devastation is immense; it's hard to believe," says Rev. Dan Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, who also volunteered at the work weekend. "There are massive trees down everywhere—lying on houses, on cars, on sheds, on driveways."

Volunteers went out in groups to clear trees and pick up debris. "I was working alongside of members of Good Shepherd who hadn't touched their own yards yet," says Sims.

"They had trees down too, but they were out helping other people. It was heartwarming to see."

He continues, "When you are servants of Jesus going out and helping those in need—it really makes an impression on people."

WELS Christian Aid and Relief and Good Shepherd are organizing another work weekend Aug. 21–23 to continue cleaning up at the church and area homes. For more information or to volunteer, visit facebook.com/WELSChristianAidAndRelief.

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