



Arizona-California District—WELS Report of the District President

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

—2 Timothy 4:1-5

Our convention this year echoes the theme of last year's synod convention: *Our Great Heritage*. 2017 was a milestone year for Lutherans around the world, as we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. While much has changed in the last 500 years, the most important things have remained precisely the same. Sinful human beings are still perishing in the darkness of ignorance and unbelief. Jesus Christ is the only way, truth and life, and nobody comes to the Father except through him. God's Word is still a lamp to our feet and a light for our paths, a beacon of absolute truth in the shifting shadows of relativism. The law convicts and condemns; the gospel heals and saves. We are brought into a right relationship with God by grace alone, by faith alone, and by Scripture alone. There is no other truth. There is no other way.

Consider two basketball teams. Both teams possess a pool of equally talented players. Both teams have the drive and spirit to be competitive and victorious. One team's coach repeatedly drills his team in the fundamentals of basketball; his team learns to dribble, pass, shoot, make layups and free throws, and execute as a team. The other team's coach teaches his team a few fancy moves and trick plays. Which team will be successful?

When church challenges arise, it's tempting to look for the silver bullet, the quick fix, the out-of-the-box solution, the panacea for all ministry woes. We can search for the trick play that will turn the tide in our favor. Or we can continue striving for faithful execution of the fundamentals. Preach the Word. Administer the sacraments. Be ready to give an answer. Correct, rebuke and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction. Use cutting-edge technology to communicate and coordinate, while at the same time telling souls about Jesus' forgiveness in pulpits and Bible classes, on doorsteps and in hospital rooms. It doesn't need to be fancy. Just strive by the Spirit's power to do it faithfully and well, with an attitude born of the joy of resurrection victory and a spirit of excellence that is committed to giving our best to Jesus.

We have about 120 congregations in our Arizona-California District, from El Paso to Honolulu, from Chula Vista to Redding. Some are struggling, others are thriving, and most are in between. What I've noticed repeatedly about congregations that are healthy and doing well is that they're not necessarily the most avant-garde or cutting edge in their approach to ministry. They simply execute faithfully and well. Their pastors work hard at preparing solid sermons and Bible class materials. Men and women of the congregation show their love for the Savior, are grounded in Lutheran doctrine and well-equipped for works of service. Where there is a school faculty, there is a strong sense of commitment, belonging, and the importance of mission among the faculty members. There is an empowering climate of permission; people are not stifled in their expression of Christian love. The shepherd and his elders visit the people. There is a sense of joyful purpose in meaningful giving. The congregation is organized, not scattered; welcoming, not stand-offish; friendly, not cliquish.

This is not rocket science. This is *Our Great Heritage*. This is the legacy of Word and Sacrament, faithful administration of the means of grace, solid commitment to preserving the truth of Holy Scripture, a heritage of Christian love that has been handed down to us from previous generations. We're not here to invent something new. We're here simply to use faithfully every tool at our disposal to preserve, protect, and proclaim Jesus' love, forgiveness, and his gift of eternal life to our decaying culture and our dying world, so

that by all possible means we might save some. Honor, cherish and pass along this *Great Heritage* that has been handed down to you. Keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Thank-you to many who serve

Our district presidium is made up of the president, two vice-presidents, and the district secretary. I rely heavily on the wisdom of the men who make up our presidium for their counsel and guidance in difficult matters. Our presidium typically meets face-to-face two or three times a year, with monthly teleconferences in between.

Our district has 13 local circuits, each with around 8-10 congregations. The circuit pastor is the "pastor's pastor" for the congregations in his circuit. Circuits meet regularly throughout the year for mutual edification, counsel and study. In addition to leading circuit meetings, the circuit pastor may be called upon to conduct call meetings, to provide counsel for congregations on internal matters, and to provide guidance and support for called workers. For me, the last two years have felt busier than usual, with the number of vacancies on the rise and a growing number of returned calls. The work of our circuit pastors has eased my workload considerably. All their work warrants our appreciation, especially as some of the matters they deal with require exceptional patience, wisdom and love.

