

Northern Wisconsin DMB Conference Report January 2023

Our Missions

Bethel, Menasha—Pastors Cherney & Raasch continue to rock their work together. There are no new updates of significance to report.

Campus Ministry—

- The previously mentioned “Oshkosh Task Force” has completed their work investigating the multitude of mission opportunities in the Oshkosh area. One of the main areas of work for this task force is our campus ministry, *Rising Son*, in Oshkosh. To that end, Campus Ministry, Martin Luther-Oshkosh, and 922 Ministries have begun initial discussions on what a joint effort might look like. We look forward to the results of those meetings and what the future may hold.
- We, together with CMMC Lindner, continue to investigate and create opportunities to both serve the students of Northern Michigan University, but also involve the fledgling Campus Ministry of Northern Michigan University in the new start we hope to establish in Marquette, MI.
- We held our October quarterly meeting at Rising Son Campus Ministry House in Oshkosh.

Living Water, Oshkosh—Living Water phased out of unsubsidized mission status November 30, 2022.

Mt. Calvary, Menasha/Stockbridge—The last several months showed a huge push in the congregation to put together a mission enhancement request this spring to help fund a missionary at the site in Stockbridge. According to God’s wisdom, this effort has been put on hold for the foreseeable future due to a funding challenge. While a disappointment for Pastor Johnston, our board, and many who have worked so hard and faithfully at Mt. Calvary and in Stockbridge, we know God’s plans are all for good, and the people involved in the outreach/mission efforts in the Stockbridge community will keep up the work. Just one example is seen in the core group starting a youth group this month, and already have 16-18 teens showing up for meetings! God is good!!! These efforts show us that this field still holds opportunity, and we look forward to the Lord’s plan for harvest to be revealed.

Trinity-Hmong Mission—Pastor Dan Lor continues to faithfully carry out the challenging mission work of reaching out to the Hmong community. We rejoice with him and give glory to God that his faithful work has been showing visible dividends this fall. This is seen primarily in growth of worship attendance, child & adult confirmations (14 & 6) and thank offerings given to the Lord by the members of the congregation.

Mission Work

BALC—Work at the [Bay Area Life Center](#) continues to thrive and opportunities for compassion ministry are abundant! The work of BALC has provided many opportunities for congregations in the Green Bay area to connect with people in their neighborhoods they might not have otherwise met. No new updates of significance to report.

Montello/Princeton (CALA)—Pastor John Stelter is the lead in a joint mission opportunity with his congregation, St. John, Princeton, and neighboring St. John, Montello in their newly formed joint school: Christ Alone Lutheran Academy (CALA). Currently Pre-K - 2nd will be at the Montello campus and 3rd - 8th at the Princeton campus. Their first year as a two campus school is going well. Prospect opportunities are growing. As of now, the hopes are to have the opportunity and resources built up to submit an enhancement request in 2024.

Morrison Zion, Greenleaf—Pastor James Enderle and Morrison Zion continue their Hispanic outreach program through a food pantry and growing ESL class.

Mt. Olive, Suamico/Pulaski—Pastor Zaferos and the people of Mt. Olive continue their work looking into an opportunity for a potential second-site in nearby Pulaski. Their main focus at this time is on training the members to do outreach. Their initial goal is to have prospects come to Suamico for worship and Bible class. Then, as things progress, see if there is an opportunity to start worship/Bible classes in the Pulaski area. Staff Minister Phil Boileau is visiting members, relieving Pastor Zaferos from those duties so he can focus on Mt. Olive.

St. Paul, Green Bay—St. Paul has restarted their ESL program with Amelia Flunker at the helm (daughter of HOC Tim Flunker). It has started out slow but is gaining momentum as they enter their fifth month.

Trinity, Coleman—Pastor Matthew Langebartels and Trinity have an active Hispanic outreach program including ESL classes. They are currently working with HOC Flunker. They are making plans to work with local farms to help promote the program.

Trinity, Liberty—Pastor Greg Pope accepted a call to Good Shepherd - Holmen, WI and his last Sunday was December 4. Our Shepherd for Trinity, Mr. Steve Braun, continues to keep contact with the congregation. While Trinity's work reaching out to their Hispanic neighbors seems to be put on pause, we want to maintain that relationship, hoping the next pastor will be just as zealous to continue this great mission opportunity.

U.P.—

- Multiple visits were made in the second half of 2022 to Marquette in the hopes of establishing a new mission. Mission Counselor Uhlhorn, Pastor Steve Lehmann (Iron Mountain), and board members, Pastor Ben Enstad and Pastor Steve Sauer, all made trips to Marquette to do core group training with members from St. Paul in the rural Marquette area. While there has been a struggle to raise a strong core group out of members at St. Paul, there are still several WELS members in and around Marquette who do not regularly attend St. Paul who we hope can still be groomed into strong members of a core group. While we have this challenge, every visit establishes all the more firmly our conviction of the need for a new start in Marquette proper. The opportunities in the area outweigh the challenge of a slow-forming core group, and we believe a permanent outreach shepherd in their midst would help to gather and grow a solid core group in a short amount of time. ***Our intent is to make a strong request to the BHM that is a bit old-school—an exploratory new mission start.***
- We have been investigating the possibility of an enhancement in both manpower and multi-site with the tri-parish of Iron River/Tipler/Florence. As of this time, the congregations do not desire to move forward with such a plan.

Other DMB Happenings

- We've held two very productive quarterly meetings the last six months. Our 2nd quarter meeting in October was held at the *Rising Son Campus Ministry House*. This meeting focused heavily on our mission and Campus Ministry opportunities in Oshkosh. Our 3rd quarter meeting was held in Chicago before the WELS National Leadership Conference. Most of the bothers attended the conference as well. It was a blessed meeting, with many reports of work done, and new plans to continue carrying out home mission work in the Northern Wisconsin District.
- The NW DMB is working with the WW & SEW DMBs on putting together a three-district missionaries' retreat to take place during the 2023 October Teachers' Conference break from school. We understand there may be a couple wives who would be expected to attend the teachers' conference, but will be working on a solution for that.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben Enstad (NWD-DMB Chairman)