

Mission Opportunities

A newsletter of resources, events, and ideas to help God's people passionately, intentionally, and faithfully extend the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world!

June 2010



Schools out for summer! Although the temptation is strong to relax during the summer, the truth is that summer provides many unique and excellent opportunities to connect with your community, including the children. Beyond the popular VBS, what other opportunities or needs could your congregation respond to in your community? Don't overlook the fact that many of our congregations have men who love to "fix things". How about matching them up on a beautiful summer evening or weekend with a community or individual's building that could use some TLC?

How about adding a link on your church's website to Lutheran Hour Ministries' interactive website for children? With Bible stories, Daily Devotions, and Christian music, kids can build a foundation of faith and strengthen their knowledge of the Bible. Besides its excellent Bible-

based activities, [JCPlayZone](#) features crafts, recipes, games, coloring pages, and free e-cards to keep kids engaged



in wholesome activities. There is also a printable, customizable coloring book that you can use to promote your church or school. One church customized and printed 1,000 of the "BeeAttitudes" coloring books and then used them to invite Vacation Bible School participants to church services. Go to www.icplayzone.com for more information and to order free promotional JCPlayZone bookmarks or cards in quantities up to 200.

Speaking of children, a priority for many young parents today is knowing that their children are safe while in the care of your congregation. Go to <http://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/safetycentral/addResources/guidelines.htm?ref=BCLguidelinesblast0510> to download a free resource from Brotherhood Mutual insurance company to help you improve (or create!) your child protection policy!

What is a GEO missionary?



- A) A missionary who majored in geography for their undergraduate degree
- B) A missionary who specializes in outreach to geologists
- C) A missionary who lives in a geodesic dome
- D) A missionary who is globally engaged in outreach and serves for approximately 1-2 years

If you guessed D, you are correct!

Formerly known as long-term volunteers or long-term missionaries, GEO missionaries serve on a mission field for terms that are longer than short-term missionaries, but shorter than career missionaries. They fill many roles, such as English teacher, development worker, HIV/AIDS education specialist, music teacher, communications specialist, and more! GEO missionaries focus on serving people in the name of Jesus and building relationships through their service that provide opportunities to share the Gospel.

If you know someone who you think might be gifted to serve in one of these roles in a cross-cultural setting, please contact Erin Alter, director of the GEO missionary program for more information. You can reach Erin at erin.alter@lcms.org or 1-800-433-3954, Ext. 1746. You can also browse current GEO service opportunities online at www.lcmsworldmission.org/searchopps.

Interested in sharing your faith, but don't want to travel so far? How about a great day in Omaha, NE listening to inspiring speakers, attending workshops to equip you for witnessing, and networking with people from hundreds of other LC-MS congregation! Go to www.ndlcms.org for information on *Prairie Fire*, a day focused on individual and congregational outreach sponsored by the Nebraska District, Lutheran Hour Ministries, and the International Lutheran Laymen's League. Mark Saturday, July 24, on your calendar and travel to the Qwest Center in Omaha for a day you won't forget!



Need funding for outreach? 12 IDW congregations or circuits received an Ablaze grant, ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, to assist them in intentional outreach in their community. If you have an idea and need assistance, consider applying for an Ablaze grant for this year or next year. An application can be downloaded from www.idwlcms.org under the missions link.

Two IDW congregations are encouraging congregations across the Synod in outreach! Read their stories in the latest *Evangelgram*, Synod's free monthly newsletter offering ideas and tips on outreach. Download it or subscribe at <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=2320>.

Closer partnership with District – Our task is too critical to attempt to accomplish on our own. That's why we have circuits, districts, and a Synod. As always, I stand ready to assist you in any way that I can to equip the people of your congregation to passionately, intentionally, and faithfully impact their community and beyond for the kingdom of God. Why not call me today at 515-570-2331 and let's start praying and planning!

Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions and Human Care
Mark.gerken@idwlcms.org OR 515-570-2331

Sunday School Superintendents and Day School Principals – Each month we will be providing a devotion that you can utilize in your Sunday school opening or weekly chapel service. They will be written by our District missionaries to the Hispanics, Rev. Dan Vogel and Rev. Henry Witte. These devotions are in support of our two-year mission project that we are suggesting for our Sunday schools and day schools, *Amigos en Cristo*.



Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions

The Amigos en Cristo campaign is a two-year program with a goal to raise \$20,000 a year to provide scholarships for Hispanic children to attend Lutheran day schools and preschools in Iowa District West.

