

# Northern Wisconsin District



# WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.

## DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORT

Winter 2023

### Pastoral Call Vacancies

	<u>Synod</u>	<u>NW District</u>
Totals	174	37
Parish	157	33
Retirement Calls	5	
Foreign Mission	3	2
Prof./Teaching	2	2
Other	7	

The “Easter Call Hiatus” for pastor calls will run from Saturday, April 1, 2023 (Palm Sunday weekend) through Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Call meetings for pastors may resume on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

### Teacher Call Vacancies

	<u>NW District</u>
October 12, 2022 – 1/15/23	51
Accepted as of 1/15/23	23
School Vacancies Remaining as of 1/15/23	28

- Call activity at CLS 10/10/21 – 12/01/21 = 293 calls.
- Call activity at CLS 10/12/22 – 12/05/22 = 294 calls.
- Call activity during Fall 2022 has involved more local calls.
- 2022-23 Teacher Call Window Closes on April 16, 2023.
- **Teacher Call List Requests** – Requests for a teacher call list should be submitted online at: <http://wels.net/callrequest>. Please allow at least 2 weeks for list preparation.
- Expect fewer candidates on calls lists to allow more calling bodies to issues calls on a given date.
- Calling bodies should strongly consider requesting local candidates currently not serving in a called position in a WELS school. The 2022-23 school year began with 75 MLC-trained teachers who were not in a called position returning to the classroom. There were 105 WELS members with Education degrees from colleges and universities other than MLC, who received and accepted provisional calls and are now teaching in a WELS school. These calls were issued

with the understanding that these provisionally called teachers would enter and complete the WELS ministry certification program offered through MLC.

- Due to heavy call volume, calling bodies should not expect to receive a call list until the day of the call meeting.
- As good stewards of God's gifts, it is important to consider how we will staff our ministries as we make plans to expand.
- We play an important role in recruiting students to serve in the public ministry.

### **WELS School Statistics**

- **WELS Early Childhood Ministries** now serve more than 12,000 students (a nearly 5% increase since the 2019-20 school year).
- **Lutheran Elementary Schools** are now serving 27,578 students – the most in the last 20 years. This represents a 13.3% increase since the 2019-20 school year. 16.6% of the students we serve are from unchurched or non-Christian homes.
- **There are 2,978 called workers in WELS schools Pre-K – 12.** This is 164 more teachers than in the 2019-20 school year.
- **The NWD** has 54 Early Childhood Ministries, serving 1,790 students. We have 44 Lutheran Elementary Schools, serving 4,525 students. We have 3 Area Lutheran High Schools, serving 1,287 students. (Total: 7,605 students served.) Thanks be to God for the opportunities we have to reach so many souls with the gospel of Christ!

### **Child Abuse Protection Policies**

Does your congregation have child protection policies and protocols? Are they being regularly reviewed with leadership, pastors, LES and Sunday School teachers and youth leaders? Are screening and regular training part of your procedures? Since at least 2008 it has been the synod strong encouragement that all congregations and schools implement child protection policies. Resources for training, as well developing and implementing policies is available at <https://freedomforcaptives.com/resources/get-training/>.

**A Special Task Force** has been exploring practical ways for congregations to provide training, support, and encouragement for early childhood teachers and directors. **Another Task Force** has been exploring ways to improve the ability of called workers to express how their gifts for ministry might be used in service to the Savior and his church. The task force wishes to remind called workers that, presently, they can always share thoughts with their district president, circuit pastor, and through the notes they enter in their WELS Cloud account.

### **Updating of Personal Biographical Information – WELS CLOUD**

While ministerial gift assessments usually take place in consult with your circuit pastor or principal & school board, you can easily update your biographical information anytime. Periodic updates are greatly appreciated. They are especially beneficial for the calling process. Update your information anytime at: <http://cloud.wels.net/me>. Retired workers or those not currently serving in a call are encouraged to update their information using the WELS Contact Us form located at: <https://contactus.wels.app/ask>

### **WELS Synod Convention @ Michigan Lutheran Seminary – July 31 – August 3, 2023:**

<https://wels.net/event/2023-wels-synod-convention/>

**2023 CMO & Statistics** – The deadline for submitting CMO subscriptions for 2022 and 2021 Statistics is “the first Friday of February,” **Friday, February 3, 2023, at noon.**