

YES NOTES



April 2009

Iowa District West

Youth, Education, and Stewardship Ministries

Please share generously with volunteers and professional leaders in “YES” ministries. Additional information on YES and other District ministries is available at the District Web site: www.idwlcms.org

Easter Matters!

“If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. . . . If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. . . . But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17, 20).

St. Paul declares that Easter matters in life and in death. Easter matters in the heart, in the home, in the congregation, and in ministries of Iowa District West.

Easter Matters to FAMILIES

Families that have seen the resurrected Jesus celebrate more than family dinners, egg hunts and other traditions. They celebrate the Jesus who lives in their home. They celebrate that they will be part of Jesus’ family eternally. Two special District events are planned to bring the Christ of Easter to families:

Friday, April 17—“Planting Seeds of Faith in Families.” Rev. Kevin Kohnke, Concordia University, Seward will cover some of the basics of family ministry with pastors, DCEs and other family life professionals and volunteers. The event will be held at Camp Okoboji. The afternoon session will give participants the opportunity to share “seeds” of family ministry. Register with the District Office.

Saturday, April 18—“Family Matters.” Families (especially young families) are invited to First English Lutheran Church, Spencer to review what really matters to families. Rev. Kohnke, pastors of the Spencer/Northwest Circuits, LFS Counselor Wanda Pritzel, and District assistant Rev. Bob Riggert will be leaders. Register with First English Lutheran Church.

Easter Matters to CHILDREN

What really matters is that Jesus is the foundation of children’s lives. The 2009 Camp VBS curriculum will place children on the “Solid Rock” that is Jesus. The resource is available at the District Office. The District-produced curriculum includes five “rock” Bible stories, Bible text songs, family newsletters, crafts, skits and much more—all for \$200. Each participant will also receive a theme “rock” to remember the special experience of Camp VBS. Contact the District Office for samples or more information.

The key event of all Christian education is Easter. “Keys to the Future” will be the theme of the summer (August 7) District Early Childhood Conference. More information will be shared with District preschools and early childhood centers.

Lutheran Schools from the Midwest have the opportunity to attend a “Funding Academy” on June 8-10. Participants will discover marketing strategies, fiscal management basics, and other aspects of effective school ministry.

Easter Matters to YOUTH

The District youth events of 2009 are Easter celebrations in June, July, October, November and other times that youth gather together to pray, serve, learn, and fellowship. The “Ten in 09” youth ministry poster has been shared with congregations. Extra copies can be requested from the District Office. Now is the time to register for summer camp events. Youth leaders are also encouraged to visit www.lcmsgathering.org to begin exploring the 2010 “We Believe” National Youth Gathering. DCES Cindy Storm and Amy Schmidt, District coordinators, will be regularly sharing information with congregations. Contact Ellie Menz (ellie.menz@idwlcms.org) for ideas on summer youth servant events or mission trips.

The second annual youth mission event “Message Sent” will take place June 7 at Mission Central. The recent youth ministry mailing included information on a special youth mission project.

Easter Matters to CHURCH WORKERS

Praise God for congregations that provide Easter opportunities for their present and future church workers:

- + Clergy Wives are invited to the annual retreat April 17-18 at Camp Okoboji. Registrations are made with the District Office.
- + The May “Lutheran Witness” District edition will include a summary for the church worker finances survey. Many church workers struggle with student debts and with other financial worries. Congregations are encouraged to support their workers with their prayers and with a responsible benefit plan.
- + The recent edition of the “Reporter” included information on “Concordia Sunday” (suggested for April 26). Order some of the publicity items available. Celebrate the opportunities of a Concordia university education. They’re Easter places that celebrate a risen Savior every day in every class.
- + The annual “Joy in Ministry” financial assistance brings Easter joy to District students preparing to serve in the church. Gifts to this special fund are needed. The annual “Joy in Ministry” banquet will be held on Sunday, June 14, and will feature Concordia Seminary President, Dr. Dale Meyer. More information will be coming soon.

Easter Matters to STEWARDS

Living Faith, Clive and Trinity, Boone learned that an Easter response is a stewardship response. For the second consecutive year, Peace, Wall Lake will offer stewardship education and worship as part of the Easter season celebration. The joy of Easter is expressed in our stewardship life in all seasons. Contact LCEF vice-president Carole White or Executive Assistant Bob Riggert to learn more about Consecrated Stewards. The District also has a three week series “Excel in The Grace of Giving” available for congregation exploration.

