



*Serving WELS Churches  
of the Fox Cities*

**Rev. Tony McKenzie**  
Chairman

**Jason Koepf**  
Vice-Chairman

**Lynne Koepf**  
Treasurer

**Open**  
Secretary

**Member Congregations**

Bethany, Appleton  
Bethel, Menasha  
Bethlehem, Hortonville  
Emanuel, New London  
Eternal Love, Appleton  
Grace, Neenah  
Immanuel, Greenville  
Immanuel, Neenah  
Martin Luther, Neenah  
Mt. Calvary, Harrison  
Mt. Olive, Appleton  
Riverview, Appleton  
St. John, Kaukauna  
St. John, Wrightstown  
St. Luke, Little Chute  
St. Matthew, Appleton  
St. Paul, Dale  
St. Paul, Appleton  
St. Peter, Freedom  
The Core, Appleton  
Trinity, Kaukauna  
Trinity, Neenah

Greetings from the WELS United Executive Committee, March 4, 2026

Our prayer is that this missive finds you and your ministries being blessed by our merciful Savior.

The current members of the Executive Committee have made the decision not to hold an in-person annual meeting for 2026. Instead, each congregation and each congregation's president, along with each of the organizations WELS United grants material support to, will receive a copy of last year's minutes, a report of expenses vs. budget from 2025, and a proposed budget for 2026.

What we are asking is that the groups which receive material support provide a brief written report of 2025 activities (please submit them to [lynne.koepf@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.koepf@gmail.com) by March 30) that will be disseminated to all member congregations. Member congregations are in-turn asked to give feedback and a vote on the proposed budget (sent to the same address) by April 30, 2026. Replies will be aggregated and results reported back to member congregations by May 15, 2026.

In the coming several months, the Executive Committee will be reaching out to Member Congregations to ask for volunteers to fill in the rest of the Executive Committee and support positions. Currently just three people fill the eight possible positions. Our hope is to more evenly divide and perhaps expand the work done by WELS United.

At present, WELS United exists to pool resources which are then used to offer support to each of the entities listed in the budget, maintain and update the WELS United website to share information about ministries offered in each of our member congregations, and provide for a joint worship opportunity at our annual Reformation Service.

If Member Congregations are satisfied with these efforts, they can be maintained as presently constituted. If others see greater opportunities, join us in casting your vision for other forms of ministry and service that we can do together here in the valley.

In Him, WELS U Exec. Com.

WELS United Meeting March 4, 2025

Opening Prayer @ 6PM

Agenda Presented and approved

Refrained from reading of 2024 minutes.

Financial Report & Budget – Lynne Koepp – report approved – see attached

Communication Report – Lynne Koepp – report accepted - see attached

Joint Ministry Efforts – Presentations given by reps of each

Apple Valley Food Pantry – see attached

The Hope Center – see attached

Men of His Word – no report given

Promoted Ministry Efforts -

GriefShare – no report

DivorceCare – no report

Christian Recovery Support Group – no report

English as Second Language – no report

Financial Peace University – attempts being made at gathering a group

Jesus Cares Ministry – report given and attendance encouraged by Ken Kasten

Lighthouse – see attached

Election of officers –

Officers – Following slate approved and elected

Chair – Pastor T. McKenzie

Vice-Chair – Jason Koepp

Secretary – Open

Communications – Lynne Koepp

Treasurer – Lynne Koepp

Outreach – Open

Education/Worship – Rev. Martin Loescher

Support/Benevolence – Open

New Business – Talked about possibilities to pay down excess cash.

Requests may be made for funds that benefit the collective of WELS United.

Closing – Closed with blessing at 7:00



# WELS United Treasurer's Report

## Current Balance

Savings \$1.84  
Checking \$7,813.77  
**Cash Total - \$7,815.61**

## 2025 Income

### Dues

- 20 of 20 churches paid their 2025 dues
- Dues were set at \$300.00 for the year

### 2025 Direct Donations for AVFP

Blackbaud Giving Fund - Kimberly Clark (Kathleen Gauger) – AVFP	\$500.00
Blackbaud Giving Fund - Boldt Family – AVFP	\$500.00
Blackbaud Giving (Anonymous) – AVFP	\$500.00
Community Foundation - Bejvan Fund – AVFP	\$500.00
Community Foundation - Neubauer Fund – AVFP	\$400.00
Community Foundation - Neubauer Fund & Bejvan – AVFP	\$1,000.00

### 2025 Direct Donations for WELS United

Blackbaud Giving (Anonymous)	\$1,486.05
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## 2025 Expenses

### Education Support Grants - \$500.00

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Worship at the Cross (Mount Calvary)              | \$250.00 |
| • Financial Peace University (Immanuel, Greenville) | \$250.00 |

