

## May 2021, WELS Updates, Resources, and Prayers

### **This is why we gather**

Church has been different this year. No doubt, you missed gathering together with our family of believers for regular worship. As churches are able to open their doors more and more, we hope to see more and more of our brothers and sisters in Christ each week. The “This is why we gather” series of short videos are available from WELS Congregational Services to share, encouraging God’s children to remember the importance of gathering for worship together. You can access, view, and share these videos at [welscongregationalservices.net](http://welscongregationalservices.net).

### **Get even more from *Forward in Christ***

Need a weekly boost from your favorite Lutheran magazine? Get previews, updates, and extra content with the *Forward in Christ* FREE weekly e-newsletter. For more inspiration, more stories, and more photos, sign up [fowardinchrist.net](http://fowardinchrist.net).

### **Sign up today for Marriage Moments**

Every marriage has its “moments.” That’s why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos in a weekly e-mail. Watch a video introduction and subscribe to receive the videos directly to your e-mail at [marriage moments](http://marriage-moments.net).

### **WELS Family Devotions**

Get your family into God’s Word during the week! WELS has developed short devotions for the entire family to use. Each devotion comes complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Downloadable printable versions are also available. Find the family devotions at [wels.net/family-devotions](http://wels.net/family-devotions).

### **Follow *Forward in Christ* on Facebook**

Get more from *Forward in Christ*, the synod’s official magazine, by following it on Facebook at [facebook.com/ForwardinChristMagazine](https://facebook.com/ForwardinChristMagazine). Join the community and join the conversation.

### **WELS Together e-newsletter**

Stay in the loop! 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 that cover important and exciting synod news. Go to [wels.net/together](http://wels.net/together) to read more and subscribe today.

### **Have you visited [wels.net](http://wels.net) lately?**

Do you ever wonder how your Sunday offerings help support the work of WELS? Go to [wels.net](http://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](http://wels.net). Visit us online today and save us as a Favorite or a Bookmark!

## Connecting WELS members

Connection is more important now than ever. The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod offers many ways for members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at the following links:

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

[twitter.com/welstweets](https://twitter.com/welstweets)

[instagram.com/welslutherans](https://www.instagram.com/welslutherans)

[vimeo.com/wels](https://www.vimeo.com/wels)

## Prayers for May 2021

### May 2

*WELS* – Lord, we praise you for “church”—fellow believers who gather amidst the troubles of this world to encourage one another in your Word. Thank you for providing technology to allow us to continue to do church and Bible study online over the past year even when we could not meet in person. We also thank you for providing a vaccine that is protecting many from further spread of the COVID-19 virus. If it is your will, allow us to safely return to gathering in-person once again to enjoy the full benefits of being together as the communion of your saints. Amen.

### May 9

*Carbon Valley, Firestone, Colo.* – Dear Jesus, as you continue to grow your church of believers here on earth, we thank you for the blessings you’ve bestowed on the saints at Carbon Valley in Firestone, Colo. Be with them as they strive to complete their first facility by this July despite higher construction costs due to the pandemic. Bless them with increased visibility and evangelism opportunities in their community as they relaunch once their facility is complete. May all their efforts be centered around your gracious promises and comforting assurance that you are with them always. Amen.

### May 16

*Christian Aid and Relief* – Most gracious Father in heaven, today we offer our thanks for your protective hand during troublesome times, especially for making available \$200,000 from WELS Christian Aid and Relief to help congregations offer pandemic relief to their communities. What an opportunity to shine the light of your Son’s love into our neighborhoods! May more congregations pursue the grants available so that more people can be assisted with their physical needs, which opens the door to assisting them with their spiritual needs. Amen.

### May 23

*Ministerial Education* – Father in heaven, today we ask your blessing upon all those who graduate this month from our WELS ministerial education schools: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Martin Luther College, Luther Preparatory School, and Michigan Lutheran Seminary. We especially pray that you would guide those receiving divine calls into the public ministry. May your wisdom and strength be with them in all that they do for the glory of your name. Amen.

**May 30**

*World Missions* – Dear Lord, there are still far too many living without access to the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you for blessing the work of three world missionaries tasked with researching where WELS might have the opportunity to plant new world mission fields. Working through these missionaries, you have brought to our attention three new potential mission fields: the Ethnic Thai in Thailand, the Wolof people in Senegal, and the Tequila villages of Mexico. Continue to bless further research including multiple exploratory trips to each location. We pray for these efforts as we look to share the gospel message in more places! Amen.