

*Live Like You'll Live  
Forever<sup>†</sup>*

THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

*Live a Life of Fearless Witness*

October 27, 2024





4651 Kernan Blvd S,  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
(904) 642-8900

8:00am Worship  
9:15am Bible Class and  
Sunday School  
10:30am Worship with  
Livestream

[victorylutheran.org](http://victorylutheran.org)



*Find us on Facebook,  
Instagram, and YouTube!*



*Victory is affiliated with  
the Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod.*

# Welcome to Victory!

- Thank you for choosing to worship the Triune God with us! May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as we join together in worship.
- We prepare for worship by quietly meditating on the theme for the day and respectfully listening to the music chosen and prepared by our musicians.
- If you are looking for a church home, we would be thrilled to serve your spiritual needs. Our name comes from 1 Corinthians 15:57: **"Thanks be to God! He gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ!"**
- Our mission as a Christian congregation is to: "Win souls for Christ and coach Christians for life."
- Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder to give us a record of your visit, and so we can properly thank you for joining us!
- Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you enter the front doors. Changing tables are available in both the women's and men's restrooms.
- A Quiet Room for children who need a quiet moment with a caretaker is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

## Today's Worship: Live a Life of Fearless Witness

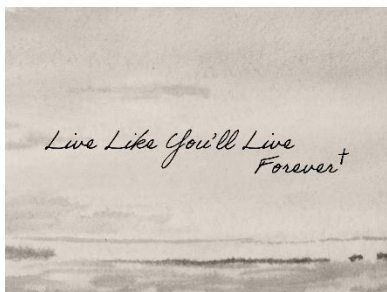
Jesus repeatedly told his followers that living as his disciples would bring hardship. Living life according to God's Law is going to make one appear odd in the eyes of the world, perhaps even evil. Sharing a message of mankind's sin and God's gracious salvation can cause offense. So why not just stay silent if that makes life easier? Why not keep our faith private? Answer: because we are going to live forever. In gratitude for Christ saving us and giving us eternal life, we share the gospel with others, hoping that they will believe and be saved too. Since we know we are going to live forever in the perfection of heaven, we don't worry if being a witness for Christ brings hardship or even death.

Martin Luther wanted to reform the false teaching of the church. He stood firm in the truth of the gospel, knowing it might cost him his life. But Luther knew that, thanks to Christ, he would live forever. So will we. Therefore, like Luther, let us live a life of fearless witness.

## Current Sermon Series: Live Like You'll Live Forever

"Live each day like it's your last." You have probably heard that advice. It sounds wise—an encouragement to take advantage of the time you have. However, that advice is completely backwards. Because the reality is, thanks to Jesus, we have an unending amount of time. Let that sink in. Really think about it. Jesus has given you the gift of eternal life. You are going to live forever.

If you really thought it was your last day, that belief would shape how you lived that day. In this series, let us consider how the gift of eternal life shapes how we live each day. Live like you'll live forever!



Oct. 27	Live a Life of Fearless Witness
Nov. 3	Live Knowing Life Only Gets Better
Nov. 10	Live a Life of Startling Generosity

## 4

## Absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

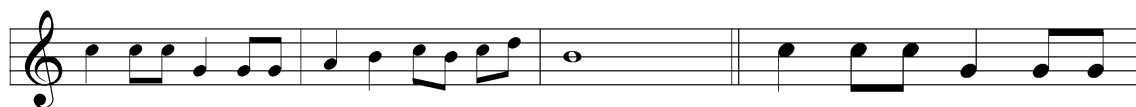
C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## Glory to God

