



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West
December 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.

"He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever" Isaiah 9:7.

It's the King's season. Altar cloths are royal blue. The church sings "The Advent of our King." Gifts are brought to honor the newborn King. We plant together for the King!

Planting with the King's K.I.D.S.



What to give? What to get? It's Christmas after all. Isn't that what it's all about? At least that's what the world would want us to believe. But yet we as Christians know the true blessing of Christmas! That our heavenly Father sent us Jesus to be our Savior—our gift! Now that is a gift that just doesn't wear out!

How about giving another gift to your child or grandchild that doesn't wear out? The gift of knowing how to handle the money blessings God gives them. Through the K.I.D.S. Stamp Program with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, children learn to be good stewards of the money blessings that He gives them, while allowing them to help build God's kingdom here on earth. Consider giving a gift that doesn't wear out by implementing a K.I.D.S. Stamp Program at your church or school. Contact Ruth Gerken at ruth.gerken@ialcef.org for help in starting one. Help your child or grandchild this Christmas to wisely handle the money God has given them!

Carole Whilte, LCEF Vice President

He is King of All!

Hispanic worship services are now being held in Denison, Storm Lake, Sioux City, and recently Des Moines. Praise God for our missionaries Rev. Dan Vogel and Rev. Henry Witte. Recently a children's and youth mission program "Amigos en Cristo" was adopted by the Iowa District West Missions Committee. The two-year campaign has a \$20,000 goal which will support enrolling Hispanic children in Lutheran preschools and day schools in the District. Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, and other programs are encouraged to adopt this project. Families can also provide support. See the District Web site (www.idwlcms.org) for more information. Direct gifts to support our Hispanic and other District missionaries are also welcomed.

The King's Treasures

Congregation gifts to the District not only support District missionaries but missionaries around the world. Forty-two percent of offerings sent through the District are forwarded to LCMS mission and ministry. Members are encouraged to support the local congregation with their regular and sacrificial gifts. Congregations are likewise encouraged to model faithful stewardship by tithing offerings through District and Synod. Thanks to individuals and congregations who support our partnership with their prayers and treasures.

The King's Servants

A mission team of thirty youth and adults will travel again to Los Angeles (December 28 to January 4) to decorate the Lutheran Hour float and to serve in inner city Los Angeles. Thanks to the many children and youth who donated toys for the outreach distribution. Information on future mission trips and other serving opportunities in Los Angeles and in your community is available from IOWAY Director Ellie Menz (ellie.menz@idwlcms.org).

The King's Partners

It's the season to celebrate family. Iowa District West is blessed to have a variety of partners who work with us in sharing the Good News of Jesus in the District and into the world. Thanks Lutheran Women's Mission League, Lutheran Laymen's League, Camp Okoboji, Lutheran Family Service, and Lutherans For Life. We are subjects and servants of the King with you.

The staff of Iowa District West serves the King and His congregations. Thank you for some of the special events and emphases of 2009: "Joy in Serving" District Convention; "Joy in Serving Together" post-convention dialogs; "Fan into Flame," youth gatherings, men's breakfasts, workshops, conferences, mission presentations, stewardship programs, and more. Together we seek to worship our King and expand His kingdom in 2010.