









WELS Ministry of Christian Giving mission

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

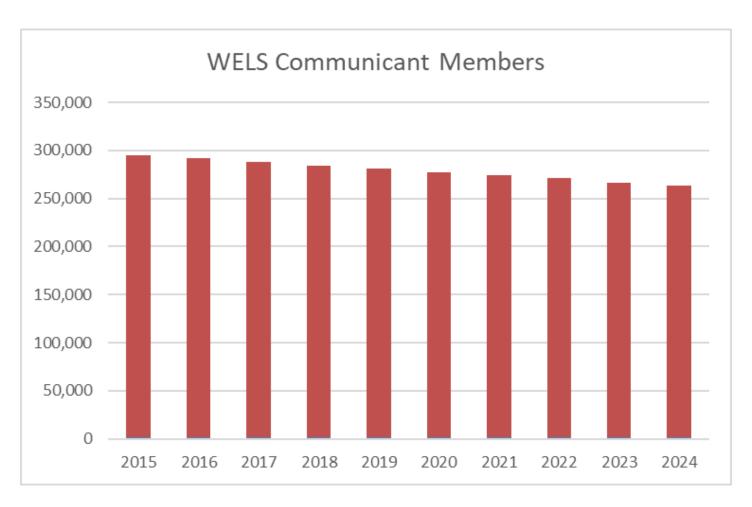


Devotional thought

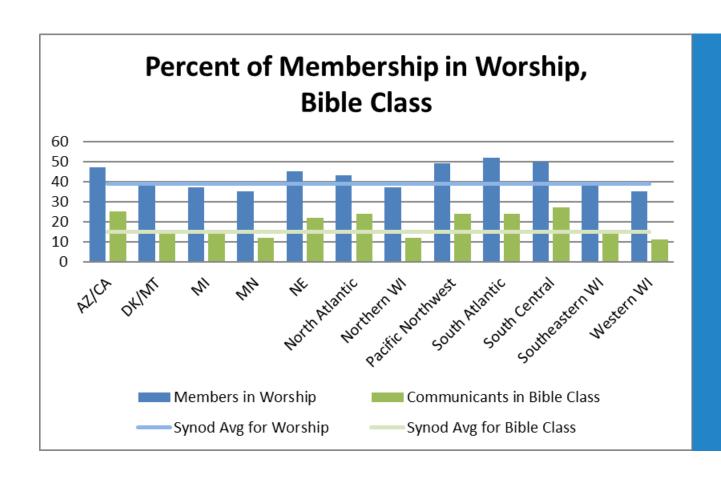
"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).







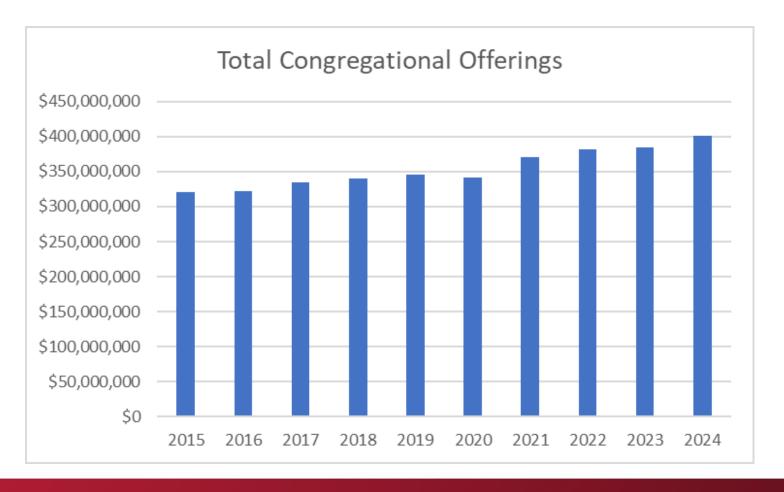


2024 statistics:

