

**BUSINESS MANAGER NEWS**  
***Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts***



<b>For the Month Ending May 2018</b>	
Anticipated Amount	\$125,000
Actual Receipts	\$146,911
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts</b>	
Anticipated Amount	\$500,000
Actual Receipts	\$498,490
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$1,510)
<b>Use of Mission Receipts</b>	
Remitted to Synod (50%)	\$250,000
Balance for District programs/operations	\$248,490
Total Receipts	\$498,490
<b>Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year</b>	
Month ending May 2018	\$498,490
Month ending May 2017	\$506,275
Over (under) last year	(\$7,785)

### Stewardship Corner

When you serve others in whatever task it may be, whether it's performing major surgery or sweeping a floor; designing a car or filing medical forms; we might be repairing a furnace or balancing a budget, building a new room in someone's house, collecting trash, making high-level management decisions at a company, or making sure your household is running smoothly. In God's eyes, all of these vocations, and every vocation, are equally important. In everything we do in this world, God is at work in us and through us, and through the tasks we accomplish, for the benefit of the world He loves so much. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men"* (Colossians 3:23).

**THE WORLD ASKS, "WHAT DOES A MAN OWN?" CHRIST ASKS, "HOW DOES HE USE IT?"** (Andrew Murray)

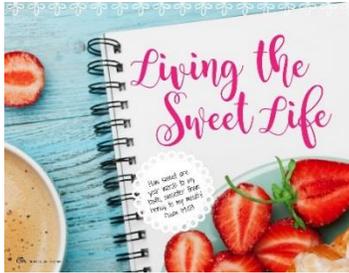
"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

**Jesus Taught  
us how to  
Serve Others**

## Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

Did you know that the District helps pastors and professional church workers when they are students and even after they graduate? Since 2014, the District has paid out over \$250,000 grants to reduce the educational indebtedness of 33 LCMS rostered workers in the District (70 individual applications; workers can currently apply up to 5 years). This is possible thanks to generous people in the District who have remembered the District in their estate plans.

You have an opportunity to support this fund at the District Convention. The District Board of Directors approved a special offering to support the Ministry Excellence Fund-Education Debt Assistance. Consider what you and your congregation can do. Make checks payable to Iowa District West and bring to the opening worship service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake on Sunday, June 24.



### Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference – Living the Sweet Life

Plan now to attend the District Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference on Tuesday, **September 18**, 2018 from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Cost is only \$40 (\$35 if registered by September 1). All ministry assistant professionals are invited to enjoy a relaxing, inspirational, and educational day. Shannon Zetterlund will be our speaker touching on a variety of topics.

Plan now to enjoy a full day in Urbandale. Brochures will be mailed around July 1; extra brochures can be printed from the website ([www.idwlcms.org/news.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/news.php)).

### Now is the time to review Concordia Health Plan Options

Plan to attend the upcoming Concordia Health Plan programs scheduled around the District.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Concordia Health Plan is encouraged to attend a morning session in Spencer or an afternoon session in Ames:

**Wednesday, June 27** – First English, Spencer at 9 am

**Wednesday, June 27** – Memorial, Ames at 3 pm

To register online, [click here](#) or contact Roger Curtis; please register today!

The program is free courtesy of Concordia Plan Services and the District's ministry funds from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company and American Church Group.



### Religious Freedom Victory

Christians can celebrate as the United States Supreme Court recently ruled 7-2 in favor of Jack Phillips (the Colorado cake artist). This is a big win—not just for Jack, but for every American who values freedom. Praise God! The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the State of Colorado violated Jack's First Amendment freedom when the government punished him for operating his business according to his sincerely held religious beliefs about marriage. In other words, the court upheld Jack's freedom to live and work consistently with his beliefs. To read more about the story, go to the Alliance Defending Freedom website ([click here](#)).



The Court's decision also made mention of clergy, and stated that pastors cannot be compelled to perform same-sex ceremonies if doing so violates his or her right to free exercise of religion. The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) summarizes this topic; [click here](#) to read more.

### Moving Away from Cash

What is your congregation doing to help cure the summer slump? One of the blessings of the church is a free automated giving service offered by LCEF called Joyful Response®. For more information about Joyful Response®, go to <https://lcef.org/joyful-response> or call Carole White at 515.240.2229. For other automatic giving options, contact Stewardship Chairman Jonathon Conner or Stewardship Executive Mark Gerken.