



Arizona-California District—WELS Report of the District President

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

—2 Peter 3:18

Our convention theme this year mirrors the theme of last year's synod convention: *In Christ Alone*.

That theme stands in stark contrast to the philosophy of the world around us. A pluralistic world proposes many paths to heaven, many avenues to salvation, enlightenment, higher consciousness, Nirvana—whatever you want to call it. The notion that there is only way to eternal life is foreign to an American culture that values “choice.”

Our souls have been made alive *In Christ Alone*. We have the forgiveness of our sins *In Christ Alone*, through the shed blood and complete redemption of Jesus, who is the only Lamb of God, the only Son of the Father, the only Savior of the world. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Sadly, our culture can easily diminish our passion for *Christ Alone*. Like shoots among thorns, we can be choked by worldly cares and earthly possessions that set our minds on things below and take our eyes off the prize. As happened in the church in Ephesus, pleasures and playthings can cause us to forsake our first love.

Regular contact with people of different religious backgrounds can diminish our conviction that salvation is found *In Christ Alone*. It's one thing to speak of unbelievers, heathens and the pagans in the abstract, but when we actually have a wonderful Mormon family living next door that keeps their house painted and their lawn mowed, it's easy to overlook the fact that those people will never get to heaven by being good neighbors. When we see that our Hindu coworker doesn't have fangs, loves his children, and really is a pretty great, hardworking guy, it's easy to overlook the fact that people don't get to heaven by worshiping Krishna instead of Christ. It's easy to forget that heathens and pagans look just like we do, including the kind with blonde hair, blue eyes and cute kids, who recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing “God Bless America.”

Yet it remains forever true that apart from *Christ Alone* there is only death and damnation—spiritual death and darkness now, and blackest darkness forever. The deepest cravings of the human heart are satisfied only *In Christ Alone*. The desire to be one with God, to be reunited with the Almighty, to know his favor and his peace, to have confidence in life and quiet hope in death—these are only found *In Christ Alone*. Every human needs him. Every lost soul needs to be reconnected with God *In Christ Alone*. Our Lord Jesus has given us his gift of life and immortality. The promise of the resurrection from the dead is found *In Christ Alone* and in his Easter victory.

Christ Alone binds us together in one family of Christ and one fellowship of believers. We share a precious unity in doctrine and practice *In Christ Alone*. During this convention and beyond we hope to strengthen our personal connection to *Christ Alone*, as we reclaim our Lutheran, Christ-centered devotional heritage.

I pray that our time spent together at this convention may edify and strengthen our bond *In Christ Alone*!

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Thanks!

Once again I express my thanks to this body for allowing me the privilege of serving as your district president. Many of you on numerous occasions have said to me, “I'm praying for you.” I appreciate your prayers, and I continue to 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 circuit pastors of our district for their diligent 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.

CMO revisit

The 2013 synod convention adopted a ministry plan that maintained existing ministry and provided for careful expansion of our efforts, especially in the divisions of Home and World Missions. The plan counted on a 4% increase in Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) for 2014. Since CMO commitments actually *decreased* by 1% from what was received in the previous year, the synod is facing two options: (1) scale back the work that we had planned to do as a synod, or (2) offer congregations the opportunity to reconsider 2014 subscriptions.

President Schroeder has worked with the Ministry of Christian Giving to develop a careful and thoughtful plan to engage all of our congregations and invite them to reconsider their CMO subscription. All congregations of our district are being approached by their circuit pastor and encouraged prayerfully to evaluate their CMO and consider the possibility of a meaningful increase. Results of those visits are being communicated back through the circuit pastors to the district president and then on to the WELS Ministry of Christian Giving.

I am pleased to report that across our Arizona-California District the visits are bearing fruit. Many of our congregations have revisited their CMO and revised their subscriptions upward. The final results remain to be seen, but we pray that significant cuts to our synodical mission work will not be necessary.

If your congregation has not yet reevaluated your CMO and considered the possibility of an increase, please do so as soon as possible, and communicate your decision back to your circuit pastor.

Suspended from the WELS ministerium

As stipulated by the District Bylaws (Article VII, Section 1), I am providing the following summary report to the district in convention regarding the suspension of two men from the pastoral ministerium of the WELS.