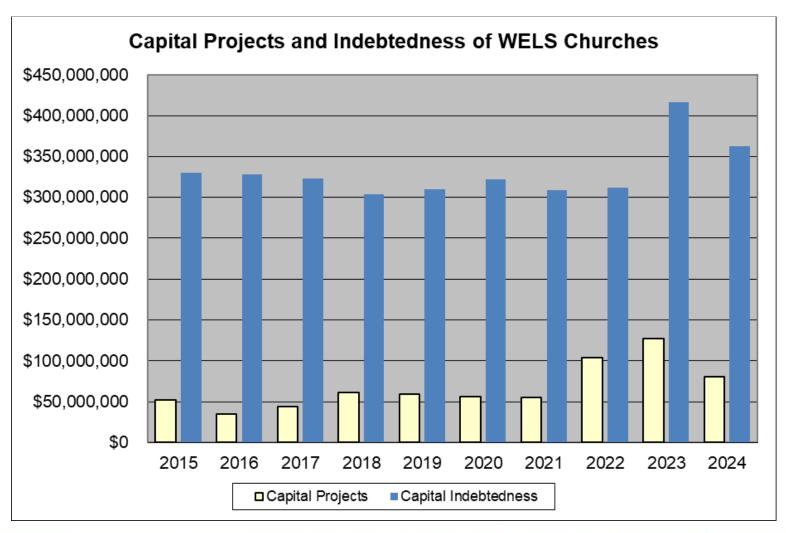
- 39% in worship
- 15% in Bible class



2024 total congregational offerings: \$401.5 million





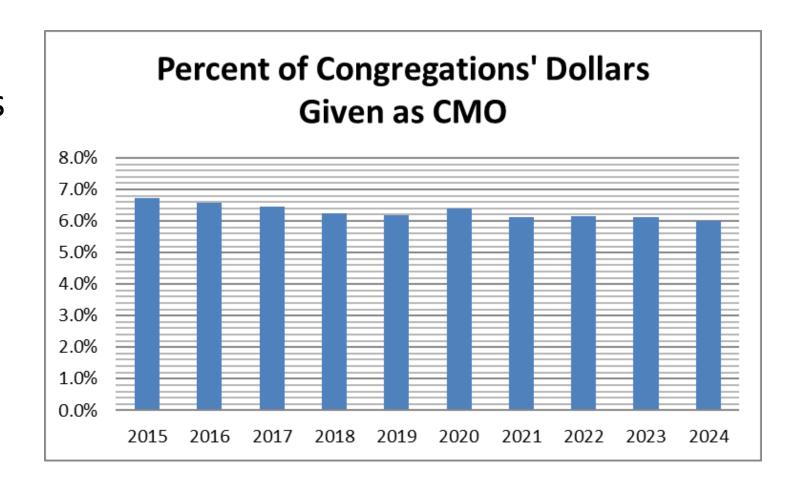




- Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) for 2024 were \$23.91 million.
 - 2.2 percent (\$511,000) more than 2023 CMO
 - 3.0 percent higher (\$707,000) than projected receipts
- This is the fifth consecutive year in which our congregations have offered a record total of CMO.
- This is the third year in which CMO has surpassed \$23 million.
- Let us thank the Lord for continuing to bless us through his people's generous gifts!



- 2.1% of personal income to offerings
- 6.0% of church offerings given as CMO





WELS Endowment Funds

By the grace of Jesus, we have received **\$40.6 million in gifts** since 2005 (with another **\$86.9 million expected** through donors' wills) and **distributed \$1.4 million** in July from the WELS Missions and Ministerial Education Endowment Funds!







Special offering





Capital campaigns: "Magnify" campaign for a new music center at Luther Preparatory School







Capital campaigns: Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's "Compelled" initiative for new education center, faculty offices, and gathering hall









- CMO subscriptions for 2025 point to a 0.9 percent decrease from 2024 actual offerings.
- Through June, offerings total \$11.1 million, which is up \$119,000 (1.1 percent) from the CMO that we received during the first six months of 2024 and \$253,000 (2.3 percent) higher than projected receipts.
- We praise the Lord and thank his people for these gifts and commitments!



- When setting CMO, aim for ten 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



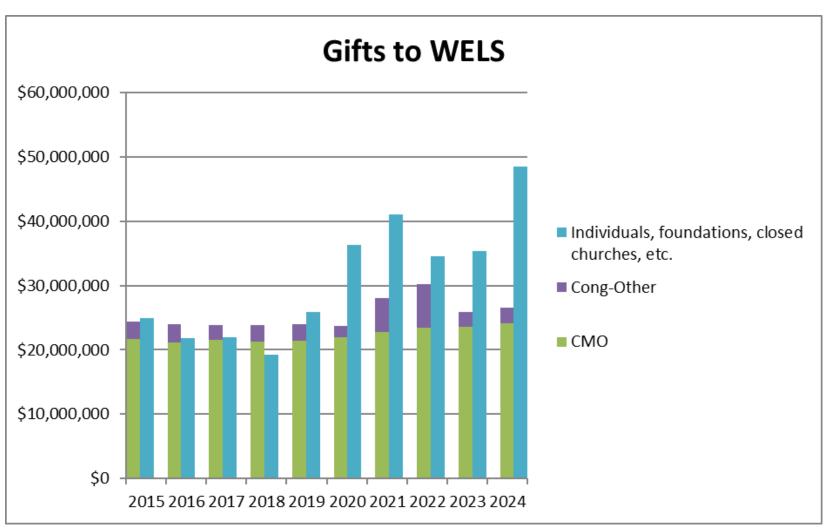


WELS Christian giving counselors

- Offer 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









In fiscal year 2024-25, WELS Christian giving counselors (13.8 full-time equivalents)

