



## Arizona-California District—WELS Report of the District President

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:3-6).*

We don't have to look far to see schisms and factions in the Christian church on earth. Churches of every denomination dot the landscape. Each of them claims to have the truth. Each of them claims to speak with the voice of God and in the name of Jesus. The proliferation of sects in these last days reminds us that we are still living in the church militant.

Some organizations try to overcome sectarian barriers by bringing diverse believers together under one big tent. The thriving mega-church expects agreement on basic doctrines, but remains open-minded on teachings it considers non-fundamental. "We can agree to disagree," is the prevailing thought. "Let's not nit-pick or major in the minors. Bigger is better. If we just keep the focus on Jesus, we can downplay our differences in other areas."

In our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), we cherish the unity that binds us in common teaching, reflected in common practice, and expressed in a common purpose and mission. The word *synod* describes a group that "walks together."

But what is this unity that we enjoy? What do we mean (and not mean) by "unity"? As we strive with every effort to preserve our cherished unity in the Spirit, how can we remain truly united in our teaching and practice?

In years past people noted the remarkable consistency in style and outward form that existed among WELS churches. "It doesn't matter whether we attend a WELS church in Wisconsin, Colorado, Tennessee, or Arizona. Every church follows the same order of worship." Those days (if they ever really existed) are behind us. Today, access to the Internet and the power of desktop publishing enable churches to inject much more variety in style and form into worship. The churches of our synod across the country and around the globe minister to people with the gospel in a diversity of settings and cultures. But does this by itself undermine our unity?

*Unity* is not the same as *uniformity*. Unity doesn't mean that we march like goose-stepping soldiers on parade in lockstep sameness. Differences in form and outward style can bring a healthy variety to our worship. Some congregations sing hymns accompanied by an organ. Others use piano, electronic keyboard, guitar, or other instrumentation. Different worship elements—some ancient, some modern—inject freshness and variety into our services. Outreach methods vary by the place and culture where they're employed. Variety by itself doesn't break the bonds of unity that join us.

Our unity derives from our connection to Jesus Christ, our one Savior. We are united by complete agreement in our teaching. We are bound by God's Word and in complete agreement with everything it says. We hold unswervingly to God's teaching in the Holy Bible as the only reliable, unchanging source of truth. We subscribe to our Lutheran Confessions as a correct exposition of God's infallible Word. We do not wish to depart one iota from what God says.

Our unity in teaching then shapes our practice. What we do reflects what we believe. Our practices in worship and outreach reflect a unified confidence that God works in people's hearts through his Word and Sacraments. We meet Jesus in the gospel, not in our emotions or personal preferences. Christians are made alive, motivated and empowered by the gospel, not the law. Our practices of reverent worship, baptism for all, closed communion, our passion for evangelism, offerings freely given, management of time and other blessings, upholding the sanctity of marriage—these and so much more all flow from a shared understanding of law and gospel rightly divided, of God's word correctly applied.

This unity brings freedom. We remain free from the anarchy that marked the time of the Judges in Israel, when everyone did as he saw fit. We are spared the vexing uncertainty of wondering where our brother really stands and whether he really walks together with us.

This unity requires responsibility. It requires discipline and vigilance to resist the encroaching inroads of laxity. It requires discernment to recognize those practices which conflict with our presuppositions from Scripture. It requires love, sensitivity and concern for others, so that our latest great idea doesn't become fractious or divisive or damaging to the body. It requires wisdom, so that the things we do truly edify instead of tearing down, and truly unite, rather than tearing apart.

Celebrating our unity in freedom, and celebrating our freedom in love and concern for our brothers and sisters, make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

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I express my thanks once again to this body for allowing me the privilege of serving as your district president. I ask for your prayers that the Lord guide me with his wisdom and strength, and that he enable me to serve you faithfully. Our district owes a debt of gratitude to the other members of our district presidium, our two vice-presidents and our district secretary. In addition to several face-to-face meetings throughout the year, our presidium meets regularly via teleconference to discuss and decide district business. I wish to thank also the fifteen circuit pastors of our district for their faithful service. In recent years the responsibilities and expectations associated with the office of circuit pastor have increased significantly. The circuit pastor is often on the front lines of difficult situations that may arise in his circuit. As numerous such situations have arisen in recent years, our circuit pastors have stepped up to meet difficult challenges and have addressed them faithfully and well.

