



## Planting Together

Information of interest in  
Iowa District West

January 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.

### ***Planting in Epiphany***

*"And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" Matthew 2:11.*

### ***An Epiphany Messenger***



During the days before Christmas we looked at John the Baptist as the great Advent character who was sent by God to prepare the way of the Lord. Now in the days after Christmas we take another look at John as the great Epiphany character who revealed, who introduced, Jesus and then stepped back and stepped aside so that people might see their Savior.

How hard it is to be number two. Leonard Bernstein, the famous conductor, was once asked which instrument in the orchestra is the most difficult to play, and he answered, "Second Fiddle." You know very well that's true. John obviously knew something that you and I sometimes forget. He knew who he was and why he was there. He said, "**The reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel.**" So day after day John kept pointing to Jesus shouting, "**Look, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**"

Sometimes **we** forget that we are here for the same reason: that Jesus might be revealed. This is our mission!

President Paul G. Sieveking

### ***Epiphany Treasures***

As the Magi brought their gifts to Jesus, so we bring our gifts to Him as we present our offerings each week. Gifts through your congregation offerings go throughout the District and into the world as you support District and world missionaries. Congregations continue to send 2009 gifts to the District Office through January 25. Thank you to the many congregations that

have prayerfully submitted their commitments for 2010. In addition to congregation support of District missionaries, individuals can also support a missionary. Contact Mission Development Counselor Gary Thies about supporting a missionary to the deaf, Hispanic, or other groups.

### ***Epiphany Message***

The Epiphany reminds us that Jesus came to be the Savior of the world. Jesus came to be the Savior of your family, friends and neighbors. The Iowa District West Personal Missions Committee is hosting four workshops to equip participants to be more comfortable and confident in personal witnessing. Locations of the events are:

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.)

### ***Epiphany Leaders***

Congregations treasurers and others interested in the financial business management (tax forms, Concordia Plans, etc.) of the congregation are invited to a District-sponsored Treasurer's Workshop. Dates and locations are: Saturday, January 9 at Immanuel, Guthrie Center and Saturday, January 16 at First English, Spencer.

Many District committees meet during the month of January setting objectives for 2010 and developing the District budget. Praise God for the many volunteers who offer leadership in the congregations and the District. Pray that they may be wise stewards of the resources God has given us.

### ***Epiphany Learners***

Lutheran schools and preschools of Iowa District West teach of Jesus every school day. These settings are also mission fields teaching children who have not met the Savior and who are not connected to His church. If you'd like more information on one of these ministries in your area, visit the District Web site for locations and programs. District Lutheran schools gather for the annual basketball tournament hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fort Dodge on January 29-30. District preschool directors are invited to leadership dialogs at Zion, Atlantic on January 22 and at the District Office on January 29.

Confirmands have the opportunity to learn about their communicant membership in the church immediately and for a lifetime after confirmation. The Iowa District West Confirmands Retreat will be held at Camp Okoboji on February 19-21. Information has been sent to congregations and is also on the Camp Web site. Congregations are encouraged to financially support the participation of their confirmands.

### ***Epiphany Dates and Days***

January 9 ... Treasurers Workshop, Guthrie Center  
January 11 ... District Education Committee, Denison (Our Savior)  
January 16 ... Treasurers Workshop, Spencer (First English)  
January 26 ... District Human Care Committee, Fort Dodge  
January 26 ... District Stewardship Committee, Fort Dodge