The work the chairmen of our district commissions carry out will be evident at this convention, as we receive reports from each of them. They will help you look for ministry opportunities in your community and make you aware of tools and resources you can use to seize those opportunities. I hope you can take the information they present at this convention back home with you and use it in ministry. To all who serve—thank you for your work!

At the risk of failing to acknowledge adequately work that is done by so many, I wish to highlight the work of two men who have rendered exceptional service to our district. Since 2008 Pastor Matt Vogt has served as a member of our District Mission Board (DMB), as chairman since 2012, and as a member of the WELS Board for Home Missions Executive Committee since 2016. His leadership, foresight and advocacy have positioned our district at the forefront of home mission expansion in the WELS. (Because of increased mission activity in our district, a resolution is coming to this convention asking that the DMB be expanded by one position.) From 2008 to 2018 Pastor Peter Kruschel served as Regional Mission Counselor for our district and others, providing counsel and guidance to new home mission starts. Pastor Kruschel retired earlier this year, and Pastor Vogt accepted the call to succeed him. We extend our thanks and wish them both God's blessings going forward.

District finances

Our district secretary, Pastor Steven Gabb, recently handed over district finances to Pastor James Werner for him to serve as de-facto treasurer of the district. A report on district finances is available online. A memorial brought to this year's convention will give the delegates the opportunity to consider whether district dues should be increased. That memorial has been assigned to Floor Committee #2 for review and recommendation.

Suspended from the WELS ministerium

As stipulated by the District Bylaws (Article VII, Section 1), I am providing a summary report to the district in convention regarding a suspension from the pastoral ministerium of the WELS. On October 26, 2016, with the concurrence of the members of the district presidium and the members of the WELS Administrative Committee for Native American Missions, I suspended Benjamin Zietlow from the ministerium of the WELS. The suspension was for cause. Mr. Zietlow's call as pastor to East Fork Lutheran Church in Whiteriver, Arizona, was terminated by the calling body. His suspension and call termination were not appealed, so the decision of the presidium and the calling body is the final disposition of this case.

125th Anniversary of WELS world mission work

You are seated less than 110 miles from the place where the Wisconsin Synod began its world mission work. It began right here in Arizona Territory in 1893—only seven years after Geronimo's surrender brought an end to conflict in the Southwest. 125 years later we celebrate the spread of the gospel through WELS mission work and the work of our sister synods around the globe. This district convention will highlight the world mission work that continues among our Apache brothers and sisters and throughout the world. Our worship and devotion leaders at this convention all serve the Apache Circuit of our district.

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few

This year 29 candidates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary presented themselves for calls into the pastoral ministry. We received two candidates assigned to congregations in our district. At the conclusion of the assignment process, there were 48 requests for pastor candidates from around the synod that could not be filled. We still have around 116 pastoral vacancies synod-wide and 9 vacancies in our district. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field!

Another area of shortfall is with teacher candidates. Synod-wide, there are still 81 teaching positions that remain vacant after the teacher calling window closed on June 3. Our synod faces 24 vacancies for principal positions in elementary schools and high schools (2 in our district). 7 early childhood director positions are presently unfilled. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field!

One in Christ offering completed

As 2016 came to a close, our synod made the last payment against its outstanding debt. Just over a decade ago that debt stood at some \$22 million dollars. Today the WELS is debt-free! The Lord brought about this achievement by moving the hearts of his people to give generously, with the result that money previously used for debt service can now be applied to ministry elsewhere. To God be the glory!

Ongoing support for WELS

Each year at the beginning of February every congregation across the synod submits two very important items to the WELS. One is the congregation's statistical report. This detailed report documents activity and numbers in key areas of congregational ministry and includes things like total baptized souls, total communicant membership, numbers of adult and youth baptisms and confirmations, souls gained and lost, Sunday school enrollment, and more. These numbers are compiled from around the synod and published in the annual *WELS Statistical Report* ([available online](#)) that is released in or around April. At the close of 2017 our Arizona-California District served 21,964 baptized members (close of 2015 was 22,850) and 16,727 communicant members (2015 was 16,924). Offerings in our congregations amounted to \$24,435,372, of which \$1,657,398 was contributed to the synod.