It's not possible to single out every individual whose dedication warrants our gratitude, but I will mention just a few key men who are making transitions. **Pastor Daniel Wagenknecht** has announced that he will be stepping down as chairman of our District Mission Board in August. Thank you, Dan, for your steady hand of leadership through difficult economic times, as you demonstrated a love for those who are still lost without Christ and kept the mission of the church front and center. **Pastor John Sprain** has served as pastor of the Metro West Circuit for over ten years; he is declining renomination this year. Many thanks to you, John, for your tireless work for the congregations of the west Phoenix valley. **Pastor Ross Else** served as a circuit pastor and during the last two years as chairman of the ad-hoc committee studying Crosswalk Lutheran Ministries. Ross, your diligence and evangelical persistence have borne the fruit of repentance and healing and increased trust among the congregations of our district. We thank you for your work. **Pastor John Beck** has served as circuit pastor of the Sierra Circuit since 2010, but in late May of this year he suffered a stroke. While his prognosis for recovery remains very good, he has asked not to be renominated for a second term. Thank you, John, for your leadership with a servant's heart. May the Lord bless you with a complete recovery and return to strength. **Mr. Tom Schlittenhart** has served two terms as our district's representative to the Synodical Council. Thank you, Tom, for representing our district at the synodical level for these many years. Finally, **Pastor Steven Wagenknecht** has accepted a call to Weslaco, Texas. Steve, you have been my circuit pastor for these past several years, and I have deeply appreciated your leadership of our Superstition Mountains Circuit, and especially your wise and gentle touch. God's blessings to you in your new ministry!

#### **Reno, Nevada**

After careful study of the issues, and recognizing efforts on the part of members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Reno, Nevada, to achieve reconciliation with Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church over past differences, our district presidium determined that fellowship exists and can be practiced between Prince of Peace and the WELS. Prince of Peace is now an independent congregation served by former WELS Pastor Dan Schaller. While the congregation is not a member of the synod, we are able to enjoy and practice full altar, pulpit and prayer fellowship with Prince of Peace. The time may come when Prince of Peace seeks formal membership in the synod. While the passage of time will undoubtedly continue to foster improved trust and long-term healing, at the present time the presidium considers the matter in Reno to be resolved in a satisfactory way.

#### **Ad-Hoc Committee on Crosswalk Lutheran Ministries**

The request for district and synod membership by Crosswalk Lutheran Ministries of Phoenix, Arizona, was referred to a special ad-hoc committee empowered by the 2010 district convention to study lingering concerns regarding Crosswalk's ministry. Pastor Ross Else accepted appointment as chairman of that committee, and the committee began its work in the fall of 2010.

Through a careful process of study and dialog, the committee worked closely with Crosswalk's pastor and its board of directors to evaluate concerns that had been raised. The study process was carried out meticulously, scrupulously, and evangelically. The committee is presenting a report back to the district in convention, along with a recommendation regarding Crosswalk's membership in the Arizona-California District and the Wisconsin Synod.

On behalf of our district, I wish to express my thanks to Pastor Jeff Gunn and to the members of the Crosswalk board of directors, especially Chairman Joda Schaumberg, for their openness to dialog, willingness to make necessary changes, and for their grasp and appropriation of concerns. The process has fostered greater trust among the congregations of the Phoenix valley, and it has resulted in greater faithfulness to the ministry of the gospel overall. The lessons learned from this evaluative process are lessons that can benefit every pastor and every congregation. As iron sharpens iron, our fellowship has been strengthened through brotherly encouragement.

I wholeheartedly endorse the recommendation of the committee, and I join the district in thanking the members of the committee for their careful and thorough study of the issues and concerns.

