



Minnesota District Special Ministries Annual Report

Highlights from Special Ministries Work in The MN District

1. **WELS Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI)** Since many people who are blind are looking to audio resources, MVI continues offers audio recordings of *Meditations*, *Forward in Christ*, about half of The Peoples Bible commentaries, and other resources at listen.wels.net. MVI continues to add to the listen library.
2. **Ministry to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing-** The newest resource from MDHH is Gospelhands.net – the first ever online dictionary of Christian religious signs. Also available on that page are weekly streamed signed services and sermons. An interpreter continues to help at the Jesus Cares Program at St. John's in Glencoe MN.
3. **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry/Jesus Cares Ministry/Joy in Jesus Camps**—There continues to be a strong partnership between IDDM and JCM in the District. Twice a year in October and February, Joel Gaertner, Stephen Schmidt, Patrick Feldhus, and Carrie Ogonoski continue to connect our future Special Ed teachers from MLC to these ministries. A new program called SMILES is being developed and was promoted at the District Convention and the International LWMS. There are 28 Jesus Cares programs in our District.
The two “Joy in Jesus” Camps had 43 campers and 18 volunteers.
4. **MN District Workshop**-On March 9th, Special Ministries brought in CSF for a presentation on Mental Health at St. Croix Academy. There was a reminder to make use of the MAP program in our congregations and schools.
5. **Prison Ministry**-While the work of prison ministry has historically been done via sharing printed Bible study books, much of that work is transitioning to tablets which the institutions make available. With this transition, we have seen an increase in tests returned and have a need for more test correctors.
6. **Military Services** -There is a great partnership with Lutheran Military Support Group in our District. There are scholarships for anyone who is/was in the military and is looking to go into the ministry.

Future Plans

- Continue the partnership between JCM and IDDM with presentations at MLC and the “Joy in Jesus” camps
- Continue promotion of Special Ministries in our District especially the ones that are centered in our District (MVI & Prison Ministry)
- Use our District workshop conference to emphasize an area of Special Ministries
- Emphasize wels.net/referral for all areas of Special Ministries.

Our committee members – Pastor Patrick Feldhus, Pastor Steve Smith, Pastor Ed Fredrich, Pastor Robbin Robbert, Michelle Markgraf, Professor Kari Muentel, Brad Price, Ursula Heuer, and Pastor Darren Green

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