

# HOMEMISSIONS

WELS HOME MISSIONS UPDATE – SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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The Board for Home Missions (BHM) and the BHM Executive Committee met in March 2023 and approved 15 new home mission starts and enhancements. These are the first new mission starts and enhancements approved towards our synod’s goal of starting 100 missions and enhancing 75 ministries in the next 10 years.

## SPRING 2023 HOME MISSIONS NEW STARTS



**Bentonville, Ark.:** Bentonville, home to the headquarters of Walmart, is anticipated to see 35 percent population growth in the next three years. The 12-person core group looks forward to planting a new church in an area with no current WELS presence.

**Idaho Falls, Idaho:** The Mormon church has a strong historical presence in this growing area. The 11-person core group has been working with Truth in Love Ministries to understand how to best reach out into this demographic.



**Boston, Mass.:** Boston, a city with 4.3 million souls, is known as “America’s College Town” with 53 colleges and universities. This unique urban mission would be modeled after church plants in Atlanta, Ga., and New York City and could have potential for college and cross-cultural ministry.

**Kalispell, Mont.:** Kalispell, Mont., is considered the fastest growing micropolitan city (10,000-50,000 population) in the United States and is 100 miles away from the nearest WELS church. The dedicated core group has been gathering for worship on a regular basis for years.

**Cincinnati, Ohio:** Beautiful Savior in Cincinnati, Ohio, is starting a second site in the Oakley and Hyde Park neighborhoods, just northeast of downtown. This new location would put Beautiful Savior closer to three colleges in the area, opening opportunities for Campus Ministry growth.



**Kronenwetter, Wis.:** Five WELS churches in the greater Wausau, Wis., area are supporting a new mission in Kronenwetter. This growing community south of Wausau is home to Northland Lutheran High School, which will house this new church and provide mission-minded staff and students to support the outreach effort.

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**Marquette, Mich.:** Marquette serves as the hub of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and 52 percent of the people in and around Marquette do not have a home church or attend a church. It is also home to 7,000 students at Northern Michigan University, a ripe opportunity for a Campus Ministry program.



## SPRING 2023 HOME MISSIONS ENHANCEMENTS

Six enhancements were approved at Beautiful Savior in West Des Moines, Iowa (Restart); Christ the King in Port Charlotte, Fla.; Divine Savior in Sienna, Tex.; Fairview in Milwaukee, Wis.; Good Shepherd in Midland, Tex. (Unsubsidized); and Our Redeemer in Ladysmith, Wis. (Unsubsidized).



**100  
MISSIONS  
IN 10 YEARS**  
WELS HOME MISSIONS 2023-2033

READ MORE ABOUT THESE NEW  
STARTS AND ENHANCEMENTS  
AT [WELS100in10.NET](https://WELS100in10.NET).



**North Collin County, Tex.:** A core group of 15 members are starting a new church in North Collin County, a northern suburb of Dallas. Divine Savior Ministries has committed to providing guidance and resources to the new mission and are planning to build a Divine Savior Academy by year five of the mission start.

**Panama City Beach, Fla.:** Amazing Grace in Panama City is looking to expand west and start a second site in the greater Panama City Beach area.



## 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 they provide 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](https://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 backyard.

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