

Mission Opportunities

A newsletter of resources, events, and ideas to help God's people passionately, intentionally, and faithfully extend the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world!

May 2010



“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!” That joyous cry of victory continues to ring out in our worship services! May the Lord guide all our professional church workers and laity as they proclaim the Good news of the resurrection and its meaning for us today and for eternity. May your ministries and members radiate that joy throughout the year as you live and serve in the local mission field! Continue reading to find helps and resources for you and your people to be His witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Hear the Good News daily! LCMS

World Mission is pleased to share a new resource offered by St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cabot, Pa. The 50 Days *Ablaze!* devotional has been recorded in an audio format for easy listening and personal devotional use. Each daily audio segment includes a Bible passage, devotion, and prayer.

The devotional's 50 day journey focuses on the seven ways in which God invites us to respond to his love: learn, pray, give, tell, send, go, and celebrate. Go to www.stlukecabot.org – click on the Ablaze! logo and then on the highlighted link to the audio devotions to download them **FREE!**



VOCATION CELEBRATION for Healthcare Providers

Sunday, May 23, 2010 (2-4 p.m.)

**Garden Room, Mercy West
Hospital**

**1601 60th Street
West Des Moines, Iowa**

Equip them to witness, beginning in

Jerusalem – See the poster in this month's mailing and share the opportunity for your members in the medical profession to gather on Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost!). This event is designed to encourage and equip them to be Jesus' witnesses beginning right where He has them—serving in their vocation of the medical field! Be watching for further opportunities to equip and encourage your people—including the top three vocations identified in IDW from the balloting that occurred at the pastors' conference. Be watching for the results!

Beginning in Jerusalem (Part 2) – Our partners with the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) have released a new resource. Faith Talk is an interactive faith-sharing guide and outreach training program. Faith Talk leads participants through a process of recognizing personal opportunities for faith-sharing, effective listening, and celebrating the encounters which God provides. The goal of Faith Talk is that each woman will be compelled to share the Gospel, pray for and recognize opportunities to do so, and then confidently live and speak her faith. Copy and paste this address into your browser to learn more about Faith Talk:



<http://blog.lcmsworldmission.org/2010/04/16/faith-talk-resource-from-lwml/>. Contact me if you’d like to review the resource before ordering.

Continuing in Jerusalem - Vacation Bible School is often seen as an opportunity to reach the children (and adults!) in your community. Excellent resources are available both from the District (“The Truth Train”—see information elsewhere in the monthly) and CPH (“Planet Zoom”).



As you plan, be sure to include in your planning and thinking, “How can we run our VBS so that we are passionately, intentionally, and faithfully reaching those in our community?” Does an afternoon or evening VBS reach more unchurched? Daily or once a week throughout the summer? Does the material clearly present Christ crucified and risen at its heart? In addition to Synod or District missions, is there an opportunity to raise funds or hold a service project for something in our community? Pray, plan, and prepare with the mission field of your community in mind!

In Judea and Samaria – How about a little cross-cultural experience in Iowa? Memorial, Ames is in need of willing volunteers to help with their International Student Ministry this summer while many of their regular helpers are gone for the summer. Contact Bessie Fick (515-292-5005) for more information for shifts lasting from one day to two months! Requirements: faith in Jesus Christ and a love for His people!

And to the ends of the earth! – GEO (Globally Engaged in Outreach) MISSIONARIES NEEDED! - Two congregations north of Seoul, Korea are seeking to recruit two long-term volunteer missionaries from the LCMS to serve as relationship builders through English as a Foreign Language (EFL) for one year. The LCK will provide the housing and utility costs. We would like to fill this position in July. Click on http://www.lcms.org/uploads/mission/service-ops/South_Korea-GEO-RBEFL.pdf for more info. Interested in a shorter term, perhaps two weeks – go to www.lcms.org and click on the “Serve Now” link for a list of possibilities to all the ends of the earth!

Give your college students some money! – Please see the enclosed scholarship application for Lutheran males attending Iowa State. Should your member win, not only will they thank you for the financial assistance but also for the connection to serving in our International Student Ministry!

Keep on sharing the Great News – Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions
mark.gerken@idwlcms.org OR 515-570-2331

Sunday School Superintendents and Day School Principals – Each month we will be providing a devotion that you can utilize in your Sunday school opening or weekly chapel service. They will be written by our District missionaries to the Hispanics, Rev. Dan Vogel and Rev. Henry Witte. These devotions are in support of our two-year mission project that we are suggesting for our Sunday schools and day schools, *Amigos en Cristo*.



Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions

The Amigos en Cristo campaign is a two-year program with a goal to raise \$20,000 a year to provide scholarships for Hispanic children to attend Lutheran day schools and preschools in Iowa District West.

