

Wisconsin Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
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Lamp Letter

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Meet Our New President

On December 6, 2020, Elder Titus Naftanaila accepted the call to be president for the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. During his years in ministry, Elder Naftanaila has served in many capacities, most recently as pastor for the Green Bay district and coordinator for both Personal Ministries and the Lay Pastor Training program in Wisconsin. Upon taking this new responsibility he said, "I am humbled and privileged to pick up the mantle of servant leader for the Wisconsin Conference."

Elder Naftanaila was born into a faithful Adventist family in the country of Romania. Although his parents raised Titus and his siblings under a dictatorial communist regime, God helped them remain faithful even though they were deprived of basic religious freedom. During his high school years, Elder Naftanaila was delayed in his studies because an important exam was scheduled on Sabbath, a normal school day in Romania. Not until five years later was he finally able to resume his education and fulfill his dream to study Theology and become a pastor.

It was during this time that Elder Naftanaila married his hometown sweetheart, Rozina. Since that time, they have served together in ministry for 25 years. Rozina currently works as a registered nurse at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay, WI. They have an adult son, Sebastian, who works in the retail industry.

After earning his B.S. in Theology from Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca in Romania, Elder Naftanaila began his pastoral ministry in 1995 in



the Targoviste District, pastoring 600 members. Elder Naftanaila says that his call to pastoral ministry was manifested gradually and steadily. His parents, pastor, and other mentors all encouraged him to pursue full-time ministry. He has always been passionate about studying the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, preaching, and being involved in outreach activities.

In 1998, Elder Naftanaila was elected as the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director for the Muntenia Conference in Romania. At the same time, he served as the Senior Pastor of the Dynamis Church in Bucharest and hosted a weekly radio program at "Vocea Sperantei" (Voice of Hope). One year later he was invited

to teach for the undergraduate program at the Adventist Theological Institute in Romania (Adventiss University). He also, coordinated conference-wide training programs for elders and young people who wanted to pursue a career in pastoral ministry. In the spring of 2001, he was transferred to the Adventist Theological Institute as the Senior Pastor of the campus church and to continue as a teacher.

The summer of 2001, radically changed the course of Elder Naftanaila's personal and professional path. The Romanian Church in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, obtained the approval from the Romanian Union Conference for his

Continued on page 5

Calendar of Events

February

5-7 Lay Pastor Cohort
6 Pathfinder Bible Experience
8 Pastor's Meetings
12-14 Pathfinder Winter Retreat
15 Office Closed - President's Day
17 Executive Committee
18 Board of Education
26-28 Hispanic Children's & Women's Certification

March

6 Pathfinder Bible Experience
19-20 JAHWI Youth Rally
19-20 Hispanic Global Youth Day
19 Pathfinder Bible Experience
27 Pathfinder Bible Experience Union Level
30 Board of Education

April

1 Wisconsin Academy Music Fest
10-11 Pathfinder Area Coordinator Retreat - Camp Wakonda
16-18 Women's Empowerment Weekend
16-17 Pathfinder Bible Experience Division Level
16-18 Wisconsin Academy Alumni Weekend
23-25 Hispanic Men's Retreat
27 Spelling Bee

30-5/2 Lay Pastor Cohort
30-5/2 Wisconsin Academy Days

May

1 Hispanic Adventurer Rally
2 Adventurer Fun Day
3-4 Pastor's Meetings
8 Hispanic Brotherhood
11 Board of Education
12 Executive Committee
14-16 Pathfinder Fair - Wakonda
16-20 Work Bee - Camp Wakonda
21-22 Wisconsin Academy Graduation
27 Teacher In-Service
31 Office Closed

Monthly eNewsletter

Receive conference news monthly by email! Simply share your email address and request with the communication department on the conference website, wi.adventist.org, or call us at 920-484-6555, ext. 315.

Archives of past conference eNewsletters are now available on our website as well.

Sunset Calendar

You may find the 2021 sunset calendar on the conference website soon at:
<https://wi.adventist.org/resources/offering-schedule-sunset-calendar/>



Deidra Roat is no longer serving as Conference Clerk.

Jerry and Karen Walters are no longer serving as teachers at Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy.

