

Presentations & Workshops

Conference attendees will be able to attend all three presentations and they are able to select four of the eight workshops offered.

For more conference details and registration information, go to www.wels.net/event/multi-site

Keynote Presentation: Why Multi-Site?

Pastor Rick Johnson (Crown of Life - Corona, Riverside, and Yucaipa, CA)

The multi-site strategy, with its many variations, is a relatively new phenomenon in the Christian church; and yet at its heart it is as old as the Church itself. How can this strategy be put to use in WELS as we seek to reach more and more people with the Gospel?

Presentation: The Past, Present, and Future of Multi-Site in the WELS

Pastor Caleb Schoeneck (Beautiful Savior - College Station, TX / South Central District Mission Board Chairman) It is important for pastors, congregations, missions, and missionaries to know about the journey of multi-site ministry in the WELS. As we learn from the past and look ahead to the future, there is a wealth of knowledge in those who are involved and interested in supporting the effort - including our synod partners and leaders.

Presentation: Virtual Tour of a Multi-Site in Real Life

Pastor Ron Koehler (together with leaders from Grace - Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson, and Vail, AZ) Our host for this conference brings its four sites to life, showing by showing firsthand how this congregation carries out its mission. It provides a brief history as well as what it looks like today. Special attention is given to the ministries and functions that each of the campuses has in common as well as those that are unique.

Multi-Site "Variations" - Workshop #1 Targeting a Specific Audience as a Multi-Site Strategy

Pastor Mark Henke (Bethany - Appleton, WI)

Bethany, Appleton, WI successfully uses a multi-site strategy to reach a specific audience (parents with preschool age children) with a specific ministry program (early childhood). Could this work in your setting?

Multi-Site "Variations" - Workshop #2 Creating a Single-Brand Federation of Churches to Saturate a Community

Pastor Jon Hein (Beautiful Savior - Summerville, SC)

A common strategy in multi-site ministry envisions a single church worshiping on two or more separate campuses. What about a multi-site strategy in which the campuses are not only set apart geographically but operate their own ministries and budgets – joined chiefly by a market "brand" with a common mission?

Multi-Site "Variations" - Workshop #3 The Video Venue as Part of a Multi-Site Strategy

Pastor John Parlow (St. Mark - De Pere and Green Bay, WI)

A live-streamed presentation of the Sunday worship service at a second or third site is being used across a wide spectrum of the church as an integral element of a multi-site strategy. Can it work in a WELS setting?

Multi-Site "Variations" - Workshop #4 Strategic Mergers: Marrying for the Sake of the Mission

Pastor Peter Kruschel (Mission Counselor for WELS Home Missions)

Like many denominations we have a long history of combining two or more small or struggling congregations into a dual or tri-parish. How could the purposeful use of a Multi-site strategy create a vibrant, outreach-oriented multi-campus congregation?

Multi-Site "Challenges" - Workshop #1: Staffing & Administration

Pastor Joe Fricke (St. Paul's - Mauston and Adams, WI)

Pastor Jeff Mahnke (St. Peter - Schofield and Weston, WI)

Pastor Daron Lindemann (Holy Word - Austin and Pflugerville, TX)

A multi-site ministry by necessity involves multiple called workers, lay leaders and volunteers. It also complicates roles and responsibilities. How do you keep all staff on the same page? Should one person be designated as the lead pastor? Should every campus have its own pastor? What happens when a key leader – pastor or layman – moves away?

Multi-Site "Challenges" - Workshop #2: Communication

Pastor Nathan Strutz (Resurrection - Verona, WI)

Pastor Kevin Schultz (St. Matthew's - Spokane, WA and Coeur d'Alene, ID)

If it is true that the need for candid and constant communication becomes exponentially more complicated the more people there are in a communication loop, then it also true that the danger of miscommunication or lack of communication is rife in a multi-site setting. How can a healthy communication process be established at the beginning of a multi-site effort and then maintained as the multi-site develops and matures? How do you effectively manage communication of mission, vision, between staff, among members, and between sites?

Multi-Site "Challenges" - Workshop #3: Mission & Vision

Pastor Matt Hennig (Christ - North Saint Paul and Hugo, MN)

Pastor Mark Kom (Crown of Life - West Saint Paul and Eagan, MN)

Pastor David Bivens (Christ the Lord - Houston and Missouri City, TX)

How do you keep all sites on the same page? How do you keep your essential congregational "DNA" intact while allowing for flexibility and adaptability between sites? Is it necessary for each site to have its own full-time facility? This workshop answers the questions: What issues have you faced with regard to mission-vision? How were they answered? What principles have you learned? What ideas and insights can you share?

Multi-Site "Challenges" - Workshop #4: Budgets & Finances

Pastor Rick Johnson & Pastor Steve Koelpin (Crown of Life - Corona, Riverside, and Yucaipa, CA)

Pastor Ron Koehler & Pastor Colin Rieke (Grace - Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson, and Vail, AZ)

This is a panel discussion with ample opportunity for panel members and audience to interact as they wrestle with an issue that can be answered in a variety of ways. How do you create your budget? Is it better to have separate (site-specific) budgets, a unified budget, or a combination? How are offerings divided? How do you keep finances from driving the mission?