

CHRIST'S LOVE, OUR CALLING

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

Our Synod's theme for the next four years is, "Christ's love, our calling." This theme will show up in our sermons and Bible classes and stewardship programs. For the next four years, our church body will focus on Christ's love as revealed to us in Word and Sacrament. Then, we will see how that love that Christ has for us affects our everyday life – our calling.

Christ's love for us is special and powerful because it works as an internal motivation in each of us. There are many ways people can be motivated, but for us there is one predominant motivation that drives our lives. Christ's love compels us.

What motivates you? It can be many things. God and country. The love of your family. Fear, success, approval of others – they are all motivating factors for people – and there are many others.

Here is another one: (14-15) *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

Has anyone ever done something really nice for you, something that you never expected? Maybe it's the girl who sits next to you in class who took all the notes for you when you were absent, and you never even asked her to! Or maybe it's the family who watched your home when you were away on a long vacation, who reset all your clocks after the power outage. Perhaps it was just the note that someone dropped to you on your birthday... just because they were thinking of you.

Those kinds of things mean so much to us. Those simple acts of kindness earn those people a place in our hearts and lives that it's difficult for us to explain. I don't know about you, but every time I hear the Star Spangled Banner, I don't think about the sporting event I'm watching, I think of all those people, who I don't even know, who have fought in wars for our freedom. I see all of those young people who have lost limbs or even a firm grasp on their sanity and

I feel a debt that I cannot explain. I think of all the families who have lost a family member so that I can be free to speak the word of God to you without worrying if one of you is a government spy.

I hope you feel the same way. If you do, I know then, that it won't be hard for you to feel even more strongly about the agony of body and soul of an innocent man hanging from a wooden beam. I'm sure the only sounds that afternoon, besides the groaning of the crucified, were the taunts of passersby who believed they were all getting what they deserved. None of us here asked Jesus to do this. We were all too self-absorbed to ever understand our greatest need. But an ocean's full of love for us filled his heart. He did it anyway. It wasn't enough for him to die; he also came back to life so that we could all understand the depth of that love.

Jesus died and rose for us. Now how do you explain how that makes you feel? That's a tough thing to put into words. It's really a lot easier to show it rather than explain it. That's one of the reasons we have war memorials in our country. It's certainly not to say, "Yeah! We won!" It's to honor the sacrifice, especially the dead. It's why there are bumper stickers that say, "never forget." It's why there are flags on graves and it's why a yellow ribbon is tied around the old oak tree. It's hard to put into words what we feel, but we can do things that show it. It shows what we think is important and it shows how we feel, even if we can't necessarily put it into words.

We do that with Jesus too. But the monuments we raise – at least the most significant ones – are the monuments of our lives. It's why we treat our family members as gifts of God. It's why we take the time to make things right with others, perhaps even apologizing when it was never our fault in the first place. It's why we use our money wisely. It's why we offer a helping hand to those who need our help. It's why we offer kind and understanding words. It's why we give of our time and our talents and our treasures to serve God and others in whatever way God is calling us.

We come to church and we bring our friends and family to church, Sunday by Sunday so that they too can come to know the love of Christ. We listen and sing about Jesus. We live for him and we pass that on. Christ's love has touched our hearts. Now we are called to share it.

-- Pastor Kehren

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THE SECOND MESSAGE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The church is to help people break the bonds that hold and oppress them, helping restore in them God's original creation. This is called MINISTRY. This happens through prayer, healing and practical help that leads to a restored image of God.

A currently held Christian myth is that when people become Christ followers (Christians), all of their problems will disappear. The truth is that the corrosive effects of the sinful aspects of culture, unhealthy family systems, destructive experiences and the propensity toward sin and selfishness continues after conversion. Ministry is needed both to heal these wounds and to help restore God's original creation to people. This is why Christians pray for each other; this is why we pray for healing, both physical and emotional; this is why people need practical help - wisdom applies to their life

challenges. The church exists to help people understand who God created them to be and to facilitate the restoration of the image of God in them.

Liberation is not meant to result in exultation of self; rather, it allows people to humbly live out their identity as children of God. Paul expresses this in Romans 8:19-21: "THE CREATION WAITS IN EAGER EXPECTATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD TO BE REVEALED".

