

**March 2, 2025**  
**Transfiguration of Our Lord**



**Prepare for Worship**

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” Give me joy, dear Jesus, as I prepare to worship you today. Make me understand what my life would be like without you so that I long to hear about your grace and compassion. Help me participate in a way that honors you and builds up all who worship with me, and let their worship strengthen and encourage my faith.

Amen.

## Setting One

### 389 How Good, Lord, to Be Here



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;  
2 How good, Lord, to be here your beau - ty to be - hold,  
3 Ful - fil - ler of the past, and hope of things to be,  
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.  
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.  
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.

- 5 But you, Lord, do not stay.  
With mercy resolute  
you leave this glorious hill to die—  
our perfect substitute.
- 6 How good, Lord, to be here!  
Yet we may not remain;  
but since you bid us leave the mount,  
come with us to the plain.

Text (sts. 1–4, 6): Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.; (st. 5): Bryan Gerlach, b. 1954 Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt.  
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*Stand*

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## Absolution

CW 154

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**A - men.**

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## Glory Be to God on High

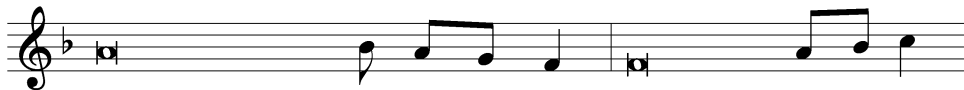
CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



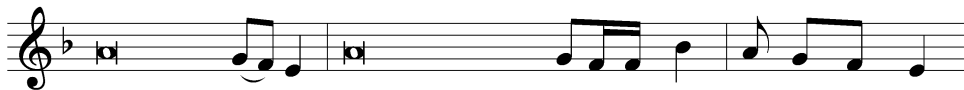
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



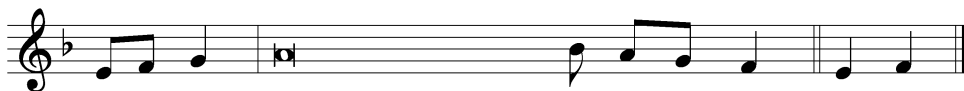
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## The Word

## Salutation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

## Exodus 34:29–35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not realize that the skin of his face was shining because he had been speaking with the LORD. <sup>30</sup>When Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, they were amazed that the skin of his face was shining, so they were afraid to come close to him. <sup>31</sup>Moses called to them, so Aaron and all the rulers of the community returned to him, and Moses spoke to them. <sup>32</sup>Afterward, all the people of Israel came close to him, and he gave them all of the commands that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup>When Moses was finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. <sup>34</sup>But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out again. Then he would come out and tell the people of Israel what he had been commanded. <sup>35</sup>Whenever the people of Israel saw Moses' face, they would see that the skin of Moses' face was shining. Then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with the LORD again.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 2D Great Are the Works of the LORD

### Refrain

Great are the works of the LORD. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

### Tone

Why do the nations / conspire  
and the peoples / plot in vain?  
The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the LORD  
and against his A- / noointed. *Refrain*

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs;  
the Lord / scoffs at them.  
He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying,  
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain.” *Refrain*

I will proclaim the / LORD’s decree:  
He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your / Father.”  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer  
Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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## Second Reading

## 2 Corinthians 3:7–18

If the ministry that brought death (which was engraved in letters on stone) came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look directly at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face (though it was fading), <sup>8</sup>how will the ministry of the spirit not be much more glorious? <sup>9</sup>For if the ministry that brought condemnation has glory, the ministry that brought righteousness has even more glory. <sup>10</sup>In fact, in this case, what was glorious is no longer very glorious, because of the greater glory of that which surpasses it. <sup>11</sup>Indeed, if what is fading away was glorious, how much more glorious is that which is permanent!

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, since we have this kind of hope, we act with great boldness. <sup>13</sup>We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face, so that the Israelites could not continue to look at the end of the radiance, as it was fading away. <sup>14</sup>In spite of this, their minds were hardened. Yes, up to the present day, the same veil remains when the Old Testament is read. It has not been removed because it is taken away only in Christ. <sup>15</sup>Instead, to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup>But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>But all of us who reflect the Lord's glory with an unveiled face are being transformed into his own image, from one degree of glory to another. This too is from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

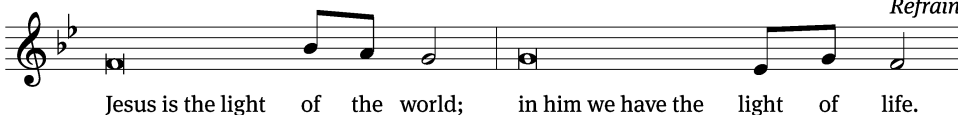
CW 161



*Refrain*



*Tone*





## Gospel

Luke 9:28–36

About eight days after he said these words, Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Just then, two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him! <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were talking about his departure, which he was going to bring to fulfillment in Jerusalem.

