

# 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

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. This past year he updated the curriculum for SoO.

In our district, 2 Schools of Outreach are underway this fall/winter. On Sept. 19, 6 congregations meet in Flagstaff, AZ. Oct. 3, 7 congregations met Tucson, AZ.

With the departure of Pastor Aaron Strong to the cold weather of WI, Pastor Timothy Henning has joined our commission. He brings with this many years of experience and was part of the original Schools of Outreach in the 1990's.

Since 2012, 34 congregations and nearly 250 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. If you would like to host a School of Outreach, please speak to one of the members.

## II. 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. The third DVD, **My Son, My Savior**, is now available. See below.
- **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

# 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.



- **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:**

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 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:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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:

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 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 service to the Savior and you,

**Steve Hillmer (Chairman)**  
(775) 354-2800 - office  
shillmer76@gmail.com  
N. Cal & N. NV

**Mike Schroeder**  
(951) 805-1353 - cell  
revmas74@googlemail.com  
LA South

**Timothy Henning**  
(928) 515-9920 - cell  
hopepastor@commspeed.net  
AZ – North / Las Vegas

**Stephen Koelpin**  
(909) 747-2244 - cell  
pastorsteve@  
crownoflifechurch.net  
LA - North

**Adam Mueller**  
(520) 572-8126 - office  
pastormueller@  
gmail.com  
Tucson & Phoenix

## Commission on Evangelism

Donn Dobberstein, chairman

Michael Hintz, director

### Update – September 2015

#### SCHOOL OF OUTREACH

The [School of Outreach](#) is presented by the WELS Commission on Evangelism and your District Evangelism Commission. The program serves WELS congregations with planning, assistance, and resources for congregational evangelism programming and implementation of outreach strategies. There are two one-day workshops that are scheduled several months apart. At each of the workshops, there are breakout sessions at which the presenters work with individual congregations to advise them regarding outreach plans and strategies.

Goals of workshop 1 – Work to develop a ...

- Workable organization for evangelism
- Written plan of outreach strategies
- Managed prospect list for faithful follow-up

Goals of workshop 2 – Determine plans for...

- Training members for witnessing to people they know
- Raising awareness of the church in the surrounding community
- Improving the way guests are welcomed at worship services



In the months following each of the workshops, advisors conduct 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. The registration fee is \$225 per congregation. The fee includes workbooks for each participant, lunch and refreshments for both sessions and the follow-up contacts by the advisors done by phone and email.

**WhatAboutJesus.com**, an outreach website produced by the Commission on Evangelism, continues to reach many people with God's word. New articles are posted on a regular basis. The texts and podcasts of **Daily Devotions** appear every day on the [WhatAboutJesus.com](#) and [WELS.net](#) websites. The [WELS Mobile App](#) is another option for accessing the devotions on mobile devices. They are also sent to nearly 10,000 email subscribers. Predominantly, email subscribers are based in the United States and Canada. However, there are people all over the world who access the devotions.

#### EVANGELISM DAY AT MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

The eleventh annual Evangelism Day will be held at MLC on January 20, 2016. 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.

**My Son, My Savior** is the title of a new movie scheduled to be released this fall. It is about the coming, life and ministry of Jesus told from the perspective of his mother Mary. The movie will portray Mary experiencing and pondering the miracle of Jesus' coming and humbly growing in her understanding that her son is also her Savior. The main message for all viewers is that Jesus is their Savior too. To view the trailer, go to: [MySonMySavior.com](#). When the study materials are completed, they will be posted on this website for free download.

The new movie will be about 45 minutes. As your congregation makes plans for Christmas and related outreach efforts, be aware that this new movie will be available – the goal is for DVDs to be ready by early October. Additionally, there will be study and outreach materials for use with the movie:

- Four-lesson Bible study – this may be used during Advent
- Study guide for small groups – for family devotional time or with a small gathering of members
- Personal reflection guide – to help individuals focus on main thoughts of the movie and to guide members for sharing the message of the movie/Jesus with someone they know.
- Advent by Candlelight materials – for women to gather together around the Word of God in a quiet setting to help them focus on the true meaning of Christmas
- Suggestions for using the movie for outreach

When the DVDs are ready, quantity orders will be processed online at the movie website. You will be able to purchase a box of 100 DVDs for \$200 plus shipping. Single DVDs will be available at Northwestern Publishing House. NPH is also preparing two products for sale based on the movie: a short series of devotions and a book entitled, "The Mom that God Chose."

### ONLINE EVANGELISM COURSES

The WELS Commission on Evangelism is offering evangelism courses through the Martin Luther College online continuing education program. These evangelism courses are designed and intended for lay people 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 at: [www.wels.net/evangelism](http://www.wels.net/evangelism)

### OUTREACH NEWSLETTERS 2016

Outreach Newsletters are produced by the Commission on Evangelism and are primarily designed to assist congregations with their efforts of nurturing those people on their prospect lists. Some congregations also print the articles for their members with encouragement to use them in their friendship witnessing. Additionally, we suggest that congregations post the newsletters on their web sites and utilize them as much as possible in their various outreach efforts. Outreach Newsletters 2016 will focus on the main message of the movie *My Son, My Savior*. The monthly articles will treat aspects of the truth that Jesus is the Savior. This the list of monthly articles with titles and Scripture references:

January	Jesus is the One and Only Savior	John 1:14
February	Jesus is the Suffering Savior	Isaiah 53: 3,7
March	Jesus is the Risen Savior	John 14:19
April	Jesus is the World's Savior	John 3:16
May	Jesus is the Ascended Savior	Philippians 2:9-11
June	Jesus is my Savior by Faith	Mark 15:16
July	Jesus is my Savior from Sin	1 John 1:7
August	Jesus is my Savior from Death	Romans 6:23
September	Jesus is my Savior from Satan	1 John 3:8
October	Jesus is my Savior from Myself	Ephesians 2:8-9
November	Jesus is my Savior from the World	John 16:33
December	Jesus is my Savior from Fear	Luke 2:10-11

The articles for the 2016 edition of Outreach Newsletters will be translated into Spanish for even wider use. Included is a colorful banner for printing with the articles. All on a CD. The product will be available from Northwestern Publishing House by November 30, 2015. Cost: \$15 plus shipping.

### GOSPEL PROCLAMATION IN AMERICA

The religious climate in America is changing rapidly. In 2007 those who checked "none" when asked their religious affiliation was about 15% of the American population. Today that percentage has risen to 20%. Among Americans 30 years old and younger it is a staggering 33%. This shift in American culture has tremendous implications for our WELS congregations.

Because of this shift in religious thinking the Commission on Evangelism began an in-depth study in order to better communicate the gospel to Millennials (those born after 1984), especially those whose views can be characterized as skeptical of and disillusioned with Christianity (the "nones").

Our work to date, has consisted of studying sociological analysis of the "nones". We conducted listening sessions with students and faculty at 13 of our Area Lutheran High Schools to explore ways for partnering with all our schools to prepare students for witnessing to their peers – many of whom are "nones". Insights into this cultural shift will be included in an upcoming "Preach the Word" series that will address challenges and opportunities that our congregations face. Additionally, we are planning ways of teaching personal evangelism that will help and encourage Christians to translate knowledge and methods into action of talking with people about Jesus.

The strategies used to proclaim the gospel in a nation that is becoming more and more godless is similar to that of first century Christians. *Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went* (Acts 8:4). As we seek to continue to proclaim the gospel of Jesus, we always rest our confidence in the power of the gospel and our Savior's promises to us: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ... Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age"* (Matthew 28:18,20).