

# Western Wisconsin District Worship Committee

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## June 2017 Report to the District

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### **WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, & the Arts:** (p.51)

JUNE 13-16 (Tues-Fri), 2017

- At Carthage College, Kenosha, WI
- The conference's theme and plenary address: "**A Reformation Perspective on Worship**" by Rev. Michael Schultz, Director of the WELS Hymnal Project
- Registration began in March. Basic information online along with registering *online* (ends June 8<sup>th</sup>)  
<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/worship/national-worship-conference/>
  - Adult Festival Choir – conducted by Kermit Moldenhauer and Dale Witte
  - High School National Honors Choir – conducted by Jon Laabs
  - Children's Choir (grades 5-8 *unchanged* voices) conducted by Kurt Cereske
- MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE: Attending the concerts & worship services will probably be the closest emotional & spiritual feeling of heaven you can get on this world prior to our actual experience.
- **FEES**  
**Registration options: (registration costs after May 5 are \$25 more than listed below)**  
On campus: \$395 (all sessions, three nights lodging, and 3 days of meals; air conditioning; limited).  
\$360 (all sessions, same as above, but without air-conditioning)  
Off campus commuters \$285 includes three days of lunch and dinner meal
- Resources from past worship conferences can be found at [worship.selsrc.net](http://worship.selsrc.net)
- **Schools of Worship Enrichment** (p.51) – Not many have been conducted in last couple of years as the emphasis of the C/W has been on the new hymnal project with all its committees. If you are interested in having one, they do have leaders available to conduct it.
- **Newsletters** (p.51-52) The C/W continues to publish two bi-monthly newsletters: ***Worship the Lord*** and ***Preach the Word***. The latter publication is being increasingly used by a number of non-WELS pastors. The *Worship* newsletter is also used internationally.  
--Back issues of both newsletters can be found on pdf at [worship.welsrc.net](http://worship.welsrc.net)
- **Commission on Worship retirements** (p.52): Teacher **Carl Nolte** and **Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer** are retiring from serving on the C/W. We thank them for their many years of service. A brief synopsis of both men's involvement is provided in the report.
- **Hymnology Committee** (p.52)--Since 2012 a committee has been working on a hymnology curriculum to help teachers cultivate in their students a deeper appreciation for Christian hymnody. The Committee has 3 key objectives to 1) show Christ, 2) apply the text to our faith and life, and 3) develop a love to sing and perform these hymn melodies. A release date of the curriculum is planned for 2020.
- **Reformation 500** (p.52): A few Synodical resources are listed for use.

### **Deutschlander Lectures**

As of late, the last Sunday of January (Sunday before Super Bowl Sunday), Rev. Jim Werner has continued as a coordinator for a special Sunday evening-Monday morning seminar conducted by Prof. em.

Daniel Deutschlander (largely for pastors), now held in the “round table meeting room” of the Dining Hall of LPS. The seminar draws anywhere between 50-80 pastors & staff ministers from our District, as well as some from outside our WWD. Though the topics are not specifically on worship themes, inevitably worship is addressed in how we reflect our theology in our worship. Over the past 4 years, he has done some expounding on the Greek in the early chapters of Mark’s Gospel. You can hear these lectures online on our WW District web page at <http://welswwd.weebly.com/deutschlander-seminars.html>

### **WWD Conference worship**

Special thanks to Pastor Paul Stratman, of our WWD Worship Committee, for planning the Conference worship while your Coordinator has been focusing on Reformation 500. Paul has done a great job in putting together a contemporary version of Luther’s Deutsche Messe.

#### **Report on Hymnal Project -- from Jonathan Bauer (p.53-54)**

*Here are a few highlights I picked out for you. Read the report for more insight.*

*The WELS Hymnal Project has adopted the following mission statement for its work:*

1. This hymnal will confess Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, who comes to us in the means of grace.
2. This hymnal will provide materials that enable believers to use the means of grace in public worship and other devotional settings.
3. This hymnal will be faithful to the scriptures and to the witness of the scriptures in the Lutheran Confessions.
4. This hymnal will respect and draw from the historic worship voice of the Christian Church and from our Lutheran heritage.
5. This hymnal will include texts and music of excellent quality from past and present sources.
6. This hymnal will be produced with thorough study of the character of worship in WELS and the prayer that it may be used joyfully by the people and congregations of our synod.
7. This hymnal will be accompanied by print and electronic resources intended to meet the needs of various worship settings in WELS.

#### **The Current Situation (see the fuller report on pages 53-54)**

As each of the project’s subcommittees have progressed with developing the content for which they are responsible, they have taken an opportunity to seek feedback on their work from within the synod.

