

September 2023

Dear WELS Congregation,

Throughout sinful history, offerings to pagan gods included the elements of manipulation and obligation. In both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, however, the only true God, our Savior, shares with his people several elements of God-pleasing offerings. Among them are love, appreciation, and trust.

Our offerings to the Lord are in response to his **love** for us, not an effort to gain his favor. Our offerings are an expression of **appreciation** for what he has already done for us at the cross of Christ, not an effort to coerce him into action on our behalf. Our offerings are an expression of **trust** that he will continue to bless us as he deems best, not a reluctance to give because we doubt that the Lord will provide for our needs.

The apostle Paul captures these elements in his letter to the Romans, “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). Love and appreciation for God’s saving work in Christ coupled with trust in him to provide all that we need leads to offerings that are pleasing and acceptable to him.

As your congregation discusses its 2024 mission offering subscription, the Conference of Presidents urges your leaders to keep these elements in mind—love, appreciation, and trust.

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 2024 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 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 2024 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](http://mcg.welsrc.net/cmo) with church leaders and, ideally, all members of the congregation. Among the resources is a special video where WELS Ministry of Christian Giving Director Kurt Lueneburg shares how our gracious God is using our prayers, time and talents, and Congregation Mission Offerings to accomplish his saving purposes. 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](http://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 2023 congregational statistics) is “the first Friday of February,” **Friday, February 2, 2024 at noon (Central)**.

### Remitting your congregational offerings

The deadline for remitting 2023 offerings is Monday, January 8, 2024. WELS Ministry of Christian Giving will be sending 2024 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 3. 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://cloud.wels.net/me).