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 was effective as of April 11, 2012. Because Tim Poetter's suspension was undergoing the process of appeal in 2012, a complete report was not delivered to the district in convention at that time. In evaluating concerns that were raised, the district presidium consulted with the circuit pastor of the Chiricahua Circuit, with members of the congregations in Douglas and Warren, Arizona, and with other pastors in the Chiricahua Circuit and determined that Pastor Poetter was not discharging his ministry responsibilities with the diligence and faithfulness expected of a WELS pastor. Pastor Poetter agreed to cooperate with Pastor Tom Bernthal of Sahuarita, Arizona, to implement a plan for improving his faithfulness in ministry, however the remediation plan did not result in material improvement. Pastor Poetter was asked to resign his call for the good of the ministry. He declined to do so, and his suspension followed. The Board of Appeals of the Arizona-California District adjudicated a request for appeal and reviewed the documentation associated with Poetter's case. The Board of Appeals determined that the suspension was valid and legitimate, and the decision of the district presidium was upheld. Tim Poetter did not submit a request for further appeal at the synodical level within the time frame stipulated by the bylaws for such a request to be filed, so the decision of the district Board of Appeals is the final disposition of the case.

This past biennium a doctrinal matter arose in our district that resulted in the suspension of Paul A. Rydecki 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 was effective as of October 2, 2012. At the district pastors' conference held in October of 2011, Pastor Rydecki made public comments that called into question the biblical doctrine of objective justification. Following Pastor Rydecki's comments at that conference, several meetings were held with him to study the matter in question and to seek guidance from Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and our Lutheran church dogmaticians. Those meetings were held periodically over the course of a year, between October of 2011 and October of 2012. During that same time period, numerous concerns were brought to the presidium's attention by members of Pastor Rydecki's congregation in Las Cruces, New Mexico, observing that he was not teaching the doctrine of justification correctly. Efforts at further study came to an impasse when it became clear that Pastor Rydecki was openly teaching and promoting a doctrine of justification that is not in agreement with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. The nature of the doctrinal error may be summarized in a portion of the letter of suspension I wrote to Pastor Rydecki:

I am deeply disappointed that you have turned away from the teaching you learned in your ministerial training and have instead denied the truth and fallen into error. After numerous conversations with you and repeated efforts to admonish and instruct you from God's word, you have made it clear that you are not in agreement with the doctrine of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Specifically, you have refused to acknowledge and confess that God forgave the sin of the world when Jesus died on the cross (John 1:29; John 19:30; 1 John 2:2; Romans 5:18; 2 Cor. 5:19; Apology IV, 103).

We expect you to acknowledge and confess the truth that God forgave the sin of the world when Jesus died on the cross, because this statement expresses the truth of God's Word and the historical teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in simple, clear, and unambiguous terms.

You have stated openly that you reject the portion of the article on justification in our WELS confession *This We Believe* that says, "We believe that God has justified all sinners, that is, he has declared them righteous for the sake of Christ" (Article IV, 1). You have publicly acknowledged your disagreement with WELS doctrine and have made it clear that you do not walk together with the WELS in your teaching.

The presidium proceeded with a suspension following Pastor Rydecki's clear and public testimony that he disagrees with WELS teaching. Pastor Rydecki did not appeal his suspension.

A subsequent decision by the majority of the Emmanuel, Las Cruces, congregation to retain Pastor Rydecki as its pastor resulted in the separation of that congregation from the WELS. After that vote, the members in the minority separated from Pastor Rydecki and formed a new congregation in Las Cruces. They chose the name "Cross of Christ" because they wish to

proclaim that the forgiveness of sins was completed at the cross. The congregation is served by Pastor Jim Connell and is applying for membership in the WELS and in the Arizona-California District at this convention.

