

The Mission Kitchen!



What's the purpose of your church building? To serve as a place where the congregation can gather for worship and other activities? To serve as a witness to the glory and majesty of God? Both of these are acceptable answers, but they don't give the whole picture. What if we saw our church buildings as a tool for reaching the community?

At this summer's Iowa District West convention, time after time delegates and others in attendance heard the challenge to see their community as the mission field in which God has placed them. One tool we have at our disposal that is often overlooked is the building itself! Rather than serving as a refuge in which Christians can retreat from the attacks of a sinful world, why not use it as a means of attack to bring Christ to individuals who are not yet members?

Pastor Max Phillips, newly elected chair of the District Missions Committee, and the members of Christ, Bouton are doing exactly that. They are just about finished remodeling the former Flame Lounge that now serves as their church home, which includes a rather spacious kitchen. In addition to providing opportunities for the traditional potlucks and after worship fellowship, the members saw an opportunity to use the kitchen as a sidedoor to bring people into the church. Unchurched people might not be comfortable if you invite them into your sanctuary, but everyone's comfortable in the kitchen. "God's brought some unique talents to our congregation, talents we can use to reach those who do not yet believe in Him," shared Pastor Phillips.

The question became one of how could they use the God-given talents of their people and the facility with which they had been blessed and address some of the needs of those in the community?

"Especially in light of our economy, we felt God was providing an opportunity to lend a hand to those looking for help," remarked Phillips.

They've lined up several activities in the church's kitchen to which members and non-members alike can come and be helped. One member, who owns a catering business, will demonstrate how to prepare basic and cost-efficient meals. The congregation sees this as helping them especially reach young families.

Everyone likes to decorate and prepare for Christmas. How about gingerbread houses? One member runs a business that ships gingerbread houses nationwide and will lead a class in the church's kitchen for making such houses. Another member, who along with her unchurched sister operates a business making Christmas candies, has offered to have the two of them lead an event so others can make their own Christmas candies.

"The kitchen is a pretty safe place," remarked Pastor Phillips, "that opens the door to some spiritual feeding on the Word of God."

What about your church building? Beyond worship and Bible class/Sunday school, how can it be used to help connect others with Christ? Brainstorm, pray, and discuss and then let me know what you're doing that I might share it with others to encourage them in bringing Christ into their communities.

The Evolving Partnership!

Come over and help us (Acts 16:9). Just as Paul heard a man from Macedonia requesting him to preach the Gospel, so two men put out the same request to Iowa District West (IDW). Pastor Keith Schweitzer, Immanuel, Greenfield, met with the two gentlemen in October 2003. Shortly thereafter Pastor Schweitzer began leading worship services in the historical church building at the Madison County Historical Complex in Winterset. The congregation of Immanuel, Greenfield even adjusted the time of their Sunday worship to assist the new band of believers! IDW provided guidance and financial assistance.

Now between 25 and 30 people regularly attend the weekly worship services. Through regular articles in the local Shopper, VBS, serving food at various community events, and other ways the people are reaching out to the community. The indicators for future growth are very positive.

While IDW has provided financial assistance, Pastor Schweitzer informed us that it will no longer be needed. "The people have been very generous in their giving and the District's money can be better used elsewhere," shared Schweitzer. We praise God for this step of faith by the people of Greenfield and

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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!