*Gloria in Excelsis*

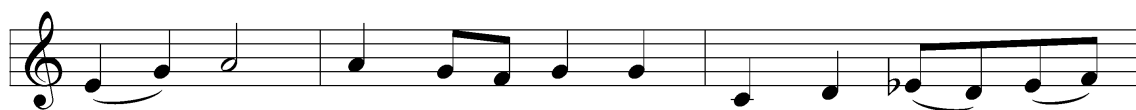
*The congregation sings the whole song*



Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



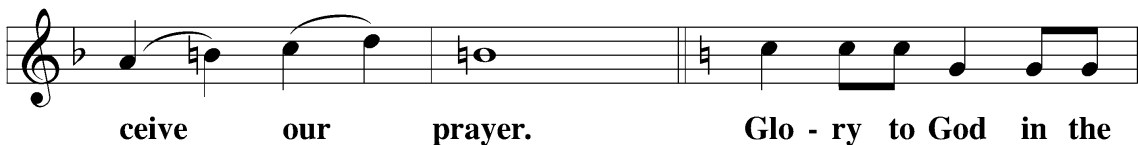
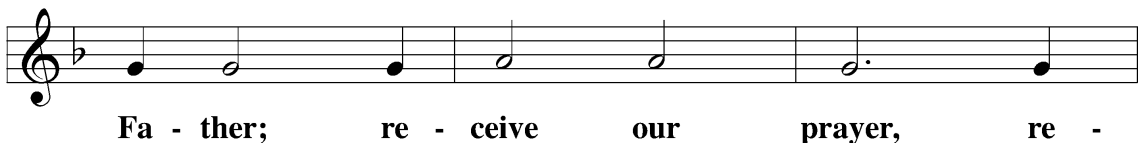
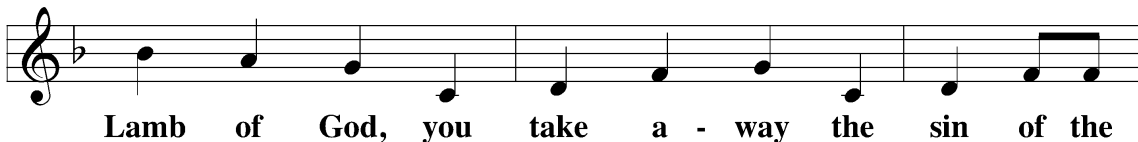
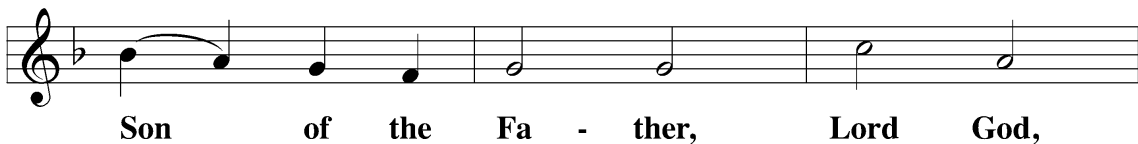
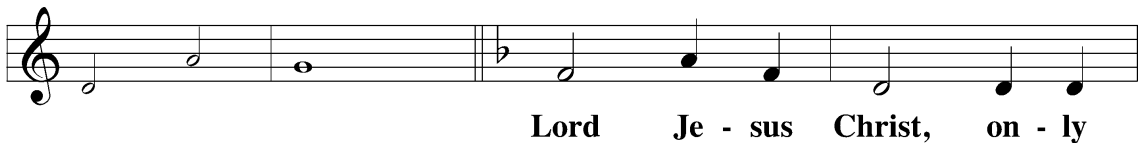
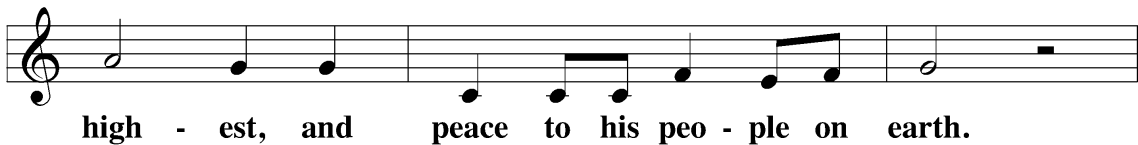
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

# The Word

## Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## First Reading

*Daniel 3:16-28*

### *Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego witnessed fearlessly to a pagan king*

<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. <sup>18</sup>But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

<sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual <sup>20</sup>and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup>So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup>The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup>and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

<sup>25</sup>He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed,



and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

<sup>26</sup>Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, <sup>27</sup>and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

<sup>28</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Choir Anthem

*If God Is for Us*  
by James Chepponis

*The choir sings the first refrain and verses. The congregation joins on subsequent refrains*

### Refrain

The musical notation is written on three staves in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the notes for 'If God is for us, who can be a -'. The second staff contains the notes for 'gainst us? God is our sal - va - tion,'. The third staff contains the notes for 'al - ways by our side.' and ends with a double bar line.

