



Report - Summer 2024

The Lord has graciously provided a number of opportunities for missions and ministries supported by the Minnesota District Mission Board and the WELS Board for Home Missions. Each one is unique. No two are the same. We can look down the list of these opportunities and give thanks for the variety of ways God’s people are reaching out to those around them. In our district alone, Home Missions is supporting a mission restart, a preaching-station-turned-mission-plant, a multi-site mission, Hmong ministry, Hispanic ministry, a church making in-roads with a local school, and two merging churches who asked for help navigating plans for unified ministry.

Location	Congregation	Missionary	Type
Cedar Rapids & North Liberty, IA	Good Shepherd	Rev. Lucas Callies, Rev. Billy King	Multi-site mission
O’Fallon, IL	Peace	Rev. Philip Schroeder	New start
Prior Lake, MN	Faith	Rev. Stephen Schmiel, Mr. Ric Gibson	Ministry enhancement
Rockford, MN & Greenfield, MN	Cross, Salem	Rev. David Russow, Rev. Paul Schuler	Unsubsidized mission status
St. Paul, MN	Immanuel Hmong	Rev. Pheng Moua	Cross-cultural
St Paul, MN	St. John/San Juan	Rev. Timothy Otto	Cross-cultural
West Des Moines, IA	Beautiful Savior	Rev. Brian Schmidt	Mission Restart

New This Year

Faith in Prior Lake has developed a relationship with a standalone early childhood center that bought a portion of its vacant land and built a new facility across the parking lot from the church. The center has agreed to let Faith develop the Bible curriculum for use at the center, and Home Missions funding will allow a part-time staff minister to lead Bible lessons, connect with parents, and coordinate Faith’s members to volunteer at the center on a regular basis. This mission enhancement was approved in Spring 2024.

Salem Lutheran in Greenfield and Cross in Rockford have begun the process of unifying their efforts into one ministry. Gaining unsubsidized mission status in 2024

will allow them access to the support and advice of the mission counselor as they develop and execute their plan for reaching their communities.

Where Next?

As our national church body has adopted the 100 missions in 10 years initiative, our MN DMB is proactively identifying new locations and working with core groups or existing ministries. While rising costs limited the number of new starts approved in Spring 2024, we remain committed to the initiative. Please let us know if you have a place in mind that you think we should explore. With your help, we have already identified a number of locations, mapped them, and are working to prioritize them. DMB members or the Mission Counselor have visited some of these places or will do so soon. Locations we have begun initial talks include:

- St. Mark, Mankato, MN
- Inver Grove Heights, MN
- Walker, MN
- Grace, Columbia, MO
- St. John's, Minneapolis, MN
- Burnsville, MN

We are thankful to the many members, pastors, and congregations in our district who support us in these efforts and who have started conversations about mission opportunities in their local context. If you would like to stay up-to-date about missions in our district, visit www.mndistrictmissions.com. For the missions throughout WELS, visit www.wels100in10.net.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Steve Waldschmidt, Chairman (Christ Alone, Dardenne Prairie, MO)

Rev. Robert Guenther (St. John's, New Ulm, MN)

Rev. Mark Kaesmeyer (West Lutheran HS, Plymouth, MN)

Mr. Daryl Schultz (Resurrection & Life, Rochester, MN)

Mr. Glenn Schulz (Zion, Springfield, MO)

Rev. Dustin Sievert (St. Croix Lutheran HS, West St. Paul, MN)