



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 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).

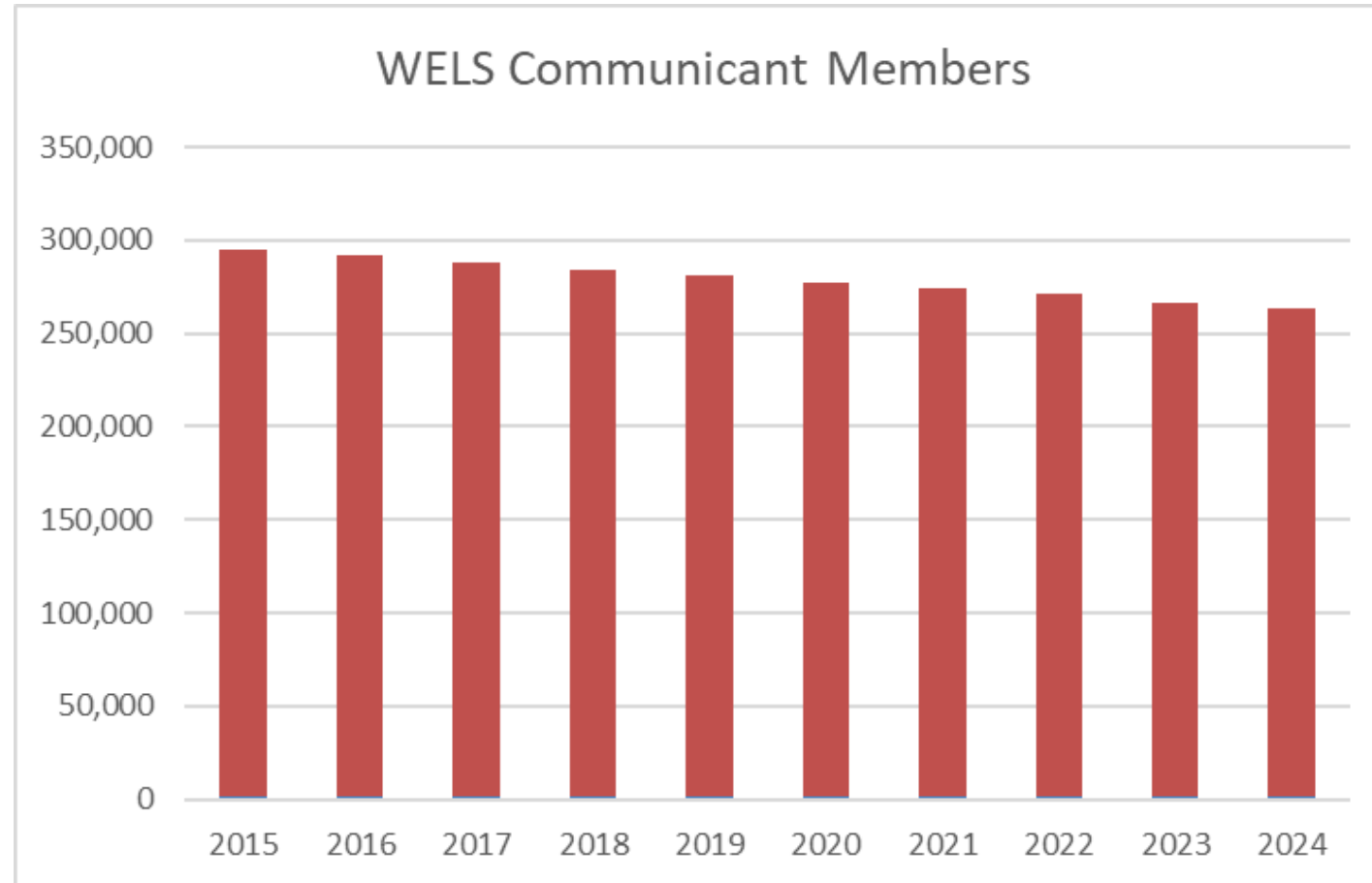
“You will be enriched in every way **so that you can be generous on every occasion**, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11).



