

They're Here! Now What?

Connecting School and ECM Families to Your Church

Lutheran Leadership Conference

January 2023

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



**LUTHERAN
LEADERSHIP**

Welcome

Who's in the room?

Objectives

- We will:
 - Review the current statistics
 - Consider your “Why”
 - Consider responses to the opportunities
 - Determine next steps

We will...



Opportunities

Total Schools	422
• ECM	362
• LES	284
• ALHS/Prep	29

Opportunities

Total Students 46,601

- ECM 12,009
- LES 27,278
- HS 7014

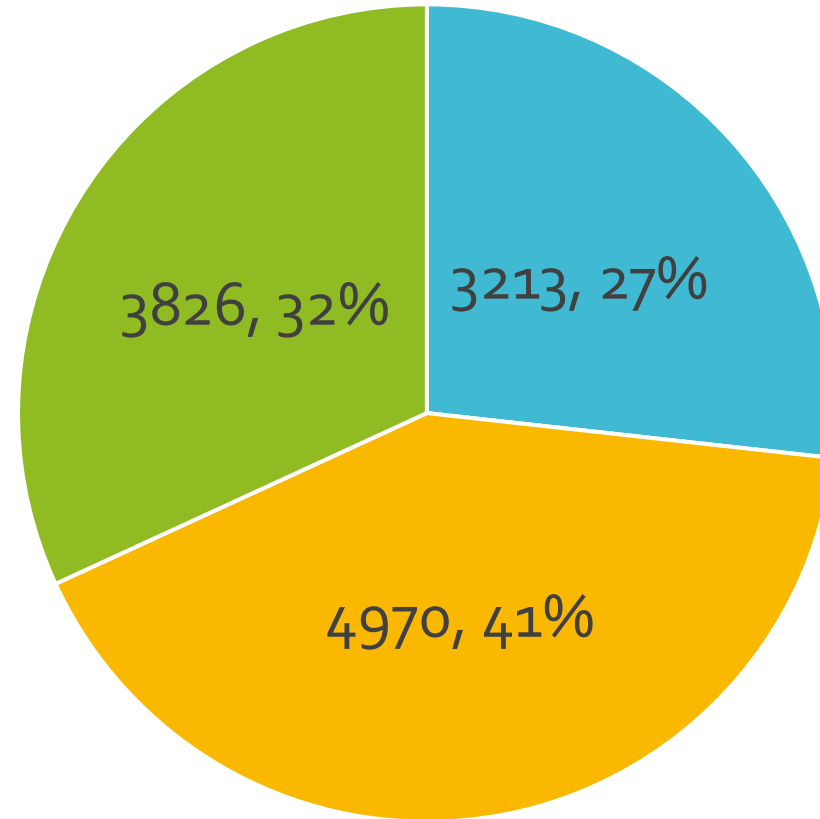
Opportunities

ECM enrollment has grown by 4.9 % since 2019-20.

