

January 2020, WELS Updates, Resources, and Prayers

Notice: The links below are highlighted in purple, and they will take you directly to each designated website.

Check out the NEW *Forward in Christ* magazine at this link: <https://forwardinchrist.net/>
Forward in Christ, the official magazine of WELS, has relaunched with the January issue.

Changes include:

- A redesigned cover and interior pages.
- Expanded Confessions of faith.
- This is WELS—photos from our readers.
- Q&A column with accompanying Bible study.
- A new website and weekly e-newsletter.

Subscribe at nph.net and check out the new website, forwardinchrist.net.

WELS Special Ministries

WELS Special Ministries helps equip churches and individuals to serve in love. The Special Ministries umbrella covers eight specialized areas, but the opportunities to put love in action are countless.

You may put God's love in action to someone far away, such as an inmate or a soldier. But most special ministry is local. You carry it out in your home, your church, or your community. Thousands of WELS volunteers serve the needs of neighbors who have a disability, an addiction, an illness, or other limiting circumstances. Learn about the many ways WELS Special Ministries can help you serve those around you at <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/>.

Equipping Christian Witnesses

Equipping Christian Witnesses, the new campaign from Martin Luther College, focuses on recruitment, financial aid, and facilities. By enrolling more future ministry workers, helping them fund their Christian education, and enhancing their learning environments across the campus, WELS strengthens the foundation for its future. Learn more at <https://mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign/>.

What's happening in WELS?

Subscribe to the WELS Together e-newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry they serve. Also, don't miss the twice-monthly videos, expanding on important and exciting synod news.

Go to <https://wels.net/news-media/together/> to read more and subscribe today.

Follow Missions on Facebook

Like the new WELS Missions Facebook page to stay up to date on news from Home and World Mission fields, read inspiring stories of the gospel at work, and take advantage of the many resources WELS Missions has to offer. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/WELSMissions> to get started.

Know your synod

Your Sunday offerings help support the work of WELS, but do you know how? Go to wels.net to discover stories about the many WELS world and home mission fields; explore which ministries can support you and your congregation; enjoy daily devotions and Bible readings; and subscribe to stay up to date on the latest news from your synod. All of this and more is available on wels.net. Visit us online today and save us as a Favorite or a Bookmark!

WELS App available

Nearly 20,000 people have downloaded the WELS app to their phone or tablet to access daily devotions, WELS Missions Blogs, synod news, and more wherever they go. Get the app for free by going to <https://wels.app/> in your device's web browser and "add to home screen" using your device's method.

Connecting WELS members

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways to connect members through social media. Join the WELS online community at the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/welslutherans>

<https://twitter.com/welstweets>

<https://www.instagram.com/welslutherans>

<https://vimeo.com/wels>

Additional Resources

WELS Congregational Services

<https://welscongregationservices.net/>

What about Jesus?

<https://whataboutjesus.com/>

Prayers for January 2020

January 5

WELS – Lord, when we pause to reflect on the past year, we are astounded at your blessings. We praise your Holy Spirit for moving members to be involved with ministry at their own congregations, in mission fields, and as part of our synod's disaster relief efforts. We thank you for increased enrollment at our ministerial education schools. We glorify you for opening doors for us to connect with people around the world so that we can bring the gospel to more people than we ever could have planned. Please bless us in 2020 as we continue to strive to be good stewards of your kingdom. Amen.

January 12

President Schroeder – Holy Spirit, none of us deserves to be a part of your kingdom, let alone called to serve you, yet you have given us this privilege. We ask you to continue to be with Rev. Mark Schroeder as he guides our earthly affairs as president of our synod for another term. Give him zeal, strength, and wisdom to point us in the right direction as we support him with our labors and prayers. Increase your kingdom through our humble efforts. Amen.

January 19

Lutheran Leadership Conference – Father of all, some things never change: our sinful nature and actions, and your forgiveness despite our wicked actions. At this week's synod wide Lutheran Leadership Conference, give the attendees new ways to share your Good News with a sin-sick world. We pledge to continue to reach out to the lost since you have given us that commission. Bless both presenters and listeners. Amen.

January 26

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary – Lord Jesus, Head of the Church, we ask you to guide this time of transition at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary as new men are called to replace several long-time professors. Prof. Richard Gurgel will be leaving the seminary to serve as president of Martin Luther College beginning this summer. Prof. James Tiefel retired at the end of 2019, and Prof. John Brenner plans to retire in June 2021. By your Spirit call for these positions the men you have in mind and be with them as they help train our future pastors. Amen.