

Monthly Mission Minute / Stewardship Sparks

March 2010

This issue of The Monthly includes the congregational giving from the fiscal period February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010. Thank you to the 177 congregations (plus Faith, Winterset; Iglesia, Storm Lake & Denison, and deaf ministry preaching stations) for your mission and ministry support. Receipts were only \$8,286 short of our congregational goal of \$1,850,000. Thank you for your support during these tough economic times! District continues to use wisely the dollars entrusted to us.



February 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The 2009 budget ending January 31, 2010 included \$3,900 for a comprehensive financial audit. This intense review of all financial details assures the District is operating properly and the financials are in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. For a \$2.6 million budget, this is a good value. February is audit time at the District Office. If not done already in your congregation, a financial review of the church financial activities is healthy for the church. If you choose to do the project with congregational members, the Congregational Treasurer's Manual, Chapter 25 has a lot of helpful information.

January 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions and programs? Missionary, Rev. Scott Jensen, started the new mission at Our Savior Lutheran Church, **Sheldon** in 2006 and it continues to grow. The District is pleased to partner with this mission; over \$27,000 has supported this exciting new northwest Iowa mission this year.

December 2009

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The 2009 budget includes \$918,500 for mission work in Iowa and Los Angeles. Thanks to all the congregations and individuals who support this mission. Currently District is behind budget \$68,000 for congregational mission support and behind \$33,400 for mission direct gifts.

You can support the work of the church with your tax deductible gift before year-end! Some **mission projects** to support include:

- Deaf missions - Missionaries Rev. Dennis Konkel and Pat Monroe
- Ethnic missions - Sudanese Missionary Rev. Simon Yiech
- Laotian Missionary Rev. One Chanh Keoouthai
- Hispanic missions - Missionaries Rev. Daniel Vogel and Rev. Henry Witte
- Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth (IOWAY) missions - Missionary Ellie Menz
- Los Angeles Nehemiah Project missions - Missionary Rev. Arthur Porter
- Northwest Iowa rural missions - Missionary Rev. Scott Jensen

The complete mission team is online at

http://www.idwlcms.org/ministry_areas/missions/information/idw_mission_team.pdf

Support can be sent to Mission Central (40718 Hwy E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034) or to the District Office (PO Box 1155, Fort Dodge, IA 50501).



November 2009

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities? This month the part of the budget that is highlighted is **equipment, computers & technology**. The District budget support this account \$7,500 in

2009. This includes all hardware (computers built in house to save money), software, training, and LCMS technology agreement of \$1,200. District purchases Microsoft software through the Charity Open License Discount program (Microsoft Windows and Office Professional also available to churches) to save costs.

October 2009

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The District budget support the **personal missions** committee \$3,000 in 2009. To learn some new personal mission ideas and resources to help you and your congregation tell others about Jesus, contact Rev. Jason Peterson at St. John, Burt at revjpeterson@LutheranReformission.com.

September 2009

This issue of *The Monthly* includes the **congregational giving** from the fiscal period February 1 - July 31, 2009. Thank you to the 175 congregations and mission starts for your mission and ministry support. Receipts were \$250 ahead of our congregational goal of \$925,000 (annual goal \$1,850,000). The total 2009 District budget is \$2,632,960 with other income sources from individual and congregation restricted gifts, Endowments/grants, LCEF program, LCEF investment and bank interest. Thank you for your partnership and helping spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!

August 2009

The District supports a number of worthy mission projects, programs, and activities. In convention, the delegation approved using the **mission expansion fund** for mission personnel and/or programs which expand the outreach initiatives of the District. In recent years the fund has spent \$155,000 for Johnston and Sheldon missions. The current balance is about \$550,000.

June 2009

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The 2009 budget includes \$170,034 for **human care/outreach**. This includes \$125,000 for the chaplaincy ministry expenses (for Rev. James Brammeier in Des Moines and Rev. Steven Benson in Sioux City), \$32,190 for Lutheran Family Service, and the balance for other human care, rural, and older adult ministries.