- conducted 1,249 meaningful visits and 4,976 meaningful contacts with donors.
- nurtured \$14.8 million in immediate gifts and \$44.5 million in deferred expectancies from assigned donors.
- helped donors arrange 160 major gift opportunities (current and deferred) totaling \$40.9 million.

To God be the glory!



IRA charitable distributions

Those 70.5 or older can make tax-free gifts to ministry from their 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 of love: One couple's giving journey

Don and Eileen (not their real names) didn't have children, but God prospered them so they could be a blessing for generations of children across our synod.

Eileen worked at a bank for 25 years, and she and her husband had their own cost accounting business for 20 years. "We weren't big spenders," she said. "We didn't travel a lot. So we were able to save a bit here and invest a little bit here and there, and so we were very fortunate. God did help us in that way."

In thanks to God, the couple decided they wanted to give back by supporting Christian education. "We talked about that a lot because of the way the world was going," Eileen said, "and it seems like that's the best way that kids get a good foundation. So we talked about that for many years."

Then their lives took a turn in 2002. Don was diagnosed with cancer on his birthday. As the cancer progressed through the years, the couple moved closer to the hospital for his treatments. The pastor at their new congregation shared,

"Don was more aware than most that his time was coming to an end. He worked hard to set up their estate for Eileen and for the ministries they wanted to support after the Lord had taken them both to heaven."

But before the gifts were finalized, it was the Lord's plan to call Don to heaven. Elleen strugled with carrying out their wishes. "That was the hard part for me. He did all the major paperwork. It never even crossed my mind at that point, and life goes on so fast. It was a terrible anxiety because I knew nothing about it. Shortly after I got going on everything I could."

Eileen worked hard with the assistance of her WELS Christian giving counselor to complete the final steps of their giving plans and, early last year, she established two endowments for the schools of the congregations she and Don attended.

She also made a gift through her estate to fund an endowment at each of WELS' four ministerial education schools. (continued on p. 2)

Inside

March 1 GIVING THROUGH AN ENDOWMENT FUND

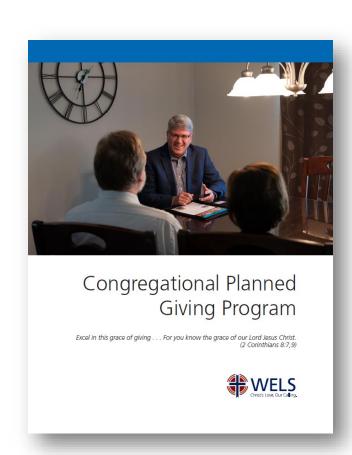
WELS 175TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING



Congregational Planned Giving

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

wels.net/plannedgivingprogram



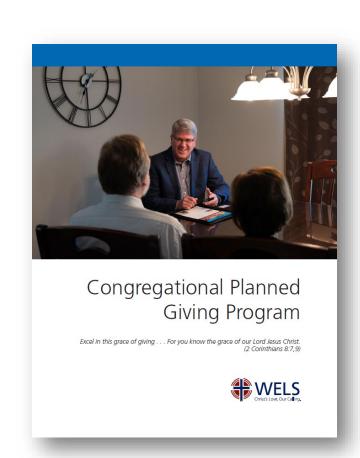


Congregational Planned Giving

Christ-based, donor-centric:

- Educating
- Encouraging
- Enlisting
- Exciting

wels.net/plannedgivingprogram

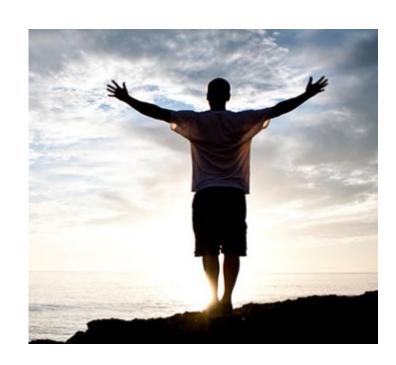




Stewardship Toolbox

- "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

"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:57,58).



Thank you! WELS Ministry of Christian Giving mcg@wels.net 800-827-5482