



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West
November 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.

Planting with Praise

The typical reflective and reverent worship setting was disrupted when a guest worshipper repeatedly responded to the pastor's sermon statements with a loud "Praise the Lord!" After several outbursts one of the members walked up to the guest and whispered, "At this church we don't praise the Lord."



In Iowa District West we praise the Lord! Typically it's not part of our heritage or style to praise Him with spontaneous outbursts during the sermon. We praise Him with our worship hymns and post communion "Thank the Lord and sing His praise." We praise Him as we send monetary gifts toward the District budget, specific gifts to a missionary, and collected toys to Los Angeles. We praise Him in Sunday school classrooms, youth rooms, and small group Bible studies in the local congregation. We praise Him as hundreds of teenagers at District gatherings, hundreds of men at a ministry breakfast, or hundreds of women at a rally. This month's District events and ministry opportunities are ways to again "Praise the Lord" together.

Bob Riggert, Executive Assistant

MEN Praise the Lord!

The fall Men's Ministry Breakfast will include songs of praise and will challenge men to be instruments of praise into the "world" of home, work, community, and church. Rich Cohrs, Lutheran Hour Ministries Men's NetWork, will be a keynote presenter. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City will host the November 14 event. Men of all ages are welcome. A \$10 donation is shared the day of the event. Register through the District Office (515-576-7666 or sue.light@idwlcms.org).

Men from the eastern and southern sides of the District may want to consider the charter bus leaving from Fort Dodge. Information is posted on the District Web site.

YOUTH praise the Lord!

The impact of Christ on youth and their impact on the world because of Him will be the focus of the November 26-28 Iowa Youth Gathering at the Embassy Suites. Besides the regular programming, youth counselors leading a group to this summer's "We Believe" national gathering are invited to informational sectionals on Saturday afternoon. Counselors need not register for the youth gathering to attend the special national gathering orientation sessions. Thanks to the many congregations that supported the Reformation weekend junior gathering. Praise the Lord we are forgiven and forgiving!

STEWARDS praise the Lord!

Congregation gifts toward the 2009 District budget are received through January 2010. Don't wait until the last weeks to complete your commitment. As the bountiful harvest is gathered in, support District missions and missionaries with your congregation's commitments. Over 60% of the gifts go toward mission support. Other District ministries and a variety of resources for your congregations are supported through your gifts to Iowa District West. Praise the Lord for your partnership!

LEADERS praise the Lord!

The Iowa District West Board of Directors and Committee leaders gathered at Camp Okoboji in early October to refocus on the District's mission and ministry focus for the 2009-2012 triennium. Your leaders are passionate about supporting congregations and exploring the mission fields. Congregations will be hearing more about our service to you, our ministry with you, and our mission partnerships with you. Praise the Lord!

PRAISE the Lord every day

November 5-7 ... Rural Ministry Conference, Nebraska City, NE
November 8 ... IOWAY Banquet, Carroll
November 26-27 ... Thanksgiving Holiday, District Office Closed
November 27-20 ... District Youth Gathering, Des Moines
December 24-25 ... Christmas Holiday, District Office Closed
December 28-January 4 ... IOWAY Mission Trip

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

*"Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer
For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood." LSB #789*