

## What benefits does our congregation receive by being a member of WELS?

1. **IDENTIFICATION:** The WELS logo helps people to quickly identify a congregation as a member of the WELS church body: a conservative, Bible-believing church that celebrates Christ's love shown in his redemption of all people from sin, a church that sees as its calling the sharing of his love with the world.
2. **TRAINING:** Our pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and missionaries have all been trained by the same ministerial education system that focuses on proclaiming the Word of God and that provides opportunities for continuing education.
3. **OVERSIGHT:** Our Conference of Presidents funds and communicates the synod's ministry plan as well as makes sure that WELS stays united in its teachings and practices. The Synodical Council manages the synod's ministry plan, ensures that all gifts are used wisely, and acts on behalf of congregations between conventions.
4. **MISSIONS:** Our Home Missions division assists congregations with opening new missions and daughter congregations in the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean. Our World Missions division carries the gospel throughout the rest of the world.
5. **FINANCES:** WELS Church Extension Fund provides grants and low interest loans to mission congregations that are purchasing land and building churches. WELS Foundation provides giving instruments that individuals can use to support the Lord's work both now and after they have gone to heaven. Christian giving counselors are assigned to all congregations in North America to assist individuals with carrying out their charitable intentions. WELS Investment Funds provides cost-effective, professionally managed investment portfolios for endowment, scholarship, and charitable trust funds.
6. **PUBLISHING:** Northwestern Publishing House produces literature that is true to God's Word including Bible study materials for all ages, commentaries, devotions, and Sunday school materials. WELS Multi-Language Publications translates materials into different languages for use in our world mission fields.
7. **CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT:** WELS Congregation and Ministry Support Group provides resources and services to support and strengthen congregations with their Lutheran schools, youth ministry, adult discipleship, worship, evangelism, and special ministries.
8. **CALLED WORKER SUPPORT:** WELS VEBA provides health, disability, and pension coverage to all of our called workers, striving to produce results that are advantageous to them and financially prudent for our congregations and synod. WELS Human Resources is available for advice as congregations strive to display the "double honor" we are to show our pastors, teachers, and staff ministers (1 Timothy 5:17).

God gives us the privilege of reaching out to the world in his name and his Holy Spirit works generosity in our hearts so that these and other ministries can exist. Our congregational offerings are, year after year, the main source for funding the proclamation of Christ's love to us and to all the world.