

# HOMEMISSIONS

WELS HOME MISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2022

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## SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS



**Windsor, Colo.** – WELS congregations in Ft. Collins, Loveland, and Greeley are supporting this new mission start in a rapidly expanding area in northern Colorado. There are currently 20 WELS families located in the target area, which has no Lutheran churches.

**Wichita, Kan.** – Messiah is looking to start a second site on the east side of the city to better serve the 650,000 people in the greater metropolitan area. The area population is expected to grow by 10% over the next 10 years.

**Canton, Ga.** – Members and leadership from Beautiful Savior in Marietta, Ga., have identified Canton, a quickly growing suburb of Metro-Atlanta, as a prime location to plant a new mission church. Population has doubled in the past 20 years and that growth is expected to continue.

**Conroe, Tex.** – Conroe, the northernmost suburb of Houston, is the fifth fastest growing city in the United States. Abiding Word in Houston, Tex., is helping this new mission get off the ground and running.

**Lodi, Wis. (Unsubsidized)** – Zion in Leeds, Wis., is establishing a second site in Lodi. They have already leased a ministry center where the 17-person ministry team hopes to launch worship this year. This mission is financially supported by Zion, but Home Mission status will give them access to support from their district mission board, mission counselors, and special grants.

## SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS

### **Cross of Glory, Baton Rouge, La. –**

Cross of Glory will receive short-term financial support as they continue to build on the outreach momentum that began when their pastor arrived in 2017. They're currently the only WELS church able to reach the 750,000 people living in the parishes in and around Baton Rouge.



**St. John, St. Paul, Minn.** – St. John has called a bilingual pastor to serve the sizable Hispanic population in the area. The church is located right next to the Mexican Consulate; a portion of their facility is being rented by a Latino service organization; and there is already a Spanish women's Bible study being led by a pastor's wife who also works for a pregnancy resource center that's housed there.

### **Divine Savior, Delray Beach, Fla. –**



Divine Savior plans to call a full-time staff minister to assist in school outreach, discipleship training, and connecting new members with various volunteer opportunities. 120 students are enrolled in their school that started in 2018, with 230 expected next school year. That school growth is leading to church growth, and they expect to add around 50 members in the next few months based on current Bible information class attendance.

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## SPRING 2022 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS CONTINUED

### Abiding Savior, Killeen, Tex. –

Abiding Savior is located near Fort Hood, one of the nation's largest military bases. The church got a new pastor in 2019, added 13 new members in 2021, and is expected to continue growing with Home Missions support in the years to come.



### Our Savior, Burlington, Iowa –

Our Savior has been without a full-time shepherd for 12 years. They are currently being served by pastors from two other WELS churches, with elders leading services when pastors are unavailable.

The 17-member core group is committed to outreach with support from a new home missionary.



## NEW UNSUBSIDIZED MISSIONS

Home Missions also approved unsubsidized mission status for Mt. Calvary in Redding/Anderson, Calif., and Living Faith in Midlothian, Tex. Home Missions provides assistance to unsubsidized mission congregations through its district mission boards, mission counselors, and synodical support staff, but does not provide direct financial support. Unsubsidized home mission congregations also have access to loans and grants from WELS Church Extension Fund and Home Missions.

## 100 MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS

WELS Home Missions is launching a new initiative to plant 100 new home mission churches and enhance 75 existing ministries from 2023-2033. This is a BIG challenge. But we prepare and we plan, and we ask God to bless it. Trusting in the Lord, we boldly move forward knowing God will bless us and his kingdom. Please pray for this initiative, talk to your district mission board about how you can get involved, and support this goal with your gifts. Learn more at [wels.net/100in10](https://wels.net/100in10).



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We thank God for you! Home Missions is thankful for the generosity of so many. Your gift matters. The gospel is being proclaimed in new communities all around North America through new mission starts and existing home mission congregations. We are also grateful for our partnership with WELS Church Extension Fund and the services and grants they provide that help us reach out to the lost.

Pray for our neighbors who are still in darkness and consider how you can make a difference and share Jesus Christ with many. To give an immediate gift, go to [wels.net/hmgift](https://wels.net/hmgift). Watch with us as the Holy Spirit changes earthly lives and opens the door to eternal life for our brothers and sisters in our own backyard.

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