

Fellowship Ad Hoc Committee Report

1. **Committee members:** The committee, comprised of Pastor Hefti, Pastor Schultz, Pastor Rimmert, Pastor Kevin Lisk, Pastor Jon Bilitz, Mr. Dick Dorn, Dr. Gregg Henckel, Mr. Jim Ruppert and Mr. Paul Wichmann, met on three successive Friday's in May.
2. **Committee's assigned tasks:**
 - a. Review scriptural fellowship principles
 - b. Review pertinent portions of papers addressing fellowship practices in ALHS's
 - c. Review current LHS admissions policy
 - d. Review current LHS choral participation
 - e. Provide final report to LHS Board of Control in August 2010 or earlier
3. **Summary of committee work:**
 - a. In the first meeting on May 7, Pastor Paul Stuebs was present to share his questions / concerns regarding fellowship and practice as it pertains to non-WELS students at Luther High School.
 - b. *Documents reviewed by the committee:*
 1. *Bible passages relating to fellowship*
 2. *"Discussions of the Application of the Principles of Fellowship, With Emphasis on the Application of the Principles to Christian Schools" by Professor Brug (10/5/09)*
 3. *"The Doctrine of Fellowship and its Application in Area Lutheran High Schools" by Pastor David Wenzel (2/5/98)*
 4. *Luther High School Admissions Policy (4/15/04)*
 5. *Luther High School Music Department Handbook (2009-10)*
 6. *WELSSA Accreditation Recommendation (4/13/05)*
 7. *"Application and Finances" Luther High School Student /Parent Handbook (2009-10)*
 8. *Music Ad Hoc Committee Statement (5/5/07)*
 9. *ALHS Non-WELS Student Participation in Choir and Band Questionnaire (5/10)*
 10. *"Let's Keep the Lutheran in Our Lutheran Schools" by Pastor Daniel Deutschlandler (2/18/10)*
 11. *"Selling Schools or Proclaiming Christ" by Pastor Roy Hefti (2/20/09)*
 - c. **Recommendations:**
 1. **Committee recommends the adoption of revised Admissions Policy to the Board of Control and Conference of Delegates.** *Document #1 below*
 2. **Committee recommends the adoption of the "Questionnaire for Non-WELS Students Applying for Enrollment" as a helpful resource for the administration** (modified version of FVL's) *Document#2 below*
 3. **Committee recommends the adoption of the "Questionnaire for Parents of Non-WELS Students Applying for Enrollment" as a helpful resource for the administration** (modified version of FVL's) *Document #3 below*
 4. **Changes in policy and its application would begin with the incoming freshmen. This information will be included in the revised Music Department Handbook.** *Document #4 below* **In the case of an enrolled non-WELS freshmen,**

the Principal will make contact to explain this change in policy in a timely manner.

- 5. WXOW Concert -. The format of the live performance and televised programming with public service announcements and commercials between each choir's performance does allow for a distinct separation of choirs. At no time in the program do the choirs sing as a joint choir. The committee felt that the word "concert" in today's usage conveys the thought of a performance or event and not a oneness. There is a sensitivity to avoid unionism and for that very reason Luther High School did not participate when invited to sing jointly with choirs from other schools in a patriotic song which also included words of a spiritual nature. Mindful of those cautions, the committee reaffirmed the 2007 decision to continue to participate in the WXOW Holiday Concert.**
- 6. The BOC Chairman and Principal will inform Pastor Stuebs of the decisions pertaining to the questions / concerns he shared.**

Document #1 – Revised Luther High Admissions Policy

FONT KEY: This portion = LHS Admissions policy in 2004

This portion = From “Questionnaire for Non-WELS”

ADMISSIONS POLICY

In the spirit of the Reformer, Dr. Martin Luther, after whom our school is named, Luther High School has been established and is maintained by an association of Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) congregations of the La Crosse area in order to offer the members of our congregations a Christ-centered high school education (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 2 Corinthians 10:5). Therefore, it is the policy of Luther High School to give enrollment preference to students from WELS congregations of the Luther High School Association and secondly to students from WELS congregations which are not members of the association.