Graduate assignments

This year we had 11 requests for teacher candidates from Martin Luther College (MLC) and four requests for pastor candidates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS). We thank the Lord for these young men and women, gifts to the church, who are well-equipped to serve in ministry. There were not enough candidates from MLC and WLS to meet all of the call requests. Following assignment day at MLC, there were still some 45 teacher calls that remained unfilled, due to a lack of suitable candidates available. The Lord blessed our district with eight teacher candidates of the 11 requested, and all four of our pastor candidate requests were filled. There were numerous other pastoral calls around the synod that went unfilled. This is the smallest seminary graduating class in recent memory (23 men). This year's small seminary class and the continuing need for teacher candidates underscore the need to encourage young men and women to study for the preaching and teaching ministry. Remember that this year's eighth-grade confirmands will not graduate from Martin Luther College as teachers until 2022, and those who pursue pastoral ministerial training will not graduate from seminary until 2026. It's a long pipeline, even as the need for workers presents itself *now*!

Support for called workers

In 2012 our district in convention directed the district president to give closer attention to the salaries that are being offered to called workers as calls are extended. I am pleased to say that nearly all of the congregations extending calls for pastors, teachers, or staff ministers are using synod code as a minimum benchmark for compensation. In the few cases where compensation has been significantly below code, I have worked with congregations to encourage a reevaluation of their compensation structure. In compliance with the directive of the district in 2012, I plan to continue reviewing salary levels with congregations when they present a request for a call, whether from the field or from the assignment committee.

Since called workers are often in a difficult position and may be unwilling or unable to advocate for themselves, once again 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.

Help Team

Our district is developing a program to support and serve called workers who are leaving called ministry for whatever reason. The district Help Team offers support and encouragement, and it can make available counseling and other resources to pastors, teachers and staff ministers who are leaving their called position. Pastor Steve Spencer has worked to develop a handbook and guidelines for Help Team members to guide them in supporting called workers who are going through transition. Pastor Steven Degner will present the most current draft of the Help Team materials and invite the reaction and support of the district in convention.

Accessibility of Christian education

I am deeply concerned about the future of our Lutheran school system. There is more and more downward pressure on our schools, both elementary schools and high schools, that seems to be driven by any or all of a number of factors:

- The declining middle class in America is seeing Christian education as an expensive luxury that is beyond reach. Our schools are accessible to fewer families.
- Charter schools offer a high-quality, free alternative to our Christian schools.
- Our families are having fewer children.
- We do not place the same value on Christian education as we did in generations past.
- We have lost the focus on Christ as the center and cornerstone of Christian education. We are more concerned about things like class sizes, quality of curriculum, extra-curricular programs, academic achievement and test scores, than we are about having our children sit every day at the feet of their Savior.
- Congregations have shifted their focus away from schools as part of their overall congregational ministry to schools that are expected to pay for themselves ("cost-based tuition"). In many cases, without significant financial aid, families are priced out of the market and find they are unable to afford the cost.

- Congregations are struggling with a clear sense of mission for their schools. Instead of keeping the focus on *Christian* education, in some cases the preservation and survival of the school has become an end unto itself.

These observations are not meant as indictments; they are simply observations. You are free to disagree with what I'm seeing or add your own observations. The point is, we would do well to give careful thought to the blessing of Christian education that we have inherited from our forefathers, so that we can leave a legacy for the next generation to inherit.

The purpose of our Christian schools is to bring children to sit at the feet of Jesus every day in an environment where every subject is taught from the perspective of God's Word and every program is directed by Christ's love!

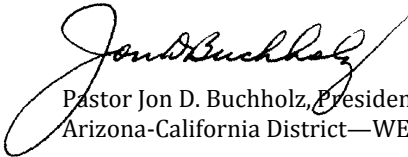
One blessing that we enjoy in Arizona is the **Arizona Tuition Tax Credit** program. Regrettably, our Lutheran organizations are falling far short of other schools in utilizing this program to maximum benefit. Unless we have an aversion to free money, we could be doing much more to encourage our people to use this program through the HELP Scholarship Foundation and other School Tuition Organizations (STOs). A married couple may be able to take advantage of up to "\$1,000 plus \$1,000" in Arizona state tax credits for contributions to STOs. That money can help offset tuition costs and make Christian education accessible for more families. If you are not making use of the Arizona Tuition Tax Credit program, or don't know how it works, please speak with me or anyone who can explain it to you, and start making use of this opportunity. Mr. Vern Caulk, who is the Executive Director of the HELP Scholarship Foundation, is one of our delegates here today, and he will be happy to help Arizona taxpayers take maximum advantage of this opportunity.

