

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church, Columbus, WI



Does prayer really make a difference?



"I must not be asking God for the right things."

"If only I could concentrate better when I pray."

"Maybe God is not really listening after all."

If these are thoughts that ever cross your mind or settle in your heart, then maybe you are asking the question, "Does prayer really work?" Maybe you have been praying for a long time and have not received the answer you wanted or felt that there hasn't been any change.

Well, there is good news. There are two reasons for this. First, prayer does not depend on us. If answers to our prayers depended on us, we would never have our prayers answered, because as sinful people God would not listen to us. That might hurt our feelings, but it is the truth.

That leads to the subsequent reason why prayer makes a difference. It depends upon God. In the

Bible, we read this little prayer, "Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief" (Psalm 143:1). The person who spoke this prayer recognized that it was God's faithfulness on which the answer to his request depended.

God's faithfulness was demonstrated when he kept his promise to send us Jesus. In saving love, Jesus died to pay for our sins that had separated us from God and had closed his ears to our prayers. Jesus' perfect sacrifice opens the way to God and gives believers in Jesus the gracious promise that their prayers are heard and answered.

If you are struggling with prayer—if you don't know what to pray for, or how to pray—worship with us to hear more about your Savior, Jesus, and the difference he makes for your prayers. Because of Jesus, prayer really does work. We have his Word on it.

WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays

6:30 pm

Sundays

8:00 and 10:30 am



Pray for Ukraine

WELS is supporting the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, especially with emergency needs as their country is torn apart by war.

wels.net/ukraine

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

May 2022



Easter 3 Jr. Choir & Hand Chimes (6-8) 8 - 9am Worship, Communion 8am Online Worship Posted 9 - 10am 25 Years Teaching Celebration 9:15 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30am Worship: Communion	1	2	3 7 - 9pm *WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	4 7 - 7:30am Faculty Bible Study 6:30 - 7:30pm Bell Choir Practice 7:30 - 8:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	5 7:45 - 11:30am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 2 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 - 7:30pm Worship	6 6 - 6:45am Bible Breakfast Zion 1-4 Track Meet	7 BLAC Divisional Track Meet
Good Shepherd Mother's Day Adult Choir 8 - 9am Worship 8am Online Worship Posted 9 - 10am Bible Study 9:15 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30am Worship	8	9 9am - 12:30pm Circuit Pastor's Meeting (Zion, Columbus) 6:30 - 7:30pm Board of Ed Meeting	10 1:30 - 2:30pm Spring Concert 6:30 - 7:30pm Stewardship Board 6:30 - 7:30pm Spring Concert 7 - 9pm *WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	11 7 - 7:30am Faculty Bible Study 6:30 - 7:30pm Bell Choir Practice	12 7:45 - 11:30am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 - 7:30pm Worship	13 6 - 6:45am Bible Breakfast 12:30 - 1:30pm Early Release	14 BLAC Conference Track Meet 10am - 2pm Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall Reserved (Funeral)
Easter 5 8 am Worship, Communion 8am Online Worship Posted 9 - 10am Bible Study 9:15 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship, Communion 11:30am Voters' Meeting 1 - 3pm Teen's Video Game Party	15	16 3:30 - 5pm Faculty meeting	17 6 - 7pm PATZ Meeting 7 - 9pm *WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	18 7 - 7:30am Faculty Bible Study 6:30 - 7:30pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30 - 8pm Council Meeting	19 3-4 Field Trip Old World Wisconsin 7:45 - 11:30am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 - 7:30pm Worship	20 BLAC Softball Tournament 6 - 6:45am Bible Breakfast	21 LSA Track Meet Track Meet Rain Date
Easter 6 8 - 9am Worship 8am Online Worship Posted 9 - 10am Bible Study 9:15 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30am Worship	22	23 9 - 10:30am Sanctuary : Monthly Cleaning 8th Grade Banquet	24 7 - 9pm *WELS Wind Ensemble Practice	25 7 - 7:30am Faculty Bible Study 6:30 - 7:30pm Bell Choir Practice	26 Ascension Last Day of School 7:45 - 11:30am Sanctuary: Weekly Cleaning 6:30 - 7:30pm Worship, Communion, Zion Graduation K4 8 Sing	27 6 - 6:45am Bible Breakfast Faculty in-service 11 am - 6pm Freecycle drop-off	28 6:42am - 6:42pm Free Cycle
Ascension 8 - 9am Worship, Communion 8am Online Worship Posted 9 - 10am Bible Study 9:15 - 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship, Communion	29	30 Memorial Day Fellowship Hall Reserved	31 7 - 9pm *WELS Wind Ensemble Practice				

