

Update

Enabling Space and Place for Ministry



... it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father ...
- Matthew 6:17



Consecrated Stewards During the Easter Season

Consecration Sunday at Peace Lutheran Church in Wall Lake, Iowa was celebrated on April 20 (the 5th Sunday of Easter,) 2008. "The Easter season is a GREAT SEASON to offer Consecrated Stewards. Our stewardship response is so Easter related. The emphasis right after Easter gave the congregation an immediate post-Easter focus. In some congregations the Sundays after Easter begin a "down" time. This was not the case at Peace Lutheran," said Rev. Bob Riggert, guest leader serving in the Iowa District West. (See story on page three.)

Featuring LCMS ministries served by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) in the Upper Midwest Region of IA, MN, ND and WI.

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LCMS Schools Order Your Marketing Materials Today!

As a financing arm of the LCMS, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund has committed resources to assist our schools for generations. Today, a great need has been identified in which our schools

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LCMS Funding Your Lending Partner

Given the challenging credit environment in the secular sector these days, it's good to know that Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod organizations have access to funds through LCEF. Organizations may use lines of credit to fund non-budgeted expenses and

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Download this publication in full color at www.mnsdistrict.org
News & Events / LCEF



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The *LCEF Update* is published for Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod leadership, members and LCEF volunteers in the Upper Midwest Region.

For Your Church Bulletins and Newsletters

March 2009:

Family Emergencies - Be Prepared with LCEF

Wondering how to mitigate your risk during this current uncertain economy? LCEF's Family Emergency StewardAccount may be the best place to start for those of us carrying large amounts of debt. This investment is an opportunity to set aside funds for the unexpected and unplanned expense while earning competitive interest rates. Your investment also helps build the Church. For current rates, click on www.lcef.org or call 1-800 THE LCEF (1-800-843-5233) for more information. Earning 2.875% (2.913% APY) as of March 2009. %



LCEF Capital Funding Services Rev. Jock Ficken presented at the Church Summit last month in the Minnesota South District (left.) %

CFS and Mission Church Summit

More than 120 pastors, DCE's, school administrators and other leaders gathered at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Minn. last month to explore mission planning opportunities and learn what resources are available, such as LCEF's Capital Funding Services. CFS is the only official LCMS campaign consulting organization.



Give Praise!
First Day of Spring
Friday, March 20th



Rev. Michael Ernst at the Church Summit on Feb. 3, 2009 in Bloomington, MN.

Participants also heard a mission and ministry case study presented by Rev. Michael Ernst serving Hales Corners Lutheran Church in Wisc., home to more than 7,500 baptized souls.

To learn how CFS can serve your mission and ministry, contact the national LCEF office (see left.) %

LCEF Mission Statement



To support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

LCEF Serving Iowa District West

Consecrated stewards at Peace Lutheran Church in Wall Lake look forward

Peace Lutheran Church in Wall Lake recently celebrated its 125th anniversary (1882-2007). “We have had a strong tradition of raising money when there was a need and the congregation would respond positively,” said Pastor Roger Carlisle. Over the years Peace devoted significant resources into estate planning and giving. “In 1997, we established an endowment fund which has been a real blessing in accomplishing ministry. For example, each year we



have \$2,000 endowed for congregational youth ministry. However, in recent years, a focused annual stewardship emphasis that included a pledge Sunday was overlooked. The church budget was increasing and each month at the council meeting the focus seemed to turn on paying the bills. At times we had cash flow issues during summer months, even borrowing some money from LCEF to cover operating expenses,” said Carlisle.

“In an effort to change this pattern, we pursued Consecrated Stewards and scheduled this emphasis in April of 2008. Rev. Bob Riggert, IDW Executive Assistant for Stewardship, worked with our congregation to that end.

The immediate result of Consecrated Stewards saw a pledged increase of 48 giving units within the congregation for which we give thanks. One of the most significant changes that I witnessed,” said Carlisle, “is the change of *thought and language* by the leadership of the congregation.” Instead of talking about giving money, leadership began talking about being

‘consecrated stewards’ as disciples of Jesus. “They kept referencing ‘consecrated stewards’ when utilizing talents and abilities within the congregation and in all areas of their lives. It changed the mindset of many of our members,” continued Carlisle.

Throughout the year, Pastor Carlisle witnessed further evidence of spiritual growth and there was no longer a struggle to pay bills. “In fact, at the end of 2008, we ended up with all bills and missions fulfilled, including an outstanding loan, and we were over \$15,000 in the black. A strong farm economy this year was a contributing factor, but without the stewardship emphasis, the church would not have benefited in the same way.”

Peace’ Board of Elders wanted to maintain the positive momentum and recommended to the council that a celebration and follow up be observed in April, 2009 (one year later). Rev. Riggert will be returning for a two week refresher emphasis.

