

# 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!

**September 2010**

**Massive military call-up!** It seemed to be the lead story for about an entire week in early August. Night after night on the evening news the local stations carried the story of another send-off of Iowa soldiers—2,800 troops, the largest call-up since World War II! Chances are there are families in your local mission field affected by this call-up; families filled with anxiety, fear, and loneliness; families who need the love of Christ and His



Word—love and truth that can be shared by the local congregation and its members! You won't want to miss the **Operation Barnabas** workshop to be held at Emmanuel Lutheran, Lake View on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided **at no charge!** The workshop will equip your congregation to reach out to military members and their families in your community with the love of Christ. See the enclosed poster and bulletin announcements in this edition of *The Monthly!*

**Funds available** to help with military care packages! Thanks to a generous grant, IDW has funds available to assist with the costs of sending a care package from your congregation to those in the military. Contact Business Manager Roger Curtis (515-576-7666; [roger.curtis@idwlcms.org](mailto:roger.curtis@idwlcms.org)) for more information.



**Prayer warriors needed!** *Put on the full armor of God! . . . Our struggle is against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6: 11-12)* It's important that God's people realize we are involved in spiritual warfare! As we send them out to do battle and to bring salvation to those in danger of eternal death, it's vital that we bathe our efforts in prayer! Please publicize the need for prayer warriors who will commit to

regular and fervent prayer for the mission efforts within the District. I also am in need of a volunteer willing to be the coordinator of this effort. If they are willing to either be a prayer warrior or the coordinator, have them contact me at [mark.gerken@idwlcms.org](mailto:mark.gerken@idwlcms.org) or call the District office (515-576-7666).

**Have a university, college, or other campus in your local mission field?**



Then you'll want to visit the new and updated LCMS Campus Ministry website at [www.lcmscampusministry.org](http://www.lcmscampusministry.org)! LCMS Campus Ministry offers a range of campus ministry services and resources developed to help you start and grow new campus ministries, connect with incoming students from Lutheran congregations, provide a rich and relevant faith life experience, and reach out to your campus community. By the way, we've postponed the campus ministry

workshop from October to February 21-22, 2011. Plan on attending!

**Monthly mission moment DVDs coming!** Be watching in late September for the first of our monthly mission moment DVDs. Each congregation will be receiving information on two-minute DVD presentations—one featuring a District supported missionary and one a Synodical missionary—along with prayer cards, missionary trading cards, and adoption agreements. Please consider showing these in worship, Bible classes, LWML gatherings and other appropriate venues. It is our prayer these tools will help raise the awareness of what God is doing across our District and Synod. It is our intent to produce these materials on a monthly basis, beginning with the two for October. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions!

**Ablaze grants still available for 2010!** Funds from mission receipts to the District are still available this year for Ablaze grants. These funds are intended to help fund your congregational or circuit ministries for intentional outreach in your local mission field. This year to date twelve IDW congregations or circuits have received an Ablaze grant. For a listing of grants awarded or to download an application go to [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) under the missions link.



**Do you see the mission opportunities?** Sometimes it's hard for us to see what we've grown accustomed to. I am ready and willing to come alongside you and your congregation to help you see the opportunities and develop a plan for serving in the mission field of your local community. Why not call me today at 515-570-2331 and see what we can arrange!

Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions and Human Care  
[mark.gerken@idwlcms.org](mailto:mark.gerken@idwlcms.org) or 515-570-2331

**Bulletin/Newsletter Announcements for Operation Barnabas Workshop** (edit as you see fit):

Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is hosting a Military Ministry Workshop at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Lake View, Iowa on Saturday, October 16. Emmanuel Lutheran Church is located at 115 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Lake View. The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. This workshop will equip your congregation to reach out to military members in your area, and their families with the love of Christ. Our nation is still at war, and our brave men and women and their families still need our support! There is no cost for the workshop and lunch and snacks will be provided. To register for this workshop please contact Pastor Mick Wolfram (515-279-3609 or [mcwolfram@aol.com](mailto:mcwolfram@aol.com)).

This fall the State of Iowa will be experiencing the largest deployment of National Guard troops since World War II. Many Iowans will be affected by this deployment as will most congregations. What are the needs of these soldiers and their families? How can you support the troops as well as the families left behind? Mike Moreno, Operation Barnabas Director-LCMS, will present a workshop at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Lake View, Iowa on October 16 that will address these questions. This workshop will equip you and your congregation to reach out to military members in your area and their families with the love of Christ. The workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. There will be no charge for the workshop and lunch and snacks will be provided. Please contact Pastor Mick Wolfram to register for this workshop (515-279-3609 or [mcwolfram@aol.com](mailto:mcwolfram@aol.com)).

Many tearful goodbyes were said across Iowa this summer and fall as the National Guard prepared for deployment in Afghanistan. Most Iowans either know someone being deployed or have a friend who knows someone being deployed. How can we, as Christians, reach out to these people? Mike Moreno, Operation Barnabas Counselor-LCMS, will present a workshop at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Lake View Iowa addressing this very issue. There is no charge for the workshop which will be held on October 16 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided. You may register for this workshop by contacting Pastor Mick Wolfram at 515-279-3609 or [mcwolfram@aol.com](mailto:mcwolfram@aol.com).

Communities across Iowa are having farewells for their heroes who are being deployed to the war in Afghanistan, but what can the church do? How can we, as Christians, offer Jesus' love to these people? Mike Moreno, Operation Barnabas Counselor-LCMS, has developed a workshop addressing these very issues and he will be at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Lake View, Iowa to offer encouragement and share ideas and resources to individuals and congregations. There is no charge for this workshop which will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch and snacks included. Please register for this workshop by contacting Pastor Mick Wolfram at 515-279-3609 or [mcwolfram@aol.com](mailto:mcwolfram@aol.com).



# Operation Barnabas

A network of care

MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

**Operation Barnabas is holding a workshop in your area to help churches reach out to military families — Saturday, October 16.**



In this workshop, your congregation will learn how to recruit volunteers from your church, learn how to initiate contact with your local military population, and create a vital and popular outreach that will transform your congregation and community. Some topics will include:

- **Where Do We Start?**
- **What Is A Deployment?**
- **The Military Spouse**
- **The Military Child**
- **How To Make A Difference During Deployment and Afterwards**
- **Recognizing Veterans**
- **Learning About Your Local Military Resources**

You will receive a workbook, a great learning experience, and have the opportunity to meet others like you who have a heart for our military families. When you leave, you will have multiple resources to take back to your congregation. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Place: Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
115 2nd Street, Lake View, IA**

**Time: Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Cost: FREE**

**To register, call Rev. Michael Wolfram  
at 515-279-3609 or email [mcwolfram@aol.com](mailto:mcwolfram@aol.com).**

*For more information, contact Mike Moreno • 1-800-433-3954 • [Michael.Moreno@lcms.org](mailto:Michael.Moreno@lcms.org)*



LCMS WORLD MISSION  
[www.operationbarnabas.org](http://www.operationbarnabas.org)

The Global Gospel Outreach of  THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod