Today's Tabbloid

PERSONAL NEWS FOR *techtrainer@wels.net*

Episode 052 - Dec 31 2008

DEC 31, 2008 11:00AM

This week on WELSTech Martin and Sallie countdown their best and worst picks of 2008.

Listen now or download Episode 052 (50:02)

The discussion:

- Best and worst of 2008 (4:15) - Throughout 2008, the Picks of the Week segment of the WELSTech podcast has emerged as a listener favorite. Martin and Sallie revisit their compiled list of picks from throughout the year and share their top three and bottom three picks, along with a few honorable mentions.

    - The Worst

        - Google Desktop - desktop.google.com

        - Stumble Upon - www.stumbleupon.com

        - Select parts of web page(s) for printing - PrintWhatYouLike.com

        - Jott - www.jott.com

        - Dvorak keyboard - www.dvzine.org

        - Belkin WiFi Phone

    - The Best

        - Google Calendar - calendar.google.com

        - Delicious - del.icio.us

        - Scratch - scratch.mit.edu

        - OpenDNS - www.opendns.com

        - Snagit - www.techsmith.com

        - Password Safe - passwordsafe.sourceforge.net

The tidbits:

- Coming up on WELSTech (44:45)

    - Episode 053 - We celebrate the one year anniversary of the WELSTech podcast with a look back at our first show and a look ahead at our expectations for 2009

The featured artist:

- We close with music of WELS artist, Michael Schroeder (michaelschroeder.com) - *The Reason For the Season* from his CD with the same title, The Reason For the Season (45:50)

Get involved:

- Add a comment below

- E-mail: welstech@wels.net

- Voice mail: 414-375-2334

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    - WELSTech listserve

    - WELSTech on facebook

Episode 051 - Dec 24 2008

DEC 24, 2008 11:00AM

This week on WELSTech synod President Mark Schroeder joins Martin and Sallie to discuss the synod and its use of technology to further the gospel message.

Listen now or download Episode 051 (29:56)

The interview:

- A conversation with the President (2:25) - In a special Christmas Eve interview, WELS President Mark Schroeder talks with Martin and Sallie about what he's learned in the year and a half since he became president, how technology is assisting with the work of the synod, and how he sees it being used in the future.

The tidbits:

- Coming up on WELSTech (25:30)

    - Episode 052 - Tune in for our 2008 countdown of best and worst picks of the year

The featured artist:

- We close with music of WELS pianist, Dawn Gehlhar - *Silent Night* from her CD titled Christmas Dreams (26:40)

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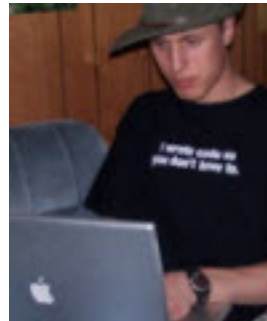   - WELSTech on facebook

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Episode 050 - Dec 17 2008

DEC 17, 2008 11:00AM

This week on WELSTech Martin and Sallie look at the ease of group formation in a Web 2.0 world as they continue their discussion of Clay Shirky's *Here Comes Everybody*. They also clean out the WELSTech mail bag.

Listen now or download Episode 050 (1:01:20)

The discussion:

- Group formation is simple - Martin and Sallie dive into the second chapter of *Here Comes Everybody - The Power of Organizing Without Organizations* by Clay Shirky and discuss the ease of group formation and the impact these social groups will have on the church. They include comments from "digital native" and one of tomorrow's leaders, Philip Wels, a senior communications major from Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN.

The tidbits:

- Community feedback - Cleaning out the WELSTech mail bag!(31:00)

    - Call for a web developer posted on the WELSTech facebook group by Carol Restovic

    - Following up on the Content Management System discussion in Episode 047, John Simonson from Good Shepherd in West Bend, WI shared links to tools to enhance blogging with WordPress and TypePad

        - Write blog posts from your desktop with wbloggar.com

- • Anti-SPAM plugins for TypePad

- • Following up on Episode 045, George Efsen asked how to find the interview segment about Search Engine Optimization. Time markers for all WELSTech episodes are included in the show notes.

