

LCEF Planting Seeds for Outreach

LCEF helps congregations and organizations to grow by offering different services. Two examples of this are shown in the following stories.



Rev. Mark Hansen (one of six District guest leaders) led the Consecrated Stewards (CS) education emphasis at Mount Olive Lutheran Church and School in Des Moines (pictured above). By God's grace and the efforts of the committee and leadership, Mount Olive is projected to have 14% additional income during the next year. The financial secretary observed that approximately 85 of 125 households pledged and a majority of those pledging took a step up. Plus, many of the households that formerly gave nothing have pledged to begin giving. That is good news for all Mount Olive members!

This LCEF stewardship education emphasis involves a committee of eight for eight weeks. Every member of the congregation gets involved in the education and inspiration through four weeks of Bible study, special sermons, stewardship journey talks by local members and by highlighting a variety of ministries already taking place within the congregation.

Celebration Sunday is the culmination of the emphasis as members are invited to offer their commitment cards during worship followed by a special meal of thanks and announcement of results.

Mount Olive is the site of the only Lutheran elementary school in the city of Des Moines and Mr. Kim Eggerstedt is a retired principal of the school. Eggerstedt served as chairman of Mount Olive's Consecrated Stewards emphasis and shared that the process was extremely easy to use with everything spelled out for the committee. Plus, the trained guest leader was extremely helpful and knowledgeable. Publicity material was easily accessible and very useful. Even the Sunday school teachers and students got something out of it. When asked if he believed the congregation grew in its understanding of God's teaching on stewardship, Eggerstedt responded, "Very much so; we really enjoyed it. Bible class was great." He summarized, "Though it takes work, it's worth it. It works.

I would recommend it to anyone."

LCEF and Mount Olive praise God for capable and willing volunteer leaders like Mr. Kim Eggerstedt to direct the congregation through the process.

Learn how LCEF's Consecrated Stewards education emphasis can benefit your congregation, visit http://www.lcef.org/services/consecrated_stewards/ or call Bob Riggert, 515-576-7666, or Carole White. View brief online videos as an introduction to CS featuring its guiding principles, the process, materials, cost, next steps and more.

Organized in 1881, St. John Lutheran Church in Charter Oak (pictured below) currently has education space in an old school building that needs either major repairs or razing. The congregation wanted to explore their options, so they turned to LCEF's Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC). Architect Gary Landhauser walked St. John's through the feasibility of education space that might also incorporate their needs for main level fellowship and a carport.



The AAC consists of members who like to figure out the "puzzles" LCMS organizations face when repairing or constructing a building. It's all about making connections between theology and space. These experts see potential where others do not, and opportunity for expression among wood and wiring. LCEF's AAC is a unique ministry that brings together volunteer Lutheran architects and liturgical advisors. The most common puzzle to be solved is finding a balance between functionality and costs; this is where AAC members can make the most impact. These volunteers meet with a congregation on a one-time basis for expenses only. This is a first stage process only, blueprints are not drawn up -- only the possibilities are explored. Local or regional AAC contacts are available for your congregation or school by contacting your LCEF Vice President Carole White.



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