

**December  
2016**

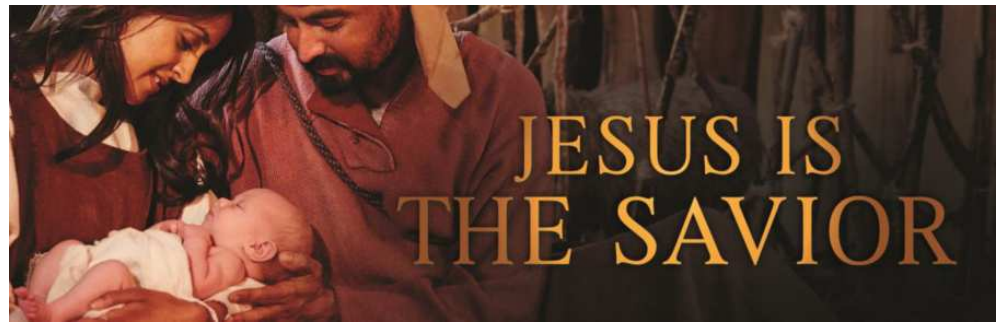


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# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Newsletter



## Jesus is My Savior from Fear

**The angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:10-11**

Isn't it interesting that God's angelic announcement of Christmas begins with, "Do not be afraid"? What do fear and Christmas have in common? Based on people's Christmas anxieties, plenty!

December fills many with depression. Some are overwhelmed by what their Christmas celebration should feel like, look like, even sound like. Thoughts of creating the perfect Christmas celebration fill many with stress.

Some dread Christmas due to money issues and the pressure to spend more than they can afford. Others have lost loved ones, making Christmas a painful trigger of past memories and missed loved ones. There is pressure to attend Christmas gatherings. As anxieties grow, so do shame, guilt and the gaping hole of depression.

If you've ever been fearful or anxious at Christmas, you're in good company. Mary, Joseph and the shepherds all felt fears.

No warm, safe, sterile birthing suite or medical team would help Mary give birth to her first child. Instead she faced the stress of childbirth with only Joseph to help her. No room at Bethlehem's inn meant a barn was the best shelter Joseph could find for Jesus' birth. Imagine the anxiety this couple faced when Jesus was born.

The shepherds were filled with fears too. "Terrified" described their reaction to a sky full of angels. They might have wondered, "Did

*"The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. "In those days and at that time, I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.' Jeremiah 33:14-16*

*Continued from Page 1*

God send the angels to punish us?"

God knows your fears. That's why the announcement of Christmas begins with an amazing command, "Do not be afraid!" This is good news for you! God has come in the flesh to erase all your fears!

Ever fear not measuring up? Jesus came to forgive you from all your past faults or present failures. Anxious over a life situation? God says, "Do not be afraid!" You don't have to do life on your own. God came at Christmas to prove his love and to as-

sure you, "Never will I leave you or forsake you!"

Peace comes from a life free from fears. God's Christmas comfort is, "Do not be afraid!" Rescue has come. A Savior has been born for you!

## Advent & Christmas Services

**Advent 2 - December 4 & 5** - 8:00am & 10:30am; 6:30 pm Monday

**Special Midweek Advent - December 7** - 6:30pm (Meal at 5:30 pm)

**Advent 3 - December 11 & 12** - 8:00am & 10:30 am; 6:30 pm Monday

**Advent 4 - December 18 & 19** - 8:00am & 10:30 am; 6:30 pm Monday (Song Service)

**Christmas Eve Children's Christmas Service - December 24th** - 4:00 pm

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - December 24th** - 10:00 pm

**Christmas Day Worship - December 25th** - 10:00 am (Please note only 1 service)

**December 26th - No Worship Service** - 6:30 pm



**New Year's Eve - December 31** - 6:30 pm

**New Year's Day - January 1 - 10:00 am** (Please note only 1 service)

**January 2nd - No Worship Service** - 6:30 pm

## Special Midweek Advent Service December 7th - 6:30 PM



On Wednesday, December 7th, we will be having our only Midweek Advent worship service. The Junior Choir, Adult Choir and Junior Handbells will be a part of this special service.

