

# YES NOTES

February 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](http://www.idwlcms.org)

The story of salvation can be summarized in the statement “Yes to the cross!” The Father responds to the fall, “Yes to the cross as my solution to sin.” The Father responds through Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration. “Yes to my Son and to the cross on which He will die.” Every epiphany of Jesus is His “Yes” to the journey and to cross on which it will culminate. The congregational services committees of Iowa District West shares resources and experiences which emphasize the cross and God’s “YES.”

## Yes to the Cross and FAMILY MINISTRY

Do you wish the Lenten message would be the focus of the home as well as the church? Are you looking for devotional resources for the families and youth of your church? Would you like more families, children, and youth in the pew during the Lenten season? Are you looking for a complete Lenten resource with sermons, dramas, service outlines and more? Are you looking for ways to make the Lenten experience more “hands on”?

“Travels To The Cross” may be the answer to these Lenten questions! “Travels to the Cross” takes the family (and the congregation) to seven stops on the way to the cross and empty tomb. The resource developed by the Family Ministry Task Force of Iowa District West is available free of charge to District congregations. Contact the District Office for the complete packet in hard copy and on disk.

Ministry to and with families will be the focus of two spring events involving Ben Freudenberg (author of The Family Friendly Church and professor at Concordia University, Ann Arbor.) Mark these opportunities on your calendar:

April 17—Camp Okoboji for Pastors, DCE, and family ministry leaders

April 18—Spencer Circuit site for congregation leaders

## Yes to the Cross and CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Registrations for the February 20-22, 2009 “Jesus Is . . .” Confirmands Retreat at Camp Okoboji are still being received. Go to the Camp Web site: [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org) for the retreat brochure.

Contact DCE Lori Gamble at the Camp with registration questions. Contact Pastor Paul Egger at St. John, Galva (712-282-4700) with retreat program questions.

## Yes to the Cross and CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

For more than a decade Camp VBS has been a hallmark of District children’s ministry. Vacation Bible school, Sunday school and other children’s ministry contexts will be blessed as they stand on the “Solid Rock” that is Jesus. Five “rock”y stories—the rock pile of promises with Joshua, the saving rock of the shepherd boy David, the rock rolled away from the tomb and other rocks that lead us to the solid Rock that is Jesus will be emphasized. Contact the District Office to review or reserve the resource.

### Yes to the Cross and STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE

The cross summarizes Jesus' sacrifice. The cross frees us to respond to His sacrifice. Contact the District office for Consecrated Stewards or other stewardship education resources. District congregations already scheduling stewardship education events in 2009 are: St. Paul, Fort Dodge; Trinity, Boone; Living Faith, Clive; and Peace, Wall Lake. "Stewardship 360—Faith Aflame" examines the stewardship culture of the congregation and facilitates dialogs between congregation leaders to explore stewardship response in treasure, time, and talents. The District Stewardship Committee will welcome LCMS Stewardship Director, Rev. Wayne Knolhoff, on Saturday morning, May 2, to share the process with interested congregations. More information will be shared soon.

### Yes to the Cross and MEN'S MINISTRY

Men, what does it mean to be a LEADER in the home, church, community, state and nation? The spring Men's Ministry Breakfast will focus on leadership. The spring event is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 at Christ Lutheran Church, Bouton. Information will be mailed to congregations in the weeks ahead. A panel of Lutheran leaders will share their experiences and insights. Bible study, prayer, breakfast and Christian fellowship will be included. Lutheran Hour Ministries has initiated a men's ministry Web site with many resources for nurturing the faith of men, building networks, and enlarging the kingdom. Sign up for this new opportunity at [www.lhmmen.com](http://www.lhmmen.com).

### Yes to the Cross and YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Service Committee chairman Rev. Steve Hayden; Camp Okoboji Program Director, DCE Lori Gamble; and Executive Assistant Rev. Bob Riggert represented the District at the LCMS Youth Ministry Symposium, January 8-11. The symposium theme was "Teaching the Faith in a Spiritually Diverse Age" and examined the recent Search Institute research on youth and spirituality. Information on the research and implications for ministry can be explored at [www.spiritualdevelopmentcenter.org](http://www.spiritualdevelopmentcenter.org). District youth events assist congregations and families in the spiritual development of youth. The focus of all youth events is the cross of Christ.