If God is for us, who can be a -  
gainst us? God is our sal - va - tion,  
al - ways by our side.

God is our refuge and our strength, an ever present aid,  
and therefore, though the earth be moved, we will not be afraid;  
though hills into the seas be cast, though foaming waters roar,  
the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.     *Refrain*

A river flows whose streams make glad the city of our God,  
the holy dwelling of the Lord, the place of God's abode.  
Since God is in the midst of it, our safety is secure;  
the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.     *Refrain*

Behold the wondrous deeds of God, who causes wars to cease;  
the weapons of the strong destroyed, God brings abiding peace.  
"Be still and know that I am God, exalted evermore;"  
the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure.     *Refrain*

Text: James Chepponis  
Text: © 2004 GIA Publications, Inc.

## Second Reading

*Revelation 14:6–7†*

### *John sees God's messenger proclaim the gospel to all people*

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup>He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## Choir Anthem

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast*  
*by David von Kampen*

## Gospel Reading

Mark 13:5-11

*Jesus encourages and empowers us to be bold in sharing the gospel in these end times*

M: The Gospel, according to St. Mark chapter 13.



**Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!**

<sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

<sup>9</sup>"You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. <sup>10</sup>And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. <sup>11</sup>Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



**Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Children's Message

*All children are invited to join Pastor John at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If it would help the children feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.*

## Children's Church

*Children ages 3-5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.*



## Hymn of the Day

*CW864 | A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

## Sermon

*Daniel 3:16-28*

*Pastor John Seelman*

### Upon Further Review...

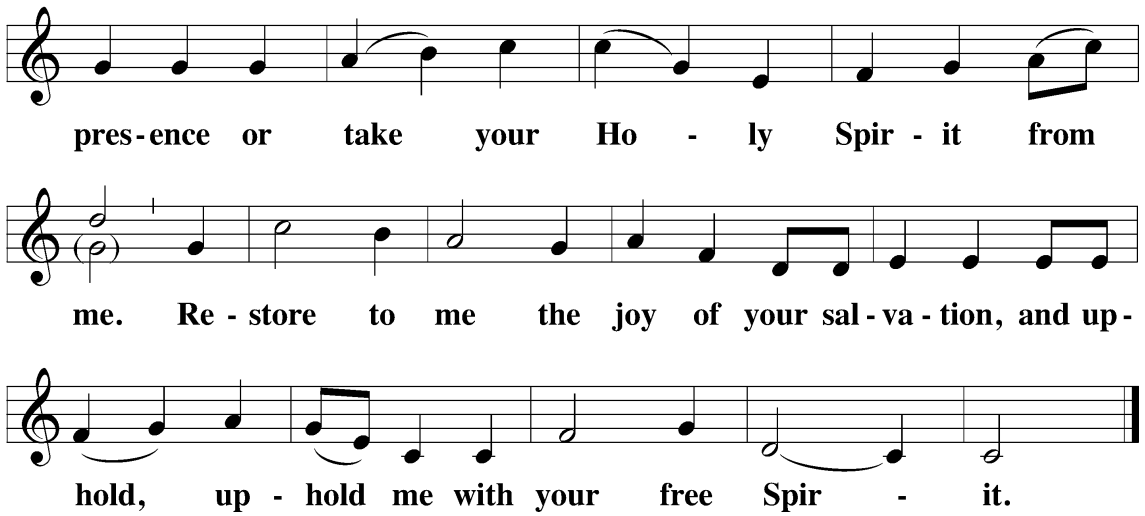
- 1. Following your natural instincts will lead to your destruction*
- 2. Witnessing to God's Word will lead many to eternal life*

