

NEWS FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER
Iowa District West Congregation's Mission Receipts



<u>For the month ending February 2010</u>	
Anticipated Amount	\$150,000
Actual Receipts	\$155,525
<u>Fiscal Year-to-date receipts</u>	
Anticipated Amount	\$150,000
Actual Receipts	\$155,525
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$ 5,525
<u>Use of Mission Receipts</u>	
Remitted to Synod (43%)	\$ 66,875
Balance for District programs/operations	\$ 88,650
Total Receipts	\$155,525
<u>Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year</u>	
Year-to-date 2010	<u>\$155,525</u>
Year-to-date 2009	<u>\$126,124</u>
Over (under) last year	\$ 29,401

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

As of February 2010, 1002 investments in Iowa District West totaled \$27,625,660. Those investments are providing opportunity for 57 loans totaling \$11,828,596 plus commitments totaling nearly \$990,000. LCEF puts invested dollars to work in mission and ministry right here in Iowa District West.

If you are interested in investing in the ministry of LCEF or if you have questions on the loans and services provided to our congregations, please contact Carole White. **Come, Join the Ministry!**

Pastors and Church Secretaries: How about including a brief note about LCEF in your church newsletter or bulletin? Please use the following short paragraph—thank you!

Planting time



Planting new churches is a high priority in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is challenged to provide the funds and services in all the growing LCMS ministry areas. Your new or increased investment with LCEF will help plant another church in your city or another city. Contact Carole White 877-439-5233, carole.white@lcef.org for more information on investments.



**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
IN THINGS
ETERNAL**

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Money Moment

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The District is participating in the LCMS *Ablaze!* movement to share the Gospel with 100 million unreached people by 2017. This year the District budget includes \$40,000 for grants. Of this total \$4,000 supports the LCMS Center for US Missions and \$36,000 will be used to assist congregations or circuits in new initiatives to reach the lost. The deadline for Ablaze grants is March 31; although smaller amounts will be available later in the year. If you are interested in an Ablaze grant, contact Mission Executive Mark Gerken as soon as possible.

Celebrate Administrative Professionals Week and Day

This annual event was originally organized in 1952. Over the years, Administrative Professionals Week® has become one of the largest workplace observances. This year it is held April 18-24, with Administrative Professionals Day on Wednesday, April 21. The theme is “Power of Commitment.” If interested in more information or observance suggestions, go to www.iaap-hq.org/APW/apwindex.htm.



Secretaries/Administrative Assistants

Mark your calendar for the District Secretarial Conference scheduled for September 21 (the 4th Tuesday) in Ankeny. All ministry assistant professionals are invited. The planning committee will meet in early April – if you have any ideas please let us know.

Building Information Technology into Budgets

How—and where—church leaders should budget for IT.

Building IT into Budgets is important for churches so funds are available when needed. What is exactly needed? A good first step is to assemble a team of IT volunteers and experts. Many times churches spend money on items that are not needed. A dedicated file server, especially in a church with fewer than ten staff members, is often not needed. Also ink-jet printers often are not a good idea due to the high cost of ink cartridges. It is a good idea that church leaders look at technology as an extension of the mission but don't buy technology for technology's sake.

To read the complete article entitled “Giving Tech Its Due” posted 3/03/2010, read the *Your Church* online magazine at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/yc/2010/spring/givingtechitsdue.html>

The Lutheran Witness Subscription Rate

The rate for *The Lutheran Witness* increases slightly for May 2010-May 2011. Including the insert, the total is \$18.96 (could increase depending on size). If you have any changes and questions, contact Concordia Publishing House circulation at 800.325.3040 ext 1419 or email Becky.Laumand@CPH.org.

Concordia Plan Services

Congregations should have received the quarterly Group-Term Life Insurance (GTLI) Reports. The February report includes all workers enrolled in the Concordia Disability & Survivor Plan (CDSP). Reports generated in May, August and November will only include workers employed and enrolled after the initial report was prepared. The additional tax applies to those workers who have potential death benefits in excess of \$50,000 (should the worker die within the current tax year) and the lump sum death benefit for enrolled dependents. The \$50,000 exclusion allowed by the IRS for the workers' potential death benefit does not apply to the dependent death benefit. Calculations for the cost of group-term life insurance are based on the 2010 annual salary (the salary figure the worker earned on January 1), worker's age at the end of the current tax year, number of dependents, and Social Security participation. More information about Group-Term Life Insurance can be found in the Congregational Treasurer's Manual, section 4.600. The information can also be found online at www.lcms.org/ca/www/ctm/media/Chap04TreasMan.pdf (page 13). To learn more, a new Webinar is online at <http://www.concordiaplans.org/DetailPage.aspx?ID=154>. Also online is the new Brief Summary of Benefits (BSOB) - www.concordiaplans.org/graphics/assets/documents/12035.pdf

Did you know you can download and print forms directly from the website at www.concordiaplans.org? Click on Resources and Forms and scroll to select the form of your choice (i.e. enrollment form, employer change report form, etc.).

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