

YES NOTES

March 2009

Iowa District West

Youth, Education, and Stewardship Ministries



Please share generously with volunteers and professional leaders in “YES” ministries. Additional information on YES and other District ministries is available at the District Web site: www.idwlcms.org

YES to Jesus’ Journey

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Matthew 16:21

From the beginning of time God sent His Son on a journey—from the glory of heaven to a fallen world. Jesus’ earthy ministry was a journey from His birth at Bethlehem to his crucifixion in Jerusalem. During the Lenten season we more intentionally focus on His journey. Our worship, stewardship, education and service response says “YES” to His journey.

Family Journeys

- + Dozens of District congregations are taking their families on a journey to the cross. “Travels to the Cross” makes seven stops on Jesus’ journey allowing for reflection in the home and in the sanctuary.
- + Information on two family ministry events is included in “The Monthly.” Pastors, Directors of Christian Education, parish education volunteers and others interested are invited to the “Planting Seeds of Faith in Families” workshop at Camp Okoboji on Friday, April 17. “What Matters to Families” is the theme of a family ministry event sponsored by the Spencer/Northwest Circuits and hosted by First English Lutheran Church, Spencer on Saturday, April 18. Rev. Kevin Kohnke, Family Ministry director at Concordia University, Seward will provide leadership at both events.
- + Men, does Jesus journey with you to work? “God in the Workplace” is the theme of the March 28, 2009 Iowa District West Men’s Ministry Breakfast. Hosting the spring event is Christ Lutheran Church, rural Bouton (corner of highways 169/141). A panel of Christian laypersons will focus on the joys and challenges of living their faith in the workplace. Registration information has been sent to all congregations. Information is also posted on the District Web site. Please share registrations by Tuesday, March 24.

Children Journey

Families might take their children to see some pretty impressive rocks: the Rocky Mountains, Chimney Rock in western Nebraska, or Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. The most important Rock that they can see (and stand on) is the Solid Rock that is Jesus.

The 2009 Camp VBS curriculum is themed “Solid Rock.” Five Biblical rock stories prophecy and proclaim the Solid Rock. Information on the curriculum that might also be used for summer

Sunday school or other education settings has been sent to all congregations. Orders can be placed through the District office. The resource will be available approximately April 1.

Journey Into the Future at Lutheran Schools

+ Lutheran schools across the District (and across the country) join their ministry partners in this important ministry in observing National Lutheran Schools Week. The theme is “Securing Each Child’s Future—For Eternity.” Lutheran schools tend to the temporal future emphasizing excellence in education. More importantly, as they share the love of Jesus, Lutheran schools are part of determining the eternal destination of children. Iowa District West has nine Lutheran elementary schools and fifty early childhood ministries.

District Lutheran schools will be part of a mid-west Funding Academy (June 8-10, Omaha). Preschools will be handed “Keys to the Future” at the August 7 District Early Childhood Conference. More information will be coming on both events.

+ Funding the Lutheran schools journey is always a challenge. Thanks to all who contributed to the 2008 version of the Lutheran School Tuition organization. Dewey Torkelson (712-260-2991 or deweytorkelson@hotmail.com) continues to be available to provide information on a program that benefits the Iowa tax payer and children and families.

Youth Journeys

Is your youth group planning a mission service journey this summer? Contact IOWAY Director Ellie Menz (ellie.menz@idwlcms.org) for information on this summer’s trip to Los Angeles (July 7-20) or other more local or regional mission opportunities. LCMS Youth Ministry (web site www.lcms.org/youth) has hundreds of opportunities posted including a service project at Camp Okoboji.

How about a short journey to Camp Okoboji for a faith journey to last a lifetime? Children can be a “Creation Cub” (July 12-18); junior high age students can be part of a prayer journey; senior youth can look for “living stones.” These and other events are part of the Camp Okoboji summer ministry. Program brochures have been distributed to congregations. Information is available on the Camp Web site (www.campokoboji.org). Iowa District West supports the attendance of children and youth whose families cannot afford the full registration costs. Pastors or church professionals must approve the application (which is available at your church office or at the District Web site.) Local congregations are also encouraged to financially support participation.

Stewardship Journeys

Stewardship is more than the journey of the offering plate from the pew to the altar. It is a life journey. “Stewardship 360” emphasizes the daily contexts of our stewardship and the stewardship culture of the congregation. LCMS Stewardship Director Rev. Wayne Knolhoff will present the resource to congregations at a special event hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge on May 2 (9 a.m. to noon). More information will be coming soon.

Living Faith, Clive (March 8) and Trinity, Boone (March 29) will be celebrating their life as “Consecrated Stewards.” Information on this stewardship education process is available from LCEF vice-president Carole White and Executive Assistant Rev. Bob Riggert. Numerous District congregations have been blessed with this Bible study and worship response resource.

