

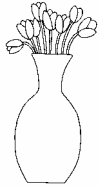
**SOUTH EASTERN WISCONSIN
DISTRICT NEWS**

CALLED WORKER ACTIVITY

Go to: www.wels.net



CCFS SPRING SEMINAR



The Commission for Communication on Financial Support will be conducting its annual Spring Seminar on March 5, 2005. It is scheduled to start at 9:00 am and go to 1:00 pm. It will take place at St. John's on Howell Avenue in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. We plan on discussing North American Outreach, our Synod's financial picture, and estate planning. Please



CMO ACTIVITY

Southeastern Wisconsin District –
2004 Intention: \$3,798,858 Sent In: \$3,649,142

We were 3.9% short of what we had intended to give. Eight out of the 12 districts fell short of their intentions in 2004. This has left our Synod leaders to make more proposed manpower cuts on our mission fields. If our 2005 intentions will be able to meet the 2004 shortfall and be increased by at least 4%, some of the proposed cuts can be avoided. May our knees be sore as we take this matter to the Lord in prayer, asking what it is that we as individuals can do locally to keep these cuts from happening in 2005.



Synod-wide –
2004 Intention: \$19,761,061 Sent In: \$19,365,086 (2% shortfall)
2003 Intention: \$19,429,408 Sent In: \$19,799,705



WE ARE THE WELS...

**PROCLAIMING PEACE
THROUGH JESUS**



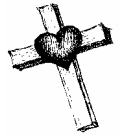
**News from the WELS
February 2005**

Synod Website: www.wels.net



UPDATE ON NORTH AMERICAN OUTREACH

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:14-16



How many times have you had the perfect opportunity to say or do something to give testimony of your faith? How many times did you take advantage of it?

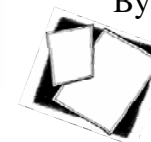
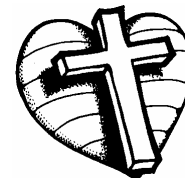
We all need help when it comes to that. Those golden moments pass us by, never to be lived again. But doesn't it make you feel wonderful when you have had the chance to tell someone about Jesus and you've taken advantage of it? Maybe you were



unsure of what to say, but you let God use you as an instrument of His peace. Somehow it was just the right thing to say at the time, or just the right gesture of love that another person needed to experience. Perhaps you will never really know if your message was taken to heart or your kind action was fully understood, but a relationship was started and the work of the Holy Spirit was begun.



Yes, God really does use us as missionaries. And no matter what the size or the age of our congregations, they are all "mission" congregations. What love God has for us that He allows us the privilege to serve Him in these ways!



By now, over half of all our WELS congregations have ordered materials

and conducted the presentations intended to give individuals and congregations new ideas to consider for telling more and more people about Jesus. In our next phase of *Proclaim Peace through Jesus* we want you to know that you are not alone in this mission. Because “Every Soul’s a Treasure,” there is much work to be done. WELS Commission on Evangelism can assist you. Their School of Outreach, a three-day workshop for church leaders that helps congregations develop strategic plans for



their evangelism programs, is an excellent way to get started. You can also visit the Web site, www.whataboutjesus.com, for help when you find yourself searching for a way to start talking about your faith with others. Congregations will also find assistance and support by asking their District Mission Board representatives to mentor with them in developing outreach opportunities in their area. You will soon be hearing more about how the District Mission Boards can help all 1,250 WELS “mission” congregations.

A new episode of *Fifth Pew from the Front* entitled “That’s Easy for You to Say” will be released this March. It gives a light-hearted look at Brandon Taylor’s realization that he could do a better job of finding those opportunities to “give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” It can be used as an eight-week Bible study in your congregation. Most of us could identify with Brandon in one way or another. Like Brandon, we can learn to seize those precious chances to share the gospel with others as we remember that every soul is a blood-bought treasure, and precious to our Lord!



REPORT EXAMINES ROLE OF PREP SCHOOLS IN WELS

A study of the two WELS prep schools was released by the fifteen-person committee commissioned at the 2003 WELS Convention. The study reaffirms the value of our prep schools and calls for retaining the existing two-school system. In view of budgetary concerns, however, it is recommended that third-source funding be sought by the two schools to help alleviate the need for subsidy from the synod's budget. The



synod’s two prep schools are Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin and Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan.

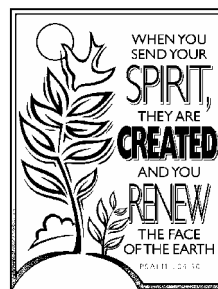
The goal of the committee was to “evaluate the need for the number, size, and organization of the prep school system over against the continuing purpose and objectives of the synod, of the Ministerial Education area of ministry, and of the preparatory schools.”



Details of the study will be presented formally to the 2005 Convention in July. The full report can be accessed through the Internet by going to www.wels.net and entering the jumpword “prepstudy.”

MEMBERS RESPOND GENEROUSLY IN WAKE OF TSUNAMI

It seemed like barely any time had passed following the hurricanes that hit the Caribbean. Then, suddenly, another quick and generous response was required to support the victims of the disastrous tsunamis in Southeast Asia. Thank God for the outpouring of love shown by WELS members!



The WELS Committee on Relief (COR) has reported that, since the tsunami disaster, total funds have reached \$110,000 designated for tsunami relief and another \$76,000 to COR without designation.

In addition to that, the Schwan Foundation has provided \$50,000 in matching funds for the tsunami relief effort through the WELS Committee on Relief. You may recall that nearly \$400,000 was given by COR in response to the hurricanes.

MONTHLY PRAYER CALENDAR

Each month Ministry of Planned Giving produces a calendar with prayer suggestions for each day. Visit www.wels.net, jumpword “prayer-calendar.”