Ministry evaluation tools

There is an excellent suite of tools available on the district website (azcadistrict.com) for use in evaluating your congregation's health, identifying areas for improvement, and planning short- and long-term ministry goals. 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." The suite of tools is the result of work done by the "Thessalonian Project" commissioned by our district for completion in 2012. 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.

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 2012-2014 Biennium

☒ In Memoriam ☒

Pastors and teachers called home to eternal glory

• Rev. Em. H. Eugene Hartzell	November 18, 2012
• Mr. Robert W. Adickes	May 31, 2013
• Rev. Em. Lynn A. Schroeder	September 17, 2013
• Miss Laura J. Clark	October 6, 2013
• Mr. Roger A. Sievert	October 12, 2013

Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High

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| 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. | 3. The patriarchs' and prophets' noble train,
With all Christ's foll'wers true
Who bore the cross and could the worst disdain
That tyrants dared to do,
I see them shine forever, All-glorious as the sun
Mid light that fadeth never, Their perfect freedom won. |
| 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!" | 4. Unnumbered choirs before the shining throne
Their joyful anthems raise
Till heaven's halls are echoing with the tone
Of that great hymn of praise
And all its host rejoices, And all its blessed throng
Unite their myriad voices In one eternal song. |

Current vacancies – Pastors

• Administrative Committee for Native American Missions – Field coordinator	<i>David Kehl, May 13</i>
• Administrative Committee for Native American Missions – ACTS director	
• California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	<i>Will call May 29</i>
• Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona – Associate pastor	<i>Will call June 15</i>
• Grace, Glendale, Arizona – Associate pastor	<i>Matthew DeNoyer, May 4</i>
• Green Valley, Henderson, Nevada – Associate pastor	<i>Timothy Bourman, May 20</i>
• Mt. Calvary, Flagstaff, Arizona	<i>Phil Gurgel, May 22</i>
• Peace, Sahuarita / Bethlehem, Benson	<i>Not currently calling</i>
• Reformation, San Diego, California	<i>Will call June 12</i>
• Risen Savior, Chula Vista, California	<i>Will call June 3</i>
• St John, Victorville, California	<i>Not currently calling</i>

Installations – Pastors

• Rev. Joshua J Hanson*	Grace, Casa Grande, Arizona	June 24, 2012
• Rev. Stephen P Koelpin*	Crown of Life, Corona/Beaumont/Riverside, California	August 12, 2012
• Rev. Patrick Freese*	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	August 19, 2012
• Rev. Thomas Schulz	St. Thomas (River of Life), Phoenix/Goodyear, Arizona	August 26, 2012
• Rev. Andrew Mueller	Beautiful Savior, Las Vegas, Nevada	October 14, 2012
• Rev. Adam Mueller	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	November 25, 2012
• Rev. Daniel Solofra	Crosswalk, Phoenix, Arizona	January 20, 2013
• Rev. Adam Horneber	Immanuel, Lakeside, Arizona	February 24, 2013
• Rev. Joon Ho "Paul" Chung	Peace, Thousand Oaks, California	June 2, 2013
• Rev. Tong Xing Yang*	Fresno Hmong Outreach, Fresno, California	June 16, 2013
• Rev. Daniel (Chu Hua) Thao*	St. Peter Hmong, Clovis, California	June 16, 2013
• Rev. Gregory Hein*	Peace, Gilbert, Arizona	July 28, 2013
• Rev. James Connell	Cross of Christ, Las Cruces, New Mexico	
• Rev. Jonathan Stern	Ministry of Christian Giving, Current Giving Counselor	January 27, 2014
• Rev. Hernandez Daylo, Jr.	Prince of Peace, Yuma, Arizona	May 11, 2014
• Rev. M. John Dermé	Shepherd of the Mountains, Reno, Nevada	May 18, 2014

* Indicates ordination into the pastoral ministry

Retirements – Pastors

• Rev. H. Curtis Lyon	Christ the Vine, Temecula, California	May 22, 2013
• Rev. John Beck	Shepherd of the Mountains, Reno, Nevada	March 31, 2014
• Rev. Ronald Waterstradt	St. Mark's, Citrus Heights, California	June 30, 2014
• Rev. Kerry Kronebusch	Apostles', San Jose, California	July 1, 2014