The other important item submitted each February is our congregation mission offering (CMO) subscription amount. This is the amount that each congregation pledges in support of our worldwide work together as the WELS. These pledged amounts are very important to our synod's planning because they establish an important baseline of dollars that can be budgeted for synod ministry. In each of the last several years our gifts to WELS have surpassed our pledged amount. CMO subscriptions have not kept pace with the rate of inflation, meaning we have fewer real dollars for the ministry of the WELS. Two things I ask: First, this fall, when your congregation receives the video message from the district president, please show the video to your congregation. Second, as you plan your congregation budget, please consider increasing your congregation's commitment to CMO. I encourage you to strive to allocate at least 10% of your congregation's offerings or at least \$100 per communicant member to the work we do together as the WELS.

Communicants	2018 Annual subscription	Jan-May 2018 received	Percentage received	Annualized per communicant
16,727	\$1,488,045	\$590,543	39.7%	\$82.17

Support for called workers

In 2017 the synod in convention adopted minor revisions to the salary structure for called workers. To help congregations offer double honor to those who earn their livelihood from the gospel, the synod developed an online compensation calculator. The online tool factors in things like cost-of-living adjustment, years of experience, additional responsibilities, level of education, and the like, to offer a recommended compensation range. Congregations can access the tool at wels.net/cwcompcalc.

Member Assistance Program (MAP)

The Member Assistance Program is an online counseling service available from Christian Family Solutions (now CFS, formerly Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Services) to called workers and congregation members. A portion of our district dues is used to provide counseling support for called workers and their families using this service. Congregations can also make use of this service by contracting directly with CFS. Through MAP, individuals can connect with a trained counselor via a secure video link. Those who have used the service have found it to be extremely helpful. Thank you for making this valuable service available!

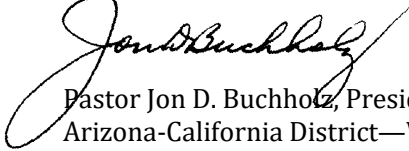
District website resources

With this year's paperless convention our delegates will become more familiar with our district website,

azcadistrict.com. The site is regularly updated with conference papers and reports on synod and district matters. Don't let the close of convention be the last time you visit the district website! There are numerous resources (azcadistrict.com/resources) available to called workers and congregations to assist in areas such as worship, Bible study, congregational and ministry planning, and called worker review and support. In particular I call your attention to an excellent suite of tools available on the district website for use in evaluating your congregation's health, identifying areas for improvement, and planning short- and long-term ministry goals. This suite of tools ("[Congregational Planning Tools](#)") is the result of work done by the Thessalonian Project commissioned by our district and completed in 2012. Congregations that are calling to fill called worker vacancies will find several helpful resources on the [district president's page](#) that can help to explain and streamline the calling process.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer (Psalm 19:14).

Respectfully submitted,



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

(480) 344-3782 office
jonbuchholz@msn.com
azcadistrict.com

District Activity for the 2016-2018 Biennium

☒ In Memoriam ☒

Pastors and teachers called home to eternal glory

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|-----------------------------|------------------|
| • Rev. Em. Donald Seifert | January 22, 2017 |
| • Mrs. Susan Sprengeler | May 14, 2017 |
| • Rev. Em. Dayton Fritz | January 6, 2018 |
| • Rev. Em. Frederick Casmer | April 19, 2018 |

Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High

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| <p>1. Jerusalem, thou city fair and high,
 Would God I were in thee!
 My longing heart to thee would gladly fly;
 It will not stay with me.
 Far over vale and mountain, Far over field and plain,
 It hastes to seek its fountain And leave this world of pain.</p> | <p>2. A moment's space, and gently, wondrously,
 Released from earthly ties,
 Elijah's chariot comes to carry me
 Through all these lower skies
 To yonder shining regions, While down to meet me come
 The blessed angel legions And bid me, "Welcome home!"</p> |
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Current vacancies – Pastors (listed in approximate order by length of vacancy)

