

**TOGETHER**

September 7, 2021

## The new hymnal has arrived

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**N**orthwestern Publishing House, in partnership with WELS Commission on Worship, is sending two copies of the new WELS hymnal and one copy of *Christian Worship: Psalter* to every congregation. These free copies were shipped late last week. Congregations that preordered hymnals should see deliveries begin this month.


Additional supporting resources for pastors, musicians, and worship planners will be available to congregations and WELS members, including 17 books, 3 digital products, and multiple accompaniment volumes. Nearly 100 volunteers served on 12 committees for the last 9 years as part of the WELS Hymnal Project. Learn more about the hymnal at [christianworship.com](http://christianworship.com).

To help introduce congregations to the new hymnal and celebrate the blessings of worship, WELS Commission on Worship is providing resources for congregations and individuals to observe National Hymnal Week, Sept. 19–26:

- **A worship service for Sunday, Sept. 19.** This service will be based on the new lectionary readings of the day and include hymns and music from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*. Materials have already been sent to those who signed up for worship resources.
- **A hymn sing.** A video recording of various choirs will lead members through hymns from different seasons of the church year. Some congregations are offering this during the Bible class hour on Sept. 19. The video will be available by Sept. 10 to assist with final planning. A promotional video preview was just released.
- **Presentations.** Throughout WELS National Hymnal Week, WELS members can watch video presentations on new hymnal resources as well as on broader worship topics. Members can meet in small groups to view and discuss the presentations or watch them at home on their own.
- **Concert.** A pre-recorded online concert featuring a children's choir, chamber choir, college choir, and liturgical ensemble will be available for viewing beginning Saturday, Sept. 25.

Resources will be available at [welscongregationalservices.net/national-hymnal-week](http://welscongregationalservices.net/national-hymnal-week).

Congregations will make their own decisions whether or not to use the new hymnal. It's my prayer that they do. I believe that it will be a rich resource that will keep us unified in our worship and will be a blessing to all who use it.

Serving with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder 

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## WELS Endowment Fund again receives accolade


For the second year in a row, the WELS Endowment Fund's net investment return placed in the 90th percentile of the foundations that participated in the 2020 Council on Foundations—*Commonfund Study of Investment of Endowments for Private and Community Foundations*®. The investment returns for the WELS Endowment Fund were 22.39% and 21.22% in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

"This is a tremendous blessing to WELS organizations that have an endowment fund through WELS Foundation, because the distributions from the endowments help fund ministry," says Mr. Jim Holm, WELS Foundation executive director. "This year, WELS Foundation distributed a total of \$3.5 million to gospel work from more than 350 endowments. We praise God for his blessings!"

The 2020 study marks the ninth year that Commonfund Institute and the Council on Foundations have partnered to produce this research. With 260 participating private and community foundations representing combined assets of \$115.4 billion, the study is believed to be the most comprehensive annual survey of its kind.

The WELS Endowment Fund is one of four portfolios managed by WELS Investment Funds, a self-supporting subsidiary of WELS. Synodical endowments, along with endowment funds benefiting WELS congregations

and WELS-affiliated ministries, are invested in the WELS Endowment Fund.

To set up an endowment fund or learn how an endowment fund can support your ministry for years to come, contact Jim Holm at jim.holm@wels.net or 414-256-3206. Learn more about WELS Foundation at [wels.net/foundation](https://wels.net/foundation). 

### Did you know...

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