

countries. "We must reach people today and in the future in ways that are relevant to them," he says. "All the while, we must stay true to the Christ-centered message of salvation because we know that regardless of the many changes in how people receive God's Word, that Word is as relevant today as it was 125 year ago or 2,000 years ago."

Learn more at www.nph.net. 

Did you know...

WELS has a Facebook page?
facebook.com/welslutherans

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WELS has Instagram?
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TOGETHER



August 16, 2016

Working together in Home Missions

The Board for Home Missions has been working closely with district mission boards and with the Church Extension Fund to plant new mission congregations and to assist those congregations as they work to find land and facilities for their new church homes.

Here are some recent developments.

Cornville, Ariz.

Our Shepherd, an 82-member congregation, was started in 2014 as a satellite of Christ, Prescott Valley. The congregation, which currently worships in a local elementary school, recently bought land with an existing house and shop and is renovating the buildings to serve as its new church in the Verde Valley.

Our Shepherd worked closely with its district mission board through the process, which included becoming an unsubsidized home mission. This allowed the mission to apply for a loan and grant from the WELS Church Extension Fund (WELS CEF). The congregation plans to have an open house for its renovated facility this fall.

Redemption, Watertown, N.Y.

This relatively new mission started in 2014 to reach out to a largely unchurched city as well as serve military personnel at nearby Fort Drum. The congregation meets weekly on Sunday for worship and Bible study at the local community center but has no place to go during the week for fellowship and community outreach events.

Because rental properties are expensive in this area, the congregation began looking for a building to buy. It purchased an old furniture store in December 2015 and is working on renovations. Loans and grants from WELS CEF is making that possible.

Living Word, Montrose, Colo.

Living Word is a veteran in terms of working with WELS CEF. It received its first loan in 2011 to build its original facility and is now working with WELS CEF to finance a 1,900-square-foot addition. The congregation originally worshiped in a storefront but built a church so that it could start a preschool. That preschool has grown and serves 28 children, only one of whom is a member. Builders For Christ, a division of Kingdom Workers, built the original church and constructed the addition.



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

Living Promise, Morristown, Tenn.

Matt Westra, Living Promise's pastor, arrived in 2011 to start this home mission with nine core members. Now the almost 80-member congregation has outgrown its second rental facility. When members began looking for a new space, they discovered that it wasn't that much more expensive to build their own facility, especially after receiving a special grant from WELS CEF to purchase land. In October 2015, Living Promise broke ground on its new building, which includes space for a future early childhood ministry. It plans to hold a grand opening this fall. With over three dozen storefront churches in Morristown, it was important for the congregation to have its own permanent facility. Since construction began, the congregation's website traffic has tripled and more than a dozen people have visited for the first time.

Learn more about the WELS Church Extension Fund at wels.net/cef.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder 

Lutheran Schools works with leaders in education

This summer the Commission on Lutheran Schools hosted four groups at the Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis.

"Lutheran Schools has been working hard to help train the next generation of school leaders," says Mr. Jim Rademan, director of Lutheran Schools. "Recently assigned principals and early childhood directors along with those training to serve in those roles have been here in our office to learn with and from seasoned Christian leaders."

Some of those future school leaders include those participating in this year's Leadership Candidate Training program. On June 20 and 21, Lutheran Schools welcomed the members of this year's class for their final presentations. All 15 candidates are current teachers who have received training and practical

experience through this program to help them serve as principals or early childhood directors.


On June 21 and 22, Lutheran Schools hosted the principal and early childhood director apprentices who recently finished their first year in the program. Together with their mentors, the apprentices participated in professional development focusing on ministry development plans. They also provided feedback and reflection on the apprentice mentoring program, which is part of a new synod initiative aimed at better preparing future school leaders. New mentors also received initial training.

Twenty-nine individuals participated in a training session on June 27 and 28 to serve as school consultants. This two-day training helped equip the participants with a toolbox of

consulting services as they work with schools, early childhood ministries, and congregations that are looking to start, expand, or review their school or early childhood ministry.

The National Council for Private School Accreditation held its annual meeting at the Center for Mission and Ministry on June 6-8. WELS School Accreditation holds active membership in this group, which serves as a national review panel for the standards and review procedures of private school accrediting associations.

"About 45 different private school leaders representing various accrediting agencies met here for the annual meeting," says Mr. Tom Plitzuweit, associate director of Lutheran Schools. "WELS School Accreditation is a member in high standing in this organization."

WELS congregations—either individually or as federations—operate one of the largest schools systems in the United States with more than 500 schools and 41,000 students. To learn more about Lutheran Schools, visit wels.net/lutheran-schools. 

NPH celebrates 125 years

This August, Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its incorporation, as it continues to produce sound Lutheran resources.

"Northwestern Publishing House's 125 years of publishing points

to the enduring power of God's Word and to his desire for all to be reached with that Word," says Mr. Bill Ziche, NPH president.

The mission of Northwestern Publishing House is to deliver biblically sound, Christ-centered resources within the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and beyond. When it started in 1891, it was a joint bookstore and printing operation. Today it continues to run a Christian books and gift store in Wauwatosa, Wis., as well as to support the synod's publishing needs.

Besides producing Christian books, NPH has been a leader and collaborator in major synodical publishing initiatives including the hymnal and worship materials, Christ-Light curriculum for religious training in the Lutheran elementary schools and Sunday schools, catechisms, continuing education materials for pastors, *Forward in Christ* magazine, and *Meditations* daily devotions.

"As the synod's publisher, NPH works with our pastors and synod leaders to ensure what it publishes shares God's Word in its truth and purity," says Ziche. "On a broader scale, NPH makes its resources available to those outside WELS to reach them with God's saving message of the gospel."

Ziche says that digital publishing will play an increasing role in NPH's future. Currently 160 of its books are in eBook format, and its *Meditations* iOS app is increasing in popularity with downloads in more than 150