



Rev. Kurt Lueneburg Director, WELS Ministry of Christian Giving





# WELS Ministry of Christian Giving mission

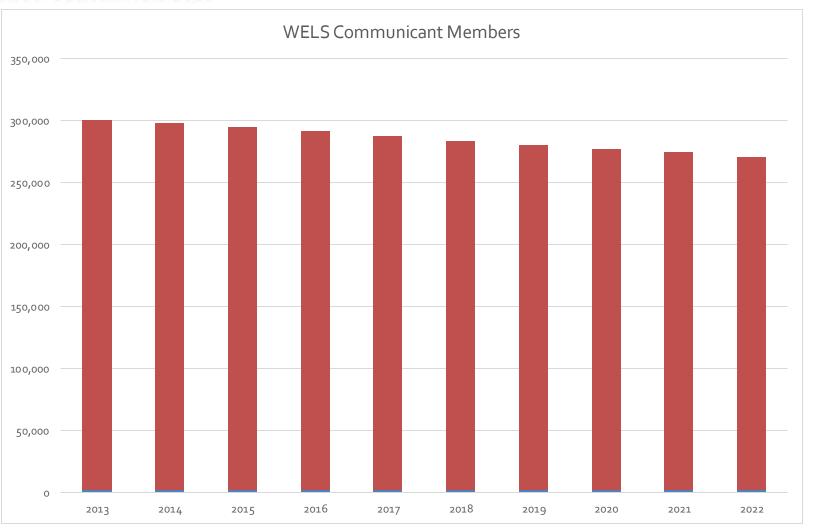
We encourage members to excel in the grace of giving in our Lord Jesus Christ and assist them in making planned gifts to support the gospel ministry of their congregations, synod, and WELS-affiliated ministries.



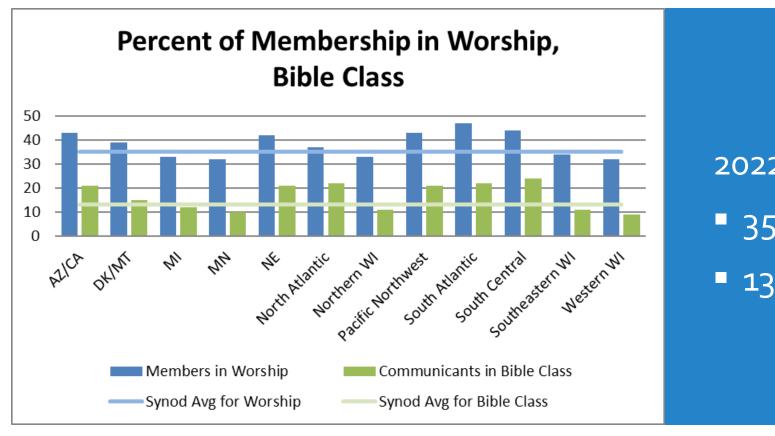
### Devotional thought

"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).







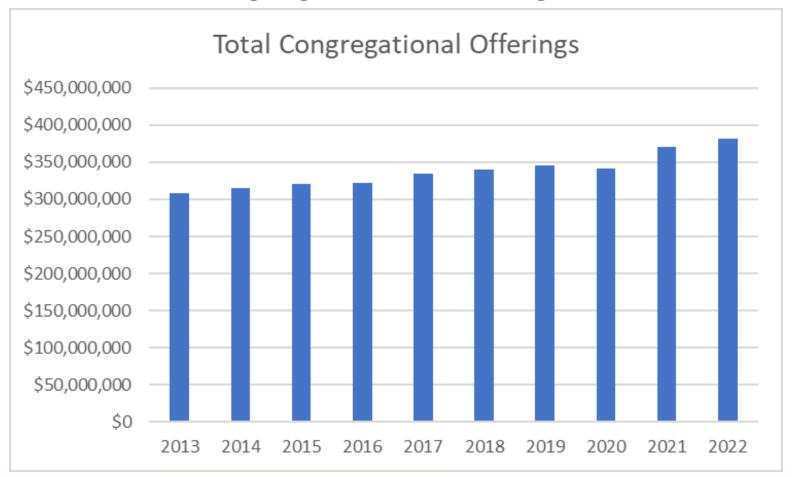


#### 2022 statistics:

- 35% in worship
- 13% in Bible class



#### 2022 total congregational offerings: \$382 million

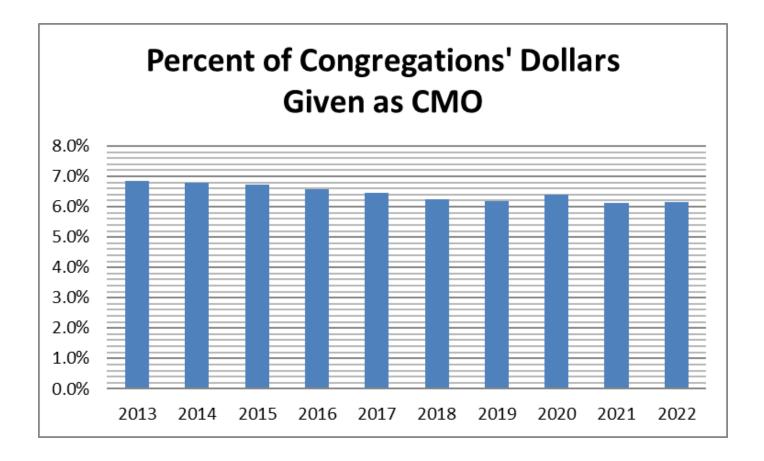




- Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) for 2022 were \$23.33 million
  - 2.9 percent (\$654,000) more than 2021 CMO.
  - 3.9 percent higher (\$833,000) than projected receipts.
- This is the third consecutive year in which our congregations have offered a record total of CMO.
- This is the first year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



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





#### **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!







- 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!

