

SOUTH EASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT NEWS

CALLED WORKER ACTIVITY – GO TO WWW.WELS.NET

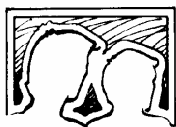
CONGREGATION MISSION OFFERINGS

	2005 Commitment	Through July	Last Year
S.E.W. District	\$3,628,981	\$1,787,350	-
Synod	-	\$9,891,026	\$9,735,689

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS...

2005 CONGREGATIONAL TEAM WORKSHOPS

Come and enjoy our 2nd Annual Congregational Team Workshops.



There will be choices of many new workshops with national presenters on Youth Discipleship, Parish Schools, Special Ministries, Adult Discipleship, Evangelism and Worship

When: October 15th, 2005

Where: Shoreland Lutheran High School
9026 12th Street
Somers, WI 53171

Registration: 8:00 am to 8:30 am

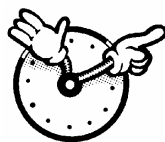
Workshops: 8:45 am to 4:35 pm

Sponsored by: All the Commissions

of the SEW District Parish Services

Costs: \$125.00 for congregations with 500 or less souls,
Plus \$10.00/person attending
\$175.00 for congregations with 501 or more souls,
plus \$10.00/person attending
\$50.00 if register as an individual.

Info & sign up Please contact Tammy at TMiller@WELS.net or
go to www.WELS.net/bps .



We are the WELS...Proclaiming Peace Through Jesus!

“Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings” Luke 16:9.

GOD KEEP US TRUE TO HIS WORD!



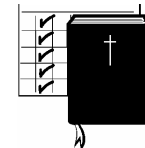
**NEWS FROM THE
WELS
SEPTEMBER 2005
SYNOD WEBSITE:
WWW.WELS.NET**



WELS STRIVES TO PUT HOUSE IN ORDER

Faced with rising costs to ministry and flat revenues, recalling missionaries from foreign fields and at-risk ministerial education schools, delegates of the 58th Biennial Convention in New Ulm, MN led the way in putting the WELS “house” in order by declaring ministerial education, mission outreach and publications as “essential ministries and the synod’s core work.” Those ministries will receive funding priority.

Although the delegates passed a balanced budget, they faced the constant reminder that this two-year budget comes at great expense to ministry. It allows for no new traditional home mission starts, calls for three world missionaries to be recalled in the first year and 10 in the second, decreased funding of the ministerial education schools, and a 21 percent decrease in Parish Services.



In view of the constraints, the assembly reaffirmed its support for the ministerial education system consisting of two prep schools, a college of ministry, and a seminary, but with reduced funding from the past year. The schools, for the first time in their histories, will need to receive independent funds to survive.

To help get our house in order, the convention approved several initiatives without increasing the budget:



- Seeking \$150 million for Ministerial Education trusts and endowments, \$150 million for mission expansion trusts and endowments and \$50+ million for capital projects.

- Calling a full-time director of communications to develop a strategy for improving synodwide communications.
- Starting a Web video broadcasting network.
- Training everyone in sound Christian stewardship, reaching from the president to the people in the pews.
- Streamlining the administration structure of WELS ministries.
- Improving financial systems with help of nonbudgetary funds.

Commenting on the state of things, President Karl Gurgel said, “Trusting God’s faithful grace, WELS is serious about making a concerted effort to meet the challenges, erasing the shortages, once again seizing mission and ministry opportunities.” *For more information, visit www.wels.net/convention.*

DELEGATES EXPRESS FAITH WITH CONVENTION OFFERINGS

The nearly 400 delegates, representatives of WELS churches, missions and schools, expressed their faith in God by giving just over \$24,000 in offerings to the synod during the opening and closing services.



Their generosity was significant, as it demonstrated both a trust in the synod as it moves forward and an effort to lead by example in the area of stewardship.

Dave Liggett, WELS Director of Christian Giving, expressed thanks for the outpouring. “The convention delegates made a lot of decisions concerning the direction of our synod. They especially encouraged our called leaders to find ways to fund the many opportunities the Lord has placed before us. Not only did they encourage us with their voices and votes, they encouraged us with their generous offering at the end of convention.”



The majority of the money contributed went towards Walking Together, which flows directly into the synod’s general operating fund. Some money also went to Multi-Language Publications.

2005 YOUTH RALLY SEES BEST ATTENDANCE YET

The 2005 WELS International Youth Rally, held July 13-16 at Walt Disney World in Florida, was enjoyed by 3,140 people - 2,374 teens and 766 leaders. This was 640 more people than the record set in 2003. This year’s group represented 253 of WELS’ 1,261 congregations (20%) and all 12 WELS districts.



Three teens, Laura Merklinker of Littleton, CO, Lea Menning of Waukesha, WI and Crysta Miller of Rochester, MN were instrumental in organizing the rally. In addition to helping select the rally location, they helped develop the theme: *Wanna See?* The idea for the theme came from the portion of Scripture they selected as the rally Bible



verse: “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

The rally mixed Bible studies and discussions with social time, including free time at Disney World. During the afternoon in the park, the teens wore t-shirts advertising the rally Bible verse. “Seeing all the people with their rally shirts and knowing that they believe the same things I do was probably the coolest experience of all,” said Rachel Zweck, one of the teens attending the rally.

Dr. Joel Nelson, Administrator of WELS Youth Discipleship said of the rally’s success: “It is very gratifying to see so many WELS youth and youth leaders interested in attending. God-willing, these same youth and leaders will take the rally message and enthusiasm back to their home congregations and youth groups.”



WELS ENTERS SECOND PHASE OF N. AMERICAN OUTREACH

WELS Board for Home Missions has the privilege of carrying the banner for the second phase of North American outreach, “Every Soul’s a Treasure.” Materials are being distributed through the district mission boards, including guidelines for an October Festival of Missions. For more information or to download materials, visit www.wels.net/nao.



STEWARDSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT RELEASED FOR '05-06

WELS’ Stewardship encouragement for 2005-06 parallels the synod’s North American outreach theme and helps us look at ourselves in the light of God’s Word to discover our identity, priority, mission and commitment.

Program materials were designed by WELS Adult Discipleship in cooperation with WELS Planned Giving for easy download over the Internet. Visit www.wels.net/jumpword/stewardship.