<sup>32</sup>Peter and those with him were weighed down with sleep, but when they were completely awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

<sup>33</sup>As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let’s make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not realize what he was saying.

<sup>34</sup>While he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them. They were afraid as they went into the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!” <sup>36</sup>After the voice had spoken, they found Jesus alone. They kept this secret and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

### 388 Down from the Mount of Glory



1 Down from the mount of glo - ry came Je - sus Christ, our Lord.  
2 Trans - fig - ured, Christ, the low - ly, stood ra - diant in the light,  
3 Yet mark this glo - ry hid - den! See him the mount de - scend  
4 Strange how his jour - ney end - ed! In love that is his fame  
5 Then hail the dou - ble glo - ry of Je - sus Christ, our Lord,



Re - call the won - drous sto - ry, rich gem in sa - cred Word.  
light found in God - head sole - ly, for hu - man eyes too bright.  
and, by the Fa - ther bid - den, his will - ing foot - steps bend  
our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed a mount—the hill of shame.  
and let the won - drous sto - ry full peace and joy af - ford!



A - gain your faith will view him in dou - ble glo - ry here;  
Then came a voice from heav - en, con - firmed what here we see;  
to seek hu - mil - i - a - tion in deep - est depths of woe,  
Up - on the cross he prof - fered him - self to ag - o - ry;  
The ho - ly mount ac - claims him the maj - es - ty di - vine;



the great - er hom - age due him will in your life ap - pear.  
the words "my Son" were giv - en to seal his de - i - ty.  
to suf - fer deg - ra - da - tion no mind can probe or know.  
his ho - ly soul he of - fered to set the guilt - y free.  
Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er—yours and mine.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996 Tune: Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635 Text: © 1968 Werner H. Franzmann, admin. Northwestern Publishing House.  
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### Sermon Glory is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Stand

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Always keep your people faithful to you. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ in the Word and sacraments. During all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus. Keep us safe and protect us from the tricks and treachery of the devil. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that you move us to have compassion on those stumbling in the darkness and empower us to proclaim Christ to all who have no faith. Give us courage to be unashamed of the light you have given us and to carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear. Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and give them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that Christ reveals his gracious presence to all who suffer. We pray especially for our families and those in our circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone whose needs we hold in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without Christ. As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's sacrifice on the cross and give us hearts full of faith in him. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and all for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the world.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

**Good News for Kids**

**Offering**

### 391 O Wondrous Type! O Vision Fair



1 O won - drous type! O vi - sion fair of glo - ry  
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh th' in - car - nate  
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray Christ deigns to  
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great  
 5 O Fa - ther, with th'e - ter - nal Son and Ho - ly



that the Church may share, which Christ up - on the  
 Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud the  
 man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be  
 vi - sion's mys - ter - y, for which in joy - ful  
 Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun - tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!  
 Ho - ly One bears rec - ord to the on - ly Son.  
 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.  
 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.  
 by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Latin hymn, 15th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: English, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

#### Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 522 Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands, robed in  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light, bright the  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee,  
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er,  
spark - ling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er,  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,



tru - ly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
Je - sus is pur - er, he makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels in the sky.  
praise, ad - o - ra - tion now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677, abr.; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904 Tune: Silesian, 19th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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**THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS**  
**March 2 - 9, 2025**

Sunday	8:00 am	Worship
	9:00 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Kunama Worship
	11:35 am	Hand Bell Practice
Monday	5:30 pm	Evangelism Committee
Wednesday	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Worship</b>
	5:30 pm	Catechism & Bible History
	5:30 pm	Choir
	6:30 pm	Children's Hand Bell Practice
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Worship</b>
Thursday	10:00 am	Women's Fellowship Group
Saturday	4:00 pm	Game Night
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:00 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion
	10:30 am	Kunama Worship
	11:35 am	Hand Bell Practice

**Welcome to Lincoln Heights!**

We are glad you are here today to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please speak with an usher for any help.

**Yellow Cards**

Please fill out a yellow card and place it in the offering plate when passed. Thank you.

