

## A Mission and Ministry Center



Iowa Central Community College continued to expand around the office building and in recent years the college expressed interest in the District property. Desiring to be good stewards of our property and resources, the District staff and Board continued to explore the options of remodeling or relocating.

Each of the 177 congregations of Iowa District West is a mission and ministry center. It is the desire of the District staff, District Board of Directors and District committees to provide the resources and connections to strengthen the ministry and expand the mission of the local congregation. To accomplish that, Iowa District West has had a District office setting for over four decades.

God's timing is always good! In mid-April the Board of Directors responded to a very fair offer from the college to buy the present building. At the same time the search for another site culminated in an offer for an office building at 409 Kenyon Road (along business Highway 20, across from the Fort Museum, and within several hundred yards of the present building). Both the sale and purchase were approved by the Board on April 14. The transactions were subsequently finalized.

In early history the District office was the congregation office of the part-time District President. District meetings were typically held for two days at St. Paul Lutheran in Fort Dodge. The first formal office site was at the Carver Building in downtown Fort Dodge. In January 1961 the Board of Directors appointed a committee to explore a building site in Fort Dodge and that action was affirmed by the District convention in July 1961. Property was donated by the Fort Dodge Betterment Foundation and a building was constructed at the present site, 1317 Tower Drive. The cost was \$54,000 and was financed by bequests, gifts from congregations, various groups, and individuals. A dedication service was held on January 13, 1963 with Synod President Rev. O.R. Harms as preacher. Rev. G.W. Lobeck, District President, offered the Rite of Dedication.

The "new" building becomes available after September 1, 2010. Some improvements and alterations will be made in the new District property and a move will take place in late 2010 or early 2011. The new facility will not only be more spacious allowing for more connections at the District office, but also allows for necessary technological improvements. Two present renters in the new property will remain as tenants providing a continuing source of revenue. The college will begin to



The 1970 District Convention authorized enlarging and remodeling the District office. Work was begun in the summer of 1971 and the improvements were completed by October 1971. The cost of the addition was \$58,500. No budget funds were used for the building project as costs were covered by bequests and special gifts. By this time the District staff included District President Ellis Nieting, a missions and stewardship executive, a Christian education executive, District church extension fund/business manager, and secretarial staff. In spite of increasing resources, office operations, and technological services, the District office had only minor improvements in the last

fourty years. use the present site as soon as the District office is relocated.

In keeping with our District history and in keeping with our primary mission and ministry focus, the slight difference in cost between the sale of the present building and purchase of the new building and the necessary improvements will be accomplished without using any resources from congregation gifts. The District seeks to be wise stewards of all God's gifts to them and through them. More information on the "move" will be shared in the months ahead. In the meantime, the District office is a mission and ministry center for the congregational mission and ministry centers.

*(Historical information provided by District archivist, Rev. Al Buelow)*

## A Personal Mission Story

Our congregations often provide planned outreach events or other organized opportunities to tell people about Jesus. However, many times these opportunities arise spontaneously during the events of our daily lives. Rev. Ron Rosenkaimer, one of our district's pastors, shared the following experience which he had as a layman before entering the Office of the Ministry.

"I remember the day I was visiting with a cousin that I did not get to see very often. This was long before I had gone to seminary. We had gone out on an errand to buy some groceries, which gave us some time to talk. We talked all about hunting and fishing and the art of turkey calling. I was blessed with a father that had taught me all those things, and there was a common bond.

On the trip back, there was a lull in the discussion, and the Holy Spirit was convicting me to ask him about Jesus. We had grown up in different cities and with a little age difference between us. I knew his parents had gone to church, but I didn't really think he had spent much time in church over the years. So I plunged in, asking 'Do you know Jesus... Do you go to church?' And my cousin responded, 'Oh Ronnie I have been awful bad growing up, and I have done some pretty bad things, and I will not be going to heaven.' Well, I don't believe I ever had such an honest answer when asking about Jesus before. I was overjoyed to tell him, 'If that is what you really believe, I have some great news for you. Christ died on the cross for your sin, and to save people from their sin. Jesus knew we would mess up, and he shed His blood to redeem you from your sin. And these are not sins so great that Jesus cannot forgive.'

"I encouraged him to go back to his parent's church and talk to the pastor there. I was ecstatic that I took the chance to talk about Jesus, especially for my cousin, and that he was restored again with Jesus. I learned two valuable lessons that day about witnessing my faith! One, when the Holy Spirit convicts us to talk about Jesus, we may or may not get the results we want, but it suits His purpose. And two, God has given us a story to tell, it's our own story, and the Holy Spirit will give us the words to speak. If I had not taken the chance, my cousin may have waited a long time to hear the Gospel again.

