

## LOVING GOD AND OTHERS

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Caring parents know what *tough love* is. It's doing what needs to be done whether our children appreciate it or not. It's saying no when we have to, taking privileges away when children need correction and discipline, and setting rules and sticking to them, even when our children don't understand.

Tough love is also a concept for the church. The apostle Paul was speaking of tough love when he urged, "*Watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them*" (Romans 16:17). We are not to worship, commune, pray, have fellowship, or cooperate with those who teach differently than God's Word teaches.

Why not? Are we saying that we're better than they are? Not if we know what we are. We're sinners just like them. We're children of God purely because of his love for us in Christ Jesus. And his Word is retained in our midst not because of our feeble efforts but solely because of his grace.

Are we saying there are no Christians in churches that teach or tolerate false doctrine? Of course not! What arrogance it would be to assume that only WELS members will be in heaven. Believers in Christ are found wherever the message of his saving love is proclaimed in some way. Far be it from us to judge their faith. Only God can do that.

Why then do we mark and avoid those who teach contrary to God's Word? Love is the answer! Love for God's Word moves us. It's his Word. He gave it to us in love. He asks us to keep it pure. How can I compromise his gift and approve of teaching that goes against it? What kind of love is that? Love for my neighbor is another reason. How can I in any shape or form give any of my neighbors the impression that false teaching is not dangerous to their faith? And then there's love for myself. How can I expose myself to error that can corrode—even destroy—my faith?

Practicing such love toward the erring is like the tough love we show to our children. It's not always understood or appreciated, but it's necessary.

Taken from the devotional series, *For Living Saints*, published by Northwestern Publishing House

## READING BETWEEN THE WINES

The new season for Reading Between the Wines will begin with the timely historical accounting of a family fleeing from Ukraine during WWII. **The Last Green Valley** by Mark Sullivan is a gripping, true story mirroring in many ways what we are hearing on the news right now. We invite all Hope members and guests to join us as we kick off this new season on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to Noon in Fellowship Hall.

## A TRASHY PROBLEM

Another gentle reminder: Please, please empty the trash cans in the kitchen after you have hosted an event (even Sunday morning snacks) that caused food debris garbage to be thrown away. The ants on the property are actively searching for a food source and we would rather have them in the dumpster outside than in the kitchen.

## FROM THE PULPIT

God reminds us to appreciate what he has provided. PDW 8-30-20

God knows us better than we know ourselves and provides his mercy. PDW 8-30-20

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**SUPPORT**

Hi everyone,

The project to replace the large cross above the church continues. We are now looking to replace the cross with a new one that would be either aluminum or steel, and then get it powder coated for longevity. The hope is that this will be able to stand the test of time and not need maintenance for a while. We are currently talking to the fabricator for design options.

Freedom concrete came out and did a great job reducing the trip hazard between the fellowship hall and the courtyard by grinding down the concrete there. They also ground down the asphalt where the entry gate was hitting it. Thanks to Trevor and crew, they are great to work with.

We also are at the very beginning stages of discussing how to address some landscaping issues on our campus. More on this to come in the future months.

A quick update regarding Smart Start. The director Bree, who we’ve been working with for the last two years, and her business partner and teacher Kami, are in the process of buying this location from Amber. They will be operating under the name Bee Kind. Not much besides the name and lease would change, and we met with our lawyer to write up the new lease.

Many thanks to those who continually volunteer their time to keep our campus in shape. Please consider picking up a mowing weekend, and keep an ear out for the next work day.

**LWMS LOOKING FORWARD**

Looking forward to the Fall Rally hosted by Christ in Lodi on October 15, 2022.

**THEME:** Spiritual Darkness to Light John 8:12  
When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Gary & Beth Evans, CAMM (Central Africa Medical Mission

Continental breakfast from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Rally begins at 10:00a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served by the Ladies at Christ. Free will offering.

Since Lodi is not a great distance from Hope, perhaps we can encourage some of you ladies who have not attended a Rally before. It is such a good way to meet your "sisters in Christ" from other congregations.

Watch the bulletin and the October Star of Hope for further information.

