



## Doing more together

Your membership in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) enables your congregation to do more to advance Christ's kingdom around the world.

- **PRESENTING AN IDENTITY:** The WELS name helps people to quickly identify our congregations as members of a united, Bible-believing church body that celebrates Christ's love shown in his redemption of all people from sin, and that sees as its calling the sharing of his love with the world. Our synod's history is preserved and shared through WELS Archives.
- **RECEIVING STRATEGIC DIRECTION:** The Conference of Presidents provides Christ-centered, biblical leadership to our called workers, and encourages gifts that fund the synod's ministry plan. The Synodical Council manages the synod's ministry plan, ensures that all gifts are used wisely, and acts on behalf of congregations between conventions.
- **TRAINING GOSPEL WORKERS:** Our synod's Christ-centered ministerial education system offers undergraduate training and continuing education for our pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and missionaries.
- **SUPPORTING MISSION WORK:** Home Missions supports 133 congregations in the U.S., Canada, and English-speaking West Indies, and assists hundreds of other congregations with their campus ministry programs. World Missions conducts gospel outreach in 44 foreign countries and is exploring outreach opportunities in 20 prospective new mission fields. Joint Missions oversees any mission opportunity that is a combination of Home Missions, World Missions, and Ministerial Education, including people group and cross-cultural ministries. Our synod also connects with people to share the gospel through the humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts of WELS Christian Aid and Relief.
- **HONORING WORKERS:** WELS Voluntary Employee Benefits Association (VEBA) delivers health, disability, and pension coverage to called and other workers, striving to produce results that are advantageous to them and financially prudent for our congregations and synod. WELS Human Resources gives guidance to congregations striving to display the "double honor" we are to show our pastors, teachers, and staff ministers (1 Timothy 5:17).
- **PUBLISHING GOSPEL RESOURCES:** Northwestern Publishing House provides Christ-centered, biblically sound resources to the people of WELS and beyond. WELS Multi-Language Productions offers confessional Christian mass-media and literature in 56 different languages for use in mission work and outreach around the world.
- **SERVING FELLOW CONGREGATIONS:** WELS Congregational Services makes available resources and support for congregations and Lutheran schools in the areas of education, discipleship, worship, evangelism, and special ministries.
- **ASSISTING SISTER SYNODS:** WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations establishes, preserves, and strengthens the bond of confessional fellowship with church bodies that are united with WELS in scriptural doctrine and practice. WELS is part of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference comprised of 34 member churches in fellowship worldwide.

- **SUPPORTING GOSPEL ENDEAVORS:** WELS' gospel training and proclamation efforts are supported through WELS Technology, Financial Services, and Communication Services (*WELS Connection, WELS Together, Forward in Christ*). WELS Ministry of Christian Giving encourages members to excel in the grace of giving and assists them in making planned gifts to support the gospel ministry of their congregations, synod, and WELS agencies. WELS Foundation provides giving instruments that individuals can use to support the Lord's work both now and after they have gone to heaven. The Foundation also manages endowments for WELS ministries. WELS Investment Funds offers cost-effective, professionally managed investment portfolios to WELS ministries for endowment, scholarship, and long-term ministry support. WELS Church Extension Fund (CEF) gives grants and low-interest loans to mission congregations that are purchasing land and building churches. CEF's investments are available to individuals and organizations.

Our Lord Jesus gives us the privilege of reaching out to the world in his name, and his Holy Spirit works generosity in our hearts so we can conduct these and other ministries. Our congregational offerings are, year after year, the main source for funding the proclamation of Christ's love to us and all the world through WELS.