“The process is well organized and laid out. It does require several members of the congregation to help do the work of this 4 week emphasis

“One of the strengths of the program at Peace was their use of the children’s component. The children were very involved in the Consecrated Stewards process,” said Rev. Bob Riggert (*above*.)



but it is well worth the effort. While stewardship sermons and messages were constant throughout the years, Consecrated Stewards gives members a handle they can constantly relate to in their own stewardship life,” continued Carlisle. “I am looking forward to seeing the Spirit’s continued work in the members of Peace as they remain *Consecrated Stewards*.”

Special thanks to Rev. Roger Carlisle for sharing Peace Lutheran’s successful stewardship story!

Are you interested in Consecrated Stewards for your members? If so, contact your district LCEF vice president or the national office (*see page two*.) %



Peace Lutheran Church in Wall Lake, Iowa had a very positive response to LCEF’s Consecrated Stewards process.

LCEF Serving the Minnesota South District

LCEF investment dollars at work in St. Paul and Owatonna



LCEF investors helped fund this new fireside room at St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Paul (left.)

St. Peter Lutheran Church is an urban congregation located in St. Paul. LCEF loan funds assisted members with the completion of a new fireside room (photo left.)

It is a gathering place before funeral services, for board and auxiliary meetings, Bible studies, classes and more. A five-foot stainless steel cross is mounted on the east brick wall; the west wall is set up for projected videos or Powerpoint presentations.

“The area above the fireside

room entry door is enclosed in glass, which allows us to heat and cool the room without having to use other areas of the building. Plus, the new custom woodwork matches all the existing wood,” said Pastor J. David Wende.

If your LCMS congregation or school is interested in funding for remodeling or construction, contact your district LCEF vice president (see page two.) ☞



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Owatonna has been blessed by nine percent growth in the last five or six years,

exceeding the community's overall growth in the same time period by as much as three percent; praise God!

Outgrowing their current sanctuary (seating 175,) members and leadership alike look forward to their new worship and education space. Thanks in part to LCEF

financing, the new sanctuary under construction will seat 400, plus overflow seating.

“Even our youth have been making do with an area that has been much too small; everyone will really appreciate the new space,” said LCEF Congregation Representative Bill Oldenburg.

The congregation is led by Pastors Mark Rosenau and Greg Schlicker, Youth Minister Cori Timmerman and Preschool

Director Heather Gleason. Learn more at Good Shepherd's new web site: goodshepherdowatonna.com. ☞



Good Shepherd LCEF Congregation Representative Bill Oldenburg (photo upper left and above) points out the new construction that is currently ahead of schedule. Good Shepherd hopes for completion of the new sanctuary, youth space and classrooms in the fall of this year.

“It’s About Time” in the North Wisconsin District

Attend an LCEF 2009 Spring Training Session!



Participants at the 2008 NWI LCEF spring training sessions (all photos this page.)

“It’s About Time!” North Wisconsin (NWI) District LCEF Vice President Dennis Johnson is hosting nine training events this spring (see schedule below.) Johnson encourages all LCEF congregation representatives, contacts, pastors and spouses throughout Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan to mark their calendars and attend a session.

The NWI district LCEF theme this year is “It’s About Time.” This theme will expand on last year’s discussions of the five “T’s” of stewardship: time, talent,

treasure, temple and testimony.

Our LCMS church body defines stewardship as the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the Church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Time is one of the most precious of all of God’s gifts. While we are all given 24 hours in our day, how we choose to *use* our time determines whether it was used wisely in God’s eyes. We’ll explore the stewardship of time in our sessions.

This year six of the nine events will feature Rev. Dwayne Lueck, district stewardship expert. Dwayne has been instrumental in training and implementing Consecrated Stewards/



Consecration Sunday processes for congregations. He will share a vision of good stewardship with participants, focusing primarily on the treasure aspect.

Watch for registration letters that will be mailed to invited parties soon. Contact Sandi at 800-333-2421, x23 if you have questions.

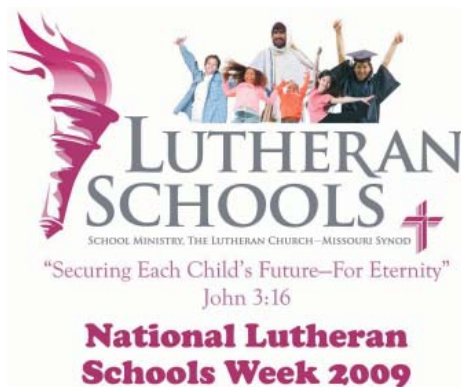
“It’s about time” for all of us to take our God-given time, talent, and treasures and put them to work in His kingdom!