**Gary Evans Biography**

Gary currently serves as the Field Director for the Central Africa Medical Mission clinics in Malawi and Zambia. In his time in Africa he has renovated clinic buildings and boreholes, improved relations with our National staff, standardized pay and conditions, trained Zambia administrator and has advanced involvement with the national churches and the communities we serve. Gary is a Professional Engineer and administrator, prior to joining CAMM he served as a County Engineer where he managed a large-scale highway and bridge construction program as well as traffic operations. Gary and his wife Beth are members of St. Marcus Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Milwaukee, where he served as President, Treasurer, Facilities

Director and as Project Director for over \$20million of church renovation and school building projects.

### **Beth Evans Biography**

Beth (Ebert) Evans was born and raised in the Milwaukee area and was baptized and confirmed in WELS churches. She went to UW Madison for college, graduating with a Bachelor's of Nursing degree in 1980. After working at St Mary's hospital for 2 years, she learned about tropical medicine and healthcare in the developing world at Seneca College in Toronto and went to work with the Central Africa Medical Mission in Malawi. (1983-1985). There she met Gary Evans, who was British, an engineer doing water supply work with VSO. They were married in 1986 and decided to live in Milwaukee, eventually having 4 children, two boys and two girls, and settling in Mequon. They were active members at St. Marcus Lutheran church in Milwaukee. Beth worked as a pediatric nurse most of her career, at St. Joseph's hospital, a Medical College primary care clinic, then Children's Hospital. She volunteered on the CAMM committee and as a parish nurse at St. Marcus. She also helped create a school nurse position at St. Marcus school and worked there for 3 years.

In 2017, she and Gary were commissioned to the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi as Nurse in Charge and Clinic Administrator, arriving in early 2018. Beth helped run four clinics in rural villages outside of Lilongwe, finishing her term there in June of 2022 after training a Malawian RN to take over her position. Beth enjoys being with her adult children, singing in choir, and being active outdoors. She and Gary will continue their involvement with St. Marcus as well as with CAMM and hope to spend time traveling to the UK and other international destinations in the coming years.

## **TOGETHER**

### **News from the WELS**



August 2022  
Website: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

August 2, 2022

## **WELS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP**

I'm happy to invite you all to the second WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership. It will be held January 16-18, 2023, at the Hilton Chicago. This conference is not only for those who serve in formal leadership positions in their congregation: called workers, church council members, school board members, and the like. This conference is for anyone who is passionate about the mission of the church. It is for everyone who, by encouragement and example, wants to lead others to engage in that mission. So, all are welcome—called workers and laity, men and women, retirees and high-school students, lifelong WELS members and those new to the church.

The conference includes five keynote presentations that will discuss the larger strategic issues and challenges facing every congregation. Attendees also will be able to choose from almost 50 breakout sessions. Some breakouts will focus on aspects of leadership: leadership development, planning, management, church polity. Others will share some "best practices" in various ministry areas: evangelism, worship, schools, youth ministry, adult discipleship. There will be a variety of panel discussions: teens, educators, worship leaders. Still other breakout sessions are purely devotional in nature. There is something for everyone and for every congregation. To take full advantage of all the breakouts, I'd encourage you to consider having a delegation from your congregation attend. When WELS Congregational Services planned the first National Conference on Lutheran Leadership three years ago, it was hoping to have 400 people attend. In the end, 800 registered; the enrollment had to be capped due to capacity limits. This year's venue has more capacity.

I believe the reason so many were interested in the conference is simple to understand. We all know the challenges confronting American Christianity. Our congregations were—and still are—experiencing those challenges. Coming together to hear God's Word and to discuss our path forward was both edifying and encouraging. All the presenters at that first conference encouraged us to see those challenges as opportunities—opportunities to trust in the power of God's holy Word; opportunities to explore new ministry tactics; opportunities to recommit ourselves to doing all we can with the gospel.

The second WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership will do the same. I look forward to seeing you there.

Serving together with you in Christ,  
WELS President Mark Schroeder

### **CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS PURPOSE AND IDENTITY IN CHRIST**

More than 330 women attended the WELS Women's Ministry Conference July 21–23 at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., to learn how to

- identify barriers that get in the way of knowing our purpose,
- stand firm on Scripture in the face of conflict, and
- extend grace in everyday relationships.

