



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

March 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.

Journey with Jesus

Jesus described His own ministry in a story about a journey (Matthew 25:14). His journey to the cross is complete. Now we journey faithfully, learning and serving as His followers. May God bless our Lenten season journey in Iowa District West.

A Little Missionary Takes a Journey



Some time ago parents brought their little 5 year old son to Mission Central to see the museum and have a tour. The little boy was special..."not normal." His mother and dad wanted him to see this place. He had endured 22 chemo treatments and 9 radiation treatments on an inoperable tumor on his brain. His happy smile reflected the fact that Jesus truly lived in his heart, even though the doctors said he should be in a "vegetative state." The dad then told me of this little boy's "dream journey" to see

his favorite baseball team in the World Series last fall in Florida. Setting on the third base side the little boy saw his favorite player, and shouted out, "Jesus loves you." The player heard this little missionary and said, "What did you say?" He said, "Jesus loves you." At that point the player went to the dugout and asked all the team to come out and the player held up the little man and said, "Now you tell all of the Tampa Bay team what you told me!" The little missionary said, "Jesus loves you!" What a reminder of the fact wherever our "journey in life" leads us we always know that Jesus truly does love us! Guess who God chooses to be His special missionaries? Who was planting the seeds?

Gary Thies, Mission Development Counselor

More Mission Journeys

IOWAY Director Ellie Menz is assembling the mission team for the July 7-20 journey to Los Angeles to teach vacation Bible school, improve church fa-

cilities and in other ways serve the Nehemiah ministry directed by Missionary Porter. Youth and supporting adults are welcome! Contact Ellie at ellie.menz@idwlcms.org for information on this and other mission service opportunities.

Family Journeys

- Men—Journey to Christ, Bouton on Saturday, March 28 for the "God in the Workplace" Iowa District West Men's Ministry Breakfast. Registration information is available in the church office or at the District Web site.
- Clergy Wives—Journey to the "Living Life to the Fullest" Clergy Wives Retreat at Camp Okobojo, April 17-18. Registration information has been sent to each clergy (vicar, emeriti) spouse.
- Pastors, DCEs and family life leaders—Journey to the "Planting Seeds of Faith in Families" workshop at Camp Okobojo on April 17.
- Parents (especially of younger children)—Journey to First English Lutheran Church, Spencer on Saturday, April 18 for the "What Matters to Families" equipping and encouraging event.

Faith Journeys at Lutheran Schools

Over 2000 Lutheran schools of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are physically and educationally secure places. In addition they offer an eternal security in the message of Jesus. "Securing Each Child's Future—For Eternity" is the theme of National Lutheran Schools Week (March 1-7). Thank God for the Lutheran elementary schools and preschools in our District congregations and communities. Contact the Lutheran school in your region for information on registering for the 2009-2010 school year.

Journey as Stewards

Because of the faithful financial stewardship of District congregations, Iowa District West concluded the last fiscal year (February 1-January 31) with a positive balance. Trusting in God's grace and His provision the District Board of Directors recently approved the District budget for this year anticipating \$1,850,000 from congregations. In addition grants from several endowment and other sources will supplement the \$2 million budget. Congregations or individuals wanting to support a District missionary in addition to their regular commitments to congregation and District are invited to contact Mission Executive Assistant, Rev. Mark Gerken (mark.gerken@idwlcms.org).

Journey to Camp

- Professional church workers and lay delegates will journey to Camp Okobojo on June 21 (through 24) to be part of the "Joy in Serving" District Convention. Delegate registrations should be submitted to Camp.
- Program information for summer 2009 (youth, children, families) has been sent to congregations. Contact your church office for information or visit www.campokobojo.org for registration details. All ages will be blessed through the faith journeys that take place at our camp setting.

Journey to...

March 2-6...National Lutheran Schools Week
March 6-8...Lay Leadership Institute, Fort Dodge

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