- • David Savatski recommended box.net for online storage and group collaboration

- • John Shoosmith of Redeemer in Yakima, WA shared several comments

  - • Sample closed-caption sermon created with Microsoft Silverlight

  - • Suggestion for a WELSTech directory of listeners with techie knowledge and skills which they are willing to share

  - • Questions about copyright of Luther's works and the Bible

- • Alyssa Dunning shared a link to digsby.com - useful for aggregating your web presence including instant messaging, e-mail and social networks

- • Closing the loop on a question we received in Episode 033 from Pastor John Maasch of Peace in Bradenton, FL - WELS Worship has published the current lectionary series in "ical" format for importing into your calendaring software - in the "Lectionary Planning" folder

- • Our occasional guest host, Gail Potratz, from Emanuel in New London, WI shared a link to David Warlick's School Acceptable Use Policy wiki

- • Richard Travis from Divine Peace in Garland, TX is using FlashPoint to convert PowerPoint files to Flash format for their church web site

- • Coming up on WELSTech (56:01)

  - • Episode 051 - A special treat for Christmas Eve - We'll talk with WELS President Mark Schroeder

- • WELS.net feature (57:15)

  - • Tune in to Streams Live for a Michael Schroeder Christmas concert

    - • December 20 @ 5 p.m. CST from Christ Lutheran in Pewaukee, WI

    - • Sponsored by WELS Military Services

The featured artist:

- • We close with music of WELS artist, Michael Schroeder (michaelschroeder.com) - *What Child Is This* from his CD titled The Reason For the Season (57:48)

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Episode 049 - Dec 10 2008

DEC 10, 2008 11:00AM

This week on WELSTech Martin and Sallie take a look at chapter one of Clay Shirky's *Here Comes Everybody*. Ray Brown joins the conversation to share how he uses video e-mail for outreach and congregational communication.

Listen now or download Episode 049 (1:01:18)

The discussion:

- • Harnessing the power of groups - Martin and Sallie kick off a discussion of the book *Here Comes Everybody - The Power of Organizing Without Organizations* by Clay Shirky with a look at the concepts presented in the first chapter. The author uses a true story of a "one-person media outlet" to illustrate how easily groups can form on the Internet and the power these groups can yield. Based on these concepts, the discussion shifts to how the church will be affected by these types of groups and also how it can make use of the ease of group formation to effectively carry out ministry.

The interview:

- Video e-mail (22:33) - Ray Brown, Congregational Assistant from Summerlin Lutheran in Las Vegas, NV, joins Martin and Sallie to share information on their use of video e-mail as a communication tool to members and prospects.

  - HelloWorld.com

The tidbits:

- Picks of the week (43:27)

  - Create a flash scrapbook for your church or school web site - ScrapBlog.com

  - Windows Live SkyDrive - 25 Gb of "in the cloud" online storage

    - Learn more

    - Make SkyDrive a virtual drive on your computer with Gladinet.com

- WELS.net feature (50:05)

  - WELS.net is RSS enabled - www.wels.net/jump/rss

- Community feedback (51:42)

  - John Simonson from Good Shepherd in West Bend, WI shared a fun link to enter to win a USB powered Dirt Devil KWIK vacuum for your keyboard. The contest runs daily until December 12th.

- Coming up on WELSTech (52:47)

  - Episode 050 - We'll discuss Chapter 2 of *Here Comes Everybody* and open our mail bag to share loads of community feedback

The featured artist:

- We close with music of WELS pianist, Dawn Gehlhar - *Carol of the Bells* from her CD titled Christmas Dreams (54:35)

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Episode 048 - Dec 3 2008

DEC 3, 2008 11:00AM

This week on WELSTech we are joined by Gail Potratz, our semi-regular classroom technology correspondent, and we take a look at the skills our students need to succeed in the Web 2.0 world.