The biblical word for redemption comes from the slave trade - to redeem slaves was to buy them back from their owners and then set them free. Spiritual redemption took place through the achievement of Jesus in the grave, where he vanquished the power of Satan. Because of this, Christians are "BOUGHT BACK" and set free to live under God, so that God's original image and purpose may be restored in them. The church is to be an agent of that redemption.

"MINISTRY" is the work of the church, customized for each person, to lead them into freedom.

VISION DOCUMENT PRAYER REQUESTS SEPTEMBER

We are now proceeding with the implementation phase of Parish Assistance. Please join in praying for the leaders and congregation as God leads us in accomplishing the works of service before us.

Pray that...

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

-we can regroup and move forward with our carrying out our vision after the summer months of rest and relaxation.

-God may move hearts of our members to step forward and fill our vacant ministry leader positions. (Adult Nurture, Outreach, and Worship).

-Coordinators without Leaders are not discouraged
-Men of the congregation participate in the Men's Retreat

-Volunteers to host Family Night Out and non-members participate

-more members complete Spiritual Gift Discovery and the Time and Talent Survey (only 40 completed)

-organizing member gifts to Ministry areas goes smoothly

- planning and helpers prepared for starting Pioneers on Sept 12
- planning and volunteers for the School of Outreach Seminar Sept 18-20

Give Glory and thanks to God...

John 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

- for the 8 children (of which 2 were from VBS) that participated in the last Family Night Out
- ACTS (Active Christian Teens) had 6 participants
- ability to offer no tuition for this year's Kindergarten class
- Coordinators faithfully pursuing goals

ALTAR GUILD

I have scheduled an Altar Guild meeting on Tues. 9/29/09 at 10 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing plans for the Fall season at Hope, including Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Altar Guild or perhaps joining the Guild is invited to attend.

FALL WORKDAY

Fall Workday, Saturday, September 26th.

Please join us on Saturday, September 26th from 8:00am until noon for our Fall Workday. You can serve the Lord by beautifying His house; have fellowship with members of your church family; and get exercise all at the same time. There is a sign-up sheet for jobs on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

HOPE FOOD CLOSET

All food donations are given to Betty N's Hope Food Closet. Please help by purchasing the designated items for the month.

Leave your purchases on the counter on the East side of the kitchen. Thank you for your outreach to the community.

September: Canned vegetables and fruit

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Hope,

We are moving through the summer months very quickly and we are seeing a lot of activity in our programs, facilities and activities. The new parking lot is beautiful and there have been many more improvements that you may or may not have noticed. We continue to make updates and improvements to the teacherage as well as the sprinkler systems and the facilities in general. We are also seeing fellowship opportunities, outreach opportunities as well as changes in our worship. I would like to thank all of you who are contributing to these activities with your time and gifts.

On a different topic, I am sure that you have heard about the upcoming School of Outreach that will be held here at hope on September 18, 19 and 20. The School of Outreach is facilitated by Synod leaders. We are the host congregation and will have representatives from several congregations from the Northern California and Northern Nevada areas. This program is designed to assist congregations in Outreach efforts. The participants from Hope will be our Council, Outreach team, Elders and Teachers but this is open to all members. The sessions will begin on the evening of Friday September 18th and will continue with an all day session on Saturday September 19th and will conclude with an afternoon session on Sunday September 20th. A lunch will be provided on Saturday. I want to encourage you to consider participating in this weekend-long activity and ask that you confirm your participation with me by Sunday August 30th. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Finally, I would like to extend a special thank you to Pastor Bartelt for his assistance during Pastor Kehren's vacation in July. We are blessed to have a second Pastor in our midst with such a wonderful gift of preaching and leading who is able and willing to fill in as needed.

HOPE SCHOOL NEWS

Hope Grizzlies Clothing Available for Purchase

We have two Hope Lutheran School Grizzlies t-shirt designs, a red and a black, available for purchase. There are short sleeved t-shirts, long sleeved t-shirts, crewneck sweatshirts, and hooded sweatshirts available in both youth and adult sizes.

There are order forms available in the principal's office. Please make checks payable to Hope Lutheran School. The deadline for receiving t-shirt orders will be Friday, September 4. Go Grizzlies!

