

DISTRICT COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

The AZ-CA District Commission on Evangelism exists to assist congregations to seize every opportunity the Lord provides to evangelize lost souls, making use of media communications, structured programs and every member witness.

I. School of Outreach (SoO)

The School of Outreach remains our #1 hands-on effort to help congregations reach out with the Gospel. The curriculum is divided into two one-day seminars. The presenters work with the congregations during their planning sessions and then follow up with the leaders of the congregations to offer continued support.

Session One: (September-October)

1. Organizing / Planning for Outreach
2. Locating Prospects
3. Prospect Nurture and Witness

Session Two: (January-February)

1. Friendship Evangelism
2. Church Identity
3. Worship Welcome
4. Assimilation

In the recent years, Pastor Mike Hintz (Synod's Commission on Evangelism Chairman) has been training the pastors of each districts' Evangelism Commission to lead SoO. This continues to be a huge blessing for our synod. Many more congregations and members are able to attend.

In our district this is also true: 2 Schools of Outreach are underway this fall/winter. On Sept. 20, 7 congregations meet at East Fork and on Oct. 4, 4 congregations met at St. Paul's N. Hollywood for Part I. All members of our Districts' Commission on Evangelism have been trained to lead SoO.

Since 2012, 21 congregations and over 175 people have attended a School of Outreach. Since its inception there have been over 200 Schools of Outreach.

Our District Commission is meeting this week to talk about future plans. One offer has been received for the northern Arizona (Flagstaff/Chino Valley) area. If you would like to host a School of Outreach, please speak to one of the members.

II. Resources Available

One of our goals of expanding our District Evangelism Team is to include members in the various geographical areas so that at your circuit meetings or other gatherings, they might regularly promote the resources available.

- **Devotional booklets for Lent and Easter** (NPH 388018 & 388019). These devotional booklets, **Jesus' Death and Resurrection** and **Philippians**, can be distributed to members and friends. 10 booklets for \$15.
- **Confidently Sharing Jesus with Friends** is a 4-week DVD Bible Study that provides advice and encouragement to help you talk about Jesus with people you know. A group of Christians discuss the opportunities, challenges, and aspects of reaching out to their friends with the good news of Jesus Christ. \$3.95 OL-388016 1) *Reach people who need Jesus;* 2) *Start a spiritual conversation;* 3) *Share our Savior;* 4) *Keep on sharing Jesus*
- **Outreach Newsletters** are a collection of twelve short articles with a common Biblical theme that emphasize the Gospel. The cost is \$15 plus s/h. It is item number OL-388027.
- Web-based resources include: **WhatAboutJesus.com** & **Daily Devotions**. Promote these for your members in your newsletters and bulletins.
- **Road to Emmaus** and **Come Follow Me** DVDs are available from WELS Commission on Evangelism for \$2.00 each, but you must order a case of 100. Several new resources are available to compliment Come Follow Me including a **FREE** 5 lesson Bible Study and discussion guide. A third DVD is in the works, slated for Christmas 2015.

COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

Mission Statement

The Commission on Evangelism exists to assist congregations to seize every opportunity the Lord provides to reach people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our service to WELS is to develop and promote evangelism resources that faithfully proclaim the truth of Scripture; to promote evangelism attitudes, structures, and programs consistent with Christian doctrine and the situation into which God has called a church, its pastors, and its people; and to promote the "equipping of the saints" for organized congregational evangelism and individual Christian witness.



- **God's Great Exchange** is available on DVD. This is a 17 minute role-play of an evangelism visit. The basic principles of evangelism visitation are explained and put into practice in the God's Great Exchange approach. Currently it is on sale from \$11 down to \$7. NPH OL-387875
- **Evangelism Toolbox** is a set of 3 DVDs with practical instruction to help your congregation understand and undertake useful tools for an evangelism program. In 9 segments, experienced church leaders explain key outreach methods and demonstrate them with real-life examples. The cost is \$24 from NPH OL-388013.