Resignations – Pastors

• Rev. Thomas Bernthal	Peace, Sahuarita, and Bethlehem, Benson, Arizona	June 2, 2013
• Rev. Gonzalo Delgadillo	Multi-Language Publications, El Paso, Texas	July 7, 2014

Suspended from the WELS Ministerium

• Rev. Paul Rydecki		October 2012
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Transfers in – Pastors

• Rev. Andrew W Mueller	Michigan District	August 2012
• Rev. Em. William Kessel	Evangelical Lutheran Synod	September 2012
• Rev. Daniel Solofra	Northern Wisconsin District	January 2013
• Rev. Adam Horneber	North Atlantic District	February 2013
• Rev. Em. John Vogt	Evangelical Lutheran Synod	May 2013
• Rev. Em. Frederick Piepenbrink	South Atlantic District	March 2014
• Rev. John M Dermé	Western Wisconsin District	April 2014
• Rev. Timothy Learman	Minnesota District	June 2014
• Rev. Lincoln Albrecht	Northern Wisconsin District	June 2014

Transfers out – Pastors

• Rev. Andrew Luehring	Northern Wisconsin District	October 2012
• Rev. David Salinas	Pacific Northwest District	November 2012
• Rev. Matthew Pfeifer	Minnesota District	December 2012
• Rev. Aaron Glaeske	South Central District	June 2013
• Rev. Daniel Rautenberg	South Atlantic District	February 2014
• Rev. Em. John Sullivan	South Central District	May 2014
• Rev. Jonathan Bauer	Western Wisconsin District	June 2014
• Rev. Matthew Ewart	Minnesota District	June 2014
• Rev. Daniel Schroeder	Western Wisconsin District	June 2014
• Rev. Kevin Schultz	Pacific Northwest District	June 2014
• Rev. Christopher Rathje	South Atlantic District	June 2014
• Rev. Patrick Freese	South Atlantic District	June 2014

Installations – Teachers

• Mollie Dorn	Mt. Calvary, Redding, California	July 1, 2012
• Cassandra Grys	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	July 1, 2012
• Kelly Loberger	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	July 1, 2012
• Hannah Horn	Our Saviour (ELS), Havasu City, Arizona	July 8, 2012
• Mary Jones	Shepherd of the Hills, La Mesa, California	July 29, 2012
• Janell Brown	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 5, 2012
• Valerie Follendorf	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	August 5, 2012
• Jessica Seiltz	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	August 5, 2012
• Lynnette Stahmann	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 5, 2012
• Alyssa Wascher	Mt. Olive, Las Vegas, Nevada	August 5, 2012
• Meghan Watson	Redeemer, Tucson, Arizona	August 5, 2012
• Karl Bauer	St. Paul's First, North Hollywood, California	August 12, 2012
• Peter Buege	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	August 12, 2012
• John Campbell	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	August 12, 2012
• Martha Delalonga	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	August 12, 2012
• Nicole Rosenbaum	Pilgrim, Mesa, Arizona	August 12, 2012
• Amy Springborn	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	August 12, 2012
• Darren Vogt*	East Fork, East Fork, Arizona	August 12, 2012
• Scott Loberger	Arizona Lutheran Academy	August 13, 2012
• Stacey Aguilar	St. Stephen, Fallbrook, California	August 19, 2012
• Katherine Georgson	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	August 19, 2012
• David Peter	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	August 19, 2012
• Stephanie Treder	Apostles', San Jose, California	August 19, 2012
• Jacob Unke*	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	August 19, 2012
• Mandee Heiny	Green Valley, Henderson, NV	August 26, 2012
• Kathy Lee	Gloria Dei, Belmont, California	August 26, 2012
• Christine Swoboda	Shepherd, Albuquerque, New Mexico	August 26, 2012
• Joshua Walker	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	January 7, 2013
• Heidi Heckman	Hope, Penryn, California	July 7, 2013
• Nancy Leifer	Hope, Penryn, California	July 7, 2013
• Erika Steuck	Ascension, Escondido, California	July 14, 2013
• Cecilia Diaz Delgadillo	Reformation, San Diego, California	July 22, 2013
• Kaylen Orr	Gethsemane, Los Angeles, California	July 28, 2013
• Joel Walker	Apostles', San Jose, California	July 28, 2013
• Tonya Wolff	Apostles', San Jose, California	July 28, 2013
• Luke Hartzell	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	August 4, 2013
• Elizabeth Marquardt	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	August 4, 2013
• Monica Beatrice	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 11, 2013
• Kevin Bode	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 11, 2013
• John Campbell	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 11, 2013
• Mary Chapman	Our Savior's-Peridot, Peridot, Arizona	August 11, 2013
• Maria Else	Emmaus, Phoenix, Arizona	August 11, 2013
• E. John Fredrich	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	August 11, 2013
• Nicole Hintz	Emmaus, Phoenix, Arizona	August 11, 2013

