



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West
September 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 Together in Prayer

"By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God"
(Philippians 4:6)



What do IOWAY missionaries do? They plant with prayer. The team of twenty-seven that recently served for two weeks in Los Angeles began and ended each day with group prayers. They prayed in their vans each time they headed out from the hotel to the churches where they were working. One youth laughingly said he had never prayed so much in his life.

They prayed as they shared (planted) the word of God with children in Vacation Bible School, distributed backpacks to families in the Watts area, gave food and Bibles to people on Skid Row, interacted with a homeless pregnant mom and her daughter and with a woman who asked for prayer because she would soon lose her home.

The team was blessed also to be showered with hundreds of prayers from family, relatives and church family in Iowa. My prayer is that the connections the Holy Spirit made among the team and with the people we met will grow. Please also pray for Pastor Porter, our Iowa District West missionary to the Nehemiah Project, that the eleven Lutheran churches will grow and be a welcoming place to the people in the inner city of Los Angeles.

Ellie Menz, IOWAY Director

Christian Education and Prayer

"Prayer with Purpose" is the theme of the Christian Education Month resources available from LCMS District and Congregational Services partners. Visit the Synod Web site (www.lcms.org) often. The "Prayer with Purpose" resource can be found under "Ministry Areas—Children." Congregations are invited to include Kids in Prayer (KIP).

Youth Ministry and Prayer

Prayer times are part of the District and national gatherings. Congregations have received information on "The King's Keys" Junior Gathering (October 31-November 1) and the "ImpACT" (November 27-29) District Gathering. Congregation can also begin online registration for the national "We Believe" (July 17-21, 2010) gathering. Pray that our youth continue to be strengthened in their faith through congregational and District youth ministry.

Mission partnership and Prayer

Children are missionaries to friends and family. Children are missionaries to their Hispanic neighbors across Iowa. The "Amigos en Cristo" children's mission project invites Sunday school children, Lutheran school students, and others to support Hispanic mission efforts in the District and beyond.

Youth are missionaries in their communities and into the world. The Iowa District West "Monthly" (posted on the District Web site) includes the inspiring testimony of the youth who were part of the 2009 IOWAY team to Los Angeles. Praise God for His protection and blessing! Youth are invited to support the mission work of Dr. Lo in Indonesia. How about tithing youth fundraising efforts for District, national and other events?

The LWML is a key mission partner! Mission projects to be considered by the 2010 District LCML convention must be submitted by October 31.

Serving and Praying

The Spirit was at work at the "Joy in Serving" District Convention. What do the convention actions mean for District and congregations serving together? How can we best serve God's people and explore the mission field together? Thank you to the congregations that participated in the "Joy in Serving Together" post-convention events. District staff is ready to pray with you and serve with you.

College Students and Prayer

Do you regularly pray for those learning and growing on college campuses? Parents and congregations, make sure your students are acquainted with the LCMS ministry closest to their campus community. Share their name with the pastor. Take them to church. Encourage them to worship often. Keep in touch with email or text messages. The District Web site includes a listing of Iowa colleges and District congregations in the community.

Prayers from the Heartland

The 2009 "Reaching Rural American for Christ" conference organized by St. Paul Institute for Education will be held in Nebraska City on November 5-7. Pastors and laypersons will be invited to explore the unique mission field of their rural and small town communities. Eighty percent of District congregations are located in rural/small town communities in which over 50% of the community is unchurched. Information is included in the District "Monthly."

Prayer Times and Places

September 7 ... Labor Day, District Office Closed
September 8 ... Convention Follow up event, St. John, Storm Lake

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