WELS Special Ministries Updates

Fall, 2015

NEW: WELS Website This summer WELS Communication Services rolled out a new WELS website that has several useful features to make it user friendly. (*Like all new things, you have to become familiar with it in order to take advantage of the new features – "User Friendly" doesn't mean that you already know where to click!*) A clue to finding things on the updated WELS website: Using the "Search" function at the top right of the Home page will now direct you to choices on WELS.net that usually will help you navigate quickly.

New way to access resources A new feature on the WELS website is called the "Resource Center." You'll see it's been added to the tool bar at the top of the page when you go to WELS.net, but it's also visible on Special Ministries pages whenever there are resources for you. You will find documents, brochures and other downloadable information. No password, no hassle. For example, if you are looking for Veterans Day materials, you simply go to **wels.net/military-services** and scroll down till you reach the button for "**Get Resources"** and that will take you right to the page where everything Military Services currently offers has been posted. Special Ministries is still posting resources, so keep checking back or email them if you don't see what you need or call Special Ministries, 414-256-3241.

Frail Elderly in the Pew The movement to keep elderly people in their homes as long as possible addresses obstacles in the home. Churches also should consider how they can remove obstacles that frail members often experience in public worship. An information-packed brochure for pastors, elders, and worship teams has been written by Sue Bolha, RN, and leader of WELS Parish Nurses. You can find this resource in the Resource Center, if you visit the Health and Wellness page on WELS.net. (Search "Health and Wellness")

Coming Soon: Military / Veterans A new WELS organization will launch this November: "Lutheran Military Support Group" (LMSG). LMSG will bring together veterans and active duty military and those who love them. LMSG will focus on veteran and active duty military member support at the local level through fellowship and service activities. On the national level, they will be a voice and encouragement for our WELS Military Services work. Veterans especially will welcome this organization which is growing out of cooperation between ELS and WELS concerned members. The website (to be launched this fall) will be **lutheranmilitary.org**. Brochures are available through Special Ministries' Resource Center. Interested persons may email president@lutheranmilitary.org.

Training workshops for women Institutional Ministries (WLIM), a partner with WELS Prison Ministry, has a "Sharing Hope" grant to involve more women in jail and prison ministry. The percentage of the correctional population who are women continues to increase. The SHARING HOPE gatherings continue, the next at Shoreland Lutheran High School on September 9. Thirty-four attended the session in Crete, Il with the outcome of several new volunteers. These gatherings, held together with Kingdom Workers and WELS Women's Ministry Committee, include a meal and three 20 minute presentations by each group. Interested women can then come to the group's table for more information and to volunteer. With plenty of funding still available, more gathering will be planned. Contact Pastor Robert Pasbrig at WLIM (414-259-4372) or Pastor Rick Tuttle of Jail Ministry Team Training (jmtt@wels.net)

Bible Instruction Course for Deaf Adults Deaf adults often have deficits in English, because sign language is different, not using passive language, for example. The Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has put Rolf Westendorf's ***By Grace Alone*** into quotes from ***The Holy Bible: English Version for the Deaf***. This manual should be used with a sign interpreter, a flow-through communicator who is not expected to do explaining. These days, sign interpreters are available via smart phones or tablets using a service called "Video Remote Interpreting." Books are available from Special Ministries for no charge.