

# YES NOTES

December 2009  
Iowa District West  
Youth, Education, and Stewardship Ministries



Please share generously with volunteers and professional leaders in “YES” ministries.

“The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.” (LSB #331)

The Advent season is the time for us to say “YES” to our King.

## **Yes to the King’s Kids!**

The praises of children are heard clearly and creatively as children share the Christmas story in pageants and programs. Sunday school teachers, Christian education committees, and outreach committees are encouraged to use the season to connect with children and families that might otherwise be inactive. Is each child and family made to feel welcome? Are the broader ministries and programs of the church introduced to children and families? Are parents encouraged to share and live the Christmas story in their home in every season?

The Iowa District West education office has several programs available for congregations, circuits and other gatherings. “Parenting Principles” reviews the basics of Christian parenting. “Planting P’s” reviews the principles of life-long Christian education through the congregation. Contact the District Office for more information.

## **Yes to the King Confessed and Celebrated by Youth**

Registration continues for the national “We Believe” youth gathering (July 17-21 in New Orleans). Visit the gathering Web site: [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com) for gathering details and registration updates. DCEs Cindy Storm and Amy Schmidt continue to be available for support. Information on transportation, a District event, a spring meeting and other details will come early in 2010.

Information on the Iowa District West Confirmands Retreat at Camp Okoboji (Feb. 19-21) will soon be shared with congregations. All youth being confirmed during this school year are eligible.

Praise God for the many congregations participating in the junior youth and youth gatherings. A special thanks to the counselors accompanying the youth. Plans for 2010 gatherings will be shared early in the new year.

### **Yes to the King of Creation**

“Creation Station” is the theme of the 2010 Camp VBS program. Children of all ages will climb aboard the train to “tour” Genesis 1-11. Each stop will explore the truth of Scripture while celebrating the Truth that is Jesus. The child-friendly, adaptable resource will include five Bible stories, craft ideas, Bible-bops, dramas, adult studies, family newsletters and more for a budget friendly cost. More information coming in January!

### **Yes to the King’s Stewards**

Congregation commitment forms for 2010 have been sent to congregations (directed to pastors and congregation chairpersons). Several information pieces are included to keep boards and voters’ assemblies informed on District missions and ministries and our partnership together. Thank you for returning those to the District Office by January 15. The information is available on the District Web site.

Congregations are also reminded of their commitments for the 2009 budget. The bounty of the fall season invites us to respond with words of praise and sharing of resources. As God abundantly blesses you, share those blessings with your congregation and out into the world through our District partnerships. Special end-of-year gifts to support our Hispanic, deaf, Sudanese, Laotian and other missionaries are also appreciated.

Now is the time to schedule Consecrated Stewards or other stewardship education programs in 2010.

Information on a District-sponsored retirement workshop is also included. In partnership with Concordia Plans this event is offered so that workers can be good stewards in preparation for retirement. While the primary audience is those over 50, anyone interested is welcome. The event will be held at Boulders Conference Center in Denison on Thursday evening and Friday, February 11-12. Space is limited. Make reservations with Business Manager, Roger Curtis.

Donations to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization are eligible for a 65% tax-credit. The donation must be made by December 31. Contact Dewey Torkelson for more information ([Torkelson@iglsls.org](mailto:Torkelson@iglsls.org) or 712-260-2991). Your support is appreciated.

### **Yes to the King’s College Kids**

Don’t forget your college age members! How about sending them a box of “goodies” or a fast-food gift card to keep them sustained during end of semester finals? Make sure to welcome them “home” for holiday services.

Congregations or individuals wanting to support our District students enrolled in church work programs at our Concordia universities and seminaries are invited to send a special “Joy in Ministry” gift to the District. Your support is assisting almost 50 students this school year.

### **Yes to the King’s Family**

The weekly Bible study inserts include a section “For Family Reflection.” Families are invited to discuss the weekly Gospel lesson around the family table, as part of family devotions or in other settings. Advent is also a great time to begin family devotions. Children love the Advent wreath! Pray that Jesus stays in the heart of each family member.

Yes to the King!

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