8 Questions for Joseph Grambsch

1. *You are currently a senior at Martin Luther College, studying for the teaching ministry and awaiting call day. How did you reach a decision to go in that direction?*

MLC had always been on my radar since I was in grade school at Zion, but once I got to high school and was consistently being nudged by many teachers and friends to become a teacher, and after a lot of thought I knew MLC was the place to be and that I wanted to go there. I never wavered from that decision during my high school years and now here I am four years after graduating high school preparing to graduate from MLC and get my first assignment.

2. *How did your time at Zion and Lakeside Lutheran High School prepare you for MLC?*

Consistently amazing examples of called workers throughout my time at both schools was a huge influence on me, seeing how they carried themselves and how they took on every day with the approach of how they are spreading the Word everyday was inspiring. Zion and Lakeside both also provided me with amazing Christian friends, many of whom I am still in close contact with today. These friends helped keep me on a straight path and continued to push me to go to MLC.

3. *What kind of friends have you found to hang out with?*

At MLC, I have the blessing of being surrounded by people who share a common faith. This provides me with the opportunity of having a number of different experiences with a number of different

people. But my closest friend group consists of people all in the same track as me (teacher track) and have a lot of the same interests. Since we all had many classes together, we all became extremely close and hang out quite a bit, whether it's watching movies, going to meals together, or just hanging out in the dorm.

4. *What kind of habits do you develop to keep your faith strong?*

Having chapel every day is a huge blessing at MLC and one that provides each student a great opportunity to grow in their faith and be encouraged by many fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Attending chapel every day is one habit I

have been able to develop that has helped my faith life a lot. Also, building in time to be able to go through a daily devotional has been a great benefactor for me as well.

5. *What has turned out to be better than you thought it would about life at college? What has been the most challenging that you did not expect?*

One aspect of campus life that surprised me was the fact that you really do not have a huge social divide between older and younger

students. In high school, it is such a cliché that seniors will completely avoid the freshmen and the freshmen will be terrified of the seniors. But at MLC, everyone is there for the same purpose and everyone is including and very encouraging when it comes to being successful at MLC. We really are just one big happy family. There really has not been anything that I find more challenging than what I had expected; some different things I have found challenging at times though include: staying motivated to do homework at times, managing my time well so that I get a good amount of sleep.

6. *What have been your favorite classes? (Feel free to name names of professors if you like.)*



Some of my favorite classes I have taken over my time at MLC are:

- Teaching with Technology with Dr. James Carlovsky
- Curriculum and Instruction with Dr. Paul Tess
- United States History since 1945 with Dr. Timothy Grundmeier

These are three of my favorite classes, there are a lot of other good classes I have taken at MLC but these three needed to be highlighted.

7. *You have had a couple of field experiences in the classroom. How do you view teachers differently now that you are looking at being one?*

Teachers are always on the go and never have enough time in the day. As you are going through your time at MLC, you never really truly understand what it's like to be a teacher until you are fully immersed in your student teaching. I have even more respect for teachers now after seeing just how much it is that they do.

Even having two parents who are teachers, I never knew just how much they did until now.

8. *What is your hope for call day, in other words, in what kind of teaching setting do you think your God-given gifts will help you serve best?*

I am looking forward to getting a call into really any field of teaching. I am hoping for anything in the area of 3rd-8th grade and serving as either a Technology Director or Athletic Director and also being in the Principal Training Program or even being assigned as a Principal right away (even though it is extremely rare). I think the Lord has given me all my experiences throughout life to be a teacher and a principal and I look forward to serving him and spreading his Word to wherever that He leads me.

Joe is a senior at Martin Luther College, the WELS training college for teachers, staff ministers and seminary students. He is awaiting a teaching assignment on May 14. Joe is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Grambsch, teachers at Zion.

