



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

July 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.

"Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." Mark 6:30



Ah, summer! Students (and teachers!) anxiously await the break from the routine of classes. Individuals and families embark on long-awaited vacations. Fishing poles and golf clubs are put to good use. Grandparents look forward to visiting grandchildren (and their parents!). Ah, summer—a time to relax! Relaxing in this way is good, but as Christians we realize that true rest and relaxation come only in Jesus Christ. Only as we rest in the work He has done for us, do we discover true rest.

Enjoy the relaxing days of summer and, above all, resting in Jesus' work of salvation. As you hear the sweet Gospel in your daily devotions and public worship, why not plan on inviting others into that rest? Plan a fishing or golf outing, a barbecue or get-together and invite an unchurched friend or neighbor. May God use you to bring true rest to them!

Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant

REFRESHED TO SERVE

Praise God for the delegates who represented the 176 congregations of Iowa District West at the recent "Joy in Serving" Convention at Camp Okoboji. Those who gathered were refreshed with messages from God's Word, the exciting mission and ministry reports shared by Synod and District leaders, the opportunities to be in mission in the District and into the world, and the beautiful setting of Camp Okoboji. Thanks to the Camp Okoboji staff and District staff who managed the many details. The convention actions will impact our ministry together for the next triennium. Be watching for post convention conversations that will take place around the District in late August and early September.

REFRESHED TO SHARE

Has your congregation heard about "Fan Into Flame"? Would you like to make an impact on missions in the Synod, District, and the local congregation? Mission Executive Rev. Mark Gerken is ready to provide more information on this and other opportunities. Mission Development Counselor Gary Thies has information on District, national and international mission adoptions. Many youth groups are participating in the support of Mission Lo in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Over \$1,100 has been contributed toward a \$5,000 goal by the youth at the recent "Message Sent" mission event at Mission Central.

Twenty-eight "missionaries" will again share the love of Jesus (July 7-20) in the Nehemiah congregations of Los Angeles. Praise God for the IOWAY initiatives!

REFRESHED TO LEARN

Early childhood ministry leaders will gather at Boulders Conference Center in Denison on Friday, August 7 for the annual District conference. This year's theme is "Keys to the Future." Registrations should be made by July 25 with the District Office.

REFRESHED TO CONFESS

"We Believe" is the theme of the 2010 National Youth Gathering (July 17-21, 2010). DCEs Cindy Storm and Amy Schmidt serve as District coordinators providing information and support for congregations exploring this special opportunity. Informational meetings will take place in July at Gloria Dei, Urbandale (7th); St. Paul, Carroll (9th); Grace, LeMars (14th); Zion, Atlantic (14th); and Trinity, Algona (15th). All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

REFRESHED TO WITNESS

80% of Americans believe a God exists. Since only half of this number attend a Christian church, this means that the majority of non-Christians already believe that a God of some sort exists. Additionally, since only a few percent of Americans belong to non-Christian religions, most of these non-Christians who believe in "God" couldn't tell you who they think He is. When you talk to most of your neighbors about Jesus, you probably won't need to convince them that God exists. In fact, the Bible tells us that mere belief in God's existence doesn't save anyone (James 2:19). More than the fact that God exists, our neighbors need to hear that Jesus is God and what He has done at the cross to save them. The Iowa District West Personal Missions Committee (Rev. Jason Peterson, Chairman) provides resources for personal witness.

REFRESHED TO CONNECT

July 3 ... Holiday, District Office Closed
July 7-20 ... IOWAY Mission Trip
July 21 ... District Board of Directors, Fort Dodge
August 7 ... Early Childhood Workshop, Denison
August 22 ... Organist Workshop, St. John, Storm Lake

Visit www.idwlcms.org for information on District resources and events.