Alma Stauffer is serving as interim teacher for grades 3-6 at Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy.

Ben DePas is serving as interim teacher for grades 7-10 at Green Bay Adventist Junior Academy.

Kylie Walter is serving as interim teacher for Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School South Campus, grades one and two.



From the President's Desk

Grab The Mantle

When the mighty prophet Elijah was taken to heaven in the whirlwind, the young and inexperienced disciple found himself crying: "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!" Definitely, he was referring to our state-wide church, educational institutions, Camp Wakonda, and all the other ministries and programs the Wisconsin Conference coordinates.

Before the moment of separation, Elisha pleaded for the double portion of Elijah's spirit. In the context of the new political, social, and religious environment, he felt the need for a double measure of wisdom, emotional and spiritual intelligence. He wanted to be able to pray and have the courage to take a stand for moral values like his master. He wished to be able to touch people's lives and provide for their physical and spiritual needs. Consequently, for the same level of success, he needed to work harder and be more dependent on divine guidance, even more than his predecessor.

Interestingly, in times of uncertainty and insecurity, simple elements become symbols of inspiration and empowerment. First, the mantle of Elijah thrown on Elisha suggests a transition of the same legacy and spiritual mandate. By tearing his own clothes in two, Elisha revealed his desire not to rely on his past achievements, status, and merits. Only the anointing of the Holy Spirit can qualify and empower a new spiritual leader.

Second, Elisha had to cross the Jordan River on his way back home. Echoing the experience of the Israelites, led by Joshua and Jesus' anointing for His public service, the Jordan River was a symbol of spiritual revival and total dedication to ministry.

Third, it is possible to have the mantle and be at the bank of the Jordan River. Now comes the most important formula for success: "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" In the days of Elisha and in our time, it is not about the mantle or the call; it is more about God who is the Supreme Leader of the people. There is a new king and a new generation of sinners in the country. There is a new prophet trying to make his way back into the Promised Land. The most significant question is: Where is the same God who manifested His providence, answered their prayers, and performed miracles? Where is the God who empowered Elijah and through him brought the fire and the rain from heaven, as symbols of revival and reformation?

Dear church family, Elisha is not a person; he symbolizes a movement: We all are Elisha. That is why, at the beginning of 2021, I invite you to grab the mantle, rededicate your lives to God, and be ready for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let's continue to preach Elijah's message while performing the ministry of Elisha in our territory, until Jesus comes!

In His service,

Titus Naftanaila

Wisconsin Conference President

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The President's Sabbath Schedule

February

6	Milwaukee Central
13	Fox Valley
20	Sheboygan
27	Rhineland

March

6	Waukesha
13	Portage
20	Tomahawk
27	Milwaukee Central Hispanic

April

10	Raymond
17	WA Alumni Weekend

May

1	Wisconsin Rapids
8	Oxford
22	WA Graduation
28	Hispanic Brotherhood

To request speaking appointments contact Titus Naftanaila at tnaftanaila@wi.adventist.org

Students Distribute GLOW Tracts



A few Sabbaths ago, over 30 students and staff spent Sabbath afternoon distributing GLOW tracts in our local community. Students hung small plastic bags on doorknobs containing GLOW tracts and an individually wrapped candy. "GLOW" stands for "Giving Light to Our World." These pocket-sized tracts cover topics like salvation, health, prayer, prophecy, and the reliability of the Bible. Despite cold weather, students reported having a great time. This is yet another way Wisconsin Academy is training students to be "Fit to Serve."

New School Van Dedicated



In December, several of the staff traveled just over the way to attend the dedication of Wisconsin Academy's new van. The 2019 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Passenger Van has a seating capacity of 12 and is essentially brand new. This van will help transport small groups of students without having to use our larger coach buses. The dedication included a prayer asking God's blessing on the trips that this van will take and inviting Him to use it for His glory. We thank the generous and anonymous donor who made this possible.

Students Record Christmas Concert



During a typical school year, first semester ends with a Sabbath afternoon Christmas concert. Of course, this year is anything but typical. In lieu of the live concert, our students worked hard to record and produce a concert to stream from home. With an acoustic shell set up in the chapel, the music groups spent two weeks practicing and recording segments what were merged together into a whole concert. The final concert included numbers by the Choralaires, the choir, Bellissimi Cerci (the handbells), and our sinfonia with readings between.



