

EMBRACE THE
CROSS ANTICIPATE THE
CROWN
SYNOD CONVENTION 2023



Rev. Kurt Lueneburg
Director, WELS Ministry of Christian Giving

20
23



WELS Ministry of Christian Giving mission

We encourage members to excel in the grace of giving in our Lord Jesus Christ and assist them in making planned gifts to support the gospel ministry of their congregations, synod, and WELS-affiliated ministries.

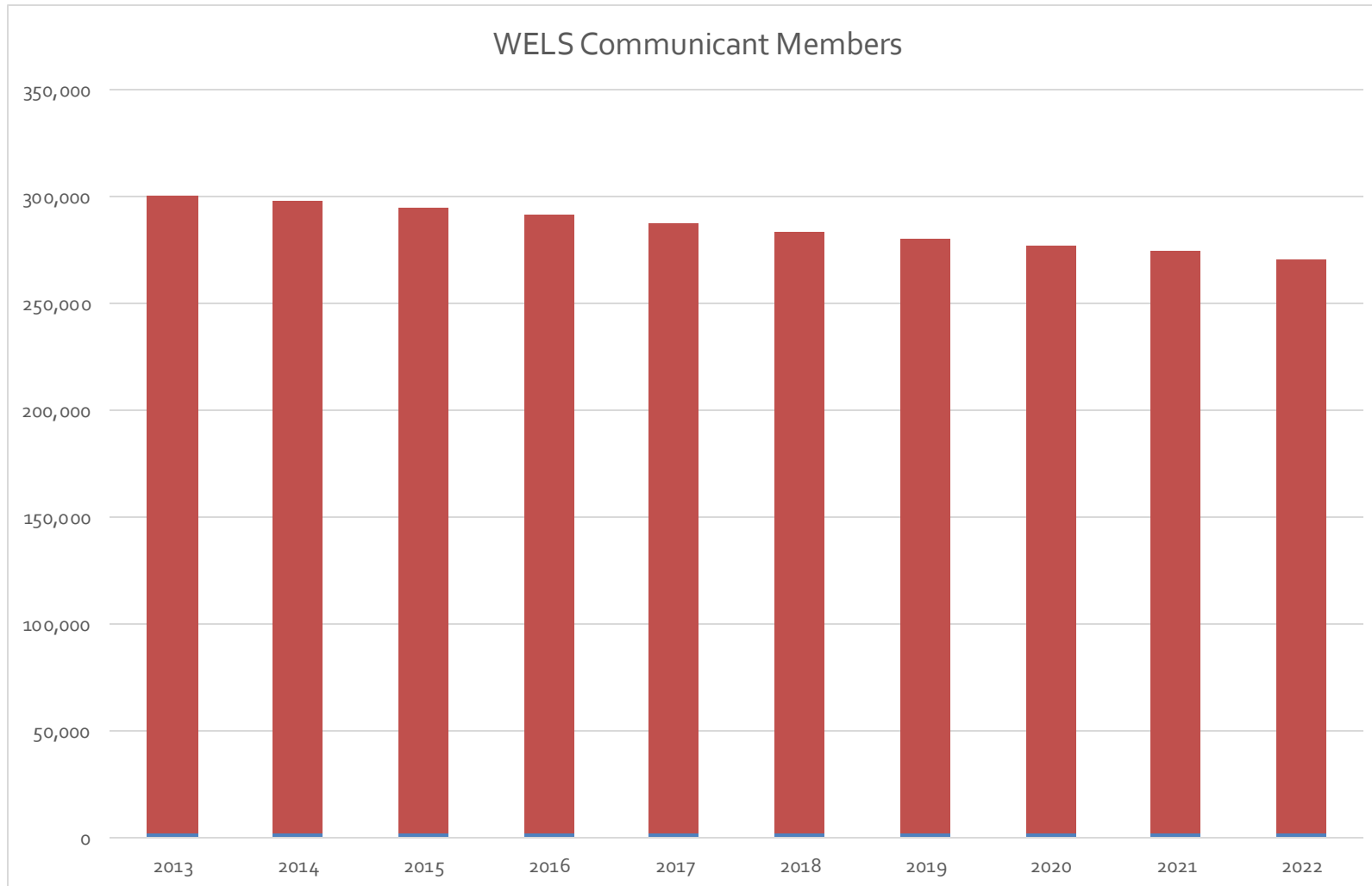


Devotional thought

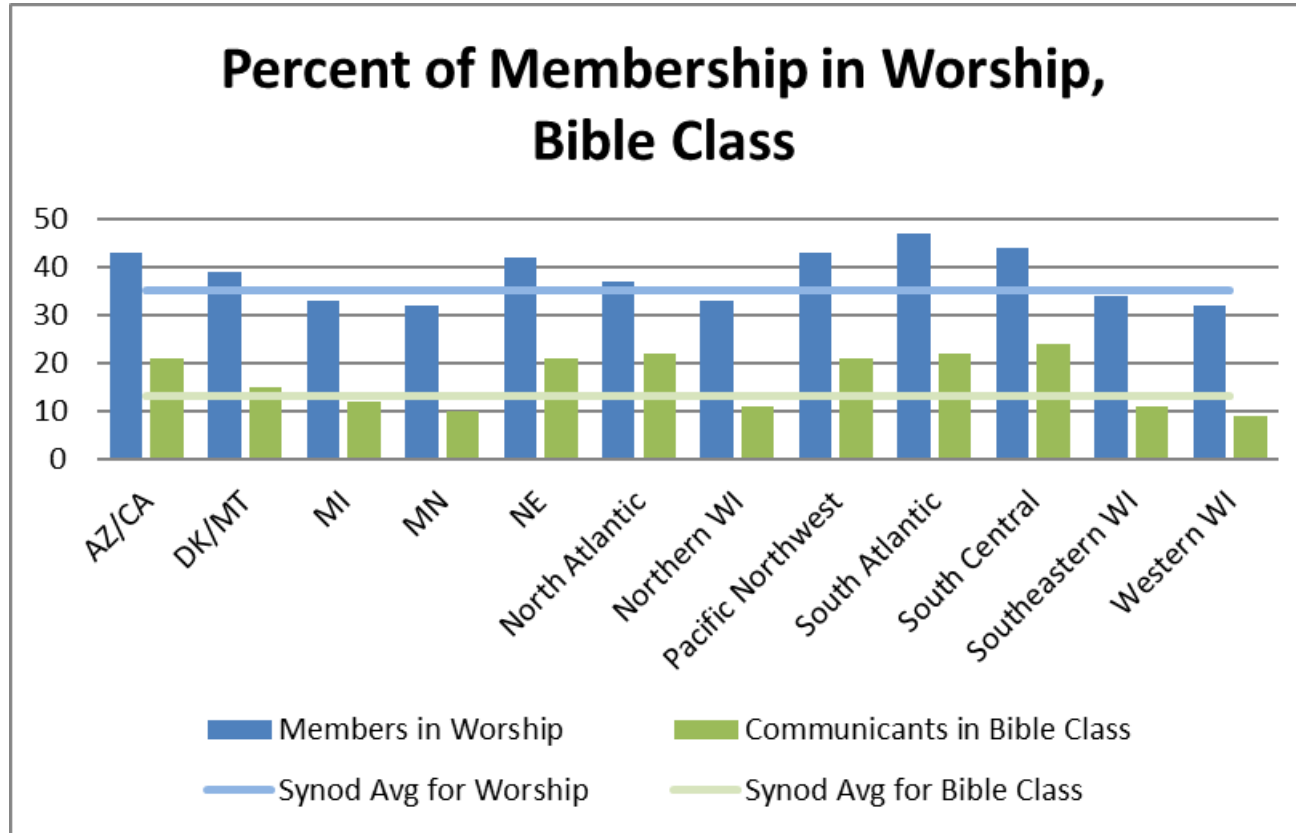
“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:17-19).



