

September 2021

Dear WELS Congregation,

A year ago, our lives were filled with uncertainty. This even affected our ability to gather for worship! Perhaps that uncertainty made it more difficult for your congregation to commit to a mission offering subscription for 2021.

Look what the Lord accomplished through us, however. Congregation Mission Offerings for 2020 were 1.4 percent higher than in 2019. Now 2021 offerings are ahead of the pace of 2020 gifts! Who would have seen this coming? Only the Lord Jesus, and he did so in keeping with St. Paul's reminder, "[Our God] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20). To God be the praise!

What great blessings on our efforts to support his kingdom work does the Lord have in mind for us during the remainder of this year—and in 2022? Again, only the Lord knows.

The Conference of Presidents urges your congregation, and especially its leaders, to pray about your support of the worldwide kingdom work that we do together. As you do, take to heart this encouragement, again from our Lord through St. Paul, "Since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7).

If you need direction in setting your subscription, please work toward setting your CMO at ten percent of anticipated offerings and then increasing your offering as you are able. Instructions for submitting your CMO subscription for 2022 are on the back of this letter. Please submit a solid subscription—one which your congregation can confidently strive to attain. This assists synodical leaders greatly in planning the kingdom work we hope under Christ to accomplish with you.

May our Lord God richly bless your congregation and our synod as we join to prepare gospel proclaimers and then send them out into fields that are ripe for the harvest!

Yours in Christ,

Your District President

Instructions from WELS Ministry of Christian Giving for setting your 2022 CMO subscription:

- 1. Determine your CMO subscription.** Please review and share the enclosed CMO setting materials that are also posted at mcg.welsrc.net/cmo with church leaders and, ideally, all members of the congregation. Among the resources is a special video featuring WELS first vice president and parish pastor James Huebner reflecting on the blessings and opportunities that the Lord Jesus is giving our synod. There is also a prayer for “WELS Mission and Ministry” posted online that you can use in one of your worship services.
For churches on a *calendar year* budget, your subscription setting process will coincide with your budget setting process for next year. If your church is on a *fiscal year* budget, we recommend submitting to WELS the CMO figure in your current fiscal year budget.
- 2. Submit your CMO subscription.** Go to mcg.welsrc.net/cmo. The form’s instructions will guide you through the process of submitting your subscription. If you partner with another church that submits a combined CMO on your behalf, you will be able to indicate your partner congregation on the form.
- 3. Deadline:** The deadline for submitting CMO subscriptions (and 2021 congregational statistics) is “the first Friday of February,” **Friday, February 4, 2022 at noon (Central)**.

Remitting your congregational offerings

The deadline for remitting 2021 offerings is Friday, January 7, 2022. WELS Ministry of Christian Giving will be sending 2022 remittance coupons at the turn of the year. To ensure that you receive correct coupons, please let them know if your church has started or stopped a partnership with another congregation since February 5. This can be done when submitting your subscription or by contacting the MCG office.

Need assistance?

Contact your Ministry of Christian Giving (MCG) district chairman or the MCG office for more information. A directory of MCG district chairmen is posted at mcg.welsrc.net/cmo. You may contact the MCG office by calling 414-256-3209 (toll-free: 800-827-5482) or e-mailing karen.martinez@wels.net.

Updating your church information

Review and update your church information that feeds into the WELS Yearbook anytime at cloud.wels.net/me. Note: Congregations can indicate the name, role, and e-mail for a lay leader who could assist called leadership with receiving and sharing synod communications (do this under “Church Leadership” on the Contact tab of the form).