IT'S TIME TO ENROLL

Open enrollment for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program is going on now! **TAKE ACTION** today to ensure your child begins the 2021-2022 school year in the best school possible.

The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program gives parents the ability to send their child to the participating private or religious school of their choice **tuition free**.

MORE INFO AT

WWW.CHOOSEYOURSCHOOLWI.ORG
Janine Show: 661-800-8759 or www.wisacad.org

3 Steps

- 1 Apply to Wisconsin Academy**
Apply at any time
www.wisacad.org
- 2 Apply to Wisconsin Parental Choice**
Apply Feb 1-Apr 16
<https://apps4.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent/>
- 3 Call WA Coordinator Janine Show**
Call at any time for documentation processing
Cell: 661-800-8759

NOTE: General (non-choice) enrollment is ALWAYS open.



from the principal's desk

We Have An Anchor

*"Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?"*

*When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?"*

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul,
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,*

*Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love."*

(SDA Hymnal, 534)

COVID-19 and the political climate of this past year have presented many new challenges and unexpected changes in our personal and school lives. While it is easy to be focused on all these changes and disturbances, we must remember that God is the anchor that we can trust.

We have been blessed to be able to stay mostly open and have only taken a total of two weeks of precautionary distance education after some homeleaves. Some of our students have come in close contact with individuals that were infected, and others have contracted the virus, but to this point we have not had any major outbreak on campus. The new cameras and virtual classroom possibilities have given the opportunity for our off-campus and quarantining students to remain engaged in classes and not fall behind in their studies.

As we read the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, we see prophecy being fulfilled right before our eyes. Before Christmas, the majority of our students chose to go "glowing" and hung around 700 bags including Christmas greetings and glow tracts on people's doors. We have a desire to do the same with other literature and would like to offer churches in our conference some of our youthful energy to spread news of Jesus' love, sacrifice and soon coming to as many people as we can. If your church is interested in pursuing this idea please contact us.

Young people today are faced with so many awful temptations and snares from Satan. We want to thank you for continuing to pray for us here at Wisconsin Academy as we are guided by God to nurture hearts to walk with Jesus into Eternity.

*It is safely moored, 'twill the storm withstand,
for 'tis well secured by the Savior's hand;*

*And the cables passed from His heart to mine,
can defy the blast, through strength divine.*

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,*

*Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.*

(SDA Hymnal, 534)

Ladies Send Notes of Encouragement



One Thursday morning, instead of regular morning worship, the ladies of the women's dorm gathered with Dean Wamack in the lobby to create cards. First, each student picked a name from the list of WA Church members. Next, they prepared cards. The cards included a favorite Bible verse. After writing the name and address on the envelope, each student prayed over their card, asking God's blessing for the recipient. One recipient sent a short message in reply: "I received 3 cards from girls in the dorm – just when I needed some encouragement. Thank you so much! Stay safe. God bless."

New Keyless Entry System Installed



The main doors of our principal buildings can now remain locked both day and night, thanks to a new system that enables students and staff to open doors with an electronic key fob. Each fob is customized to an individual, allowing them access to buildings during times that match their class and work schedules. This system, which has been in the works for some time, provides greater security for our campus.

President Naftanaila's High Priority Leadersip Objectives

- Christ-centered discipleship that promotes spiritual maturity for new and existing members
- Training, empowering, and mentoring new and existing church leaders
- Intentional outreach initiatives in line with the vision of the Advent Hope, and the needs of the community
- Strong emphasis on retaining and integrating youth and young families
- A guest-oriented church culture that fosters community and togetherness in Christ
- Support for teachers, students, and school projects
- Striving for excellence for every department and ministry
- Christ-like generosity that supports the mission of the church

Celebrating Growth in Our Wisconsin Church Family Through Baptism



Chippewah Valley Church witnessed the baptism of four new ladies to their church family, Kelli Mahoney, Annie Camden, Lynn Amundson, Sandy Peck. Tears of joy were shed as these ladies publicly declared their willingness to make Jesus Lord of their lives.



