

## Partners in the Gospel - Monthly Mission Moment

### March 2024

Thank you to the many congregations and individuals that financially supported Iowa District West in our last fiscal period. God has truly blessed us with committed partners in ministry! From church planting (Ankeny) to IOWAY outreach, support for Lutheran schools to disaster relief efforts, church worker care to Hispanic ministry... you've been a source of encouragement all along the way. Thank you for helping us achieve and exceed our goals!

This issue of The Messenger includes congregational unrestricted support from the fiscal period February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. We promise to be very good stewards of the funds you have entrusted to the District for mission and ministry work. The summary is also included in The Lutheran Witness and is online at [www.idwlcms.org/administrative.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/administrative.php) (click on IDW resources & Unrestricted Congregation Budget Receipts).

### February 2024

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities? This month, the part of the budget that is highlighted is IOWAY (Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth). The budget supports this ministry by providing \$60,000 to cover this mission. This ministry began in August 2001 with the great leadership of Ellie Menz for 21 years. Julie Mann took over the reins in June 2023. She continues to increase mission and human care awareness and encourage servant experiences in the congregations, communities, District, and beyond. An IOWAY group recently returned from Pasadena, California in early January (see Julie's IOWAY page for more information on the trip). For more information, go to the District website at [www.idwlcms.org/ioway.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/ioway.php) or [www.facebook.com/iowaymissions](https://www.facebook.com/iowaymissions).

### January 2024

The year is almost over, but you still have time to make a year-end gift before December 31, 2023. Reminder: according to IRS regulations, it is the postmark that determines the date of a mailed-in gift, not the date written on the check. Donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2023 count for 2023, even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2024.

If you have a specific ministry you want to support (District missionary partner, IOWAY, Joy in Ministry Financial Aid support, Kapfer Memorial Scholarship, Disaster relief/LERT fund, Youth Gathering, etc.) write on the check memo the ministry you want to support. [Click here](#) to donate online in IDW or support numerous Synod ministries at [www.lcms.org/givenow](http://www.lcms.org/givenow).

Also, join me now in supporting the [Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization](#) (receive 75% Iowa tax credit).

### December 2023

This issue of The Messenger includes the congregational giving from the fiscal period February 1-October 31. Thank you to all congregations for your mission and ministry support. Praise God for congregations' generous giving and thanks to the four circuits for 100% mission and ministry support (Boone, Le Mars, Sac City, and Storm Lake). The total 2023 District budget is \$2,561,733 of which 57% directly supports missions! To view the recent Stewardship Annual Mailing and see the budget summary, staff mission team, and more go to [www.idwlcms.org/stewardship.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/stewardship.php) (click on Annual Mailing).

### November 2023

Looking for a safe place to invest your money? Consider Lutheran Church Extension Fund. LCEF is currently offering a 5% 18 month fixed rate special. It is not only safe but you are also investing in the future of the church. LCEF loans money to churches and schools for new construction and renovation to make space and place for ministry. Consider making [LCEF](#) a part of your portfolio and stewardship plans.

## October 2023

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The current budget includes \$306,550 for congregational services. This includes the areas of education, youth, stewardship, and President's office. The staff is available to connect, resource, and partner with your congregation.

## September 2023

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars are supporting a variety of mission and ministry efforts all across the District? The 2023 budget includes \$828,900 (almost 1/3 of the budget) for District missions. This is an increase of \$67,700 from the mission budget last fiscal period. Mission dollars provide support for the Executive Assistant and several other mission areas: IOWAY/Julie Mann, mission grant partnerships (significant grants to St. Paul, Ankeny mission plant; Hispanic Missions/Rev. Pedro Lopez; Grace, Le Mars Sudanese missions; and Shepherd of the Valley Hispanic ethnic mission). Your congregation's contributions continue to support mission efforts all across the District for the extension of the Kingdom!

## August 2023

The District provides post-college assistance to pastors and professional church workers for the sole purpose of providing grants to reduce educational indebtedness. Funds will be disbursed directly to the lender. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of providing grants. Applicants must complete a detailed application ([www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) and click on "Resources" and "Forms & Links") as well as the worker's congregation and financial planner. Applications are due October 31. Any questions, contact Roger Curtis or Rev. Joe Pierson at 515-832-3043 or email [revpierson@gmail.com](mailto:revpierson@gmail.com).