Blessings and opportunities



Blessings and opportunities

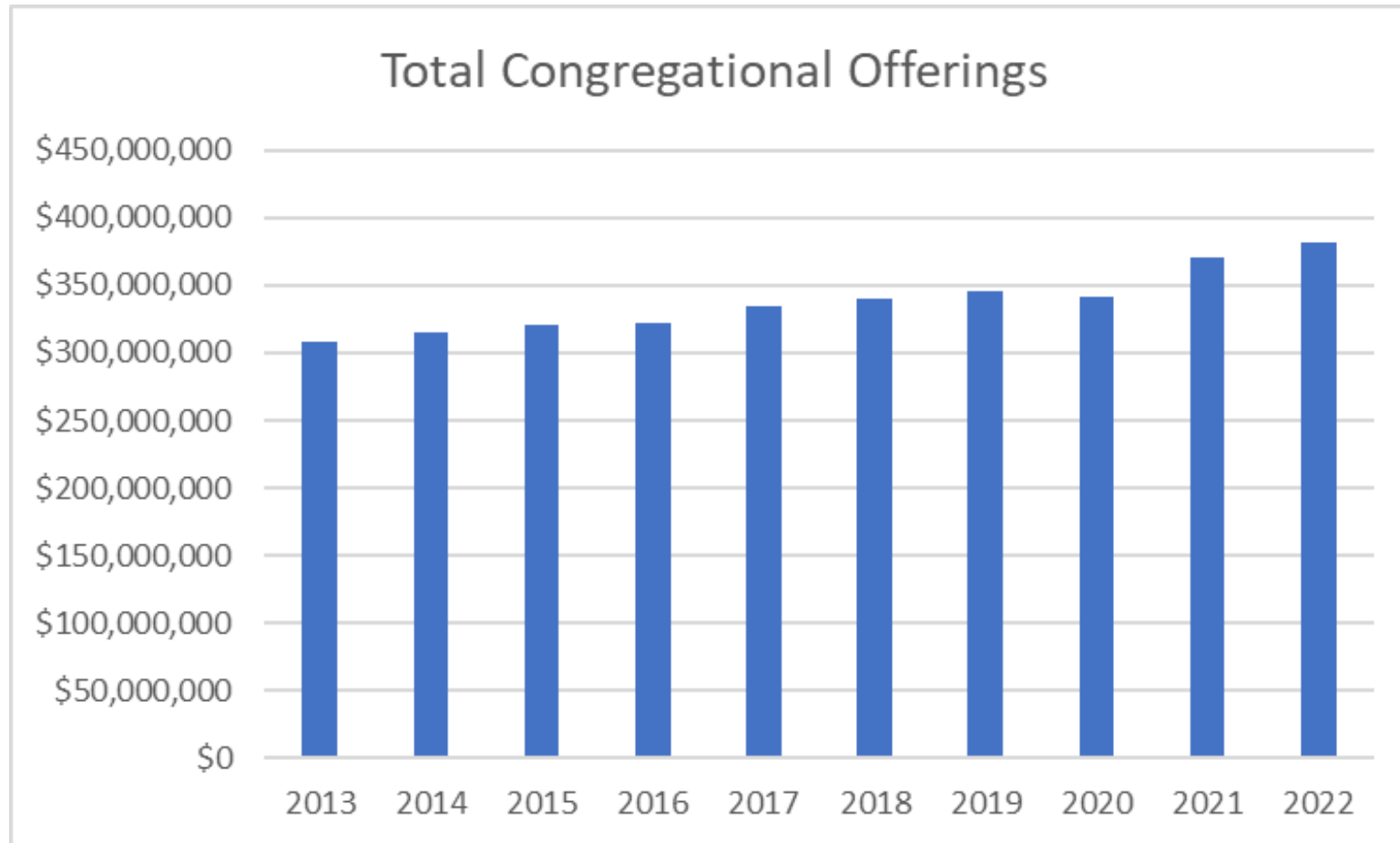


2022 statistics:

