



Pacific Northwest DISTRICT

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

District President's Newsletter

PNW District Missionaries' Conference

January 28-30, 2019

Suquamish Resort, Suquamish, WA

The Conference of Presidents held its winter meetings from Jan. 7-10, 2019. The topics that were discussed were summarized in President Schroeder's Together e-newsletter emailed on Jan. 15. Topics included:

- a. The COP expressed its support for an effort by Congregational Services to assemble a "Rural Ministry Task Force" that will provide ministry resources for rural and small-town congregations. The COP is also working with the Commission on Congregational Counseling to develop guidelines for congregations that are beginning the process of closing or merging.
- b. The COP is developing guidelines to assist congregations that are exploring alternative approaches to congregational structure and polity (constitutions/bylaws).
- c. The COP expressed support for the plans of Congregational Services to offer two efforts to replace Mission and Ministry Sunday in fall 2019. One, the 10 for 10 stewardship program, will offer a ten-week emphasis on whole life Christian stewardship. The work we do together as a synod will be highlighted as one part of the program. The other, the Welcome Home initiative featuring a "Welcome Home Sunday" on Oct. 27, will help congregations to seek to regain those who have strayed from active congregational membership.
- d. The COP expressed support for a WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership being planned by Congregational Services for Jan. 21-23, 2020, in Chicago, IL. The conference will emphasize leadership that is rooted in the beliefs of confessional Lutheranism. It may be wise in our district to discuss whether or not this conference would replace our 2020 Missionaries' Conference.
- e. The COP again discussed the importance of encouraging congregations in their efforts to focus on their Congregation Mission Offering (CMO) planned commitments and achieving them. The continuation of vital synodical ministries depends on increasing CMO support from our congregations. To this point, the deadline for reporting both 2019 CMO subscriptions and 2018 stats is noon (Central) this coming Friday, February 1st. We thank you in advance for your communication and encouragement efforts in the coming days to work with your treasurers (or go online and submit them). We pray that our Lord will bless your labors and those of our church leaders!
- f. The COP has begun an effort to review the synod's bylaws dealing with discipline of called workers and congregations, as well as the appeals process. The COP will complete its work in time for the revised process and bylaws to be reviewed by the 2020 district conventions.
- g. The COP Doctrine Committee will schedule regular meetings with the Doctrine Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and with the faculty of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.
- h. The COP expressed support for CS and plans to form an Institute of Lutheran Apologetics (defending the Christian faith and teachings).

- i. The COP reviewed the pastoral vacancies and noted that the overall vacancy rate has remained about the same since its last meeting.
- j. No change is currently being made to the teacher calling window (Nov. 1 – 1st Sun. in June), but the matter is being studied to move it earlier.

PNW District Workers – There have been a few updates since my December DP Newsletter:

PNW Pastors Call Decisions

Brad Snyder	<i>arriving Feb. 2019</i>	to Cross of Christ, Boise, ID – installation planned Feb. 17;
Kent Reeder	<i>arriving Apr. 2019</i>	to Seattle, WA (DMB partnering w/Grace-Salem; restart)
Brian Hackmann	<i>leaving Mar./Apr.</i>	to Associate at Grace LC, Milwaukee, WI

PNW Pastor Call Activity (since start of 2019)

<i>Craig Wasser</i>	<i>Jan. 13, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Zion LC, Mt. Pleasant, MI</i>
<i>Daniel Lange</i>	<i>Jan. 13, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Associate, Grace LC, Oshkosh, WI</i>
<i>Daniel Kramer</i>	<i>Jan. 13, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Grace LC, Tecumseh, MI</i>
<i>Fred Schleg</i>	<i>Jan. 14, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Peace LC, Wautoma, WI</i>
<i>Geoff Cortright</i>	<i>Jan. 27, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Associate, St. Peter, Weyauwega, WI</i>
<i>Chris Ewings</i>	<i>Jan. 27, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Pilgrim LC, Menomonee Falls, WI</i>

PNW Pastor Vacancies (7)

Divine Peace LC, Renton, WA	<i>discussing options, not calling at this moment</i>
Holy Trinity LC, Des Moines, WA	<i>discussing options, not calling at this moment</i>
Gethsemane LC, Tigard, OR	<i>discussing options, not calling at this moment</i>
Living Hope LC, Redmond, WA	<i>discussing options, not calling at this moment</i>
Asia Luth. Sem., Hong Kong	<i>calling in Feb. 2019</i>
Faith LC, Tacoma, WA	<i>calling in Feb. 2019</i>
Peace LC, Eagle River, AK	<i>calling in Feb. 2019</i>

PNW Teacher Call Decisions

Joe Schmudlach	<i>staying, Jan. 2019</i>	ACCEPTED to Evergreen LHS, Tacoma, WA – permanent
Paul Leifer	<i>leaving, June 2019</i>	ACCEPTED to St. Paul LS, Livonia, MI, Principal
Rachel Taasaas	<i>staying, Jan. 2019</i>	RETURNED to Mt. Calvary LS, Redding, CA, K-1 (Spokane)
Melissa Mittelstadt	<i>leaving, June 2019</i>	ACCEPTED to First Steps Learning Center, La Crescent, MN EC Dir.