LES enrollment has grown by 13.3% since 2019-20

Opportunities: Nurture and Outreach

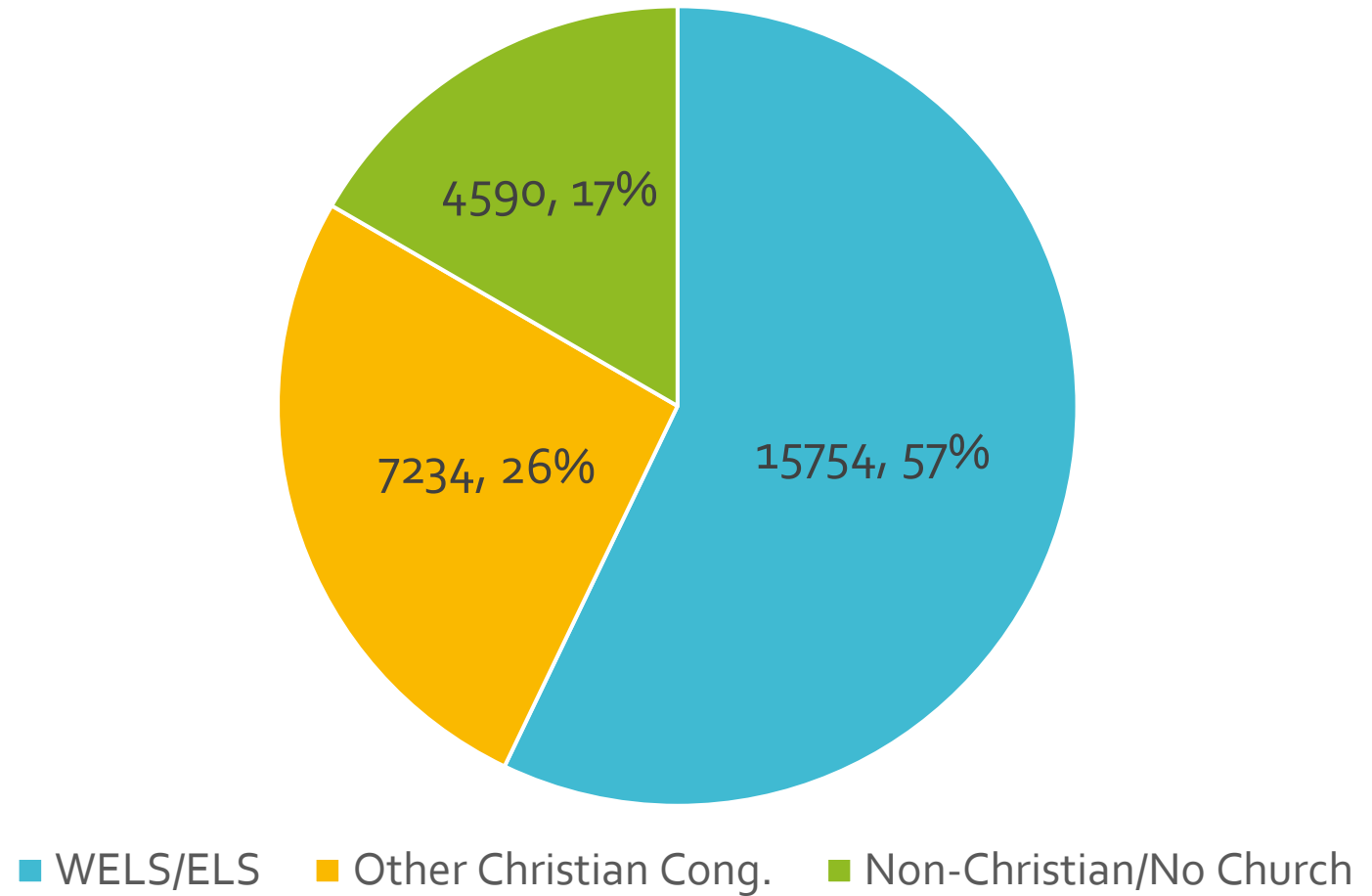
ECM Families



■ WELS/ELS ■ Other Christian Cong. ■ Non-Christian/No Church

Opportunities: Nurture and Outreach

LES Families



Opportunities

8416

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Opportunities

16,832

Opportunities

25,248

Opportunities

25,248=

60 souls
per school/ECM

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON

 **LUTHERAN
LEADERSHIP**

Things We've
Learned

They're here today...

Blessings

Child/Student Baptisms	1142
------------------------	------

Adult Baptisms	149
----------------	-----

Bible Information Class	1732
-------------------------	------

Adult Confirmations	837
---------------------	-----

Blessings

Early Childhood

362 ECMs

Child/Student Baptisms 118/33 ⁰ %	363
Adult Baptisms 33/9 ⁰ %	51
Bible Information Class 127/35 ⁰ %	573
Adult Confirmations 75/21 ⁰ %	224

Blessings

Lutheran Elementary Schools

284 schools

Child/Student Baptisms	675
------------------------	-----

155/55%

Adult Baptisms	98
----------------	----

52/35%

Bible Information Class	1159
-------------------------	------

172/60%

Adult Confirmations	613
---------------------	-----

138/49%

Opportunities

They're here today...

Now What?

“What’s Your
Why?”



Things We've
Learned

It's not...



Things We've Learned

It's not...

- A program or specific strategies
- Complicated
- Simple
- About numbers

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Things We've Learned

It is...

- A response to the Great Commission
- Hearts of faith responding to grace
- Simple and complex
- Intentional and authentic
- About souls
- The work of the Holy Spirit

Things We've Learned

Culture

Culture is a collection of behaviors and beliefs associated with a particular group.