DISTRICT CHAPEL DEVOTION FOR "AMIGOS EN CRISTO"

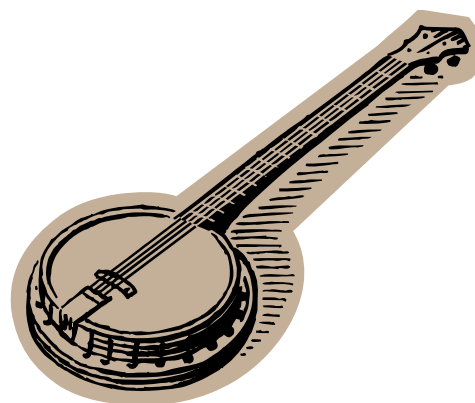
JUNE 2010

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Colossians 3:12-16 (ESV) "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Vs. 14 is underlined by author for devotion emphasis.)

Here is a guitar (ukulele, banjo, or other stringed instrument that plays chords) which has six strings. When I turn these knobs on top I can change the sound of the string, making its tone go up or down. (Demonstrate for the children.) Now if the strings are not on the correct tone or note, the instrument does not sound good when it is played. (Use a badly tuned instrument and play the off tune chord.) This does not sound very good because the strings are not in tune with one another. The instrument cannot tune itself, it needs someone to adjust it. It needs someone to fix it and tune it so that it can make a beautiful sound.

Do you know that the same thing happens with us? Because of sin we are out of tune with God. We don't love Him with all of our hearts. We don't listen to Him or study His Word as we should.



We disobey His commands and forget to give Him thanks for all that He gives to us. We would rather play games than worship and praise Him. All of this causes us to make “sour” music to God.

Also because we sin against God, we sin against one another and instead of making beautiful music we fight, complain, criticize, envy, hate, and hurt one another. We are out of tune with one another and make loud sounds of pain and sorrow. We need help. We alone cannot change ourselves. We need a Savior.

God in His great love for us sent Jesus to help us. Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins and clean us from evil. He brings to us God’s love which tunes us to live together and help one another. He gives us the Holy Spirit to change us so that we can believe in Him and love God and praise God with our lives. He is always present with us and has given us His Word to guide and retune us when we go wrong and make awful sounds.

In our Bible reading today St. Paul tells us, “Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Harmony is a musical term which means that several notes blend together to make a pretty sound. Also we use this word to describe people working together without conflict or fighting. They help one another and work in harmony as a team. When that happens there are good sounds of love, forgiveness, and peace. Jesus can help us to have harmony. His love can change our lives of bad sounds into beautiful sounds of love.

With His love we can live in harmony with people from all over the world. We can love them and help them no matter how they dress or talk or eat or play. We want more and more people to know of Jesus’ love so that they too can have their lives in tune by Him. We are giving our offerings to help Hispanic children to know about Jesus. Through your gifts more children can attend a Christian school where they can learn about God and His Son Jesus Christ.

Here is our instrument. It needs help. Here is someone who can tune it. (Tune the instrument) Now let’s hear a chord. That sounds much better. Dear you hear the sounds of harmony? Jesus does the same for us. He came to change us and tune us so that we can be in harmony with God and with one another. Let’s all sing together making a good sound and beautiful music to God for His great love to us. (Sing a song of praise accompanied by the instrument, if possible.)

ISM MISSION HEARTS SCHOLARSHIP

International Student Ministry (ISM) of Memorial Lutheran Church Ames, Iowa is offering *two \$500 scholarships* to young Lutheran men and women entering Iowa State University in the fall of 2010. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide an opportunity to learn about Christ's work in the Mission Field of Ames.

Each year, about 2,250 international students enroll at Iowa State University. The objective of ISM is to build relationships with these internationals and to share the Word of God with them. Offering English classes, international dinner nights (FISH), and Bible Classes, it is our hope that the connection we make with internationals allows us the opportunity to tell them about the Love of Jesus Christ.

To apply, please send the following items to the address listed below:

1. Application
2. Letter of Recommendation

**Memorial Lutheran Church
c/o ISM Scholarship Committee
2228 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014**

All applications postmarked prior to **Friday, June 4, 2010** will be eligible for both scholarships. Any applications after that postmarked prior to **Friday, August 6, 2010** will be eligible for one scholarship. All candidates will be invited to interview during the Fall Semester. Scholarships will be awarded in early January 2011.

Feel free to make extra copies of this form or get a PDF from our website. Please contact us with any questions you may have:

Phone: (712) 292-9754

E-mail: ismscholarship@gmail.com

Website: www.memoriallutheranchurch.org

Applicant Information

Church Information

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

1 | Briefly tell us about yourself and your personality in the space below:

2 | Please send a Letter of Recommendation from a non-family adult answering this:

Briefly discuss the faith and personality of the applicant. (page or less)

3 |As stated previously, the purpose of this scholarship is to provide the opportunity to learn more about ISM. We ask that you volunteer **at least 5 hours** of time, the Fall Semester of 2010, participating in ISM activities. Do not worry, 5 hours is not that much! This will also be discussed during your interview.

We look forward to meeting you!

*“Therefore go and make disciples of **all nations...**” Matt 28:19*

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