#### **Thessalonian Project**

A resolution from our 2008 district convention directed the district to study "at risk" congregations. A committee studied the matter and returned with a report to the 2010 district convention. Over the past two years, a suite of tools has been developed for use in congregations for evaluating the health of congregations, identifying areas of weakness, and planning short- and long-term ministry goals. I am aware of a couple of congregations that have made use of the planning and evaluation tools, and they have found them helpful for moving ministry forward. The suite of tools is available as a PDF document on the district website. Navigate to "Planning Resources" on the side menu and download the document called

“Congregational Evaluation, Planning and Reporting Tools.” Continued evaluation of the health of at-risk congregations takes place in the regular course of discussions at the circuit and district level, as we seek to encourage and foster excellence in all aspects of the ministry.

### **Suspended from the WELS ministerium**

After much prayer, study and careful evaluation, our district presidium made the difficult decision to suspend Timothy K Poetter from the WELS ministerium and from membership in the Arizona-California District. The suspension was carried out in conformity with Article VII, Section 1, of the District Bylaws and is effective as of April 11, 2012. Mr. Poetter has appealed the suspension to the District Board of Appeals, and a complete report to the district is withheld at this time, pending the outcome of the appeal. The future membership status of St. Paul, Douglas, and Grace, Bisbee, Arizona, is undetermined at this point, pending a decision of those congregations, further action by the district presidium, and a decision from the Board of Appeals.

### **Synodwide Every-Member Visit (EMV).**

As part of the synod’s long-range plan, the synod is encouraging a synod-wide every-member visit. Initially the EMV was geared toward raising stewardship awareness across the synod. A retooled approach might focus simply on pastoral contact during the first visit, followed by a stewardship emphasis at a later date. As the saying goes, “A house-going pastor makes a church-going people.” The Ministry of Christian Giving (MCG) is developing resources that can be used for such an effort, including resources for congregations of various sizes. The goal is to complete the visits during the fall of 2012, prior to the close of the calendar year. Some notes on the planned EMV:

- The every-member visit is an element of the synod's long-range plan that was adopted by the synod in convention in 2011.
- District presidents will commit this to all the circuit pastors for implementation.
- Circuit pastors will lovingly and evangelically work with their pastors to make the EMV come to fruition.
- Visiting members is not difficult, nor is it an exceptional burden for pastors. Rather, it is a joy for pastors and congregational leaders to share the joy that only comes from Jesus.
- Visits will be targeted primarily to active members—those who worship once a month or more.
- The materials from the MCG will be simple, easy-to-use, and to the point.
- The goal of the EMV is to keep the focus on Jesus—“to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:18). His undeserved love for us is the reason and the motivation behind our entire Christian life.
- The goal is that all pastors and congregations will participate. (Congregations that already have an EMV planned for this year can save the materials to use in two years.)
- The EMV is intended to jump start stewardship training in the WELS, by leading all participants into their congregation’s regularly scheduled stewardship of finances training course.
- Over the next several years our prayer is that in the WELS average giving will rise from 2.6% to 5.2% of income, so that the synod and its members are known as Christ-centered, Bible-believing, generous people. [The MCG realizes that many congregations and individual members are extremely generous and have been growing and already excel in the grace of giving. God be praised! The EMV can also underscore the blessings God has worked in your midst.]
- June to August 2012—Circuit pastors will meet with pastors for planning the implementation of the EMV and a regularly scheduled stewardship training course in each congregation.

### **Graduate assignments**

This year we had 12 requests for teacher candidates from Martin Luther College and three requests for pastor candidates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We thank the Lord for these young men and women, gifts to the church, who are well-equipped to serve in ministry. Only 23 vicars were available for placement this year. This is the smallest vicar class in recent memory, and it underscores the need to encourage men to study for the pastoral ministry. Remember that this year's eighth-grade confirmands who pursue ministerial training will not graduate from seminary until 2024.

### **Support for called workers**

Recent experience working with congregations seeking to call pastor and teacher graduates through the synod’s Assignment Committee has brought to light some concerns about the level at which pastors and teachers are being compensated in some settings. When congregations are calling pastors or teachers from the field, I typically do not inquire about the level of compensation that is being offered; that’s a matter between the congregation and the person who will deliberate the call. But when congregations request a graduate, it is the general expectation of the Conference of Presidents (COP) that the compensation will reflect standard synod code. (This is because the graduate doesn’t normally have the opportunity to decline an assignment.)

