



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West

May 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 with Mission Spirit



Planting seed and germination are two different things. As I travel, I begin to see the planters out in the field, and farmers working long hours to get the "seed" into the ground. However, we don't really know if the seed is going to bear fruit, germinate and grow until the seed sprouts and comes out of the ground! Some seed takes longer to sprout than others! If the seed is in dry ground, it could lay there a long time, until the rain comes! This past week I listened as a pastor at an LWML Zone Rally explained that as a 13 year old boy, he observed the seed sprouting and growing and he immediately understood the message of Christ's love, goodness and grace. He came from a broken family with no Christian faith. It was like the sun came out in his life! I thought about my seed in my personal life, which lay quietly for so, so, so, so many years. Oh, I attended church nearly every Sunday, went to all the "meetings," went through all of the offices in the church, but the seed was still in "dry ground." I don't think I really, really "got it" and fully understood what we are doing here! Then very much later in my life the seed finally sprouted and began to grow! The words of Eph. 2:10 made such a difference in my life...."For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do!" Yes, God has a plan for each one of the seeds that have been planted, and HE has a plan for your life too! Isn't it exciting that regardless of whether you are 13 years old or 68 years old, God has a plan for each of us, and HE had it prepared before the world was created!

Gary Thies, Mission Development Counselor

Planting with the Spirit's Gift of Joy

"Joy in Ministry" is the Iowa District West initiative to celebrate ministry careers and to financially support students preparing for full-time ministry in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Congregations are encouraged to observe "Joy in Ministry" Sunday on June 13 and to provide a financial gift to the "Joy in Ministry" fund. Information is available in your church office or on the District Web site.

Planting with the Spirit's Gift of Truth

"The Truth Train" is stopping at a church near you. The 2010 Camp VBS curriculum emphasizes the truth of creation and the Truth of Jesus. The resource can also be used for summer Sunday school or other Christian education settings. The Christ-centered, child-friendly resource is also a blessing to limited church budgets.

Planting with the Spirit's Gift of Wisdom

The District Board of Directors and District staff seek to be wise stewards of the resources which come from congregations and which are given through bequests or other gifts. Responding to a generous offer from Iowa Central Community College the present District office building has been sold and another building (very near the present office) has been bought. You will be hearing much more about the move in the months ahead. God again provided us with some special blessings in His good time.

Planting in All Vocations

A Vocation Celebration for Healthcare Workers will be held on Sunday, May 23 (2-4 pm) at Mercy West Hospital (Garden Room) in West Des Moines. This is the second vocation celebration hosted by the District. (Teachers gathered in early March.) What unique opportunities do you have to witness through your vocation?

Planting with the Spirit's Gifts of Time

May 11 ... District Board of Directors—Fort Dodge
May 23 ... Vocation Celebration for Healthcare Providers, Des Moines
June 13 ... Joy in Ministry Sunday
June 13 ... Joy in Ministry Banquet, Boulders Conference Center, Denison
June 17-19 ... District LWML Convention, Camp Okoboji
June 29-July 12 ... IOWAY trip to California
July 10-17 ... LCMS Convention, Houston
July 17-21 ... "We Believe" National Youth Gathering, New Orleans

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (John 16:13). We observe Pentecost celebrating that the Spirit came on that special day. The Spirit continues to come through the means of grace. The gifts of the Spirit are in His church.