The **Hymnody Committee (HC)** is responsible for the 650 or so hymns that will be found in the new hymnal. In addition to the setting provided in the pew edition, the HC is working to make additional resources (alternate accompaniments, instrumental parts, choral settings) available digitally. One-third of WELS congregations were invited to sample and review the HC’s work. They received two sets of resources: 1) A variety of settings for six hymns currently found in *Christian Worship*, 2) Six hymns not currently published in our synod’s resources. These resources were used during the festival half of the Church Year and feedback was provided.

The **Psalmody Committee (PC)** The PC is gathering even more psalm settings for even more psalms in a standalone volume called a psalter.

The **Rites Committee (RC)** The RC is proposing one main structure for a Sunday morning order of service that includes the celebration of Holy Communion. This one main structure will allow for flexibility and variety in a number of ways, including in the musical settings used for the service’s canticles. One-third of WLS congregations will be invited to sample and review the RC’s work.

The **Scripture Committee (SC)** Regarding the three-year lectionary: They have completed its first draft. Currently 75 pastors are using and reviewing this lectionary in their weekly worship (25 for each year of the three-year cycle). The SC has also begun its work on the calendar of minor festivals and occasions, the prayers of the day, and reviewing the creeds and the Lord’s Prayer.

The **Technology Committee (TC)** They are also responsible for the design and formatting that will be used across the print and digital resources of the next hymnal. A small focus group of congregations was invited to sample and review four different typefaces for use in the hymnal.

The **Occasional Services Committee (OS)** is responsible for the orders of service not found in the pew edition. Many of these orders of service are currently found in *Christian Worship: Occasional Services*, such as installing pastors and teachers and receiving new members into the church. This committee has begun its review of the occasional services currently found in our resources and making plans for additional services that congregations and schools would benefit from having. A variety of additional resources are being prepared. The information currently found in *Christian Worship: Manual* will be expanded into a four-volume set. The four volumes will be intended for pastors, various worship leaders, musicians, and laypeople respectively. The reference material pertaining to hymns, authors, and composers currently found in *Christian Worship: Handbook* will be published digitally. Respectfully, Richard Wm. Lehmann, WWD Worship Coordinator

**\*\*\* Our Western Wisconsin District report for REFORMATION 500 begins on the next page \*\*\***

# WELS Western Wisconsin District

presents

## Reformation 500

The Dane County Coliseum – Madison, WI



Festival Worship ~ 4:00 p.m.

Special Hymn Sing ~ 6:00 p.m.



Sunday, October 29, 2017

It is exciting to be planning this unique event, and the Green Bay Packers have tremendously helped us by drawing a “bye” on the weekend of October 29<sup>th</sup>! (Thank you, Lord!) Do you realize that within a 2 week span, our W.W. District will be hosting two of the largest worship events we’ve ever had?! Our celebration at the Coliseum--with an exuberant worship service followed by a concert by Koinè--will be followed up two weeks later by the 50<sup>th</sup> National WELS High School Choral Festival to be held at the La Crosse Center! (The 1<sup>st</sup> Choral Festival took place at Onalaska Luther’s gym; I remember it!)

### Music and Musicians

We have finalized our **music for the Adult and Children’s choirs** and sent out a letter near the end of April to all the congregations of our District (through the Circuit pastors). Director of the Adult Choir is **Pastor Richard Lehmann**, who has directed both concert bands and concert choirs over some 45 years. Directing the Children’s Choir will be the energetic **Lisa Schoenherr** of Peace-Sun Prairie. We are hoping we might have at least 200-300 singers in both of these choirs.

The **Teen Choir anthem** will be taken from the repertoire planned for the *High School Choral Festival* two weeks after our worship event so that our Lutheran High School singers will not have to learn additional repertoire to what they already have to prepare for (We have 4 Lutheran high schools in our District, counting Luther Prep). They will also be singing in a couple of the Adult Choir concertatos with the assembly. **Prof. Randy Bode** will be directing the Teens. We would hope that even public high school teens might be interested in singing. We can let them know what the anthem will be.

Regarding the Adult Choir, they will not sing a specific anthem, as the Children and Teens will, but their involvement will be singing in 4 “concertatos”—i.e. hymns with special verses just for the choir, as well as with choral descants. This will greatly aid quick learning and, at the same time, involve the adults throughout the service! The titles of the 4 concertatos are “**A Mighty Fortress**,” “**God is Our Refuge and Strength**” (the Psalm), “**Built on the Rock**,” and a powerful, closing rendition of “**The Church’s One Foundation**.” All 4 adult selections call for organ, brass, tympani and, in some cases, handbells.

The Children will be singing an arrangement of “**God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It**” (highlighting Baptism) and also the children’s part within “**Built on the Rock**.”

