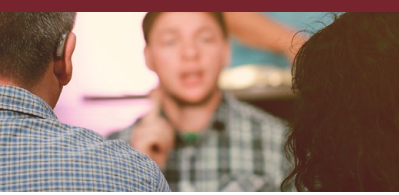


WELS CONNECTION CLOSE-UP

December 2019



Love IN Action

WELS SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Showing God's love to those with special needs or in special circumstances



WELS Special Ministries: Love in action

WELS Special Ministries helps equip churches and individuals to serve in love. The Special Ministries umbrella covers eight specialized areas, but the opportunities to put love into action are countless.

You may put God's love into action with someone far away, such as an inmate or a soldier. But most special ministry is local. You carry it out in your home, your church, or your community. Thousands of WELS volunteers serve the needs of neighbors who have a disability, an addiction, an illness, or other limiting circumstances. Below is a brief overview of the many areas where Special Ministries can help.

The **Mission for the Visually Impaired** offers Braille resources, audiobooks on flash drive, and large-print materials, all produced by volunteers at the workshop in South St. Paul, Minn. There is no cost for these services.

The **Care Committee for Called Workers** helps congregations address the spiritual, physical, intellectual, and emotional care of their pastors, teachers, and staff ministers.

The **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry** helps congregations share the gospel with those who have special education needs or developmental disabilities.

The **Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** provides education and resources—including assistive listening devices and sign language helps—to church leaders and members.

The **Committee on Mental Health Needs** provides guidance on different therapy models, choosing a counselor, and when to refer someone for help.

The **Health and Wellness Committee** offers resources for providing ministry to the aging. It also includes parish nurses, who provide physical and spiritual care for members in their congregation.

WELS Prison Ministry shares Christ's love with current and former inmates through a ministry-by-mail program, a network of pen pals, and face-to-face ministry at facilities.

WELS Military Services trains our members in the armed forces to be more spiritually alert and resilient. Military contact pastors serve congregations near military bases, a European chaplain serve members who live overseas, and a national chaplain oversees the spiritual care of service members and their families stateside.

Learn more at wels.net/special-ministries.

WHAT CAN I DO?



Request a free copy of the new *Love in Action* magazine to learn more about the work of Special Ministries. E-mail specialministries@wels.net.