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| • Grace, Vail-Benson, Arizona | <i>Most recent call declined. Will call again soon.</i> |
| • Mt Calvary, Redding, California | Called Brian Roloff on June 7, 2018 |
| • Trinity, El Paso, Texas | Called Rev. David Mielke on May 29, 2018 |
| • Heritage, Gilbert, Arizona | Called Rev. Andrew Schwartz on June 10, 2018 |
| • Apostles, San Jose, California (Associate) | <i>Most recent call declined. Will call again soon.</i> |
| • Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada | Called Daniel Burgess on May 21, 2018 |
| • Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Arizona | Called Rev. Jeremy Laitinen on May 29, 2018 |
| • Crosswalk, Phoenix, Arizona | Called Rev. Christopher Ewings on May 8, 2018 |
| • New Mission Start, Northwest Reno, Nevada | Called Caleb Kurbis on June 4, 2018 |
| • Alpine, Alpine, California | <i>Served by vacancy pastor. Not currently calling.</i> |

Installations – Pastors

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| • Rev. Thomas Unke | Shepherd of the Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada | June 19, 2016 |
| • Rev. Eric Hartzell | St Peter, Globe, Arizona | July 3, 2016 |
| • Rev. Paul Kolander* | Green Valley, Henderson, Nevada | July 10, 2016 |
| • Rev. Timothy Patoka* | Grace, Tucson, Arizona | July 10, 2016 |
| • Rev. Benjamin Zietlow* | East Fork / Canyon Day, Whiteriver, Arizona | July 17, 2016 |
| • Rev. Em. David Valleskey | Beautiful Saviour, Carlsbad, California | July 31, 2016 |
| • Rev. Ryan Heiman | Grace, Sahuarita, Arizona | September 4, 2016 |
| • Rev. Benjamin Foxen | Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona | September 11, 2016 |
| • Rev. David Waterstradt | Hope, Penryn, California | September 11, 2016 |
| • Rev. Em. Wayne Mueller | Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona | September 18, 2016 |
| • Rev. Joshua Hanson | Christ, Lodi, California | October 10, 2016 |
| • Rev. Daniel Rautenberg | Apache Mission Field Coordinator, Peridot, Arizona | November 13, 2016 |
| • Rev. Daniel Schroeder | St Peter, Modesto, California | November 20, 2016 |
| • Rev. Joseph Dietrich | Our Savior, Bylas, Arizona | January 29, 2017 |
| • Rev. David Bostedt | East Fork / Canyon Day, Whiteriver, Arizona | March 26, 2017 |
| • Rev. Nicholas Guillaume | Grace, Casa Grande, Arizona | March 26, 2017 |
| • Rev. Noah Bater | Prince of Peace, Thousand Oaks, California | June 4, 2017 |
| • Rev. Jason Schmidt | Shepherd of the Hills, Tucson, Arizona | June 18, 2017 |
| • Rev. Brock Groth | St Mark's, Citrus Heights, California | June 25, 2017 |
| • Rev. Luther Zuberbier* | Deer Valley, Phoenix, Arizona | July 23, 2017 |
| • Rev. Howard Mohlke | Apache Christian Training School, Whiteriver, Arizona | July 29, 2017 |
| • Rev. Em. Myrl Wagenknecht | Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada | August 20, 2017 |
| • Rev. Jonathan Kolander | St Mark's, Citrus Heights, California | September 10, 2017 |
| • Rev. Michael Foley | Star of Bethlehem, Santa Maria, California | October 8, 2017 |
| • Rev. Thomas Barthel | Rock of Ages, Payson, Arizona | November 19, 2017 |
| • Rev. Jeffrey Duquaine | Ascension, Escondido, California | January 14, 2018 |
| • Rev. Em. Scott Stone | Reformation, San Diego, California | January 21, 2018 |
| • Rev. Em. Peter Kruschel | Beautiful Savior, Las Vegas, Nevada | March 4, 2018 |
| • Rev. Christopher Hoppe | St John, Vacaville, California | March 11, 2018 |
| • Rev. Em. Ronald Waterstradt | St Andrew, Sacramento, California | |
| • Rev. Matthew Vogt | Western Regional Mission Counselor | April 22, 2018 |
| • Rev. Joel Petermann | Zion, Torrance, California | July 8, 2018 |

