

# Mission Opportunities

September 2009

September – students (and teachers!) are back in school, confirmation instruction has begun, and the “pace” of ministry is back in full swing! With all the activity and demands upon the time of those in ministry, don’t be overwhelmed. Make a date with the Lord each day, spending time in His Word, relishing His promises and grace, that He might continue to give you *Joy in Serving!* Here are some ideas to help you lead your congregation out into the mission field of your local community!



**Sharing the Faith** – If you haven’t already utilized it, don’t overlook this helpful FREE dvd from Synod. Released in 2007, it contains clips of individuals from across the Synod telling of their personal experiences of sharing the faith. One congregation in IDW showed a clip on non-communion Sundays while the offerings were being collected in worship. As their members were encouraged to seize opportunities to share their faith, their stories were then recorded and shared with the congregation! Free copies of the DVD are available either from the District Office or by clicking [here](#).



**Thinking of planting?** Church consultants tell us that the best way of reaching the unchurched is by planting new churches. The Minnesota South District is sponsoring a two-day seminar led by the Center for U.S. Missions of The LCMS on “Daughter Church Planting.” The seminar will be held September 18-19 in Chaska, MN. If your congregation is open to exploring the possibility of a daughter congregation or multi-site ministry, this event will prove helpful. For more information, contact Rev. Peter Meier, Assistant to the President for Missions, MNS District, 952-223-2151, [peter.meier@mnsdistrict.org](mailto:peter.meier@mnsdistrict.org).



**Need funding?** - October 31 is the deadline for submitting an application for an LWML grant to be considered at next summer’s LWML District convention. Partner with the wonderful mission-minded women of the LWML for an outreach idea your congregation is considering. Grants must be submitted by an individual IDW LWML member, society or zone, so contact your local LWML group for more information. In addition, there are still funds available for your congregation to receive an *Ablaze!* grant from the District for 2009. These grants are available to help your congregation in some type of activity or event meant to help reach your community. Click [here](#) to download an application.



**Need ideas?** Sometimes we get so caught up in talking about and planning for outreach that we forget to do it! If your creativity is stuck in neutral, how about a FREE top ten list of ideas for everyday outreach, outreach in the workplace, or summer outreach (you can still squeeze some of these ideas into this year – extend the fun of summer!)? Christianity Today has created

colorful, one-page handouts that are perfect for sharing with your members. Click [here](#) to access the lists and encourage your members to just do it!

**Want to go even beyond your own community?** Short-term mission trips often prove to be life-changing experiences—both for the participants and for those they serve. Don't believe me? Invite participants from this summer's IOWAY trip to Los Angeles, Faith, Adel's trip to Indonesia, or Trinity, Algona's trip to North Korea to come to your congregation and share their stories! Then be prepared for your member's to ask, *When and where can we go, Pastor?* Ellie Menz, IOWAY Director ([ellie.menz@idwlcms.org](mailto:ellie.menz@idwlcms.org)) will be happy to help you answer their questions!



**Intentional acts of Christian service** – This summer's District convention urged congregations, schools, and other ministries to *incorporate numerous intentional acts of Christian service into their annual ministry plans with the goal of serving especially the citizens and institutions of their local community (Resolution 4-05)*. One possible resource is Faith in Action, a four-week, church-wide campaign that creates an outward focus and a heart to serve. FIA culminates in a Sunday where regular services are cancelled, and the entire congregation engages in service projects in and with the community. This year's suggested date is October 11. Although you need not cancel worship services, you might get some good ideas by going to [www.putyourfaithinaction.org](http://www.putyourfaithinaction.org) or contacting me to look at a sample kit. You can also get a year's worth of ideas by clicking [here](#) and accessing a list of ideas from Synod.



**Raise awareness of our deaf mission work** – The Gospel lesson for September 6 is Mark's account of Jesus' healing of the deaf and mute man (Mark 7:31-37). What an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the work our District and Synod are doing among the deaf community – 98% of whom do not trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior! You might consider including a prayer such as the following: *Lord of the Church, We thank you for the opportunities we have to bring Your Word to all people, including the deaf. Thank you for the leadership that Rev. Konkell, Deacon Pat Sell, and Pat Monroe provide in IDW for our ministry among the deaf. Continue to bless their efforts, that just as You opened the ears of the man in today's Gospel lesson, so You may open the hearts of those who hear Your word as it is signed. Help us to continue to pray for this important ministry, support it with our financial offerings, and seize opportunities to be involved. Lord, in Your mercy...* Rev. Konkell is also available on the first Sunday of the month to come and preach at your congregation. Contact him at [dennis.konkel@idwlcms.org](mailto:dennis.konkel@idwlcms.org).



**Closer partnership with District** – Our task is too critical to attempt to accomplish on our own. That's why we have circuits, districts, and a Synod. As always, I stand ready to assist you in any way that I can to equip the people of your congregation to passionately, intentionally, and faithfully impact their community and beyond for the kingdom of God. Why not call me today at 515-570-2331 and let's start praying and planning!

Celebrating the Victory,

Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions  
[Mark.Gerken@idwlcms.org](mailto:Mark.Gerken@idwlcms.org)