May 2009

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of **mission, ministry, and administration** areas? The District budget includes 64% for missions and only 17.5% for administration and support services (less than 18 cents of every dollar goes towards administration expenses). Just like in the church, District has many of the same administrative expenses. Some of these areas include office staff salaries, benefits, and travel; annual audit; office equipment/supplies; The Harvest magazine; utilities, maintenance, and insurance. Your congregation can receive additional insurance coverage and savings with Lutheran Trust (www.lutherantrust.com/).

April 2009

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? As part of the LCMS, the District is participating in the **Ablaze!** movement to share the Gospel with 100 million unreached people by 2017. This year the District budget includes \$15,000 for grants to assist congregations or circuits in new initiatives to reach the lost. If you are interested in an Ablaze! grant, contact Mission Executive Mark Gerken.

March 2009

This issue of The Monthly includes the congregational giving from the fiscal period February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009. **Thank you** to the 176 congregations for your mission and ministry support. Receipts were only \$50,428 short of our congregational goal of \$2 million. Thank you for your support!

District continues to be stewards of your mission dollar. To see a summary of 2008 highlights of our mission dollars, go online to www.idwlcms.org/district_news/information/stewardship_sparks.pdf



February 2009

Did you know that 42% your unrestricted congregational mission dollars support the work of **Synod**? In the 2008 budget, \$820,000 or 41% was forwarded to Synod. Your dollars make a difference in carrying out the mission and ministry in Iowa and across the world. IDW is ranked 8th in total dollars pledged to national Synod. Thank you for your partnership!

January 2009

Did you know that \$35,400 (3% of Iowa District West congregations' mission receipts minus Synod support) are forwarded to **Lutheran Family Service** for ministry in Iowa? Start off the new year by supporting this worthwhile organization who has been caring for families in Iowa since 1901. For more information on LFS (your partner in ministry bringing the healing presence of Jesus Christ to those in need) contact them at 515-573-3138 or www.lfsiowa.org.

December 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The 2008 budget includes \$897,000 for mission work in Iowa and **Los Angeles**. Thanks to all the congregation and individuals who have supported the mission so far. Currently District is ahead of budget on direct gifts, but \$94,165 behind on congregational support.

You can support the work of the church with your tax deductible gift before year-end! Mission projects to support include:

Deaf missions - Missionaries Rev. Dennis Konkel and Pat Monroe

Ethnic missions - Sudanese Missionary Rev. Simon Yiech

- Laotian Missionary Rev. One Chanh Keoouthai

Hispanic missions - Missionary Rev. Daniel Vogel and Rev. Henry Witte

Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth (IOWAY) missions - Missionary Ellie Menz

Los Angeles Nehemiah Project missions - Missionary Rev. Arthur Porter

Northwest Iowa rural missions - Missionary Rev. Scott Jensen

Entire mission team is online at

http://www.idwlcms.org/ministry_areas/missions/information/idw_mission_team.pdf

Support can be sent to Mission Central (40718 Hwy E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034) or to the District Office (P.O. Box 1155, Fort Dodge, IA 50501).

November 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, including \$150,000 for **Deaf missions**? Our two full-time missionaries, Rev. Dennis Konkel and Patricia Monroe, and our deaf deacon, Patrick Sell, are leading the deaf church and interpreting services to these deaf people in areas like Des Moines, Ames, Fort Dodge, Sioux City and Council Bluffs. The deaf missionaries are training and empowering the members to lead services and teach Bible classes in their area. They are helping to reach out to many isolated deaf persons in small towns and rural areas and sharing the good news about Jesus with them.

September/October 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions and programs? The 2008 stewardship budget, part of **congregational services**, comprises \$87,295 of which \$41,000 includes gift planning/Christian estate planning counselor. The **stewardship budget** is supplemented with LCEF proceeds. Take advantage of Stewardship Advisors resources provided by LCEF at the September Stewardship School sessions in Mapleton and Humboldt.