Listen now or download Episode 048 (42:52)

The discussion:

- Research Skills in a Web 2.0 World - Joining Martin and Sallie for our monthly classroom technologies discussion is Gail Potratz, Technology Coordinator for Emanuel in New London, WI. Today's schools are preparing students for careers that don't even exist currently. The discussion centers around how to equip students with skills to succeed in this Web 2.0 world.

  - David Warlick's Literacy & Learning presentation

  - Evaluate a web page using Yahoo! search > Linkdomain:*AnyWebAddress.com*

  - Internet Search Tools for Students and Teachers

  - A Vision of K-12 Students Today

The tidbits:

- Picks of the week (26:10)

  - Teaching 21st Century Skills

  - Google Safe Search preferences

  - BiblePlaces.com photo library

- Of interest (34:35)

  - Live streaming of the Koine Christmas concert

    - December 6 @ 5 p.m. CST from Christ Lutheran in Pewaukee, WI

    - Sponsored by WELS Military Services

- Community feedback (36:20)

  - Jason Winget shared a link on the WELSTech Listserve

    - Royalty-free Christmas music - www.feelslikechristmas.com

  - Add your feedback or ideas about Church Media or Content Management Systems to the WELSTech wiki @ welstech.wetpaint.com

- Coming up on WELSTech (38:29)

  - Episode 049 - *Here Comes Everybody* by Clay Shirky will be our discussion topic, and we will hear from Ray Brown of Summerlin Lutheran in Las Vegas, NV on the subject of video e-mail

The featured artist:

- We close with music of Wisconsin Lutheran College's Revelation music ministry (www.revelationwlc.com) - *I'm Free* from their Led by Light CD (40:42)

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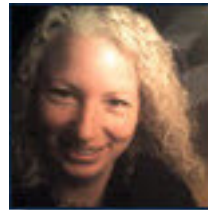
- WELSTech on facebook

Episode 047 - Nov 26 2008

NOV 26, 2008 12:00PM

This week the focus of the WELSTech podcast is Content Management Systems. Martin and Sallie are joined by WELS.net webmaster, Julie Duran, and we take a look at WordPress, Joomla and Drupal.

Listen now or download Episode 047 (41:12)

The discussion:

- Content Management Systems - WELS.net webmaster and manager of WELS Web Services, Julie Duran, joins Martin and Sallie for a discussion of the "big three" open source Content Management Systems (CMS) - WordPress, Joomla and Drupal. Any of these software solutions could be used to build and manage a church or school web site, and the conversation includes pros and cons of each option.

  - FinalWeb

  - WordPress

    - St. Paul's in Washington, DC

  - Joomla

    - Eastern Montana WELS

    - Cornerstone

  - Drupal

    - Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

    - Salem Lutheran in Stillwater, MN

  - Open Source Content Management System Overview (.pdf)

  - Visit the WELSTech Wiki to share your experience with any or all of the CMS systems discussed

The tidbits:

- Picks of the week (24:45)

    - Balsamiq Mockups

    - Visualizing the Bible image

    - Sync your password management files across platforms

        - PC - Password Safe

        - Mac - Password Gorilla (reads Password Safe)

        - Sync via Live Mesh

- WELS.net feature (33.15)

    - Church Year Worship Resources

- Community feedback (33:55)

    - John Simonson from Good Shepherd in West Bend, WI shared additional search engine optimization tools from Google

        - Insights for search

        - Search-based keyword tool

- Coming up on WELSTech (35:33)

    - Episode 048 - Gail Potratz joins us for a discussion on teaching our children research skills in a Web 2.0 world

The featured artist:

- We close with music of WELS artist, Michael Schroeder (michaelschroeder.com) - *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* from his CD titled The Reason For the Season (37:35)

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Episode 046 - Nov 19 2008

NOV 19, 2008 11:00AM

This week the WELSTech discussion centers around using your web site for event promotion. Brian Shaffer joins Martin and Sallie to announce enhancements to the FinalWeb system.

