

## WELS Commission on Evangelism

The Commission on Evangelism exists to assist congregations and members to seize every opportunity the Lord provides to evangelize lost souls. Our service to WELS is:

1. To develop and promote evangelism resources which faithfully proclaim the truth of Scripture.
2. To promote evangelism attitudes, structures, and programs consistent with Christian doctrine and the situation into which God has called a church, its called workers, and its people.
3. To promote the "equipping of the saints" for both organized congregational evangelism and individual Christian witness.

### School of Outreach

A main objective of the WELS Commission on Evangelism is to assist every WELS congregation with specific and ongoing guidance for evangelism planning, organization, and implementation of outreach strategies. The School of Outreach continues to be an important aspect of our work to help accomplish this objective. Leaders of congregations attend two one-day workshops that are scheduled several months apart. At those workshops they hear presentations on key components of a congregational evangelism program. Additionally, there are breakout sessions at which the presenters work with individual congregations to advise them regarding outreach plans and strategies. In the months following each of the workshops, those advisors are available to offer follow-up assistance specific to the needs of congregations.

### New Movie: *To the Ends of the Earth*

The three movies—*Road to Emmaus*, *Come Follow Me*, and *My Son, My Savior*—focused on the life and ministry of Jesus. The final movie of the series will show a dramatic fulfillment of Jesus' command at his ascension to be his witnesses and take the gospel "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The movie will feature the apostle Paul and his mission work in Philippi (Acts 16). After two years of script development and pre-production planning, the six-day movie shoot was completed on February 3, 2018.

The movie will be ready for use initially in connection with the Mission and Ministry Sunday which the Conference of Presidents is encouraging congregations to observe this fall. The date is October 21. With its emphasis on mission work, the movie will serve well to enhance this special Mission and Ministry Sunday. Worship resources and various study materials will be available. They include:

#### Worship:

- New hymn
- Sermon outline
- Children's song
- Suggestions for using the movie together with the worship service

#### Adult Study Materials

- Bible study for large groups
- Bible study for small groups
- *Personal Reflections* resource intended for individuals, after watching the movie, to ponder and explore what the message of the movie means for them.

#### Children:

- Five devotions for school age children
- One Bible lesson for ages 3-5, for grades 1-4, and for grades 5-8

- Devotions for LES and ECM staff

Special:

- World/Home Missions vignettes
- Advent by Candlelight program
- Suggestions for using the movie and materials for outreach

**Telling the Next Generation** is a program provided by WELS Commission on Evangelism, the Commission on Lutheran Schools, and Early Childhood Ministry to assist congregations with planning, assistance, and resources for implementation of outreach strategies utilizing their Lutheran elementary school and/or early childhood ministry. There is a one-day workshop led by WELS church and school leaders who are experienced with conducting school ministries with an outreach focus. In breakout sessions, the presenters and other advisors work with individual congregations to advise them regarding outreach plans and strategies. In the months following the workshop, those advisors follow-up with congregations in order to answer questions, supply resources, and give advice for fulfilling the goals that were discussed and planned at the workshops. Information at: [wels.net/tellingthenextgeneration](http://wels.net/tellingthenextgeneration).

**WhatAboutJesus.com**, an outreach website produced and maintained by the Commission on Evangelism, continues to reach many people with God’s Word. New articles are posted on a regular basis. **Daily Devotions** appear on the home pages of [WELS.net](http://WELS.net) and [WhatAboutJesus.com](http://WhatAboutJesus.com); also on [WELS Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WELS), reaching thousands of people every day. Additionally, devotions are sent to about 10,500 e-mail subscribers every day.

#### **Evangelism Day at Martin Luther College**

The Commission on Evangelism partners with the faculty of Martin Luther College to enhance the evangelism training of students at the College. In January 2018, the thirteenth annual evangelism day was conducted. The day for focusing on personal and congregational evangelism starts with a worship service, includes an evangelism workshop for each class and various “elective” presentations. An added feature this year was a schedule of evening sessions to which members from area congregations were invited to attend.

**Online Evangelism Courses** are being offered through the Martin Luther College online continuing education program. These courses make up the Evangelism Certificate Program at Martin Luther College. There are three one-credit courses: 1) *The Mission of the Church*, 2) *Practical Evangelism for Congregations*, and 3) *Friendship Evangelism*. Information at: [www.wels.net/evangelism](http://www.wels.net/evangelism).

#### **COE Leadership**

Donn Dobberstein accepted the call to serve as the director of the Commission on Discipleship and thus ended his service as the chairman of the Commission on Evangelism since 2009. Douglas Tomhave accepted the appointment from the COP to serve as the new chairman. Michael Hintz retired from the full-time position of the COE director on December 31, 2017, after 15 years of service in this role.

#### **District Evangelism Coordinator**

Arizona-California	Paul Mueller
Dakota-Montana	Justin Cloute
Michigan	Norman Burger
Minnesota	Stephen Meyer
North Atlantic	Frederick Guldberg

Nebraska	Timothy Spiegelberg
Northern Wisconsin	Michael Weigand
Pacific Northwest	Benjamin Workentine
South Atlantic	Brian Pechman
South Central	Paul Seager
Southeastern Wisconsin	David Pagel
Western Wisconsin	Joseph Fricke

**Commission on Evangelism**

Douglas Tomhave, chairman  
Michael Geiger  
Joseph Fricke  
Jay Bickelhaupt