



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

June 2009



"I (Paul) planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow... you are God's field." (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

1317 Tower Drive, PO Box 1155 — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515.576.7666 Fax 515.576.2323 www.idwlcms.org
Contact email: sue.light@idwlcms.org

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.

Convention Theme: Joy in Serving



Some key words in the Christian vocabulary are, "**one another.**" On Maundy Thursday Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment, "**Love one another.**" The words are often repeated in the New Testament. "**Out do one another in showing honor; exhort one another; pray for one another; encourage one another; build one another up; serve one another in love!**"

We live in a very selfish world and thoughts of one another don't come naturally to any of us. We ask, "Why should I serve others? Why should I share? Why should I serve?"

We serve one another and we love one another because Jesus first loved us! He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for us. He bore our sins on the cross. He shared the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation with us.

Jesus looks on everything we do for one another, as though we are doing it for Him. On Judgment Day, He will invite those at His right hand to enter into eternal joy, for He says, "**I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.**" They couldn't remember doing those things for Jesus. He answered, "**I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.**"

The 37th Regular Convention of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will be held at Camp Okoboji, June 21-24. The convention theme reminds our congregations and delegates of the joy that is our's, **The Joy of Serving;** serving our Savior and serving one another.

Paul G. Sieveking, President

JOY AS MISSIONARIES

Missionaries gather frequently at Mission Central in rural Mapleton. (Visit the Mission Central Web site: www.missioncentral.us for the summer schedule.) On Sunday afternoon, June 7, over two hundred youth missionaries will gather for the second "Message Sent" event. Registrations for the event featuring Dr. Lo from Banda Aceh, Indonesia can be made with the District Office. Peace, Rock Rapids is an important event partner providing food for the attendees. The rolling hills and barn will be the site of the Christian band "Rough Draft," group games and more. Youth are being challenged to raise \$5,000 for the Indonesian mission field.

"Fan Into Flame" continues to receive special emphasis in your District. Contact Mission Executive Rev. Mark Gerken for more information on how your congregation can participate in this emphasis to share the Gospel with 100 million people and to financially support missionaries in the District and around the world.

JOY IN MINISTRY

How can you and your congregation support future church workers? We begin with prayer and then continue to respond with financial support. The sixth annual "Joy in Ministry" banquet will be held on Sunday evening, June 14 and will feature Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary. The banquet will again be held at Boulders Conference Center in Denison. The banquet is free; however, registrations need to be made with the District Office. Financial gifts supporting our church work students can be designated toward "Joy in Ministry" and sent to the District Office. Financial assistance is especially welcomed this year as traditional funding resources are more limited.

JOY AS STEWARDS

Now is the time to plan a fall stewardship education emphasis. The District Stewardship Committee recommends "Consecrated Stewards" or "Excel in the Grace of Giving." Information on both processes is available from the District Office. A dozen District congregations were also recently introduced to "Stewardship 360—Faith Aflame" by LCMS stewardship executive Rev. Wayne Knolhoff. Praise God for our joy in the Spirit who blesses our stewardship life. Thanks to the many congregations who partner with the District in supporting missions in the District and into the world.

JOY IN SERVING TOGETHER

The District convention concludes one triennium of ministry and begins another. Thanks to District Board of Directors and District committee members who volunteer their time to take care of District business and seek to serve the Savior and advance His kingdom among the 177 congregations and communities of the District and into the world. District staff members, missionaries, and partners (LCEF, Foundation, Mission Central) are available to visit congregations to share the joy of serving together.

JOY IN PLANNING

June 21-24 ... DISTRICT CONVENTION, CAMP OKOBOJI

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