DVD #1 - Reaching Out to People in the Parish Area

- Conducting a canvass - Jonathan Scharf
- New resident outreach - Jared Oldenburg
- Managing the prospect list - Michael Geiger, Robert Guenther

DVD #2 - Church Image in the Community

- Building awareness in the community - James Turriff
- Advertising services and events - Mark Birschbach
- Developing an evangelistic Web site - Martin Spriggs

DVD #3 - Early Childhood Ministry

- Planning an ECM program - Delores Schuetze
- Recruitment and promotion - Cheryl Henckel
- Reaching families of students - Steven Pagels, Dana Leyrer



- **Evangelism Sunday** resources are available on Connect. Choose from: 1) Baptism Sunday; 2) Making a Connection that Counts; 3) Share the Gospel Feast with a Starving World; 4) Every Soul a Treasure; 5) Festival of Friendship Sunday.

- ON CONNECT: **FREE** Congregational Evangelism Resources include these downloadable **Bible Studies**:

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| 1. Connecting to Communities | 4. Every Soul a Treasure |
| 2. Four Fundamentals of a Healthy Church | 5. Every Member a Missionary |
| 3. Forging Our Church Into a Caring Community | |

- ON CONNECT: **FREE** Congregational Evangelism Resources include these on **Assimilation**:

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| 1. Connecting Members to Christ Seminar | 5. New Member Information – FORM |
| 2. Assimilation Bible Studies | 6. New Member Seminar (5 lessons) |
| 3. Assimilation Checklist | 7. Reception of New Members (1) and (2) |
| 4. Congregational Group Life | 8. Sponsor Guidelines |

- ON CONNECT: **FREE** Personal Evangelism Tools for downloadable:

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| 1. Are you getting the most out of life? | 4. Why me? |
| 2. How do I Witness? | 5. Witnessing Styles |
| 3. "What do I say... when they say..." | 6. Several other helpful links... |

- **Marriage Enrichment: The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller.** I have taken this book and worked it into 4 sessions. The DVD has the 4 PowerPoint files, a 38 page handout, instructions for ordering the books from the publisher for \$13 instead of \$26, promotional flyers to hand out and more. Let me know if you are interested in this and I will share a Dropbox link with you.



- In November, all 12 District Coordinators will be meeting in Texas for the every-other-year retreat and training session.
- Finally, I have been working with our local newspaper (owned by Gannett) to get out Christmas invitations and flyers. Most of us are familiar with Jon Schroeder's postcards through the C13, E13... programs. This new method allows us to get a full size 8 ½ by 11, full color, two sided flyer into every home without any postage. In Reno/Sparks, our two churches are going to work together, getting out 85,000 flyers for a \$2,200 – about 1.3 cents a each.

In service to the Savior and you,

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Update – October 2014

SCHOOL OF OUTREACH

Currently, there are 60 congregations participating in the [School of Outreach](#) program in 10 locations, from Long Valley NJ to North Hollywood CA and places in between. The program has reached a milestone: the 200th School of Outreach is being conducted this month. This tally covers a period of 21 years, starting in 1993.

EVANGELISM DAY AT MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

The tenth annual Evangelism Day will be held at MLC on January 21, 2015. The day for focusing on personal and congregational evangelism starts with a special worship service, involves each class in two workshops, and includes various “elective” presentations.

OUTREACH MOVIES

Two movies have been developed through a collaborative effort of the WELS Commissions on Evangelism and Adult Discipleship, Northwestern Publishing House, and WELS Multi-Language Publications. Both movies were professionally produced by the award-winning producer Boettcher-Trinklein TV, Inc. The first movie completed several years ago, *Road to Emmaus* (www.roadtoemmamovie.com), conveys the vital message that Jesus is the world’s Savior who was promised by God throughout the Old Testament and fulfilled God’s saving plan by his sacrificial death and his glorious resurrection. The second movie released in the fall of 2013, *Come Follow Me* (www.comefollowmemovie.com), conveys the meaning and blessings of following Jesus to comfort, strengthen and guide us as the Lord’s disciples today.