Newsletter of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

The Messenger

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Columbus, WI 53925

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Council Names and Numbers

Dan Retzlaff, Chairman	920-319-0018
Matt Weidner, Vice-Chairman	920-319-6017
Nick Uebelacker, Secretary	608-225-8861
Will Penterman, Treasurer	920-750-8763
Andrew Tratar, Education	920-296-1485
Noah Litherland, Elders	608-354-5131
Nils Johansson, Outreach	608-239-5123
Aaron Larson, Property	608-220-6906
Otto Mattke, Stewardship	608-516-5279
Craig Lathrop, Family Ministry	608-770-2498

Our Mission

The mission of Zion
Evangelical Lutheran Church
and School is to preach and
teach God's saving Word in
all its truth and purity.

Get in Touch

Church/School Office
(920) 623-5180
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www.zioncolumbus.org

Tim Schwartz, Pastor
(509) 480-2967
tschwartz24@gmail.com

Ben Zuberbier, Pastor
(920) 517-7940
pastorbenzuberbier@gmail.com

Alex Vandenberg, Principal
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avandenberg@zioncrusaders.com

Jim Grasby, Lakeside Principal
(920) 648-2321

Thanks
be to God
for his
indescribable
gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15

USHERS FOR MARCH

May 1st & May 8th

8:00am - Team E7	10:30am - Team L3
Mike Vick (C)	Jim Kluetzman (C)
Troy Kehoe (A)	Gabe Uttech
Bruce Hatzinger	AJ Uttech
Ron Yerges	Michael Uttech
Jake Boness	Gary Schuhmacher
Bryan Peck	Jadon Schwartz

May 15th & May 22nd

8:00am - Team E1	10:30am - Team L4
Jeff Henning (C)	Kurt Zander (C)
Daryl Berndt (A)	Jim Yohn
Leo Fischer	Kane Brownsowski
Matt Weidner	Wyatt Brownsowski
Rodney Hacht	Jack Schultz
Mark Tiedt	Jesse Schultz

May 26th - Ascension & Graduation

7:00 pm - Team L5
 Phil Manteufel (C)
 Peter Lewke
 Josiah Schwartz
 Micah Schwartz

May 29th & June 5th

8:00am - Team E2	10:30am - Team L6
Dale Schilling (C)	Paul Kehl (C)
Dale Gadjosik	Otto Mattke (A)
Kenneth Schulz	Dennis Winter
Matt Yaroch	Carl Wolf
Nick Yaroch	William Mattke
Nate Yaroch	Nils Johansson
	Shaun Opsahl

If you have any questions about the usher schedule, would like to be added as an usher or won't be able to serve any longer as an usher, please call Randy Koehn at (920) 296-4333.

APRIL WORSHIP WELCOMERS

May 1st

8:00am	10:30am
Delmar & Carol Vick	Otto & Sheree Mattke

May 8th

8:00am	10:30am
Dale & Joyce Gajdosik	Bev Herold & Nicole Henning

May 15th

8:00am	10:30am
Wilma Lenz	John & Sarah Brey

May 22nd

8:00am	10:30am
Delphine Schaefer	Nils & Lara Johansson

May 20th

8:00am	10:30am
Jeff & Melody Krakow	Aaron & Rachel Larson

If you are interested in being added as a greeter or need to be removed from the schedule, please contact Melody Krakow at (920) 210-6323.



Church Attendance March

Date	Total
2/6	508
9/13	487
16/20	396
23/27	456
30	217

Membership Changes

Transfer In:

Michael & Megan Hauf, Kenley & McKeal

Transfer Out:

None

Released:

None



Elaine Vangen	5th	96 years
Jane Evers	13th	81 years
Patricia Heiman	13th	80 years
Delores Karow	16th	91 years
Nancy Kind	27th	80 years

Ministrations

Baptisms:

None

Deaths:

4. Kristina Brenner - Born 5/7/1973; Died 3/22/2022
5. David Harle - Born 9/27/1960; Died 3/29/2022

Marriages:

None

Confirmations:

Michael & Megan Hauf - Confirmed 3/13/2022

Affirmations of Faith:

None

Messenger Deadline

Please submit your Messenger articles by May 20th.