* Indicates ordination into the pastoral ministry

Retirements – Pastors

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| • Rev. Thomas Schulz | St Thomas, Phoenix, Arizona | April 30, 2017 |
| • Rev. Ernest Zimdars | Our Savior, Pomona, California | June 30, 2017 |
| • Rev. Steven Degner | Star of Bethlehem, Santa Maria, California | June 30, 2017 |
| • Rev. David Sweet | Rock of Ages, Payson, Arizona | August 28, 2017 |

• Rev. Thomas Naumann	Grace, San Carlos / Peridot, Peridot, Arizona	October 31, 2017
• Rev. Glenn Wenzel	Crown of Life, Riverside, California	October 31, 2017
• Rev. Curt Grube	Holy Cross, Tucson, Arizona	December 31, 2017
• Rev. Scott Stone	St John, Vacaville, California	December 31, 2017
• Rev. Peter Kruschel	Western Regional Mission Counselor	February 28, 2018
• Rev. Frederick Casmer	Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Arizona	April 2, 2018
• Rev. Terry Deters	Good Shepherd, Phoenix, Arizona	July 31, 2018
• Rev. Jonathan Stern	Ministry of Christian Giving Counselor	December 31, 2018
Resignations – Pastors		
• Rev. Paul Schossow	East Fork / Canyon Day, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 22, 2016
• Rev. Timothy Learman	Ascension, Escondido, California	December 21, 2016
• Rev. Ricky Johnson	Crown of Life, Corona, California	September 10, 2017
• Rev. James Schwark	Alpine, Alpine, California	May 27, 2018
Position eliminated – Pastor		
• Rev. David Warskow	Trinity, Ridgecrest, California	June 3, 2018
Suspended from the WELS ministerium		
• Benjamin Zietlow	East Fork / Canyon Day, Whiteriver, Arizona	October 26, 2016
Transfers in – Pastors		
• Rev. David Waterstradt	Southeastern Wisconsin District	August 2016
• Rev. Daniel Rautenberg	South Atlantic District	November 2016
• Rev. Daniel Schroeder	Western Wisconsin District	November 2016
• Rev. Joseph Dietrich	Northern Wisconsin District	January 2017
• Rev. Nicholas Guillaume	Michigan District	February 2017
• Rev. Noah Bater	Nebraska District	June 2017
• Rev. Howard Mohlke	Pacific Northwest District	July 2017
• Rev. Jonathan Kolander	Southeastern Wisconsin District	September 2017
• Rev. Em. Thomas Gumm	Pacific Northwest District	October 2017
• Rev. Thomas Barthel	Northern Wisconsin District	November 2017
• Rev. Eric Hansen	Northern Wisconsin District	April 2018
• Rev. Ethan Cherney	Northern Wisconsin District	April 2018
Transfers out – Pastors		
• Rev. Johnold Strey	Southeastern Wisconsin District	July 2016
• Rev. Aaron Mueller	Northern Wisconsin District	July 2016
• Rev. Jonathan Loescher	Southeastern Wisconsin District	October 2016
• Rev. Stephen Luchterhand	Northern Wisconsin District	June 2017
• Rev. Colin Rieke	Southeastern Wisconsin District	June 2017
• Rev. Brian Doebler	Southeastern Wisconsin District	June 2017
• Rev. Brady Coleman	Southeastern Wisconsin District	July 2017
• Rev. Hans Caauwe	Minnesota District	September 2017
• Rev. David Warskow	Northern Wisconsin District	February 2018
Installations – Teachers		
• Leah Clark	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	July 3, 2016
• Erin Westendorf	Beautiful Savior, Las Vegas, Nevada	July 10, 2016
• Paul Pappenfuss	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	July 17, 2016
• Kim Pappenfuss	Crown of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	July 17, 2016
• Sarah Rautenberg	Building Blocks Christian Academy, Los Angeles, Calif.	July 24, 2016
• Jacob Rothe*	Mt Calvary, Redding, California	July 31, 2016
• Jessica Rothe	Mt Calvary, Redding, California	July 31, 2016
• Matthew Ivan*	Peridot-Our Savior's, Peridot, Arizona	August 7, 2016
• Stephanie Ivan	Peridot-Our Savior's, Peridot, Arizona	August 7, 2016
• Paul Krause	East Fork Lutheran High School, Whiteriver, Ariz.	August 7, 2016
• Heidi Kruger	Peridot-Our Savior's, Peridot, Arizona	August 7, 2016
• Brett Bengel	St Mark's, Citrus Heights, California	August 14, 2016
• Adrienne Bengel	St Mark's, Citrus Heights, California	August 14, 2016
• Martha Eiland	Pilgrim, Mesa, Arizona	August 14, 2016
• Sandra Menefee	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 14, 2016
• Rachel Hein	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, Calif.	August 14, 2016
• Samuel Otto	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, Calif.	August 14, 2016
• Sarah Wait	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 14, 2016
• Andrea Indahl	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	August 15, 2016
• Pat Walker	Concord Lutheran Academy, Temecula, California	August 15, 2016
• Kandi Rosales	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	August 15, 2016
• Catherine Backer	Apostles, San Jose, California	August 21, 2016
• David Neujahr	Beautiful Saviour, Carlsbad, California	August 21, 2016

