

Congregational and Ministry Support Group

The role of the CMSG is to serve congregations, schools, and their leaders by providing resources, training, and personal assistance so that they might carry out gospel ministry in the most faithful way on the local level.

Adult Discipleship/Youth & Family; Worship; Evangelism; Congregational Counseling; Special Ministries; Lutheran Schools

Future Plans include:

- Move from “boots on the ground” assistance to utilizing more technology so that they can assist congregations on a quicker timetable as well as assist congregations no matter their financial situation.
- House all CMSG resources in one centralized, easily navigable location.

NAME CHANGE: CMSG (Congregation and Ministry Support Group) to CS (Congregational Services)

Institute for Worship & Outreach

Group of WELS pastors that believe that outreach methods and worship forms must intersect confessionally and evangelically to share the gospel of Jesus.

www.worshipandoutreach.org

Commission on Congregational Counseling

The CCC assists WELS congregations in assessing and evaluating ministry, reviewing biblical teachings and principles that impact ministry, developing plans to adjust and expand ministry in appropriate ways, and carrying out their plans over a period of time.

- Self-Assessment & Adjustment Program- Establishment phase, Assessment phase, Adjustment phase & Implementation phase
- Shepherd Resources: www.shepherdresources.org
- Demographic Study:
 1. ¼ of the decline is attributed to lower birth rates
 2. It has been difficult to retain members who graduate from high school
 3. Aging of the WELS- 11.35% is 75 or older

Suggestions that are vital in meeting these challenges:

1. Encourage all congregations to engage in regular planning and ongoing self-assessment of ministry efforts.
2. Encourage all congregations to implement a curriculum of ongoing evangelism training.
3. Establish a Millennial (ages 18-34) task force.
4. Helping aging, rural congregations prayerfully work through their options.
5. Encouraging all congregations utilizing early childhood ministry (ECM) or their elementary

school as outreach to examine their harvest strategy.

6. Establishing a cross-cultural task force; encouraging congregations in ethnically diverse areas to consider the feasibility of cross-cultural ministry.

7. Encouraging all congregations to engage in an ongoing program of whole-life stewardship.

Commission on Worship

The Commission on Worship exists to help parishes in their central activity of worship that glorifies God and strengthen His people.

Areas of significance:

1. National Conference on Worship Music and the Arts- June 13-16 at Carthage College, Kenosha, WI. Resources from past worship conferences are available at www.worship.welsrc.net
2. Schools of Worship Enrichments- Can be one day or a full weekend event.
3. 2017 Reformation Anniversary- There are 5 reformation themed services that will be available at the Worship Conference.
4. Hymnology Curriculum- Working since 2012 to develop a curriculum to better assist teachers instructing an appreciation of Christian hymnody. To better correlate with the new hymnal a release date of 2020 is planned.
5. WELS Hymnal Project- The 6 committees that are working on this project have developed the content for their area and are currently field testing it in congregations. It is hopeful that the committees will be completed with their work by the end of the decade and that the new hymnal and resources will be available mid to late 2021.

Commission on Evangelism

The Commission on Evangelism exists to assist congregations and members to seize every opportunity the Lord provides to evangelize lost souls.

Areas of significance:

1. School of Outreach at your local congregation- to assist WELS congregations with specific and ongoing guidance for evangelism planning, organization, and implementation of outreach strategies.
2. www.whataboutjesus.com; www.wels.net & Facebook devotions and articles
3. Online Evangelism Courses- through MLC online continuing education program for laypeople and called workers to help them lead their congregations with planning and implementing efforts to reach more people with the Gospel. There are 3-one credit courses in this program.
4. Telling the Next Generation Workshops to assist congregations with planning, assistance, and resources for implementation of outreach strategies utilizing your school or early childhood program.

Upcoming Events: November 4 at ELHS- Telling the Next Generation: Utilizing Our Schools for Outreach

5. New 4th Movie- Road to Emmaus; Come Follow Me; and My Son, My Savior. The 4th Movie will show fulfillment of Jesus' command at his ascension to be his witnesses and take the gospel "to the ends of the Earth". The new movie is expected in 2018.