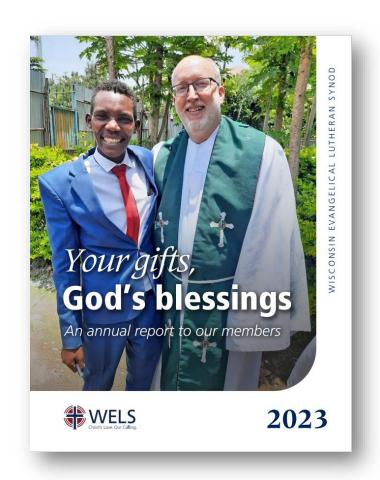


- When setting CMO, aim for 10 percent of offerings. If at or above this goal, encourage your congregation to maintain its generous support or consider increasing it as you're able with God's blessing.
- "For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according 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





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







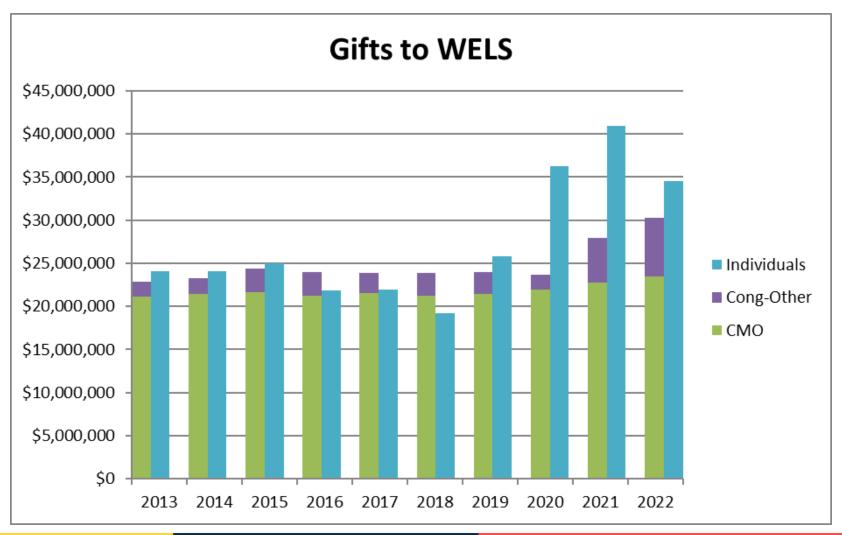
#### New WELS Christian giving counselors

- Mr. Terry Helton, Deferred Gifts
   Michigan District
   North Atlantic District
- Mr. Patrick Ruehrdanz, Current Gifts
   Northern Wisconsin District











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!



#### 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





#### 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





#### **Grace of Giving**

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

wels.net/graceofgiving



#### A Legacy Gift 20 Years in the Making

Eddle and Robert Verhelst, brothers from South Dakota, are third-generation farmers, working the land passed down through their parents and grandparents. Out of gratitude for the Lord's blessings, they wished to set up planned gifts to support Christ's gospel work. "We wanted to do something to share back our wealth," says Eddle, "God has been so good to us."

In the early 2000s, Eddie and Robert met with WELS Christian giving counselor Ken Dlerks, who introduced them to charitable remainder trusts. After Ken retired, Christian giving counselor (CGC) Scott Wagner nurtured the relationship with the brothers, providing them with gift illustrations from WELS Foundation showing how they could fund charitable remainder trusts using stock that they held.

In late 2022, the brothers worked with their legal and tax advisors and WELS Foundation to establish charitable remainder trusts. Once established, they transferred their stock to the trusts, with WELS Foundation serving as trustee.

The brothers are grateful for the guidance from CGC Scott Wagner and the services provided by WELS Foundation. They also appreciate the income tax deduction they received and the fact that they didn't have to pay capital gains tax on their gift. In addition, Eddie and Robert will receive income payments from the trusts for their lives, which they plan to use as additional gifts to support the charities they love. When the Lord calls them home, the remainder in the trusts will support WELS ministries.

"If you have stock to donate, this is a wonderful way to do it," Eddie says. "It's a win for everybody and a win for God's kingdom."

This is one way to use a charitable remainder trust. Learn more about the benefits and potential uses on p. 2.



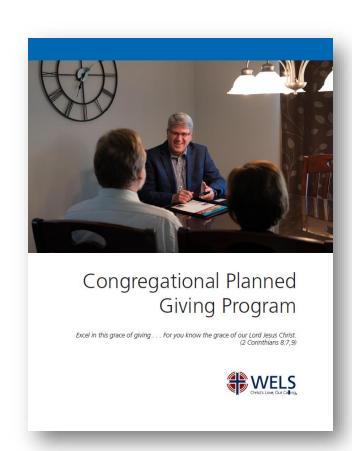


#### Resources

#### **Congregational Planned Giving**

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

wels.net/plannedgivingprogram



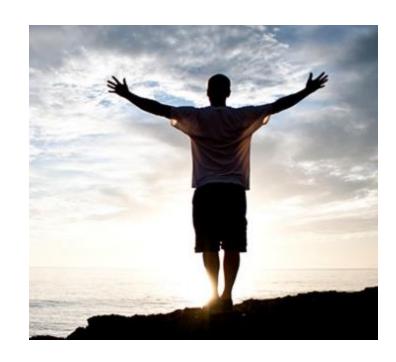


#### Resources

#### **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 <u>encouraging one another</u> and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:19, 23-25).



Thank you!
WELS Ministry of Christian Giving

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