Overview

WELS supports cross-cultural outreach at congregations throughout North America. Much of this work centers around diaspora (people group) connections, where immigrants who have joined WELS congregations in North America are able to take the gospel back to friends and family in their home country. The Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) works alongside many cross-cultural ministries to provide pastoral training for their leaders, allowing them to continue working within their individual ministry context.

The Joint Mission Council helps facilitate this cross-cultural ministry. It is made up of representatives from Home Missions, World Missions, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

Cross-cultural outreach in your community

Is your congregation interested in sharing the gospel with a specific people group in your area? WELS provides support through volunteer stateside pastors, known as Diaspora Ministry Facilitators (DMFs), who have experience working with various cultural groups. They can assist your outreach efforts and help build connections between local immigrant communities and World Missions teams in their home countries.

To get connected with the right Diaspora Ministry Facilitator for your outreach, contact Rev. Neil Birkholz, program coordinator, by email at birkie84@gmail.com.

Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI)

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) offers seminary training to students from diverse backgrounds in North America. As WELS congregations reach out to refugees and immigrants, PSI connects pastoral candidates with local WELS pastors for supervised training, often leading to international opportunities. Globally, PSI supports Christians seeking gospel training, providing consultation, curriculum support, and advanced degree programs for seminaries and Bible institutes.

Praying for cross-cultural outreach

Dear Lord, we thank you for moving individuals from many people groups to partner with us in preaching and teaching the gospel of forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus to others both inside and outside our country. We are grateful for the Holy Spirit's rich blessing on that gospel ministry in hearts throughout the world. We ask for your continued blessings on the many immigrants with whom we come into contact. Give us daily opportunities to reflect your love for us through our testimony and our support of the church's ministry. Amen.

Learn more at wels.net/cross-cultural