

## Upcoming PI Information

Professor James Tiefel will be leading a Pastors' Institute at Reformation Lutheran Church in San Diego, CA this month (10/28, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; 10/29, 9:00 a.m. - noon). The topic will be "The Liturgical Preacher." The cost is \$50, which can be paid at the time of the PI. If you will be attending, please contact Aaron Boehm to confirm.

Grace, Glendale will be offering its Pastors' Institute on January 20-21, 2014, 9:00- 5:00 p.m. on Monday, and 9:00 - noon on Tuesday. Professor Paul Zell will be presenting an exegesis of Philippians. The cost is \$75. Contact Dave Clark with questions: [pastorclark@graceglendale.org](mailto:pastorclark@graceglendale.org).

## Road to Emmaus Sequel.

*Come Follow Me*, the movie sequel to the *Road to Emmaus* film, is in the final stages of editing as a joint effort of Adult Discipleship, Evangelism, Multi-Language Publications, and Northwestern Publishing House. It follows the struggles of Peter to understand the purpose of Jesus' ministry and what it really means to follow him. His journey of growing as a disciple strikes common themes as we struggle to see how Jesus is connected to our daily lives and our life's purpose. The *Come Follow Me* DVD will be available in the fall. A one-session discussion guide and an 8 lesson bible study will come along with the movie for use by churches, or as a resource as members view the movie with friends and neighbors. This video is the focus of the 2013-14 "Walking Together Sunday."

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## Interactive Faith Bible Studies

Here are a few facts from the recent "Elijah" study, led by Prof. Keith Wessel:

- It was viewed in at least 33 countries, a number of which are heavily Muslim;
- There were 4000 streams, with some 1300 individual computers logging in;
- 30% of those logging in to this study were first time visitors to the Interactive Faith website.

The next study, from February 5-26, 2014, will be led by Pres. Mark Schroeder. The topic will be, "I'd like to read me Bible, but..." It will be held on Wednesday evenings at 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. Eastern Time. To access the study, go to [www.livestream.com/welsadultdiscipleship](http://www.livestream.com/welsadultdiscipleship). You can also find a link on the "banner" on the [wels.net](http://wels.net)

## School of Adult Bible Study (Phase Two)

This is a two-day class for pastors, teachers, and lay Bible study leaders. Day one helps leaders create and write adult Bible studies and day two helps leaders teach and facilitate Bible studies. Although the disciplines are different, those who are doing either task -writing or teaching- will find it valuable to understand and practice both. This two day class, taught on a Friday and Saturday, is intended for groups of congregations. Class size is limited to 40 people, and we ask that pastors attend with their current or potential Bible study leaders. This class will help pastors continue to train their leaders for excellence in adult Bible study. Registration information is available at <https://connect.wels.net/adultdiscipleship>. Scheduling is now open for classes beginning in winter, 2014.

## **Marriage Enrichment & Getaway Weekend**

No other WELS entity exists to help husbands and wives glorify God in their marriages. Adult Discipleship has for the past decade developed a different biblical marriage enrichment event each year and trained pastors to use it through “on the job training” – congregational leaders participate along with members. In the past two years, we have served members and trained pastors at dozens of events in 9 of our 12 districts. Most have benefited from the event called “Sticky Marriage.” These Friday through Sunday events have helped couples develop habits and practices to keep sticking together by applying the grace of God to their relationship. By conducting these events, the CAD not only serves pastors and wives in their own marriages, but it also provides pastors who attend valuable resources for enriching the marriages in their churches.

We are currently offering two additional enrichment events: “Distracted Marriage” and “Mysterious Marriage.” Events are being scheduled in Omaha, Minneapolis, Austin, Green Lake, WI, San Diego and possibly Phoenix. To see where they’re scheduled, go to the Facebook page. For more information or to inquire about scheduling an event for our district, contact Aaron Boehm

## **Marriage-Building Churches**

“Under what conditions could your congregation become a marriage-building church?” Representatives from CAD, Kingdom Workers, COP, WLC&FS and Antioch Foundation are working to raise up an army of WELS members asking that question and seeking answers in God’s Word and in their churches. There’s no program. There’s no initiative. Pray for God’s people to create the initiative and God to use marriage to teach the gospel, as he intended.

## **Women’s Ministry Committee**

The materials from [www.welswomen.net](http://www.welswomen.net) have been transitioned to [www.wels.net/women](http://www.wels.net/women) (on the synod Web site). Resources for women's bible studies and “Advent by Candlelight” are available as free downloads from the site. *Heirs Together* continues to be a strong tool in communicating God's design of head and helper. NPH reports that quantities are getting low and a digital download should be considered soon. A version with fewer and shorter lessons is being worked on as additional class options. The Leadership Conference at the Seminary was attended by over 125 women who studied principles of leadership based on a study of Ezra and Nehemiah. The Congregational Ministries Team continues to network women in the districts who are involved in their congregation's women's ministry programs in order to gather ideas and share information. A monthly mailing goes out to over 1,000 people highlighting updates and resources available through the website. Speakers on women’s ministry are available through the committee to help congregations better serve and be served by the majority of their communicant membership.