The conference, under the theme “Won to be One,” dug deep into the book of Ephesians and God's grace that gives us our identity in Christ. “As a woman, I constantly ask what my role is in the church and in the ministry. I cannot be a pastor and I am not a teacher, so how can I be an asset to my congregation and to the church of Christ as a whole? This conference put the Great Commission in the forefront of everything and refocused our place and identity as ambassadors of Christ. We minister in everything we say and in all we do,” says Janet Block, a member at New Hope, West Melbourne, Fla.

In his “Know the Love too Big to Know” presentation, Rev. Paul Wendland, professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., examined Ephesians chapters 1 and 3, where Paul shares God's perspective on our purpose grounded in his grace. In his presentation, Rev. Benjamin Kratz, pastor at Our Savior, Birmingham, Ala., reminded attendees that they are united in one Savior who gives us our identity. Rev. Snowden Sims, pastor at St. Paul, Columbus, Ohio, and Rev. Ryan Kolander, pastor at Palabra de Vida, Detroit, Mich., showed how unity with Christ and unity in mission are hard work, but God's plan for ministry opens unexpected doors for opportunity through his grace. Prof. Tingting Schwartz from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., shared how she learned that her Christian identity unifies her other identities of being an immigrant, a mother, and an educator.

Tara Dezso, a member at Shepherd of the Hills, Tucson, Ariz., was thankful for these scriptural reminders from Ephesians. She says, “There just have been so many lessons I've taken away from the

general sessions and the breakout sessions that I can apply to my life. When I go back home, it's just going to be incredible.”

For the past 20 years, WELS Women's Ministry, part of the WELS Commission on Discipleship, has nurtured, encouraged, and equipped women to use their gifts for joyful service in God's kingdom. Learn more about Women's Ministry and access conference resources and livestreamed videos. You can also sign up for a twice monthly newsletter to keep up to date on upcoming events and new resources.

### **MISSIONARIES RECEIVE SUPPORT AND DIRECTION DURING ORIENTATION**

Six new world missionaries, one world mission vicar, and their spouses attended world missionary orientation at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha, Wis., from July 11-14.

Attendees included

- Rev. Keegan and Mrs. Kate Dowling, One Africa Team;
- Rev. Ben and Mrs. Becky Foxen, One Africa Team;
- Rev. Conifer Berg and Mrs. Ruth Nitz, Europe Team;
- Rev. Luis and Mrs. Carolina Acosta, One Latin America Team;
- Teacher Luke and Mrs. Rachel Beilke, One Latin America Team;
- Vicar Caleb and Mrs. Emily Koelpin, One Latin America Team; and
- Rev. Jonathan and Mrs. Kim Bare, Asia One Team.

Rev. Paul Nitz, WELS World Missions' One Team counselor and former missionary in Africa, organized the training. He notes, “Our missionaries are very excited to get out into the world and help get that sweet message of Jesus and salvation into the hands and hearts of the lost. They would be a bit odd if they weren't also going out with a bit of worry. They will confront challenges. We can all imagine the physical challenges. We think of things like driving on the ‘wrong’ side of the road, learning how to shop and cook, and putting kids into a school. There are also cultural challenges they will face. As we are sending out our new missionaries, we want to help them with some encouragement and some perspective.”

“The orientation was immeasurably valuable,” says Mrs. Kate Dowling. “Before that week, I was drifting

in a rough sea. During the orientation I learned that there is an entire well-organized team behind all the missionaries. The Board for World Missions administration is made up of experienced missionaries and an operations director who know the concerns we have and who know what to say to calm our fears. The most valuable part of everything was making connections with other people and feeling supported as we go across the ocean to a new place with a new culture. And all of this to serve the Lord—what a privilege.”

“To be welcomed and accepted by experienced missionaries like this was a very uplifting experience for all of us new to this calling,” says Rev. Keegan Dowling. “Priorities for what we should do when we first land on the field were clearly laid out. So were the core values of the WELS World Missions global team as well as our team’s goals and dreams of what we’d like to accomplish over the next few years—laying it all at the feet of our Father in heaven. For all these reasons, I came away from orientation feeling that we new missionary families were given clear and concrete direction.”

