

# WELS COMMISSION ON LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Fall 2017



## Commission on Lutheran Schools

exists to guide and assist WELS congregations in advancing the gospel of Jesus by providing resources, training, and personal assistance for starting and strengthening Lutheran schools.

## Congregational Services

WELS Congregational Services exists to encourage and equip congregations for faithful and fruitful gospel ministry. The Commission on Lutheran Schools is one of the spokes in the wheel of support to congregations. Other commissions include: Special Ministries, Worship, Congregational Counseling, Evangelism, and Discipleship.

## Telling the Next Generation: Utilizing Our Schools for Outreach

*We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. (Psalm. 78:4)*

Developed by the Commissions on Lutheran Schools and Evangelism, *Telling the Next Generation: Utilizing our Schools for Outreach* is a day-long workshop that helps congregation and school leaders focus on their joint mission, build relationships within the church and with school families, and develop an organized program to connect school families with the Word.

Since its inaugural session in April 2016 hosted by Risen Savior, Orlando, FL, Telling the Next Generation workshops have been held in 10 states with participation from 100 congregations and 745 workshop attendees. More sessions are scheduled for the remainder of 2017 and into 2018. For more information or to schedule a workshop in your area, contact [evangelism@wels.net](mailto:evangelism@wels.net) or [lutheranschools@wels.net](mailto:lutheranschools@wels.net). Learn more at [wels.net/tellingthenextgeneration](http://wels.net/tellingthenextgeneration).

## WELS Ministerial Growth and Evaluation

Five schools are currently engaged in a three year pilot as WELS redesigns its Team Ministry tools. Using the WELS Teaching Standards, Continuum, and Ministry Development Plans as tools for formative teacher growth are being piloted this school year. Summative assessment tools will be piloted later this school year. Early Childhood Director and Principal standards are in place. A continuum for principals is also currently under development. The WELS-wide roll-out of the new tools is 2018. The team working on this project is chaired by Jim Henrickson. Team members include Daniel Albrecht, Professor Al Bitter, Kathie Horn, Dr. Carla Melendy, Dr. Jeff Wiechmann, Dr. John Meyer, Jon Schaefer, Tom Plitzuweit, Cindi Holman, and Jim Rademan. Contact the Lutheran Schools office for further information.

## Stay in Touch

Keep up-to-date with Lutheran Schools news by subscribing to the weekly CLS e-News at [wels.net/subscribe](http://wels.net/subscribe).

Have a story to share? Submit your news stories to [lutheranschools@wels.net](mailto:lutheranschools@wels.net) to be featured in the CLS e-News.



Administrators are encouraged to join our Google group "adminmail" for principals and directors to ask questions and share information. Send an email to [lutheranschools@wels.net](mailto:lutheranschools@wels.net) to request an invitation. In addition WELS school leaders will be receiving a bi-monthly email with special features focused on school leadership.

Check out the Lutheran Schools Resource Center for additional materials to assist you in your teaching ministry. Visit [cls.welsrc.net](http://cls.welsrc.net)

## Save the Date

The Commission on Lutheran Schools and the WELS Technology department are teaming up to present a joint conference the *2019 Education, Technology, and Leadership Summit: June 25-27, 2019* at the Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Visit [welsedtechlead.com](http://welsedtechlead.com) for updates and reminders the coming months.

## Did You Know?

There are currently 2,647 called WELS teachers sharing the Gospel with over 41,000 students each day. God's continued blessings to all our Lutheran schools.

## Early Childhood Ministry

WELS early childhood ministries: What a blessing! What an opportunity to share the gospel with young children and their families!

### Did you know...

- Last year there were 10,754 young children enrolled in 392 WELS early childhood ministries (201 part of an LES, 191 stand-alone)?
- Over 500 congregations in 29 states (plus Antigua, St. Lucia, and Grenada) support an ECM?
- Almost a third (28.32%) of families enrolled have no Christian church affiliation? (What a mission field!)



Students Trinity Christian Early Childhood Centre – St. Lucia

- There is a critical need for individuals trained for early childhood ministry to serve? (Pray for workers! Encourage those you know!)
- Each of the twelve WELS districts has an Early Childhood District Coordinator who is eager to help congregations, early childhood ministries, and individuals? (Contact information for these individuals can be found at [cls.welsrc.net/general-documents](http://cls.welsrc.net/general-documents))
- There are consultants available for congregations and early childhood ministries looking to open, expand, or revitalize?
- The Early Childhood Ministry Task Force has been working on ways to respond to the areas of challenge and opportunity—especially providing support and training for early childhood directors?
- Currently twelve first and second year early childhood director apprentices are mentored by ten experienced director mentors?
- Lutheran Schools has a number of resources for early childhood ministry including: *Building Blocks: A Handbook for Beginning and Operating a Christian Early Childhood Ministry?*
- Each Monday, Early Childhood Ministry Educator devotions are published? (To subscribe, visit [wels.net/subscribe](http://wels.net/subscribe))

For more information, contact Cindi Holman or your Early Childhood District Coordinator.

