

Western Wisconsin District Mission Board Report

**WELS Western Wisconsin District Convention
June 4-5, 2018
Watertown, Wisconsin**

Our Purpose

A few weeks after I was given the undeserved privilege and the holy joy in the summer of 2016 to serve as the chairman of the Western Wisconsin District Mission Board, I was told by someone what my main responsibility would be: "Your voice needs to be the loudest in our district for the plight of the spiritually lost, and for the urgency to reach them with the gospel before it's too late". Brothers, in these grey and latter days, please join us on our district's mission board as we tirelessly work and serve to bring the gospel of Jesus to the many people in our district who are without hope and faith in Christ. The harvest is plentiful, and it's before us in our beloved district! The opening of new mission churches continues to be a very effective way to reach the lost for Christ with the gospel.

Our Board

Join me in giving thanks for the three other men who currently are serving you and our district as part of the district mission board. They are John Deglow (St Mark's, Watertown), Ron Demulling (St John's, Cornell) and Pastor Paul Schupmann (St John's, Juneau). I can't say enough about their love for Jesus, their concern for the lost, and their passion to bring the gospel to them through our mission churches. I personally thank them for their help and support as we serve together. They are faithful and good at what they do.

A number of years ago when there was less mission activity in our district, the decision was made to downsize the number of men serving on the district mission board. By God's grace and by building on the faithful labors of men who have served in the past (including our former chairman, Pastor Nathan Strutz, as one example), there has been a considerable increase in mission work in our district. Thus it's our board's request that at this convention we add two more men (one pastor, one layman) to our mission board (It's my understanding that a six person district mission board is in agreement with the by-laws of our district). We trust that the addition of these men will enable us to better support our mission churches and pastors as well as help in the starting of new mission churches in the future.

The Missions In Our WW District

It's our privilege to oversee and serve the following mission churches and pastors. The highlight and heart of our report at our convention will be in the brief PowerPoint presentation that Pastor Schupmann has put together which overviews these missions, how you can help, and what you can pray for.

- St Paul's, Adams Friendship, WI. / Pastor Jasper Sellnow / Unsubsidized / Ron Demulling shepherds
- Richland Center, WI. / Pastor Dan Lewig / Unsubsidized / John Deglow shepherds

- The Word, Stevens Point, WI. Pastor Scott Wolfram and calling soon for another pastor / Subsidized / Jeff Mahnke shepherds
- Good News, Mount Horeb, WI. / Pastor Jon Bauer / Subsidized / Paul Schupmann shepherds
- Amazing Grace, Roscoe, IL. / Pastor Clint Burrow / Unsubsidized / Paul Schupmann shepherds
- Horicon, WI / Pastors David Brandt and Paul Schupmann / Unsubsidized
- Our Savior, Burlington, IA / vacant / Ron Demulling shepherds

BHM Report To The Twelve Districts

If you haven't already done so, please read in the "2018 Report to the Twelve Districts" the comprehensive report submitted by Pastor Keith Free, the administrator of WELS Home Missions. For many years, Pastor Free served at Divine Word, Plover and as the chairman of the Western Wisconsin District Mission Board. His report is found on pages 45-50. If you have any questions about anything reported or would like more information, please speak to me at convention.

Another WELS National Multi-Site Conference

Our district mission board encourages you to check out the second WELS National Multi-Site Conference that's scheduled for November 12-14, 2018 in Pewaukee, WI if you are at all interested or curious about multi-site ministry. For information and to see the list of speakers go to: wels.net/multi-site-2018. You may also speak with Ron Demulling about the conference since he serves on its planning committee. Multi-site ministry continues to grow and gain traction throughout our synod.

Experience In Outreach Ministry For Vicars

In 2018-2019, 18 vicars of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will be serving in mission minded, outreach focused churches through the "Vicar in Mission" program of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and the Board for Home Missions. Two vicars will be in our district: St Peter of Schofield, WI, and Resurrection of Verona and Monroe, WI.

WELS Campus Ministry In The WWD

The mission of WELS Campus Ministry is to help WELS college students grow in their faith so that they can reach out to other college students with the gospel. Campus Ministry also supports full- and part-time campus pastors, and provides helps for WELS congregations as they reach out to college students in their area. Campus ministry and their budget falls under the Board for Home Missions. In our district we have 8 ministries receiving different levels of subsidy to further their work among college students. They are UW Lacrosse (First Lutheran, Ben Schmudlach), UW Madison (WI Lutheran Chapel, Jon Bilitz), UW Stevens Point (Divine Word/The Word, Scott Wolfram), UW Eau Claire (St. Mark, Joel Naumann), UW Stout (St. Paul's, Aaron Schulz), UW Platteville (St. Paul/Faith, Joel Voss), Winona State (St. Matthew, Matthew Schoell), UW Whitewater (St. John, Jon Rossman). Any questions re: WELS Campus Ministry can be directed to Pastor Scott Wolfram who serves on the committee.

