

WELCOME  
*Home*

# Welcome home

“Welcome home.” It’s what one says to a spouse who’s been gone on a business trip or to a child who’s been away at school. With a new program from WELS Congregational Services, it’s what WELS members will be saying to their Christian family when they see each other at church.

Rev. Donn Dobberstein, director of WELS Discipleship, explains, “Our churches want to welcome all our members home to the blessings Jesus wants to give them—the gospel, the means of grace, worship, and the fellowship of believers.”

There are myriad reasons why people don’t attend church, whether it’s a job, an illness, misprioritization, or guilt over something in their lives. The goal of the *Welcome Home* initiative is to remind members that church is their home where they worship, receive the means of grace, and fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ. It’s where they can go to find Christian

love, and most important, it’s where they hear about God’s grace.

There are approximately 155,000 WELS individuals who attend worship three or fewer times a year. Many of those have not set foot in church in multiple years. These are members of our Christian family who are at risk of further drifting away. With the *Welcome Home* initiative, Congregational Services will be introducing a series of resources aimed at “welcoming home” all members, inviting the congregation to pack the church—with the goal of 100 percent attendance—at a special service to be held either Oct. 20 or Oct. 27. Additional resources will be aimed at strengthening a sense of community, or family, within WELS congregations, so that all members feel like they’re coming home when they come to worship. A video-based, elder-training series is also being developed for pastors and church leaders who want to better prepare themselves for this spiritual task to work through together.

Dobberstein says, “*Welcome Home* gives the members of our congregations the opportunity to put on display the kind of loving heart and caring attitude Jesus put on display to those who needed it most.”

WELS Congregational Services will also be offering the *10 for 10* stewardship program this coming fall, with a recommended launch date of Sept. 8. A series of three Bible studies discussing how people apply the biblical principles of financial stewardship to their lives is available to begin the *10 for 10* program.

## WHAT CAN I DO?

*Welcome Home* resources, along with *10 for 10* resources, will be available in June at [welscongregationalservices.net](http://welscongregationalservices.net).