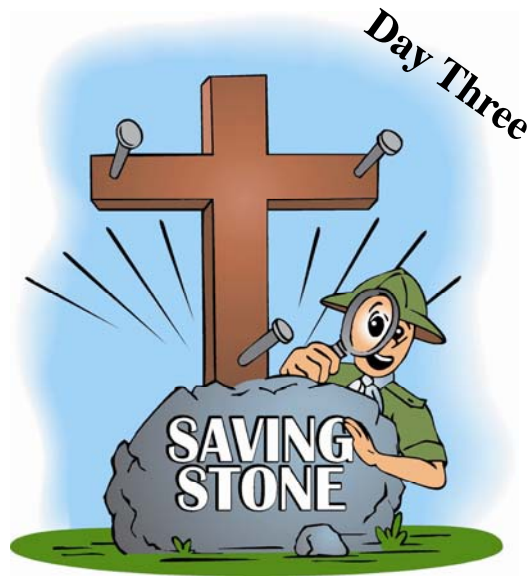
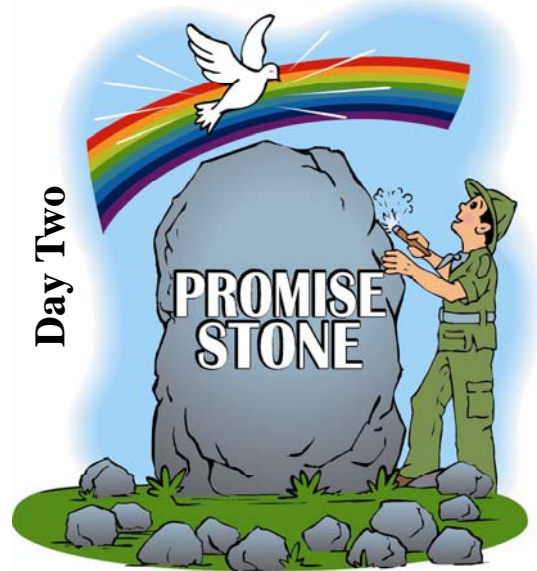
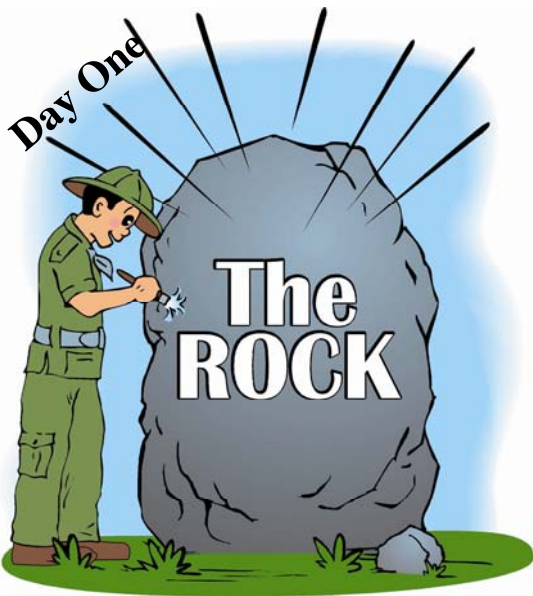
Thanks to congregations for sharing their Easter joy with their regular, sacrificial gifts to District and synodical ministries.

Easter Matters—The Message of God’s Word

Easter is more than a celebration Sunday. It’s the presence of Jesus every day. Enjoy the Bible study inserts which focus on the weekly Gospel reading. Use them in the family, for a meeting devotion, a small group Bible study, or other contexts.

Easter Matters!!!!