- 35% in worship
- 13% in Bible class

Blessings and opportunities

2022 total congregational offerings: \$382 million

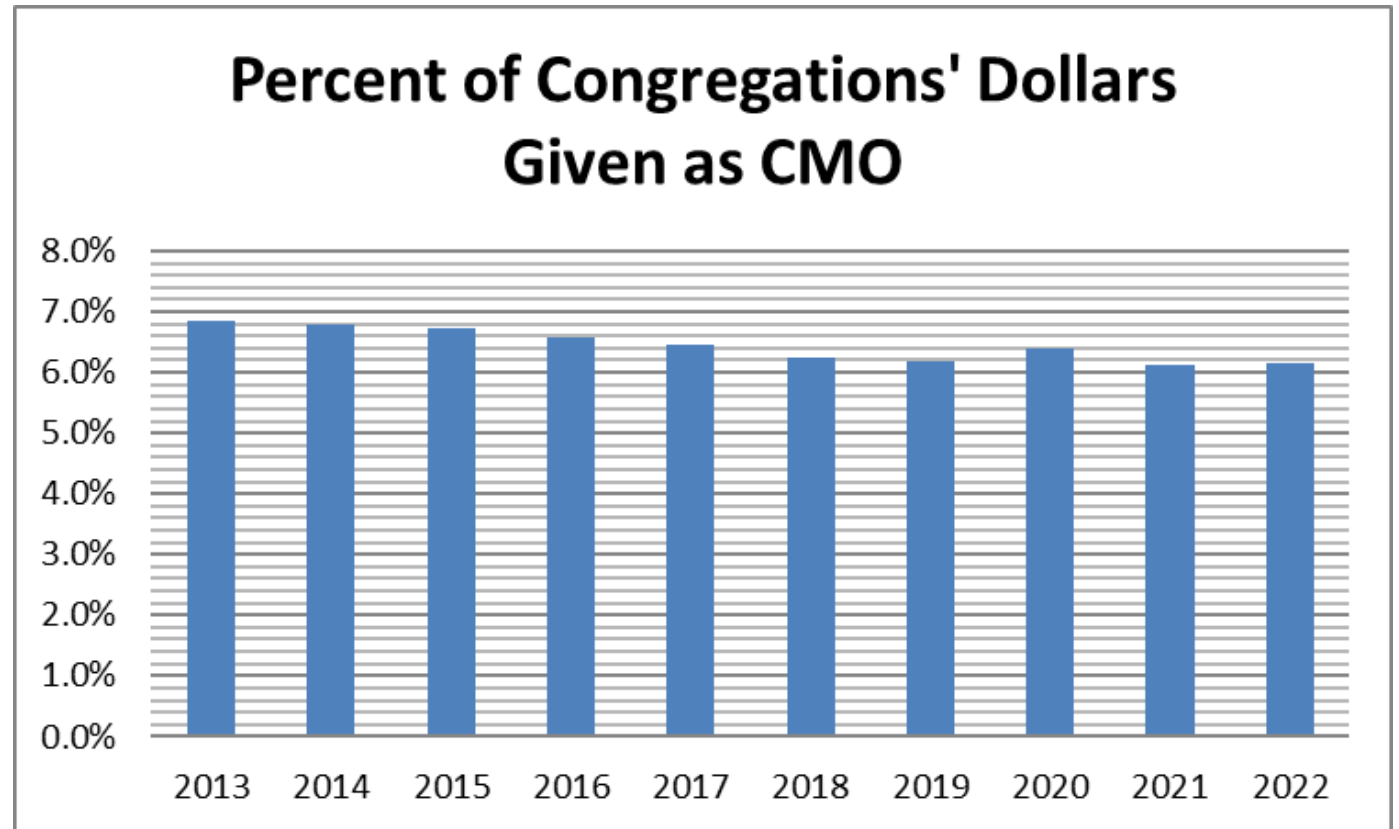


Blessings and opportunities

- **Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) for 2022** were **\$23.33 million**
 - 2.9 percent (\$654,000) more than 2021 CMO.
 - 3.9 percent higher (\$833,000) than projected receipts.
- This is the third consecutive year in which our congregations have offered a record total of CMO.
- This is the first year in which CMO has surpassed \$23 million.
- Let us thank the Lord for continuing to bless us through his people's generous gifts!

Blessings and opportunities

- 2.2% of personal income to offerings
- 6.1% of church offerings given as CMO



Blessings and opportunities

WELS Endowment Funds

By the grace of Jesus, we have received **\$33.3 million in gifts** since 2005 (with another **\$81.2 million expected** through donors' wills) and **distributed more than \$1 million** in July from the WELS Missions and Ministerial Education Endowment Funds!



