

HOMEMISSIONS

WELS HOME MISSIONS UPDATE—SPRING/SUMMER 2025

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The Board for Home Missions (BHM) met in April 2025 and approved five new starts and six enhancements toward our synod's goal of starting 100 missions and enhancing 75 ministries by 2033.

SPRING 2025 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS

Arlington, Tenn.: Arlington, located 25 miles northwest of Memphis, is on the brink of rapid growth with Ford Motor Company set to build a new plant for electric truck production. Since 2022, the South Atlantic District Mission Board has been working with a dedicated group of 60 members and Pastor Jim Turriff from Gloria Dei, Memphis, who plan to relocate and establish a fresh start in Arlington under a new name.

Erie, Colo.: Erie, located 30 miles north of Denver, has experienced a 55 percent population increase from 2010 to 2020, with continued growth expected. The Colorado District Mission Board began exploring this area in 2022. A core group of ten adults has been gathering for fellowship and Bible study while attending local festivals to share its plans for a new church. So far, 25 people have expressed interest in learning more about the mission efforts.



Jarrell, Texas: Jarrell is a rapidly growing town located 44 miles north of Austin in northern Williamson County. The county has seen its population surge from 426,000 in 2010 to 671,000 in 2022, with continued growth expected. For the past three years, Pastor Don Patterson has been working with a core group of 11, which began holding weekly worship in October 2024. The group has identified 90 prospects, many of

whom they connected with by volunteering at the Jarrell Bible Community Food Pantry. The plan is to rent space for eight years before securing land and constructing a permanent church home.



Madison, Wis.: The center of Madison is expected to grow by 200,000 in future years, with many residents seeking an urban lifestyle. A core group of 14 adults, familiar with the area, has been working together since 2022—meeting regularly for Bible study and ministry planning—and has also secured a rental space for worship and community activities. Twenty prospects have expressed a strong interest in learning more about this new mission. A new mission plant in the center of urban Madison would allow WELS to reach an entirely new demographic.

San Tan Valley, Ariz.: Located on the eastern edge of Phoenix, San Tan Valley is experiencing rapid growth with no signs of slowing down. Since 2022, the Arizona-California District Mission Board has been working with Heritage in Gilbert, Ariz., to plant a new mission in the area. A core group of 26 adults has been gathering regularly for Bible study and community events, building connections and momentum. In October 2024, they began holding regular worship services and have already identified 127 prospects interested in learning more about the new church.



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SPRING 2025 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS

The Board for Home Missions is also financially supporting ministry enhancements for Christ, Clarksville, Md. (restart); Living Word, Petaluma, Calif. (restart); Living Word, Waukesha, Wis.; Redeemer, Edna, Texas; Risen Savior, Lakewood Ranch, Fla.; and Saint Mark Mankato, Minn.



READ MORE ABOUT THESE NEW STARTS AND ENHANCEMENTS AT [WELS100IN10.NET](https://wels100in10.net).

HOME MISSION MILESTONES

Risen Savior in Parrish, Fla., launched public worship on Dec. 8, 2024, with nearly 90 people (including 18 first-time visitors) in attendance. **Foundation in Peyton, Colo.**, held its first worship service in its brand-new building on March 23, 2025.

Both **Sure Foundation in Brandon, S.D.**,

and **Foundation**

in Folsom, Calif., invited the community to Easter worship services in their new buildings on April 20, 2025. Please keep these mission congregations in your prayers as they continue to reach out into their respective communities with the gospel message!



100 MISSIONS IN 10 YEARS

WELS HOME MISSIONS 2023-2033

21%

21 new mission starts since 2023

GOAL = 100 new starts + 75 enhancements

32%

24 mission enhancements since 2023

FACES OF FAITH 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 edition of WELS Missions' annual magazine, *Faces of Faith*, is now available. Visit wels.net/facesoffaith to view and download a PDF of the new edition or request up to 50 copies for your congregation or Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) circuit. Print copies are also mailed to any congregation that hosts a Missions speaker.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We thank God for you! Home Missions is thankful for the generosity of so many. Your gift matters. The gospel is being proclaimed in new communities all around North America through new mission starts and existing home mission congregations. We are also grateful for our partnership with WELS Church Extension Fund and the services and grants it provides that help us reach out to the lost.

Pray for our neighbors who are still in darkness and consider how you can make a difference and share Jesus Christ with many. To give an immediate gift, go to wels.net/hmgift. Watch with us as the Holy Spirit changes earthly lives and opens the door to eternal life for our brothers and sisters in our own backyards.

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