



Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference

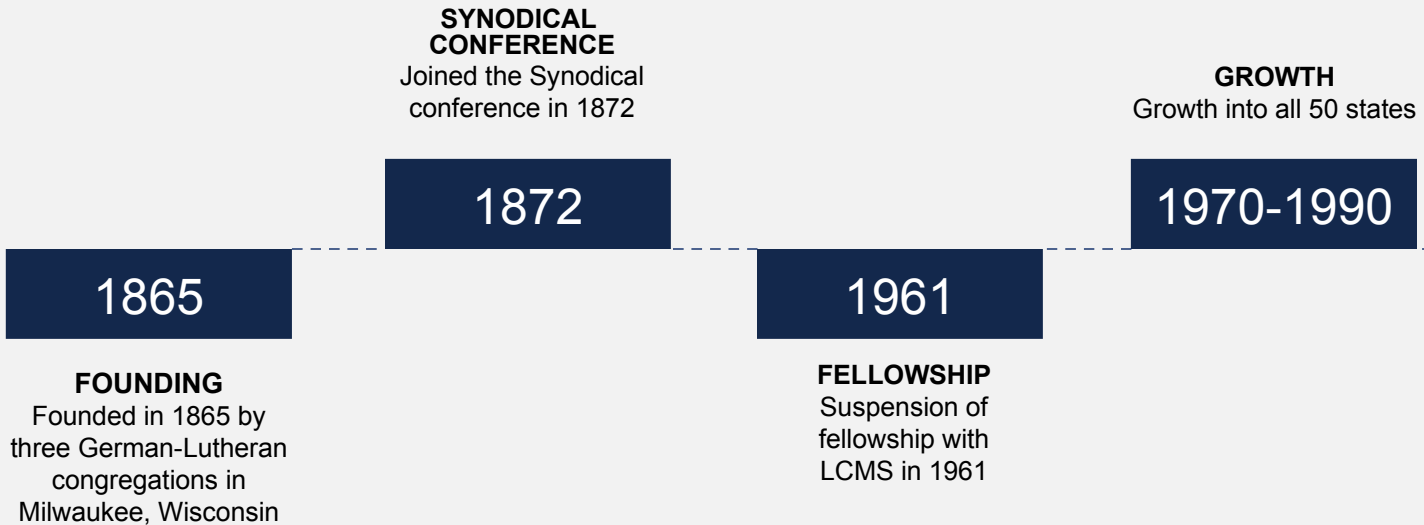
June 29– July 2, 2017
Grimma, Germany

OUR GREAT HERITAGE

500 years later, by God's grace, WELS...

- Proclaims that we are saved by **GRACE ALONE**
- Affirms that sinners are justified by **FAITH ALONE**
- Draws its teachings from **SCRIPTURE ALONE**
- Finds blessings, truth, and life in **JESUS CHRIST ALONE**

OUR HISTORY



OUR HISTORY

1993

CELC
Valued fellowship
with CELC churches



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

WELS IN BRIEF

- Third largest Lutheran church body in the United States
 - **1,270** churches
 - **1,394** Pastors
 - **95** Staff ministers
 - **369,221** baptized souls
 - **293,228** communicants
- One of the largest Christian school systems in U.S.
 - **313** elementary schools
 - **403** early childhood ministries
 - **25** area Lutheran high schools
 - **2,377** Teachers



WELS IN BRIEF

- Twelve districts, divided into conferences and circuits
- Synod headquarters located in Waukesha, Wisconsin



CALLED TO PREPARE

WELS supports four schools that equip students to serve as pastors, teachers, or staff ministers.

CALLED TO PREPARE

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY, Mequon, Wis.

- Established in 1863
- Has prepared more than **3,500 pastors** since 1863; current enrollment of **112**
- Provides professors and other instructors to assist in pastoral training in world mission fields and sister Lutheran church bodies, as coordinated by the Pastoral Studies Institute team



CALLED TO PREPARE

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE, New Ulm, Minn.

- College level training for pastors, teachers, and staff ministers; offers continuing education for called workers
- Also offers a master's program in education
- Trains teachers for Early Childhood Education in its early childhood learning center
- Stable enrollment: **710 students** on campus; **107** in graduate program; **3% foreign nationals**

CALLED TO PREPARE

LUTHER PREPATORY SCHOOL, Watertown, Wis. and
MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY, Saginaw, Mich.

- Prepare high school students to attend Martin Luther College and serve as called workers
- Enrollment has increased or remained stable over the past few years (LPS at **429**; MLS at **218**)
- Students given opportunities to gain personal knowledge of ministry on campus, in congregations, through during mission trips



CALLED TO PROCLAIM

WELS Home and World Missions
work together to share the gospel in
North America and around the world.

CALLED TO PROCLAIM

WORLD MISSIONS

- Called to proclaim God's Word around the world
- World missions serves **79,780 baptized members**, serves **60,000** more souls through correspondence and workshops
- In these countries WELS assists with training **160** men to be pastors and hundreds of people as church leaders
- Produces Lutheran material in more than **40** different languages by **Multi-Language Publications**

CALLED TO PROCLAIM

WORLD MISSIONS

- Exploring outreach possibilities in five additional countries
- Sponsors **38 missionaries, 9 teachers, and more than 60 lay workers in 23 countries**
- Makes initial contact with Lutheran churches seeking fellowship or partnership
- Pastoral Studies Institute team coordinates pastoral training around the world

CALLED TO PROCLAIM

HOME MISSIONS

- Called to proclaim God's Word in North America
- Includes campus and cross-cultural ministries
- Ten new mission congregations or mission enhancements planned for this year



CALLED TO SERVE

Congregational Services and these other ministry support groups are called to serve a supporting role in carrying out WELS' overall mission.

