



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

May 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.



LCEF: Planting the Seeds for Ministry

Lutheran Church Extension Fund investors are ministry partners planting seeds: helping provide the funds needed for loans to churches, schools and professional church workers in our district and across our Synod. By investing in LCEF, you have opportunities for investing with a reasonable return and you reap the

'ministry dividend.' Help us "plant the seeds for ministry" by investing in LCEF. For information on LCEF's variety of investments, contact your Iowa VP, Carole White. Also to inquire about loans and services available for your congregation or school, call her at 877.439.5233 or email carole.white@lcef.org. (www.IALCEF.org)



Carole White, LCEF Vice President

Planting with Prayer

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Ephesians 6:18

Praying for Your District

Congregational lay delegates and pastoral delegates will gather at Camp Okoboji on June 21-24 for the "Joy in Serving" District Convention. Convention guests will include LCMS President Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, Convention essayist and Commission on Theology and Church Relations Director Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, Task Force on Church Structure representative Dr. Bob Greene, and several national and international missionaries. Any member is welcome to attend as a guest. Pray that through the Convention there be renewed "Joy in Serving" in the congregation, District, and into the world.

Praying for Youth

Confirmations and graduations provide congregations the opportunity to celebrate and affirm youth members. Pray for youth making significant transitions in their life. One of the ways to continue to nurture the faith of youth is to support their attendance at a Camp Okoboji event: Junior High Week, Youth Week, Calm Down Retreat, or Life Aquatic Camp. Contact the camp for registration information.

Youth are missionaries! The second "Message Sent" event will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 7 at Mission Central just outside Mapleton. Information has been sent to each congregation and is also available on the District Web site. Youth will learn about missions in Indonesia from Dr. Lo and will enjoy the music of the Christian band "Rough Draft." Registrations are limited to 250. Youth groups should register with the District Office.

Praying for College Students

The "Joy in Ministry" program provides prayer and financial support for students preparing for ministry careers at synodical universities and seminaries. Financial aid applications must be submitted to Rev. David Loesch (Our Savior, Denison) by June 15. The annual "Joy in Ministry" Banquet will be held on Sunday evening, June 14 at Boulders Conference Center in Denison. Concordia Seminary President Dr. Dale Meyer will be the keynote.

Praying for Children

Whether you're using the Iowa District West "Solid Rock" or the Concordia Publishing House "Gadget's Garage" curriculum, make sure you invite the children of your community. Many may not know about The Rock that is Jesus and the wonderful family of His church. Samples of "Solid Rock" are available at the District Office.

Praying while Planting

On Rogate Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter) many rural and small town congregations shared a rite of dedicating seed and soil. The District Web site has a rite that might be adapted (under "stewardship" resources). The planting season provides opportunities for stewardship education. Thank you for providing financial resources to Iowa District West so that the seed of the Word might be planted in the mission fields of the District and into the world.

District Seed Planting Dates

May 1...District Principals Meeting, Fort Dodge
May 4-5...Leading into the Future Retreat, St. Paul, Ankeny
May 8-10...Lay Leadership Institute, Fort Dodge
May 12...District Stewardship Committee, Fort Dodge
May 18...Pastors Golf Day, Ida Grove
May 25...Memorial Day, District Office Closed

June 21-24 ... DISTRICT CONVENTION, CAMP OKOBOJI

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