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THROUGH US**

SYNOD CONVENTION 2025

Blessings and opportunities

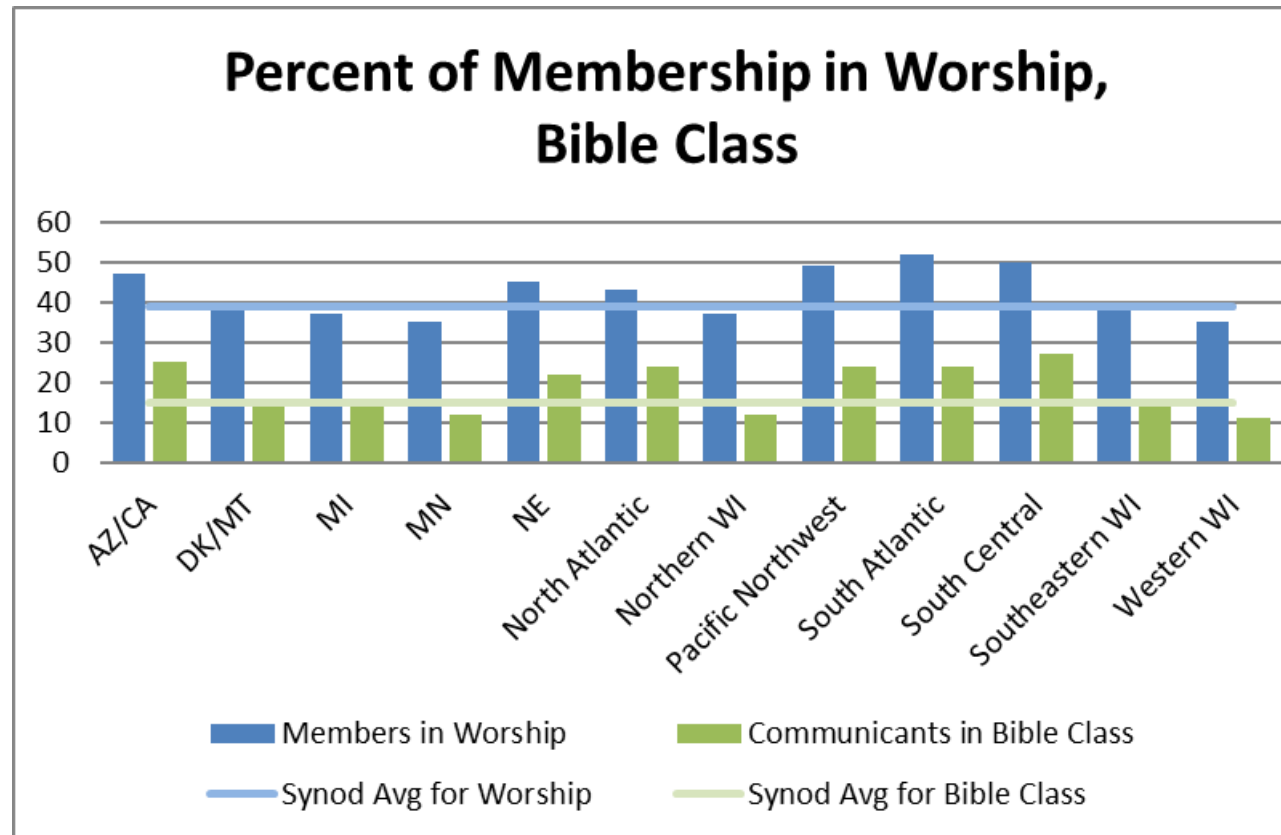




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Blessings and opportunities



2024 statistics:

