



Our God is...All-Knowing

Mr. Know-it-all has bad manners. You start to say, "The Brewers have a good chance to win it all this year because...." Mr. Know-it-all butts in, proclaiming loudly, "But their veterans get too tired, and they don't have a home run hitter."

You can't have a normal conversation with Mr. Know-it-all. He wants to interrupt every sentence.

We don't like know-it-alls. We realize that one person cannot be an expert in every subject. Nobody can know it all.

There is someone who does know it all! Jesus' disciple Peter said to him, "Lord, you know all things" (John 21:17).

Wasn't Jesus a man just like us? How could he know all things? Peter understood. Peter was talking to Jesus after his resurrection. Can an ordinary person do that? How could Jesus rise from the grave after the brutal treatment he endured?

Peter knew. Jesus is true God and true man. As God, he knows all things.

Does that comfort you or terrify you? Peter felt terrified that Jesus knew he had denied him three times. Peter longed for comfort. Jesus also knew how to forgive. He knew his death paid for Peter's sins.

Jesus truly knows every evil thought that comes from our hearts. He knows every secret sin that burdens our conscience. He has the knowledge that can damn us.

Jesus also knows that he came to rescue us from that punishment.

Thank God if you can say with Peter, "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you" (John 21:17).

We invite you to gain more knowledge about your Savior. Our church offers free classes for every ability and background.

WELS NEWS

June, 2021

Book Of Reports And Memorials Available Online

The 2021 *Book of Reports and Memorials* is now available online. This book summarizes the activities of each area of ministry over the last year and contains the proposed ministry financial plan for the next biennium. The information in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* will help guide the delegates of WELS' 66th biennial convention, which is being conducted in an altered format this year.

The in-person convention is being held at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., July 26–28. Only the chairman, secretary, and two laymen from each floor committee will be present. Floor committees will conduct their business and adopt their reports and resolutions via virtual meetings in advance of the convention. Elections will also be held electronically in advance. Delegates who are not attending in person will be able to vote on convention resolutions remotely.

The entire convention will focus on the theme "Here we stand." This theme reminds us of Martin Luther's willingness to risk his life with his bold stand on the Word of God 500 years ago at the Diet of Worms. Our convention will focus on this theme to remind us that for the Christian church today to carry out its mission faithfully, the same bold stand on the Word of God is necessary.

Major items for consideration at this convention include:

- the proposed ministry financial plan (budget) for 2021–23,
- increasing opportunities that God is giving our synod to proclaim the gospel to a growing number of people around the world, and
- a recommended change in the WELS Pension Plan.

More details on the proposed changes to the WELS Pension Plan are available at www.welsbpo.net.

Six memorials are also included in the *Book of Reports and Memorials*. A memorial is a formal request to the synod convention for specific action.

One printed copy of the *Book of Reports and Memorials* is being mailed to each delegate, congregation, and male called worker.

These printed copies should arrive by the first week of June.

To view the online version of the *Book of Reports and Memorials*, visit wels.net/2021synodconvention.

You can also see details of the proposed change to the pension plan at <https://welsbpo.net/proposed-changes-to-wels-retirement-program-2021/>.

Serving together with you in Christ,

WELS President Mark Schroeder

Celebrating WELS National Hymnal Week

In order to provide an opportunity to think about the blessings of worship as well as get a sneak peek at what the new hymnal has to offer, WELS is celebrating WELS National Hymnal Week, Sept. 19–26.

“It’s good for us to reflect on why we’re doing what we’re doing because we want worship to be all about Jesus, proclaiming what he has done for us and the life we have in him,” says Rev. Jon Zabell, chairman of the Commission on Worship and pastor at St. Paul, Green Bay, Wis.

Many of the components of National Hymnal Week will mirror what participants could experience at the WELS worship conference, an event that had to be canceled this year due to the pandemic. Yet, since congregations and members will be able to participate locally—even virtually—more people will be able to be involved. “Worship is something God’s people will be doing into eternity, so for us to spend time on that is worthwhile,” says Zabell.

WELS Commission on Worship will provide resources for National Hymnal Week events:

- **A worship service for Sunday, Sept. 19.** This service will be based on the new lectionary readings of the day and include hymns and music from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*. Recorded music tracks will allow congregations who don’t have many musicians to participate. “We’ll provide congregations with what they need for their own local setting so they can involve their people in the best way they can,” says Zabell.

- **A hymn sing.** Meant to be used during Bible class, the hymn sing gives members an opportunity to get acquainted with more new hymns from the upcoming hymnal. Video and audio recordings of various choirs will lead members through hymns from different seasons of the church year.
- **Presentations.** Throughout WELS National Hymnal Week, WELS members can watch video presentations on new hymnal resources as well as on broader worship topics. Members can meet in small groups to view and discuss the presentations or watch them at home for their own edification.
- **Concert.** A pre-recorded online concert featuring a children’s choir, chamber choir, college choir, and liturgical ensemble will be streamed Sunday afternoon, Sept. 26 (exact time to be determined). These WELS musicians will present arrangements of new hymns as well as cherished favorites.

Resources will be available at christianworship.com in upcoming months. More information and a planning timeline are available now as well as an opportunity to sign up for updates.

Northwestern Publishing House, in partnership with WELS Commission on Worship, is sending two copies of *Christian Worship: Hymnal* and one copy of *Christian Worship: Psalter* to every congregation. It is planned that these free display copies should arrive in September in time for National Hymnal Week so members can page through these new resources in conjunction with the activities.

Congregations and individuals can pre-order *Christian Worship: Hymnal* and *Christian Worship: Psalter* at nwph.com