

Dear brothers in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord,

Greetings in Jesus' name! We pray that the Lord has blessed you and your ministry here in the Easter Season. We are reaching out to you in response to both blessings and challenges that our campus ministries have faced over the years. We're extremely grateful for the responses we've received in regard to the Campus Ministry 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Despite shutdowns and online instruction dominating over the past year, we've been blessed with more support and awareness to the work of ministering to college students. We are also noticing more places where we either can begin or enhance ministry to college students. We've also heard various challenges. The biggest challenge we are hearing from our called workers and congregations that serve college students is getting names and contact information.

This is where we, the Campus Ministry Committee, are making an appeal to you and your congregation(s). The sooner we can get names, the sooner that information can be shared with and accessed by the pastors who serve our students at those universities and colleges. More universities and colleges are planning to return to in-person classes in the fall. We are asking that over the next 6-8 weeks you would consider making time to personally visit with your congregation's high school graduates and their families (or utilizing others who have those gifts to work with young adults) to help us get information so we can share it with our campus pastors/contact pastors so they can reach out to the students before they arrive for the fall semester.

Here's are some options/ideas of what that could look like:

- 1) Host a meal or gathering either at your church or in a home where you invite the graduates. Have them bring a laptop or provide access to a computer. While there:
  - A) Lead them in a devotion about walking with their Savior in the next phase of life.
  - B) Have the students go to [wels.net/college](http://wels.net/college):
    1. Sign up with campus ministry under that link ([wels.net/cmsignup](http://wels.net/cmsignup));
    2. Locate the closest congregation through the "find a campus pastor" and have the students e-mail the pastor at that congregation/campus ministry location letting them know that they will be in the area for the fall semester;
    3. Have a prayer with them asking the Lord to help them stay faithful to him as they start college.
- 2) Go to your WELS Cloud account and add their information.
  - Instructions are attached to this e-mail and found at [wels.net/cm100toolkit](http://wels.net/cm100toolkit).

We send this encouragement as a way that we can strive to serve these young adults as they are a part of our Savior's flock (and attempt to address that big challenge of getting names.) We know the temptations and the intensity of them during these impactful years of their life. We want our campus pastors to be able to make introductions as soon as they are able. As the summer progresses and activities of early fall start, there are plenty of distractions/other areas of ministry that make us forget about getting to the submission of names. Hence, the reason why we are appealing now with the hope of having things ready for our campus pastors/staff ministers is so that they can utilize July and August to establish early relationships with our WELS college students. We also know that May is a busier month of the year (especially coming after Lent, Holy Week, and Easter celebrations). For more information regarding WELS Campus Ministry, please see our Toolkit at [wels.net/cm100toolkit](http://wels.net/cm100toolkit).

Thank for your work and the partnership we have with you in our Lord's kingdom. God's continued blessings to you and your ministry!

*Therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, by being rooted and built up in him, and strengthened in the faith just as you were taught, while you overflow in faith<sup>[b]</sup> with thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, which are in accord with human tradition, namely, the basic principles of the world, but not in accord with Christ. – Colossians 2:6-8*

In Christ,

Rev. Daniel M. Lindner (on behalf of our WELS Campus Ministry Committee)

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