"So the question I have for others is, are you open to the Holy Spirit when you are convicted to speak of Jesus? Are you keeping your eyes open for those around you who need to hear about Jesus? That is the kind of eyes that Jesus had as He walked the streets and

roadways of Palestine. And the kind of eyes He had for us as He journeyed to the cross and shed His blood for us. He put Himself out, so that we would not be left out. Praise God!"

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](mailto:revjpeter-son@LutheranReformission.com) or mailed to PO Box 195, Burt, IA 50522.

## Older Adult Ministry

Another special "Saints Alive Retreat" sponsored by the IDW Older Adult Ministry Committee is being planned for those 55 and older at our own beautiful Camp Okobojo in Milford, Iowa. The date for the retreat is Friday, August 20, to Sunday, August 22.

This year's retreat, having the relevant theme, "An Unchanging God in a Changing World," begins with registration and check-in on Friday between 3:00 and 4:30 pm. After a light dinner, President Sieveking will lead a presentation, after which we will have some time for social interaction, relaxation and snacks.

Saturday will be the big day with two presentations by President Sieveking, time for two breakout sessions, and an evening concert led by the well-known Baumann Brothers of Lakefield, Minnesota.

For the morning breakout session, participants will choose between Rev. Greg Wilcox, Director for Spiritual Ministries for the Good Samaritan Society or Kelly Helm, DCE at Storm Lake, Iowa. Rev. Wilcox will talk about "Ministering to those who are in Nursing Homes or other Senior Adult Facilities." Kelly will speak on "Passing our Life Stories to our Children and Grandchildren."

Afternoon breakout sessions will be led by Elroy and Barb Koch from Orphan Grain Train and by Dr. Renea Gernant, Director of Gerontology at Concordia University, Seward, NE. The Kochs will speak about "Opportunities to Help those in Need," while Dr. Gernant will be leading a discussion on "Helping Congregations to become more Older Adult User Friendly."

The retreat will conclude on Sunday morning with breakfast, Bible Study, a worship service and a brunch.

Registration forms for the retreat are available through your church office, or through Camp Okobojo. Remember that Camp is handicapped accessible. Electric scooters are available for those who need them. For further information call Lori Gamble, Program Director at Camp Okobojo (712-337-3325, [lori.camp@idwlcms.org](mailto:lori.camp@idwlcms.org)).

## Thrivent Financial



*Pictured above is Rev. Paul Sieveking, District President; Roger Curtis, District Business Manager; Dan Bacon, Thrivent Associate.*

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has awarded \$2,200 to Iowa District West LCMS as part of its regional Lutheran relations program. The funds will be used towards District programs in 2010: Early Childhood Conference, Secretarial Conference, and Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth (IOWAY banquet).

The Thrivent program enhances Lutheran events, builds mutually beneficial relationships and helps fund projects and educational opportunities that support and contribute to the health and vitality of the Lutheran community.

## Church Secretarial Conference

The fall 2010 Administrative Assistants Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny. The focus for the conference is “God’s Gifts Through Communication.” All communication will be reviewed especially focusing on bulletins and newsletters. The national presenter will be Scott Vaughan of Scott Vaughan Communications from Lexington, SC. Be sure to reserve this date on your calendar.

## Sharing Christ in Carroll Iowa

Listen as Pastor David Anthony, St. Paul, Carroll shares what God is doing through God’s people in Carroll, made possible in part by your mission dollars providing a start-up grant for the Mission in Mercy Outpost in downtown Carroll.

“I just want to know if God can forgive me!” ‘Not only can He forgive you, He has already done it. He has forgiven all your sins in Jesus. Christ died for you – you don’t have to doubt it anymore.’ This cry for mercy from a man and absolution started with

a conversation over a cup of coffee in the Mission in Mercy Outpost in downtown Carroll, IA. This exchange might not ever have happened if not for God leading the pastors and people in Carroll to take bold steps of faith and attempt something they had never done before!

“After walking the mission field of Carroll and visiting with many of the community leaders, it soon became apparent that there was a growing number of economically and socially disadvantaged residents who were ‘slipping through the cracks’ and in need. Sensing God calling them to “Go,” members of St. Paul, Carroll began to pray, plan, and invite their sister LCMS congregations in the Carroll Circuit to join them in this venture with the aim of meeting people, building relationships with them, helping them, and sharing the Gospel with them. The motto of the Outpost is ‘Sharing the One Thing Needful – Jesus Christ.’ The Outpost is manned by a fulltime pastor and numerous lay volunteers who reach out to the economically and socially disadvantaged residents of our community as well as the emerging Hispanic population with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through concrete acts of mercy. As such, we host several Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) classes with Bible studies, English as Second Language (ESL) classes, Single Mothers support group, and networking with social service organizations to make our presence known and foster good relations. A very close working relationship has been developed with the Domestic/Sexual Abuse Outreach Center, helping them take care of battered wives and rape victims. We have provided comfort, aid, and God’s Word of grace to several women who have suffered terrible abuse and crimes. We continue to have ongoing relationships with many of the people we meet and help. This, of course, gives us great opportunities to teach them about Jesus, the Savior of the world. In the first quarter of this year we have been privileged to share Christ’s mercy and good news with over 100 people!