I recognize that in today's challenging economic climate of unemployment and underemployment, many congregations are finding it difficult to meet expenses, thus necessitating difficult decisions about staffing and compensation levels. I also hope that as difficult decisions have to be made, called servants are not compelled to bear a disproportionate burden of the cost-saving measures through cuts to salary and benefits. Since called workers are often in a difficult position and may be unwilling or unable to advocate for themselves, I'll beg your indulgence as I advocate on their behalf.

Please consider doing a complete review of your compensation as it compares to synod code. On the district president's page at the district website, under the heading "Resources for congregations extending calls," there is a salary worksheet that shows how to calculate compensation per synod code. Base salary numbers are adjusted by years of experience, regional cost-of-living differences, and other factors. Synod code stipulates a housing allowance determined by the local HUD fair-market rental value for a 3-bedroom home, unless other housing (e.g., a parsonage or teacherage) is provided. Medical benefits are provided as a \$1,000-deductible plan, (WELS VEBA or equivalent).

If your congregation doesn't have one already, I encourage you to establish a "Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW)." Not only can that committee be tasked with evaluating compensation levels, but it can play an important role in providing important emotional, spiritual, and family support for called workers. More information, including an informative DVD, on establishing a CCCW can be obtained from our district's Special Ministries Committee.

### **Strengthening communication between congregations**

As we work and walk together as members of one synod, we want to foster strong communication and use consistent terminology as we interact with our sister congregations:

**Definitions for members received.** An adult *confirmation* takes place when the new member has completed an entire Bible instruction course. An adult *profession of faith* takes place when someone is received from a Lutheran church not of our fellowship with only minimal instruction, or when someone is received back into our fellowship after falling away and having been removed from membership. In no cases should transfers from sister WELS or ELS congregations be documented as confirmations or professions of faith.

**Procedures for sending and receiving transfers of membership.** It is improper to receive a communicant member by transfer from another WELS or ELS congregation *unless you first receive a letter of transfer from that congregation.* Transfers are always initiated by the congregation the person is coming *from.* Please do not receive members by "transfer" unless you have had some communication from the transferring congregation indicating that the member is a communicant in good standing. This avoids a number of problems, especially those that arise when members try to evade church discipline.

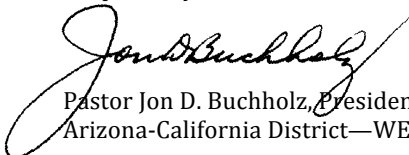
Transfers from other congregations may be declined, but the same must be communicated back to the transferring congregation. If a congregation sends you a letter transferring someone you've never met or seen (perhaps because they've not bothered to darken the threshold of your church), you may, at your discretion, inform the other congregation that you are not accepting the transfer for that reason. Or, you may choose to take the incoming member into your spiritual care, and attempt to minister to him. Circumstances dictate the prudent course of action.

When someone requests a transfer from your congregation, *send a letter of transfer as quickly as possible to the gaining congregation.* If your voters' meetings are infrequent (quarterly or even annually), send the letter after the transfer has been approved by your elders or church council, so that there isn't a lengthy delay until the next meeting rolls around.

**Courtesy communication.** It is a tremendous benefit for a pastor to know that his congregation members are being served elsewhere on weeks when he doesn't see them at home. When you welcome visitors from another WELS or ELS church to worship and Holy Communion, a brief note or e-mail back to the home congregation letting their pastor know they communed with you is a nice courtesy. The practice fosters better spiritual care and can prevent some members from slipping through the cracks.

