

NEWS FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER
Iowa District West Congregation's Mission Receipts



<u>For the month ending March 2009</u>	
Anticipated Amount	\$154,167
Actual Receipts	\$131,660
<u>Fiscal Year-to-date receipts</u>	
Anticipated Amount	\$308,333
Actual Receipts	\$257,784
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(50,550)
<u>Use of Mission Receipts</u>	
Remitted to Synod (42%)	\$ 108,269
Balance for District programs/operations	\$ <u>149,515</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 257,784
<u>Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year</u>	
Year-to-date 2009	\$ 257,784
Year-to-date 2008	\$ <u>304,381</u>
Over (under) last year	\$ (46,597)

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

As of March 2009, 1091 investments in Iowa District West totaled \$30,328,913. These investments are providing opportunity for 53 loans totaling \$12,335,388 plus commitments totaling \$1,171,406. LCEF puts invested dollars to work in mission and ministry right here in Iowa District West.

If you are interested in investing in the ministry of LCEF or if you have questions on the loans and services provided to our congregations, please contact Carole White.
Come, Join the Ministry!

Pastors and Church Secretaries: How about including a brief note about LCEF in your church newsletter or bulletin? Please use the following short paragraph—thank you!

Helping Seeds Grow with LCEF Loans LCMS ministry flourishes when seeds of faith are planted and nourished; the Lord provides in so many ways. When it comes to LCMS loan funds, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has supported our churches and schools for over 100 years; it's a blessing to serve. Learn how LCEF can serve your church/school at lcef.org or call 1-800 THE LCEF (1-800-843-5233).



**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
IN THINGS
ETERNAL**

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Money Moment

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission, ministry, and administration areas? The District budget includes 64% for missions and only 17.5% for administration and support services (less than 18 cents of every dollar goes towards administration expenses). Just like in the church, District has many of the same administrative expenses. Some of these areas include office staff salaries, benefits, and travel; annual audit; office equipment/supplies; The Harvest magazine; utilities, maintenance, and insurance. Your congregation can receive additional insurance coverage and savings with Lutheran Trust (www.lutherantrust.com/).



The District Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference

Mark your calendar for the District Secretarial/Administrative Professionals Conference on Tuesday, **September 22** (the 4th Tuesday) at First English, Spencer. We are thrilled that Jenny Herrick has agreed to spend the day celebrating your position/ministry as church secretary. Jenny is a nationally known Christian motivational humorist/clown/author. To learn more about Jenny, go to www.allkiddingside.biz.

For only \$35 (\$30 if registered by September 1) you will receive conference materials, speaker's book, breakfast, lunch, and much more. Thanks to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their support. Plan now to enjoy a full day in Spencer. Registration information/brochure will be shared soon.

Tax Calendar - May 15

The annual racial non-discrimination form 5578 must be filed by preschools and day schools, whether operated as a separate legal entity or by the church. Schools that operate on a calendar year must file by May 15. A school that has a different fiscal year must submit by the 15th day of the fifth month following the end of their fiscal year. (A copy is provided in "blank forms" section in the back of the Congregational Treasurer's Manual or search IRS website at www.irs.gov.)

Convention Assessment

Treasurers, please remember to pay your Convention Assessment by May 15. The balance must be paid in full in order to allow the lay delegate and pastoral delegate from your congregation to vote at the District Convention June 21-24. The convention assessment covers District staff, emeritus/retired guests, and all costs associated with putting together the convention at Camp.

Employment Eligibility Verification

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has revised Form I-9, *Employment Eligibility Verification* (Rev. 02/02/09). Just like the previous I-9 (Rev. 06/05/07), the updated form is used to verify and record the employment eligibility and identity documents presented to you by your employee. Employers should use the revised form for all new hires. The biggest difference in the revised Form I-9 is that all documents presented to you during the verification process must be unexpired. You can download the revised Form I-9 from www.uscis.gov/i-9.

Paying Tuition Benefits

A question recently arose, when the church reimburses the pastor or employee, are those payments taxable? The IRS states that up to \$5,250 of educational assistance benefits paid by the church each year under an educational assistance program are not taxable. More information about this topic is found in the March/April issue of *Your Church* magazine - <http://www.christianitytoday.com/yc/2009/marapr/4.8.html>.

Software for Sale

If your church is looking for discounted software, we may be able to help. While supplies last, we have Microsoft Office (Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Word) software available. The charity license agreement rate is only \$110 and \$75 for additional licenses.