# WELS School Accreditation (WELSSA)

WELSSA assists WELS congregations with evaluating their early childhood ministries, Lutheran elementary schools, and Lutheran high schools based on Scripture and sound educational principles. One of the blessings of WELSSA is that it provides congregations with a basis for developing an improvement plan by identifying strengths and areas in need of improvement. Schools working through the accreditation self-study compare their educational program to a set of objective, nationally recognized standards, providing accountability to stakeholders within the school, congregation, and community. Accredited schools are eligible to participate in many beneficial government programs.

There were 29 site visits conducted in the 2016-2017 school year. Of those 29 visits, nine schools achieved first-time accreditation with WELSSA and 14 schools accredited their 3/4K grades along with grades K5-8 using the new addendum standards. Two more schools worked through provisional status after a visit in 2016 and achieved first-time full accreditation. The total number of schools currently accredited through WELSSA is 129.

## First Time Accredited Schools 2017-18

Christ – *Big Bend WI*

Beautiful Savior – *Carlsbad CA*

Lord and Savior – *Crystal Lake IL*

St. Jacobi – *Greenfield WI*

St. Paul – *Lake Mills WI*

Jerusalem – *Morton Grove IL*

Trinity – *Neenah WI*

Christ the King – *Palm Coast FL*

Cross of Glory – *Peoria AZ*

St. John-St. James – *Reedsville WI*

St. John's – *Two Rivers WI*



WELSSA has 22 site visits scheduled for 2017-2018; including four seeking first time accreditation.

WELSSA remains a member in good standing with the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPA). WELSSA continues to have two representatives on the NCPA executive committee, Tom Plitzuweit (Vice President) and Dr. James Grunewald (IT & Distance Learning).

This past year a special task force was engaged to revise the accreditation standards for the Early Childhood Ministry handbook. The team is making progress and hope to have the revisions ready for use within the next year.

## School Openings

- Beautiful Savior Lutheran Early Learning Center, *Topeka, KS*
- Divine Savior Lutheran Academy, *Delray Beach, FL (ECM)\**
- Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School, *Milwaukee, WI\**

*\*Enrolling for 2018-19*

## School Closings

- Peace Lutheran Preschool, *Holiday, FL*
- St. Matthew's Preschool and Daycare, *Benton Harbor, MI*
- Resurrection Lutheran Preschool, *Verona, WI*
- St John Lutheran School, *Saint Paul, MN*
- Ascension Lutheran School, *Escondido, CA*
- Holy Word Christian Academy, *Austin, TX (LES only)*
- Bethany Lutheran Preschool, *Gibsonia, PA*

## Student Testing

Just over 60 percent of schools have placed an order to use one of the two standardized testing options being offered by WELS. As of September 8, over 160 schools have ordered the NWEA-MAP option, and over 30 elementary and two area Lutheran high schools have ordered ACT-Aspire.

Information for standardized student testing options from ACT-Aspire and NWEA-MAP can be found on the CLS Resource Center, [cls.welsrc.net/standardized-student-testing-information](http://cls.welsrc.net/standardized-student-testing-information).

Schools have until December 2017 to order ACT-Aspire Spring 2018 summative tests. MAP testing can be ordered and implemented at any time.

# Instructional Mentoring of New Teachers and Leaders

Led by MLC Prof. Jonathan Schaefer, New Teacher Induction (NTI) closely walks new teachers through their first two years of teaching using a system of mentorship. This year, 166 first- or second-year teachers are being served by 106 instructional mentors in 136 WELS schools.

Principal and Director Apprentice Mentoring continues with all young men and women assigned to schools to serve as principals or directors. There are currently 23 principal and director apprentices, each receiving guidance from a mentor who provides on the job instruction in administration while mentoring the teacher during his or her first two years.

Principal Training Program is designed to allow a newly assigned teacher to receive instructional teacher mentoring and developmental principal coaching during his first three years of teaching from a veteran host mentor principal. Four men are currently receiving instruction and one program participant is now serving a principal call.

Leadership Candidate Training for principals is now the first year of the three year 21st Century Principal Initiative. Seven men are currently in the first year of the program which includes a three credit Master's course from MLC. A new Leadership Candidate Training cohort for future principals and early childhood directors is planned for the summer of 2018.

## Called Worker Profile/Self-Assessments

Thank you to all who have completed the online Called Worker Information Profile and Self-Assessment. Your profile may be updated at any time. Your Self-Assessment is intended to be updated and reviewed annually, but also may also be accessed at any time. Instructions and information are available on the CLS Resource Center.

## Schools Consultant Services

There are now over 50 individuals representing each district who are trained to offer perspective, support, and accountability to congregations as they evaluate the advisability of beginning a new children's ministry or the best methods of strengthening an existing one. By going through a four-step process, congregations evaluate their entire current children's ministry program and work to develop an emerging vision for the future of children's ministry within the congregation and community.

To date, School Consulting Services has worked with congregations and individuals in: Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

### Contact us

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Your district school coordinator and early childhood district coordinator stand ready to assist and support you in your teaching ministry. Find out how to contact your district coordinator by visiting the Lutheran Schools Resource Center at [cls.welsrc.net](http://cls.welsrc.net) and clicking on "General Documents."