Listen now or download Episode 046 (53:29)

The discussion:

- Event promotion - Martin and Sallie share ideas for taking your congregation or school web site to the next level by moving beyond the basics - location & service times - to focus on the events that are happening, utilizing your web "channel" as an important component in your overall communication plan.

    - Sample event-based congregation web design - www.gccwired.com

The interview:

- New features on FinalWeb (18:14) - Brian Shaffer, of FinalWeb.com, joins Martin and Sallie to announce some exciting enhancements to the FinalWeb system including higher storage capacity, calendar enhancements, and a custom tool for building templates.

    - Learn more about FinalWeb - www.wels.net/jump/webhosting

The tidbits:

- Picks of the week (37:19)

    - Understanding fair use in education

        - The Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Media

Literacy Education

- A Fair(y) Use Tale

- Online video conversion - www.vixy.net

- WELS.net feature (41:31)

- Streams Seasonal Radio

- ShopWELS.net - new relationship with Ricoh grants special pricing on copiers for WI participants

- Community feedback (44:10)

- Last week's interviewee, John Simonson from Good Shepherd in West Bend, WI, sent a follow-up link to a new resource from Google - SEO Starter Guide

- Pastor Paul Jansen from Holy Scripture in Ft. Wayne, IN easily created an iGoogle gadget for sharing his sermon RSS feed.

- Coming up on WELSTech (46:55)

- Episode 047 - Julie Duran, WELS Webmaster, joins us as we take an inside look at popular Content Management Systems (CMS) including WordPress, Joomla and Drupal

The featured artist:

- We close with music of WELS artist, Mike Westendorf (www.mikewestendorf.com) - *Climb The Mountain* from his CD with the same title (48:26)

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Episode 045 - Nov 12 2008

NOV 12, 2008 11:00AM

This week on WELSTech Martin and Sallie are celebrating National Distance Learning Week. They also interview WELS member and businessman John Simonson on web marketing techniques.

Listen now or download Episode 045 (48:01)

The discussion:

- Check out Martin's completed deck project

- National Distance Learning Week - Distance education is growing in popularity, and with today's Web 2.0 tools, the barriers to creating your own distance learning initiative are virtually gone. Martin and Sallie discuss the components of a distance learning offering and share tips for starting your own objective-based online learning. We also showcase WELS' many online learning resources for Bible study, ministry support and more.

- www.wels.net/jump/ndlw

The interview:

- Search Engine Optimization (14:56) - WELS member John Simonson from Good Shepherd in West Bend, WI is a business owner of a web development company, WebStream Dynamics. John joins Martin and Sallie to share his knowledge on marketing web sites and search engine optimization, and we look at applications of these techniques for church web sites.

- Google's Keyword Tool

- Submit web sites for free to the top three search engines:

- Google

- Yahoo

- MSN

- Add a free business listing to MSN Live Search

- Add a free listing in Google Maps

- Evaluate your site with John's Title Tag and Meta Description tool

The tidbits:

- Picks of the week (31:35)

    - Mindjet MindManager 8 upgrade - Free trial download

    - USB-based speaker phone from ClearOne - CHAT 50

- Of interest (37:29)

    - Live streaming of the Western Regional Choral Festival concert

        - November 16 @ 2 p.m. CST from Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School in New Ulm, MN

- Community feedback (39:18)

    - The WELSTech facebook group has 94 members! Will you be member 100?

    - Ryan Rosenthal from Faith in Fond du Lac, WI shared a link to LibriVox.org. The goal of the site is to make all public domain books available as free audio books.

- Coming up on WELSTech (42:53)

    - Episode 046 - We'll take a look at "Event Driven Marketing" as you prepare your web site for the Advent and Christmas season. The interview will be with Brian Shaffer of FinalWeb.net, and he'll share new features being implemented for their web hosting customers.

