

Monthly Mission Minute / Stewardship Sparks

January 2012

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities? This month deaf ministry is highlighted. The budget provides \$151,749 for deaf missions as we partner with other congregations who directly support deaf ministry. Our two full-time missionaries, Rev. Dennis Konkel and Pat Monroe, and our deaf deacon, Patrick Sell, are leading the deaf church and interpreting services to these deaf people in areas like Ames, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, Fort Dodge, and Sioux City. The deaf missionaries are training and empowering the members to take greater responsibility in ministry, making increasing use of technology. They are helping to reach out to many isolated deaf persons in small towns and rural areas and sharing the good news about Jesus with them.



IDW deaf ministry

December 2011



Youth Ministry

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities? This month the **youth ministry** is highlighted. The youth budget for 2011 is \$14,500. Additional youth support also comes from the Koepke Endowment. This includes the part-time executive assistant expenses, leadership training, and provision for youth-centered ministry such as the Jr. Gathering, the Sr. High Gathering and Message Sent Mission Event. A lot of additional hours are spent planning the successful junior and senior youth gatherings. If you need any assistance with youth ministry needs or if you have questions, contact Rev. Steve Hayden at Steve.Hayden@idwlcms.org or 515-961-4321.

November 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The District budget includes \$67,500 to support Asian Lutheran Mission (Pastor One Chanh Keoouthai) and Sudanese Mission Lutheran Church (Pastor Simon Yiech). These are ministries located at Trinity Lutheran Church, Des Moines. Another \$4,000 of additional support from LCEF operating results provides travel support to assist Sudanese ministries in Denison, Storm Lake, and Sioux City. These **ethnic ministries** in our District are living proof of the power of the Holy Spirit to break through all barriers of race and nationality, language and culture.

October 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The District budget includes almost \$183,000 for **Hispanic missions**. Hispanics represent the fastest growing segment of the population in Iowa. God is bringing these people right into our mission field. Our two full-time missionaries Rev. Dan Vogel and Rev. Henry Witte are helping to reach out to these people all over Iowa District West, including (Denison, Des Moines, Storm Lake, Sioux City). They are available to help your congregation reach out to Hispanics that God is bringing into your local mission field.

September 2011

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans you probably know that **Thrivent Choice** is your opportunity to direct some of Thrivent's charitable dollars to places like IDW. If you have not designated your Thrivent Choice funds for IDW and other ministries, now is the time to do so. Go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice." So far the District has received \$1,100 and it has supported the Joy in Ministry scholarship fund, youth gathering, and missions. If you want your gift to support a specific ministry, please share that request with the District Office. Thank you for your support!

August 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of areas? The 2011 budget provides about \$125,000 for **student financial aid** for students preparing for full-time ministry careers at LCMS seminaries and universities. Most of these funds are provided by endowments, LWML, and special “Joy in Ministry” supporters like you. Congregational and individual gifts are welcomed. Thank you for your generous contributions.

July 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of areas? The 2011 budget totals \$2,546,227 of which 19% covers **administration** (of every dollar, less than 20 cents covers administration costs). Just like in the church, District has administrative expenses. Administration services include: president’s office (travel, staff salaries and benefits); support services (audit, communications, office supplies, The Harvest, utilities, maintenance, insurance, emergency fund); Board of Directors (ministerial health, travel, honorariums); and Circuit Counselors.



The District works hard to keep administration and building expenses low. For example the District changed the Concordia Health Plans option from B to C for 2011 which resulted in no increase of premiums, and closed the Post Office box. We plan to have more conference calls to save on travel expenses. The District also has kept building expenses the same despite moving from a 5,200 square foot office to over 10,000 square foot office building. How is that possible? The new office is extremely more energy efficient and newer plus our two tenants help cover some of the building expenses.

June 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? In the 2011 budget, 63% of the District budget supports **District and Synod Missions**? In addition to multiple mission efforts across the District, IDW also supports campus ministry (in Ames and Des Moines), deaf missions (numerous areas around the District), Hispanic missions (in Des Moines, Denison, Sioux City, and Storm Lake) and ethnic missions (Laotian and Sudanese in Denison, Des Moines, Webster City, and Storm Lake).

You may have read the May 2011 Lutheran Witness (LW) special edition on finances. Our District continues to be a strong supporter of missions. IDW has the 5th highest giving pledge and the 16th largest District (LW page 11 or online at www.lcms.org/witness and click on “Righting the Financial Ship.” The Synod and Districts continue to struggle with financial challenges. Even though IDW struggles with its budget with declining unrestricted income, we have much abundance and are truly blessed with many endowments and grants.

May 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? Did you know that 44% (an increase of 1% from last fiscal year) of your unrestricted congregational mission dollars support the work of **Synod missions**? The 2011 budget includes \$772,200 designated toward the Synod. That is only \$1,800 less than last year despite projected congregational gifts of \$47,251 less last fiscal year. Your dollars make a difference in carrying out the mission and ministry in Iowa and across the world. IDW is ranked near the top in giving to Synod. Thank you for your partnership!

April 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? This year the District budget includes \$64,500 for **mission Ablaze grants**, available to all District congregations to assist them in outreach. This also includes support for the Center for U.S. Missions and Transforming Congregations Network, two organizations helping congregations to be actively engaged in reaching those who do not yet believe.