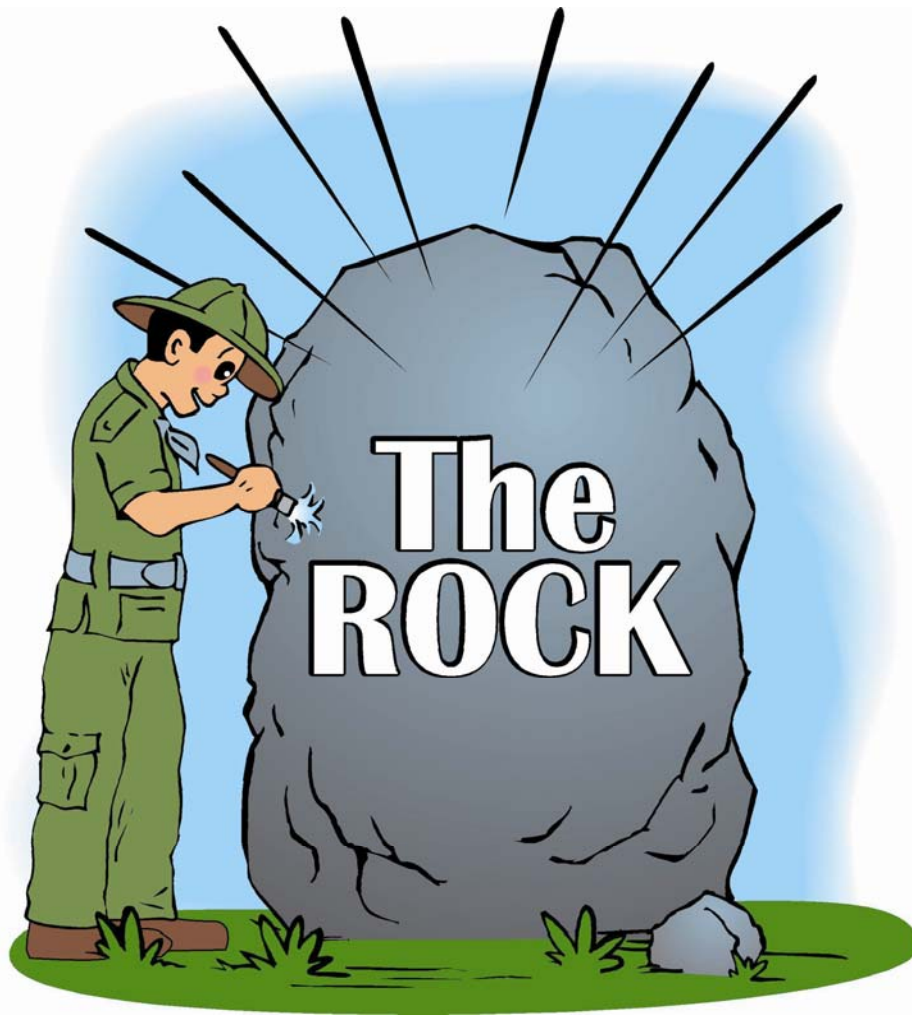
Youth workers (lay and professional) are invited to the National Youth Workers Conference in New Orleans (July 16-19, 2009). The New Orleans site allows for explorations for the "We Believe" (July 17-21, 2010) National Gathering. A variety of youth ministry resources are available from the synod Youth Ministry Office at [www.youthsource.com](http://www.youthsource.com).

A variety of summer youth servant events are available through IOWAY (contact Ellie Menz) and the LCMS Youth Ministry Office. Camp Okoboji will be the site of one of the LCMS events hosting a special "Joy Camp." Contact the Camp or the LCMS office for more information.

### YES to the Cross in IDW

Information on these and other events is update on the District Web site: [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org). Visit the site often. Share suggestions on improving or expanding the site and its resources with Jason Fuller ([Jason.Fuller@idwlcms.org](mailto:Jason.Fuller@idwlcms.org)).

Rev. Bob Riggert, Executive Assistant  
[bob.riggert@idwlcms.org](mailto:bob.riggert@idwlcms.org)



**Camp VBS 2009**

**Iowa District West, LCMS**

Take your children to the “Solid Rock” truths of the Bible. Let them stand on “The Rock” that is Jesus.

5 Solid Bible Stories  
Early Childhood Resource  
Dramas  
Bible Bops and “Rock” Music  
Theme Crafts  
Family Newsletters  
Mission Projects  
...and more!

Resources will be available  
by April 1, 2009

## A Lenten resource for church and family



# Travels To The Cross

# A Family Lenten Experience

Travel to  
Upper Room  
Garden of Gethsemane  
Courtyard of Caiphas  
Pilate's Palace  
Golgotha  
Tomb  
Easter Garden



Prepared by Iowa District  
West Family Ministry  
Task Force

Iowa District West of  
The Lutheran Church-  
Missouri Synod  
Fort Dodge, Iowa