

Schools for the Future

The newest mission venture approved by the Board of Directors of the South Wisconsin District in September of 2022 is a microschool mission concept named **Lutheran Neighborhood Schools (LNS)**, which plans to launch in the Fall of 2023.

Mr. Robert Lunak has been Called to begin work on the initiative and will take the helm as Superintendent of LNS in July.

A microschool is a purposefully small school operated under a distinct model. What differentiates LNS from other microschools is the focus on intentional congregational connections, with the goal of creating a learning community that supports and revitalizes church life.

Each LNS school will have fewer than 50 students and will focus on a liberal arts education built on a foundation of Lutheran doctrine, curiosity, and service. Students will be challenged to walk their own exploratory path in a rewarding and content-rich curriculum while also being an integral part of the supporting congregation.

With an ambitious goal of launching three schools in three years, the first LNS host site will be **Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church** in Milwaukee. Bill Lindemann, president of the congregation says, "Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and I are very excited about the new neighborhood school to start this Fall using our building. We look forward to the activity, especially young people from our neighborhood being at our church. We appreciate our South Wisconsin District initiative to start a neighborhood school using us as a prototype to reinvigorate city churches. We pray for God's blessings as we do His work. God's will be done!"

First Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedarburg agreed to serve as the founding parent partner of LNS. "This really emphasizes mission and education," says Rev. Randy Raasch, who serves as Senior Pastor. "First Immanuel has been around since 1853 and feels called and compelled to be a part of this educational mission."

Rev. Dr. John C. Wille, President of the **South Wisconsin District** says, "We are excited about the Lutheran Neighborhood Schools project that our Board of Directors has initiated. The education of our youth has always been a passion for us, and we are excited about the prospect of opening more small schools in the city of Milwaukee. We are blessed with congregations who have the facilities and the interest to partner with us in this new direction."

The South Wisconsin District Board of Directors has committed significant financial resources for the first three years as LNS works to build a network of supporting neighborhoods and churches.

Rooted in Faith