PNW Teacher Call Activity (since start of 2019)

<i>Ted Klug</i>	<i>Jan. 6, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to MLC, New Ulm, MN, Teacher Admissions Counselor</i>
<i>Justin Hansen</i>	<i>Jan. 13, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Holy Trinity LS, Des Moines, WA, 5-6, AD</i>
<i>Rachel Hansen</i>	<i>Jan. 13, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Holy Trinity LS, Des Moines, WA, 2, Coaching</i>
<i>Nathan Reich</i>	<i>Jan. 20, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Grace LS, Kenai, AK, Principal, 5-8</i>
<i>Justin Vilski</i>	<i>Jan. 20, 2019</i>	<i>HOLDING to Faith LS, Tacoma, WA, Principal, 7-8</i>

PNW Teacher Vacancies (6)

Holy Trinity LS, Des Moines, WA	currently calling (2)
Grace LS, Kenai, AK	currently calling
Faith LS, Tacoma, WA	currently calling
Immanuel LS, Salem, OR	<i>calling in Feb. 2019</i>
Faith LS, Anchorage, AK	<i>discussing options, not calling at this moment</i>

Synod-Wide Workers

Pastors: 115 vacancies for theologically-trained men, 103 of these are for parishes

From 2013 to 2018 the number doubled from 55 to 110+; 2019 remains approx. level to 2018
Approx. 26 seniors will be available for assignment in May 2019

Teachers: 153 active teacher calls; 43 principal vacancies, only 28 are actively calling

approx. 100-110 MLC grads that are category 1 for May 2019

45-50 MLC grads that are category 4 for May 2019

Teacher Vacancy Request Forms – if a vacancy arises, **requests** for teacher call lists should be submitted online at <http://wels.net/callrequest> and I should be notified ahead of time that you are requesting a list and submitting that form. We would set up a call meeting date at that time. Thanks in advance for that good communication.

Pastor and Teacher Self-Assessment Forms – This is also a good opportunity to bring to mind that our Synod data-base for pastors and teachers serves as one key tool in developing call lists and providing accurate information for calling bodies at call meetings. If you haven't already done so, please update your contact info whenever there is a change (address, phone, birth, etc) and also update your self-evaluation forms annually with review by your Circuit Pastor, Principal or ECE Director. Go to: <http://cloud.wels.net/me>

Upcoming District Conferences – Pastors and teachers, keep the first Sem/MLC Summer Continuing Education Conference at ELHS (replaces our Distr. Delegate Conf.) on your radar. This will take place the week of June 10. More information will be shared soon. Pastor Joel Nitz and Teacher Chris Hintz can provide up-to-date information if you have questions. BORAM will be reviewed in our Circuits.

*Serving our Savior Together,
Pastor John W. Steinbrenner,
PNW District President*

Important WELS and PNW Dates

January 28-30, 2019	PNW Missionaries' Conference, Suquamish Resort, Suquamish, WA
March 14-15, 2019	Cascades Conference Teachers' Conf., St. Matthew, Spokane, WA
April 4-6, 2019	COP Spring Meetings, Center for Mission and Ministry
April ???, 2019	PNW Men's Retreat ??? (stay-tuned...)
May 10-11, 2019	COP Assignment Meetings at MLC
May 12, 2019	MLC commencement, assignment service
May 22, 2019	COP Vicar assignments at WLS, Vicar Call service at WLS
May 23, 2019	COP Pastor assignments at WLS
May 24, 2019	WLS assignment service, WLS graduation concert
May 25, 2019	WLS graduation
June 2, 2019	Teacher Calling Window Closes
June 8, 2019	Evergreen Luth. HS Graduation Service – 2PM
June 10-14, 2019	PNW District Pastor/Teacher Continuing Educ. Conference, ELHS
July 29 – Aug. 1, 2019	WELS Synod Convention, MLC, New Ulm, MN
October 8-11, 2019	COP Fall Meetings, Center for Mission and Ministry
October 16-18, 2019	P/T Conference, Cascades Conf., ??? (stay tuned...)
October 28-29, 2019	ACPAT, (P/T Conference, Alaskan Conf.), Faith, Anchorage, AK
November 1, 2019	Teacher Calling Window Opens