***If, for some reason, you have not received this information and are a choir director or singer in your church, you can go to our Facebook page: “Reformation 500, Madison, Wisconsin, October 29, 2017.” There will even be hotlinks for you to hear these selections. If you have questions, contact the undersigned, Richard Lehmann.***

Lisa Schoenherr and I are planning to schedule and piggyback THREE **Adult and Children choir rehearsals** this early Fall so that we can give a sizeable number of choral participants an opportunity to practice in advance. We’ve scheduled these rehearsals in different locations to try to reach a bulk of our District. We won’t have time to practice on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – only to get a “feel” for the conditions in which we’ll be singing. Here is the schedule (**which also can be found on our Facebook page**):

**SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>** (Sun.) 3:00-5:00 p.m. at **Eastside Lutheran-Madison**, 2310 Independence Ln.  
(Packers play a night game at Atlanta)

**SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>** (Sunday) 3:00-5:00 p.m. at **St. Paul-Tomah** (525 Superior Ave.)  
(Packers play a 3:30 game with Cincinnati)

**OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.-Noon at **St. Peter-Schofield** (1351 Grand Ave.)  
(Packers do not play.)

**OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>** (Sunday) Plan to be at the Alliant Energy Center Coliseum around 2 p.m. for sound testing & practice. More info on that as we get closer to the date.

If you have members who would be interested, please let me know ([rwlehmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwlehmann@sbcglobal.net)) their e-mails. I can put them on a mailing list and keep them abreast of what will happen.

### ***Trumpets, Horns, Trombones***

We also need to have some of our District's best trumpeters, French horn players, and trombone players assist in the hymn concertatos. You need to be a person playing regularly (not just Christmas and Easter for 1 or 2 pieces) because the playing of 4 concertatos will require maintaining good embouchures. The music may not be that difficult, since they are all hymns, but it will require strong playing. I'm looking for 12-16 trumpets, 3 or 4 French horns, and 12-16 trombones/baritones. The trumpets and trombones will have 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> parts. If someone doesn't mind bringing a tuba to play for just 1 concertato (an optional part), we'll welcome you. You can contact me at [rwlehmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwlehmann@sbcglobal.net) or 608-752-0258.

### ***Organists; Handbells***

We are renting a 3-manual Rodgers organ from Triune Music in Elmhurst, Illinois, which should give our two organists good opportunity for variety of sound and timbre. Playing pre-service is well-known WELS (& ELS) composer-organist **Carl Ziebell**, and playing the service music is **Darik Mischke**, a former member of the WWD Worship Committee. We are also going to be using the handbell choir of **Luther Prep School** and one other church for a couple of numbers in the service.

### ***KOINÈ***

Following a stirring worship service, the WELS' best known Christian Contemporary Band, Koinè, will lead the assembly in a stirring hour-long hymn-sing, starting around 6 p.m. Those of you who know this group are aware how they take historic hymns—even those dating back to Luther—and infuse them with “contemporary” sounds, timbres, and rhythms, also using visual aids. This opportunity for the assembly to sing along on many well-known hymns, helps remind us of the great musical heritage that we have as Lutherans, and the various means and methods by which we make that music and song.

### ***Preachers and Lectors***

The theme of the service is TIMELESS TRUTHS, with its 4 eight-minute sermonettes highlighting four foundational truths that the Reformation emphasized. The topics and preachers are: *Original Sin*—**Jonathan Bauer**, *Justification by Grace Through Faith*—**Patrick Feldhus**, *The Means of Grace*—WWD President **Michael Jensen**, and *The Theology of the Cross*—**Roy Hefti**.

In highlighting the manner in which the Reformation moved from Germany to Europe and the United States, and has now gone world-wide and pan-ethnic in our own nation, we are doing something special with the “readings.” The O.T. Lesson (Hezekiah's Reformation) will be read in *German* by **Karl Walther**. The Epistle Lesson, drawn from verses of Romans 3, will be read in *English* by **Mark Bartels** (ELS). The Gospel, a portion of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer for His Church (from John 17) will be read in *Spanish* by **Luis Acosta** (representing the multi-ethnicity of even the WELS itself nowadays).

Serving as Presiding Minister for the service will be one of our committee members, Peter Snyder.

### ***Special Opening Processional***

In demonstrating the international scope of not merely Lutheranism but even of the WELS, the opening procession of the service will include not only acolytes, crucifer, lectors, and preachers, but also the nearly 40 flags of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society, carried by volunteer members from our local circuits of LWMS—the Capital Circuit, Rock River Circuit, and Scenic South Central Circuit. After processing in, the flags will be “planted” around the perimeter of the main floor towards the front. We also hope to make use of handbells “marching” and ringing a “change”/“sequence” to start out the procession.

