

District Mission Board report

We have the goal of starting one new congregation each year in our district. We pray you will consider being God's instrument to make this happen. 2013: Good News, Mt. Horeb. 2014: No new mission location. 2015: Stevens Point (multi-site outreach with Divine Word, Plover). 2016:?? Future locations that have been suggested are: Richland Center; Lansing, Iowa; Osseo; Decatur, IL; Lodi.

TWO (OR THREE) CHURCHES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE?

The District Mission Board and Board for Home Missions have the task and charge to be the church-planting arm of our synod. This work has been blessed to bring the good news of Jesus to more and more souls, but it is expensive work. Typical synod subsidy for a new home mission usually runs about \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 over 10 years and sometimes more. What if we could open a new church for \$400,000? That would allow us to open more churches.

Several recent blessings could help us in this direction.

1. More congregations are reaching out and seeing the blessings of multi-site congregations. Existing members and pastoral staff are used to begin a new church in a new location, with one structure, one budget. Many more congregations could plant new churches if there were financial assistance for pastoral staff.
2. The Church Extension Fund has been blessed to give grants to the Board for Home Missions for starting new churches. These grants can be used to fund new churches, but are one-time gifts. The Board for Home Missions is wrestling with how best to use these blessings in a responsible way. Utilizing one-time gifts for an ongoing mission start that will require ten years or more of subsidy may not be the best option always. But if the mission agrees to a set amount of subsidy, these one-time gifts can be earmarked for a specific congregation/location.

A FREE PASTOR TO START A NEW CHURCH?

What if a congregation has a desire to reach a new community, members in that community (or willing to reach out to that community), but just lacks the funds to call a pastor to spearhead the outreach work?

For \$400,000 (instead of \$800,000 or \$1,000,000), that congregation could start a new church!

The congregation could apply to the Board for Home Missions to receive full subsidy for a pastor the first year (about \$80,000), then decrease that subsidy by \$10,000 per year (\$70/60/50/etc.) and still have \$40,000 to start a land/facilities fund. The congregation would have to hold to this subsidy schedule for these numbers to work.

I think this is a good fit and works for our district for several reasons:

1. We have existing congregations that can partner/encourage/support the new location.
2. Partnering congregations could operate as one congregation, so you are not losing members or offerings, you are gaining a new church and new pastor. Experience has indicated that members are not lost, they are replaced by new members at a mothering congregation or multi-site. St. Paul's in Mauston/Adams, has gained 50 new members since September. Resurrection in Verona has grown in worship attendance from 150 two years ago to 170 after commissioning 30 members to Good News in Mt. Horeb. Now Good News has 60 members. The gains for the kingdom are double, for the new location and the current one.
3. Many of our communities are smaller and therefore have lower costs for facility rent and land. (St. Paul in Mauston/Adams is buying 6.6 acres for \$65,000). A big expense in many new mission starts is land and facility costs, which often extend the time of synod subsidy.

In travels around the district, conversations with congregations and pastors and with a burning desire to reach the lost, I think there are several locations in our district that would be an ideal fit for this model and could make a strong case to the Board for Home Missions that this would be wise use of these special, one-time gifts.

If you have an idea or a location and would like more information, speak with me. This is not an official policy of the Board for Home Missions, but an idea that I think could help more churches in our district get started and more importantly, reach more lost souls with the good news of Jesus Christ!

Circuit contact pastors: Working with the circuit pastors and the Commission on Evangelism (Pastor Joe Fricke of Mauston, coordinator), a "Missions pastor" has been identified in each circuit. A brief training session is held at the district gathering each year. These pastors continue to share information from the District Mission Board and Commission on Evangelism, as well as alerting us to possible new missions and new outreach opportunities in the district. Thanks for giving this pastor in your circuit time as needed at circuit meetings.

Mission Mindset Seminar: The District Mission Board and the Commission on Evangelism are partnering to offer Mission Mindset Seminars in each circuit of the district. Pastors and all congregational members are encouraged to attend. This three-hour seminar is usually held on a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon. Focus is on improving the outreach mindset in a congregation and thinking about worship from an outreach perspective. "Huddle sessions" are built in as well so pastor and laypeople can discuss and take home specific ideas for implementing the seminar material. There is also time for congregations to share outreach ideas with each other and network. Four seminars were held last year in Reedsburg, Onalaska, Sparta and Chippewa Falls. Seminars for the upcoming year are scheduled in Sun Prairie and other locations to be determined. Contact Joe Fricke or myself (or speak with your Missions circuit contact pastor) to schedule one for your circuit.

