

A Personal Mission Story

Our congregations often provide planned outreach events or other organized opportunities to tell other people about Jesus. However, many times these opportunities arise spontaneously during the events of our daily lives. A member of a district congregation shared the following experience with the IDW Personal Missions Subcommittee:

I placed an ad in the classifieds to sell our crib. I received a phone call and lined up an appointment with Brian. He and his wife had several grandchildren and were looking for a good used crib. While showing him ours, we began to talk about several things. I even shared some of the things I do at my church. This opened the door to talk a little bit about churches in general. He had been attending one with his wife, but his language indicated that he missed going to a church that taught the Bible as the Word of God. So I started to tell him about our congregation and a few things that we believe, such as the Bible being the Word of God. He was so happy to hear that we still preached the true Word of God in all its truth and purity. He wanted to know more about Redeemer. Even though he was scheduled to join another church the very next day, instead, he came to our church the next day. After the service I visited with him. He loved what he heard and sang. To make a long story short, after a taking Adult Instruction Brian joined our church and has become a regular attendee.

If you have a story of an everyday event which provided an opportunity to tell someone else about Jesus, please share that story with the IDW Personal Missions Subcommittee. Stories can be submitted by email to revjpeter-son@LutheranReformission.com or mailed to P.O. Box 195, Burt, IA 50522.

Meet Your National Youth Gathering District Coordinators

District Coordinators for the 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering, "We Believe," are hard at work providing resources and services to congregations. Some of the things they do for congregations and districts include:

- Making transportation arrangements for districts,
- Coordinating special district events at the Gathering,
- Generating district materials such as t-shirts, buttons, banners, etc.,
- And more!



The coordinators for the Iowa West District are Amy Schmidt (l), St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny, and Cindy Storm (r), Calvary Lutheran Church, Sioux City. They are currently looking at several options for a District Event and will be announcing the date and location in the near future. Here are some other things they are currently working on:

- monthly e-mails,
- IDW event in New Orleans, District tee shirt design
- IDW Informational meeting on Saturday, November 28 at the Embassy Suites, Des Moines. Times will be announced later.

If you have questions about the Gathering, or if you have not received Gathering materials such as the poster or pre-Gathering DVD, please contact Amy at Coordinator.Amy@idwyg.org or Cindy at Coordinator.Cindy@idwyg.org.

Reaching Rural America for Christ

The 3rd Annual Heartland Conference, *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, is Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 5-7 at Lied State Park, Nebraska City, NE. Please watch for the details in the September IDW Monthly mailing under the Rural Ministry page.

The cost is \$325/person. There are funds available through the District to help with congregational costs. Now is the time for all rural pastors to come to the aid of the congregations they serve and stir up interest for people to attend. Advertise, talk one on one, investigate means by which to secure funding, like endowments, gifts, memorials etc., in order to help more people get involved with the changes that are happening in rural/small town churches.

There is a limit of 150 attendees for the conference and about 60 spots are already gone. Now is the time.

If you have other questions, please call 712-676-2293 or email me at geneviv@netllcwb.net and I will be in contact with you. Thank you. Gene Ernst for IDW Rural/Small Town Ministry

Hope Starts Here

Hope Starts Here, a campaign to benefit the Children's Christian Concern Society, will kick off in St. Louis on Saturday, November 7, 2009. Concordia Seminary's Koberg Hall will be the site of a complimentary luncheon at 11:45 and a Spirit of Sustenance social hour at 7:15. Guest visionary Ken Petersen, former Lutheran Hour Ministries' Latin American Area Counselor, and the musical group AriSon will entertain us.

Friends and donors like you make the education of over 17,000 children in 19 countries possible. CCCS wants to share with you that Hope Starts Here. Please reserve your spot by November 1st at the website or phone number listed below. Availability is limited. [This project is underwritten by the CCCS board of directors.] cccs@ksl-cms.org, 785.357.7688, www.cccskids.org Sharing the Love of Jesus with Children around the World through Christian Education

Fan into Flame hits \$50 million mark

As of July 30, *Fan into Flame*, the capital campaign to raise \$100 million for new *Ablaze!*-related ministries, was halfway to its goal, having raised more than \$50 million in gifts and pledges since it was authorized by the Synod in convention in 2004.

The total represents nearly 20,000 gifts -- including more than \$23 million in cash -- from some 7,000 individuals and 850 congregations.

