



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

March 2010



*"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: Connect, Resource, Optimize, and Partner with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world.

Planting and Pondering this Lenten Season

*"Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy passion,
With Your Spirit me endow for such meditation
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain and death that I may not perish." LSB #440*

Pondering Retirement and Stewardship

Would you like to increase your retirement income and make a gift to your favorite LCMS ministries?



You can do both with a charitable gift annuity. You can establish your gift annuity with a gift of at least \$5,000. You will enjoy a fixed income for your life or for the life of your spouse and yourself. Some sample single life gift annuity rates are: Age 70—5.1%; Age 80—7.1%; Age 90—9.5%. Sample "two life" gift annuity rates are: 70/70—5.2%; 80/80—6.1%; 90/90—8.3%. At your death or the death of your spouse and yourself, the remaining principal of your gift annuity goes to LCMS ministries that you select. Gift annuities are issued by

the LCMS Foundation. For more information about how a gift annuity could work for you contact Jim Schroeder, Iowa District West Gift Planning Counselor, Box 1155, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. Phone 877-913-2221 toll free or email jim.schroeder@idwlcms.org.

Mr. Jim Schroeder, Gift Planning Counselor

Lutheran Schools are Pondering Places

"Securing Each Child's Future—For a Life of Service" is the theme of the March 7-13 "National Lutheran Schools" observance. Mission and

ministry through Lutheran schools are highly valued in our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Over 270,000 children ponder the wonder of Jesus in the 2,500 schools and preschools of the Synod. Iowa District West celebrates the ministry of eight elementary schools and fifty pre-schools and early childhood ministries. We thank God for these ministry places and those who so faithfully and sacrificially serve in them.

Ponder The Truth

The truth of God's creative power and the truth of our salvation through Jesus will be shared with children who board "The Truth Train." The Iowa District West Camp VBS curriculum for 2010 will share five stories emphasizing the truth of Genesis 1-11 and the truth of God's promises from the beginning of time. Congregations interested in the Bible-based, Christ-focused, child-friendly, family-connecting, budget-sensitive resources for VBS or summer Sunday school should contact the District Office. Theme-related songs, dramas, newsletters, crafts, and mission projects are again included.

Ponder God's Workings in Teaching Vocation

A "Vocation Celebration for Teachers" will be held at Denison High School on Sunday afternoon, March 7 (2-4 p.m.). The important vocation of public and private school teachers will be celebrated. Teachers and administrators will celebrate and share the opportunities they have to be Christ's witnesses in the classroom and other school contexts. The event is co-hosted by the District's Missions and Christian Education Committees.

Pondering while Planting the Seed

The "seed" is the Word of God and never changes. However, the "soil" of our families, congregations, and communities continues to change. Seminars for Christian education leaders—Sunday school teachers, VBS planners, education boards, parents, pastors—will be held on March 27 (Our Savior, Denison); April 8 (St. Paul, Ames); April 13 (Redeemer, Sioux City); and April 15 (St. John, Clarinda). The seminars will share the principles and some practices for planting the Seed in today's soil. More information is available on the District Web site (www.idwlcms.org).

Time to Ponder

April 9-10 ... Clergy Wives Retreat—Camp Okoboji
April 12-13 ... Pastors Conference—Sioux City
April 17 ... Men's Ministry Breakfast—Trinity, Algona

Pondering and Planning

Contact the District Office to schedule a "10:10" ministry planning process; "Consecrated Stewards" stewardship education process; mission event; Christian education celebration; technology in-service, or other resource that might enrich or expand your congregation's ministry.