MEETING SCHEDULE:

- Registration/Social (30 minutes)
- Dinner (45 minutes)
- Meeting (60 minutes) %

NWI LCEF Spring Training Sessions

Sunday, March 29 - 4:00 p.m.	Circuits 12, 13, 14	Farm Inn, Shawano, WI
Tuesday, March 31 - 5:30 p.m.	Circuits 16, 17	Ridges CC, WI Rapids, WI
Sunday, April 5 - 1:00 p.m.	Circuits 1	Gogebic CC, Ironwood MI
Tuesday, April 14 - 5:30 p.m.	Circuits 9, 15, 20	Sweetwaters, Eau Claire, WI
Thursday, April 16 - 5:30 p.m.	Circuits 18, 19	Eve’s Supper Club, Green Bay
Saturday, April 18 - 12:00 p.m.	Circuit 2	Holiday Inn, Marquette, MI
Tuesday, April 21 - 5:30 p.m.	Circuit 6, 10, 11	TBD, Wausau, WI
Thursday, April 23 - 5:30 p.m.	Circuit 5, 7	Riverstone, Eagle River, WI
Saturday, April 25 - 12:00 p.m.	Circuit 3, 4, 8	Turtleback CC, Rice Lake, WI



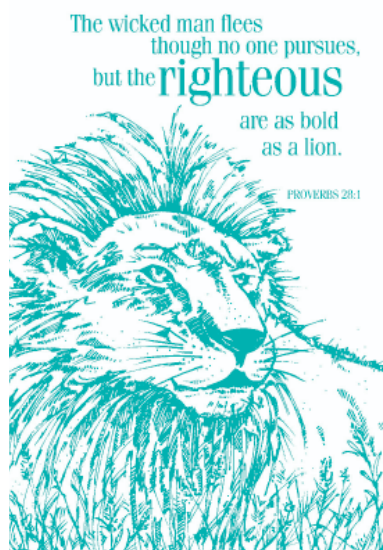
School Marketing

Continued from page one

need marketing communication assistance to compete and also to develop a campaign that tells their unique story of value while stressing quality and building confidence.

Introducing lcefmarketing.com — this web site is designed to assist and benefit LCMS schools at all levels. Visit this site and see the professional marketing materials available to promote your school for the upcoming registration nights, school open houses and summer recruitment!

Did you know? . . . *The “average” Lutheran School has 15 students/FT teacher in the elementary system, and only 14 students/FT teacher in the high schools. There are currently more than 43,600 students cared for in before/after school programming.



NUMBER OF LUTHERAN SCHOOLS:

Early Childhood Centers	1,406
Elementaries	976
High Schools	103
TOTAL	2,485

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

Early Childhood	133,255
Kindergarten	16,808
1st	14,541
2nd	14,123
3rd	13,799
4th	13,338
5th	13,020
6th	12,645
7th	11,746
8th	11,374
9th	5,168
10th	4,920
11th	4,556
12th	4,610
TOTAL	273,903

*2007-08 statistics source: District & Congregational Services of the LCMS. %

Organizational Investors Spur Investment Growth

After three consecutive months of declining *total* investment support (Synod-wide,) total investment support grew just over \$11 million in January to \$1,549.3 million. Slight declines in individual investor support and corporate/RSO support were offset by gains in university investments and Support Dollar investments, thank you!

Note, the slight decline in individual investment numbers are consistent with historical trends, confirming investor commitment to and confidence in the mission and ministry of LCEF. We are blessed by your support of spiritually responsible investments in the Church. %

Designate A Beneficiary

Please remember the importance of designating a beneficiary for your LCEF investment to avoid the lengthy and expensive probate process.

Call the national LCEF office (*see page two*) to confirm if your current accounts all have designated beneficiaries. %



To all K.I.D.S. Stamp investors at LCMS day & Sunday schools, thank you for supporting the Church!

Celebrating K.I.D.S. Stamp Program Launch

Elm Grove Lutheran in the Wisconsin South District launched its K.I.D.S. program in a unique and effective way. K.I.D.S. Coordinator Red Corder hosted “A Night for K.I.D.S.” during which children drew posters illustrating what the stamp program means to them. Corder then had a drawing for \$25 worth of stamps, which helped one student add to his or her very own K.I.D.S. investment. Corder said he was pleased with the children’s hard work and for investing their money in order to help spread the Word of God through LCEF.

K.I.D.S. Stamps is also a great fit for LCEF’s Consecrated Stewards process. Contact Maria Hendrickson (*see page two*) to learn more. %



Lines of Credit and More for LCMS Organizations

LCEF is your lending partner - *continued from page one*



for anticipated cash flow deficiencies in their operating budget on a recurring basis. LCEF Lines of Credit offer loan dollars and ministry-focused services to help your church as it seeks to fulfill God's mission.

