

WELS COMMISSION ON LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Fall 2018



Commission on Lutheran Schools

The Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) 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.

**Bookmark our sites for
news & resources**

CLS.WELSRC.NET

[WELSCONGREGATIONAL
SERVICES.NET](http://WELSCONGREGATIONALSERVICES.NET)

WELS.NET

Ministerial Growth & Evaluation Process

New tools for Teacher Growth and Evaluation have been developed, trainers have been trained, and seminars are being scheduled to share the new process with school leaders and teachers in each of our districts. The Ministerial Growth and Evaluation Process makes use of Scripture and a variety of research-based educational best practices and tools to assist teachers, peer coaches, principals, and early childhood directors in encouraging and supporting one another for strengthening both student learning and our schools.

The new process has a strong focus on continuous teacher growth and coaching using the Learning Focused Observation Model. The goal is to train all schools in the new educator growth tools over the next 18 to 24 months. The training models include:

Module One: The WELS Teaching Standards

Module Two: Coaching - A Formative Process

Module Three: Ministry Development Plans

Module Four: Evaluation - A Summative Process

Please stay alert to upcoming trainings, and plan to attend!

Thank you for your Supplemental Contributions

Contributions during the 2017-18 school year reached a ten-year high. We are thankful for the growing number of schools supporting our work, as our Synod budget depends on your contributions by subsidizing only two-thirds of our Lutheran Schools budget.

As a thank you, all teachers from contributing schools in 2018-19 will receive a \$50 registration discount at the EdtechLead Summit in June 2019. In addition to the various discounts and Parents Crosslink magazine, the Ministerial Growth Training Modules will also be free to all educators from all contributing schools.



June 25-27, 2019
Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

School Openings

- Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School (LHS) *Wauwatosa, WI*
- Crown of Life Christian Academy (LES) *Fort Atkinson, WI*
- Hannah's World (ECM) *Austin, TX*
- Grace Lutheran Child Learning Center (ECM) *Sahuarita, AZ*
- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Preschool (ECM) *Las Vegas, NV*
- Ascension Lutheran Preschool (ECM) *Macomb, MI*
- Divine Savior Lutheran Academy (ECM) *Delray Beach, FL*
- Redeemer Lutheran School (ECM) added to existing LES – *Fond Du Lac, WI*
- Good Shepherd Lutheran School (ECM) added to existing LES *Wisconsin Rapids, WI*

School Closings

- Good Shepherd Lutheran School (LES) *Cedar Rapids, IA*
- Peace Lutheran School (LES) *Bradenton, FL*
- St. Paul Lutheran School (LES/ECM) *Brownsville, WI*
- St. James Lutheran Preschool (ECM) *Portage, MI*
- Living Hope Lutheran Preschool (ECM) *Redmond, WA*

Education, Technology, and Leadership Summit 2019

The first WELS Education, Technology, and Leadership Summit will be held June 25-27, 2019, at the beautiful Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

The conference is a blend of the School Leadership Conference and WELSTech Conference, offering something for everybody interested in exploring ministry tools, techniques and best practices in the areas of education, technology, and leadership. Several in-depth pre-conference workshop options will be also be available on June 24, 2019.

Registration:

Registration will be open January 2, 2019, through May 31, 2019.
Preconference: \$100
One Day Pass: \$175
Early Bird Full Conference Price (Register by May1): \$325
Regular Conference price: \$375

Pricing Discounts:

Early Bird registrations placed by May 1, 2019, will receive a \$50 discount. Schools that are supplemental contributors will also receive a discount code for \$50 off each registration.

Visit welsedtechlead.com for summit details and join the mailing list to receive summit updates and announcements delivered straight to your inbox.

Instructional Mentoring Programs

New Teacher Induction (NTI) closely walks new teachers through their first two years of teaching using a system of mentorship.

Principal and Director Apprentice Mentoring continues with all young men and women assigned to schools to serve as principals or directors. Each receive 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.

Leadership Candidate Training for principals is now in the second year of the three year 21st Century Principal Initiative. Eight men are currently in their first year of the program which includes a three credit Master's course from MLC.

Early Childhood Emerging Leader Cohort 18-19 is a new adaptation of the Leadership Candidate Training program. Six women have been accepted into the new Emerging Leader Cohort. As in the past, the participants are each assigned a mentor to support them.

