

September 2024

Dear WELS Congregation,

Four successive years of record Congregation Mission Offerings! It's astounding when you consider the backdrop of declining WELS membership and higher inflation. Yet God's people in congregations across WELS supported the Lord's kingdom work at record levels!

How should we respond in the coming year? We could pat ourselves on the back and rest on our laurels like the rich fool in Jesus' parable. We could consider the synod's strong financial position and conclude that "WELS doesn't need our money as much as we do." We could assume that, even if our congregation decides to "slide" a little this year with its CMO commitment, there will be a thousand other WELS congregations to cover for us. Or we could respond the way the psalmist did as he recalled God's blessings on his people: "May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you" (Psalm 67:5). The praise, thanks, and glory belong to the God of our salvation for blessing us as richly as he has.

One of the God-pleasing responses to his amazing blessings is to recommit ourselves to the proclamation of the gospel so that "all the peoples praise you" as we do. Your congregation's mission offering enables God's people in WELS to do exactly that: to prepare gospel proclaimers and to send them out to the ends of the earth. That's the mission our Lord gave to his people of every generation, to your synod, and to your congregation. As your congregation discusses its 2025 mission offering subscription, the Conference of Presidents urges your leaders to keep in mind God's blessings to you in Jesus our Savior and the privilege of sharing that Savior with our dying world.

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 2025 are on the back of this letter. Submitting a subscription that your congregation can confidently strive to attain assists synodical leaders greatly in planning the work we hope to accomplish with you under Christ.

May our Lord God richly bless your congregation's discussions and efforts to generously support God's kingdom work in the coming year!

Yours in Christ,

Your District President

Instructions from WELS Ministry of Christian Giving for setting your 2025 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 where WELS President Mark Schroeder details the important work we do walking together in a common mission. There are also prayers 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 2024 congregational statistics) is “the first Friday of February,” **Friday, February 7, 2025 at noon (Central)**.

Remitting your congregational offerings

The deadline for remitting 2024 offerings is Wednesday, January 8, 2025. WELS Ministry of Christian Giving will be sending 2025 remittance coupons at the turn of the year. To ensure that you receive the correct coupons, please be sure to let them know if your church has started or stopped a partnership with another congregation since February 2. 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 414-256-3209/800-827-5482 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.