- 39% in worship
- 15% in Bible class

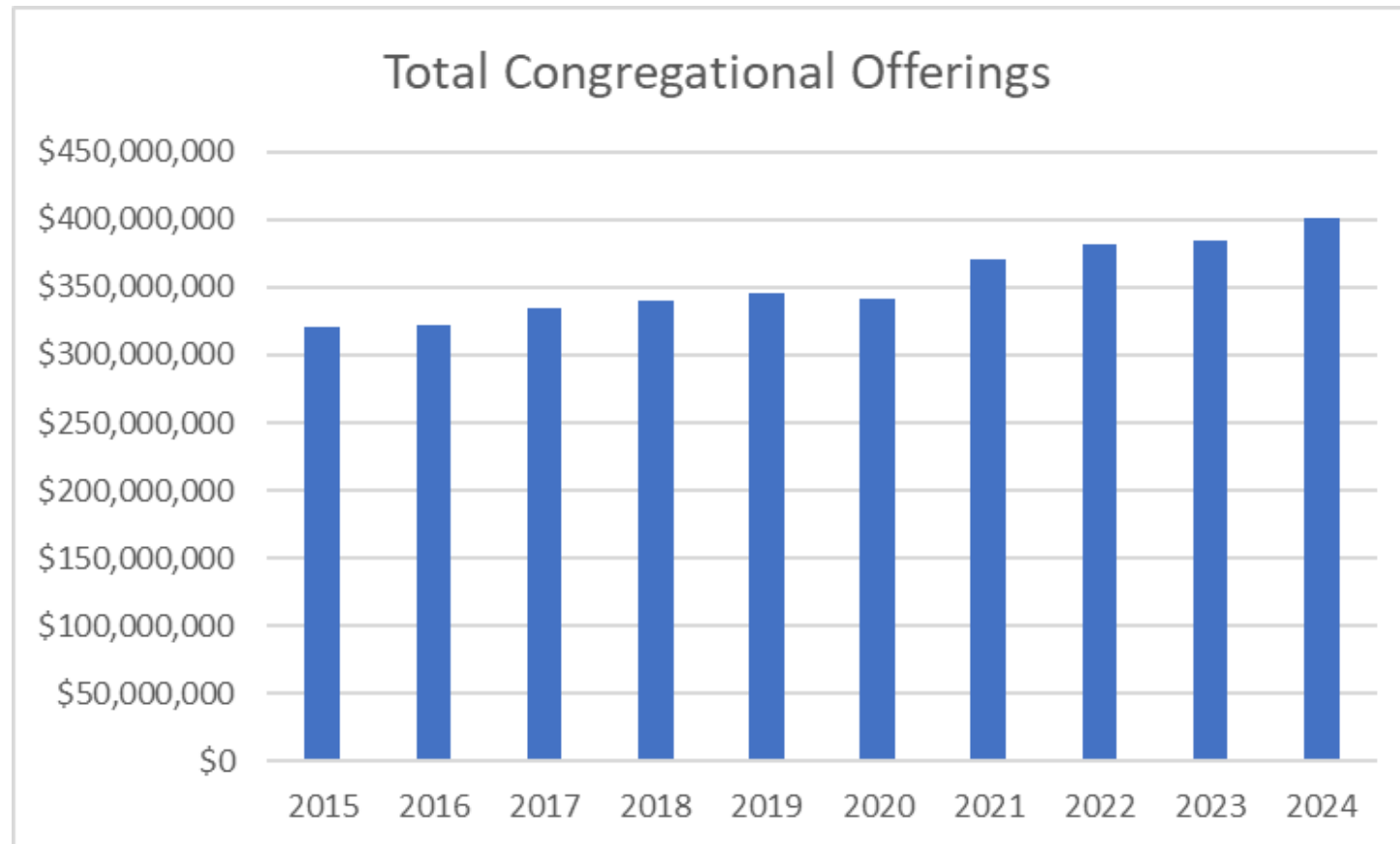


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Blessings and opportunities

2024 total congregational offerings: \$401.5 million

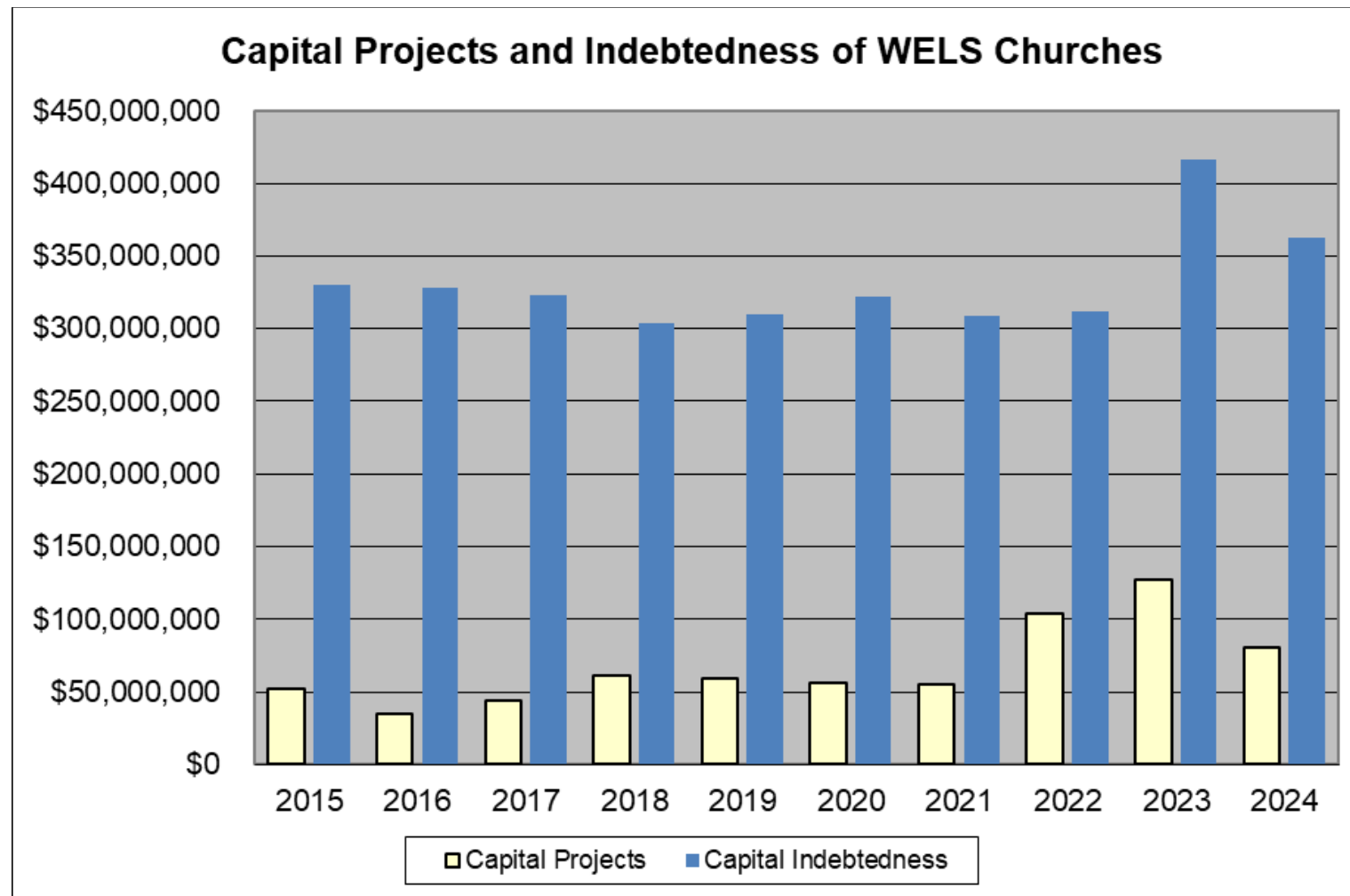




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Blessings and opportunities





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Blessings and opportunities

- **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!

