

Western WI District Schools Coordinator

Western WI District Convention

June 4-5, 2018



The position of the District School Coordinator is an elected position of our Western WI District. The role of the School Coordinator for the District is to serve all of the congregations in the WWD that have a school or a pre-school. Much of the coordination of that work flows through the Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS). The CLS office meets with all of the District Coordinators from all over the Synod on an annual basis. The CLS Office directs the work of the Coordinators as they strive to encourage congregations in matters that the Synod, in Convention, has approved. The main goal of the Coordinators is to assist all of the congregations in their District with strengthening their schools. The Lutheran Schools of our District make up a large portion of the Gospel work that is done throughout our District and Synod. The Lutheran Schools and Early Childhood Programs are a tremendous blessing from our Lord to all of the members of our District and Synod. The schools also serve as a powerful outreach tool to further the spread of the Gospel throughout the District and the world.

Our District currently has 45 Lutheran Elementary Schools, 14 stand-alone pre-schools, 3 Lutheran High Schools, and 1 Synodical School. Our Western WI District is the second largest District for Lutheran Elementary Schools tied with the Northern WI District. The largest number of schools is in the Southeastern WI District. The three Wisconsin Districts, Michigan and Minnesota Districts make up the majority of our Lutheran Elementary Schools in our Synod. Our work and efforts for the continuation of Lutheran Schools is vital to our Synod as a whole.

To assist the schools of our District, we have an established network of School Counselors. The School Counselors have from two to four schools that they serve. The School Counselor makes an annual visit to each school. The following men of our District serve as School Counselors: Peter Micheel, Tim Kassulke, Billy Hinz, Rick Cody, Craig Winkler, Ben Rank, Eric Ziel, Ken Lehman, Scott Huebner, Steve Gartner, Steve Berg, Fred Uttech, and Kevin Proeber. We owe a debt of gratitude to these men for their faithful service. In addition the Western WI District has a lady School Coordinator for our pre-schools. Mrs. Betty Van Loon serves our District in that capacity. Mrs. Van Loon has organized a group of ladies to serve as school Counselors for our pre-schools as well.

The Synod Convention in 2013 passed several items that affect our schools. The Synod in Convention of 2013, asked the congregations to assist their schools to complete the following within the next 10 years:

- 1.) Undertake WELSSA Accreditation or some other school improvement plan.
- 2.) Include in the School Budget the Supplementary Contributions to the CLS .
- 3.) Participate in the Team Ministry Program and Teacher Assessment.
- 4.) Teachers continue in their efforts for professional development.
- 5.) Teachers complete their school and teacher information each year.
- 6.) Congregations provide the proper amount of release time for the principal according to the CLS guideline.

7.) Congregations provide the teachers with continuing education funds at the rate of \$1000 per teacher, per year.

Please ask yourselves “How are we doing on this list of items?” If you need help with any of the items, your school counselors can help. Please contact your assigned counselor with any questions.

The Western WI District teachers met together for the first time in 34 years at a Conference in Tomah this past February. The conference was a huge success and the teachers appreciated the opportunity to grow in their ministries through this conference. The teachers also decided to continue to meet on an annual basis for this very valuable conference. The next site for the annual conference will be Eastside, in Madison, on February 14-15, 2019. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless this very valuable conference.

The Synod consists of twelve Districts. Each of those twelve Districts has an elected Schools Coordinator. All twelve of the Schools Coordinators drafted a special Memorial for the Synod Convention in 2017. The Memorial requested that the Synod in Convention change the Voluntary Supplemental Contribution to the Commission of Lutheran Schools (CLS) to be made mandatory. The memorial failed and the Voluntary Supplemental Contribution remains the same with one exception. The Synod in Convention asks that all congregations pay this important contribution on a voluntary basis. Please go back to your congregations and ask if your congregation has paid the Supplemental Contribution. If the contribution has not been paid, please encourage your congregation to pay that voluntary contribution. The Synod appreciates your support in this matter.

The new teachers that have been assigned to our Western WI District will meet together for their New Teacher Induction (NTI) training on August 1st at St. Mark’s School in Watertown. All new teachers, their principals, and their pastors are asked to attend this very important meeting. This is part of the Program adopted by our Synod to assist the new teachers in their ministries. This important meeting begins at 9:00 am with an opening devotion. The lead mentor in our District that organizes the NTI program is Mrs. Karen Riley. Please support this program by having your new teachers, principals and pastors attend this meeting.

In closing, pray for the continuing blessings on the educational ministries of our congregations. The outreach that comes through our schools is a tremendous blessing for the future of our Synod. Also, pray that we, as congregations and schools united in fellowship, remain faithful to the Scriptures. May we defend the truth of Scripture with boldness and confidence. When Satan attacks the truth of scripture, may we respond with forcefulness and clarity based on the Scriptures. To that end may God bless the work of congregations and schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick Uttech

Frederick Uttech – District Schools Coordinator