

## Our Calling

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 that 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.

## Our Current Situation

### 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 from participating congregations attend two one-day workshops that are scheduled several months apart. At these workshops, leaders 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, the advisors are available to offer follow-up assistance specific to the needs of each participating congregation.

### WhatAboutJesus.com

[WhatAboutJesus.com](http://WhatAboutJesus.com) is an outreach website produced by the Commission on Evangelism. It aims to be a source of information and inspiration for those seeking to know more about the Bible and its message. Congregations are encouraged to make their members aware of it so they can direct unchurched acquaintances to it.



## Daily Devotions

Daily Devotions are brief, daily encouragements from God's Word. The devotions are written by a team of fourteen pastors and edited by Rev. Eric Roecker, Director of WELS Commission on Evangelism. They are produced both in print and podcast. The devotions appear on the home pages of [wels.net](http://wels.net) and [WhatAboutJesus.com](http://WhatAboutJesus.com). They are also posted on WELS Facebook. Additionally, devotions are sent to about 10,500 e-mail subscribers every day.

## Online evangelism courses

The WELS Commission on Evangelism offers evangelism courses through the Martin Luther College online continuing education program. These evangelism courses are designed and intended for laypeople and called workers to help them lead their congregations with planning and implementing efforts to reach more people with the gospel. These courses make up the Evangelism Certificate Program at Martin Luther College. There are three one-credit courses:

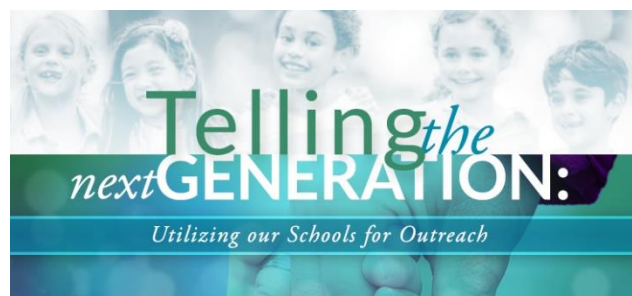
1) The Mission of the Church, 2) Practical Evangelism for Congregations, and 3) Friendship Evangelism. Information is available at [wels.net/evangelism](http://wels.net/evangelism).

## 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 2020 the fifteenth annual Evangelism Day was conducted. Students were reminded of the importance of reaching the lost and encouraged to be evangelism influencers in their ministries.

## Telling the Next Generation

*Telling the Next Generation* is a workshop developed by the Commission on Evangelism, the Commission on Lutheran Schools, and Early Childhood Ministry. The program serves congregations with planning, assistance, and resources for implementation of outreach strategies utilizing a Lutheran elementary school and/or early childhood ministry. Learn more at [wels.net/tellingthenextgeneration](http://wels.net/tellingthenextgeneration).



## Outreach Newsletters

The Commission on Evangelism annually offers *Outreach Newsletters* to WELS congregations. The newsletters each consist of a devotional article targeted at congregations' prospects. There are twelve newsletters offered each year. The newsletters can be downloaded, free of charge, at [www.welscongregationalservices.net](http://www.welscongregationalservices.net).

# A Look Ahead

## Congregational Evangelism Kit

We encourage all WELS congregations to make use of the *Congregational Evangelism Kit*, to be released in the summer of 2020. The kit contains video-based training for evangelism leaders and committees to assist them in implementing key components of congregational evangelism, including how to provide a welcoming worship environment for guests, how to follow up on worship guests, how to set up and maintain a prospect database and more. The videos, along with supplementary written materials are available at [www.welscongregationalservices.net](http://www.welscongregationalservices.net).

## Let's Go! Personal witness training

In an effort to encourage and equip every WELS member to personally share the gospel with the unchurched souls the Lord has brought into their lives, WELS Commission on Evangelism is producing the *Let's Go!* training materials, to be released in the summer of 2020. Using video-based instruction and corresponding study guides, *Let's Go!* provides practical instruction that can be used by an individual Christian, a small-group bible study gathering, or a large-group bible study. All of the resources can be accessed for free at [www.welscongregationalservices.net](http://www.welscongregationalservices.net).

## Hearts on Fire

Still in its early stages of development, this program will seek to help congregations develop an outreach culture among their ministries and members. The prayer is that WELS congregations and members see outreach as something every Christian and every congregation does as a regular part of their Christian lives.

Rev. Eric Roecker, reporter

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