IDW is blessed to have wonderful endowment resources to support these types of programs. If interested in providing a gift to the church after you go to heaven, contact Christian Estate Planning Counselor Jim Schroeder at [jim@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:jim@iowadistrictwest.org) or call 515-490-7371.

## July 2023

The District supports a number of worthy mission projects, programs, and activities. This month, the part of the budget "**preparing church workers**" is highlighted. When I started 25 years ago, the District's annual support for students studying at Concordia schools was around \$60,000. Today, that amount has grown to over \$250,000. The increased support has come from endowment and restricted funds as well as support from the LWML, individuals, and congregational gifts. At the end of August, the schools/students will begin to receive the fall financial aid support from the District. Thank you for your congregational and individual gifts as we joyfully support our future pastors and church workers so they can pass the Christian faith on to the next generation.

## June 2023

Did you know that in addition to your congregational mission dollars, the District budget is supported by other income sources including **Lutheran Church Extension Fund operating results**? The total support for this fiscal period is over \$62,000. These funds support ministries in the District that might not otherwise be possible. Some of these projects include Congregation/School Resources, Church Planting, Rostered Worker Resources, Mission Grants, and other mission and ministry projects. Thank you LCEF for your generous support to not only IDW but to all the districts and the Synod. Support your very own Lutheran "bank" today by going to [www.LCEF.org](http://www.LCEF.org) for more information or contact Carole White at 515.240.2229 or [Carole.White@lcef.org](mailto:Carole.White@lcef.org).

## May 2023

Iowa District West is truly blessed by our mission partnership. Our congregations' mission receipts support a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities. This month, we are highlighting the **Hispanic Ministry** that continues in western Iowa. This ministry was shepherded by Rev. Dan Vogel and we thank him for his many years of service. We welcome Rev. Pedro Lopez who continues this vital ministry at Amigos en Cristo in Denison and Grace in Storm Lake and throughout our district. As of now, your Hispanic Ministry is creating new outreach opportunities as we open ESL sites to meet the Hispanic community needs; such as learning English, getting new acquaintances with Hispanic and community leaders and most important to share with them about Jesus salvation and promises of eternal life in Him. We have new people interested in becoming members of our church in Hartley, Carroll and the existing congregations in Denison and Storm Lake. We are also working on an outreach opportunity

in Fort Dodge thanks to the brothers and sisters of St. Paul. We are also working on nurturing the knowledge of God and studying His Word with our current members and new friends by creating our Hispanic LWML at Amigos en Cristo, Denison. The 2023 budget provides \$161,800 for the Hispanic mission.

### **April 2023**

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in many mission and ministry areas? The District strongly supports **missions** with almost 2/3 of the budget: 1/3 for Synod missions and 1/3 for District missions. This total, \$ 1,411,372, is almost the same as the congregation mission support budget for the fiscal period. The remaining 1/3 of the budget covers congregational support services (Human Care, Education, Youth, Stewardship) and administrative expenses. Your dollars make a difference in carrying out the mission and ministry in Iowa District West and across the world.

### **March 2023**

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### **February 2023**

What is Iowa District West? **Iowa District West** is the Synod in this place. IDW is one of 35 districts in the LCMS. The District consists of 166 congregations in the western half of Iowa which includes 17 circuits, 53,744 baptized members, and 42,592 communicant members. It includes 205 Ordained Ministers and 92 Commissioned Ministers. We all walk together to achieve the same mission. Your dedicated District staff encourages and assists to provide numerous services and resources that would not be accomplished if we were not in a partnership. Because of your monthly District and Synod support, we are able to serve in all the areas of mission/outreach, disaster relief, human care, education (early childhood/preschools, elementary schools, family life), youth, stewardship/gift planning, ecclesiastical administration, and leadership development. With your congregation's mission and ministry support, we will continue to work together to carry us forward for which we have been sent. We are on a mission to support you and Christ's mission!

### **January 2023**

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