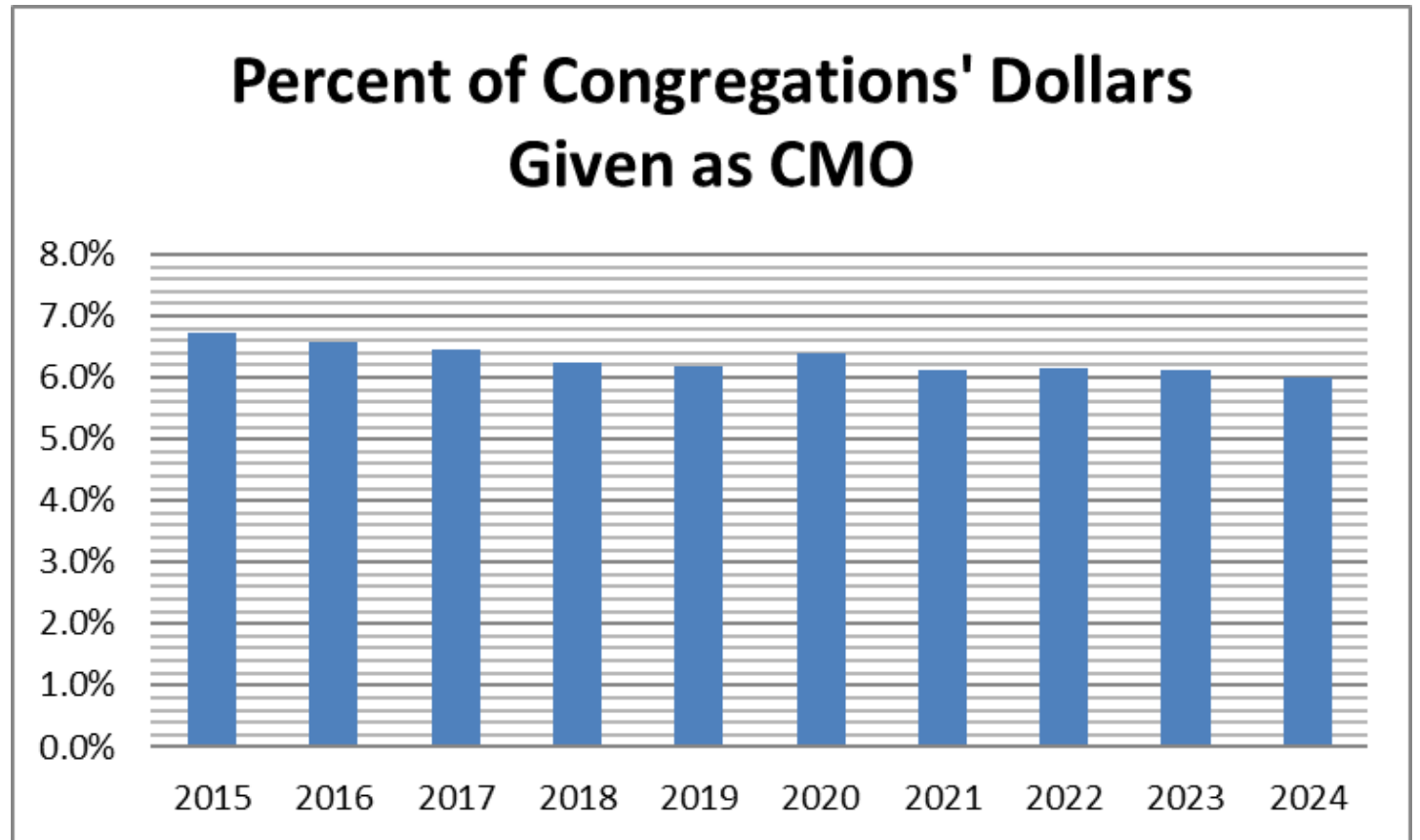


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Blessings and opportunities

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





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Blessings and opportunities

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!