The Board of Elders will also be serving a meal prior to that service beginning at 5:30pm. In order to assist in our planning for the meal, we ask you to sign-up on the sheets in the back of church, email the office ([office@stpaulsfranklin.org](mailto:office@stpaulsfranklin.org)) or call (414-421-1178), if you are desiring to attend the meal. If you would like to help bring some of the food

items for that meal, there are sign-up sheets on the counter in the narthex. (If you are donating food, please have the items at church by 4:30pm.)

Monetary donations are welcome any time, and there will be a free-will offering gathered at the meal.



*Suddenly a great  
company of the  
heavenly host  
appeared with  
the angel,  
praising God  
and saying,  
"Glory to God in  
the highest,  
and on earth  
peace to men on  
whom his favor  
rests."*

*Luke 2:13-14*

Join us for our  
**LIVING NATIVITY**  
December 17 & 18  
Live Performances at 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 pm  
**COMMUNITY INVITED**

Once again, a fun family event is returning to St. Paul's. Our Living Nativity has created an experience for the whole family to enjoy the weekend of Saturday, December 17 and

Sunday, December 18. The birth place of baby Jesus will be found on the grounds of St. Paul's, bringing the Christmas story to life through narration and live characters, as

well as the expected variety of barn animals! In addition, guests will be invited to linger over Christmas refreshments and children's crafts.



*Sing to the Lord  
a new song,  
his praise from  
the ends of the  
earth,  
Isaiah 42:10*

*continued from page 3*

The continuous outdoor presentation is at 6:00pm, 6:30pm, and 7:00pm both nights, at 6881 S. 51st

Street with ample parking available. This event is free for the whole family. For more information con-

tact St. Paul's at 414-421-1178 or check out our website.

## Neighborhood Christmas Caroling

### December 11th - 6:00 PM



Anyone, adults and children, are welcome to join us as we once again go Christmas Caroling in the neighborhoods around church.

It is a great opportunity to meet and share the message of Jesus' birth to our neighbors. It also gives us an opportunity to invite them to join us for Christmas.

We will meet at church at 6:00 PM.

After caroling, anyone is invited to come to Pastor Adams' house for chili and

snacks.

If you would like to join us, please sign-up on the sheet located on the counter in the back of church. You can also email the office at: [office@stpaulsfranklin.org](mailto:office@stpaulsfranklin.org).

Please come and join us!

## Elders' Report

### Transfer into St. Paul's:

- Tim & Erica Steen (from Trinity Lutheran Church, El Paso, TX)

### Transfer from St. Paul's:

- Sharon Winkler (to St. Paul's, Cudahy, WI)

### Wedding:

- Brad Johnson & Erin Hollmann - October 21, 2016

## Greeters

Thank you to everyone who greeted before worship services this year. Please let Cory in the office know if you no longer wish to greet, otherwise you will be

placed on the schedule for the new year. If you have not greeted before, please consider signing up to greet a couple times this year. We especially need people to greet at the 10:30 a.m. and Monday evening ser-

vices. If you are interested in signing up to greet, please place your completed form on the narthex counter by the end of December.

The form is included with this newsletter.

## Mary Martha Cookie Sale



A signup sheet is located in the narthex at church for anyone in the congregation who is interested in making Christmas cookies for the annual Mary & Martha cookie sale.

Please consider baking a batch of cookies (100 cookies if possible) for this sale.

Please have your cookies labeled "Mary & Martha cookie sale" and dropped off at church by 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 10th. Anyone from St. Paul's is welcome to come and help pack the cookie boxes on Saturday, December 10th at 9am.

The sale will take place after each service on Sunday and Monday, December 11th and 12th. The proceeds from this sale benefit the ongoing work of the Mary and Martha Society and their support of missions.