Students from Christian congregations not in confessional fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and students who do not belong to a Christian church, but are seeking a Christian education as provided at Luther High School, will be permitted to enroll at Luther High under the following conditions:

a. All students will comply with all the rules and regulations which have been established by Luther High School, including attendance at daily devotional services, religion classes, ~~required choir classes, etc.~~

b. ~~All students not in confessional fellowship with the WELS and their parent(s) will learn the teachings of the WELS by attending an adult information course held by one of our WELS churches within one year of enrollment at Luther High School.~~ ***Within one year of enrollment at Luther High School all students not in confessional fellowship with the WELS and their parent(s) will learn the teachings of the WELS from a Pastor serving one of the Luther High School Association congregations or a Pastor serving on Luther High School’s faculty.***

c. ***According to our scriptural belief and practice, Non-WELS students will not be permitted to take representative roles in worship and prayer activities. Such roles include playing for chapel; leading chapel devotions; singing, playing, or accompanying as part of a band or choir in sacred concerts and worship services; leading in prayer; or any other activities that would compromise our fellowship principles.***

d. ***Non-WELS students are not allowed to serve as Student Council president, as this officer may open meetings with prayer, or class speaker at the graduation worship service.***

e. ***Students whose beliefs and practices differ from WELS’ scriptural teaching and practice will discuss these questions / concerns privately with the instructor to clarify and define the difference which may exist.***

f. No student shall at any time undermine the stated purpose of the school or doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in or outside the classroom.

g. No student shall solicit support for religious convictions contrary to the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

~~e. Leadership positions in the worship life of the school are reserved for students who are members of the WELS or a church body in doctrinal fellowship with the WELS.~~

h. Students and their parents will recognize that the admissions committee of Luther High School is charged with annually approving or disapproving enrollments on the basis of the above principles. If in the judgment of the admissions committee it seems that a student's past or present conduct or attitude is at variance with the policy and spirit of the school (as set forth in the statement of philosophy and purpose in the Luther High School catalog), his or her enrollment may be denied, even though no specific offense is mentioned.

i. Admission will not be denied on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin.

We follow these guidelines out of Christian love and concern for the truth of God's Word, and out of love and concern for Luther High School students, both those in fellowship with WELS as well as those not in fellowship

Document #2 Administrative Questionnaire for Non-WELS Students

Questionnaire for Non-WELS Students Applying for Enrollment

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Why would you like to attend Luther High School? _____

Current Church Affiliation _____ Pastor's name _____

Are you a confirmed member or intends to become a confirmed member of this church? YES NO

Are you familiar with the scriptural teachings of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod? YES NO

Do you have any interest in learning more about the teachings of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod?
YES NO

Do you have any interest in joining a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregation? YES NO

By enrolling at Luther High School you understand that you will be taught a Biblical view of Christ, salvation, the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Lord's Supper in accordance with the scriptural teachings of the Lutheran Church. Is this acceptable to you? YES NO

Do you have any concerns? _____

God directs that those who join together in fellowship activities believe and confess the same Biblical truths. ("Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3) Students who are members of a church that is not in doctrinal fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod may be accepted at Luther High School under the following guidelines.

1. All students are permitted to sign up for any and all classes offered by Luther High School.
2. All students are required to take religion classes and attend daily devotions.
3. According to our scriptural belief and practice, Non-WELS students will not be permitted to take representative roles in worship and prayer activities. Such roles include playing for chapel; leading chapel devotions; singing, playing, or accompanying as part of a band or choir in sacred concerts and worship services; leading in prayer; or any other activities that would compromise our fellowship principles.
4. Students whose beliefs and practices differ from WELS' scriptural teaching and practice will discuss these questions / concerns privately with the instructor to clarify and define the difference which may exist.
5. ***No student shall at any time undermine the stated purpose of the school or doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in or outside the classroom.***
6. ***No student shall solicit support for religious convictions contrary to the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.***
7. ***Within one year of enrollment at Luther High School all students not in confessional fellowship with the WELS and their parent(s) will learn the teachings of the WELS from a Pastor serving one of the Luther High School Association congregations or a Pastor serving on Luther High School's faculty.***
8. ***Students and their parents will recognize that the admissions committee of Luther High School is charged with annually approving or disapproving enrollments on the basis of the above principles. If in the judgment of the admissions committee it seems that a student's past or present conduct or attitude is at variance with the policy and spirit of the school (as set forth in the statement of philosophy and purpose in the Luther High School catalog), his or her enrollment may be denied, even though no specific offense is mentioned.***
9. Non-WELS students are not allowed to serve as Student Council president, as this officer may open meetings with prayer, or class speaker at the graduation worship service.
10. ***Admission will not be denied on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin.***

We follow these guidelines out of Christian love and concern for God's Word, out of Christian love and concern for the confessional differences from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to which your church adheres, and out of Christian love and concern for preserving the confessional unity of faith within the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Are you willing to enroll your student under these guidelines? YES NO

Signature of student

Document #3 Administrative Questionnaire for Parents of Non-WELS Students

Questionnaire for Parents of Non-WELS Students Applying for Enrollment

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Why would you like your son/daughter to attend Luther School? _____

Current Church Affiliation _____ Pastor's name _____

Is your son/daughter a confirmed member or intends to become a confirmed member of this church?