Blessings and opportunities

Special offering





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Blessings and opportunities

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





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Blessings and opportunities

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





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Blessings and opportunities

- **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!



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Blessings and opportunities

- 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).



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Congregation Mission Offerings

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





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Individual offerings

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

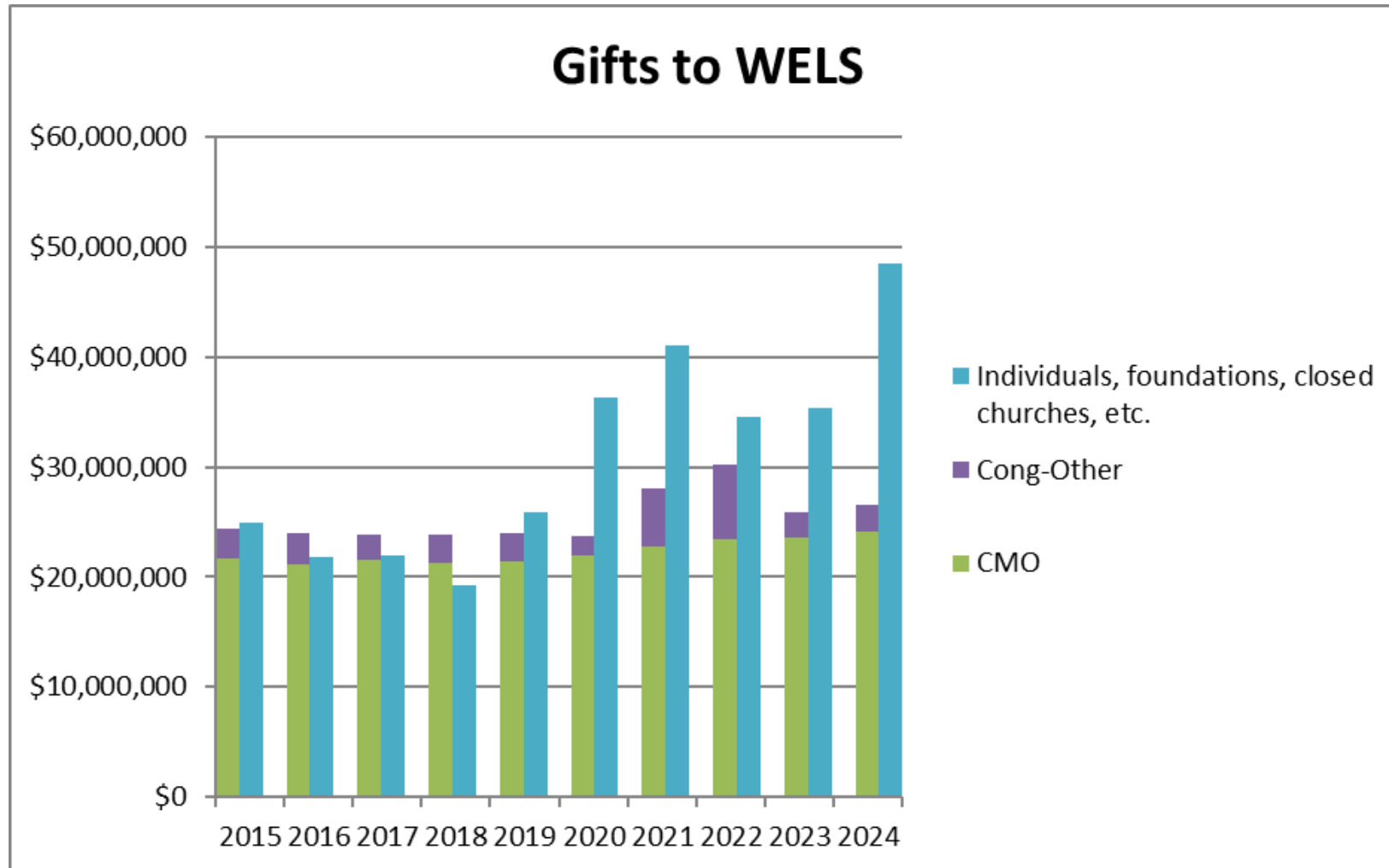




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Individual offerings





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Individual offerings

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!