• Michael Homan	Reformation, San Diego, California	August 11, 2013
• Robin Marten	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 11, 2013
• Thomas Stelter*	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	August 11, 2013
• Andrea Indahl	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	August 12, 2013
• Andrea Oppermann	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	August 12, 2013
• Lynnette Stahmann	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	August 12, 2013
• Theresa Foley	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	August 18, 2013
• Dawn Goetz	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	August 18, 2013
• Sara Schmeling	California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California	August 18, 2013
• Melissa Nehls	St Paul's First, North Hollywood, California	August 25, 2013
• Rachel Heckman	Apostles', San Jose, California	March 23, 2014
• Richard DeFrain	Gloria Dei, Belmont, California	May 4, 2014

* Indicates commissioning into the teaching ministry

Retirements – Teachers

• Joan Rendell	Emmaus, Phoenix, Arizona	August 4, 2013
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Resignations – Teachers

• Karl "Willie" Grebe	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	June 17, 2012
• Sarah Grebe	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	June 17, 2012
• Khrista Petrie	Gloria Dei, Belmont, California	June 17, 2012
• Kelly Loberger	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	July 16, 2012
• Denise Underwood	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	July 31, 2012
• Janell Brown	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Arizona	June 30, 2013
• Kristal Fillner	Apostles', San Jose, California	June 30, 2013
• Katie Jewell	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	June 30, 2013
• Stephanie Pagel	Our Savior's-Peridot, Peridot, Arizona	June 30, 2013
• Nikki Hintz	Emmaus, Phoenix, Arizona	June 30, 2014
• Nancy Leifer	Hope, Penryn, California	June 30, 2014
• Anna Morrison	Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona	June 30, 2014
• Janean Plocher	Ascension, Escondido, California	June 30, 2014
• Mikaela Raddatz	King of Kings, Garden Grove, California	June 30, 2014
• Nicole Rosenbaum	Pilgrim, Mesa, Arizona	June 30, 2014
• Amy Springborn	Cross of Glory, Peoria, Arizona	June 30, 2014

Positions eliminated – Teachers

• Rachel Nemitz	Family of God (ELS), Fort Mohave, Arizona	December 31, 2012
• Matthew Foxen	Trinity, El Paso, Texas	June 30, 2013
• Justine Smith	Trinity, El Paso, Texas	June 30, 2013
• Elizabeth Bahn	St. Stephen, Fallbrook, California	June 30, 2014
• Paul Blakely	Grace, Glendale, Arizona	June 30, 2014
• Renee Hussman	St. Stephen, Fallbrook, California	June 30, 2014
• Joel Krieger	Mt. Olive, Las Vegas, Nevada	June 30, 2014
• Jennie Panning	Mt. Olive, Las Vegas, Nevada	June 30, 2014
• Jolene Warner	Mt. Olive, Las Vegas, Nevada	June 30, 2014
• Alyssa Wascher	Mt. Olive, Las Vegas, Nevada	June 30, 2014

Transfers in – Teachers

• Scott Loberger	Minnesota District	July 2012
• Daniel Kirk, Emeritus	Western Wisconsin District	August 2012
• Kevin Bode	Southeastern Wisconsin District	August 2013
• E. John Fredrich	South Central District	August 2013
• Michael Homan	Minnesota District	August 2013
• Jonathan Plocher	South Atlantic District	June 2014

