

WELS Nebraska District Convention Special Ministries Report Kansas City, Kansas June 3-4, 2024

If you only read one sentence of this report, read this!

Use wels.net/refer to inform Special Ministries about those who serve in the military, have a visual impairment, are deaf or hard of hearing, or are challenged by an intellectual or developmental disability!

This step will connect them to a wide range of WELS supports to help them overcome obstacles hindering their reception of and participation in the ministry of the Word.



WELS Ministry to the Military: Connect your members who are in the military with ministry resources that address their needs at wels.net/refer.

Mission to the Visually Impaired (MVI) provides free audio recordings of *Meditations* and *Forward in Christ* through the WELS Listen Library - <https://listen.wels.net/> or MVI can mail them on flash drives or cassette tapes. If you or someone you know has vision challenges, sign up at www.wels.net/refer.

Grace brings sinners into God's family. Sometimes church members do not see the opportunity for the gospel to turn someone's life around – all we see is the sin. When a prisoner has been released after serving his sentence, or someone who has struggled with an addiction comes to church for help in recovery, will they find welcome and encouragement among us? WELS Special Ministries offers a Bible study called "Helping the Hurting with Hope." It gives a congregation the opportunity to discuss how its members can be more like Jesus in welcoming people who are seeking the hope only Jesus brings. The course is found here: [Helping the Hurting with Hope – CongServe \(welscongregationservices.net\)](https://welscongregationservices.net/Helping-the-Hurting-with-Hope-CongServe)

Online learning – Chaplain courses Chaplain Certification offers useful online learning opportunities, often with financial aid, even if you (or your lay leader) does not become a chaplain. In September these online chaplaincy courses will be offered: "Communicating Forgiveness," "Ministering to the Incarcerated and their Families," "Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry" (Free!), "The Spiritual Side of PTSD" and "Ground ed in Scripture" a doctrinal course for those interested in ministry but have not had a foundational study of Scripture. For more information, see the MLC website mlc-wels.edu/continuing-education/wels-chaplain-certificate/ or email chapcert@wels.net.

Child Safety has always been a Christian issue. WELS offers the most thorough abuse prevention resources of any faith community. Freedom for the Captives' website has new information every month – not only to make our churches and schools safer, but to recognize child abuse and respond to protect children. Have you looked at the website this month? [Freedomforcaptives.com](https://freedomforcaptives.com)

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