"We thank God for the resources He provides, and we thank each and every donor for these generous gifts," said Dr. William R. Diekelman, LCMS first vice president and *Fan into Flame* spokesman. "The LCMS is committed to Gospel proclamation around the world and to doing all we can to extend the kingdom of God."

Fan into Flame funds already are being used by congregations, districts, and LCMS World Mission, says Diekelman, "to reach the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ."

As the campaign continues, he added, "we pray that others will be moved to participate, and we look forward in confidence that the Lord will see us through to the successful achievement of the campaign's goals."

Since 2005, the campaign has unfolded, district by district.

Campaign gifts are distributed quarterly to fund new outreach ministries:

- in local communities, by participating congregations.
- in U.S. regions, by participating districts.
- nationally, including church planting and "revitalization" of existing congregations.
- worldwide, through missionaries and partner churches.

Each congregation and district that contributes to *Fan into Flame* receives back a net 15 percent portion of the funds they collect to start new outreach ministries. So far, \$1.2 million has been disbursed to congregations, and \$4.17 million to districts.

Even if the campaign's total falls short of its \$100 million goal, it still will have raised awareness about mission-centered stewardship and an "unprecedented" amount of money for God's mission worldwide, according to Jeffrey A. Craig-Meyer, who oversees the fundraising as associate executive director of Development Services with LCMS World Mission.

Craig-Meyer said he's amazed that, even in the midst of a recession, contributions this year have surpassed those of 2008. And, about a third of the Synod's 35 districts are just starting their *Fan into Flame* campaigns, he noted, so the total amount likely will grow.

Funds received so far are "a tremendous blessing," he said, and have enabled the Synod to place 26 new missionaries, among many other mission-related efforts.

Dr. Thomas R. Zehnder, executive director of LCMS World Mission, said the campaign is "making great impact at the local level, where congregations apply their *Fan into Flame* funds to immediate community outreach."

It is in these local neighborhoods, he said, "that many people are being connected to the love of Christ."

For information about participating in the campaign, contact your congregation's district office or call the *Fan into Flame* office at 800-977-2017.

Contemplate

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is pleased to invite prospective students and their guests to attend "Contemplate..." to be held October 8-10, 2009, and on March 11-13, 2010, on the Seminary campus. At this time, the registration form for both events is on the Concordia Seminary Web site at www.csl.edu. A full brochure is forthcoming.

Designed for those who are college age or older, the structured visitation event provides an effective means of learning more about life in the Concordia Seminary community

and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor, missionary, chaplain, or deaconess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

There is no charge to attend “Contemplate...” and all meals and lodging are provided free of charge. Round-trip transportation to Concordia Seminary from the airport is provided.

For more information, contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-822-9545 or admissions@csle.edu.

Lay Leadership Institute

Should you consider the Iowa District West Lay Leadership Institute?

- Do you have a passion for Christ’s mission to both church and world?
- Do you want to become more confident in your understanding of Lutheran doctrine?
- Do you feel that the Lord is calling you to a greater commitment?
- Would your congregation and pastor benefit if you could provide more expertise, gifts, time, and support to expand the mission and ministry?
- Do you enjoy spiritual growth in the community of deeply committed fellow Christians?
- Are you retired and looking for new ways to serve the Lord?

The Purpose of the Institute

Fills congregational need for:

- Pastor and educator support
- Lay leadership development
- Mission and ministry expansion
- Pastoral care
- Lay worship leaders

For those seeking individual/personal enrichment:

- Enhanced growth in Christ
- Greater significance in life
- More opportunity for service
- Deeper satisfaction in serving

Lay Leadership Institute General Information

Faculty — Theological faculty members of Concordia University, St. Paul, serve as instructors, along with District pastors who share their expertise.

Program Design — The design of the program is integrated so that on each weekend each of the ten months of the institute year, participants are involved in academic learning, along with practical application and experiences to develop team approaches to ministry and relationships. Classes begin with a Friday night session and continue on Saturday. The students worship together on Sunday morning

at an area congregation prior to concluding session on Sunday. The weekend concludes by noon on Sunday.

Location — The Institute is held in Fort Dodge — either at the District Office (located at 1317 Tower Drive near the intersection of Highways 169 and Business Route 20) or a local LCMS church in Fort Dodge.