• Daneen Uhlhorn	Beautiful Saviour, Carlsbad, California	August 21, 2016
• Kathryn Patoka	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	August 24, 2016
• Kara Peek	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	August 24, 2016
• Natalie Miller	Shepherd, Albuquerque, New Mexico	August 28, 2016
• Jennifer Otto	Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada	August 28, 2016
• Melissa Wolff	St Paul's First, North Hollywood, California	August 28, 2016
• Brennan Bailes	Reformation, San Diego, California	September 11, 2016
• Adam Bohl	Reformation, San Diego, California	September 11, 2016
• Jessica Bohl	Reformation, San Diego, California	September 11, 2016
• Louisa Kahrs	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	July 09, 2017
• Andrea Indah	Crosswalk, Phoenix, Arizona	July 16, 2017
• Molly Heyn	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Luke Zeamer*	Peridot-Our Savior, Peridot, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Courtney (Teeples) Zeamer	Peridot-Our Savior, Peridot, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Annette (Scharf) Mundstock	Peridot-Our Savior, Peridot, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Katherine Rautenberg	Peridot-Our Savior's, Peridot, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Faith Schroeder	Emmaus, Phoenix, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Laura Krause	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Debra Dietrich	Peridot-Our Savior's, Peridot, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Jonathan Brooks	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Myra Brooks	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Tom McGill	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Reginald Riesop	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Arnold Bousley	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Judy Bousley	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Jo Bostedt	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Helen Dobberpuhl	East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona	August 06, 2017
• Mish Al-Eisa	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	August 10, 2017
• Matthew Heyn	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	August 10, 2017
• Stephnie Marquez	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	August 10, 2017
• Benjamin Raddatz	Shepherd, Albuquerque, New Mexico	August 13, 2017
• Jennifer Revis	Green Valley, Henderson, Nevada	August 13, 2017
• Kyle Melso*	California LHS, Wildomar, California	August 13, 2017
• Sara Willems	California LHS, Wildomar, California	August 13, 2017
• Leah Nass	California LHS, Wildomar, California	August 13, 2017
• Joshua Severeid*	California LHS, Wildomar, California	August 13, 2017
• Jessica Ross	Shepherd of the Hills, La Mesa, California	August 16, 2017
• Alyssa Siverly	Beautiful Saviour, Carlsbad, California	August 20, 2017
• Katherine Currah	Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada	August 20, 2017
• Brandon Stubalt	Apostles, San Jose, California	August 27, 2017
• Michael Ross	Reformation, San Diego, California	September 10, 2017
• Mary Plocher	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	November 14, 2017
• Laura Heiman	Grace, Sahuarita, Arizona	April 15, 2018

