

IOWA EAST & WEST  
LCEF

# Lutheran Church Extension Fund



## LCEF IOWA NEWS

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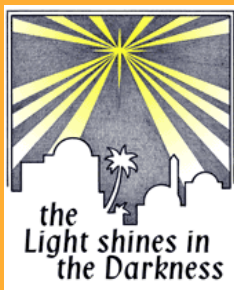
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## LCEF Invested Dollars at Work

Trinity, Manilla recently worked with LCEF to complete a remodeling of the parsonage; the electrical service was brought up to code and the bathroom updated. Good thing too as the parsonage tends to be grand central station with not only the pastor's family including two children in high school and one in elementary school. They also enjoy inviting many members into their home and family. "The LCEF funding of the project made it very affordable and helped us get the project accomplished in a much faster timeline. LCEF is a great partner of ours and we look forward to working with LCEF on future projects as well. In fact, I have recently accepted a call to a church in Mesa, Arizona and I am looking into LCEF funding for a home loan. We'll see how that develops. I can tell you that there is no nicer person, genuinely nice person, than Carole White (LCEF vice president serving Iowa Districts East and West.) She is without a doubt one of the most Christ-filled women I have met," said Pastor Paul Frank. "Our elders were able to communicate with Carole primarily by phone and email, so it went really fast and was easy; Carole was great. Our project leader said that he would recommend Carole and the LCEF to anyone."

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### Wonderful dreamers in Manilla

"We have been blessed with some real dreamers and Pastor Paul Frank leads the way," said member and Trinity Lutheran Church leader Garry Gruhn. "He and others have built scenes for VBS, parade floats, confirmation class projects and more." Trinity in Manilla offers opportunities for Christ-centered activity to all ages. "We have quite a Sunday School and VBS program that has drawn a lot of attention and a number of children and families into the life of Christ at Trinity," said Frank. "We built a mountain which had a rock climbing wall up the face of it. It was awesome. Kids were showing up 45 minutes early for VBS so they could have more time on the wall. Our parade float was Noah's Ark; the kids painted animal faces and a lady



in the congregation made head pieces for the animal ears. It has become a parade favorite. In fact, we still have the ark in dry dock waiting for the next parade season. During VBS 2009, it was fun to sit in the shade of the tree of life in our fellowship hall and share the story of the Lord of life."

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# Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla



*2009 VBS Tree of Life. The children and pastor study creation together*

“Our focus on youth activities and opportunities has drawn in some families previously unattached to any church at all and has helped to re-engage some of our own families as well. The children know they have a place in the life of this ministry. They are welcomed into the worship services, into the Sunday School classes, into many activities of fun and fellowship, into service projects for our Lord as the kids help us tend to the needs of our senior citizens, and they join us for a touring Christ-

mas caroling group around town and at our local nursing home. Psalm 8:2 says, ‘From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.’ We hear the children and infants sing God’s praise here at Trinity every day and the song is a sweet, sweet sound,” said Frank.

And that’s not all! Trinity, a congregation of 327 baptized members, reaches out in other ways. “We also have a group that makes a big pile of quilts every year; members sent a pallet of brand new backpacks to Los Angeles; and two separate groups went to New Orleans/Biloxi,” said Gruhn. “We’ve started a men’s group thanks to the ideas provided by the Lutheran Laymen’s League and our Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) sent members to Alaska for VBS outreach. We support missionary Patrick O’Neal and his family who serve South Korea, and we’ve sent huge care packages to our troops. Our evangelism board has sent care packages to our college

students, and we started a junior LYF and a grade school LYF called the Lions of Judah. We’re also dabbling with the use of several of our musical members who play guitar, trumpet, and trombone.”

Trinity has definitely leveraged the gifts and talents of both its leadership and its members for Christ. LCEF is blessed to partner with this ministry and all LCMS organizations. If your ministry has financial needs, contact Carole White LCEF vice president for more information.



*Two by two!  
Trinity children greeted the Manilla community from their ark in the local parade.*