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:3-6).*

Respectfully submitted,

  
Pastor Jon D. Buchholz, President  
Arizona-California District—WELS

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## District Activity for the 2010-2012 Biennium

### Installations – Pastors

• Rev. Francisco Cossío*	Santo Tomás, Phoenix, Arizona	June 20, 2010
• Rev. Ryan C Cortright*	St. Peter, Modesto, California	July 18, 2010
• Rev. Caleb R Bassett*	St. Stephen, Fallbrook, California	August 1, 2010
• Rev. Matthew J Langebartels	St. Peter, Globe, Arizona	September 26, 2010
• Rev. Paul R Schroeder	King of Kings, Apache Junction, Arizona	December 12, 2010
• Rev. Gary Lupe*	Gethsemane, Cibecue, Arizona	April 3, 2011
• Rev. Paul S Meitner	St. Paul's First, No. Hollywood, Calif.	May 22, 2011
• Rev. Johnold J Strey	St. Mark's, Citrus Heights, Calif.	July 3, 2011
• Rev. Colin M Rieke*	Grace (Vail Exploratory), Tucson, Ariz.	July 10, 2011
• Rev. David A Frey*	Living Word, Mission Viejo, Calif.	July 17, 2011
• Rev. Thomas E Zimdars	Santo Tomás, Phoenix, Arizona	August 14, 2011
• Rev. Jonathan P Loescher*	St. Andrew, Sacramento, California	August 14, 2011
• Rev. David M Warskow	Trinity, Ridgecrest, California	October 16, 2011
• Rev. Timothy P Henning	Hope, Chino Valley, California	September 4, 2011
• Rev. Richard A Kogler	Ministry of Christian Giving, Current Giving Counselor	October 18, 2011
• Rev. John P Ehlers	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Ariz.	November 20, 2011
• Rev. Brian C Doebler	Mt. Calvary, Redding, California	March 11, 2012
• Rev. Timothy J Shrimpton	Gloria Dei, Belmont, California	April 29, 2012

\* Indicates ordination into the pastoral ministry

### Retirements – Pastors

• Rev. Ronald E Baerbock	Mission to the Children, Sonora, Mex.	July 31, 2010
• Rev. Carl A Schomberg	Trinity, Ridgecrest, California	January 2, 2011
• Rev. Dr. Allen R. Beyersdorf	Living Word, Mission Viejo, California	April 16, 2011
• Rev. Kirby A Spevacek	Shepherd of the Valley, Surprise, Arizona	June 1, 2011
• Rev. Lyle “Duke” F Sonntag	St. Andrew, Sacramento, California	August 7, 2011
• Rev. Myrl F Wagenknecht	St. Thomas, Phoenix, Arizona	November 9, 2011
• Rev. Robert H Hochmuth	Apostles', San Jose, California	May 31, 2012

### Position eliminated – Pastors

• Rev. Timothy Henning	Hope – Ranch Cucamonga, California	March 2011
• CRM <sup>1</sup> Ger Ter Lor	St. Andrew, Sacramento, California	September 25, 2011
• CRM Mark Ochsankel	Trinity, Winslow, Arizona	November 30, 2011

### Suspended from the WELS Ministerium

• Timothy K Poetter		April 11, 2012
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### Transfers in – Pastors

• Rev. Paul R Schroeder	Western Wisconsin District
• Rev. Paul S Meitner	Northern Wisconsin District
• Rev. Em. Robert D Bushaw	Minnesota District
• Rev. John P Ehlers	Minnesota District
• Rev. Brian C Doebler	South Central District
• Rev. Timothy J Shrimpton	Dakota-Montana District

### Transfers out – Pastors

• Rev. Ronald E Baerbock	Western Wisconsin District	August 25, 2010
• Rev. Timothy M Otto	Southeastern Wisconsin District	December 6, 2010
• Rev. David J Karow	Western Wisconsin District	February 4, 2011
• Rev. Timothy J Westendorf	Nebraska District	March 17, 2011
• Rev. Michael H Nitz	Michigan District	August 1, 2011
• Rev. Brian R Pechman	South Atlantic District	October 2, 2011
• Rev. Matthew M Guse	Northern Wisconsin District	November 6, 2011
• Rev. Ralph W Martens	Minnesota District	December 15, 2011
• Rev. Philip A Koelpin	Northern Wisconsin District	January 1, 2012
• Rev. Steven Wagenknecht	South Central District	April 18, 2012

### Pastors called home to eternal glory

• Rev. Dr. Em. Allen R Beyersdorf	August 18, 2011
• Rev. Em. Milton W Burk	April 4, 2012
• Rev. Em. Arthur A Guenther	April 30, 2012

<sup>1</sup> CRM is an abbreviation for *Candidatus Reverendi Ministerii*, or “Candidate for the Holy Ministry,” indicating that the individual remains eligible for a call into the pastoral ministry.