* Indicates commissioning into the teaching ministry

Retirements – Teachers

• Christine Kruschel	Beautiful Savior, Las Vegas, Nevada	June 2, 2017
• Eileen Draper	Shepherd of the Hills, La Mesa, California	June 30, 2017
• Karen Behm	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	June 30, 2017
• Shawn Nielsen	Green Valley, Henderson, Nevada	August 15, 2017
• Janice Musser	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	June 30, 2018

Resignations – Teachers

• Albert Karnopp	Shepherd, Albuquerque, New Mexico	July 15, 2016
• Amanda Becker	Apostles, San Jose, California	June 30, 2017
• Samuel Otto	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, Calif.	June 30, 2017
• Naomi Unnasch	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, Calif.	June 30, 2017
• Theresa Foley	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	August 23, 2017
• Silvi Sullivan	Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada	December 31, 2017
• Katherine Currah	Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada	December 31, 2017
• Hannah Stahl	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	June 30, 2018
• Jessica Seiltz	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	June 30, 2018
• Valerie Sweet	Green Valley, Henderson, Nevada	June 30, 2018

One-year assignment completed – Teachers

• Joshua Severeid	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	June 30, 2018
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Positions eliminated – Teachers

• Candice Learman	Ascension, Escondido, California	December 21, 2016
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Transfers in – Teachers

• Paul Pappenfuss	Michigan District	July 2016
• Brett Bengel	South Central District	July 2016
• David Neujahr	Southeastern Wisconsin District	July 2016
• Mishaal Al-Eisa	Nebraska District	July 2017
• Matthew Heyn	Southeastern Wisconsin District	July 2017
• Benjamin Raddatz	Southeastern Wisconsin District	July 2017
• Brandon Stubalt	Northern Wisconsin District	July 2017

Transfers out – Teachers

• Scott Loberger	South Atlantic District	July 2017
• Albert Karnopp	Minnesota District	July 2017
• Mark Kaiser	Minnesota District	July 2017
• Matthew Sonntag	Southeastern Wisconsin District	July 2018
• Matthew Bauer	Dakota-Montana District	July 2018
• Peter Buege	Northern Wisconsin District	July 2018

Installations – Staff Ministers

• Casey Sauer	Crosswalk, Phoenix, Arizona	July 31, 2016
• Stephen Pankow*	St Paul's First, North Hollywood, California	August 28, 2016

* Indicates commissioning as a staff minister

Transfers out – Staff ministers

• J. Howard Schroeder	South Atlantic District	January 2018
• Jonathan Favorite	Northern Wisconsin District	June 2018
• Stephen Pankow	Minnesota District	June 2018

Appointments to district offices

• Rev. Paul Mueller	Ministry of Christian Giving Coordinator	July 2016
• Rev. Mark Schewe	Coordinator, District Commission on Worship	August 2016
• Rev. Matthew Langebartels	District Nominating Committee, Gadsden Conference	August 2016
• Rev. John Dermé	Coordinator, District Commission on Special Ministries	August 2016
• Rev. James Werner	District Treasurer (Asst. to District Secretary)	November 2016
• Rev. David Waterstradt	Sierra Circuit Pastor	April 2017
• Rev. Seth Georgson	Secretary, Arizona Pastors' Conference*	June 2017
• Elizabeth Marquardt	Early Childhood Education Coordinator – East	June 2017
• Rev. Aaron Boehm	Second Vice President	July 2017
• Rev. James Werner	San Diego Circuit Pastor	July 2017
• Deacon Michael Mundstock	Chairman, Black Canyon Conference	July 2017
• Rev. Steven Hillmer	District Mission Board (new member)	August 2017
• Rev. Paul Mueller	District Evangelism Coordinator	August 2017
• Paula Considine	District Commission on Special Ministries	October 2017
• Rev. Mark Jacobson	District Constitution Committee	April 2018
• Rev. Steven Hillmer	Chairman, District Mission Board	April 2018
• Rev. Noah Bater	District Mission Board	April 2018

