

BUSINESS MANAGER NEWS
Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts



For the Month Ending December 2019	
Anticipated Amount	\$117,200
Actual Receipts	\$142,634
Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts	
Anticipated Amount	\$1,289,200
Actual Receipts	\$1,267,310
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(21,890)
Use of Mission Receipts	
Remitted to Synod (45%)	\$580,140
Balance for District programs/operations	\$687,170
Total Receipts	\$1,267,310
Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year	
Month ending December 2019	\$1,267,310
Month ending December 2018	\$1,320,101
Over (under) last year	\$(52,791)

Stewardship Corner - by Ron Chewning - www.StewardshipAdvisors.org – 248.644.6150

IN THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (LUKE 8:4-15), JESUS TELLS US THAT GOD’S WORD CAN BE CHOKED OUT BY THE RICHES AND PLEASURES OF LIFE.

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs” (1 Timothy 6:10).



We know that our lives are enriched by certain activities and disciplines. Eating the right foods and getting proper sleep and regular exercise are helpful and healthful habits for each of us. As God’s people, we would add activities that strengthen our relationship with Jesus, such as an active prayer life and spending time reading and studying God’s Word. This time with Jesus gives us guidance, stability, and purpose for our lives. Our lives are blessed when we focus on both our physical and spiritual well-being.

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

What is Iowa District West? Iowa District West is the Synod in this place. IDW is one of 35 districts in the LCMS. The District consists of 168 congregations in the western half of Iowa which includes 17 circuits, 58,957 baptized members, and 47,107 communicant members. It includes 197 pastors and 98 professional church workers. We all walk together to achieve the same mission. Your dedicated District staff encourages and assists to provide numerous services and resources that would not be accomplished if we were not in a partnership. Because of your monthly District and Synod support, we are able to serve in all the areas of mission/outreach, disaster relief, human care, education (early childhood/preschools, elementary schools, family life), youth, stewardship/advancement, ecclesiastical administration, and leadership development. With your congregation's mission and ministry support, we will continue to work together to carry us forward for which we have been sent. We are on a mission to support you and Christ's mission!

Financial Quick Notes

- 2020 Mileage Rate: **57.5 cents** per mile for all business miles driven. To read the complete IRS announcement, go online to www.irs.gov and search "2020 Standard Mileage Rates." Please note that unreimbursed mileage and other business expenses will no longer be deductible for employees.
- New receipt vouchers were mailed mid-January. Please use these for remittances from February 1, 2020-January 20, 2021. Donations for organizations outside the District should be sent directly to the organization.
- Need a Federal W-4 or other IRS form quickly? Several forms are in the Treasurer's Manual, but you can also download the current forms directly from the IRS website. Go to www.irs.gov/Forms-&-Pubs and download the PDF file. Note the Federal W4 has been completely revised for 2020.
- Need a Form I-9? Find the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at www.uscis.gov/i-9 All church staff including pastors need a copy on file.
- State of Iowa Form W-4 (IA W-4 Employee's Withholding Certificate and Centralized Employee Registry 44-019) is online at <https://tax.iowa.gov> (search W4). This form has been revised for 2020. All new employees must complete this Centralized Employee Registry Reporting Form. Questions, email idr@iowa.gov or call 515.281.3114 or 800.367.3388.
- The Iowa minimum wage remains at \$7.25. State and federal posters are no longer provided by Iowa Workforce Center, but posters can be downloaded for free. More information is online at www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/required-employer-posters.
- Tax calendar: January 31 deadline...
Issue Form W-2 to each employee (employers are not required to submit Form W-2 copy 1 to the state). Complete Copy A of each 2019 Form W-2 Wage and Tax Statement and W-3 Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statement to Social Security Administration (mail to address on summary form or file electronically).
Issue Form 1099-Misc to all independent contractors/self-employed individuals (those that earned \$600 or more during the year 2019).
Complete Copy A of each 2019 Form 1099-Miscellaneous Income and Form 1096-Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns to IRS (mail to address on summary form or file electronically).
- Complete Employers Quarterly Federal Tax Return Form 941 (be sure to proof the Form 941 totals with W-3 summary statement).
- Form 944 is designed so the smallest employers (those whose annual liability for social security, Medicare, and withheld federal income taxes is \$1,000 or less) will file and pay these taxes only once a year instead of every quarter.
- Complete online the 2019 State of Iowa Verified Summary of Payments (VSP) to the Iowa Department of Revenue. Questions call 800.367.3388.



The Top 10 Church Management Articles of 2019

ManagingYourChurch.com recently summarized the most popular stories from last year. There are several good articles including “Clergy Housing Allowance is Constitutional.” Another popular article is titled “When the Church Office Closes for Bad Weather, Does Everyone Get Paid?” To learn more about this article and others, [click here](#).

Submit your LCMS Statistics Report

Important! The LCMS Department of Rosters and Statistics mailed each congregation instructions for completing the 2019 statistics report. The letter includes the congregation ID and password needed for completing the form online. The report includes membership data, gains/losses, education enrollment figures, and financial information. Please be sure this letter gets to the person in your congregation who is responsible for completing this report.

If you have not received this letter yet or have questions, please email rosters.stats@lcms.org or call the LCMS Church Information Center at 888-843-5267. This statistical information is used to calculate congregational assessments for District and Synod Conventions. It also assists a wide variety of ministry efforts at the national level, as well as fulfilling the expectation of membership set forth in Bylaw 1.3.4. Please return the completed report to the LCMS Office of Rosters and Statistics by February 28, 2020.

The Lutheran Witness Subscription Rate

The rate for *The Lutheran Witness* remains the same for May 2020-May 2021. Including the insert, the total is \$22.68. The LW is available as an app, online, and in print. The flagship magazine of the LCMS, *The LW* is a monthly publication (11 issues per year) that offers Synod news, features, columns, Q & A, and more. The deadline for changes is March 2. If you have any questions, contact Concordia Publishing House circulation at 800.325.3040 ext. 1419 or email Becky.Laumand@CPH.org. For more information or to read web-exclusive stories, you can also go to www.lcms.org/witness.

Thrivent Choice Update

Thrivent Choice dollars for 2019 will be expiring soon! If you are a Thrivent member, you may be eligible to participate and direct Thrivent Choice dollars to Iowa District West and other LCMS organizations. Simply go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) before March 31 and say “Thrivent Choice.”

If you have a specific ministry you want to support (a mission in the District, Joy in Ministry Scholarship Fund, IOWAY, Disaster relief/LERT, Youth Gathering, etc.) let me know the ministry and the amount. Thank you to the many members who have already supported IDW!

Concordia Plan Services Partners with Paycor - HR & Payroll Solution

Does your church need help navigating the complex world of processing payroll? Concordia Plan Services has partnered with Paycor to assist your congregation with payroll management. Paycor is a comprehensive solution that includes payroll processing, tax handling, employee self-service, payroll payments and reporting. Their prices are very reasonable: \$11 base fee and \$1.49 per employee (includes quarterly tax filings like 941s).

Paycor is a customizable solution designed specifically for Concordia partners. They will also process the EBSO 403(b) retirement payments. They assume 100% liability for the filing of taxes. If you are using Paychex, the original CPS partner, you may want to consider switching to save money. For more information, contact Jessy McKeever at 513.827.1705 or JMcKeever@Paycor.com.

Also, another good comprehensive solution provider is MinistryWorks (ministry of Brotherhood Mutual Insurance). To learn more, go to www.MinistryWorks.com or call 866.215.5540.