

Western WI District Schools Coordinator Western WI District Conference June 5-6, 2017



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, Mike Wieting, Scott Huebner, Steve Gartner, Richard Bakken, 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 is organizing a group of ladies to serve as school Counselors for our pre-schools as well. This is in the developmental stages. We pray that the Lord will bless this work 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 have not met as a joint teachers’ conference for over thirty years. We are possibly the only District that has not met as a District-wide teachers’ Conference. In a continuing effort to serve all the schools of our District, the teachers did decide this past year to undertake an **HISTORIC** effort to join together in one unified teachers’ conference for the 2017-2018 school year. ***The teachers will meet for the first time in over thirty years at St. Paul’s in Tomah WI on February 15-16, 2018.*** This helps us fulfill the Synod directive on promoting professional development for our teachers. I would ask each delegate, pastor, and principal to make sure that their teachers will be in attendance for this very special and important teachers’ conference. If you need more information about this conference, ***please contact Mr. Ben Rank of Eastside in Madison.*** Mr. Rank serves as the chairman of the planning Committee for this Western WI District Teachers’ 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 this year. The Memorial requests that the Synod in Convention change the **Voluntary Supplemental Contribution** to the **Commission of Lutheran Schools (CLS)** to be made mandatory. This contribution funds a large portion of the CLS budget each year. When schools choose not to contribute those funds, the work of the Synod’s CLS office is compromised. It is the unanimous feeling of all twelve District School Coordinators that this must be changed. So we ask for the Western WI District to support this Memorial. If you are a delegate to the Synod Convention, please vote in favor of this important Memorial. The memorial can be found in **the BoRAM** in the last few pages listed as **Memorial #4**. Please take the time to read through the Memorial.

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 – District Schools Coordinator