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Individual offerings

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





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Resources

Grace of Giving

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

wels.net/graceofgiving





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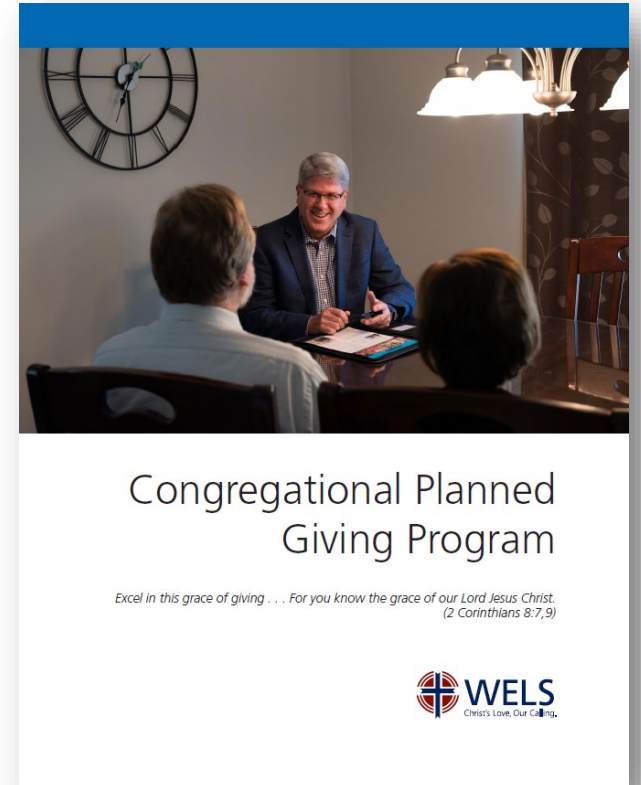
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Resources

Congregational Planned Giving

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

wels.net/plannedgivingprogram





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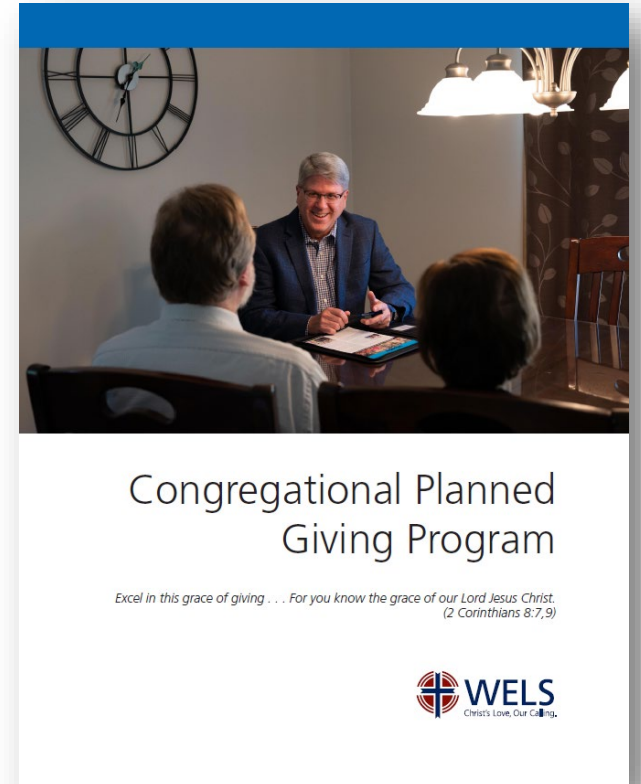
Resources

Congregational Planned Giving

Christ-based, donor-centric:

- Educating
- Encouraging
- Enlisting
- Exciting

wels.net/plannedgivingprogram





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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

“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).



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Thank you!

WELS Ministry of Christian Giving

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