DMB members:

At the 2014 district convention, Pastor Jeff Mahnke of St. Peter Schofield was elected to serve on our board. Ron Demulling, layman from Chippewa Falls, was also re-elected to a second term. Steve Kalscheuer, layman from DeForest, and Pastor Nathan Strutz will complete twelve years of service on the DMB in 2016 and not be eligible for re-election. We also anticipate that in 2018 the two vacant positions on the board will again be filled by election at the district convention.

Please forward names of individuals with a love for the lost to our board or the district nominating committee.

Missions Conference: A special conference is held each year at the Wintergreen Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. Dates for 2015 are Tuesday and Wednesday, October 27 and 28. The conference was moved to Tuesday/Wednesday to accommodate those with Monday evening worship services. This is open to all congregations of all sizes, both pastors and lay people. This year all pastors of the Northern Wisconsin District will be joining us, so make plans early and send in your registration form (included in this report.) Keynote speakers will be Jeremy Mattek on relational evangelism, Prof. Brug on lessons from missions, Mission Counselor Birkholz on mission insights. You can also see below the breakout sessions that will be offered. It's a packed one a one-half days.

The cost/value of this conference is outstanding. Through grants and the partnership of the Western Wisconsin, Southeast Wisconsin, Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota District Mission Boards, the conference itself is free. Participants are asked only to cover their own costs for lodging, meals and travel.

For \$78 you get the conference, four restaurant meals onsite, Tuesday evening fellowship and one night lodging (room shared with roommate). It's hard to imagine finding a better deal.

2015 Missions Conference Registration Form

Tuesday & Wednesday October 27 & 28, 2015

*Wintergreen Resort & Conference Center
60 Gasser Road, Wisconsin Dells*

Near Exit 92 off I90/94

Name: _____ Email Address _____

District: SEW ___ NW ___ WW ___ MI ___ MN ___

I will stay: 1 night: _____ 2 nights: _____ Room Total: \$ _____

(Rooms are \$60.00 per night) (Families \$60.00 per night or two persons per room \$30.00 per night each person)

I plan to arrive: Monday _____ Tuesday _____

I will room with: _____

(Name)

Meal packages:

Total meal package: _____

(\$43.00) Includes: Tuesday Lunch & Tuesday Supper Banquet
Wednesday Buffet Breakfast & Box Lunch

Two meal package: _____

(\$21.50) Includes: **Any two meals of your choice:**

Tuesday Lunch _____

Tuesday Supper Banquet _____

Wednesday Buffet Breakfast _____

Wednesday Box Lunch _____

One meal package: _____

Includes:

Any meal of your choice:

Tuesday Lunch \$9.00 _____

Tuesday Supper Banquet \$17.00 _____

Wednesday Buffet Breakfast \$8.00 _____

Wednesday Box Lunch \$9.00 _____

Meal Total: \$ _____

I will attend the Tuesday evening fellowship: Yes ___ No ___

(\$5.00 charge)

Room Total: \$ _____

Meals Total: \$ _____

Fellowship: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Send your completed registration ***preferably*** by Email or USPS to Ron Demulling.

Email: rondsts@centurytel.net

Address: Ron Demulling
25301 274th Avenue
Holcombe, WI 54745

You may pay Ron Demulling at the conference or in advance with your registration. Checks can be made out to ***WW DMB*** or cash payments will be accepted at the conference.

Registrations must be in no later than October 15, 2015

Break- out sessions approximately 55 minutes in length (Please check the three breakouts you would attend)

- **Getting the Conversation Started** – Dave Scharf

- How do I start a conversation on spiritual things when the time never seems to be right? Pastor Dave Scharf will help us see the opportunities we have in our lives to talk about Jesus, and provide us with winsome ways to lead people to see Jesus' love for them.

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

- **Facilitating Change** – Steve Wilkens & Ethan Steinbrenner

- What have you done to improve and build on the mission mindset in your congregation? What could you learn from your brothers and their experience? Pastor Wilkens and Steinbrenner don't claim to have all the answers, but can share what they have done. There will also be plenty of time for discussion and idea sharing on how to improve and build on the mission mindset in your congregation.