*"But you,  
Bethlehem  
Ephrathah,  
though you are  
small among the  
clans of Judah,  
out of you will  
come for me  
one who will be  
ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are  
from of old,  
from ancient  
times."*

*Micah 5:2*

## Mary Martha Christmas Party



Mary & Martha will be having their Christmas Party on Tuesday, Decem-

ber 13 beginning at 6:00 PM. Husbands are also invited.

Bring a dish for the potluck dinner and 6 cookies to share. Everyone should bring a white elephant gift and Mary & Martha members should bring Secret

Pal gifts.

New This Year: Anyone in the congregation is welcome to join us. Just bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift. Contact Sherry Kosovich at 761-7664 if you plan to attend.

## E-mail Address & Contact Info

We need your help to keep our contact information up-to-date. We appreciate all who have returned this information so far.

If you are aware that your address and telephone number are not correct in our directory, please let

the church/school office know.

We also would like obtain more email addresses, so that we can send out information about things happening here at St. Paul's in an electronic format.

You can return the form in this newsletter to the office, or call the office with the information (414-421-1178) or email the information to the office at:  
office@stpaulsfranklin.org

Thanks!

# THE STORY

*"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."*

*Ps 46:10-11*



Have you ever wondered how all the accounts or "stories" in the Bible fit together? Have you ever started to read the Bible and quickly felt overwhelmed? Have you ever wished that someone could take the exact words of the Bible and put them together in a chronological order?

In this study, we have been looking at the most compelling story of all time. The Bible is the story of a true God who loves his children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. We have been looking at God's Story in

the Bible through 31 lessons. Each of these lessons reveals the Grace of God – the God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for his people culminated in his sacrifice of Jesus, his only Son, to atone for the sins of humanity.

What's more: this same God is alive and active today – still listening, still acting, still pouring out his grace on us. His grace extends to our ups and downs and in-betweens; our moments of questions and fears; and most important, our response to his call on our lives.

He's the same God who forgave David's failures and rescued Jonah from the dark belly of a fish. This same heavenly Father who shepherded the Israelites through the wilderness desires to shepherd us

through our wanderings, to help us get past our failures and rescue us for eternity.

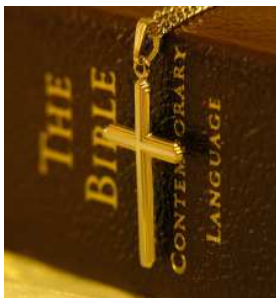
If you would like to learn more, please come and join us next on Saturday, December 10th at 8:00 am. A breakfast is provided. Even if you have not been able to join us before, you are welcome to come anytime. We meet in the Bible Class Room in the church.

Our schedule for December & January is:

**December 10** - God's Messengers (Prophets)

**January 14, 2017** - The Beginning of the End (Fall of Israel)

*\*\*Please note that in December and January we will only meet once a month.*



## Preschool



for ages 0-4

### A fun Christian Program for Young Children

Join us at Power Hour two Thursdays a month! Preschool Power Hour begins with a devotion and/or Bible story. We continue with songs, both Christ-centered and general, music and movement activities (including use of rhythm instruments), followed by gym activities.

- Enrich their lives with Bible Stories
- Stimulate their minds with music and movement
- Gain spiritual, social and

development growth

- Make new friends!

#### For Whom?

All children ages 0-4 with their caregivers. Join us for one morning, or join us every time!

#### Cost?

Free

#### When?

Meets roughly the first and third THURSDAY of the month at 10:45-11:45 a.m.

#### This Year's Remaining Schedule:

Dec. 15, Jan. 5, 19, Feb. 2, 16, March 2, 16, April 6, 20, May 4, 18.

#### Where?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Narthex

#### More information

Call the office at 414-421-1178 or E-mail the office at [office@stpaulsfranklin.org](mailto:office@stpaulsfranklin.org).

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

*Mark 10:14*



## Sunday Morning Refreshment Committee

A Refreshment Committee has been formed to serve the donuts and coffee after our services.

We thank all who are willing to serve on this committee.

We also continue to thank Kwik Trip for their generous support of giving us the donuts at a discounted price.

If you would like to help on this Refreshment Committee, please contact Tony

Tripoli, the coordinator of this committee.

We also thank all who have been donating monetarily. If you are able to donate on a Sunday, it is appreciated.

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.*

*1 Corinthians  
16:13-14*

## “Men of His Word” Conference

### February 11, 2017 - Oshkosh, Wisconsin



Have you seen the news lately? It’s crazy out there. The world attacks our Christian values from every direction on a daily basis. To counter these attacks, the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference uses God’s Word to empower and equip men to carry out

their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities and the world with the theme, “BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.”

Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (Pastor Mike Novotny from The Core in Appleton), the relevant, thought-provoking sessions (20 to choose from) or the worship experience with 600 other men (with Koine’, the worship band), God’s Word will speak to you.

The 8th annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Additional details and online registration are available at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) for the first 650 men (\$40 by January 29th; \$50 from January 30th - February 5th). Please join us for a day in God’s Word that you will not soon forget!

## Principal’s Report



Welcome to the Christmas Season. As we rejoice in Christ coming to earth to save us from our sins, we

look at all the gifts or blessings God has given us here at St. Paul’s Lutheran School.

Our students and teachers are enjoying the new desks that we added this year from the Gala as well as the multiple students that are using the new pianos purchased with those monies. We had a student that was awarded a 1st place award at the Forensic (speaking) competition at Wisconsin Lutheran High

School. Our basketball teams are currently into their seasons which officially began on December 2 at here at St. Paul’s. Our students have also been connected to Wisconsin Lutheran High School as Mr. Mark Ricke has lead devotion and has worked on an art project with our Fifth Grade Class. Mr. Brad Wetzel has also visited our 8th Graders and hosted our 7th graders at Wisco. We are blessed with the opportunity to serve so



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many new families in our school mostly through our PreK program which consistently has been quite full the past couple years.

Finally as our staff and students are able to celebrate and rejoice in prais-

ing God for sending His Son, they are preparing for the Children's Christmas Services held on December 24, with the theme "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come". We look forward to seeing you at the service and rejoicing together as

we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones this Christmas Season.

In Christ,  
Nathan Schulmeister,  
Principal

## Fox 6 Milwaukee Visits Kindergarten

Earlier this school year, our Kindergarten class learned a whole unit on weather.

On Thursday, December 1st, Fox 6 Milwaukee's meteorologist Rachel

Kaye came and visited their classroom.

She brought along tools that are used in forecasting the weather. She answered many different questions from the stu-

dents. She also demonstrated how some of the tools are used in forecasting the weather.

We thank her for coming to our school.



*"Therefore go  
and make  
disciples of all  
nations,  
baptizing them in  
the name of the  
Father and of the  
Son and of the  
Holy Spirit, and  
teaching them to  
obey everything I  
have commanded  
you. And surely I  
am with you  
always, to the  
very end of the  
age."*

*Matt 28:19-20*

## WELS News

### Synodical Council begins work on the 2017–19 ministry financial plan



At its meeting Nov. 4–5 at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry, Waukesha, Wis., the Synodical Council (SC) welcomed new members Rev. Duane Rodewald (chairman, Board for Ministerial Education) and Rev. Wayne Uhlhorn (chairman, Board for Home Missions). Rev. Chuck Westra, who has served on the SC as the chairman of the Board for Home Missions, now serves on the SC as one of the three representatives to the Conference of Presidents.

The SC continued work on the Ministry Financial Plan for the 2017–19 biennium. Last April, the SC was compelled to approve synod support levels that were flat for the second biennium in a row. This action was needed because Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) have been essentially flat for the last

eight years and the financial stabilization fund (general operating reserves) is being drawn down at an unsustainable rate. The SC also knew that ministerial education schools and areas of ministry would need to use reserves if ministry programs and services were going to be maintained since costs are anticipated to rise 3.5 percent annually.

During its November meeting, the SC was encouraged by CMO receipts that have exceeded subscriptions and are 0.5 percent higher than the prior year through October, so it accepted the draft plan that maintained ministries while allowing some growth through the use of special gifts and reserves. Work on the plan will continue in February 2017, when the results of 2016 CMO are known and after congregations have submitted their CMO subscriptions for 2017. Based on that information, the plan could include additional expansion or, if necessary, the scaling back of expansion currently included. The SC is optimistic that the higher levels of CMO support of the past few months will continue or even increase.

The SC adopted a preliminary prioritized list of unfunded projects for the 2017–19 biennium and will finalize this list and forward it to the synod convention in 2017 as required by the synod's bylaws.

Insurance costs for the synod (not including health insurance) reflect a decrease of about 2 percent over the previous year. This decrease is the result of good claims experience, a soft insurance market, and increased risk retention that was implemented several years ago.

First quarter financial results (July through September) indicated that the year is off to a good start due to strong investment performance, gifts, bequests, and continuing efforts to hold down costs.

The Capital Projects Committee has been working with the ministerial education schools to identify needed maintenance and modernization projects as well as new or expanded facilities. The committee has completed its initial work on prioritization and funding strategy for all projects. The SC has asked the Board for Ministerial Education to evaluate the need for identified projects, their prioritization, and

*“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

*Philippians 1:3-6*

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funding strategies. The final list of projects and funding will be forwarded to the synod convention in 2017 for its consideration.

In view of the regular payments that have been made, along with the proceeds of the “One in Christ” special offering, the SC authorized the synod’s chief financial officer to make the final payment that will completely retire the synod’s capital debt by the end of the calendar year, nearly two years earlier than planned. We are thankful to God and to God’s people for this special blessing. The final retirement of the debt will be highlighted at the 2017 synod convention.

The SC received a progress report from the Compensation Review Committee and offered input. The committee will bring its recommendations to the 2017 synod convention.

The SC recognized the faithful service of Mr. Tom Plath on the Human Resources Advisory Committee. Mr. Steve Schroeder, vice president of human resources at Wisconsin Lutheran College, will replace him on the committee.

Serving in Christ,  
President Mark Schroeder

## Graduation at Asia Lutheran Seminary



Six men from East Asia were among 27 students who received a degree or certificate Oct. 30 from Asia Lutheran Seminary (ALS), Hong Kong, at the school’s seventh graduation since its establishment in 2005.

According to Dr. Steven Witte, ALS president, this is the first ALS graduation that includes pastors who do not live in Hong Kong. “These six students planted eight groups and five local churches during their student years,” he says. “Now they are no longer full-time workers and full-time students—just full-time workers. So things should pick up in terms of planting additional groups in East Asia.”

Ten men—including the six men from East Asia—received Master of Divinity degrees (which means that they are fully trained to serve as pastors); eight received Bachelor of Theology degrees. Others received degrees in Christian

Studies as well as certificates for Greek and Hebrew.

Witte says ALS graduates serve in various ways. Some are full-time workers in the nine established congregations in South Asian Lutheran Evangelical Mission (SALEM), our sister synod in Hong Kong; others are starting groups that will eventually turn into local congregations. Many are laypeople who are looking for a deeper understanding of confessional Lutheranism as they serve in leadership roles in their local congregations.

Special guests at the graduation included Rev. Larry Schlomer, Board for World Missions administrator, as well as the members of the East Asia Administrative Committee. Dr. John Lawrenz, who was instrumental in establishing ALS, and Rev. Karl Gurgel, who served as a long-time visiting professor, also attended.

WELS President Rev. Mark Schroeder traveled to Asia Lutheran Seminary the week before graduation to visit with the students and staff and meet with SALEM leaders. “It meant a lot for the students to see President Schroeder at ALS,” says

*“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”*

*Philippians 1:3-5*



*“So that  
we may work  
together for the  
truth..”  
3 John 8*



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Witte. “It helped them know that WELS values ALS and the work they are doing as students—and especially the work they are doing in the kingdom. We tell the students that there are many in America who know about them, pray for them, and support them, but seeing President Schroeder really helped put weight to those words.”

Schroeder says he was greatly encouraged by the graduation of fully-trained pastors from East Asia and by the work ALS is doing to train future workers. “It is especially encouraging for me to see the work that is being done through the faithful and generous support of WELS members, who through their gifts are taking the gospel to places they will never visit and to people they will never meet until they gather with them around the throne of the Lamb.”

Currently 53 students are attending Asia Lutheran Seminary, most part time or for single subjects. Another 11 full-time and 24 part-time students are taking courses through a satellite seminary in East Asia. ALS also works closely with Multi-Language Publications to

provide theological courses to equip current and future translators of Christian literature. It has also developed an online course in Chinese called “Bible Background” that has reached more than 20,000 people in East Asia. Plans are in place for future online courses.

Learn more about WELS mission work at [wels.net/missions](http://wels.net/missions).

### **Meeting the spiritual needs of members in the military**



WELS Military Services Committee, part of the WELS Commission on Special Ministries, held its annual conference in San Antonio, Tex., earlier this month. Each year the committee and military contact pastors from around the synod convene to discuss and learn how to better meet the spiritual needs of members in the military and their families. The attendees visited the Center for the Intrepid in San Antonio to see how wounded servicemen and

women are being rehabilitated to live as normal of a life as possible after serious injuries. The visit gave the military contact pastors and committee a small glimpse into some of the obstacles veterans face when they return from duty.

Another emphasis of the conference was encouraging WELS military contact pastors to get in touch with the military chaplains on the bases to get involved in ministry. While WELS does not have chaplains officially in the military, the pastors near the bases serve Christians who are serving their country.

Mike and Diane Tracy know the importance of military contact pastors firsthand. Mike served in the military for 24 years, moving the family around regularly. Retired from active service since 2009, Mike is on the Military Services Committee, and he and his wife organized the San Antonio event.

“Military families have unique situations that other families don’t have,” says Diane. “Our [spouses] are deployed. We aren’t near our families. It’s a different type of stress added to your relation-

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*“So that  
we may work  
together for the  
truth..”  
3 John 8*

ship. For the pastors to be able to understand how they can better fulfill those needs and have the congregation help fulfill those needs, it’s important.”

She says having a chaplain in Europe was especially meaningful to her family. “We were stationed in Europe. The European Chaplaincy being over there, it gave us a place for our children to be confirmed, it gave us the chance to be able to worship with other WELS Lutherans on a regular basis. That’s the most important thing a military family can have is spiritual support.”

This was the first military contact pastors’ conference Rev. David Parsons, pastor at Holy Cross, Tucson, Ariz., has attended since he took the call earlier

this year to Holy Cross, which is near a military base. He says since the conference, he is approaching his military ministry with a new energy and has been speaking with his congregation about ways they could better serve the military families in the Tucson area.

Parsons says, “I really enjoyed the conference. It was eye-opening. They had a good mix of presenters. Hearing stories from the active military guys or stories from the guys who have been out for a while or the military chaplain pastors, just being able to talk to those contact pastors and hear their experiences about what worked and didn’t work—that was beneficial. I’m really excited about the concept of this ministry.”

Diane stresses that military families need solid spiritual support as they face their unique challenges. She says, “The biggest thing that WELS members need to know is if they know someone in the military, they need to make sure the pastor who lives closest to them and serves their base knows who they are and how to contact them. Because if the chaplains don’t know they’re out there, they can’t help them.”

If you or someone you know is in the military, you can sign up for spiritual support at [wels.net/refer](http://wels.net/refer). Learn more about WELS Military Services at [wels.net/military](http://wels.net/military).

