

# **WELS NEWS**

**May, 2017**

## **2017 Synod Convention Planning Underway**

Planning has already begun for the synod convention next summer. The convention will take place at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis., July 31-Aug. 3. More than 400 delegates and 50 advisory members will meet under the theme “Our Great Heritage,” reflecting the blessings we remember in the 500th anniversary year of the Lutheran Reformation.

Delegates have already been chosen. Each delegate will soon be assigned to a floor committee. The floor committees are asked to discuss an area of the synod’s work and then to bring reports and resolutions to the convention for action.

The issues and information to be discussed by the convention will be published in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* (BORAM). The BORAM will be sent in printed form to all delegates prior to the convention as well as posted online at [wels.net/2017synodconvention](http://wels.net/2017synodconvention).

Some of the issues to be considered at the 2017 convention are:

- The establishment of full fellowship with three Lutheran church bodies.
- The adoption of the 2017-2019 Ministry Financial Plan (Budget).
- The election of the first vice president and the secretary of the synod.
- Election of many other positions on boards and committees.
- The report of the Compensation Review Committee, which is making recommendations for modest changes to the synod’s compensation guidelines.
- The report and recommendations of a special committee that conducted a review of the synod’s Ministry of Christian Giving.
- A number of recommended changes to the synod’s bylaws.
- Some special events being planned for the delegates include:
  - \* The synodwide observance of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.
  - \* Special presentations by world missionaries.
  - \* A screening of the new Luther movie, *A Return to Grace: Luther’s Life and Legacy*.

Most of the convention, including the opening worship service, will be streamed live to enable WELS members to view the convention in real time. Follow convention news at [wels.net/2017synodconvention](http://wels.net/2017synodconvention).

Serving in Christ,

President Mark Schroeder

## **Conference Brings Together World Missionary Wives**

Twenty-four world missionary wives gathered together in Athens, Greece, from Feb. 23-27. This conference, the first of its kind, was funded by the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society.

As Mrs. Julia Wagenknecht, a member of the conference planning committee who has spent time on many different world mission fields, explains, "The theme for our precious four days together was '(En) Courage in Christ,' and that theme weaved into areas of family life, ministry, and cross-cultural experiences. Many hugs were exchanged along with stories of blessings and challenges from those recently new to a mission field to some who have spent 30-plus years in world mission service."

Throughout the weekend the women had opportunities to tour the sites of Athens and learn the history of Greece while making historical connections to biblical stories and the spread of the early Christian church through the Bible study on the book of Acts led by Mrs. Andrea Wordell, who served with her husband, Brad, in Asia for many years.

In addition to sightseeing and Bible study, the conference included worship, breakout sessions, and time for the women to get to know one another.

Mrs. Susan Nitz, who serves alongside her husband, Paul, in Malawi, says, "By the end of the conference, it seemed as if we were all close friends instead of strangers, and it was evident that the goal of our conference had been met—to make connections with sisters in Christ serving in distant places and form friendships and relationships that will certainly continue after our brief four days together."

## **WELS Conferences Offer A Wide Range Of Learning Opportunities**

Here is a list of synod conferences taking place this spring and summer. To see a complete list of WELS events, visit [wels.net/events](http://wels.net/events).

### **WELS Nurses Association Spring Conference**

April 21-22– WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis.  
Theme: "Christian Nurses Ministering to Those Who Struggle"

A wide range of speakers will present on topics such as speech pathology, prison ministry, holistic care, PTSD, multiculturalism, and addictions. All WELS/ELS nurses are invited. For more information visit [wels.net/event/2017-welsna-spring-conference](http://wels.net/event/2017-welsna-spring-conference).

### **Women's Ministry Mini-Conference**

April 22 – Shepherd of the Hills, Tucson, Ariz.  
Theme: "Mentors"

Presentations include:

- Follow My Example as I Follow the Example of Christ Jesus – A Mentor for Me
- Scripture’s Women of Influence
- Mentoring for Such a Time as This

To learn more, visit [wels.net/event/womens-ministry-mini-conference-tucson-arizona](http://wels.net/event/womens-ministry-mini-conference-tucson-arizona)

#### National Staff Ministers Conference

April 27-29– Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.  
Theme: “Here We Stand”

A staff minister in 21st-century America may face challenges very different from those of a certain monk in 16th-century Germany, but the foundation upon which both stand remains the same. “The Lord will be the sure foundation for your times” (Isaiah 33:6). In honor of Reformation 500, we take Martin Luther’s “ultimatum” for our own, and in this year’s conference we will explore various contemporary spiritual issues with our “feet” planted firmly on the foundation of God and his Word.

For more information and to register, visit [wels.net/event/national-staff-ministers-conference](http://wels.net/event/national-staff-ministers-conference).

#### National Campus Ministry Staff Conference

May 15-16– Wildwood Lodge, Pewaukee, Wis.

Theme: “Shepherding the Next Generation of the Church”

The Campus Ministry Staff Conference helps campus pastors and lay people in their training of students for ministry by studying God’s Word and sharing ideas for campus work – whether big, small, or just starting out in campus ministry.

The conference will

- 1) allow campus pastors and workers to share ideas for campus work, including the chance to share hopes and dreams about future work in campus ministry;
- 2) provide mutual support and encouragement through dialogue and fellowship;
- 3) foster new campus ministry efforts; and
- 4) provide resource information for others to reference as they begin or carry out their campus work.

To register, go to [wels.net/event/wels-national-campus-ministry-staff-conference](http://wels.net/event/wels-national-campus-ministry-staff-conference).

#### WELS Support Staff Conference

June 5– Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, Wis.

This conference for WELS/ELS office personnel is offered annually by Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, providing a venue for networking and communication, sharing ideas that could benefit others, and opportunities to grow professionally.

For more information, visit:  
[wels.net/event/2017-wels-support-staff-conference](http://wels.net/event/2017-wels-support-staff-conference).

*National Conference on Worship Music and the Arts*

June 13-16—Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis.

June 27-30—Irvine, Calif. (regional site)

The worship conferences offer “something for everyone.” They are not only for pastors and musicians. Opportunities at the conference include presentations, concerts and recitals. The plenary address will be “A Reformation Perspective on Worship” led by Rev. Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project.

Apply online now to be part of the Festival Choir, Children’s Choir, or Honor Choir. Instrumentalists are also needed. Online registration is now open at [wels.net/worshipconference](http://wels.net/worshipconference).

*54th Annual Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society*

June 22-25—Orlando, Florida

Theme: “Around the World with Missions”

The convention kicks off Thursday evening with an opening worship service led by WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder. Friday and Saturday feature speakers from various WELS mission fields, including Rev. Daniel Sargent, who serves in Africa; Home Missions missionaries; WELS Home Missions Administrator Rev. Keith Free; and WELS World Missions Administrator Rev. Larry Schlomer.

The Thursday night opening worship service and the Friday and Saturday missionary presentations will be streamed live at [livestream.com/welslive](http://livestream.com/welslive).

In addition, attendees can choose to attend workshops about the LWMS kids c.a.r.e program, evangelism, and the multi-site congregation model. To learn more, visit [wels.net/event/54th-annual-convention-of-the-lutheran-womens-missionary-society](http://wels.net/event/54th-annual-convention-of-the-lutheran-womens-missionary-society).

**To see a complete list of WELS events, including Reformation 500 celebrations, visit [wels.net/events](http://wels.net/events).**