**Installations – Teachers**

• Benjamin R Pagel*	Peridot, Peridot, Arizona	July 4, 2010
• Stephanie Pagel	Peridot, Peridot, Arizona	July 4, 2010
• John A Henderson	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 8, 2010
• Kara Peek	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	August 15, 2010
• Jill Anding	California LHS, Wildomar, California	August 22, 2010
• Kimberly Buchholz	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	August 22, 2010
• Lara Johnson	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	August 22, 2010
• Karen Luehring	Apostles', San Jose, California	August 22, 2010
• Anne Marquardt	Gloria Dei, Belmont, California	August 22, 2010
• Mikaela Raddatz	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	August 22, 2010
• Shannon Schmidt	St. Mark, Citrus Heights, California	August 22, 2010
• Katherine Wahl	California LHS, Wildomar, California	August 22, 2010
• Jennifer Quint	Living Word Christian Academy, Mission Viejo, California	December 5, 2010
• Jessica Christensen	East Fork, East Fork, Ariz.	January 1, 2011
• Jennifer Quint	Zion, Torrance, California	July 10, 2011
• Angela Palm	Emmaus, Phoenix, Arizona	August 7, 2011
• Kimberly Buchholz	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	August 14, 2011
• Darrell Dobberpuhl	East Fork, East Fork, Ariz.	August 14, 2011
• Kim Drexler	Pilgrim, Mesa, Arizona	August 14, 2011
• Matthew S Meitner	Pilgrim, Mesa, Arizona	August 14, 2011
• Michelle Meyer	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 14, 2011
• Steven A Springborn*	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	August 14, 2011
• Shawna Tech	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	August 14, 2011
• Christopher Treder	Apostles', San Jose, California	August 14, 2011
• Benjamin Washburn	Apostles', San Jose, California	August 14, 2011
• Sarah Bauer	St. Mark, Citrus Heights, California	August 21, 2011
• Susan Clark	Mt. Calvary, Flagstaff, Arizona	August 21, 2011
• April Cook	California LHS, Wildomar, California	August 21, 2011
• Julie Dushane	St. Mark, Citrus Heights, California	August 21, 2011
• LaRita Walker	St. Mark, Citrus Heights, California	August 21, 2011
• Jill Williams	Mt. Calvary, Flagstaff, Arizona	August 21, 2011
• Nathan Zastrow	California LHS, Wildomar, California	August 21, 2011
• Mary Jones	Shepherd of the Hills, La Mesa, California	August 28, 2011
• Bethany Holter	Reformation, San Diego, California	March 6, 2012

\* Indicates commissioning into the teaching ministry

**Retirements – Teachers**

• Mrs. Lois Kruse	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	June 30, 2010
• Mr. Duane M Behm	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	June 30, 2011
• Mr. Harold I Mears	Ministry of Christian Giving	June 30, 2011
• Mrs. Johanna Mears	Emmaus, Phoenix, Arizona	June 30, 2011
• Mrs. Lois Riechers	Emmaus, Phoenix, Arizona	June 30, 2011
• Mr. Lynn "Charlie" F Kuether	Pilgrim, Mesa, Arizona	June 30, 2011
• Mrs. Judith Eckert	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	June 30, 2012