Rev. Bob Riggert, YES Executive Assistant
bob.riggert@idwlcms.org

“God in the Workplace”

Iowa District West
Men’s Ministry Breakfast

Saturday, March 28, 2009
8 a.m. to noon



Christ Lutheran Church, rural Bouton
(East of Perry at the intersection of Hwy 169/141)

Featuring:

Rev. Max Phillips, Pastor, Christ-Bouton

Mr. Charles Sukup, President, Sukup Mfg. Co.-Sheffield

Honorable Scott Raeker, State Representative-Iowa House District 63

Mr. George Davison, Esq., Lawyer and WHO Radio News Team

Mr. Jaymie Bral, Assistant Principal-Storm Lake Comm. School District

*Dr. Stan Ullerich, Dean of the Siebens School of Business; Economics
Professor-Buena Vista University*

Devotional Leader: *Rev. Mark Gerken*

Executive Assistant for Missions-Iowa District West

“And may he work in us what is pleasing to him through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:21)

Cost \$10 ~ payable at the door
Register by Tuesday, March 24
(515.576.7666 or sue.light@idwlcms.org)



Friday, April 17, 2009 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

at Camp Okoboji

with

- Rev. Kevin Kohnke—Director of Family Ministry, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska
- Rev. Mark Baldwin and DCE Amy Schmidt, the family ministry team at St. Paul, Ankeny and District representatives at the LCMS Family Ministry Summit
- YOU—the Pastors, Directors of Christian Education, professional and lay family ministry practitioners and pioneers. Each participating congregation is encouraged to bring one “seed” of family ministry that has been planted in their congregation—an activity, program, event, resource, etc.

Come and fill your family ministry “seed bag” with new insights and practical ideas.

Hosted by Iowa District West, Camp Okoboji, and Concordia University.

Register with the Iowa District West office by April 14 (sue.light@idwlcms.org or 515-576-7666). There is a \$5 registration fee payable on the day of the forum.



“The home is the seed bed for Christian life.” Rev. Kevin Kohnke



- What:** A Stewardship Education Process
- Why:** To look at Gospel-motivated stewardship from all directions: whole-life, whole year, transforming, and practical
- Who:** Facilitated by Rev. Wayne Knolhoff, LCMS Director of Stewardship
For
Pastors and congregational leaders (stewardship committee, elders, president)
- When:** Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 9 a.m. to noon
- Where:** St. Paul Lutheran Church (400 S. 13th Street—on Business 20), Fort Dodge, Iowa

Register with Iowa District West (sue.light@idwlcms.org or 515-576-7666) by April 24.

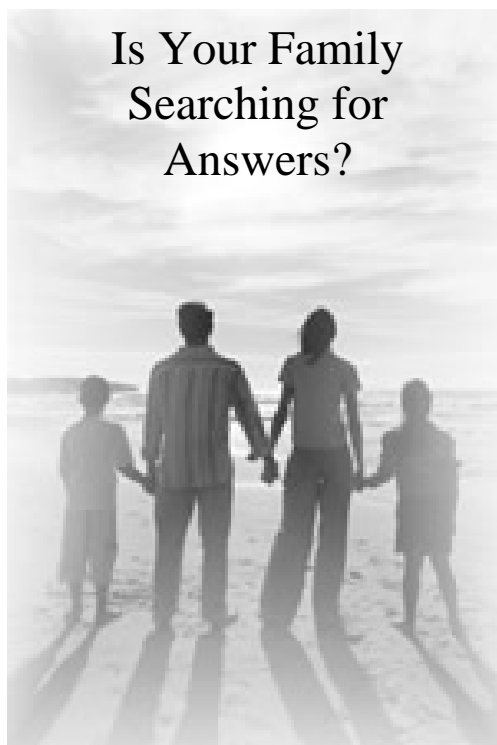
The workshop is limited to 50 participants.

Hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Iowa District West, and District and Congregation Services of LCMS

Attend...

SYMPOSIUM ON “WHAT MATTERS TO FAMILIES”

April 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.



First English Lutheran Church
1311 E. 18th St.
Spencer, Iowa 51301

Circuit Convocation

Keynote Speaker --- Rev. Kevin Kohnke

Professor and Director of Family Life Ministry at Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE), Seward

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Kevin J. Kohnke

Rev. Kohnke served parishes in Missouri and Wisconsin for 16 years before coming to Concordia University, Nebraska in August of 2007 to be the Director of the Family Life Ministry Masters degree program. Rev. Kohnke earned his B.A. from Concordia University, Wisconsin; his M.Div from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana; M.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri; and currently he is working on his dissertation toward a D.Min in Marriage and Family Counseling from Denver Seminary, and working toward a Ph.D., in Human Science with a specialization in gerontology at UNL.

Rev. Kohnke is married to Candy (Holdt) and they have two daughters Grace, 6th grade at Lincoln Lutheran, and Mary, 4th grade at Christ School in Lincoln, NE. In his free time he likes to spend time with his family, travel, complete wood working projects. When traveling, he often speaks on topics related to family life.

Symposium Theme and Rev. Kohnke's Key Presentation:

Families with young children today face many stresses and pressures with less support than generations before them.

For children with married parents, it is not the first marriage for at least one of them. Stepfamilies are now the most common family form. And, unfortunately, nearly half of marriages suffer divorce during the growing-up years of their children.

Nearly one-fourth of young children live with a single parent. Half of all children born today will spend at least part of their life growing up apart from one or both of their biological parents. Most often, but not always, that parent who leaves the child's everyday life is their father.

Nearly half of families with young children are headed by parents who are unmarried. For their children, the odds are nearly 75% that they will see their parents split. 60% of children have either both parents or their only parent who are working. Many children, as young as age 5, spend some time watching and caring for themselves at home.

These summary statistics illustrate the challenges that many young families face and work to find their ways through.

Rev. Kevin J. Kohnke, Director of the Family Life Ministry Master's Degree Program at Concordia University, Nebraska will speak on, "What Young Families Need to Know."