“Our prayer,” explains Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of WELS World Missions, “is that the Lord uses these few days as a way to help ensure our missionaries are not shipwrecked by difficulties that are common experiences for all missionaries. We want these families to be able to serve for many years in this most important task, to take the gospel to places and people that do not have it yet.”

For more information, including biographies about each family, visit [wels.net/missions](http://wels.net/missions).

August 16, 2022

### **“GOD’S BEAUTIFUL AND BALANCED DESIGN FOR MALE AND FEMALE” RELEASED**

Biblical doctrines and principles do not change. But there are times when those doctrines and principles need to be understood clearly as new situations arise and are addressed by the church. That is certainly true when it comes to what the Bible tells us about the God-given roles of men and women and the nature of their relationship with one another.

Our synod’s current doctrinal statement on the roles of men and women is called “Scriptural Principles Of Man and Woman Roles.” After more than a decade of work and discussion, it was adopted by the 1993 synod convention as a correct explanation of biblical

truth and as our synod’s formal doctrinal statement on the issue.

Since the adoption of “Scriptural Principles of Man and Woman Roles,” our synod’s doctrinal position has not changed; the statement still expresses biblical truth. But new questions and issues have arisen regarding the biblical roles of men and women that did not really exist in 1993. Understandably, those questions were not really addressed at the time. In addition, there have been situations in which certain elements of the current statement have been misunderstood or misapplied.

For those reasons, the Conference of Presidents (COP) determined that it would be beneficial for our synod to consider an updated restatement of the scriptural principles outlined in the 1993 document. The new statement is entitled “God’s Beautiful And Balanced Design For Male and Female.”

After three years of work and study, a proposed draft of that statement is now ready. The Conference of Presidents encourages you to read and discuss the statement with your church and district leaders.

### **WELS AGAIN CELEBRATES BLESSINGS IN ENDOWMENTS PROGRAM**

Thanks to the generosity of God’s people, WELS Foundation was blessed to distribute almost \$1.2 million to gospel ministry in July through the WELS endowment funds. These funds were established by delegates at the 2005 synod convention to provide ongoing support for the Lord’s work in WELS Ministerial Education and WELS Home, Joint, and World Missions.

In addition to the WELS endowments, WELS Foundation also manages endowments that are set up by individuals, congregations, and other WELS-affiliated ministries. In total, WELS Foundation distributed \$3.8 million from more than 375 endowments this year, providing ongoing financial support for Christ’s gospel work throughout WELS.

Several of the endowments managed by WELS Foundation benefit Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., providing tuition assistance to students training to become pastors.

Seminarian Jacob Borgwardt, a member at Redeemer, Fond du Lac, Wis., shares one of the blessings of the tuition assistance he has received

through endowments: “[It] helps me focus on training to be a pastor. Instead of having to work full time to pay off student loans and be a part-time student, it’s the other way around. Seminarians can be full-time students, spending the majority of our time studying God’s Word.”

He continues: “On the spiritual side, I’ll never forget something one of my professors once said in regard to tuition assistance: The people giving generously to these endowments see the support of seminarians as a tangible way to give to the gospel. What a blessing and responsibility!”

Borgwardt extends his gratitude to those who have supported him and his wife through their financial gifts: “We thank God that he has given you such Christlike generosity. You are a help and a blessing to us and to so many of my classmates. Your gifts and prayers are extremely encouraging! Knowing that there are so many people who support us in our pastoral training makes us that much more excited to serve a church someday.”

“An endowment is a great way to create a lasting legacy of Christian faith while providing for the Lord’s work—like supporting our future pastors,” says Mr. Jim Holm, executive director of WELS Foundation.

There are a variety of ways to give to an endowment: cash or appreciated assets; or through a will, trust, beneficiary designation on a retirement account, or insurance proceeds. To learn more about adding to an existing endowment or establishing a new endowment for a ministry close to your heart, contact your local WELS Christian giving counselor at [wels.net/giving-counselors](http://wels.net/giving-counselors) or call 800-827-5482.

### **LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN**

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## **How Wasteful the Older Generation Was**

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bag because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. The former generation did not care enough to save our environment." He was right, that generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, they returned their milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks.

But she was right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts - wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that old lady is right, they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you.

When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push

mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right, they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled their writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful the old folks were just because they didn't have the green thing back then?