### Support Staff - \$2,500.00

- Lynne Koepp (Communications Coordinator) - Website / Facebook Page

### Website - [www.welsunited.org](http://www.welsunited.org)

- Annual hosting fee -\$360.00

### Reformation Service - \$800.00

- Includes Preacher, Liturgist, Musicians, Bulletins
- (Offering Collected for FVL Tuition Assistance – \$842.00)

### Ministries Supported

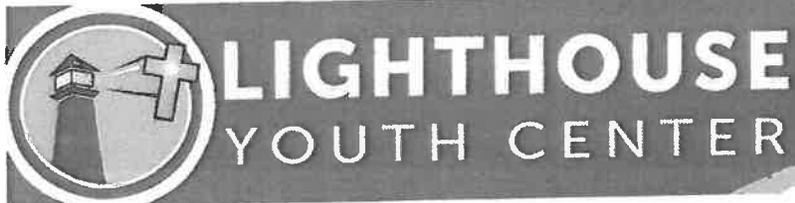
- Men of His Word - \$1,000.00
- Apple Valley Food Pantry - \$1,250.00
- The Hope Center - \$1,250.00
- Lighthouse Youth Center - \$1,250.00

### Hosting / Admin Expenses

- Annual Meeting Hosts (Trinity, Neenah) - \$50.00

## 2026 Budget Approval





## Report - February 2025

### Attendance

- In January, we had 167 in total attendance.
- In February, we have 180 in total attendance
- In January, we averaged 7.6 students in attendance per day.
- In February, we averaged 9 students in attendance per day.
- In January, we had 6 new students in attendance.
- In February, we saw 17 new students in attendance.
- Our student population is mostly middle school students.

Notes: The attendance has been trending upwards. Some of the challenges that have resulted in average numbers for LYC are a change over at the onsite director position, the colder temperatures, sports schedules, and some of the activities offered at the Boys and Girls Club.



### Highlights

- On Thursdays, we have been dedicating 5 minutes of reading the Bible and allowing students to share what they read.
- Students are regularly participating in devotions. 3 kids have been able to lead portions of the devotion on any given weekday. Others have expressed interest in doing this as well.



*The WELS Apple Valley Food Pantry (an outreach of WELS United congregations) gathers, stores and distributes food to area families in need of assistance through referrals from Fox Valley WELS pastors.*

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS – 2024**

- **73 families served every month**
- **1,818 bags** of non-perishable groceries & **773 bags** of sundry (toilet paper, toweling, facial tissue, soap, toothpaste) distributed
- **35,171 pounds or 17.6 tons!**
- **\$35,125 in SCRIP** provided to families to purchase fresh food such as meat, dairy and produce
- **23 WELS congregations**
- **70 volunteers**

**Interested in having a food drive? Please contact us ahead of time for assistance.**

### **AVFP BOARD**

Marny Prillwitz (Trinity Neenah) – President – 920-540-8752  
Deb Arndt (St Luke) – VP – Distributions – 920-903-7450  
Cindy Wundrow (Riverview) – VP – Procurement & Communication – 920-419-1946  
Barb Wilde (Trinity Neenah) – Secretary – 920-470-1863  
Kelly Hanink (Immanuel Greenville) – Treasurer – 715-350-9593  
Kathleen Gauger (Immanuel Greenville) – Volunteer Coordinator – 920-205-7973  
Rev Tony McKenzie (WELS United & Trinity Neenah) – Pastoral Advisor – 920-716-7678

**2603 W College Ave, Appleton WI 54914**  
**Email: [applevalleyfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:applevalleyfoodpantry@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [welsunited.org/programs/apple-valley-food-pantry.php](http://welsunited.org/programs/apple-valley-food-pantry.php)**



## The Hope Center - Appleton WELS United Annual Meeting - March 4, 2025

The Hope Center is a compassion ministry of WELS United located on the campus of St Matthew Lutheran Church in downtown Appleton, WI. The center is a non-profit, volunteer agency financially supported by members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran synod (WELS). We provide a loving and supportive place for families in the community by enriching the lives of clients physically, emotionally and spiritually.

www.hope-center.org  
(920)739-0039  
thehopecenter1316@  
gmail.com

1. 2024 blessings in material support
  - Over 185 families served monthly
  - Families served: 2233 (from 1835 in '23)
  - Active clients: 436 (from 361 in 2023)
  - Volunteer hours: 2180
  - Cash Donations: \$99,000
  - Material Donations: Over \$28,000
  
2. 2024 blessings in soul nurture
  - Meaningful volunteer visits w clients: about 450
  - Pastor visits with clients: about 160
  - Two adult confirmations
  
3. Plans for enhanced ministry
  - GIA planning for strategic steps
  - Paid administrative staff
  - Paid executive director (DMB guided)
  - "Companions" from area congregations
  - "Word for the Week" on St. Matthew's YouTube Channel ( stmatthewlutheran.com click on Worship Live