Program Costs and Support:

For those seeking certification as a lay deacon in Iowa District West or participating as part of the SMP training, the cost per year is \$2,400 (or \$240 per weekend). Scholarships are available to those who apply and qualify. For those participating to gain personal enrichment, the cost is \$50 per weekend plus the cost of books and materials. (No scholarship available for this option.) There is additional costs for housing, mileage, and meals each weekend. Motel information is available upon request.

Lay Leadership Institute is

A cooperative ministry of Iowa District West,

Concordia University, St. Paul — College of Vocation and Ministry

Ordinations and Installations

- Rev. James Fernandez, Associate Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny, Ordained June 7, 2009 by Rev. Philip Cameron at Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Broomfield, Colorado, Installed August 2, 2009 by President Paul Sieveking at St. Paul, Ankeny.
- Rev. Philip Robarge, Associate Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Ordained June 14, 2009 by Rev. Daryl Robarge at Apostles Lutheran Church in Peoria, Arizona, Installed July 12, 2009 by Rev. Ron Burcham at Gloria Dei, Urbandale.
- Rev. Peter Jurchen, Associate Pastor at Hope Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Ordained June 21, 2009 by Rev. Arnold Jurchen at St. John Lutheran Church in Cordova, Nebraska, Installed June 28, 2009 by Rev. Timothy Braun at Hope, Des Moines.
- Rev. Glenn Hansen, Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Odebolt, Ordained and Installed July 26, 2009 by President Paul Sieveking at Trinity, Odebolt.
- Rev. Edward Durand, Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, Ordained July 19, 2009 by President Paul Sieveking at Mt. Olive Lutheran

Church, Des Moines, Iowa, Installed July 26, 2009 by Rev. Bill Van Nostrand at Prince of Peace, Fort Dodge.

- Rev. Nicholas Thackery, Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Emmetsburg and Peace Lutheran Church, West Bend, Ordained and Installed August 9, 2009 by President Paul Sieveking at St. Paul, Emmetsburg.
- Rev. John Rutz, Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Hastings and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oakland, Ordained August 2, 2009 by Rev. Steve Turner at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Livermore, Iowa, Installed August 16, 2009 by President Paul Sieveking at St. John, Hastings.

50th Anniversary

Faith Lutheran Church, Early, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding on Sunday, November 8. They will have a regular service at 10 a.m. that morning. They will then have a catered dinner. At 1 p.m. they will have a special afternoon service. They are planning a Sunday School bell choir, historical account and several numbers by the Community Crooners. The afternoon will conclude with refreshments.

Everyone interested is invited to attend the celebration, especially the afternoon program.

Faith Lutheran was started when a number of members of Immanuel Lutheran, Cook Township, decided to start a congregation in Early. Their first service was held on November 1, 1959 in the Municipal Building auditorium. They met in this venue until their church building was completed in 1962.

2009 Church Secretarial Conference



Church Secretarial Conference

The fall 2009 conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009 at First English Lutheran Church in Spencer, Iowa. The planning committee is thrilled to announce that Jenny Herrick is our special speaker for the day. Be sure to reserve this date on your calendar.

YES Ministries

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of charge from the District office.

Men's Ministry Makes an impact

"God in My World" is the theme of the November 14, 2009 Men's Ministry Breakfast hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Keynote presenters will be Rich Cohrs who is instrumental in developing the new men's ministry initiatives through Lutheran Hour Ministries and President Paul Sieveking who will share mission insights for our post-modern world.

Joy in Ministry

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the support of endowments, memorials, and gifts from congregations and individual donors, Iowa District West will provide \$130,000 to support their ministry preparation. Gifts to support these and future workers are extremely important and can be directed to "Joy in Ministry" at Iowa District West. District staff and students are also available to tell the story of ministry recruitment and student support.

Mission News

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Winterset and look forward to our ongoing partnership in other ways as we work together for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world (IDW Mission Statement)!

Chosen For Service

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these gifts of God were so obvious among the Thessalonians Paul knew they had been chosen by God.

Be assured that He has chosen you, too. This is the greatest comfort and the greatest joy you can know in this life. He has chosen you because He loves you. He has chosen you to be His child and to live with Him now and forever. He has chosen you for service. He has chosen you for works of faith, for labors of love, for endurance inspired by hope.

Thank God... you are chosen!