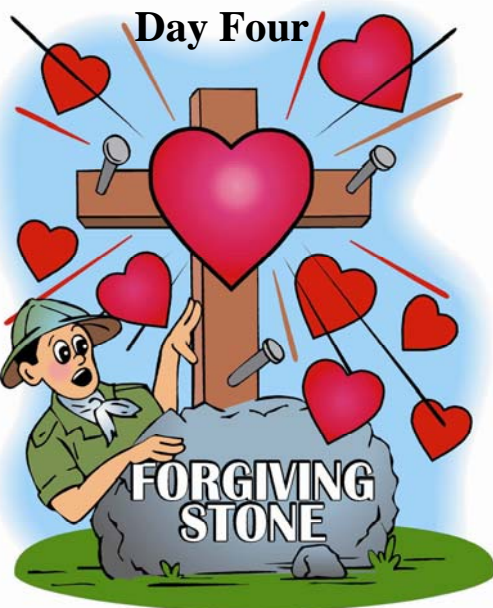
Rev. Bob Riggert, Executive Assistant



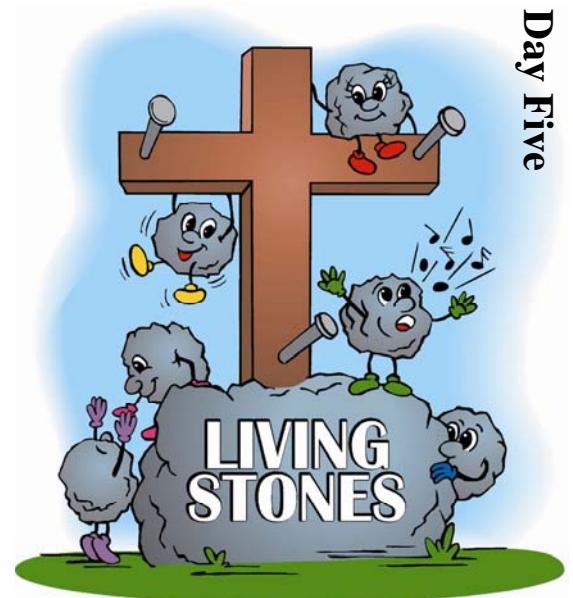
**“Solid Rock”
Camp VBS
2009**

Iowa District West, LCMS

*Contact the
District Office to
reserve your
copy.
515-576-7666*



Congregations
can view the
complete
curriculum and
pick up orders
at the District
Office after
April 1.





**Friday, April 17, 2009 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
at Camp Okoboji with**

- Rev. Kevin Kohnke—Director of Family Ministry, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska
- Rev. Mark Baldwin and DCE Amy Schmidt, the family ministry team at St. Paul, Ankeny and District representatives at the LCMS Family Ministry Summit
- YOU—the Pastors, Directors of Christian Education, professional and lay family ministry practitioners and pioneers. Each participating congregation is encouraged to bring one “seed” of family ministry that has been planted in their congregation—an activity, program, event, resource, etc.

Come and fill your family ministry “seed bag” with new insights and practical ideas.

Hosted by Iowa District West, Camp Okoboji, and Concordia University.

Register with the Iowa District West office by April 14 (sue.light@idwlcms.org or 515-576-7666). There is a \$5 registration fee payable on the day of the forum.

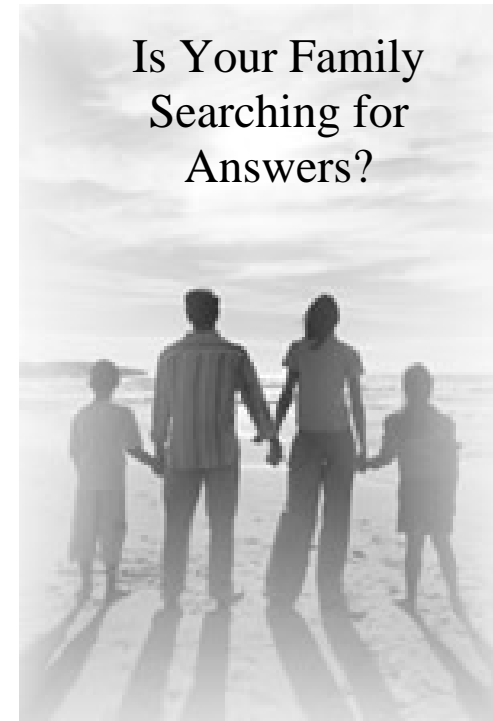
“The home is the seed bed for Christian life.” Rev. Kevin Kohnke



**Attend...
SYMPOSIUM ON
“WHAT MATTERS TO FAMILIES”**

April 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Is Your Family
Searching for
Answers?



First English Lutheran Church
1311 E. 18th St.
Spencer, Iowa 51301

Circuit Convocation
Keynote Speaker --- Rev. Kevin Kohnke
Professor and Director of Family Life Ministry at Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE), Seward

Register with First English Lutheran Church (712-262-5598)