Manitowoc Lutheran High School
Federation Meeting

MLHS PRESIDENT REPORT
Ps. Jason Hacker

Date of Meeting: Saturday, August 8, 2026

Ministry

The WELS Assignment Committee called Mr. Elijah Hutchinson for POE, IE, PLTW, math. He was married in June to Megahn who also was assigned to First German. They are moved in and ready to go.

Mr. Fulton and his family have transitioned.

Installation at Opening Service. Please come if you're able.

Enrollment

This school year will start ~305

Concerns with WPCP

With the last WI Supreme Court election and the upcoming gubernatorial election, there will certainly be a strong push against WPCP. It will be important to have the information ready to answer the regular "talking point" falsehoods. I will be putting together a talking point framework to equip our constituency with proper information.

Tuition/WPCP "gap:" $810,000

BUILDING

Office to Classroom "Flip"

Cabinets going in this week. Should be all finished by end of next week.

Master Site/Schematic Design

$25,000 approved by Board -- $21, 200 to Excel -- $3500 to Rettler

Ministry Support Center/Food Services Center/Fitness Center

JUN 8 interviews with A.C.E. and Miron construction resulted in the building committee to proceed with Miron Construction as CM/GC.

The recommendation will be to accept a proposal from Excel Engineering to engage in the design/development, construction development, and construction administration phases. With general allowances, the contract total is **$323,800**.

This represents the next step in the design and construction of three key areas:

1. Ministry Support Center
2. Food Services Center
3. Fitness Center

Accepting this Architecture/Engineering (A/E) contract represents a commitment toward the ultimate construction of these facilities. The current construction cost estimates for these areas are:

- **Ministry Support Center:** $1.4 million
- **Food Services Center:** $1.1 million *($700,000 for construction; $400,000 for a commercial kitchen)*
- **Fitness Center:** $1.3 million
- **Total Project Construction Cost: $3.8 million**

Why Are These Areas Necessary?

The purpose of these projects is not to accommodate massive future enrollment growth, but rather to support a stable student body of 325–350 and sustain the current ministry of the school. Demographic analyses indicate this enrollment range is our most realistic projection over the next decade.

While broader population birthrates are projected to decrease, Christian families across our geographic areas are expected to maintain birthrates at or above replacement levels. Based on recent enrollment data, the Lakeshore Lutheran Schools (LLS) will average 80 incoming students per year over the next decade from LLS alone, not including outside student recruitment.

1. Ministry Support Center (NECESSARY)

To support our current enrollment with necessary academic offerings, class sections, and available classroom space, we previously had to renovate our old office and support areas into instructional space.

This forced our administration and support staff (3 administrators, 3 directors, and 2 administrative support staff) to relocate to temporary offices or shared space with SCRIP.

A new ministry support center will not only properly accommodate these individuals, but it will also centralize our broader operational team (student life, guidance, registrar, records, admissions, and recruitment) into one unified area enhancing our ministerial operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Additionally, this construction will significantly improve building security by creating a singular, secure "main entrance" access point with layered security checks. It will also provide much-needed space for board meetings, conferences, and small-to-midsize group gatherings.

2. Food Services Center (NECESSARY)

Consider two numbers: **23,313** and **150**.

- **23,313** is the total number of meals prepared and served during the school year (excluding Monday pizza or sub days, which are not prepared in-house).
- **150 yards** is the distance each of those meals—along with salad bar items, trays, and utensils—must travel every single day to get from the kitchen to the food service area.

To put it in perspective, 23,313 meals must travel further than the length of a football field just to be served.

Can we continue operating this way? Probably. But what if the elevator breaks down on a school morning? Furthermore, modern students and families have high expectations for food preparation and environment. What may seem like "minor" logistical details heavily influence the daily culture of the school, which directly impacts student recruitment and admissions.

3. Fitness Center (NECESSARY)

Gone are the days when the "weight room" was reserved solely for the football team. If that were still the case, a dingy, humid, dimly lit basement far away from the locker rooms might suffice. Today, health and wellness are recognized as vital components of overall student well-being. A well-designed fitness center will benefit the entire student body, promoting lifelong health knowledge and habits for athletes and non-athletes alike. The FC would complete the main gym project.

Overall Thoughts

The landscape of education and instructional delivery is changing rapidly. Declining national birthrates and widespread teacher shortages necessitate flexible learning environments and shared instructional delivery, especially as technology and AI advance. Moving forward, school buildings will increasingly function as "facilitating hubs" of education.

To avoid the risk of "overbuilding," we must focus on two design keys:

- **Flexibility:** As already demonstrated by our recent science and STEM room expansions, our current facilities can be adapted into versatile learning environments.
- **The School as a Community Anchor:** Schools will increasingly serve as centers for student life, athletics, relationships, spiritual formation, and the arts.

Beyond supporting our core mission and ministry, these new spaces offer exciting future possibilities. Could the fitness center eventually be opened to the community? Could a legitimate, commercial-grade food service area allow us to host special community and regional events, Federation congregation use, conferences, etc.? This project ensures our campus remains vibrant, secure, and well equipped for the future.

Proposed Contract with Miron Construction

We have the proposed contract with Miron in hand. The only financial liability at this point would be up to $5000 in preconstruction costs. Once the contract is signed, awaiting the A/E from Excel, more precise construction estimates would be provided for each part of the project. After the project is bid out (MAR 2027) the contract would be amended to include the Guaranteed Maximum Price which would have to be accepted before proceeding with construction. We would have 7 days to accept or amend the GMP to move ahead with the project.

Additionally, Miron has informed us of significant delays in steel production and delivery (what was once 6-8 weeks is now 20+ weeks) due to the impact on trade tariffs and AI data center construction throughout the state. Construction on any part of this project would begin JUN 1 with a completion by OCT 15.