

AZ-CA Pastoral Conference, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ - October 2012

Ministry of Christian Giving

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving encourages members to excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) and assists them in making planned gifts to support the gospel ministry of their congregations, synod, and WELS agencies. WELS is primarily funded through the offerings of congregations as well as direct gifts from individuals. The Ministry of Christian Giving Home page on CONNECT features a compilation of the best resources WELS has available to help your congregation encourage Christian giving:

- Use our stewardship resources to instill the right motivation among your members for generous giving to the Lord.
- Find information about submitting your Congregation Mission Offerings to support synodical ministry.
- Think about encouraging planned giving among members. Our government has developed instruments through which people can maximize giving to charities and family by reducing the amount of taxes they pay. It's an opportunity that most congregations miss, unfortunately.
- Consider a special program like Walking Together to share new information about the work of WELS with members and to collect a special thank offering.
- Find information about submitting your congregation's statistics. These are published in the annual Statistical Report which shows valuable synodical trends and helps us to see areas in which things are going well and areas where things could improve.
- If you need assistance, WELS has assigned Christian giving counselors to every church. Take a look at our directory to find out who serves you or give us a call at 800-827-5482 (Milwaukee area: 414-256-3209).
- If you prefer to have Ministry of Christian Giving resources sent to you rather than regularly visiting the site, subscribe to Ministry of Christian Giving e-newsletter, An Encouraging Word.

Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO)

Congregation Mission Offerings subscriptions for 2013 are due by Friday, February 1, 2013. Instructions were mailed mid-August about accessing the CMO setting Web form.

Walking Together 2012-13

This year's Walking Together service shares how God has blessed our joint efforts as a synod and looks ahead at what can be done as part of the synod's long-range plan. The theme for the service is Romans 15:4-6. Worship materials are on Connect. Additional materials were shipped to every congregation in August.

Synod Every Member Visit

"It's All About Jesus" is a component of the synod's convention-approved long-range plan intended to garner the support needed to expand ministry through 2017. It involves a Bible study (the "why" of

giving) and resources to assist members with their management of gifts (the "how to"). Instructions and materials for carrying out the visit before summer 2013 are available on Connect.

Stewardship Program

Year three of the four-year "Christ's Love, Our Calling" stewardship program is available on Connect. True Riches focuses on the wise use of our treasure (finances) with Luke 16:11 providing the framework of the emphasis. The program is intended for use any time before summer 2013.

WELS Annual Report

WELS' Annual Report provides a clear picture of the synod and the activities carried out by its many areas of ministry in 2011. See the Annual Report page on Connect to read the report online, to order copies for your church, or to find a downloadable presentation for sharing this helpful information with a group. This information is especially useful during CMO-setting deliberations for showing how offerings are used at the synod level.

WELS Foundation

WELS Foundation provides planned giving services and administrative support for donor designated gifts benefiting WELS congregations and ministries. It is the foundation of choice for WELS members and ministries. It provides various giving opportunities including charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, donor advised funds, and endowment administration.

Planned Gifts to Your Congregation

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving would like to help your congregation increase the amount of support it receives through planned gifts from members. Your local Christian giving counselor can help you set up a planned giving committee that would regularly promote and assist with these gifts. The committee would also consider setting up an endowment fund for larger gifts. Call 800-827-5482 to be put in contact with your congregation's Christian giving counselor.

AZ-CA District and So Central District Christian Giving Counselors

- Rev. Rich Kogler (MCGC-Deferred Gifts): 11533 East Downing Street, Mesa, AZ 85207
Rich.kogler@wels.net Cell: 262-995-5731
Christian Estate Planning Seminars, Personal Estate Planning, Preaching
- Mr. Vern Caulk (MCGC – Current Gifts): 2631 West Carson Road, Phoenix, AZ 85041
What's Going on in the WELS? Presentation, Personal Current Gifts
Vern.caulk@wels.net Cell: 480267-2204

In Christ's Service and Yours,
Rev. Rich Kogler, MCGC, WELS