Contact Sue Henning at
(608) 225-4853 or

suehenning25@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Zion Profit & Loss YTD Comparison

March 2022

Ordinary Income/Expense	Mar-22	Budget Monthly	Fiscal YTD Jul 21 - Feb 22	YTD Budget	
Income					
Extended Care Reimbursement	\$ 309.43		\$ 4,661.00		
Extra Synod Missions Income	0.00		1,354.50		
Family Ministry	0.00		400.00		
General Fund Offerings	55,305.27		556,505.56		
Gifts to Payoff Bank Loan	60.00		3,504.00		
LLHS Building Income	200.00		450.00		
Money borrowed from FMUB	15,000.00		60,000.00		
Other Donations	-1,738.00		2,469.50		
Other Receipts	33.67		2,394.48		
Sub Teacher Reimbursement	0.00		12.16		
Total Income	\$ 69,170.37		\$ 631,751.20		
Expense					
ACH Fee	1.00	0	4.00	0	
Called Workers Salaries & Taxes	\$ 30,263.02	\$ 32,886.49	\$ 287,291.19	\$ 295,978.38	97%
Church Supplies	758.02	83.33	2,203.25	750.00	294%
Convention/Cont' Education	0.00	20.83	560.00	187.50	299%
Copier	841.40	275.00	2,180.35	2,475.00	88%
Extended Care Expense	683.75	0.00	5,010.84	0.00	100%
Family Ministry Board	0.00	262.50	812.67	2,362.50	34%
Funds in Transit	254.00		253.95		
Guest Pastor	178.00	62.50	1,235.00	562.50	220%
Health Insurance	8,418.39	8,504.17	75,765.51	76,537.50	99%
HRA Savings	0.00	2,000.00	12,000.00	18,000.00	67%
Interest Expense	336.89	41.67	635.86	375.00	170%
Janitors					
Church Labor	770.00	650.00	6,144.00	5,850.00	105%
School Labor	805.50	791.67	9,435.29	7,125.00	132%
Total Janitors	1,575.50	1,441.67	15,579.29	12,975.00	120%
LLHS Buiding Expense	200.00		350.00		
LLHS Expense	2,850.00	2,850.00	25,750.00	25,650.00	100%
Maintenance					
Inspection Fees	0.00	0.00	1,332.04	1,875.00	71%
Janitorial Supplies Church	74.78	74.78	850.13	1,500.00	57%
Janitorial Supplies School	438.47	0.00	2,072.46	1,500.00	138%
Pest Control	200.00	198.00	2,362.00	1,875.00	126%
Property Improvements	0.00	833.33	2,587.58	7,500.00	35%
Property Repair	0.00	1,250.00	1,833.62	11,250.00	16%
Trash Removal	0.00	191.67	2,018.86	1,725.00	117%
Other	0.00	0.00	788.87	0.00	100%
Total Maintenance	713.25	2,547.78	13,845.56	27,225.00	51%
Meditations	0.00	125.00	1,125.00	1,125.00	100%
Mileage	0.00	583.33	619.54	5,250.00	12%
Miscellaneous	59.94		279.94		
Organists	622.70	566.67	4,383.84	5,100.00	86%
Outreach Board	0.00	541.67	480.05	4,875.00	10%
Payroll Expenses	267.50	166.67	2,317.00	1,500.00	154%
Pension Insurance	9,822.00	3,029.67	30,666.00	27,267.00	112%
Postage and Delivery	158.94	100.00	1,366.54	900.00	152%
Secretarial	2,254.31	2,563.17	20,200.09	23,068.50	88%
Stewardship Board	376.54	291.67	2,948.13	2,625.00	112%
Substitute Teaching	220.39		162.75	0.00	
Sunday School/VBS	0.00		151.92	0.00	
Synod Mission Expense	5,700.00	5,700.00	52,604.50	51,300.00	103%
Telephone & Internet Expense	481.65	291.67	3,035.79	2,625.00	116%
Utilities					
Water & Light	3,666.25	3,468.33	35,317.47	31,215.00	113%
WE Energies	3,285.67	1,233.33	13,510.18	11,100.00	122%
Total Utilities	6,951.92	4,701.67	48,827.65	42,315.00	115%
Worker Comp/Liability Insurance	3,289.00	1,383.33	3,364.00	12,450.00	27%
Worship	334.00	1,141.67	18,842.07	10,275.00	183%
Total Expense	77,612.11	70,366.83	634,852.28	633,301.50	100%
Net Ordinary Income	-8,441.74		-3,101.08		

Zion Free Cycle

When: Saturday, May 28, 2022 6:42 am – 6:42 pm

Sunday, May 29, 2022 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: Zion School Gym

822 Western Ave, Columbus, WI 53925

Donations will be accepted on Friday, May 27, 2022, from
11:00 am – 6:00 pm.