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

- **BIC Ideas/Extreme Makeover** – Prof. Tom Kock

- Professor Tom Kock will introduce us to the many different formats of Bible Information Class and situations in which they can be used.

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

- **New Member welcome orientation/welcome/orientation** – Luke Werre

- Pastor Luke Werre will share some meaningful ways new members can be introduced to the many things your congregation does and incorporated into congregational life.

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

- **Taking the Next Step in Missions – the Next Conversation** – John Dorn

- What do we do next? Are we ready to branch out into new ministry? Do you seem to be doing the same thing all the time? Pastor John Dorn will help us to understand if we are ready to make the next step.

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

- **Starting a New Ministry** – Jeff Mahnke

- Pastor Jeff Mahnke will help us to identify opportunities and models for starting a new ministry. Pastor Mahnke serve a multi-site congregation in Schofield/Weston, WI

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

- **Panel Discussion – Creative Connections – Bring your ideas!** - Brian Schmidt

- Famous Elvis impersonator and budding Broadway star, Rev. Brian Schmidt, will lead a discussion on how to meet people in your community in creative new ways.

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

- **Using Schools for Outreach – 10 Things You Can do** – Paul Steinberg

- Pastor Paul Steinberg and Staff will be helping us make the best use of our Lutheran Elementary Schools for evangelism. How to properly market your school and identify pitfalls and blessings.

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

- **Tactics – Apologetics** – Prof. Bivens

The use of apologetics in proclaiming our faith is becoming more and more important. Prof. Bivens will help us to use apologetics unapologetically as we seek to destroy the walls Satan has built up.

___ *Check if you will attend this session*

Updates on District Missions:

Roscoe, IL: Pastor Tom Englebrecht accepted a call in July of 2014. Pastor Clint Burrow has accepted the call to Amazing Grace and will be installed on June 14. This congregation has one year remaining of synod subsidy. If you Sunday School of Lutheran Elementary School is looking for a local mission to support, this would be a great opportunity.

Mauston/Adams:

This is an awesome example of a congregation taking the lead in starting a new church and doing so without synodical subsidy. Worship attendance is over 50 each week, with many new guests and people in adult instruction class.

Verona/Mt. Horeb: Good News Lutheran in Mt. Horeb continues reaching out with the Good News. Pastor Jon Bauer has been serving since July of 2014. Worship attendance is over 50 and the congregation is beginning the process of investigating land purchase.

Dubuque, IA: Pastor Mike Krentz continues serving the congregation, Living Savior in a semi-retired capacity. Worship attendance is in the 20's. The congregation's mother churches are increasing support that are allowing Living Savior to move into a 24/7 ministry center. A special grand opening service is planned on Sunday, June 14 at 3:30 p.m. 998 Fremont, Ave, Dubuque, Iowa.

We also remain in contact with all congregations that have CEF loans or are considering reaching out to new locations. We are always happy to meet with a congregation, pastor, or group of individuals with interest in reaching out to a new community.

Questions, comments, input, new location for next church? Contact Pastor Nathan Strutz, Western Wisconsin District Mission Board Chairman. pastorstrutz@rlcverona.com 608-515-4334 (call or text).

Home Mission Spring 2015 Report

Mark 1:38 – Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

Home Missions New Mission Starts

The Board for Home Missions met on April 16-17, 2015. One of the items of business was to prioritize new mission starts for the coming fiscal year. Six new starts were authorized to receive funding starting July 1, 2015.

Blair, Nebraska (north-west side of Omaha)

Colorado Springs, Colorado (north-east side of town)

Fenton Michigan (between Ann Arbor and Flint)

Las Vegas, Nevada (African ministry)

Liberty Hill, Texas (near Austin)

Tyler, Texas (75 miles south-east of Dallas)

Regarding the above list, we say “thank you” to our church body for its mission offerings as well as individual gifts which allowed Home Missions to make these authorizations. Home Missions also says thanks to:

- a) Joint Mission
Council: this group of Home and World Mission leaders authorized funding for two years to cover the costs of the Las Vegas African mission (FY 16 - \$46K and FY 17 - \$52K)
- b) Church Extension
Fund: this lending intuition in our church body adopted an unrestricted net asset policy in Feb. of 2015 for Home Missions. The proceeds are to assist in funding new missions. For FY 16 and FY 17, there will be income of at least \$700,000.00 per fiscal year. This very generous grant helped contribute to the authorization of five of the missions.