**Prepare for Next Sunday**

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday:

*1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-40, 45-49, Hebrews 4:14-16, Luke 4:1-13*



## **In Our Prayers**

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list:

Ukraine

Ray & Gloria Overson, Sherry Just and Randy Michael- shut-ins  
Linda Thielke, Larry Borchert, Jeff Overson, Pat Oswald, Makenzie Phippen- health  
Lucas Gilman & Karri Pippett, Daniel Pfeifer & Paige Harman, Isaiah Luellen & Andie Schlabach, Caleb Winecke & Makayla Gallentine, Addyson Pender & Zach Ostendorf- engaged couples

## **Online Giving**

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord.



[www.LHELC.org/giving](http://www.LHELC.org/giving)

## **Joyce Russell**

Joyce is now living with her daughter, Mendy, in Illinois. If you would like to send her a card, her new address is:

108 West County Lane  
Collinsville, IL 62234

## **Game Night**

Meet in the basement Saturday, March 8 from 4:00 - 8:00 pm for games, food and fun!  
Bring your favorite game, a snack to share or a friend!

## **Lent and Easter Worship Schedule**

March 5 Ash Wednesday Worship w/Communion at 4:30 & 7 pm  
March 12-April 9 Wednesday Lenten Worship at 7 pm  
April 17 Maundy Thursday Worship w/Communion at 5 & 7 pm  
April 18 Good Friday Worship at 5 & 7 pm  
April 20 Easter Worship at 8 & 10:30 am

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
LWMS SPRING RALLY 2025  
Wild Rose Circuit  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
2900 42nd St NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Saturday, March 29, 2025

- 9:00-9:30            Registration
- 9:30-10:15        Opening Devotion and Bible Study by  
                        Pastor King
- 10:15-11:15        Presentation by Pastor Mark Rieke on One  
                        Africa Team
- 11:30-12:15        Lunch and Displays
- 12:15-1:15         Business Meeting
- 1:15-1:30          Closing Devotion and Installation of  
                        Officers by Pastor Pfeifer

LWMS stands for Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. The LWMS mission statement is: "LWMS is women dedicated to serving Jesus by increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)."

LWMS wants to encourage women (and men) to learn about, pray for, and financially support WELS mission efforts in North America and around the world. We have sisters and brothers who share our faith in over 57 countries around the world being served by WELS missionaries.

**If you are interested in attending the spring rally on March 29**, please add your name to the sign up sheet (found on the table in the entryway) and indicate if you'd like to carpool.

Please contact Christine Pfeifer (515-975-2396 call/text) with any questions.

## **Together: a WELS newsletter**

### **Financial blessings continue**

God continues to open the hearts of his people to provide generous support for the work that we do together as a synod. Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) for the month of December 2024 amounted to \$3.53 million, which was up 4.1 percent (\$138,000) from December 2023 and was 4.9 percent (\$166,000) higher than the projection for the month of December 2024. On a calendar year-to-date basis for 2024 the total reported CMO was \$23.91 million, up 2.2 percent (\$511,000) over the prior year and up 3.0 percent (\$707,000) from projected receipts. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, which began July 2024, total reported CMO through December (six months) was \$12.91 million, up 2.5 percent (\$314,000) from the prior year (\$12.60 million). This is now the fifth straight year WELS has reached a new level of calendar-year reported CMO and the third calendar year in which reported CMO exceeded \$23 million. These annual increases have been very encouraging and have decreased the impact of the high inflation rate during the last four years. Read about all the amazing ways God has blessed the mission and ministry work of WELS, made possible through congregations' CMO contributions, in the 2025 annual report, *Your gifts, God's blessings*. Read the digital version online at [wels.net/annual-report](http://wels.net/annual-report) or order your own complimentary print copy from Northwestern Publishing House. We join in thanking God that he continues to bless our synod with growing financial resources that support our synod's mission and ministry. To him be the glory!

Serving with you in Christ,

WELS President Mark Schroeder

### **Integrating to improve ministry efficiency**

WELS Prison Ministry and Institutional Ministries are working collaboratively toward an integration that would better steward the ministry resources with which God has blessed them. The ministry and resources of WELS Prison Ministry will be part of and administered by Institutional Ministries. "While much has been accomplished with WELS Prison Ministry and Institutional Ministries working collaboratively for the last few decades, it makes good sense to eliminate any duplication of efforts and put all ministry to the incarcerated and their families together under one entity," says Rev. Joel Gaertner, director, WELS Commission on Special Ministries. WELS Prison Ministry, part of WELS Commission on Special Ministries, started in 1993 when a group of volunteers assisted WELS Special Ministries in launching a nationwide ministry providing religious materials to prison chaplains and inmates. WELS Prison Ministry has distributed materials to about 2,500 facilities to date throughout the United States and also trains mentors for released offenders and church teams to conduct ministries for inmates at local jails. Institutional Ministries, a WELS-affiliated ministry, was founded in 1901 for the purpose of meeting the spiritual needs of those who were institutionalized.