The featured artist:

- This week we close with the music of In His Service featuring WELS musicians Dr. Patricia Backhaus and Valerie Floeter (www.adagioconcepts.com) - *Gabriel's Message* from their CD titled In His Time (45:03)

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Episode 044 - Nov 5 2008

NOV 5, 2008 11:00AM

This week on WELSTech Martin and Sallie are joined by Gail Potratz, our semi-regular classroom technology correspondent, and we hear about Gail's recent adventure in podcasting at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference.

Listen now or download Episode 044 (53:29)

The discussion:

- Podcasting teachers - Gail Potratz, Technology Coordinator for Emanuel in New London, WI, joins Martin and Sallie to share her experience leading a breakout session on podcasting at the Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers' Conference last week. The session goals were to learn about the uses of Audacity, free, open-source audio editing software, as well as share ideas for using technology in the classroom. We hear ideas from many of the participants as they make their podcasting debut!

    - Gail's presentation wiki - wlstc.wikispaces.com

The tidbits:

- Picks of the week (30:01)

    - Skype phone - Philips VOIP841

    - Build a personalized home page - Pageflakes.com

    - Transcribe voice mail - PhoneTag.com

- WELS.net feature (42:51)

  - Benefit Plans Office - www.welsbpo.net

- Community feedback (43:47)

  - Following up on last week's comment from Kevin Smith at Christ in Zumbrota, MN, we heard from Jenifer with ProCare Software who offered to help out with a future podcast episode

  - Perry Lund, an elder and Sunday school teacher from Grace in Oskaloosa, IA, shared info on how he uses his iPhone for ministry

  - Join the conversation on the WELSTech listserve

    - Accelerated reading custom quiz collection

    - Congregation membership data mapped in Google Earth

- Coming up on WELSTech (46:50)

  - Episode 045 - We celebrate National Distance Learning Week and talk with WELS Internet entrepreneur John Simonson about marketing tips for congregational web sites

  - In December - We'll be discussing *Here Comes Everybody* by Clay Shirky

The featured artist:

- We close with music of WELS artist, Kevin Loersch - *Abide With Me* from his CD titled Abide with Me (48:55)

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Episode 043 - Oct 29 2008

OCT 29, 2008 12:00PM

This week on WELSTech Martin and Sallie tackle texting and twittering as they discuss mobile technology and applications for future ministry. They also interview Pastor Hans Caauwe on his use of Apple's new iPhone 3G.

Listen now or download Episode 043 (51:48)

The discussion:

- Mobile Technology - "Texting and twittering and smart phones, oh my!" Martin and Sallie discuss the technology behind in-your-pocket, cell phone-based communication and how it will potentially affect our future ministry efforts.

  - Twitter, Text Messaging, and Youth Ministry

  - Texting Etiquette

  - Twitter in Plain English video from CommonCraft

  - iPhone 3G

  - T-Mobile G1 with Google Android

The interview:

- iPhone in Ministry (17:40) - Pastor Johann Caauwe from Trinity in El Paso, TX joins Martin and Sallie to share his experience of using the new iPhone 3G in his ministry - a great example of technology as a servant in ministry.

  - Pastor Caauwe's blog - Tools of the Trade

The tidbits:

- Picks of the week (35:15)

- SearchMe.com and SearchMe.com/lite - visual search engine

    - Check out the WELSTech Episode 043 Stack

- The Bible Experience - full cast audio

- Of interest (40:55)

    - Live streaming of the Spanish Reformation Service

        - October 31 @ 7 p.m. CDT from Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI

- Community feedback (41:38)

    - Andy from Mt. Olive in Overland Park, KS suggested a future show topic on web site software options

    - Kevin Smith from Christ in Zumbrota, MN pointed us to ProCare Software for pre-school management

    - Ryan Rosenthal from Faith in Fond du Lac, WI shared his experiences with introducing new technology in his classroom and congregation

- Coming up on WELSTech (46:12)

    - Episode 044 - Podcasting from the Wisconsin Teachers Conference with our semi-regular classroom technology correspondent, Gail Potratz

The featured artist:

- We close with music of WELS artist, WendySue Fluegge (www.wendysue.com) - *All* from her CD titled The Instrument (47:30)

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