LCEF also offers construction and permanent loans to new and existing congregations, schools, recognized service organizations, and partner churches around the world. For your next building project, partner with LCEF. We have loan dollars and

ministry-focused services available to help the Church as it seeks to fulfill God's mission.

TYPES OF LOANS:

- *Secured* (new and refinances.)
- *Specialized Ministry Loans:* The LCEF Loan Committee, in consultation with the district, considers all loan requests. Loans are written at an interest rate of LCEF's cost of funds for a term of five years with monthly payments based upon a maximum 20-year term.
- *Unsecured:* Written in an amount of up to \$100,000 for a term of up to 15 years. A \$350 loan fee will apply for loans of more than \$50,000 and

\$300 for \$50,000 or less.

• *Jump Start:* For the purpose of providing "seed dollars" to support a new ministry program or to expand an existing ministry program, an example could be a staff person for Evangelism Outreach or Dir. of Youth Ministry.

• *Soft Cost:* To provide "working capital" for preconstruction-related costs, e.g., architect/design and engineering fees, market studies, capital pledge campaign expenses, and special assessments. The interest rate charged will be the prevailing rate.

Contact your district LCEF vice president or the national office (*see page two*) for more information. ☞

New Congregation/School Loans:	March 2009
New Mission Starts (first 5 years)	4.125%
Specialized Ministries	4.125%
Monthly, Quarterly or Annually Adjustable	5.875%
5 yr fixed rate balloon, 2% prepayment penalty (subject to availability of funds)	6.375%
10 yr fixed rate balloon, 2% prepayment penalty (subject to availability of funds)	6.875%
Rostered Church Worker Home Equity Loans:	
Loan Term up to 5 Years, Fixed Rate	5.625% - 6.125%
Loan Term 6-10 Years, Fixed Rate	6.625% - 7.125%
Loan Term 11-15 Years, Fixed Rate	7.625% - 8.125%
Rostered Church Worker Residential Loans:	
1 Year ARM Rate (10% down payment)	5.000% - 5.500%
5 Year ARM Rate (10% down payment)	5.250% - 5.750%
10 Year ARM or 15 Year FIXED (10% down payment)	5.750% - 6.250%
1 Year ARM Rate (5% down payment)	5.250% - 5.750%
5 Year ARM Rate (5% down payment)	5.500% - 6.000%
10 Year ARM or 15 Year FIXED (5% down payment)	6.000% - 6.500%
Rostered Church Worker Consolidation Loans:	
1 Year to 7 Year Terms, Adjusted Annually	7.125% - 9.125%

LOWER Loan Rates for New Mission Starts!

LOWER Loan Rates for RCWs!

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.

			<i>March 2009</i>	
 Spiritually Responsible Investing Serving the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS)	\$ Minimum Investment	% Rate	% APY	
Congregation Endowment (5-Year FIXED)	1,000	3.025	3.059	
	10,000	3.150	3.187	
	100,000	3.275	3.315	
Congregation Endowment (60-Month FLOATING)	1,000	3.025	3.059	
	10,000	3.150	3.187	
	100,000	3.275	3.315	
Congregation Certificates - Demand	100	1.375	1.382	
Congregation Certificates - <i>StewardAccount</i> [®]	100	2.375	2.401	
	250,000	2.500	2.529	
	1,000,000+	2.750	2.785	
Cemetery Perpetual Care <i>StewardAccount</i> [®]	1,000	2.375	2.401	
	25,000	2.625	2.657	
	100,000	3.125	3.170	
Individual Dedicated Certificates (*Custodial accts. for minors)	*25	0.500	0.501	
Individual <i>StewardAccount</i> [®] Certificates	100	0.750	0.753	
	1,000	0.875	0.879	
	10,000	2.375	2.401	
Fixed Term Note - 18 Months	500	2.000	2.015	
Fixed Term Note - 2 Year	500	2.125	2.142	
Fixed Term Note - 5 Year	500	3.000	3.034	
Fixed Term Note - 6-10 Years	500	3.125	3.162	
Fixed Term Note - 11-15 Years	500	3.375	3.418	
Fixed Term Note - 16-20 Years	500	3.625	3.675	
Floating Term Note - 2 1/2 Years	100	2.005	2.020	
Floating Term Note - 5 Years	100	2.650	2.676	
*FAMILY EMERGENCY <i>STEWARDAccount</i>	25	2.875	2.913	
<i>*Balances of <\$10,000 require monthly electronic investments.</i>				
HSA FlexPlus Certificates	1	2.500	2.529	
	2,500	3.000	3.042	
	5,000	3.500	3.557	
	15,000	4.000	4.074	
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For complete current investment rates, contact 1-800-843-5233 or www.lcef.org.				