* Not a district office. Appointment made by conference chairman. Reported here for information only.

Resignations from district offices

• Rev. Johnold Strey	Coordinator, District Commission on Worship	August 2016
• Rev. Aaron Mueller	District Nominating Committee, Gadsden Conference	August 2016
• Rev. John Sprain	Coordinator, District Commission on Special Ministries	August 2016
• Rev. Jason Schmidt	Sierra Circuit Pastor	April 2017
• Rev. Brian Doebler	Second Vice President	June 2017
• Rev. Colin Rieke	Secretary, Arizona Pastors' Conference*	June 2017
• Barbara Rubin-Speer	Early Childhood Education Coordinator – East	June 2017
• Rev. Aaron Boehm	San Diego Circuit Pastor	July 2017
• Rev. Brady Coleman	Chairman, Black Canyon Conference	July 2017
• Rev. Steven Hillmer	District Evangelism Coordinator	August 2017
• Rev. Fred Casmer	Metro East Circuit Pastor	April 2018
• Rev. Matthew Vogt	Chairman, District Mission Board	April 2018

* Not a district office. Reported here for information only.

Pastor assignments

• Rev. Brock Groth	St Mark's, Citrus Heights, California	May 18, 2017
• CRM Luther Zuberbier	Deer Valley, Phoenix, Arizona	May 18, 2017
• CRM Timothy Leistikow	Grace, San Carlos / Peridot, Peridot, Arizona	May 24, 2018
• CRM Dean Ellis	Crown of Life, Riverside/Inland Empire, California	May 24, 2018

*CRM stands for "Candidate for the Reverend Ministry," a term used for ministry candidates prior to their ordination into the ministry. These candidates are applying for membership in the WELS through the Arizona-California District.

Teacher assignments

• Kyle Melso*	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	May 13, 2017
• Sara Willems	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	May 13, 2017
• Leah Nass	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	May 13, 2017
• Joshua Severeid	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	May 13, 2017
• Luke Zeamer*	Peridot-Our Savior, Peridot, Arizona	May 13, 2017
• Courtney Zeamer	Peridot-Our Savior, Peridot, Arizona	May 13, 2017
• Annette Mundstock	Peridot-Our Savior, Peridot, Arizona	May 13, 2017
• Louisa Kahrs	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	May 13, 2017
• Tessa Heiling	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	May 12, 2018
• Bryan Walkley*	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	May 12, 2018
• Jessie Stibb	Shepherd of the Valley, Las Vegas, Nevada	May 12, 2018
• Jacob Andersen*	Emmanuel, Phoenix, Arizona	May 12, 2018
• Michael Wilde	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	May 12, 2018

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

Vicar assignments

• Dr. Jordan Patrick	St Paul's First, North Hollywood, California	January 26, 2017
• Jordan Bence	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	May 16, 2017
• Nathanael Jensen	The Springs, Sparks, Nevada	May 16, 2017
• Jacob Brohn	The Springs, Sparks, Nevada	May 24, 2018
• Joshua Rathje	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	May 24, 2018

Schools closed

• Ascension, Escondido, California	June 2017
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Congregation closed

• Trinity, Ridgecrest, California	June 3, 2018
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Corrections and comments to the report may be referred to Floor Committee #6, the floor committee for the District President's Report, Rev. Bart Brauer, chairman.