“All of this is made possible not only by the grace and mercy of our God, but by the generous support of His people! The annual operating budget for the outpost, which includes mostly rent and utilities, is about \$10,000. In addition to the Ablaze grant from Iowa District West, we have received financial support from the Carroll Circuit congregations and individual members. St. Paul, Carroll, which has two pastors, has committed me to full-time outpost duty during the weekdays. Countless lay volunteers have not only donated materials and labor, but volunteer in a variety of ways. It takes

approximately twenty volunteers to staff the outpost each month during its hours of operation (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.). In addition there are scheduled evening classes and activities just about every night of the week, as well as on weekends. God’s mercy knows no bounds and we are discovering anew the multitude of opportunities to share it!

“If you are ever in Carroll, stop in and visit with us at 225 4th Street in the Thomas Plaza downtown. We’ll have a cup of coffee and a homemade goody ready when you come!”

How about taking a walk in your mission field? God will open your eyes and heart to the opportunities and adventure of sharing His mercy and grace!

## Roster Changes

### CALLS ACCEPTED

- Rev. Paul Frank, Manilla, to Mesa, AZ, 1/1/10
- Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer, St. Paul, Ireton, to Orchard, NE, 1/1/10
- Rev. Erland Asmus, Auburn/Lake City, to Afton, MN, 1/11/10
- Rev. Jonathan Conner, Sanborn, to Manning, 4/25/10

### CANDIDATES ASSIGNED

- Jesse Burns, Fort Wayne, at St. John, Sanborn.
- Ross Fritz, Saint Louis, at Trinity, Manilla.
- Seth Kaiser, Saint Louis, at Trinity, Glenwood.
- Christopher Maronde, Fort Wayne, at St. John, Kiron/Faith, Deloit.
- Adam Peck, Saint Louis, at St. Paul, Ida Grove (assistant).
- Nathan Peitsch, Saint Louis, at St. Paul, Fort Dodge (associate).
- Craig Zandi, Fort Wayne, at Pilgrim, Lake City/Zion, Auburn.

### VICARS ASSIGNED

- Devin Kimball, Saint Louis, to Trinity, Des Moines.
- Lance Klamer, Fort Wayne, to Trinity, Marcus/Pilgrim, Quimby.

### CALLED TO GLORY

- Rev. Richard Arndt, Cherokee, 5/4/10.

### REMOVED FROM ROSTER

- Rodney Dunker, Odebolt, 2/25/10.

## COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED

- Jonathan Baumgartel, Zion-St. John, Paullina, to Trinity, Cedar Rapids, IA.
- Jeff Fick, Trinity, Boone, to Elm Grove, WI.

### CHANGE OF STATUS

- Kelly Helm, Storm Lake, active to non-candidate, 6/1/10.

### TRANSFER OUT

- Kalika Peske, Moorhead, MN, candidate, to Minnesota North District, 3/12/10.

### TRANSFER IN

- Sarah Gunn, Sioux City, non-candidate, from Southeastern District, 6/1/10.

### CALLED TO GLORY

- Fred Krueger, EM, Storm Lake, 5/18/10.

## The Lord Will Provide

*(continued from page 4)*

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in a thicket. God did provide. Imagine his joy! Here was the sacrifice that would take Issac’s place. He offered the lamb in place of his son and called the place “YAHWEH jireh ... The Lord will provide.”

Those words have meant so much to so many people in times of difficulties. This story is about our deepest need to trust God. It reassures that God will be there. He will intervene...at just the right time. He will provide.

This story takes us forward to another mountain, Mount Calvary. There our God did what was truly impossible. He did what He had asked Abraham to do. He gave his own Son as a sacrifice. He provided the lamb...the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world... your sin and mine. And then He raised Jesus from the dead as our victorious Lord of life... with another promise that seems too good to be true...the promise of everlasting life. There was a cross in God’s heart when He intervened with Abraham. And the same cross-shaped heart beats for you and me. St. Paul asked, “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

There is a promise! We can dare to do everything, for our God has promised that He will provide us all things! He calls us His friends. He has provided us with the gift of faith. He has provided us a Savior...and our salvation is sure.

Jesus is Lord of the impossible. He can...He will...provide.