



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

February 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: 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.

This Is Love . . .



February is when the Lutheran Church turns its attention to the beginning of Lent. We begin that forty day journey with our Lord toward Jerusalem where we will once again witness the depth of His suffering. His suffering and death are a demonstration of His love for us and all people. *What wondrous love is this, O my soul! That caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul! (Hymn 543, LSB)* His love leads to our forgiveness, life and salvation!

February is when the rest of the world (at least the U.S.) celebrates not Lent but Valentine's Day. Cards, candy, and gifts will be given as demonstrations of love. What if we in the church used Valentine's Day as a bridge to the world? What if we heeded our Lord's directive to show God's love to those in our community, particularly those who don't know of His love? What would that look like?

How about sitting down with others in your congregation and brainstorming ways to show Christ's love to those in your community, the mission field in which God has placed you? And, while you're at it, begin your Lenten journey and marvel at God's love for you!

Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant

Love is Truthful

"The Truth Train" will be running through Iowa District West and beyond. "The Truth Train" is the theme of the Camp VBS summer ministry curriculum produced by the District. The resource will focus on the truth of Genesis chapters 1-11. Children will experience the truth of creation and the Truth that is Jesus. The Bible-based, child-friendly, Gospel-focused, activity-oriented resource provides a VBS resource at a very reasonable price. Information has been shared with congregation education leadership and is also available at the District Web site.

Love is Shared

What opportunities do you have to share the love of Jesus in the routines of your life? How can you become more comfortable and competent in sharing the news of Jesus' love? The Iowa District West Personal Missions Committee is offering the following witness training events in February:

Council Bluffs, Faith - Saturday, Feb. 6 (8-11:30 a.m.)

Urbandale, Gloria Dei - Saturday, Feb. 13 (8-11:30 a.m.)

Fort Dodge, Prince of Peace - Saturday, Feb. 20 (8-11:30 a.m.)

Spencer, First English - Sunday, Feb. 21 (3-6:30 p.m.)

Pre-registration is helpful to local arrangements. Email Pastor Jason Peterson (revjpeterson@stjohnsburt.org) with your plans to attend. Bring a car-load from your congregation.

Love is Sacrificial

The sacrifice of Jesus frees us to give sacrificially in sharing our time, talents, and treasure. In addition to the first-fruits offerings to our congregation ministries, member gifts to District mission support, student financial assistance, and other ministries as a blessing to the present and future outreach of the church. Contact Jim Schroeder, Gary Thies, Mark Gerken, or Bob Riggert for information on gifts to District ministries. It is suggested that continuing gifts to the needs of the country of Haiti be directed through Lutheran World Relief. Visit www.lwr.org/Haiti for more information.

Love is Demonstrated

A District mission team witnessed to the homeless, connected with inner city churches, and decorated the Rose Parade Lutheran Hour float. Through the IOWAY program another mission team will travel to Los Angeles this summer (June 29-July 12, 2010). Contact IOWAY Director Ellie Menz (ellie.menz@idwlcms.org) to find out more information about this special opportunity. The LCMS Office of Youth Ministry has also arranged a variety of mission experiences for youth this summer.

Love is Lived and Taught

The Iowa District West Missions and Christian Education Committees are sponsoring a "Vocation Celebration" for teachers. Public and non-public Lutheran teachers are invited to Denison High School on Sunday, March 7 from 2-4 pm. Opportunities to share your witness in the public sector will be explored.

Love is Timeless

February 6 ... Outreach Workshop—Faith, Council Bluffs

February 11-12 ... Pre-Retirement Workshop, Denison

February 13 ... Outreach Workshop—Gloria Dei, Urbandale

February 19-21 ... Confirmand Retreat—Camp Okoboji

February 20 ... Outreach Workshop—Prince of Peace, Fort Dodge

February 21 ... Outreach Workshop—First English, Spencer