

175 years of God’s surprising grace to the Wisconsin Synod

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Introduction

Amazing grace—that chose us ere the worlds were made;
amazing grace—that sent your Son to save;
amazing grace—that robed us in your righteousness
and taught our lips to sing glory and praise.

O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;
forgiving love—that led us to your truth;
unyielding love—that would not let us turn from you
but sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.

Christian Worship 582:2,3

Beginnings: A “mild” Lutheran synod

The lack of quality pastors

“A well in our country”: Ministerial education

A “turn to the right”: Becoming a more confessional synod

The mission spirit of WELS: The Apache mission

The mission spirit of WELS: The first overseas missions

God’s surprising grace in the break with Missouri

The golden age of WELS growth: By grace alone

Education, leadership, stewardship: More evidence of God’s surprising grace

God’s surprising grace into the future

Conclusion

Not unto us but to your name be glory, Lord,
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav’ling days are over and done,
and pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

Christian Worship 582:4