Rowell Pudedivan, pastor of the Monroe Church, led out in an agape feast worship service where two Monroe youth, Presley & Reyce Ladwig were baptized. We welcome you with open arms.



Hispanic churches baptized nine new members: Ramsés Hernández, Sael Márquez, Isaac Benítez, Alison Velázquez, Joshua Puc, Leandro Rojas, Inés Rivas, Silverio Rivera and Omar Alexander Diaz.



Janesville District received two new members through baptism, and three by profession of faith. Welcome to Heath Houston, Haelyn Houston, Rose Mulcahy, Dennis Mulcahy, and Peggy Crosby. May God richly bless your new life in Christ.



We rejoice as Madison Community added five new members through baptism: Kaelan and Nealah (sisters), Nathaniel, Hailey, and Liz Killia. All heaven celebrates and so do we.



Waukesha Community Church welcomed five new members: Brad Bartlett, Kim Bartlett (Brad's sister), Jacob Wille, Mikayla Cervantes, and Alicia Perez. Praise the Lord!

Koinz 4 Kidz Raised \$3,129.51 This Year



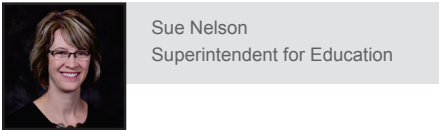
Koinz 4 Kidz is an opportunity for every person in Wisconsin Conference to help provide scholarships to elementary-age children in Wisconsin Adventist schools. The scholarships are usually awarded at camp meeting, but since there was no camp meeting this year, scholarships were sent to the schools.

This year the \$3,129.51 raised was divided between seven students across the Wisconsin Conference.

Thank you to all those who donated coins to make these scholarships possible so young people are able to attend an Adventist school.

- Here is how Koinz 4 Kidz works:
1. Add your pocket change to a jar you have at home. When the jar is full, convert your coins to dollars.
 2. Place dollars in a tithe envelope marked Koinz 4 Kidz and put it in the offering plate.
 3. Send the monies into the Wisconsin Conference office. The Education Department uses these funds as scholarships which are distributed at camp meeting.

For bulletin inserts and posters to help in promoting Koinz 4 Kidz in your church, visit our website: wi.adventist.org/koinz-4-kidz-2/.



Sue Nelson
Superintendent for Education

Students Help Children in Need



Students of Milwaukee North Campus packed 63 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts, filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items, and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love for them in a tangible way. Great job students!

Sue Nelson
Superintendent for Education

JAHWI Celebrates 20 Years of Ministry



We were delighted to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Ministry of JAHWI, our beloved Hispanic Youth Federation, on September 19 and 26. Due to COVID-19, the anniversary was celebrated in two locations: Evergreen Park in Sheboygan, and at the Wisconsin Conference office. JAHWI is the Hispanic acronym for Hispanic Adventist Youth of Wisconsin. JAHWI's mission is to develop the physical, mental, spiritual and leadership capacities of youth age 14 and up through youth Sabbaths, sporting events, evangelistic meetings, and more.

Evelio Miranda
Hispanic Ministries Coordinator

Caryn Erb New Conference Clerk

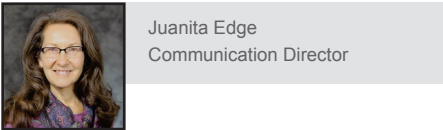


We welcome Caryn Erb to the Wisconsin Conference office staff as Conference Clerk. Caryn graduated with a BS in Elementary Education from Hartland College. She began her teaching in the Tarr Valley Adventist School in Tomah, Wisconsin, and later taught at Minneapolis Junior Academy, before starting her family. Since 2000 she has been homeschooling her daughters.

An active member of the Monroe Adventist Church, Caryn has served her church in many capacities through the years including cooking schools, communications, Sabbath School leader, Pathfinder staff, church planting, and department director for Beginners at camp meeting.

Caryn and her husband Scott, have five girls, Brinnae, Bethany, Merissa, Megan, and Samantha. Caryn has a passion for Bible study and Sabbath School leadership. She enjoys learning how to cook gluten-free and vegan foods, and also loves sewing, reading, gardening, and canning.

"I am happy to begin working with the Wisconsin Conference," says Caryn, "and I look forward to serving as Conference Clerk,"



Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Wisconsin's New President Article Continued

transfer to be their pastor. Following God's call, he moved his family to the United States. Here in America, Elder Naftanaila served the local church and the Romanian community through regular pastoral services and a weekly radio program. Meanwhile, he worked toward and graduated with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University and obtained Clinical Pastoral Education at La Grange Adventist Hospital in Illinois.

Elder Naftanaila's ministry in Wisconsin began in 2007. After serving in the Chicago area for several years, he accepted a call from Elder Don Corkum to pastor the Superior district in the Wisconsin Conference. In Wisconsin, Elder Naftanaila also served as Senior Pastor for the Madison East and Green Bay Districts. In addition to pastoral ministry, he has been involved in many conference-wide ministries and programs including leading the Stewardship and Religious Liberty Ministries as well as coordinating the Volunteer Lay Pastor Training Program.

Elder Naftanaila has served as a member of the Executive Committees of the Wisconsin Conference and the Lake Union for several years. This has enabled him to be part of the collective leadership, assisting in visioning and executing strategic plans for mission and church administration on both the Conference and Union level.

As a pastor, Elder Naftanaila has always been passionate about preaching God's Word and mentoring new and existing leaders. While learning the culture of every new ministry setting, he has also been passionate about promoting excellence and innovative ideas.

As the newly elected President, Elder Naftanaila is excited to promote the mission of the Wisconsin Conference: To grow passionate disciples of Jesus prepared for Christ's soon coming. Following the legacy of those who came before him, he plans to continue to promote a positive environment for discipleship and church growth. His personal ministry statement is: Preaching the message of Elijah while performing the ministry of Elisha (Proclaim – Heal - Connect – Equip – Mentor –Affirm).

When asked what message he would like to share with the people of Wisconsin, Elder Naftanaila referenced 2 Chronicles 7:14 and said, "I invite all pastors, teachers, lay leaders, and church members to join our leadership team to 'humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and repent.' Let us continue to be His ambassadors in our communities, loving and serving each and every one of His precious children, in every stage of life."

Laurella Case
Administrative Assistant for Communications

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT			
	2020	2019	% Change
December Tithe Income:	\$1,085,305	\$ 926,530	17.14%
YTD Tithe Income:	\$7,738,293 (52 wks)	\$7,298,013 (52 wks)	6.03%
December Wisconsin Budget:	\$48,119	\$31,692	51.83%
YTD Wisconsin Budget:	\$363,507 (52 wks)	\$283,913 (52 wks)	28.03%

FINANCIAL UPDATE

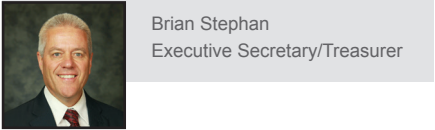
I think many of you may be happy to see 2020 gone, and are looking forward to 2021. While I would not argue with that, we have no idea of what lies ahead. Certainly 2021 will have its joys, but make no mistake, it will have its challenges as well. The only thing for certain is that we have a heavenly Father that never changes. He knows all, sees all, and most of all loves each of us more than we can imagine. It is in this that we can put our trust.

However, we cannot feel secure around somebody we don't really know. The same is true about our heavenly Father. If you want peace amid this storm of life, make it a priority to enrich your walk with Jesus, allowing Him to be your personal Savior and friend. It will make 2021 a much better year no matter what comes your way.

Amidst the chaos, the Lord has blessed. We are at the end of our conference fiscal year, and we can rejoice in the fact that our tithe for the year 2020 has come in with a gain of 6.03% over 2019. Wisconsin Budget has ended up with a gain of 28.03%. Praise God for His blessing shown to our members, and for your faithfulness to the support of God's church.

Overall, our expenses were lower for 2020 due to lower travel costs, cancellation of many events throughout the year, and limiting spending to essential items only. In addition to decreased spending, we have also received additional funding from the North American Division and the Lake Union Conference. We have passed on most of the additional funding received from the NAD and Lake Union to aid our local churches and schools with their added cost of equipment and supplies for online teaching and adapting to remote connections.

God has a special mission for us during this special time in earth's history. These truly are exciting times to be alive.



Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer