



SPECIAL MINISTRIES

WELS Special Ministries Updates Winter 2018

Don't forget to use your thumb! That's probably not advice you think you need – but this is a reference to the Body of Christ. Thumbs are very useful, but they don't look it. The same is often true with people who have disabilities. That blind woman at church can be a very effective canvasser as a partner of someone on your evangelism team! That teen with developmental disabilities can be a great greeter or choir member. God gives us members of His body to bless us. A WELS woman who is blind but works in a government office told Special Ministries, "Tell your church leaders to encourage the chairmen of their committees to recruit members with disabilities." Society calls it "Inclusion" – but Christians recognize that God has prepared in advance the good that His people (including those with disabilities) will do (Ephesians 2:10). Sometimes a church has to take that extra step so the person can be involved, but that's what church families do!

Chaplain Conference The Association of WELS Chaplains (TAWC) will meet on Friday, February 2, at the Schoenstatt Conference Center in Waukesha. Presentations will be "Common mental health issues among the Hispanic Community and Ministering to undocumented immigrant, a biblical approach" by Pastor Luis and Dr. Carolina Acosta, and "Cross-Cultural Counseling Guidelines from an Anthropological Perspective" by Prof. E. Allen Sorum. The presentations will be recorded and archived for viewing online (for free) by those who cannot attend. CEU's are available for attendees or those who view the archived presentations. For more information, email Pastor Bob Dick at chaplaincert@wels.net.

Retirement Planning Resources The Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW) has produced resources to help congregations (especially those with a CCCW) walk with their called workers through the resources available for retirement planning. Find them at welsrc.net/cccw.

Every church / Christian school needs to offer "Standing Up for Children" training All around us, sexual abuse and assault is being exposed. All WELS churches need to be safe places where leaders actively work to prevent abuse. WELS Freedom for the Captives (FFTC) is putting the finishing touches on training videos ("Standing Up for Children: A Christian Response to Child Abuse and Neglect") and has received an Antioch Foundation grant to subsidize training sessions that will help called workers and other church leaders to recognize sexual abuse and know the best, Christian way to address it. Contact Special Ministries if you are interested in hosting the session in your district or conference, specialministries@wels.net. Also follow Freedom for the Captives on Facebook.

Parents vs. Pornography Parents can find helpful information on talking to their children about this critical subject at conquerorsthroughchrist.net/resources/ebooks. New titles include: "The Dangers of Pornography," "Warning Kids About Pornography," and "Correcting Kids Who Use Pornography." Another resource on the website is an excellent, Christ-centered Bible class with a teacher's guide – It's free, of course!

Custom-made solutions The Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI) can produce special confirmation resources for the blind or visually impaired, including Braille and large print. If you have an older member who needs large print, or who qualifies for materials for the blind, WELS spiritual materials can be sent to them for free. MVI is also available to help people whose ability to read is impaired in some way. The catalog is available at wels.net/visually-impaired. Contact Special Ministries for more information, specialministries@wels.net.

How shall they hear the gospel? St. Paul asked a pretty practical question. Don't fail to supply contact information for your members who are in the military or who are incarcerated. In less than a minute, you can connect a member who is not able to attend your church with WELS military ministry or prison ministry. Just go to wels.net/refer.

In Jesus,

Rev. Edward Frey

CSM Coordinator, Pacific Northwest District