

## YES Ministries

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

### Abundantly Forgiven—Focus on Youth Ministry



The forgiveness of sins earned by Christ and shared in the church was the focus of the October 31-November 1 “King’s Keys” Junior Youth Gathering. Over 400 youth and their counselors from over 50 District congregations gathered at the Des Moines Downtown Marriott. Annual District gatherings are offered by the District Youth Services Committee to extend and enhance the youth ministry of the local congregation.



Registrations for the “We Believe” LCMS National Youth Gathering continue to be received by the Office of Youth Ministry. More than 20,000 LCMS teenagers will gather to celebrate their membership in the church and to share their gifts responding to the continuing needs in the city of New Orleans. Numerous District congregations will be represented.

### Abundantly Gifted—Focus on Education Ministry

Lutheran school teachers from the state of Iowa gathered at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, October 22-23 to focus on the theme “Changing Hearts Through a Change-



less Christ.” The planning committee (pictured above) included Chairman Amy Schmidt, Boone; Chris Schindler, Clarinda; and Susan Braunsroth, Denison. Teacher anniversaries recognized at the event include: 25 years--Laveta Clement, Clarinda and Alyce Strong, Sioux City; 15 years—Marcia Shook, Sioux city; 10 years—Amanda L’Heureux, Denison; 5 years—Jonathan Danek, Denison.

The DCE ministry is 50 years old! The 1959 Synod convention resolved “That congregations be encouraged to analyze their parish education program and, where needed, to establish the office of ‘director of Christian education’ in order to provide additional leadership for the education program of the



*DCEs Amy Schmidt and Cindy Storm.*

congregation.” Iowa District West has twelve commissioned Directors of Christian Education with several other congregations exploring the use of this professional ministry resource. District DCEs are also valuable resources to the District often providing leadership for youth gatherings, children’s ministry conferences, Sunday school workshops and other events benefiting the church at large. DCEs Cindy Storm and Amy Schmidt are District coordinators for the national youth gathering. DCE Lori Gamble is on the national gathering planning team.



*DCE Lori Gamble*



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### Abundantly Blessed—Focus on Stewardship Ministry

Abundantly blessed with another harvest and with God's daily sustenance, we respond by generously supporting the mission and ministry of our local congregation and the church at large. "Consecrated Stewards" encourages percentage giving—setting aside a percentage of one's income and each week returning to the Lord from what He has given us. Congregations are then encouraged to sacrifice a percentage in supporting the District and Synod of which they are a member. Together, we send missionaries into the world. Together, we support those who go into the mission fields of the District (Hispanic communities, Sudanese neighbors, isolated deaf families). Contributions for the 2009 District budget can be made through January 2010. Congregations are urged to prayerfully consider their District commitment for 2010. Iowa District West offers a variety of stewardship education resources.

### Camp VBS - 2010

The theme of Camp VBS 2010 is "Creation Station." Children will climb aboard the "Truth Train" and follow the tracks of God's plan for His creation as He shares it in Genesis 1-11. In a culture which denies God's creative power, it is extremely important that our children know the Truth of Jesus. Camp VBS will again offer five Bible-based stories,

theme crafts, special skits, crafts, Bible bops and more. More information will be coming soon!

## President's Page (continued from page 4)

the valley of the shadow of death...all the way home...to the glory, the joy of our heavenly Father's house. He has promised you the Light of everlasting life.

That is what all of the lights are about this season. They are all about Jesus, the Light of the world...about the Light of life...about the glory of heaven. The lights of Christmas push back the darkness with their special glow, don't they?

Have you noticed that it doesn't take bright spotlights or floodlights to make this season bright? A lot of little lights accomplish the same purpose. Each one adding its own special luster to the total brightness. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men..." Your light might be small. Your influence in this dark world might seem insignificant... but each of us glows with the brightness of our Lord's love. As He fills your heart and life...your world will become brighter...and the darkness, whatever it might be, will be driven back, farther and farther. And you'll see, the Light will keep shining before us all the way home.

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