a venue for networking and communication, sharing ideas that could benefit others, and opportunities to grow professionally.

- For more information, visit wels.net/event/2017-wels-support-staff-conference.

National Conference on Worship Music and the Arts

- June 13-16—Carthage College, Kenosha, Wis.
- June 27-30– Irvine, Calif. (regional site)

- The worship conferences offer “something for everyone.” They are not only for pastors and musicians. Opportunities at the conference include presentations, concerts and recitals. The plenary address will be “A Reformation Perspective on Worship” led by Rev. Michael Schultz, director of the WELS Hymnal Project.

- Apply online now to be part of the Festival Choir, Children’s Choir, or Honor Choir. Instrumentalists are also needed. Online registration is now open at wels.net/worshipconference.

54th Annual Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society

- June 22-25– Orlando, Florida
- Theme: “Around the World with Missions”

The convention kicks off Thursday evening with an opening worship service led by WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder. Friday and Saturday feature speakers from various WELS mission fields, including Rev. Daniel Sargent, who serves in Africa; Home Missions missionaries; WELS Home Missions Administrator Rev. Keith Free; and WELS World Missions Administrator Rev. Larry Schlomer.

- The Thursday night opening worship service and the Friday and Saturday missionary presentations will be streamed live at livestream.com/welslive.

- In addition, attendees can choose to attend workshops about the LWMS kids c.a.r.e program, evangelism, and the multi-site congregation model.

To learn more, visit wels.net/event/54th-annual-convention-of-the-lutheran-womens-missionary-society.

To see a complete list of WELS events, including Reformation 500 celebrations, visit wels.net/events.

Planning has already begun for the synod convention next summer. The convention will take place at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis., July 31-Aug. 3. More than 400 delegates and 50 advisory members will meet under the theme “Our Great Heritage,” reflecting the blessings we remember in the 500th anniversary year of the Lutheran Reformation.

Delegates have already been chosen. Each delegate will soon be assigned to a floor committee. The floor committees are asked to discuss an area of the synod’s work and then to bring reports and resolutions to the convention for action.

The issues and information to be discussed by the convention will be published in the Book of Reports and Memorials (BORAM). The BORAM will be sent in printed form to all delegates prior to the convention as well as posted online at wels.net/2017synodconvention.

Some of the issues to be considered at the 2017 convention are:

- The establishment of full fellowship with three Lutheran church bodies.
- The adoption of the 2017-2019 Ministry Financial Plan (Budget).
- The election of the first vice president and the secretary of the synod.
- Election of many other positions on boards and committees.
- The report of the Compensation Review Committee, which is making recommendations for modest changes to the synod’s compensation guidelines.
- The report and recommendations of a special committee that conducted a review of the synod’s Ministry of Christian Giving.
- A number of recommended changes to the synod’s bylaws.

Some special events being planned for the delegates include:

- The synodwide observance of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.
- Special presentations by world missionaries.
- A screening of the new Luther movie, A Return to Grace: Luther’s Life and Legacy.

Most of the convention, including the opening worship service, will be streamed live to enable WELS members to view the convention in real time. Follow convention news and updates at wels.net/2017synodconvention.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder
By the end of the conference, her husband, Paul, in Malawi, says, Mrs. Susan Nitz, who serves alongside one another.

WELS conferences offer a wide range of learning opportunities

Here is a list of synod conferences taking place this spring and summer. To see a complete list of WELS events, visit wels.net/events.

WELS Nurses Association Spring Conference
- April 21-22—WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis.
- Theme: “Christian Nurses Ministering to Those Who Struggle”
- A wide range of speakers will present on topics such as speech pathology, prison ministry, holistic care, PTSD, multiculturalism, and addictions. All WELS/ELS nurses are invited. For more information visit wels.net/event/2017-welsna-spring-conference.

Women’s Ministry Mini-Conference
- April 22—Shepherd of the Hills, Tucson, Ariz.

Theme: “Mentors”
- Presentations include:
  - Follow My Example as I Follow the Example of Christ Jesus—A Mentor for Me
  - Scripture’s Women of Influence
  - Mentoring for Such a Time as This
- To learn more, visit wels.net/event/womens-ministry-mini-conference-tucson-arizona.

National Staff Ministers Conference
- April 27-29—Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.
- Theme: “Here We Stand”
- A staff minister in 21st-century America may face challenges very different from those of a certain monk in 16th-century Germany, but the foundation upon which both stand remains the same. “The Lord will be the sure foundation for your times” (Isaiah 33:6). In honor of Reformation 500, we take Martin Luther’s “ultimatum” for our own, and in this year’s conference we will explore various contemporary spiritual issues with our “feet” planted firmly on the foundation of God and his Word.
- For more information and to register, visit wels.net/event/national-staff-ministers-conference.

WELS Support Staff Conference
- June 5–Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, Wis.
- This conference for WELS/ELS office personnel is offered annually by Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, providing...