About a quarter million *Road to Emmaus* DVDs are in worldwide distribution. And since its release last October, nearly 100,000 DVDs of *Come Follow Me* have been distributed. The movies, together with supplemental study materials, are used by congregations for classes and outreach. In addition to English, *Road to Emmaus* and *Come Follow Me* are dubbed in several languages for use in our mission fields. Efforts are ongoing to supply the movies in more languages to increase our reach for delivering the saving message of Jesus.

Since these movies are so effective in helping us share God’s Word with many people, work on a third movie is underway. It will visualize the advent of Jesus and his ministry mainly from the viewpoint of his mother, Mary. The key truth of this upcoming movie is that God himself was born into our world as true man; he is Jesus our Savior who lived, died and rose from the dead to give us eternal life with God. The goal is to have the movie ready initially as an outreach tool for Christmas 2015.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotions are provided by the WELS Commission on Evangelism. The texts and podcasts of devotions are available every weekday on the WhatAboutJesus.com and WELS.net websites. Readers can also [subscribe](#) to have devotions sent to them by email, joining more than 9,700 people who now receive them this way. The [WELS Mobile App](#) is another option for accessing the devotions on mobile devices. The pattern is that on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday devotions are based on the Scripture readings that are commonly used in our churches the previous Sunday. On Thursday and Friday a special series is

followed. Access the devotions for your own spiritual growth. Use them with your family. Share them with others. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly!

OUTREACH NEWSLETTERS 2015

This product is collection of twelve one-page articles that provide scriptural answers to questions that people often ask or wonder about Christianity.

Fair Questions – Honest Answers:

<i>January</i>	-	<i>I am not perfect; I make mistakes. So what?</i>
<i>February</i>	-	<i>What happens to us when we die?</i>
<i>March</i>	-	<i>How is Jesus the Savior of the world?</i>
<i>April</i>	-	<i>Why is Jesus' resurrection from the dead significant for us?</i>
<i>May</i>	-	<i>What does the Holy Spirit do for us?</i>
<i>June</i>	-	<i>Knowing Jesus or Knowing about Jesus – what's the difference?</i>
<i>July</i>	-	<i>Do we have guardian angels?</i>
<i>August</i>	-	<i>What is a Christian worldview?</i>
<i>September</i>	-	<i>What is the importance of Christian Baptism?</i>
<i>October</i>	-	<i>Why is the Bible called the Holy Bible?</i>
<i>November</i>	-	<i>God doesn't always answer my prayers. Why?</i>
<i>December</i>	-	<i>We are living in the end times. So what?</i>

Outreach Newsletters are designed to help congregations reach out to people with God's Word, especially those on their prospect list. Each article is supplied in English and Spanish – all on a CD. Outreach Newsletters for 2015 will be available from Northwestern Publishing House by middle of November. Cost: \$15.00 plus shipping.

ONLINE EVANGELISM COURSE

A six-week, one-credit evangelism course will be offered through the online program at Martin Luther College. *Practical Evangelism for Congregations* (THE 9102) is scheduled from November 10 through December 20. Instructor is Pastor Michael Hintz, director of the WELS Commission on Evangelism.

Course Description: Overview of key components that make up a congregational evangelism program and guidance for putting them into practice.

Learning Outcomes: Students will

1. Know the correct rationale of pre-evangelism work in congregations and define ways for raising awareness of their churches.
2. Determine a community project designed to serve the people in the congregation's area and develop a plan for conducting it.
3. Develop outreach plans for their congregations with specific "go" and "come" strategies.
4. Learn the importance and details of a well-managed prospect list for effective follow-up.

Tuition for a one-credit course is \$280. Additionally, there is a registration fee of \$10 and a technology fee of \$25 per course.

Financial Assistance - The Commission on Evangelism is offering a \$75 grant to students when they complete this online evangelism courses. At the conclusion of the course, the instructor will provide information for receiving this grant.

Registration - <https://www.mlc-wels.edu/gsce/continuing-education/registration>