

# Home Missions Updates – Spring 2019

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## 2019 Home Mission New Starts and Enhancements

Every spring, the Board for Home Missions (BHM) and the BHM Executive Committee prioritize requests for new missions and ministry enhancements. In 2019, 16 requests were received. Due to declining Congregational Mission Offerings (CMO), fewer designated gifts to Home Missions, and higher than expected funding requests from current home mission churches, the BHM was only able to approve financial support for one new start and one ministry enhancement. Two other new starts were approved with financial support coming from other avenues for the coming two fiscal years. Finally, an existing mission is receiving financial support outside Home Missions and has become an unsubsidized mission.

### 2019 Home Missions New Starts:

- Houston, Tex. – A dedicated group of core members (pictured) from other WELS churches around Houston are starting their new mission “inside the loop” of Interstate 610. This urban neighborhood is seeing a resurgence in popularity as people are looking to be closer to the city center.



### 2019 Home Missions – Unsubsidized:

- Folsom, Calif. – St. Mark’s, Citrus Heights, is daughtering a new congregation called The Rock Lutheran Church in Folsom, a growing community in the greater Sacramento area. A generous WELS donor has come forward to help support this new mission.
- Wesley Chapel, Fla. – A nearby WELS church is closing, but members are committed to starting a new home mission in this promising community, using the funds made available from the sale of the other church property.
- Killeen, Tex. – A strong core group of members are ready to restart their congregation, with a focus on reaching out to the community and to the military base in their area. Funds from the sale of a WELS congregation in Texas are helping support this mission effort.

### 2019 Home Missions Enhancement:

- Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Oshkosh, Wis. – For over 35 years, Martin Luther, WELS Campus Ministry, and other local WELS congregations have supported a campus ministry at the Rising Son Ministry Center on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus. In partnership with Martin Luther financial support, reserve funds have been allocated by the Campus Ministry Committee to help support a third pastor at Martin Luther. The pastor will serve half-time at Martin Luther and half-time at Rising Son Campus Ministry.

## Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary graduates assigned to home missions

Six graduates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary were assigned on Thursday, May 23, to serve WELS home missions around the United States:

- Bence, Jordan P. - Mission Start in Joplin, MO
- Berger, Benjamin J. - Mission Restart in Harrisburg, PA
- Birner, Benjamin J. - Cross of Christ, Liverpool, NY
- Lambrecht, Adam D. - Living Shepherd, Laramie, WY
- Nemmers, Andrew M. - Mission Start in Houston, TX
- Wilke, Craig T. - Mission Start in Brandon, SD

May God bless these men and their families as they transition to their new roles and reach out with the saving gospel message in their communities!

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## Home missions dedicate new worship facilities

Eternal Rock Lutheran Church in Castle Rock, CO, dedicated their new worship facility on February 10. This home mission congregation purchased a former auto repair garage and converted it into a worship space with a loan and grants from WELS Church Extension Fund (CEF), a valuable partner of WELS Home Missions.



*Pastor Jared Oldenburg gives communion at their new facility*



*Children from Ascension break ground on their new worship facility in October 2018*

Ascension Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, NC, is planning a June 23 dedication service for their new worship and ministry center. Damage from Hurricane Florence forced Ascension to adjust their construction plans, but the home mission congregation is excited to begin worship in their new facility.