

## District Special Ministries Report to the 2012 Minnesota District Convention

**Committee members:** Dallas Miller, Steve Smith, Julie Luetke, Darren Green - coord. (appoint. April, 09).

**Commission on Special Ministries** report can be found on page 24-29 in the RTTD.

**WELS Special Ministries** currently serves people and congregations in 8 areas of special need: mental health, visual impairment and blindness, deaf and hard of hearing, military services, care of called workers, health and wellness (hospital, nursing home, ministry to aging, Parish Nursing, etc.), prison and jail ministry and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our Minnesota District is blessed to have the Mission for the Visually Impaired Workshop and Prison Ministry both operated in Minnesota. The Lutheran Home and Jesus Cares Ministries, also here in Minnesota, work closely together with us in the area of special ministries.



**Our Mission** -- Our District Special Ministry

Committee exists to assist the congregations of the MN district identify, encourage and lovingly serve the souls with special needs in their congregation and community, while working with our synod committees to communicate and make people aware of available resources and assistance.

### Areas of Activity

❖ **WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 2012 National Convention will be in Shakopee, MN**



Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

**on August 4-5.** Our district has the privilege of hosting the convention this year at Living Hope Lutheran Church in Shakopee, MN. This year's theme is "Undiscovered Souls: Reaching Out and Spreading the Word of God to All." Saturday is a full day including opening devotion, keynote speaker, four workshop sessions, and evening social. The convention concludes Sunday morning with Bible Class and a contemporary worship service. All sessions will provide accessibility by utilizing sign language interpreters, FM system, sound induction loop, and on-screen CART captioning. Cost is \$75 for the full convention. I would encourage congregations to send a representative, possibly even someone that is hard of hearing or deaf. Resources will be shared that may help you better share the gospel clearly with souls in your congregation and communities. For more information go to [www.wels.net/special-ministries](http://www.wels.net/special-ministries).

❖ **European Chaplaincy & Military Services** continues to provide spiritual services to WELS members



Military Services

and others who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Our chaplain in Europe serves not only our military, but also civilian contacts. We depend on you to share names of those who are deployed. You can refer names and find more information at [www.wels.net/military-services](http://www.wels.net/military-services). Deployment kits are given to new contacts, which include a bible, devotions and sermons on a credit-card size mp3 player. Regular devotions and encouragement are also sent via email.

- A DVD is available for showing to your members about the European Chaplaincy & Military Services. Stop at our display for a copy.

- ❖ **Connecting Nurses in our MN District to WELSNA** (*WELS Nurses Association*). A Nurses Meet & Greet event is scheduled in the Twin Cities Area this Thursday, June 14th at Christ Lutheran Church in North St. Paul from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. WELSNA (WELS Nurses Association) is in its infancy stage, but is working to create an avenue for nurses in WELS to collaborate, learn from each other and support each other in their work and spiritual growth. The nurses also would like to use this group as a way to build up a database and share volunteer opportunities both locally and abroad. A Meet & Greet already took place in West St. Paul last fall and they plan to have another Meet & Greet this fall, 2012 in Rochester. A quarterly newsletter is available online. For more information about WELSNA and to sign up for the newsletter go to [www.welsnurses.net](http://www.welsnurses.net).



- **New Booklet and Bible Study on Alzheimer's produced by The Lutheran Home is available.** For information check out: <http://www.tlha.org/resources/aging-resources/alzheimers-resources/>.

- ❖ **IDDM & JCM** – Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDDM) & Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM)
  - **New Bible studies** – *We Worship Jesus & Dear Christian Friend* [Set 4 Old Test.]
  - **Jesus Cares Bible Camps** — Camp Omega, Waterville, MN - Sept. 28-30, 2012; or Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN - Oct. 7-9, 2012. In 2011, we had 25 and 34 campers with volunteer counselors at a 1:1 to 1:2 ratios! MLC students assisted at one of the camps. For more information, please contact: Julie Luetke, 507 S. 11th Street, Olivia, MN 56277, [jluetke@tlha.org](mailto:jluetke@tlha.org). Forms have been sent out to pastors and congregational contact people with a Jesus Cares Bible study.
  - **Jesus Cares Bible Classes** continue in many congregations in our district serving those with developmental disabilities in both their congregations and communities. Julie Luetke, coordinator/trainer through Jesus Cares Ministries (under The Lutheran Home), has been a tremendous blessing for building interest among laypeople for this ministry, training, guiding through the first steps and helping churches serve people in their community with special needs. The newest churches to start classes are Glenwood and Austin, MN.



