

Our Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and School is a **congregation**, a group of believers in Jesus Christ that God has gathered around His Word and Sacraments. We are a member of a larger grouping of congregations called the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)**.

There are 10 or so congregations in this area of Wisconsin that hold to the same Biblical preaching and teaching. We are gathered into a **Wisconsin River Valley Circuit**. A number of Circuits join together to become a **District**. We are part of the larger Western Wisconsin District.

And across our country, there are 12 such geographical Districts that comprise our **Synod**. All 1,276 churches; 304 Lutheran elementary schools; 393 early childhood ministries and 27 area Lutheran high schools walk together as brothers and sisters in the same faith.

But our **Synod** is not focused just on America, the Lord has lifted our eyes to go as He directed: to the whole world. **WELS** is in 42 world mission fields; 14 prospective new mission fields; cares for 41 world missionaries and 400+ national pastors and over 380 seminary students worldwide. The great joy that God has worked is that we all believe and teach the same teachings. Different cultures, different languages, different ages, but the same firm stand on God's Word worked by the Holy Spirit.

Our **WELS** has the same bonds of fellowship with the **Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)**. Both **WELS** and **ELS** are members of the **Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC)**, a worldwide organization of Lutheran church bodies of the same beliefs. **WELS** is in fellowship with more than 30 church bodies throughout the world. Member churches of the **CELC** have regional meetings and a triennial convention. The most recent convention took place in 2017 in Grimma, Germany. The **CELC** illustrates the truth of Psalm 133:1 – **“How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!”**