## Sermon Response

*Create in Me a Pure Heart*

*The congregation sings the whole song*





## Offering

***Guests:** This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in Jacksonville, St. Johns County, and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to! You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.*



*Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.*

## Offertory

*The Timeless Canon  
by Johann Pachelbel, arr. by Sandra Eithun*

## Prayer of the Church

M: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

M: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

M: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

M: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

M: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

M: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially...]*. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**C: Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

M: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, *[especially...]*. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

M: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**C: Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Closing Hymn

*CW861 | Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head*



## Video

*WELS Kids Connection*



## Organist

*Mrs. Rachel Cochran*

## Choir & Handbells Director

*Mrs. Rachel Cochran*

## Choir Accompanist

*Ms. Jeanine Heller*

## Acknowledgments

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†Revelation 14:6–7 was the text used in 1546 for Dr. Martin Luther’s funeral.



## Special Thanks to Pastor John Seelman

Pastor John Seelman is a second-career pastor who graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2002. After his graduation, he served churches in Kolberg, WI, Sturgeon Bay, WI, and Oshkosh, WI. Pastor Seelman retired from full-time ministry in 2021 and has continued his ministry as a vacancy pastor in both Florida and Wisconsin. He has 4 children and 4 grandchildren who live in Florida, Wisconsin, and California. Victory is grateful for his service as guest preacher this morning.



# History of the Reformation

While living in Eisleben, Germany, on November 10, 1483, Hans and Margarethe Luther welcomed their son, Martin, into their family. Shortly after, the Luthers moved to Mansfeld, where Hans became a prominent citizen, wealthy enough to send Martin to study law.

However, Martin was troubled by his relationship with God. Was he good enough? On a trip back to the university, he was caught in a ferocious storm. Fearing for his life, he prayed to Saint Anne for help. In return, he pledged to become a monk. After surviving the storm, he decided to keep his vow, joining the Augustinian monastery in Erfurt. There, he regularly punished and overworked himself, believing he could eventually make himself good enough for God.

Eventually, his superior, John Staupitz, encouraged him to turn only to Jesus Christ for comfort and peace. To further help the still-confused Martin, John sent him to Wittenberg to teach at the university started by Elector Frederick the Wise. There, Martin taught on Psalms and eventually Romans, which opened his eyes to the truth of the gospel.

A second turning point for Martin came in his encounters with John Tetzel, a seller of indulgences. Tetzel's famous quote, "When a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs," summarized the Catholic Church's teaching that people could buy their way to heaven. After Martin objected to this teaching and many others in his Ninety-five Theses, the Church's response was quick and harsh. Martin was sent before Cardinal Cajetan to recant his statements. He did not.

Later, Martin was called before Emperor Charles V, once again to retract his teachings. There, before the emperor and many other important figures, Martin made his famous statement, "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of sacred Scripture or by evident reason... my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything... Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen." This prompted the emperor to issue the Edict of Worms, a warrant for Martin's arrest.

He was captured, but not by the emperor. Elector Frederick sent men to "capture" and protect Martin. They took him to the Wartburg castle, where he took on the identity of "Knight George." There, Martin wrote prolifically, including translating the New Testament into German.

After a year at Wartburg castle, despite the Edict still being in effect, Martin returned to Wittenberg, where he continued writing and teaching. He, along with his colleagues, also translated the Old Testament into German. Martin's popularity and the recently invented printing press meant his ideas spread wide and fast. He stood alone at Worms, defending his thoughts, summarized into three phrases: by grace alone, by faith alone, and by Scripture alone. But he did not remain alone. Many joined him in protesting the teachings that violate Scripture. We are among them.



## MY WORSHIP NOTES



*For children to use during worship.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the name of the church season or special day today? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue   White   Purple   Red   Green

The Sermon Text Was: \_\_\_\_\_

This is in the:   ☐ Old Testament   ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes  
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Sermon Notes



### Contact Information

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS),  
headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

