



## 2022 MN District Special Ministries

Special Ministries is included in the “Congregational Services” section of the *Report to the Twelve Districts*, pages 19-24

**His Hands is back!** Twice a month, a blog article and some links in an email provide information on the many areas where Special Ministries provides resources for congregations to help people who cannot access gospel ministry without some sort of accommodation. Go to [wels.net/subscribe](https://wels.net/subscribe) to receive *His Hands*.

**Circuit Presentations: Addressing the Mental / Spiritual Health Crisis** A series of 90-minute online video presentations for WELS / ELS pastors and therapists will address mental health topics. A panel of pastors and therapists will discuss a topic where collaboration and cooperation between spiritual shepherds and professional Christian counselors can serve the needs of church members. The topical portion of each session will be recorded. After the recorded presentation, pastors and therapists will have time to ask questions and discuss. The number of WELS / ELS pastors and therapists in attendance at any presentation will be limited to offer more opportunity for attendees to participate in the discussion. Each mental health topic presentation will be repeated for groups of pastors who request the online learning session. Individual circuits or groups of pastors within organizations may schedule their own Effective Soul Care Partnership session. “Effective Soul Care Partnership” is a partnership between WLCFS Christian Family Solutions and WELS ELS Christian Therapists Network (a WELS Special Ministry). District Special Ministries Coordinators experienced a pilot presentation in May. See the WELS ELS Christian Therapists Network website for updated information ([christiantherapistnetwork.com](http://christiantherapistnetwork.com)) Contact Angela Glaeske at Christian Family Solutions ([aglaeske@wlcfs.org](mailto:aglaeske@wlcfs.org)) to schedule a case study at your next circuit meeting.

**Parenting children who have experienced trauma** is different from parenting children who haven't. Common parenting approaches often backfire. But there is hope! A self-paced, digital course, TBRI® 101, is now available through the Special Ministries' Light for Parents. This course offers an informal, yet thorough approach to Trust-Based Relational Intervention®, an evidence-based intervention for children from hard places of abuse, neglect, and/or trauma, including children who were adopted. Nearly eight hours of instruction cover the principles and strategies of TBRI® and offer practical tips for implementation. Parents will be able to work through the course at a pace and time that fits their lifestyle. **A limited number of free trainings are available** and will only be available to parents/grandparents/foster parents with children in their home. For further information or to apply for access to this course, please email [staff@lightforparents.com](mailto:staff@lightforparents.com).

**\$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](https://WELS.net/mdhh) or email [mdhh@wels.net](mailto:mdhh@wels.net).

**Grace brings sinners into God's family** Sometimes church members do not see the opportunity for the gospel to turn someone's life around – all we see is the sin. When a prisoner has been released after serving his sentence, or someone who has struggled with an addiction comes to

church for help in recovery, will they find welcome and encouragement among us? WELS Special Ministries is releasing free Bible study material, "Helping the Hurting with Hope." It will give a congregation the opportunity to discuss how its members can be more like Jesus in welcoming people who are seeking the hope only Jesus brings. Watch for the course to be posted on WELS Congregational Services website this summer.

**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 [chapcert@wels.net](mailto:chapcert@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 family 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 *newly updated* [conquerorsthroughchrist.net](http://conquerorsthroughchrist.net) website to your members and called workers.

**Training for meaningful volunteer opportunities** 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](http://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). Military Services is looking for writers to create content on specific topics to help military members and families and churches that serve them.

Rev. Patrick Feldhus  
WELS MN District Special Ministries Coordinator  
[pfeldhus@hotmail.com](mailto:pfeldhus@hotmail.com)