



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

April 2009



"I (Paul) planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow... you are God's field." (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

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Mission Statement: Connecting, Resourcing, and Partnering with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world.

Planting Resurrection Seeds

"The body that is sown perishable, it is raised imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)



On Good Friday the dead body of Jesus was planted in a tomb. On Easter Sunday it burst with life out of the tomb. Saddened by earthly farewells, families gather at gravesides to witness a "planting" in the earth. It is this planting of the dead that the Apostle Paul refers to in the great resurrection chapter, 1 Corinthians 15. However the Apostle who himself witnessed the resurrected Lord declares, *"Christ has indeed been raised from the dead"* (Vs. 20). Because of

Jesus' resurrection the bodies whose souls are already with Jesus in glory will be raised gloriously, powerfully, spiritually on the Last Day. Only those who die in Christ will be raised to eternal glory. Christian education at all levels is planting the seeds of God's Word in lives of people so that we become deeply rooted in Christ and that the Spirit will produce fruits that last to eternity. May God bless our planting together.

Rev. Bob Riggert, Executive Assistant

Planting Seeds in Families

Rev. Kevin Kohnke, director of Family Ministry at Concordia University-Seward, notes that the family is the "seedbed" for faith. Rev. Kohnke will be in Iowa District West on April 17 and 18. Professional and lay family ministry leaders will gather at Camp Okoboji on Friday, April 17 to explore "Planting Seeds in the Family." On April 18 families are invited to "What Matters to Families" hosted by First English Lutheran Church, Spencer. Families will explore discipline, finances, marriage and other topics that matter to families today. Information is available at the District Web site: www.idwlcms.org.

Planting Mission Seeds

"Fan Into Flame" is a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod initiative to raise \$100 million so that seeds of faith can be sown in local communities, districts, nationally and internationally. Several District congregations have already been blessed by the initiative. Contact Executive Assistant for Mission, Rev. Mark Gerken, to learn how you can participate personally or as a congregation.

Through the IOWAY program mission seeds have been planted in Los Angeles for several years. Youth and adults interested in this summer's program or in other mission service experiences should contact Ellie Menz (ellie.menz@idwlcms.org).

Planting Seeds for Ministry

The LCMS Board for University Education invites congregations to observe a "Concordia Sunday." April 26 is a suggested date, although congregations can celebrate the Concordia university system anytime. Promotional materials are available from www.lcms.org/universities. Over 50 District students are attending Concordia universities to prepare for ministry careers or to prepare to serve as Christ-filled laypersons in other vocations. If you'd like a Concordia University student to address your congregation or an organization, contact the District Office for information on connecting with a Concordia student. The Iowa District West "Joy in Ministry" program provides District financial assistance for students preparing for ministry careers. Students wishing to apply for this assistance should contact Rev. David Loeschen, Our Savior, Denison. Contributors to "Joy in Ministry" can contact the District Office for more information.

Planting Seeds of Service

On Tuesday, June 23, Iowa District West Convention delegates and guests will literally have the "Joy of Serving" as they serve in the Lake Okoboji community. "Joy in Serving" is the theme of the June 21-24 convention. LCMS President, Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, will preach at the opening service at Immanuel Lutheran, Spirit Lake on Sunday evening. Convention business will begin Monday morning, June 22 at Camp Okoboji. Delegates will receive convention materials in May.

Planting Seeds by a Lake

Seeds are planted in soil, not water. However, the Christ-focused programs at Camp Okoboji cause faith seeds to grow on and near the water. Visit the Camp Web site (www.campokoboji.org) for information on children's, youth, and family camps.

District Seed Planting Dates

April 10...Good Friday, District Office Closed
April 17-18...Clergy Wives Retreat, Camp Okoboji
April 17-19...Lay Leadership Institute, Fort Dodge
April 17...Planting Seeds of Faith in Families, Camp Okoboji
April 18...What Matters to Families, First English, Spencer
April 28...District Board of Directors, Fort Dodge

Visit www.idwlcms.org for information on District resources and events.