Today, the team of chaplains and volunteers serves inmates in a growing number of states through in-person ministry and other resources. This behind-the-walls ministry focuses on four unique areas: correctional care, health care, extended care, and caring support. GraceLinks, Institutional Ministries' e-mailed devotional ministry, is sent to inmates across 20 states. "The idea is that by putting all prison work resources under one organization, we can be more productive and have better workflow. Both WELS Prison Ministry and Institutional Ministries are excited about this opportunity to be better equipped and organized, promoting growth," says Rev. Phil Henselin, executive director, Institutional Ministries. "Together, with God's blessing, we can work powerfully. Pray that God blesses this process with wisdom, discernment, and the support needed to continue to faithfully share his Word behind walls!" Discussions between the two ministries are ongoing with the goal of fully integrating by June 2026. The two ministries will work together to best determine the logistical and administrative details of the integration. For those who faithfully support either of these ministries with financial gifts, support can be given as it has in the past, until details regarding the integration of financial support are determined. Learn more at [wels.net/prison](http://wels.net/prison) and [IM.life](http://IM.life).

### **Training future church planters**

In January 2025, three different groups of students from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis., went on trips as part of a special partnership with WELS Home Missions. These trips were an opportunity to help mission churches connect with more people, strengthen their presence in their communities, and develop clear ministry plans. At the same time, the trips gave WLS students a chance to learn what it takes to start a new church, work with and understand different communities, and grow their confidence in sharing the gospel. By mixing classroom lessons with hands-on experience, the students got to see what mission work is really like and build skills they'll use when they become pastors. Trip 1: Fredericksburg, Va. Hosted by The Way Church in Fredericksburg, Va., this trip offered a theoretical foundation for ten WLS seniors under the guidance of Lucas Bitter, home missionary at Intown, Atlanta, Ga.; and Matt Rothe, home missionary at The Way; along with Mission Counselor Mark Birkholz. The students spent the week studying the principles of church planting, analyzing potential future mission fields, and formulating detailed ministry plans for each location. They also engaged with lay leaders and experienced worship in a mission setting. "This trip gave our seniors a head start," shared Bitter. "If assigned to plant a new church, they'll go in with their eyes wide open, understanding the importance of structuring a healthy organization that incorporates the gifts of all God's people alongside their passion for sharing the gospel." Trip 2: Parrish and Lakewood Ranch, Fla. Risen Savior in Parrish, Fla., hosted 11 WLS students, accompanied by WLS Professor Jonathan Micheel, Mission Counselor Wayne Uhlhorn, and Pastor Ben Balge.

Students got hands-on experience by participating in a variety of ministry and outreach activities that are typical at a new mission start: volunteering at community service events, helping with a sports camp, and interviewing civic and religious leaders to build community profiles. “This is my second WLS trip, and it’s inspiring to see these young men eager to learn how to reach out with the gospel,” said Uhlhorn. Student Cooper Knoll noted, “Mission work isn’t just about having the ‘perfect outreach strategy.’ Our work showed that it’s important to be flexible to adapt to the needs of the community so we can better serve them with the gospel.” Trip 3: Greater Houston Area, Texas Nine students traveled to the greater Houston area, led by Professor E. Allen Sorum and Mission Counselor Matt Vogt. They focused on canvassing neighborhoods and building community profiles for the new mission that was approved in fall 2024 in Cypress/Waller and a mission opportunity in Rosenberg that’s currently being explored. For student Jacob Kieselhorst, a conversation with a man he met while canvassing was eye-opening: “He shared his struggles, and I had the chance to share the gospel with him. It became so much more than canvassing—it was a profound mission experience.” These trips taken during the seminary’s Winterim term are a testament to the collaboration between WELS Home Missions and WLS. By combining academic study with real-world experiences, these trips help train future pastors for the unique challenges of mission work. The initiative aligns with WELS’ goal of planting 100 missions in 10 years. Through this partnership, students gain the tools, confidence, and vision to bring Christ to diverse communities across North America. As student Collin Maurice summarized, “Every interaction is an opportunity to share your faith. This trip reinforced that mission work is a mindset, not just a strategy.”

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