



WELS SPECIAL MINISTRIES

## District Special Ministries Spring, 2023

**New Bible Class from Special Ministries** “Helping the Hurting with Hope” is a new Bible class to help participants appreciate the role of compassion in a Christian’s personal and congregational life. It provides gospel motivation for participants to go beyond their comfort zones and act in compassionate ways through the Spirit’s power. Where the Bible class succeeds in cultivating compassion, congregations will be better spiritual refuges for people with broken lives and welcome people looking for a church family where they can walk a new path after release from prison, or in recovery from addiction, or starting a new life after a public fall into sin. Helping the Hurting with Hope is available from [welscongregationalservices.net/helping-the-hurting-with-hope/](https://welscongregationalservices.net/helping-the-hurting-with-hope/). It comprises an introductory lesson with a video and four additional lessons. The participant’s lessons, leader’s guide and video are downloadable.

**Circuit Presentations: Effective Soul Care Partnership** These video presentations for WELS / ELS pastors and therapists make an excellent way for your conference to address mental health topics. A panel of pastors and therapists discuss a topic where collaboration and cooperation between spiritual shepherds and professional Christian counselors can serve the needs of church members. “Effective Soul Care Partnership” is a partnership between WLCFS Christian Family Solutions and WELS ELS Christian Therapists Network (a WELS Special Ministry). Contact Angela Glaeske at Christian Family Solutions: [aglaeske@wlcfs.org](mailto:aglaeske@wlcfs.org) to schedule a case study at your next circuit meeting. See the WELS ELS Christian Therapists Network website for updated information: [christiantherapistnetwork.com](https://christiantherapistnetwork.com)

**Christian Worship now in Braille** Mission for the Visually Impaired now has braille copies of the new hymnal available for free to churches with members who read braille (email [welsvisimp@wels.net](mailto:welsvisimp@wels.net)). MVI is also working to supply the hymnal electronically in braille for those who use handheld devices to read braille on the internet. The lyrics of all *Christian Worship* hymns are being uploaded to our Listen Library for braille access by the blind. Our patrons can already search for hymn lyrics at [Listen.WELS.net](https://Listen.WELS.net) under the “Worship” tab. Any person who is visually impaired can become a patron with free access to all our Christian resources by completing the MVI Service Application on the Listen Library website.

**Volunteer training 1** Equipping the saints for works of service is easier when there are training resources. For example, a few concerned members who want to help a family with a severely disabled child can receive excellent guidance from the congregational volunteer materials from Light for Parents, a Special Ministries group. For information, email [staff@lightforparents.com](mailto:staff@lightforparents.com).

**Volunteer training 2** Some members want to serve on a larger scale. Special Ministries is looking for volunteers. Prison Ministry offers mentor training, a valuable way to make a difference in the life of someone who has been released from prison. For more information and to refer someone, go to [wels.net/prison-ministry](https://wels.net/prison-ministry) or email [prisonministry@wels.net](mailto:prisonministry@wels.net). Mission for the Visually Impaired needs people who can do repetitive computer tasks (such as sound

editing on a recorded book) or are willing to learn how to braille. To learn more, email [welvisimp@wels.net](mailto:welvisimp@wels.net).

**\$500 Grant** Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is offering a grant of \$500 to any church that installs a hearing loop to assist the hard of hearing people in their ministry. For details see [WELS.net/mdhh](http://WELS.net/mdhh) or email [mdhh@wels.net](mailto:mdhh@wels.net).

**Military Service brings spiritual danger** Can you imagine a young person leaving home, facing life and death situations and pressures to sin? It happens to our military members. The dangers and the solutions are described in the video **“Staying Close to God’s Word While in the Military.”** [csm.welsrc.net/military-resources/](http://csm.welsrc.net/military-resources/) If you have a member in the military or entering the military, refer them at [wels.net/refer](http://wels.net/refer)

**Online learning – Chaplain courses** Chaplain Certification offers useful online learning opportunities, often with financial aid, even if you (or your lay leader) does not become a chaplain. In September these online chaplaincy courses will be offered: “Communicating Forgiveness,” “Ministering to the Incarcerated and their Families,” “Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry” (Free!), “The Spiritual Side of PTSD” and “Grounded in Scripture” a doctrinal course for those interested in ministry but have not had a foundational study of Scripture. For more information, see the MLC website [mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate/](http://mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate/) or email [chappcert@wels.net](mailto:chappcert@wels.net).

**Child Safety** has always been a Christian issue. Early Christians rescued abandoned babies and organized orphanages. Luther and Walther were ahead of their time in speaking against child abuse. WELS offers the most thorough abuse prevention resources of any faith community. Freedom for the Captives’ website has new information every month – not only to make our churches and schools safer, but to recognize child abuse and respond to protect children. Have you looked at the website this month? [Freedomforcaptives.com](http://Freedomforcaptives.com)

**Where do they turn?** Are your members so familiar with Conquerors through Christ that when they need a resource, they know where to find it? One WELS mom turned to the CtC website when her eight-year-old saw some porn on the Internet. “The materials for parents are amazing,” she told us. Promote the [conquerorsthroughchrist.net](http://conquerorsthroughchrist.net) website to your members and called workers.

**Summer Camps for people with developmental disabilities** In June and July, Camp BASIC and Camp Phillip’s Jesus Cares Camp will offer special programs for people with special needs. Next fall, the Joy in Jesus retreat will also be held in Minnesota. For more information, see [wels.net/iddm/parents-and-family/](http://wels.net/iddm/parents-and-family/)