During the Home Missions meetings (April 16 & 17), other financial decisions are made. By the middle of May the financial picture of Home Missions for the coming two fiscal years will be fairly clear. Once the financial picture is in hand, Home Missions may consider authorizing another mission(s).

What follows are the prioritized locations where the next mission(s) would start.

Peoria, Arizona

Lehi, Utah

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Risen Savior Lutheran); this would not be a new mission but an enhancement of a Hispanic ministry at Risen Savior Lutheran in Milwaukee WI)

Williston, North Dakota

Vicar in Mission Settings

For many years Home Missions has supported a program called Vicar in Missions (VIMs). Some of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary class assigned to be vicars are assigned into mission or mission-minded congregations. The past six years Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary has joined Home Missions in this venture. Before this partnership 8-12 students were assigned into a VIM setting. Now with this partnership up to 21-22 students have been assigned as a VIM. During the Home Mission meeting, the Home Mission Executive Committee and two representatives from WLS considered thirty-six requests for a VIM. Based on available funding from Home Missions, WLS, and the participating congregations, the highest total of VIMs was prioritized; twenty-four of the thirty-six requests were prioritized to be in the VIM program.

Summer Student Assistants

Similar to the vicar program, Home Missions and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) work together on the Summer Student Assistant (SSA) program. This program places first or second year WLS students into mission or mission-minded congregations over the summer for a 10 week period. The students lead in worship as well as preach. They participate in outreach events as well as do canvassing and witnessing. These students receive a mini-vicar training experience during the summer. For the coming summer (2015) Home Missions is supporting seven SSAs in mission congregations. Two self-supporting congregation also are sponsoring a SSA.

Church Extension Fund (CEF)

Since 1993, CEF has given over \$25M in grants to mission congregations. This is only possible by a combined effort or congregational mortgages with CEF and the strong support of individuals. If you have not taken the opportunity to share information about CEF with the members of your congregation, please consider doing this. There are helpful resources and printed materials available from the CEF office. Go to: cef.wels.net.

Since late fall 2014 CEF has been considering offering Home Missions additional financial support. At the 2013 synod convention, the by-laws were changed so that CEF Board of Directors (BOD) could allocate funds to Home Missions for operational costs (new missions) if that was financially feasible for CEF. At the Feb.22 / 23 2015 CEF BOD meeting, the BOD approved an unrestricted net asset policy. We are thankful that the CEF BOD has taken this step. As noted on the first page of this report, it has allowed Home Missions to authorize additional missions.

In the recent past, CEF also has given two special grants (\$1M in Feb. of 2011 and \$1.3M in Sept. of 2013). There are twelve churches which have received portions of those grants. Home Missions continues to track how those mission ministries are doing with the special grant blessing.

Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry continues to be a vital ministry, reaching out to WELS students as well as reaching out to those who don't believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin.

At a November 2014 Campus Ministry Committee (CMC) meeting, the CMC determined to take some active steps to encourage more congregations to consider campus ministry or to assist congregations doing campus ministry. The CMC asked the Home Mission Administrator to make some initial visits to congregations to help with this direction. Another way in which the CMC is taking this direction is by offering financial support for at least two fiscal years to Divine Word Lutheran in Plover WI. In its ministry Divine Word Lutheran's plan is to call a second pastor to do more campus ministry at UW-Stevens Point as well as more outreach in Stevens Point. A third way the CMC is looking to encourage more active campus ministry is by hosting a Campus Ministry Conference in Waukesha on May 18 & 19, 2015.

The weekend of Oct. 17-19, 2014, Wisconsin Lutheran Chapel in Madison WI celebrated 50 years of campus ministry at UW-Madison. This campus ministry reaches hundreds of souls each week. Worship on Sundays and Wednesday Vespers averages close to 350. In its 50 year history there have been many blessings. One of those more recent blessings was the "new" Chapel which was dedicated in February of 2006. We pray the Lord continue to bless this and all our campus ministries.

Over the past number of years Pastor Ken Brokmeier has served as Campus Ministry Committee chairman. His term has come to an end. We thank him for serving. Now serving as chairman is Pastor Charlie Vannieuwenhaven.

