



Dress yourself with...Humility

"Jump roping capital of the World!" a sign in Bloomer, Wisconsin once read.

"I am king of the World!" shouted the director of the movie *Titanic* after it won several Academy Awards.

"USA! USA! USA!" shouted millions of Americans after our Olympic hockey team beat the Russians in 1980 and then went on to win the gold.

We want to be the best in the world at something and to be able to shout: "We are number one!"

It is not all bad to be proud of our accomplishments. After all, it is God who has blessed us with our talents, and we want to express our appreciation for them.

On the other hand, we need to realize that being first, last, or somewhere in between is not really all that important. What really matters is the attitude of our hearts.

God has something very special to say on this subject. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

As we pursue being the very best, we can be, it must never be at the expense of others. Nor should it be with the attitude that we are more deserving of what we have than others.

The perfect example of humility is Jesus. St. Paul wrote, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:5-8)!

We have all failed to meet that standard of God's expectations perfectly—having an attitude the same as Christ's. Fortunately, Jesus humbled himself to take our place and bring us close to God.

We have plenty more we would love to share with you about how Jesus lived and how we want to live in response to him. Give us a call, or worship with us some Sunday.

WELS NEWS October, 2021

The New Hymnal Has Arrived

Northwestern Publishing House, in partnership with WELS Commission on Worship, is sending two copies of the new WELS hymnal and one copy of *Christian Worship: Psalter* to every congregation. These free copies were shipped late last week. Congregations that preordered hymnals should see deliveries begin this month.

Additional supporting resources for pastors, musicians, and worship planners will be available to congregations and WELS members, including 17 books, 3 digital products, and multiple accompaniment volumes. Nearly 100 volunteers served on 12 committees for the last 9 years as part of the WELS Hymnal Project. Learn more about the hymnal at christianworship.com. To help introduce congregations to the new hymnal and celebrate the blessings of worship, WELS Commission on Worship is providing resources for congregations and individuals to observe National Hymnal Week, Sept. 19–26:

- **A worship service on Sunday, Sept. 19.** This service was based on the new lectionary readings of the day and included hymns and music from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*. Materials were sent to those who signed up for worship resources.
- **A hymn sing.** A video recording of various choirs was shown to lead members through hymns from different seasons of the church year. Some congregations offered this during the Bible class hour on Sept. 19. The video will be available by Sept. 10 to assist with final planning. A promotional video preview was recently released.
- **Presentations.** Throughout WELS National Hymnal Week, WELS members were able to watch video presentations on new hymnal resources as well as on broader worship topics. Members were able to meet in small groups to view and discuss the presentations or watch them at home on their own.
- **Concert.** A pre-recorded online concert featuring a children's choir, chamber choir, college choir, and liturgical ensemble were available for viewing beginning on Saturday, Sept. 25.

Resources are available at welscongregationalservices.net/national-hymnal-week.

Congregations will make their own decisions whether or not to use the new hymnal. It's my prayer that they do. I believe that it will be a rich resource that will keep us unified in our worship and will be a blessing to all who use it.

Serving with you in Christ,

WELS President Mark Schroeder

2021-2022 Edition of Faces of Faith Available

The 2021-2022 edition of WELS Missions' annual magazine Faces of Faith is now available. Visit wels.net/facesoffaith to view and download a PDF or request up to 50 copies for your congregation or Lutheran Women's Missionary Society circuit. (Limit 50 copies per request; first come, first served.) Print copies are also mailed to any congregation that hosts a Missions speaker.

Taste of Missions 2021—Our Synod's New Missionaries

Taste of Missions was held this past summer to provide all WELS members an opportunity to be an important part of gospel outreach occurring in our synod through Home and World Missions. As part of that event, your synod commissioned four new home missionaries and one new world missionary. Watch the special recap video and pray for them as they head into their new fields of service.

WELS Endowment Fund Again Receives Accolade

For the second year in a row, the WELS Endowment Fund's net investment return placed in the 90th percentile of the foundations that participated in the 2020 Council on Foundations—Commonfund Study of Investment of Endowments for Private and Community Foundations®. The investment returns for the WELS Endowment Fund were 22.39% and 21.22% in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

"This is a tremendous blessing to WELS organizations that have an endowment fund through WELS Foundation, because the distributions from the endowments help fund ministry," says Mr.

Jim Holm, WELS Foundation executive director. "This year, WELS Foundation distributed a total of \$3.5 million to gospel work from more than 350 endowments. We praise God for his blessings!"

The 2020 study marks the ninth year that Commonfund Institute and the Council on Foundations have partnered to produce this research. With 260 participating private and community foundations representing combined assets of \$115.4 billion, the study is believed to be the most comprehensive annual survey of its kind.

The WELS Endowment Fund is one of four portfolios managed by WELS Investment Funds, a self-supporting subsidiary of WELS. Synodical endowments, along with endowment funds benefiting WELS congregations and WELS-affiliated ministries, are invested in the WELS Endowment Fund.

To set up an endowment fund or learn how an endowment fund can support your ministry for years to come, contact Jim Holm at jim.holm@wels.net or 414-256-3206. Learn more about WELS Foundation at wels.net/foundation.