

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



<u>For the month ending March 2010</u>	
Anticipated Amount	\$150,000
Actual Receipts	\$124,887
<u>Fiscal Year-to-date receipts</u>	
Anticipated Amount	\$300,000
Actual Receipts	\$280,412
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$ 19,588
<u>Use of Mission Receipts</u>	
Remitted to Synod (43%)	\$ 120,576
Balance for District programs/operations	\$ 159,836
Total Receipts	\$ 280,412
<u>Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year</u>	
Year-to-date 2010	<u>\$280,412</u>
Year-to-date 2009	<u>\$257,783</u>
Over (under) last year	\$ 22,629

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 2010, 1005 investments in Iowa District West totaled \$28,582,167. Those investments are providing opportunity for 57 loans totaling \$11,595,202 plus commitments totaling nearly \$326,350. 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!



LCEF: More than a Lender

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) does more than provide low-cost loans for building or remodeling churches and schools. LCEF offers many services to enable space and place for ministry. How? It is only through the investments of our members that dollars are available to build sanctuaries for worship, family life centers and classrooms. Call LCEF today at 1-800-843-5233 or visit www.lcef.org.



**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 and ministry areas? Did you know that 43% (an increase of 1% from last fiscal year) of your unrestricted congregational mission dollars support the work of Synod? In the 2010 budget, \$774,000 is forwarded to Synod. Your dollars make a difference in carrying out the mission and ministry in Iowa and across the world. IDW is ranked 7th in total dollars pledged to Synod. Thank you for your partnership!



Secretaries/Administrative Assistants

The Iowa District West Secretarial/Administrative Professionals Conference will be held in Ankeny this fall. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, **September 21**, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. All ministry assistant professionals are invited.

The 2010 theme will be “God’s Gift through Communication.” Scott Vaughan of Vaughan Communications will be our morning speaker. Scott serves the strategic communication needs of churches and faith organizations throughout North America. To learn more about Scott’s ministry and free resources, go to www.svministry.com. In the afternoon, you will be uplifted with Gavin Jerome, The Morale Mechanic. Dalend Mackey will use his gift of music and humor to be the Master of Ceremonies for the day.

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their support. Vendors and exhibitors will be present to share their resources and products. If you have a company to recommend that would benefit other churches, please let us know. Plan now to enjoy a full day in Ankeny. More details and brochure to come!

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 June 1. The balance must be paid in full in order to have the lay and pastoral circuit rep attend and vote at Synod’s Convention July 10-17 in Houston. District has already paid \$65,448 to Synod to cover convention facility rent, electronic voting machines, multimedia expenses, postage, printing, floor committees, etc. The convention assessment also covers travel and food for 8 days for 39 District delegates. To learn more about the Synodical Convention, go to www.lcms.org/convention.

Concordia Plan Services – Health and Wellness

Did you know that May 16-22, 2010 has been set aside as the nationwide observance of LCMS Ministerial Wellness Week? May 19 has been declared LCMS Health and Fitness Day. Consider what your church or school can do to promote wellness. More information about this special week was included in the April 2010 Reporter (highlights online at <http://www.lcms.org/pages/rpage.asp?NavID=16681>). With all the interest and cost concerns in the health care debate, it is even more important to be healthy! Be sure and read the Concordia Plan Services (CPS) quarterly Better Health newsletter too.



The best way to maintain good health is to be proactive and practice prevention. If you are on the Concordia Health Plan (CHP), the plan covers 100% of preventive care. CPS has developed a letter for persons enrolled in CHP to present to their health care provider explaining the preventive care coverage. To view the letter online go to: http://www.concordiaplans.org/graphics/assets/documents/provider-preventive_care_notice.pdf

Because of the recent healthcare legislation, Concordia Health Plan will be forced to increase rates in 2011. As noted from CPS website, “there will be a cost impact on all health insurers and plans, including the Concordia Health Plan.”