Congregational Services Resources

To the Ends of the Earth: New Evangelism Movie

To the Ends of the Earth follows Paul's remarkable visit to the city of Philippi, recorded in Acts 16. It shows how Paul connected with people from all walks of life, demonstrating that the good news of Jesus is indeed for all people.

A suite of accompanying materials has been developed for use in classrooms, homes, and Sunday School including devotions and Bible studies for children, teens, and educators.

C18 - A Light in the Darkness

C18 is a synod-wide outreach campaign aimed at reaching one million people with the gospel message during the Christmas season. The campaign's theme, "A Light in the darkness," is based on Isaiah 9:2, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."

MissionInsite Demographics

MissionInsite allows any WELS congregation or entity to run as many demographic reports as they want for free. This demographics tool can help your school as you look to reach out in your community.

Learn more about these and other resources at welscongregationservices.net



Telling the Next Generation: Utilizing Our Schools for Outreach

Telling the Next Generation: Utilizing Our Schools for Outreach workshop, focuses on developing and implementing a written harvest strategy. The workshop is comprised of three components: Committed to the Word, Relationships, and Harvest Strategies. Included are breakout sessions for congregational teams to work together on applying the concepts and strategies shared.

Congregations are encouraged to include pastors, principals, early childhood directors, teachers, and lay leaders in their team. Advisors are assigned to follow-up and encourage following the workshop. For more information, contact lutheranschools@wels.net or evangelism@wels.net.



Stay in Touch

Keep up-to-date with Lutheran Schools news by subscribing to the weekly CLS e-News at wels.net/subscribe.

Submit your news stories to lutheranschools@wels.net to be featured in the CLS e-News.

Principals and directors receive a bi-monthly Lutheran Schools Leader electronic newsletter.

Administrators are encouraged to join our Google group "adminmail" to ask questions and share information. Send an email to lutheranschools@wels.net to request an invitation.

Check out the Lutheran Schools Resource Center for additional materials to assist you in your teaching ministry: cls.welsrc.net

Send us an e-mail at lutheranschools@wels.net if you need assistance connecting with any of these resources.

WELS School Accreditation

The WELSSA program evaluates our Christian school ministries based on Scripture and sound educational principles. The school learns to understand its strengths and weaknesses by working through a self-study using the WELSSA handbook set of standards. Among the many benefits of becoming an accredited school is appreciating the many blessings our gracious God provides and identifying ways in which the school can better serve its students and their surrounding community.

Gaining WELSSA accreditation also earns you accreditation with the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPA).

Congratulations to first-time accredited schools:

Lamb of God Lutheran – West Allis WI

Christ the King Lutheran – Bremerton WA

Eastside Lutheran – Madison WI

There are currently 132 WELS schools accredited (116 LES, 15 LHS, 1 stand-alone ECM) in 14 states with over 17,500 students. There are 20 schools currently holding candidacy status that will be hosting a site visit for the first time within the next two years. There are 34 site visits scheduled for the 2018-19 school year and over 50 expected in 2019-20. More than 160 experienced educators from schools around the country will volunteer to serve WELSSA as a consultant, site team captain or team member this year. The WELSSA program is thankful for their service.

If you are interested in serving on a site visit team, learning more about accreditation for your school, joining the WELSSA group listserve, using the WELSSA logo for your website, email our office at welssa@wels.net.

Early Childhood Ministry: Fast Facts

- Last year there were 11,126 young children enrolled in 384 WELS early childhood ministries (235 part of an LES, 149 stand-alone).
- Almost a third (28%) of families enrolled have no Christian church affiliation. What a mission field!
- There is a critical need for individuals trained for early childhood ministry to serve. Pray for workers! Encourage those you know!
- 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*
- Weekly Early Childhood Ministry Educator Devotions are written for anyone who serves young children. Visit wels.net/serving-you/devotions to view and subscribe.

For more information, contact Cindi Holman or your Early Childhood District Coordinator - cls.welsrc.net/download-cls/general-documents



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Your district school coordinator and early childhood district coordinator are available to assist and support you in your teaching ministry. Contact information is available at the CLS Resource Center: cls.welsrc.net under General Documents.