Blessings and opportunities

- **CMO subscriptions for 2023** point to a 1.6 percent decrease from 2022 actual offerings.
- **Through June**, offerings total **\$10.79 million**, which is up \$62,000 (0.6 percent) from the CMO that we received during the first six months of 2022 and 4.3 percent higher than projected receipts.
- We praise the Lord and thank his people for these gifts and commitments!

Blessings and opportunities

- When setting CMO, aim for 10 percent of offerings. If at or above this goal, encourage your congregation to maintain its generous support or consider increasing it as you're able with God's blessing.
- "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have" (2 Corinthians 8:12).
- "Excel in this grace of giving. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 8:7,9).

Congregation Mission Offerings

- *WELS Connection*
- *Together* e-newsletter
- *Forward in Christ*
- Annual Report (includes PowerPoint)
- Annual CMO-setting materials



Individual offerings

New WELS Christian giving counselors

- **Rev. Craig Wasser, Current Gifts**

Arizona-California District

Pacific Northwest District

- **Rev. Steve Schmeling, Current Gifts**

Dakota-Montana District

Minnesota District

Nebraska District





Individual offerings

New WELS Christian giving counselors

- **Mr. Terry Helton, Deferred Gifts**

Michigan District

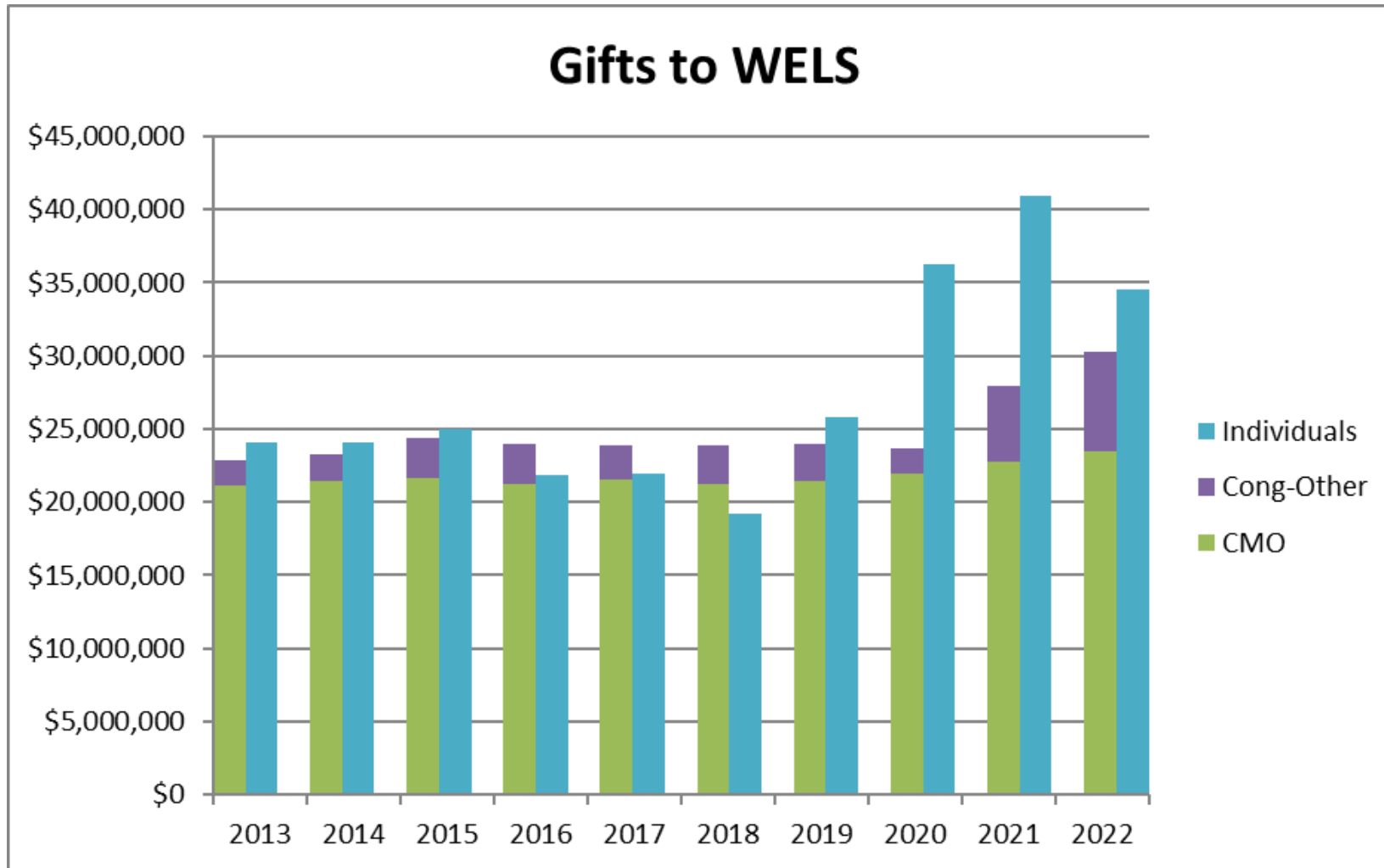
North Atlantic District

- **Mr. Patrick Ruehrdanz, Current Gifts**

Northern Wisconsin District



Individual offerings



Individual offerings

In fiscal year 2022-23, WELS Christian giving counselors (12.4 full-time equivalents)

- conducted 1,359 meaningful visits and 2,734 meaningful contacts with donors.