### ***Vendor Booths and Food***

Around the spacious concourse of the Coliseum we will have quite a number of “vendors,” or display tables/booths from various synodical and para-synodical ministries and services. NPH will also have displays of articles for sale. This is an opportunity for our synodical ministries to inform not only our own WELS attendees, but also, hopefully, many non-WELS attendees who might come of the sort of kingdom work that goes on in our Lutheran church body. Perhaps other vendors might have token gifts or items for sale, also.

We have contracted with the Coliseum food service that so that they might provide several places where “roving” people—perhaps looking at the booths—might pick up a bite to eat, such as sandwiches, drinks, chips, cookies, etc., along the line of a concession stand. We do not receive any “profits” from the sales they make, but we wanted food available so that attendees aren't forced to have to go looking for restaurants before, after, or in-between the “main events” of worship.

## Bussing

**We would really like to urge churches of our District to band together and see about renting a coach bus to bring you to the Coliseum**, especially those who are over an hour from Madison. We will likely not have to worry about parking spaces for cars, with over 5000 spaces available (it will cost \$7/space). But it might make it so much more pleasurable and convenient to charter a bus and come to this event, especially for older folk and those who need assistance (there is an elevator at the Coliseum). We are hoping to supply financial assistance in this to lower costs for those who come this way. Certainly the \$7 you save from parking could be used towards renting a coach. But we encourage excited leaders in various areas to look into their nearest coach system about renting, and then contact the WELS churches in your immediate area and advertise the convenience.

We had looked into one bus company running routes throughout Wisconsin, but it would be just too expensive to do so.

## Media and DVD Recording

The sound company we have hired will certainly do its best to project the sound of all the various individuals involved in this event. **Peter Schaeve**, of our planning committee, is in the process of developing liturgical décor and “environment” by means of lights.

We are also having **Steve Zambo**, of *Salty Earth Pictures*, capturing this event on DVD from many different angles. He hopes to have a DVD ready within a week or so for those who order one so that it might, possibly, be shown on your local cable TV between the time of the Reformation and, perhaps, Luther’s Baptismal day (Nov. 11), as well as buy one for a keepsake.

## Ushers

As with the choir, brass players, LWMS flag bearers, we are seeking ushers of our own District to help with greeting and guiding people as to where to go, distributing worship folders, and helping those who are invalid or who might have other problems. They will NOT be taking an offering within the worship service. Rather, several will “stand guard” at several receptacles which will be stationed in key areas for attendees to give their offering either as they enter, or when they leave (or both times!). If you are interested in ushering, Prof. Roger Kobleske is helping us in organizing this, along with **John Boehringer**. Contact John at [john.boehringer@gmail.com](mailto:john.boehringer@gmail.com)

## Special Offering

Our Committee has maintained the philosophy that WE DO NOT WANT THE OFFERING TAKEN AT THE COLISEUM TO HAVE TO BE USED TO PAY FOR OUR EXPENSES. WE WANT IT TO GO SOLELY TO THE WORK OF THE LORD. Therefore,

- 1) last year’s District Convention requested that the congregations of our District donate a gift to our Committee of at least \$100 if not even \$200-\$300 to help us in our expenses. We also sent out a reminder, through the circuit pastors, a couple of months ago about this. While we received a very supportive gift from the Antioch Foundation to pay for the Coliseum, there are many other issues and items that cost thousands of dollars (example: the organ--\$3500, the sound company--\$5200, 10,000 worship folders--\$4800, etc.). Some pastoral circuit meetings have also been kindly disposed to us in directing their offerings to us. My own congregation has gathered some \$400, and there are reports of others giving generously. As we try to make this event a lifetime memory in our Lutheran heritage, we want to provide you with an exuberant worship experience amidst a grand fellowship of us coming together. So, consider our goal and the costs it encounters. Make out any checks to *Western Wisconsin District* with a “memo” to *Reformation 500* and send it to our District Secretary-Treasurer:

**Rev. Galen Reidiger**

**W2797 Buol Road**

**West Salem, WI 54669**

- 2) we are gathering an offering at the Coliseum by means of special receptacles in which we hope attendees will gladly and freely give a great offering of thousands of dollars to the Lord’s work. Our charge, at our District Conference, is to determine how the percentage of that offering should be split up between our District Scholarship Fund (to encourage and support much-needed future workers in our WELS Lutheran body), and the Evangelical Lutheran Version translation of Scripture, overseen by Prof. em. John Brug.

Thank you for your attention to this report. Please contact me if you have any concerns or questions. AND, don’t forget to visit our Facebook web page: **Reformation 500, Madison, Wisconsin, October 29, 2017**

--In the Lord’s service,

*Richard Wm. Lehmann*, Pastor- Peace, Jnvl.

*District Worship Coordinator & Co-Chair Reformation 500 Planning Committee*