August 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions and programs? Because of your support, mission work is being accomplished in northwest Iowa the last two years with the help of Missionary Rev. Scott Jensen. He helped establish Our Savior Lutheran Church, Sheldon in October 2007. In the first 2 years of Pastor Jensen's work in Sheldon, the Lord has blessed the ministry with the doubling of membership from 25 people to 50 people. The Lord is really at work in the rural areas of our District. In 2008, the District annual support for **northwest Iowa rural mission** is \$25,000.

July 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, including \$166,000 for **Hispanic missions**? The Iowa Hispanic population has been growing for years. Currently Rev. Dan Vogel is helping to reach out to these people in the Storm Lake and Denison communities. Starting mid-July 2008, the Rev. Henry Witte will be reaching out to Hispanics in the Sioux City area and beyond.

June 2008

This District supports a number of worthy mission projects, programs, and activities. This month, Des Moines area missions is highlighted. **Messiah Lutheran Church** in Johnston is the newest mission church in the District (dedicated May 18 as an official congregation of the LCMS). On June 15, James Stogdill will be ordained and installed as their new pastor. The congregation has a growing day care center (Loving Arms Children's Center) attached to the church to reach out to the young families in the community. The budget and endowment sources support the congregation up to \$25,000 in 2008. To view Messiah's website, go to www.messiah.idwlcms.org.

May 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities? This month, the part of the budget that is highlighted is **The Harvest**. Produced quarterly, the net cost of *The Harvest* is \$2,500. The magazine is a partnership between Lutheran Women Missionary League, Lutheran Laymen League, Camp Okoboji, and Lutheran Family Service. With so much news, it is essential the 36 page colorful magazine is distributed to every family. To keep costs down, advertisers are welcome. To view the archives of *The Harvest*, go to http://www.idwlcms.org/publications/the_harvest/index.htm.

April 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities? This month, the part of the budget that is highlighted is **IOWAY and Los Angeles missions**.

The IOWAY program (Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth), led by Ellie Menz, has increased mission awareness and encouraged servant experiences in the congregation, community, District and beyond. The budget now supports this ministry by providing \$40,000 to cover program costs. To learn more about the IOWAY ministry and mission trip to Los Angeles (July 8-21, 2008), go to www.idwlcms.org/ministry_areas/ioway/index.htm.

Every year youth and adults support the Nehemiah project coordinated by Rev. Art Porter in Los Angeles. The ministry receives \$77,000 from the IDW 2008 budget. To learn more, check out the new Web site under construction at www.la-np.org.

March 2008

This issue of The Monthly includes the **congregational giving** from the fiscal period 2/1/07-1/31/08. The 176 congregations of Iowa District West did an excellent job of fulfilling their pledges. We are thrilled to report that unrestricted receipts from congregations exceeded our goal set by the District Board of Directors by \$29,130! Thank you to all the congregations and 4 preaching stations (Faith, Winterset; Iglesia, Storm Lake & Denison; and Messiah, Johnston) for your support and partnership.

District continues to use wisely the dollars entrusted to us. We want your dollars to truly make a difference in the lives of people. For more information, the Iowa District West Mission & Ministry 2008 brochure outlines how your mission dollars are being spent. The brochure is available online at www.idwlcms.org/district_news/information/mission_ministry_2008.pdf

February 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions and programs, including nearly \$40,000 for **gift planning ministry**? For nearly 20 years, Jim Schroeder, the District's Gift Planning Counselor has been helping families in Iowa District West prepare estate plans that provide for their loved ones and support their favorite LCMS ministries (<http://fnd.org/IWGP.asp>).



If you would like Jim to help you at no cost or obligation, email him at jim.schroeder@idwlcms.org or call him toll free at 877.913.2221.

January 2008

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? As the staff and stewardship committee put together a budget for next year, plans are in the works to add a **mission executive** to the District staff. The Focus on the Fields visits prompted efforts to emphasize missions in the District as we continue to reach the lost in Iowa.

