

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

May has us thinking of our mothers as it's the month with Mother's Day. One thing I remember my mom constantly enforcing was the wisdom of the concept of "it's the little things!" with its translation of "Little things really aren't that little. They are important to making big things happen." An example that sticks in my mind goes back to the process of loading the dishwasher. My mom insisted that her children rinsed the dishes off before we put them into the dishwasher. The logical brain of an eight-year-old thought "what's the point of it being a dishwasher then?" I soon learned the lesson (more than once and beyond the age of eight). Rinsing the dishes off kept me from having to unload the dishwasher and then wash all of the dishes by hand with caked on substances and not have as much time to play with my friends at the park.

Mothers aren't the only ones who impact the lives of their children. The Lord God provides others along the way. Your school and the people who are a part of it are some of those blessings. You've pointed the students under your care to their Savior. You've encouraged them to use their gifts and abilities to praise their Lord and serve others. You've prayed for those students and their families. May brings more than just a special day to recognize the blessings that come through mothers. It's a time a year where transitions are happening at schools like yours. Your seniors are looking ahead at graduation. Some of them will be leaving your campus and pursuing higher education. This letter highlights some of the "little things" that really aren't "little" at all. Our WELS Campus Ministry Committee strives to help the transition between high school and college so that students like yours will continue to walk with their Savior during this next phase of life. We value you as partners in helping us do that. One of the most helpful ways is to get us information about your graduates so we can connect them to the called workers and congregations in the locations of where they will be attending college.

I was able to address leaders from some of our high schools at the Association of Lutheran High Schools Conference in early March. Some information I shared was that over the last few years we are hovering between a 20-30% response rate from our WELS high schools regarding where their graduates are planning to go to college. Our goal is to get a 100% response rate. You can help us achieve that goal. An even more important goal is that we want these young men and women to continue to walk with their Savior. That's why our campus ministries exist.

Here are a few ways that you could help make that happen:

- 1) Utilize a Senior Religion Class/Homeroom to:
 - A) Have a short devotion with them about remaining faithful to their Savior as they go to college. (Some examples are the accounts of Joseph; Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; David; Samuel; Paul in Athens; and Luke to name a few.)
 - B) Have the students fill out the form we are attaching with this letter and return the information you gather from those forms to us.
 - C) Have the students go to wels.net/college and:
 1. Sign up with campus ministry under that link (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 they will be in the area for the fall semester;
 3. Share their intentions with the instructor; and
 4. Have a prayer with them asking the Lord to help them stay faithful to him as they start college.
- 2) Send a list of all of your seniors' information with planned university/college to Ginny Mundstock (Ginny.Mundstock@wels.net), the administrative assistant/liaison for our WELS Campus Ministry.
- 3) Communicate with their home pastor of their intent and write him an e-mail/letter encouraging their home congregation to reach out to the campus pastor(s) where their members will be for the fall Semester.

It's a joy to be able to serve with you in our Lord's kingdom. We continue to look for ways that we can partner with you so that these young men and women who have been blessed with their time with you continue to walk with their Savior. We are also attaching a copy of a "Farewell to Seniors" chapel service and devotion you could use. A hard copy was included in the packets sent with your representatives at the Association of Lutheran High Schools' Conference.

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^[b] 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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