School supplies or books can be donated instead of pantry items
this year in support of Christian Education.

TOGETHER



April 19, 2022


Conference of Presidents holds spring 2022 meeting

The Conference of Presidents held its spring meeting on April 4-6. Here are some of the issues that were discussed and decisions that were made at the meeting.

- There are 162 vacancies in pastoral positions, with 141 of those being vacancies in congregations. The graduating class at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will number only in the mid-20s, which means that the shortage of pastors will continue. Next year's class numbers in the 40s, which should provide some relief a year from now. Teacher vacancies number in the 300s. After the assignment of teachers at Martin Luther College (MLC) in May, nearly 200 teacher vacancies will remain. The district presidents will be working with congregations to find ways to fill those vacancies before school starts in the fall.
- After Mr. Bill Ziche retired from his position as president of Northwestern Publishing House, Mr. Jeremy Angle was hired by the board to serve as his replacement. Mr. Angle will begin his duties as president in early May.
- The COP expressed its thanks to God and to WELS members for the generous support that has been given for humanitarian work in Ukraine.
- Mark Gabb, chairman of the Board for Home Missions (BHM), and Rev. Keith Free, BHM administrator, provided the COP with an overview of the 100 missions in 10 years initiative.
- The COP called Rev. Philip Spaude to serve in a part-time retirement call as a Christian giving counselor. The COP also issued full-time calls to Rev. Lon Kuether, Rev. Craig Wasser, and Rev. Steven Schmeling as Christian giving counselors.
- The COP was given a presentation by Dr. Victor Vieth, a nationally recognized expert on child abuse (and WELS member). Vieth gave a strong encouragement to the COP to assist WELS congregations to adopt policies that will serve to help congregations to identify potential victims of child abuse. District presidents will be making resources available to congregations to help them be more informed about the issues and to take steps toward prevention and providing needed spiritual care.
- Rev. Phil Hirsch, president of the Nebraska District, was elected to as one of the three COP representatives on the Synodical Council, replacing North Atlantic District President Rev. Don Tollefson, who is retiring in June.
- As requested by the Synodical Council, the COP directed the Commission on Lutheran Schools to begin developing a new K-12 religion curriculum.

- The COP endorsed a proposal by MLC to offer a Competency-Based Education program to encourage people not trained at MLC to consider training for the teaching ministry in WELS.
- An Early Childhood Ministry Task Force has been formed to evaluate the needs of teachers and calling bodies and to recommend strategic curricular approaches to meet those needs.
- The COP asked Rev. Paul Prange, administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education, to take responsibility for planning and carrying out the Grow in Grace retreats for pastors who have served for 10, 25, and 35 years. This had previously been the responsibility of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.
- The COP plans to distribute a final draft of its document "God's Beautiful and Balanced Design for Male and Female" for discussion in late summer or early fall.

The Conference of Presidents will next meet as the Assignment Committee at Martin Luther College and at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in May.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

Support for Ukraine continues

Members of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC), WELS' sister church body in Ukraine, along with all the people of Ukraine, have been under attack for nearly two months. Many people have fled their homes seeking safety. ULC members have remained unharmed, though they too are facing the hardships of this war. Despite the danger and hardships, the ULC is finding ways to help its fellow countrymen.

WELS members have demonstrated generous hearts to help fellow Christians in Ukraine. WELS World Missions has been able to send funds so that the ULC can buy food and other supplies not only for its members but also to help the many people fleeing their homes. In addition, WELS Christian Aid and Relief has made three donations to Direct Relief, with another gift planned this week. Direct Relief is

an organization equipped to provide immediate medical supplies to places experiencing crises; CAR has worked with this organization in the past.


"ULC members are using the funds in their communities mainly to buy supplies (medical, food, clothing, blankets, etc.). They can get supplies from certain areas and bring them into other areas," says Rev. Dan Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. "They're providing these supplies not just to our Lutheran brothers and sisters, but to anybody who has need. While they're doing it, they're having all kinds of opportunities to talk to people about their Savior. They said it's really been quite a thing to see how people have been open to that right now."

There have been questions and interest in helping Ukrainian refugees who come to the United States. CAR has created a WELS Ukraine Refugee

Volunteer Assistance form for WELS members who may be interested in hosting a Ukrainian refugee at gf.wels.net/ukraine-refugee-volunteer.