Transfers out – Teachers

• Karl "Willie" Grebe	Southeastern Wisconsin District	June 2012
• Benjamin Washburn	Southeastern Wisconsin District	June 2013
• Joshua Walker	Michigan District	June 2013
• Eric Brown	Dakota-Montana District	July 2013
• Jonathan Pasbrig	Southeastern Wisconsin District	July 2013
• Daniel Carran	Northern Wisconsin District	July 2013
• Matthew Foxen	Western Wisconsin District	July 2013
• Craig Breikreutz	Western Wisconsin District	July 2014
• Peter Gumm	Southeastern Wisconsin District	July 2014
• Paul Leifer	Pacific Northwest District	July 2014
• Matthew Meitner	Western Wisconsin District	July 2014

Transfers in – Staff Ministers

• J. Howard Schroeder	Minnesota District	June 2014
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Installations – Staff Ministers

- Lynn “Charlie” Kuether Calvary, Chandler, Arizona August 19, 2012

Retirements – Staff Ministers

- Vernon Caulk Ministry of Christian Giving December 31, 2013

Appointments to district offices

- Rev. Matthew J Vogt Chairman, District Mission Board June 2012
- Rev. Ronald G Koehler III District Mission Board September 2012
- Rev. Nathan P Kassulke Saguario Circuit Pastor September 2012
- Rev. Timothy P Henning Grand Canyon Circuit Pastor February 2014
- Rev. Hernandez Daylo, Jr. District Worship Committee June 2014

Resignations from district offices

- Rev. Thomas E Zimdars District Mission Board June 2012
- Rev. Paul A Rydecki Rio Grande Circuit Pastor July 2012
- Rev. Paul D Rutschow Grand Canyon Circuit Pastor January 2014
- Rev. Jonathan P Bauer District Worship Committee June 2014

Pastor assignments

- CRM Gregory Hein* Peace, Gilbert, Arizona May 23, 2013
- CRM Daniel (Chu Hua) Thao* St. Peter Hmong, Clovis, California May 23, 2013
- CRM Tong Xing Yang* Fresno Hmong Outreach, Fresno, California May 23, 2013
- CRM Derek Bartelt* Christ the Vine, Temecula, California May 22, 2014
- CRM Nathan Buch* Associate, Summerlin, Las Vegas, Nevada May 22, 2014
- Rev. Seth Georgson Immanuel, Taylor / Immanuel, Springerville, Arizona May 22, 2014
- CRM Justin Gran* Associate, Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona May 22, 2014

* 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

- Heidi Heckman Hope, Penryn, California May 18, 2013
- Sara Schmeling California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California May 18, 2013
- Thomas Stelter* Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona May 18, 2013
- Erika Steuck Ascension, Escondido, California May 18, 2013
- Rebecca Balge St. Stephen, Fallbrook, California May 17, 2014
- Youngsin Choi Apostles’, San Jose, California May 17, 2014
- Brian Gephart* California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California May 17, 2014
- Kevin Lorge* Peridot-Our Savior’s, Peridot, Arizona May 17, 2014
- Ruth Luehring East Fork, Whiteriver, Arizona May 17, 2014
- Jarrod Pfarr* Hope, Penryn, California May 17, 2014
- Bethany Schultz California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, California May 17, 2014

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

Vicar assignments

- Brock Groth Grace, Glendale, Arizona May 21, 2013
- Benjamin Steenbock Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada May 21, 2013
- Jason Free Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nevada May 20, 2014
- Andrew Stuebs Grace, Glendale, Arizona May 20, 2014

Congregations withdrawn from the district

- Grace, Bisbee, Arizona June 2012
- St. Paul, Douglas, Arizona June 2012
- Emmanuel, Las Cruces, New Mexico October 2012

Schools closed

- Trinity, El Paso, Texas June 2013
- Mt. Olive, Las Vegas, Nevada June 2014

New school opened

- Immanuel, Taylor, Arizona July 2013

Corrections and comments to the report may be referred to the Floor Committee for the District President’s Report, Rev. John Sprain chairman.