**Resignations – Teachers**

• Mrs. Rhonda Clausen	Beautiful Savior, Las Vegas, Nevada	June 30, 2010
• Mrs. Carolyn Bryson	Zion, Torrance, California	June 30, 2011
• Mr. Kurt Cereske	St. Paul's First, No. Hollywood, California	August 5, 2012
• Mrs. Tracey Enser	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	June 30, 2012
• Mrs. Jessica Ferbeyre	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	June 30, 2012
• Mrs. Mandy Heiny	Beautiful Savior, Las Vegas, Nevada	June 30, 2012
• Mrs. Jana Kogler	St. Stephen, Fallbrook, California	June 30, 2012
• Mrs. Monica Moreno	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	June 30, 2012
• Mrs. Jennifer Sigler	Green Valley, Henderson, Nevada	June 30, 2012

**Position eliminated – Teacher**

• Mr. Kurt Mueller	Mt. Calvary, Flagstaff, Arizona	June 30, 2012
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**Transfers in – Teachers**

• Mr. John A Henderson	Michigan District	July 1, 2010
• Mr. Matthew S Meitner	Minnesota District	July 1, 2011
• Mr. Darrell L Dobberpuhl	Northern Wisconsin District	July 1, 2011
• Mr. Scott D Loberger	Minnesota District	July 1, 2012
• Mr. Timothy V Vogel	Minnesota District	July 1, 2012

**Transfers out – Teachers**

• Mr. Matthew M Linton	Southeastern Wisconsin District	June 30, 2010
• Mr. Shaun C Luehring	Southeastern Wisconsin District	June 30, 2010

• Mr. Corey E Marohn	Northern Wisconsin District	June 30, 2010
• Mr. Daniel J Unke	South Atlantic District	June 30, 2010
• Mr. Frederick P Zimmerman III	Dakota-Montana District	June 30, 2010
• Mr. Logan C Block	South Atlantic District	June 30, 2011
• Mr. Bradley P Gurgel	Western Wisconsin District	June 30, 2011
• Mr. Andrew G Mildebrandt	Northern Wisconsin District	June 30, 2011
• Mr. Nicholas J Bush	Michigan District	June 30, 2011
• Mr. Joel R Burmeister	Minnesota District	June 30, 2012
• Mr. Philip A Kurbis	Pacific Northwest District	June 30, 2012
• Mr. Ryan A Kirchoff	South Atlantic District	June 30, 2012
• Mr. Matthew R Herbst	Michigan District	June 30, 2012

#### Installations – Staff ministers and others

• Mrs. Kristi L Sebald	Crosswalk, Laveen, Arizona	July 1, 2011
• Mr. Vernon Caulk*	Ministry of Christian Giving, Current Gifts Counselor	November 20, 2011

#### Retirements – Staff ministers

• Mr. Raymond L Brown	Summerlin, Las Vegas, Nevada	May 31, 2011
• Mr. David W Liedler	Peace, Cottonwood, Arizona	August 31, 2012

#### Appointments to district offices

• Rev. Jonathan P. Bauer	Commission on Worship	June 2010
• Barbara A Rubin	Commission for Lutheran Schools Early Childhood Coordinator, Arizona	June 2010
• Rev. Jason L Schmidt	Commission on Youth Discipleship	July 2010
• Rev. Martin P Spaude	Board of Appeals	July 2010
• Rev. James H Winterstein	Constitution Committee Chairman	July 2010
• Rev. Joshua E Stahmann	Constitution Committee	July 2010
• Rev. Michael A Schroeder	Commission on Evangelism	July 2010
• Rev. Steven M Hillmer	Commission on Evangelism	July 2010
• Rev. Allen K Schroeder	Ministry of Christian Giving Coordinator	July 2010
• Rev. Ross H Else	Chairman, Ad Hoc Crosswalk Study Committee	August 2010
• Rev. Frederick W Casmer	Ad Hoc Crosswalk Study Committee	August 2010
• Rev. Joshua E Stahmann	Ad Hoc Crosswalk Study Committee	August 2010
• Rev. Jeffrey S Smith	Ad Hoc Crosswalk Study Committee	August 2010
• Rev. Matthew J Vogt	Ad Hoc Crosswalk Study Committee	August 2010
• Mr. James Drexler	Ad Hoc Crosswalk Study Committee	August 2010
• Mr. Andrew G Mildebrandt	Ad Hoc Crosswalk Study Committee	August 2010
• Rev. Frederick W Casmer	Northwestern Publishing House NPH Reviewer for the Black Canyon Conference	November 2010
• Rev. Paul D Rutschow	Grand Canyon Circuit Pastor	March 2011
• Rev. Michael A Schroeder	Northwestern Publishing House NPH Reviewer for the Southern California Conference	June 2011
• Rev. Frederick W Casmer	Metro East Circuit Pastor	November 2011
• Rev. Michael A Schroeder	<i>Forward in Christ</i> District Reporter	May 2012
• Mr. Noel Lederman	District Mission Board	June 2012