- nurtured \$11.1 million in immediate gifts and \$30.8 million in new (87) and revised (52) deferred expectancies from assigned donors.
- helped donors arrange 200 major gift opportunities (current and deferred) totaling \$40.4 million; 71 additional major gift opportunities are in process. To God be the glory!

Individual offerings

Enhancing our service to individuals

- Christ-centered, relationship-based, free, confidential help
- Connect donors' interests with our areas of ministry
- Assist with major gifts of assets according to donors' interests and abilities
- Nurture donors to consider supporting Christ's work now and through their wills as the Lord has blessed them



Individual offerings

IRA charitable distributions

Those 70.5 or older can make tax-free gifts to ministry from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

Consider directing required minimum distributions to ministry to save on taxes, then using the cash you would have given to charity for other needs.

wels.net/qcd



Individual offerings

Grace of Giving

Newsletter from WELS Ministry of Christian Giving and WELS Foundation with ministry updates and planned giving options

wels.net/graceofgiving

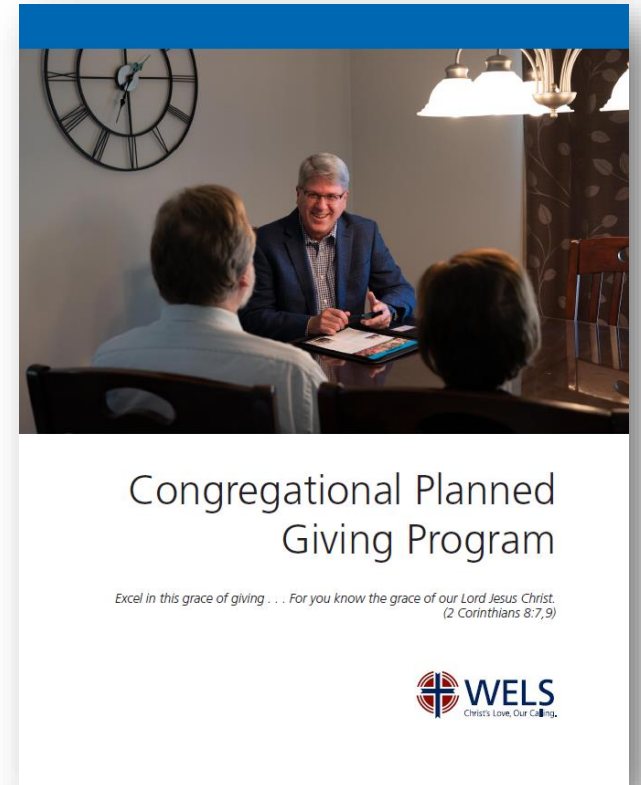


Resources

Congregational Planned Giving

Encourage planned giving in your church using synod resources and your local giving counselor

wels.net/plannedgivingprogram



Stewardship Toolbox

- “Mission prayers” for various ministries
- “Stewardship by the Lectionary” devotionals based on weekly readings share God’s stewardship truths according to the pericope

mcg.welsrc.net





Scriptural encouragement

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, . . . let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:19, 23-25).

Thank you!
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