

November 2019, WELS Updates, Resources, and Prayers

Notice: Links are highlighted in purple.

Outreach opportunities in Africa

Opportunities for gospel connections are flourishing across the African continent. Christian groups in Uganda, Liberia, Mozambique, and more are learning about WELS and Lutheran doctrine and reaching out for fellowship and doctrinal instruction. To follow what's happening with WELS mission work across Africa, visit wels.net/missions or follow Missions on Facebook at fb.com/WELSMissions.

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 mlc-wels.edu/mlc-campaign.

To learn more about **Equipping Christian Witnesses**, view the following videos at the links listed below:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/350370758>

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/353827199>

<https://vimeo.com/364312119>

WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership

WELS Congregational Services will host the first WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership at the Sheraton Grand in Chicago, Ill., Jan. 21-23. The conference will have five keynote presentations that deal with major cultural challenges before every WELS congregation. Twenty-five breakout sessions will deal with issues specific to certain congregations, including overcoming a consumer mentality in church, Christian apologetics, increasing volunteerism, retaining and gaining young members, fully utilizing the gifts of women in ministry, equipping members for personal evangelism, having a "high-expectations" church, strategic planning, using social media for outreach, operating a financially sustainable elementary school, and more. Learn more at register at lutheranleadership.com.

Information. Inspiration. *Forward in Christ*.

Read *Forward in Christ*, the official magazine of WELS, and you will receive the latest news from the synod, gain a Lutheran perspective on current events, hear uplifting stories of faith from across the world, and much more every single month. Both print and digital subscriptions are available. Learn more at wels.net/fic. <https://wels.net/news-media/forward-in-christ/>

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 wels.net/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 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 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 facebook.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welstweets, instagram.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/wels.

Additional Resources

WELS Congregational Services

<https://welscongregationservices.net/>

What about Jesus?

<https://whataboutjesus.com/>

Prayers for November 2019

November 3

African outreach – Lord Jesus Christ, you send messengers to the ends of the earth. We praise you for the spread of the gospel in the nations of Africa, for the training of national church leaders in these mission fields, and for the maturing of church bodies that have become our sister synods. Help us support these ministries you put before, to connect with and strengthen Christian groups across the continent. Amen.

November 10

Martin Luther College campaign – Lord of the church, we praise you for raising up men and women to serve you and your church in the preaching and teaching ministry and pray that you would continue to provide students for the ministry of your gospel. Bless the efforts of Martin Luther College as they equip Christian witnesses. Help us to see our opportunities to participate in the “Equipping Christian Witnesses” campaign with our recruitment of students with the gifts to serve you in full-time ministry and with our offerings toward financial aid for students and facilities for their education. Let all we do be to your glory to build up your kingdom. Amen.

November 17

Christmas evangelism – Our Savior Jesus Christ, we cannot go shopping at this time of the year without being reminded that Christmas is coming. We know that this holiday is the celebration of your birth, our God who became fully human to take away the sins of the world. Sadly, we realize that not everyone knows this good news even though it is for all people. Bless our congregation and our synod as we strive to bring this gospel about the Savior to the people living around us. Empower each of us to invite someone to worship Christ, the newborn King, along with us. By your grace, bring many more to hear the true message of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring true joy to the people of this world. We pray in the name of Christ, who became our brother to save us all. Amen.

November 24

WELS Christian Aid and Relief – Almighty God, you have richly provided us with all that we need for our body and life. At this time of year, we give thanks to you as we count your many blessings to us. We also thank you for opportunities to share a portion of these blessings locally and through WELS Christian Aid and Relief. Through their work, thanksgiving has overflowed to you from the many people they have helped in the time of great need. Use the efforts of Christian Aid and Relief to provide opportunities for more and more people to hear about Jesus, who provides what every person needs, the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We pray in his name, who has given us every good thing. Amen.