Youth Worker Training September 8 at 7:00 PM

Any adults who are planning on helping in any way with youth at school or church (e.g. school volunteers, vocational teachers, hot lunch, Sunday school, VBS, Christmas for Kids, etc.) **need to attend the mandatory child abuse prevention training**, which will be offered in the Fellowship Hall on September 8 at 7:00 PM. The training takes about 30 minutes to complete. Thank you for helping to keep our church and school a safe place!

School Chapel Services

Chapel services will begin each Wednesday morning at 8:30 in the church. All parents, families, friends and relatives are invited to attend our chapel services. They are usually about 20 minutes long. We hope to see you there!

Weekly School Newsletter

If you would like to keep up to date on school happenings and receive a copy of the Grizzly Gazette, our schools newsletter, please email principalleifer@sbcglobal.net and he will add you to the distribution list.

Enrollment

At registration night on August 17, we had 31 students enrolled for the 2009-2010 school year. We consider it a privilege to teach each individual student, and we pray that God would bless the

partnership of teachers, parents, and students as we work together in our mission to train young minds for life and prepare young hearts for eternity!

Ways You Can Help Your School

Please see the one page insert on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for several ways you can help our school. Nearly all of them will cost you nothing to do, but will raise lots of money for the school. From searching the internet to cutting a piece of cardboard off your cereal box in the morning, there are many easy ways to help. If you have questions about any of the ways you can help, Mr. Leifer will be happy to assist you.

School Service Opportunities

In an effort to keep in better contact with some of our prospects as well as provide a service to the families of the community, we would like to host our Parents Night Out on a monthly basis, the third Friday each month from 5:30-9:00. In order for this to be possible we need a larger pool of volunteers. Each parents night out is a fun night with Bible lesson, crafts, dinner, games, and a movie for kids up through age 12. If you are interested in nurturing these children in their faith and fun, please speak with Mr. Leifer or School Ministry Leader, Jimmy Boyce.

Wish List

Projector Mounts for Ceiling (\$150)
Document Cameras (\$400)
SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard (\$1200)
SMART Board Cart (\$400)
Newer Computers for Classrooms (\$400-500)
New Desks (\$75-200)
Digital Camera for School (\$100)

YOUNG AT HEART

The September get together will feature a "General Potluck" on Tuesday, September 15th at 11:30am in

the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share and join us.

YOUNG AT HEART AND ONE ELSE INTERESTED IN A FIELD TRIP TO APPLE HILL

Please sign up for our fall trip in the fellowship hallway:

Lunch: BAVARIAN HILLS

Date: Tuesday October 20, 2009 11:30 AM

Meet there at 11:15 AM

Menu Choice: Brats or Chicken Schnitzel

German Potato Salad

Apple Pie or Apple Strudel

Ice Tea/ Coffee

Cost: \$13.00

You may also choose to tour Madrona Winery at 1:00

PM Cost: \$5:00

The tour is 1 to 1 1/2 Hours and you will be sampling their Estate Reserve Wines.

Last day for Sign-Ups and Money is Tuesday, September 15, 2009

TOGETHER



News from the WELS

August 2009

Website: www.wels.net

August 5, 2009

IMPORTANT CONVENTION DECISIONS

From the office of President Mark Schroeder

Nearly 400 delegates met last week in Saginaw, Mich., for the synod's 60th biennial convention. With "Christ's Love, Our Calling" as the theme and with the cross of Christ as the focus, the delegates spent the week prayerfully determining how the synod can best carry out its dual mission of preserving and proclaiming the gospel.

Beginning with an inspiring worship service at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, and continuing with the president's report, two doctrinal essays, and daily devotions, the delegates received guidance and strength from the words and promises of God.

Presentations by missionaries highlighted both the blessings and the opportunities in our mission fields. Reports from all areas of synodical work painted a clear picture of the many ways in which we are walking together to serve people with the gospel.

THE BUDGET

As expected, the budgetary challenges facing the synod occupied a major segment of the delegates' attention. An open hearing on Monday evening gave delegates the opportunity to discuss the two budget options presented by the Synodical Council. The prevailing sentiment was that neither option was desirable, since either choice would result in additional reductions in ministries that were considered core ministries of the synod. The floor committee dealing with the budget listened to the delegates' input and concluded that a third option should be considered. It recommended a budget that requires no further manpower cuts in Missions or Ministerial Education and instead reduces funding for Technology by \$150,000; Financial Services by \$100,000; Communications by \$50,000; Parish Services by \$200,000; mission counselors by \$100,000; and travel and meeting costs by \$400,000 across all areas of ministry.

This proposal by the floor committee was overwhelmingly adopted by a margin of 80 percent to 20 percent.

The convention also expressed consensus agreement that Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) are the primary and foundational support of the synod's work. In view of that, all congregations are encouraged to emphasize CMO in their planning and budgeting.

AD HOC COMMISSION

For the last two years, a special Ad Hoc Commission worked to identify possible improvements in the way that the synod carries out its mission and ministry. The commission's wide-ranging report and recommendations were addressed by six separate floor committees. In the end, 63 of its 65 recommendations were approved. In a few cases, recommendations were amended slightly but still reflected the original intent of the commission. The convention did not approve the recommendation to study the creation of three new districts and did not approve a recommendation to alter the voting membership of the Synodical Council. All 30 of the commission's endorsements of action already taken were favorably received.

The convention favorably received the preamble to the Ad Hoc Commission report. The preamble contained a summary of the mission and purpose of the synod and encouraged that the section be distributed throughout the synod and that pastors be encouraged to share and study this summary with their congregations.

PARISH SERVICES RECONFIGURED

In the section of its report addressing the need to strengthen congregations and their members, the Ad Hoc Commission recommended a redeployment of Parish Services. The change involved placing the ministries of Parish Services under the direct responsibility of the Conference of Presidents. It also involved removing the Parish Services board and eliminating the position of administrator. The convention approved this recommendation but made provisions for a Parish Services Council, which will coordinate the work. Policy-setting and calling responsibility for the newly configured Parish Services will rest with the Conference of Presidents. Budget reductions for the ministries of Parish Services will also mean a reduction in administrative and staff positions.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS OF THE CONVENTION

- The convention encouraged Home and World Missions to redirect manpower and funding in order to continue to enter new fields when appropriate and advisable.
- A gift policy will be developed that will decrease the number of special funds, limit the creation of new funds, and better utilize dollars in existing funds.
- The Conference of Presidents will address the issue of congregations that provide little or no support for the synod's work through their Congregation Mission Offerings.
- Areas of Ministry were directed to continually monitor staffing levels and to provide justification for all positions.
- The bylaws were amended to reduce the size of circuits to "normally not more than eight" congregations.
- Ministerial Education schools were encouraged to reduce costs, control tuition,

and increase merit-based scholarships, if possible.

- The convention called for the development of a flexible program of continuing education for called workers.
- The Conference of Presidents was directed to initiate a synod-wide review of key doctrines and practical issues. This review would also provide materials and guidance for studies at conferences and in congregations. Topics to be studied are the efficacy of the means of grace, Christian vocation and church and ministry, care of souls (evangelical Christian discipline), and the sacramental life.
- The full-time position of vice president for mission and ministry was changed to a part-time first vice president. Pastor James Huebner was elected to this position; Pastor Joel Voss was elected to serve a partial term as the second vice president.
- The convention strongly encouraged congregations to direct the savings from the planned VEBA premium holiday to the WELS operating fund.

God blessed our synod convention last week with a group of delegates who were truly about their Father's business. While not everyone agreed with every decision, the sense of unity in belief and in purpose was clear. We pray that, just as God blessed the work of the convention, he will now bless the work that we continue to do together in his name. Detailed information about the convention is posted on the convention Web site: www.wels.net/convention

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

NEW LOGO AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK

The new synod logo, introduced at the synod convention in Saginaw, Mich., will be made available to all congregations and synod-affiliated organizations next week.

The new logo is an updated version of the



traditional WELS cross. The new red rings are symbolic of the work of the Holy Spirit and WELS' mission to proclaim the gospel to the world. The logo also incorporates the convention theme—and the new phrase chosen to identify the synod: "Christ's Love, Our Calling."

Guidelines for logo usage and downloadable electronic files of approved logo versions will be available through Connect, the synod's new Intranet. An e-mail with links to the guidelines and logo files will be sent to all pastors and congregations. A login and password will be required for access.

SPOTLIGHT ON STREAMS

Mr. Joel Hochmuth, WELS director of communications, presents a video wrap of the 2009 synod convention, which was held July 27-31 in Saginaw, Mich. Watch it on the new Streams at www.wels.net.

August 17, 2009

IMPLEMENTING CONVENTION DECISIONS

From the office of President Mark Schroeder
It's only two weeks after the conclusion of the synod convention, but already work has begun to implement the various resolutions that were adopted.

Convention decisions directly affected the work of Parish Services in a number of ways. First, the Board for Parish Services has been replaced by a Parish Services council. The work carried out by Parish Assistance and the commissions on Evangelism, Youth Discipleship, Adult Discipleship, Worship, Special Ministries, and Parish Schools will now be carried out as a part of the Ministry Support area of the synod's work and will be accountable to the Conference of Presidents through the synod president. Second, the budget for the ministries of Parish Services was further reduced. Reductions had already been planned before convention; with these additional reductions, three more called positions and possibly one staff position will need to be eliminated. The specifics of those reductions and what programs might be reduced or eliminated are being identified and will be finally determined by the Conference of Presidents. In keeping with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission and the resolutions of the convention, every effort will be made to preserve as many functions of the Parish Services ministries as possible.

The convention delegates received some unexpected good news when WELS VEBA announced that there will be a one-month premium holiday sometime this fall. In other words, for one month all calling bodies will not be required to send premium payments for their workers who are participants in the VEBA health insurance plan. The convention passed a resolution strongly encouraging congregations and schools to redirect the money they would have sent to VEBA to the synod instead. If all calling bodies follow the convention's encouragement, there is potential benefit to the synod of up to \$2.5 million. Since congregations and schools have already budgeted for these payments, this step could provide the synod with significant additional financial support with no additional sacrifice from congregations. More information on this will be shared in the coming weeks.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE SYNODICAL COUNCIL

The Synodical Council supervises the mission and ministry of the synod between conventions. Several new members will be joining the Synodical Council when it meets in November.

- Rev. Joel Voss (second vice president)
- Rev. Phil Hirsch (chairman of the Board for Ministerial Education)
- Rev. Jonathan Schroeder (pastor at large)
- Teacher James Moeller (teacher at large)

CALLED WORKERS WITHOUT CALLS

As the budget was developed last year, there were concerns that the reductions would result in a large number of called workers without calls. In all, about 38 occupied and vacant positions for called workers were eliminated. Thankfully, our worst fears have not been realized. The Lord has provided other calls for many whose positions were eliminated. Only six pastor-trained men, two staff ministers, and six teachers have not yet received a call. All but 4 seminary graduates and 12 MLC graduates have also been assigned. We will keep all of these workers in our prayers until the Lord calls them to the field of service he has planned for them.

Not to be forgotten are the many faithful staff people across all areas of ministry whose positions have been eliminated. Our prayers are with them, too, as they struggle to find new employment.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

One other convention note: every congregation will be sent the September-December 2009 episodes of WELS Connection. The September episode is devoted exclusively to convention coverage. A longer, more in-depth version of that episode—designed for church councils, voters meetings, and other leadership groups—is provided in the "toolbox" feature of the DVD.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

NEW HMONG PASTOR AT ALASKAN MISSION

Rev. Pao Moua will be installed Aug. 23 as the pastor of WELS' first Hmong mission in Alaska. The mission—currently called Faith Hmong Mission—is holding services at Faith Lutheran Church, Anchorage.

"I think it looks really promising as a mission field for us," says Rev. Leon Piepenbrink, Hmong ministry coordinator. "We're there before a lot of other churches have started Hmong congregations, and we're there at a time when a lot of people are moving there."

About 50 Hmong have been meeting regularly at Faith for about a year. Many of the core members relocated from Fresno, Calif., where WELS already has a Hmong congregation. Before Moua came, Rev. Jim Oldfield from Faith had been preaching once a month with an interpreter, and Hmong elders had led simple services on the other Sundays.

