



Planting Together

Information of interest in
Iowa District West
September 2010



"I (Paul) planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow... you are God's field." (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

1317 Tower Drive, PO Box 1155 — Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 www.idwlcms.org
Contact email: sue.light@idwlcms.org

The Mission of Iowa District West is **Connecting, Resourcing, Optimizing, Partnering** and **Serving** with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world.

Planting Together in Schools

Our Lutheran schools—preschools, elementary schools, universities, seminaries—are places where God's Word is planted every day. As God uses Christian teachers, parents, and church members every community school is a planting place.

What if...?

What one building often serves as the center of much of the activity in Iowa communities, particularly in the smaller towns? What one building is it that the residents will fight to keep within their town? What one building sees the majority of our impressionable youth within its walls? While fifty years ago many might have answered the church, today most would agree that it's the school.



What if our congregations and members saw the local school as a mission field? What if they identified ways in which they could demonstrate God's love or appreciation to the staff and workers? What if they began spending time in the school buildings and at activities, loving and serving the children and staff? What if they each wore a shirt with the church name and logo on it? What if God's love through them began to touch the hearts and lives of the students and staff? What if the children and others began to wonder why all the members were doing these things?

[God] is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20).

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

What if we began to change the wondering to reality?

Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant

Planting with Prayer

What if we prayed every day for the children getting on the bus, for the teacher driving to school, for the athlete on the playing field? What if we prayed each Sunday for our children and their Christian and civic education? What if we prayed that every community child would be connected to Christ and His church?

Planting at Gatherings

Information on the October 30-31 "Out Loud" Junior Youth Gathering (grades 6-8) has been mailed to each congregation and is available at District sites (www.idwlcms.org and www.idwyg.org). Registration for the gathering focusing on the articles of the Apostles Creed is due September 24. Registration information on "The Text" Youth Gathering (November 17-19) will be available soon.

Planting with Joy

The "Joy in Ministry" Iowa District West student financial assistance program will support almost 40 students pursuing fulltime ministry careers at our LCMS universities and seminaries. Individual and congregation gifts to "Joy in Ministry" are welcome any time. Congregations can also request information on specific student adoptions.

Planting with Generosity

Praise God that congregation commitments to District are at 96% of budget needs. Your sacrificial gifts directed to the church's larger mission through District and Synod ministries are part of our walking together. Together we support missionaries in the District and into the world. Stewardship education resources for a fall stewardship emphasis are available through the District office.

Planting Together as Leaders

District professional church workers will welcome new synodical President and former Iowa West member, Rev. Matthew Harrison, at the fall Pastors Conference at Gloria Dei, Urbandale. New District pastors and vicars will be welcomed to the District at the annual New Worker Orientation on October 11-12 at Camp Okoboji. It is important for District workers to be spiritually nurtured and professionally connected. Thank you for supporting your workers.

Planting Together in Fall

September 6 ... Labor Day, District Office Closed
September 21 ... Secretaries Conference, Ankeny
September 27-28 ... District Pastors Conference, Gloria Dei, Urbandale
October 11-12 ... New Worker Orientation, Camp Okoboji
October 12-13 ... Board of Directors Retreat, Camp Okoboji
October 22 ... Lutheran Teacher Day
October 30-31 ... Junior Youth Gathering