March 2011

This issue of The Monthly includes the congregational giving from the fiscal period February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011. **Thank you** to the 177 congregations (plus Faith, Winterset; Iglesia, Storm Lake and Denison; and deaf ministry preaching stations) for your mission and ministry support. Receipts were only \$5,536 short of our District goal of \$1,800,000.

The Iowa District West Mission & Ministry 2011 brochure outlines how your mission dollars are being spent. The brochure is available online at www.idwlcms.org/district_news/information/mission_ministry_2011.pdf



February 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The 2010 budget includes \$128,000 for **chaplaincy services**. This includes \$42,000 of ministry expenses for Rev. James Brammeier in Des Moines and \$86,000 of ministry expenses for Rev. Steven Benson in Sioux City.

January 2011

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The current budget includes \$124,000 for **congregational services**. This includes Pastor Bob Riggert's Stewardship, Education, and Youth ministry expenses. He is available to connect, resource, and partner with your congregation.

December 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The 2010 budget includes \$878,700 for **mission work in Iowa**. Thanks to all the congregations and individuals who support this mission. Currently District is behind budget \$57,000 for congregational mission support and behind \$15,600 for mission direct gifts.

You can support the work of the church with your tax deductible gift before year-end! Some mission projects to support include:

Deaf missions - Missionaries Rev. Dennis Konkel and Pat Monroe

Ethnic missions - Sudanese Missionary Rev. Simon Yiech

- Laotian Missionary Rev. One Chanh Keoouthai

Hispanic missions - Missionaries Rev. Daniel Vogel and Rev. Henry Witte

Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth (IOWAY) missions - Missionary Ellie Menz

Northwest Iowa rural missions - Missionary Rev. Scott Jensen

The complete mission team is online at

http://www.idwlcms.org/ministry_areas/missions/information/idw_mission_team.pdf

Support can be sent to Mission Central (40718 Hwy E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034) or to the District Office (409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge, IA 50501).

November 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities? The District works hard to keep administration expenses low. Only 17.8% or about 18 cents of every dollar received is used for **administration**. The total administration expenses include: administration services (president's office, staff salaries and benefits); support services (audit, communications, office supplies, The Harvest, utilities, maintenance, insurance, and emergency fund), Board of Directors, Circuit Counselors.

October 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The District spends approximately \$16,500 a year for all utility, maintenance, and custodial related expenses. The District works hard to keep **administration** and building expenses low.

September 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? This year the District budget includes \$40,000 for mission **Ablaze grants**. The Synod Convention delegates adopted, without debate, Resolution 1-01, "to celebrate Fan into Flame blessings and commit to its completion." District has already received nearly \$15,000 from Fan into Flame gifts to support revitalization and ethnic missions. Now is the time for your congregation to get involved with Ablaze and Fan into Flame if not already. Promote this initiative with red, white, and black Ablaze shirts which will be available at the September 27-28 Pastors Conference in Urbandale.

August 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? Did you know that \$47,000 is budgeted for **stewardship** (includes \$40,000 for gift planning/Christian estate planning counselor expenses). The stewardship budget is supplemented with \$2,000 of LCEF proceeds. Take advantage of the upcoming Stewardship School classes (August 23-25) and Stewardship Advisors resources.

July 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? Did you know that \$4,400 is budgeted for **officers' honorariums**? This is a small stipend for all they do for the District. Members of the Board of Directors meet quarterly and also serve on committees. To learn more about the 15 board members go online at http://www.idwlcms.org/about_us/board_of_directors.htm. The next time you see a District board member be sure to thank them for their service to the church.



June 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? Did you know that 63% of the District budget supports **District and Synod Missions**? The District has active missions in Johnson, Sheldon, Los Angeles. District also supports campus ministry, deaf missions, Hispanic missions and ethnic missions (Lation and Sudanese).

May 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? Did you know that 43% (an increase of 1% from last fiscal year) of your unrestricted congregational mission dollars support the work of **Synod missions**? In the 2010 budget, \$774,000 is forwarded to Synod. Your dollars make a difference in carrying out the mission and ministry in Iowa and across the world. IDW is ranked 7th in total dollars pledged to Synod. Thank you for your partnership!

April 2010

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of mission and ministry areas? The District is participating in the LCMS **Ablaze!** movement to share the Gospel with 100 million unreached people by 2017. This year the District budget includes \$40,000 for grants. Of this total \$4,000 supports the LCMS Center for US Missions and \$36,000 will be used to assist congregations or circuits in new initiatives to reach the lost. The deadline for Ablaze grants is March 31; although smaller amounts will be available later in the year. If you are interested in an Ablaze grant, contact Mission Executive Mark Gerken as soon as possible.

March 2010

This issue of The Monthly includes the congregational giving from the fiscal period February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010. **Thank you** to the 177 congregations (plus Faith, Winterset; Iglesia, Storm Lake & Denison, and deaf ministry preaching stations) for your mission and ministry support. Receipts were only \$8,286 short of our congregational goal of \$1,850,000. Thank you for your support during these tough economic times! District continues to use wisely the dollars entrusted to us.

