

APACHE CHRISTIANS

Celebrating 125 years of God's blessings as the first World mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

"This is the worst time to begin an Indian Mission," said a veteran missionary to WELS in synod convention as they contemplated their first world mission effort. Seven days later, Native Americans defeated U.S. forces at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

Undeterred, the people of our synod decided that it was the best time to share Jesus with people who did not yet know him. By October 1893, two missionaries boldly went to share the gospel on the Apache reservations of the Arizona Territory.

125 years later, the same fire to reach the lost is now burning in the hearts of our Apache brothers and sisters. It is still the worst time for many Native Americans. On the more than 500 reservations scattered across North America, unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, and violence are a part of too many homes. **95 percent of Native Americans are not Christians and do not have the hope of our Savior.**

Apache Christians feel there has never been a better time to share Jesus. Our focus is on equipping Apache Christians for service in God's kingdom: on the Apache reservations, with other tribes, and through the Internet. As long as the devil is active, there will never be an ideal time to share Jesus. **Like our WELS ancestors 125 years ago, we move forward in faith and trust.**



Join the Apache anniversary celebration!

June 22 in Wisconsin

KI Convention Center, Green Bay, Wis. (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society convention hotel)
6 to 9 p.m.—Meet Apache brothers and sisters, experience their music, and learn about their history.

October 26–28 in Arizona

Oct. 26—Reservation tours

Oct. 27—Anniversary celebration in Peridot, Ariz.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Music, crafts, history, food; 4 p.m.—Worship; 5 p.m.—Dinner

Oct. 28—Celebration worship at all reservation WELS churches

- Host an Apache mission festival in 2018 – Request a speaker at wels.net/speaker-request
- Visit NativeChristians.org for more information, or contact info@NativeChristians.org
- Like us on Facebook—[@NativeChristiansWELS](https://www.facebook.com/NativeChristiansWELS)

Apache Ministry Today

As we look to the next 125 years of ministry, the opportunity is great.

What can you do? You can **PRAY!** Pray that Native Americans everywhere come to know the hope of salvation that is found in the Holy Scriptures, and not in the words or religious ceremonies of the medicine man. You can **TELL** your friends and family about the Apache people that are studying to be spiritual church leaders through this mission work. You can **GIVE** a gift to help support ministries like the three below.

For inspiring stories from the Apache mission, subscribe to Native American Mission (NAM) News at nativechristians.org.

Apache Christian Training School (ACTS)



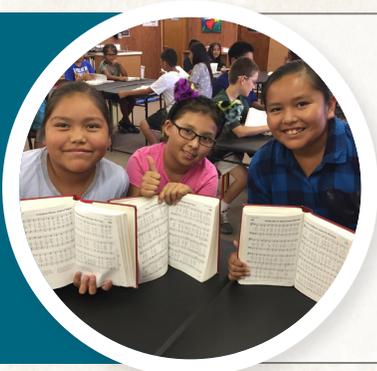
Apache Christian Training School (ACTS): Apache Christians are asking to be equipped to share Christ's love. ACTS provides them with training and resources that prepares leaders for all levels of ministries on the reservations. With a solid program already in place, ACTS exists to provide trained workers for the ever-expanding ministries of current congregations. ACTS will also play a key role in the training of workers to share the gospel with other Native American communities.

Open Bible Church



Lutheran Church of the Open Bible—Whiteriver, Ariz: With approximately 1,000 members, Open Bible is looking to expand its ministry through increased use of trained volunteers and called workers. They will use these trained and equipped Apache Christians to serve as evangelists, deacons, and deaconesses. These trained workers will play a vital role in expanding outreach opportunities, small group study and support groups, addiction recovery ministry, grief counseling, youth ministry, and worship opportunities.

Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School



Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School: With enrollment rising from 75 to 130 in four years and requests for solid, Christian education continuing to roll in, there is a great opportunity for expansion! Additional classrooms, building repairs, faculty, and resources are desperately needed to catch up with enrollment growth. Your gifts will help present-day ministry at the school and support the various projects that will allow Peridot-Our Savior's to reach more children and their families with the gospel.

"I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

How can I support?



By God's grace, this work will continue with generous gifts from people like you. Please make checks payable to "WELS" with your preferred designation (e.g. ACTS, Open Bible, Peridot-Our Savior's) in the memo field and mail to:

WELS, Attn: Gift Processing
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188-1108

Donate online: wels.net/apache125 • Donate via phone: **800-827-5482**

Thank you for supporting the Apache Mission with your prayers, words, and actions!