Things We've Learned

Culture

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Things We've Learned

Culture


- A family of believers in the Word
- Mission focused-One Mission
- This is who we are and what we do

Things We've Learned

Culture

- Excited about company
- Ready for company
 - How to start a conversation
 - Welcome to my pew
- Grace-filled/gracious hosts

Voices from the Field



“I believe the biggest contributor is not specific strategies but a culture and approach to ministry that is underlying.”

(Pastor Daron Lindemann, CrossLife in Pflugerville, TX)

Things We've Learned

Relationships

A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13: 34-35

Voices from the Field

“From the day we first meet parents who are inquiring about our preschool, we promote the idea that it is a ‘family package.’ Preschool is great—but we also have Sunday School and worship each week. We also offer free pastoral counseling.”

(Pastor Tom Unke and Director Jackie Unke Shepherd of the Hills, Las Vegas)

Things We've Learned

Relationships

- Reflecting God's grace for every individual
- Honest, care-filled and careful, mission focused

Things We've Learned

Relationships

- Not a strategy and yet intentional
- Authentic
- Celebrate and act
- Focus on parents/families
- Pastor, principal, director
- Everyone has a role

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Things We've Learned

Relationships

- Simple—someone at the door
- Greeters-not just the one with the name tag
- Active listening-listen to learn
- Perspective taking

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Things We've
Learned

Prepared Intentional

Make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:5-6

Things We've
Learned

Prepared Intentional

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

I Peter 3:15

Things We've Learned

Prepared Intentional

- What's the plan?
 - Harvest Strategy
 - Prospect list management
 - Mentor families

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Things We've Learned

Prepared Intentional

- Who we are and why we're here
 - 1, 2, 3, 4
 - New family with pastor and principal/director

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Things We've Learned

Prepared Intentional

- Events
 - Purpose/Goal
 - Roles
 - Taxonomy for the family's experience

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Things We've
Learned


Prepared Intentional

Identify and address the obstacles

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Voices from the Field



"Organizational and institutional barriers can get in the way of 'reflecting and sharing God's grace' if we're not honest, careful, and mission focused."

(Pastor Daron Lindemann, CrossLife in Pflugerville, TX)

Things We've
Learned

Urgency

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Romans 10:14-15

WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



Things We've
Learned


Urgency
They're here today...

Things We've
Learned

It's not...

It is...

Voices from the Field



“It’s the relationship/heart connection that matters most. When our non-member families feel/hear our care...they will become curious about what matters to us and what happens within our ministry.”

(Director Jamie Walta, Faith in Fond du Lac, WI)

Next Steps



WELS NATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON



telling the next
generation

Utilizing our schools
for outreach



Resources

Next Steps

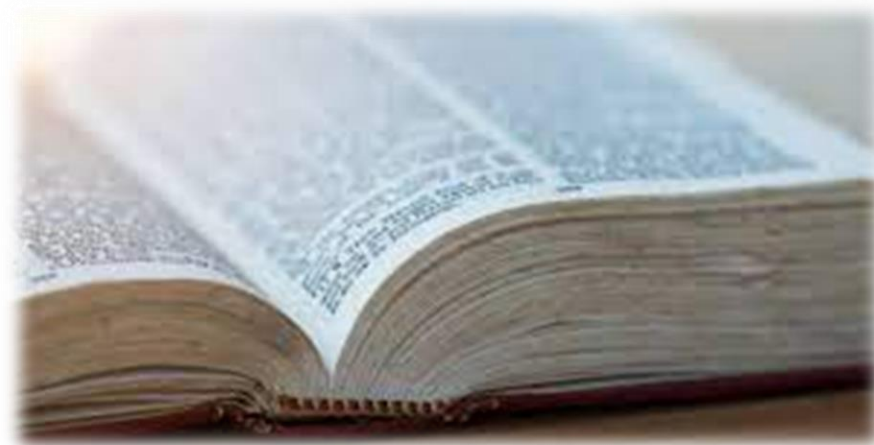


Voices from the Field



God's Promise

*So is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*
Isaiah 55:11



They're Here!
Let's Tell!

May the Lord bless each of you and every
congregation, school, early childhood ministry as
we seek to...

*...tell the next generation the praiseworthy
deeds of the LORD, his power and the
wonders he has done.*

Psalm 78:4