YES NO

Are you familiar with the scriptural teachings of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod? YES NO

Does your family have any interest in learning more about the teachings of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod? YES NO

Does your family have any interest in joining a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregation? YES NO

By enrolling your child at Luther High School you understand that your child will be taught a Biblical view of Christ, salvation, the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Lord's Supper in accordance with the scriptural teachings of the Lutheran Church. Is this acceptable to you? YES NO

Do you have any concerns? _____

God directs that those who join together in fellowship activities believe and confess the same Biblical truths. ("Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3) Students who are members of a church that is not in doctrinal fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod may be accepted at Luther High School under the following guidelines.

1. All students are permitted to sign up for any and all classes offered by Luther High School.
2. All students are required to take religion classes and attend daily devotions.
3. According to our scriptural belief and practice, Non-WELS students will not be permitted to take representative roles in worship and prayer activities. Such roles include playing for chapel; leading chapel devotions; singing, playing, or accompanying as part of a band or choir in sacred concerts and worship services; leading in prayer; or any other activities that would compromise our fellowship principles.
4. Students whose beliefs and practices differ from WELS' scriptural teaching and practice will discuss these questions / concerns privately with the instructor to clarify and define the difference which may exist
5. **No student shall at any time undermine the stated purpose of the school or doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in or outside the classroom.**
6. **No student shall solicit support for religious convictions contrary to the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.**
7. **Within one year of enrollment at Luther High School all students not in confessional fellowship with the WELS and their parent(s) will learn the teachings of the WELS from a Pastor serving one of the Luther High School Association congregations or a Pastor serving on Luther High School's faculty.**
8. **Students and their parents will recognize that the admissions committee of Luther High School is charged with annually approving or disapproving enrollments on the basis of the above principles. If in the judgment of the admissions committee it seems that a student's past or present conduct or attitude is at variance with the policy and spirit of the school (as set forth in the statement of philosophy and purpose in the Luther High School catalog), his or her enrollment may be denied, even though no specific offense is mentioned.**
9. Non-WELS students are not allowed to serve as Student Council president or class speaker at the graduation worship service.
10. **Admission will not be denied on the basis of gender, race, color, national or ethnic origin.**

We follow these guidelines out of Christian love and concern for God's Word, out of Christian love and concern for the confessional differences from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to which your church adheres, and out of Christian love and concern for preserving the confessional unity of faith within the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Are you willing to enroll your student under these guidelines? YES NO

Signature of parent / guardian

Signature of parent / guardian

XII. WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

According to our scriptural belief and practice, and in agreement with the admissions policy adopted by the Luther High School Board of Control, non WELS students will not be permitted to take representative roles in worship and prayer activities. Such roles include playing for chapel; leading chapel devotions; singing, playing, or accompanying as part of a band or choir in sacred concerts and worship services; leading in prayer, or any other activities that would compromise our fellowship principles.

This policy will be put into effect beginning with and applying to the incoming class of 2014. Those students may enroll in Choir and Band, but will not be allowed to serve in a role within those organizations which violates the above mentioned worship participation policy.

Therefore, students not in fellowship with the WELS will not be permitted to participate in sacred worship services. Non-WELS students will be permitted to participate in secular events, such as Heidelberg, Spring Spotlight, and the Spring Band Concert. Alternative assessment for grading purposes will be determined on an individual basis for non - WELS students wishing to participate in Band or Choir.

We follow these guidelines out of Christian love and concern for the truth of God's Word and out of love and concern for the students, both those in fellowship with WELS as well as those not in fellowship.

Luther High School's previous policy regarding worship participation stated below will apply to students in the classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Based on the principles of Christian Love and Christian Fellowship, and in agreement with the admissions policy adopted by the Luther High School Board of Control, Luther High School musicians participating in a worship service will follow these guidelines. All students involved in a musical organization are allowed to participate in worship services within a large group. Leadership positions in the worship services are reserved for students who are members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or a church body in doctrinal fellowship with the WELS. Examples of leadership activities are: singing or playing a solo, giving a reading or a solo oral presentation, accompanying a musical organization on a keyboard instrument, and the like.