CALLED TO SERVE

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

- **EVANGELISM:** *My Son, My Savior* movie
- **ADULT DISCIPLESHIP:** Online Bible studies
- **WORSHIP:** New hymnal, 2017 worship conference
- **LUTHERAN SCHOOLS:** Supports more than 300 elementary schools, more than 20 high schools, and more than 400 early childhood ministries
- **YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY:** *Kids Connection*, 2016 International Youth Rally

CALLED TO SERVE

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

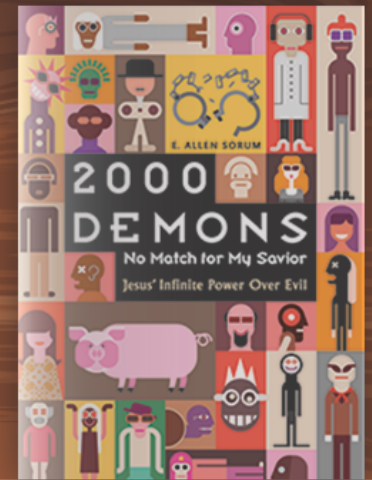
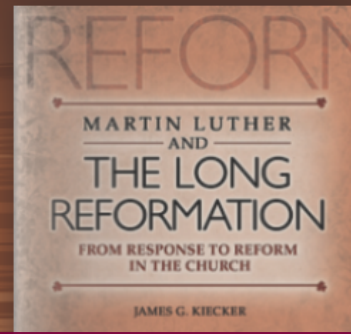
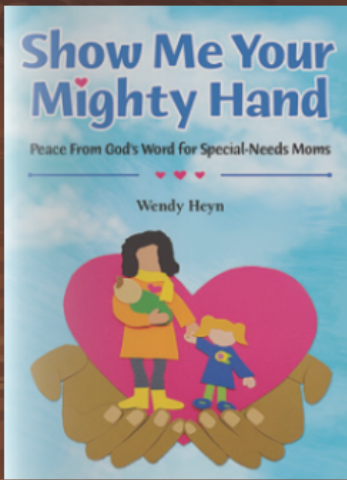
- **SPECIAL MINISTRIES:**
 - Helps serve people with special needs
 - **Prison Ministry:** provided 80,000 people with Bible studies; 70,000 have used Multi-Language Publications translations of these studies
 - Serves U.S military personnel in the U.S. and in Europe

CALLED TO SERVE

CHRISTIAN AID AND RELIEF

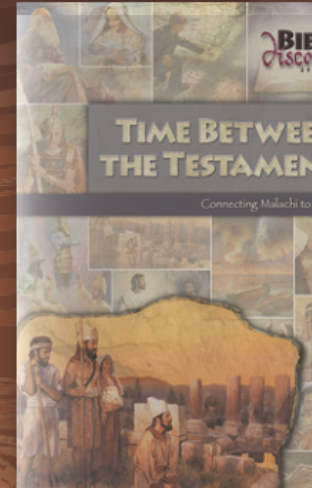
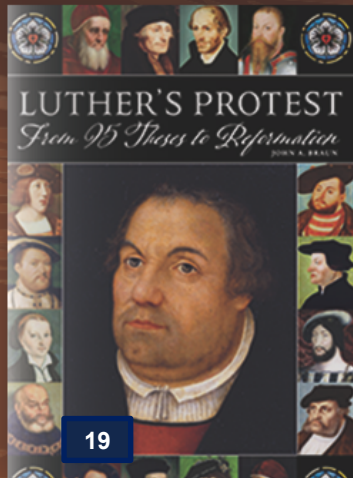
- Coordinates volunteers and relief efforts for natural disasters and special medical needs in the United States and around the world
- Works with the Board for World Missions to provide funding for humanitarian projects around the world





CALLED TO SUPPORT

Our subsidiaries and affiliate serve the synod and support its work in many different ways.



CALLED TO SUPPORT

- **NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE** delivers biblically sound, Christ-centered resources within WELS and beyond. Now 94 book titles and *Meditations* available in e-book format and *Forward in Christ* has a digital format.

CALLED TO SUPPORT

- **WELS CHURCH EXTENSION FUND** provides loans and grants for home missions through funding received by WELS member gifts and investments.
 - More than 4,000 WELS members, congregations, and affiliates entrusted CEF with invested dollars
 - Provided loans and grants to mission congregations which help to purchase land or build facilities



FINANCIAL PICTURE

- God has blessed WELS with enough support to sustain and even expand ministry, even in a difficult economy
- Congregations and individuals support the work of the synod through their offerings

PLEASE PRAY...

- For confessional brothers and sisters around the world
- For faithfulness to God's holy Word and the Lutheran Confessions
- For boldness to proclaim God's truth
- For mission zeal to reach the lost
- For God's Kingdom to come in keeping with his will and promise