



## Minnesota District Lutheran Schools Committee

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*Assisting Beginning Teachers (ABT)*  
*Legal Issues*  
*Team Ministry Process (TMP)*

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### Report of the Minnesota District Lutheran Schools Coordinator 2012 Minnesota District Convention June 12-14, 2012

Dear Members of the Minnesota District:

I consider the work of the Minnesota District Lutheran Schools Coordinator to be both a joy and an awesome responsibility. In the past two years, the Lutheran Schools Committee (LSC) focused on Early Childhood needs, assisting our principals in their roles as school leaders, and representing WELS schools on the Minnesota CAPE board.

**Team Ministry Process.** The Commission on Lutheran Schools is continuing to rework the Team Ministry Process. One aspect of this is the development of the New Teacher Induction Program. This project has been field tested in the Southeast Wisconsin District and will be made available to other districts in the next few years. What makes this program different from our current method of mentoring is in the training and the follow through. Mentors are first trained in how to provide the most effective support and guidance for first and second year teachers. Then, regular meetings and follow through are scheduled into the program to give young teachers the best opportunities to grow. In addition to assisting new teachers, the Commission on Lutheran Schools has developed Leadership Institute Modules for strengthening our school leaders. These Leadership Modules can be conducted in a two-day seminar format. There are ten modules with each focusing on a vital aspect of school leadership. Two of the Leadership Institute Modules have been presented in our district. Two more will be presented this summer. Finally, a third aspect arm of improving our schools is a program of strengthening our teachers in their ministry. This will involve helping teachers develop an ongoing program of growth and development through the use of a ministry development plan.

**Early Childhood.** Amanda Berg from St. John's in Wood Lake serves as our Early Childhood Coordinator. She meets with other district EC Coordinators via phone on a monthly basis. With the addition of a national director of early childhood ministries, Cindi Holman, we should find more encouragement and support for our district early childhood programs. Also, Amanda coordinated an Early Childhood Conference on March 17, 2012.

**MLC Off-Site Inservice Courses.** MLC Professor David Bauer is willing to set up off-site inservice coursework in Minnesota. If your staff has a particular need or desire to grow professionally in any area of the teaching ministry, Prof. Bauer will be able to set up an inservice program for you. Consider using your facility to host an MLC course or seminar.

**Principals' Retreat.** Over the past five years, our district has conducted a Principals' Retreat for our school leaders. This past year included a Bible study, a presentation on teacher licensing, and a Leadership Institute Module focusing on Time Management. The Principals' Retreat has been funded primarily through the generous donations of the Holzhueter Foundation, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and The Lutheran Home Association.

**CLS Supplemental Funding Program.** The WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) continues to rely heavily on the Supplemental Funding Program to carry out many of the services that are offered to our WELS schools. Participation in the program is voluntary. The benefits mean reduced costs in CLS services and more funds available for district-wide work.

**Minnesota CAPE.** WELS Schools of the Minnesota District are represented the Minnesota Council of Private Education (MN CAPE). MN CAPE works to promote the interests of non-public education in the state of Minnesota. This past year MN CAPE worked to keep the following benefits for non-public schools:

- a. Non-Public Aids for Textbooks, Health Services, and Counseling. Most of our WELS schools make use of the approximately \$80.00 per child textbook allowance provided by the state.
- b. Bussing services for special needs.
- c. Certain tax benefits for parents of non-public students.

**School Accreditation.** The Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod School Accreditation Program (WELSSA) has nationwide acceptance through the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA). This makes WELSSA a viable option for those seeking accreditation for their school. Also, several Minnesota District WELS schools are accredited through the Minnesota Non-public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA). The Minnesota Nonpublic Education Council is considering WELSSA as a recognized accrediting agency. Currently, all three of our area Lutheran high schools are accredited. About half of our elementary schools are accredited or are in the process of accreditation.

**District Funds.** The Minnesota District Lutheran Schools Committee is funded through an annual gift of the Minnesota District Teachers' Conference and also private donations. Expenses include travel of committee members around the district, early childhood meetings, annual MN CAPE dues, annual Principals' Retreat, and postage. Below is the beginning and ending balance of the Lutheran Schools District Fund for the last biennium:

Beginning balance as of 6/1/08:	\$5122.30
Ending balance as of 5/31/10:	\$5089.58

Respectfully submitted in His name,

Daniel Whitney,  
MN District Lutheran Schools Coordinator