#### Resignations from district offices

• Rev. Bill Tackmier	Commission on Worship	July 2010
• Rev. Gary Pufahl	Commission on Youth Discipleship	July 2010
• Rev. Michael Nitz	Commission on Evangelism	October 2010
• Rev. David Karow	Grand Canyon Circuit Pastor	February 2011
• Rev. Ross Else	Metro East Circuit Pastor	November 2011
• Rev. Frederick Casmer	<i>Forward in Christ</i> Reporter (AZ)	November 2011
• Mr. Martin Heiny	District Mission Board	November 2011
• Rev. Em. Hermann John	<i>Forward in Christ</i> Reporter (CA)	May 2012
• Rev. Steven Wagenknecht	Superstition Mountains Circuit Pastor	May 2012
• Mr. Eugene Hammerson	District Mission Board	June 2012
• Rev. Daniel Wagenknecht	District Mission Board	September 2012

#### Pastor assignments

• Rev. David A Frey*	Living Word, Mission Viejo, California	May 2011
• Rev. Jonathan P Loeschner*	St. Andrew, Sacramento, California	May 2011
• Rev. Colin M Rieke*	Grace (Vail Exploratory), Tucson, Ariz.	May 2011
• Rev. Patrick S Freese*	California LHS, Wildomar, California	May 2012
• Rev. Joshua J Hanson*	Grace, Casa Grande, Arizona	May 2012
• Rev. Stephen P Koelpin*	Crown of Life, Corona/Beaumont, Calif.	May 2012

#### Teacher assignments

• Jennifer Quint	Living Word, Mission Viejo, California	November 2010
• April Cook	California LHS, Wildomar, California	May 2011

• Jennifer Quint	Zion, Torrance, California	May 2011
• Steven Springborn*	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	May 2011
• Cecilia Diaz Delgadillo	Reformation, San Diego, California	May 2012
• Mollie Dorn	Mt. Calvary, Redding, California	May 2012
• Katherine Georgson	California LHS, Wildomar, California	May 2012
• Cassandra Gryns	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	May 2012
• Hannah Horn	Our Saviour (ELS), Lake Havasu City, AZ	May 2012
• Alyssa Rixe	Mt. Olive, Las Vegas, Nevada	May 2012
• Nicole Rosenbaum	Pilgrim, Mesa, Arizona	May 2012
• Jessica Seiltz	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	May 2012
• Jacob Unke*	California LHS, Wildomar, California	May 2012
• Darren Vogt*	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	May 2012
• Megan Watson	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	May 2012

\* Indicates that the candidate is applying for membership in the WELS through the Arizona-California District.

**Vicar assignments**

• Jason Enderle	Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada	May 2010
• Joshua Janke	Shepherd of the Mountains, Reno, Nev.	May 2011
• Seth Scheuerlein	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	May 2011
• Zachary Pudlo	Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada	May 2011
• Nathan Zastrow	California Lutheran High School	May 2011
• John Raasch	Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nev.	May 2012
• R. David Starr	Shepherd of the Mountains, Reno, Nev.	May 2012

**Congregations closed**

• Hope, Rancho Cucamonga, California	March 2011
• Messiah, North Hollywood, California	June 2011
• Trinity, Winslow, Arizona	December 2011

**Schools closed**

• Messiah, North Hollywood, California	June 2011
• Living Word Christian Academy, Mission Viejo, California	June 2011
• Zion, Torrance, California	June 2012

Please bring to my attention any corrections to the above report.