- ❖ **Prison Ministry Work Continues to Expand** in our district with many, both pastors and lay people, serving our jails and prisons. (Thank you to those who serve.) Pastor Rick Tuttle has been asked by the prison ministry training group to serve as a trainer in our district. A new development has started in our district in prison ministry under the umbrella of LIMA, but funded for one year by WLIM (WI Lutheran Institutional Ministries). Dave Nack will be searching out and looking at the prisons and jails in MN and checking for opportunities to offer one-on-one ministry using lay members from congregations in the area. He will be working to connect with those already serving to ask how things are going and if any assistance could be given.
  - Mr. Nack also serves as administrator of the prison ministry office in New Ulm where many volunteers work to send Bible studies, correspondence and tests to inmates. Two new Bible studies have been produced: "God Is My Anger Manager" and "Righteous through Faith," a simplified commentary on Romans. The Romans book is available for \$5 through NPH.
  - Information is available to instruct Sunday School & grade school classrooms how they can make book marks & cards that are sent to the prisoners.
  - Mission offerings are welcome and needed. Mr. Nack is also willing to come speak at churches.



❖ **Mental Health & Counseling** - Professor Alan Sigglekow, the chairman of the committee, has spoken



MENTAL HEALTH CARE

in our district on the topic of "Internet Addictions: Intervention and Treatment." He is scheduled to speak again at some of our conferences. The committee also has counseling brochures available, stop by our display for more information.

- **Congregations interested in offering WELS Christian Counseling** may want to look into a program offered through Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Services called Member Assistance Program (MAP). Churches or schools can purchase a block of counseling time which is conducted via a secure online video link with a professional counselor in the member's home or at the church/school. For information: [wlcfs.org/memberAssistanceProgram/overview.aspx](http://wlcfs.org/memberAssistanceProgram/overview.aspx).

❖ **Care Committee for Called Workers** – This committee works to make materials available to help congregations in supporting and serving their called workers. Pastor Mark Faulk of the District Help Committee and Pastor Darren Green are willing to help your congregation set up a committee or speak with your circuit pastor. A DVD is available to assist in starting the program in your congregation.



Called Worker Care

of the District Help Committee and Pastor Darren Green are willing to help your congregation set up a committee or speak with your circuit pastor. A DVD is available to assist in starting the program in your congregation.

- **Care Committee Survey** – Our national CCCW chairman asked for each delegate's assistance in filling out a survey that will be distributed during the convention. I would appreciate your assistance in filling it out and return it to me this week.

○ **Mission to the Visually Impaired (MVI)** has a new chairman, Mr. Bill Bremel, who took over for Mr.



Visually Impaired

Ron Freiling. This great group of volunteers in the Twin Cities area offers materials on audio or in Braille for those with visual impairments. All materials are sent free of charge. Meditations, Forward in Christ & Clearly Caring are all recorded on cassette or CD for visually impaired members to listen to, and are provided at NO COST! *Forward in Christ* is also available in large print format. To order free materials from the Mission for the Visually Impaired, call (651)

291-1536, e-mail at [Welsvisimp@aol.com](mailto:Welsvisimp@aol.com), or use the on-line services at [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net). A display kit is available to show the blessings of this ministry. [*Good for putting up at LWMS rallies/meetings or at your congregation*]. For the past two years MVI has assisted our school in Redwood Falls, MN, providing braille materials to a new student that is blind.

I especially want to thank all the faithful volunteers that have helped with Special Ministries in the Minnesota District. Our committee is working to expand our communication contacts so that we can better share information with each conference. We also want to report to more of the LWMS rallies throughout our district. So much of the resources provided through special ministries can be used or shared by lay people in our congregations with the result that they lighten the load of our pastors.

We are thankful for the many years of service of our present administrator, Carl Ziemer, who plans to retire this fall. He served many years as our District special Ministry Coordinator before he accepted the call to serve at the synod level. We pray that the Lord provides a good man to take his place.

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas, please share them with us. Check out our Special Ministry display for more information and to look through materials. Thank you.

In service to our Loving Savior Jesus Christ - Pastor Darren Green, District Special Ministry Coordinator