Sims says the form is being made available to be ready if there is opportunity to host refugees. Sims iterates, however, that CAR is not a refugee placement organization but can help volunteers connect to the proper authorities to work through the complicated process.

While the hearts of WELS members are ready and eager to help, Sims gives three reasons why these opportunities are likely to be very limited. "One is that the U.S. is only accepting 100,000 refugees, which is a tiny amount. Two, most Ukrainians who have become refugees and fled to other countries don't want to get too far away, because they're hoping they will be able to return soon to their homes. The third thing is that Ukrainians who want to come to the U.S. as refugees likely already have contacts or family members in the U.S.," he says. But, he says, CAR wants WELS to be ready if the opportunity arises.

"We've been blown away by the gifts God's people have sent; they've been so generous" says Sims, "We anticipate the need for assistance is going to be high for years to come." 

New chapter for Russian church

On Tues., March 1, Missionary Luke Wolfgramm and his wife, Jennifer, left their home in Russia, a country in which they have lived and served for the past 25 years. They

discovered they needed to leave four days earlier, the day after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Before they left, Wolfgramm was able to meet with church leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church Concord, WELS' sister church body in Russia, as well as preach at several of the congregations. It was a time to offer encouragement and hope, assurances that Jesus' church would prevail. It was also a time to provide last-minute instructions to church leaders about the practicalities of managing the church's business affairs.

"God has been planning this out and preparing us," says Wolfgramm. "The timing came as a surprise to us but not to him. We were planning to get there, just not so quickly."

The Wolfgramms were planning to leave Russia in 2024. "We were in Russia for 25 winters. God blessed the church over those times," says Wolfgramm. "But my work is changing. Even before this [evacuation] happened, I wasn't exclusively a missionary to Russia. I was also working with other churches in Europe." This means that he partners in ministry with a dozen sister churches in Europe, helping with training seminary students, leading workshops, mentoring, and preaching. "My work is to fellowship with churches—talk together, work together, pray for each other," he says. The church in Russia will continue to be one of the churches he partners with, just not as a resident missionary.

For the short term, the Wolfgramms are living in Durres, Albania, helping train a seminary student there. They still keep in touch with the three pastors and one seminary student

who are leading the 270-member Russian church body. "The first time I was able to talk to all the pastors, I shared my concern for them," says Wolfgramm. "Pastor Alexei said, 'We're in good hands. We're in God's hands, and that's the best place to be.' They definitely see that this is God at work to speed up the timetable to give them opportunities to share Jesus' peace in a world that desperately needs it."

WELS will continue to support the Russian church as it is able to under current sanctions. "Back in the 1990s when the Iron Curtain fell, we were able to rush in with missionaries and plant a church," says Rev. Larry Schlomer, World Missions administrator. "The current reality is that another curtain has been set up that divides us from the Russian people. Our prayers go out for the church members there that their connection to their Savior through the means of grace stays strong as God leads us to a new stage of fellowship." 

A donor advised fund: one-stop giving

WELS member and attorney Mr. David Nommensen and his wife, Bonnie, knew that setting up a donor advised fund was an ideal and tax-wise way to support ministry at their home congregation, First Lutheran in Elkhorn, Wis.


David likes the fact that their donor advised fund provides predictable, ongoing support to ministry at First,

helping fund programs that spread the gospel both inside and outside the church and school. He also likes the tax benefits of the donor advised fund. "It was just part of good stewardship," says David. "Bonnie and I could look at the taxes that we had saved and do a little soul-searching and perhaps give a little more."

Donor advised funds are very popular since a donor can give a gift now and recommend the ministries that benefit later. The gift can be divided among the ministries the donor cares about, and a single receipt will be provided for income tax purposes.

In addition to ongoing support for their church and school, the Nommensens know that their family donor advised fund is a wonderful way to involve their kids and grandkids in the joy of giving since they can be included in the decision-making process for the grant recommendations. It's another way to pass along Christian values to the next generation of believers.

"Our prayer is that the donor advised fund is around a lot longer than Bonnie and I are," says David. "And it's a nice opportunity for us to have these conversations with our children about the needs of our favorite church organization. I'm really hoping that someday my grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be donating to this fund and having those same conversations."

Learn more about donor advised funds by contacting your local WELS Christian giving counselor at 800-827-5482 or mcg@wels.net. 



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit wels.net/together.