DISTRICT CHAPEL DEVOTION FOR **“AMIGOS EN CRISTO”**

MAY 2010

THEME: PENTECOST, ACTS 2:1-13

HELPS: SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES: Say “God Bless You” in a number of different languages.

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST;

What is the most important celebration in the month of May? With school ending, there are lots of graduations. I have two sons graduating this year, Philip from college and Matthew graduating from high school. We’re going to have big parties with them. There is also Mother’s Day. Among Hispanic families Mother’s Day is really big. For many Hispanic families the mother is the central figure of the family, keeping everything going for everyone. She is really important.

In the church there are Confirmations: Jocelyn and Kimberly will be confirmed in our Hispanic churches in Storm Lake and Denison. There are also three major Christian festivals celebrated among Christians in the month of May. There’s Ascension Day when Jesus went up to heaven. There’s Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the birthday of the Christian church. And there is also Holy Trinity Sunday when we celebrate who the True God is: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All of these celebrations teach us about God’s work among us through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I want to celebrate with you this morning the festival of Pentecost. Pentecost was an ancient harvest festival among Jewish people. But on one important festival date 2000 years ago something truly miraculous happened.

The Bible Says in Acts 2:1-13 that the disciples received a wonderful gift that they shared with all the people from the area. (Read the story text.) The gift was that the disciples could speak in many different languages (languages that they had never learned) but God gave them the ability to speak it perfectly.

Languages separate people. Let's see if you can understand me if I say something to you in a different way. (Say "God Bless You," or a few words in a few different languages.) Did you understand me? Probably not. Learning another language is also very difficult. Let me give you an example of how hard it is to learn English. Listen to how many ways you can use the same word: "The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert." Or this one: "Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was the ideal time to present the present."

God gave each one of the disciples the ability to speak another language perfectly to people they had never met. The most amazing thing was what they said. They told the world about Jesus, that Jesus came into this world as God to save us from our sins. But the cross could not kill Jesus forever. He was raised back to life to be our living Lord and Savior.

People listened! They were sorry for their sins, and they believed in Jesus as their Savior and they were changed. The world was changed forever as the Christian church came to be a part of almost every community in our country and the world. All of us are also missionaries telling our friends and neighbors about Jesus who died to pay for our sins. God has blessed many of you children with a Lutheran Christian School and a Sunday School to learn about Jesus. Francisco, one of our children at our Hispanic church in Denison, loves to hear about Jesus in both English and Spanish. He loves to tell the story to others.

God bless you in this special month of May as you celebrate and as you live for Jesus. May God help you to tell the story, in your language, in your way, as God the Holy Spirit guides you.

Amen.

ISM MISSION HEARTS SCHOLARSHIP

International Student Ministry (ISM) of Memorial Lutheran Church Ames, Iowa is offering *two \$500 scholarships* to young Lutheran men and women entering Iowa State University in the fall of 2010. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide an opportunity to learn about Christ's work in the Mission Field of Ames.

Each year, about 2,250 international students enroll at Iowa State University. The objective of ISM is to build relationships with these internationals and to share the Word of God with them. Offering English classes, international dinner nights (FISH), and Bible Classes, it is our hope that the connection we make with internationals allows us the opportunity to tell them about the Love of Jesus Christ.

To apply, please send the following items to the address listed below:

1. Application
2. Letter of Recommendation

**Memorial Lutheran Church
c/o ISM Scholarship Committee
2228 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50014**

All applications postmarked prior to **Friday, June 4, 2010** will be eligible for both scholarships. Any applications after that postmarked prior to **Friday, August 6, 2010** will be eligible for one scholarship. All candidates will be invited to interview during the Fall Semester. Scholarships will be awarded in early January 2011.

Feel free to make extra copies of this form or get a PDF from our website. Please contact us with any questions you may have:

Phone: (712) 292-9754

E-mail: ismscholarship@gmail.com

Website: www.memoriallutheranchurch.org

Applicant Information

Church Information

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

1 | Briefly tell us about yourself and your personality in the space below:

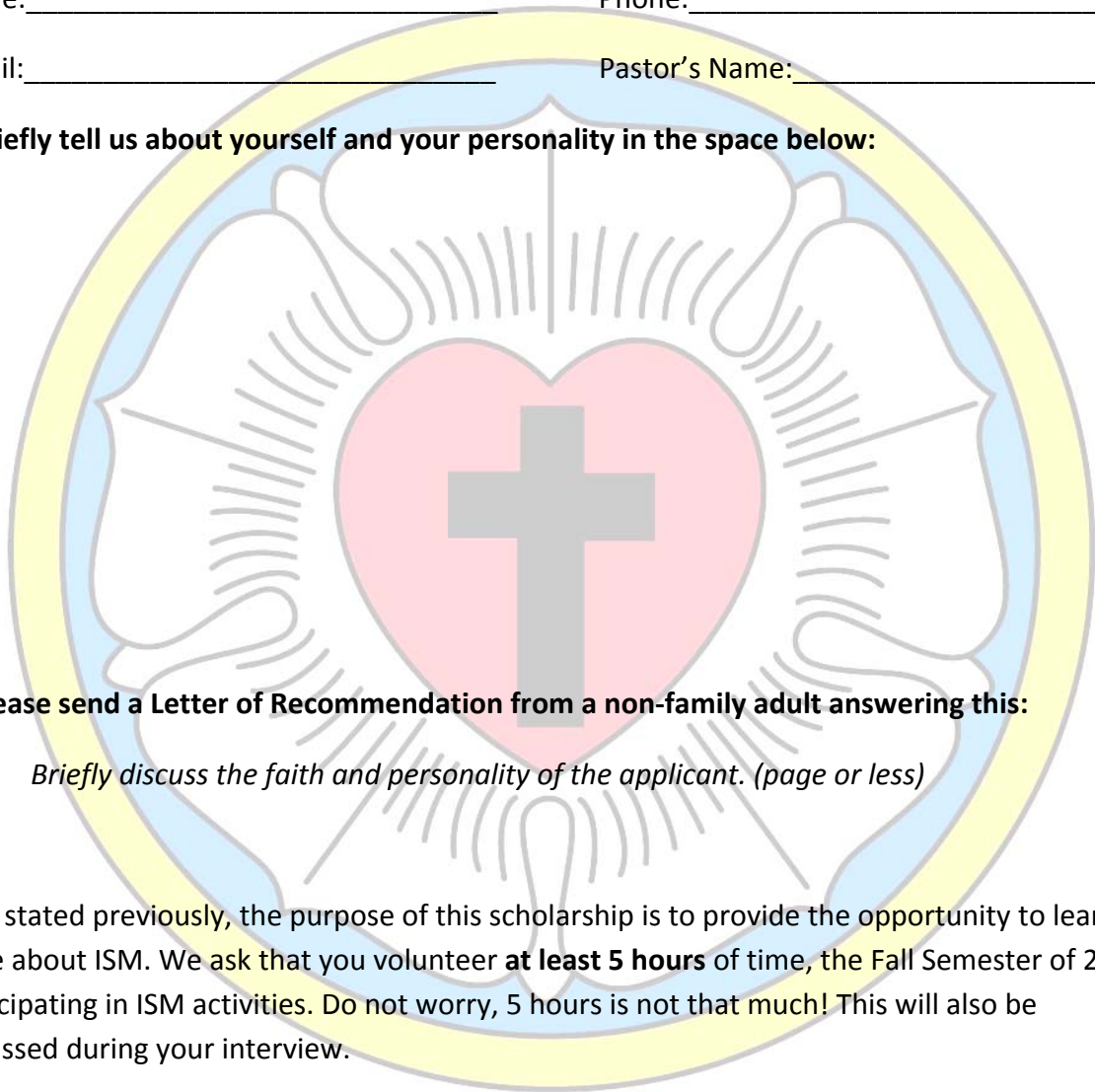
2 | Please send a Letter of Recommendation from a non-family adult answering this:

Briefly discuss the faith and personality of the applicant. (page or less)

3 |As stated previously, the purpose of this scholarship is to provide the opportunity to learn more about ISM. We ask that you volunteer **at least 5 hours** of time, the Fall Semester of 2010, participating in ISM activities. Do not worry, 5 hours is not that much! This will also be discussed during your interview.

We look forward to meeting you!

*“Therefore go and make disciples of **all nations...**” Matt 28:19*



VOCATION CELEBRATION
for
Healthcare Providers



Sunday, May 23, 2010 (2-4 p.m.)

Garden Room, Mercy West Hospital
1601 60th Street, West Des Moines, Iowa

For:

Doctors, nurses, care center employees, first responders, and all others serving in the healthcare field

Focus:

Living and serving as a child of God in the mission field of the medical profession

The celebration will include table talks, practical applications, encouragement, and helps to assist you in seeing and seizing the opportunities to be a witness for your Lord and Savior. Be part of a grass-roots movement to mobilize and equip God's people for sharing the abundant life!

Hosted by:

Rev. Max Phillips, Bouton – Chairman, District Missions Committee

Rev. Jason Peterson, Burt – Chairman, District Personal Missions Committee

For more information contact: Rev. Mark Gerken—Executive Assistant for Missions & Human Care
Iowa District West, 515-570-2331 or mark.gerken@idwlcms.org