



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

August 2010



"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: Connect, Resource, Optimize, and Partner with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world.

Planting and Planning

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Forgiven



A missionary tells of time he was driving through the bush country and came upon a woman carrying a huge bundle of sticks on her back. He stopped to offer her a ride in his jeep, and she gladly accepted. But she kept that bundle of sticks strapped to her back. It was obvious she was uncomfortable, still holding all the weight of the bundle. The missionary suggested she take it off and lay it in the back, but she replied, "No! It's enough that you are carrying me. You don't have to carry my bundle too." So, she continued to be miserable even though it wasn't necessary. She still tried to carry her bundle, not realizing the vehicle was already carrying it for her.

Do you know anyone like her, a Christian who still wears herself out trying to bear all her burdens by herself or who insists on being miserable when she doesn't really need to be?

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He says to you, "Let me carry that burden for you. Let me take your sin. Let me bear your guilt and shame. Let me take it all to the cross for you. Let me suffer for you. Let me die for you. Let me give you the gift of salvation." Then you will have peace with God. You can relax in His grace. You can be renewed by His Spirit. Your forgiven soul can rest.

Are you tired? Exhausted? Weary? Do you need some rest? What we all truly need is not time off to get away or an extra hour of sleep. What we need is to come to Jesus, to know His love and forgiveness, and to see His power at work in our lives. That's refreshing and exhilarating and good for our souls. Jesus will give you rest!

Rev. Paul G. Sieveking, President

Stewardship Planting and Planning

The District Stewardship Committee is offering several "Stewardship School" classes to assist pastors and stewardship committees in planning a year-long stewardship study (Faith Aflame—Immanuel, Clarinda on Saturday, August 7) or a three week stewardship education and commitment emphasis (Life Styles—Immanuel, Spirit Lake on Monday, August 23; St. Paul, Carroll on Tuesday, August 24, and Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines on Wednesday, August 25). Additional information has been sent to congregation offices and is available on the District Web site. LCEF Vice President Carole White and Gift Planning Counselor Jim Schroeder are available to assist with individual and family stewardship planning.

Youth Ministry Planning and Planting

Youth said "We Believe" with thousands in New Orleans; youth demonstrated their faith as part of an IOWAY mission team in Los Angeles. Youth are missionaries in their local school and to their friends. This year's "Message Sent" youth event at Mission Central (Sunday afternoon, August 29) will encourage youth in their faith sharing. Rev. Brad Birtell of Columbus, Nebraska will be mission presenter.

Registration for fall District gatherings will begin in the weeks ahead.

"Out Loud" Junior Gathering—October 30-31—Sheraton Inn, West Des Moines.

"The Text" Youth Gathering—November 19-21—Embassy Suites, Des Moines

Planting and Planning for Lifetime of Discipleship

Lutheran preschools and elementary schools plant the "seed" of the Word of God in the hearts of children every day and in every activity. Contact your region's Lutheran school or preschool for more information. District early childhood educators will focus on God's plan in changing times at the August 6 "Building Blocks" conference at St. Paul, Ankeny.

The District Education Committee is available to assist congregations in planning a Christian education program and addressing changing family dynamics and community demographics.

Mission Planting and Planning

Are you planning a mission event or mission Sunday? District missionaries enjoy sharing the plans and promises of their mission activities. District staff is available to share the mission vision of the District. Consider including "Amigos en Cristo" as a Sunday school mission project.

August Plans

The month of August finds families planning the last outing and churches planning for fall ministries. May all our planning (and planting) be consistent with and submissive to God's plan for us.

August 17 ... District Board of Directors

August 20-22 ... Saints Alive Retreat, Camp Okoboji