

**WELS Arizona-California District
Worship Committee**
Report to the District Pastors' Conference
October 20-22, 2015



Committee Members:	Pastor Johnold Strey, coordinator	St. Mark's; Citrus Heights, CA
	Pastor Hernandez Daylo, Jr.	Prince of Peace; Yuma, AZ
	Teacher Kevin Bode	Emmanuel; Tempe, AZ
	Mrs. Susan Heinitz	Mt. Olive; Las Vegas, NV

Schools of Worship Enrichment: The School of Worship Enrichment (SoWE) is a two day workshop at which several congregations gather together on a weekend to study worship principles, hear musical examples, experience sample services, and make practical worship plans for their own parishes. A relatively new one-day format of the SoWE can be used when the two-day format is not practical or possible; this may be useful in our district especially when participating congregations are coming from a greater distance.

The one major population area in our district that has not yet hosted a SoWE is the Las Vegas area; initial plans to hold a SoWE there this November were postponed due to several vacancies in the circuit. Although two SoWEs have been held in the greater Phoenix area, there are still many congregations in that region that have not attended one, suggesting another possible location for a SoWE in the district. There is also a cluster of congregations in and around Cottonwood that could meet together for a future SoWE. If you are interested to have a SoWE in your area, please contact Johnold Strey and/or the Commission on Worship office.

Hymnal Project: The WELS Hymnal Project continues to move forward on a new hymnal with a projected publication year of 2021. You can always find the most recent information about the project on the project's website, www.welshymnal.com. Project director Michael Schulz addressed the Commission on Worship and the District Worship Coordinators at our September meeting at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry. Among the items being explored are a WELS equivalent to the LCMS's *Lutheran Service Builder* program and a complete Psalter with multiple musical arrangements (beyond those that are printed in the next hymnal) for every psalm.

2017 National Worship Conference & Regional Conferences: The next triennial WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts will be held on June 13-16, 2017 at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Past conferences have always been held in July, but the June date allows us better access to resources at Carthage (i.e. there will be less "competition" from other groups using the campus), and it opens up July for the possibility of two regional worship conferences.

Regional worship conferences are also being planned for Phoenix and Atlanta in the summer of 2017. In recent years, the participation from outlying districts has declined. The Reformation 500 anniversary year provides the impetus for these smaller regional conferences. Even though they are regional conferences, attendance is not limited to those who live in the outlying districts. Watch for further information about locations and dates.

Hymnology Curriculum: A new hymnology curriculum for Lutheran elementary schools is being prepared under the direction of teacher Kevin Bode, a member of the C/W and of our district's worship committee. This is a standalone curriculum (independent from *Christlight*) with three levels: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Students will learn a core of 8-11 hymns every year, with options for another 20-23 hymns. Students who attend an LES from Kindergarten through eighth grade would learn approximately 85 hymns over their time in school from this curriculum. This curriculum could also be used with Sunday Schools, homeschool situations, teen groups, and possibly also adult groups.