Since there is no funding for this mission, Moua will be working a full-time job in addition to preaching, holding Bible study, and conducting ministry training at the mission. Congregational lay leaders will be responsible for community outreach. "Our goal would be to gather more donations and commitments for this mission in Anchorage so that eventually Pao could scale back to a part-time job and do more ministry," says Piepenbrink.

Although not financially responsible for the Hmong mission, Faith is hosting the mission at its church and allowing the Moua family to live in the nearby parsonage. Moua was one of three Hmong men who graduated in May from the Asian Ministry Training Program, a satellite program under the auspices of

the Pastoral Studies Institute of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

HARD TIMES IN PAKISTAN AND NEPAL

WELS' contact in Pakistan reports that Christians in Gojra, Pakistan, were attacked by Muslims on Aug. 1. A number of Christians were killed, and many homes were burned. Exact numbers are difficult to obtain because of the anti-Christian atmosphere in Pakistan.

WELS began working with a Christian in Pakistan in 2006, but his identity must remain protected for his safety. Since 2006, WELS has distributed more than 60,000 pieces of Christian literature to people in Pakistan, and 19,000 students are enrolled in the Bible correspondence and teaching courses translated into Urdu by WELS Multi-Language Publications.

Rev. Michael Duncan, WELS' mission outreach coordinator for Pakistan and Nepal, says, "Christians in other parts of the world experience extreme persecution for their beliefs. The devil is alive, and we must do all we can to share the gospel in parts of the world where it is unknown. It's critical that we pray for Christians in countries like Pakistan and for the work that we are doing to share the gospel with these people."

Duncan also reports that a cholera epidemic in Midwestern Nepal has killed 260 people and left thousands sick. Through the synod's contact in Nepal, WELS has access to these remote regions where people are not receiving medicine, so the contact, along with leaders in the church, will bring medicines to these people. WELS Committee on Relief is supplying \$1,000 and WELS Humanitarian Aid Committee is supplying \$1,100 for medical clinics to treat this cholera epidemic.

Rev. David Valleskey, chairman of the Humanitarian Aid Committee, says, "The Humanitarian Aid Committee exists to demonstrate the love of Jesus to people by providing gifts to them in times of trouble, which is obviously what this is for the people in Nepal. One of our goals is to have people ask, 'Why are you giving us this gift?' Then Christians in the area have an opportunity to share the gospel with their neighbors."

DVD DEBUTS AT SYNOD CONVENTION

Road to Emmaus, a new DVD that portrays the discussion that Jesus could have had with the two

disciples after his resurrection, debuted at the 2009 synod convention.

movie is available from Northwestern Publishing House.

"It was outstanding," says Rev. Ed Schuppe, a pastor delegate. "It will have many uses for congregations throughout our synod, especially in the mission field. I thank God for the awesome tool that this can be for reaching the lost and strengthening our members in their knowledge of God's plan of salvation."

According to Rev. Dave Kehl, administrator for Adult Discipleship, the movie is part of a larger effort of the Publication Coordinating Commission, a group of representatives from WELS entities involved in material publication, to focus its publishing efforts on a central message—Christ's victory on the cross and how we're involved in his mission to reveal that to the world. "Here in a simple, 30-minute movie is an explanation of what the whole Bible is about—zeroing down to the core of what Christ has done for us and our mission," says Kehl.

Road to Emmaus was produced and directed by Boettcher/Trinklein Television, Inc., the same group that produces *WELS Connection*. Filmed entirely in Wisconsin, it stars Bruce Marchiano as Jesus. Marchiano also portrays Jesus in the *Matthew* video put out by The Visual Bible.

According to Kehl, the movie is simple enough for congregations to use with those who have never heard of Christ but meaty enough for lifelong Christians. Already available in English and Spanish, the movie also will be translated into several other languages for use in world mission fields. Watch the trailer.

The movie is made possible by grants from the Publication Coordinating Commission, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and WELS Kingdom Workers. It is available from Northwestern Publishing House.

Congregational leaders are encouraged to download a Road to Emmaus discussion guide for use in group settings. The guide is available on Connect, WELS' Intranet. A username and password are required; if you don't have a Connect account, sign up today.

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

See a trailer of the new movie Road to Emmaus, which portrays the discussion that Jesus could have had with the two disciples after his resurrection. The