

BUSINESS MANAGER NEWS
Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts



Month Ending August 2020	
Anticipated Amount	\$117,000
Actual Receipts	\$119,846
Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts	
Anticipated Amount	\$819,000
Actual Receipts	\$793,145
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(25,855)
Use of Mission Receipts	
Remitted to Synod (45%)	\$368,550
Balance for District programs & ministries	\$424,595
Total Receipts	\$793,145
Mission Receipts Compared with Last Year	
Month ending August 2020	\$793,145
Month ending August 2019	\$791,256
Over (under) last year	\$1,889

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

**AS GOD’S GIFTS TO US GROW,
WE ARE TO INCREASE OUR
GIVING AS WELL.**

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Proverbs 3:9).

God’s economy is much different than the world’s. The world tells us to make as much money as we can to buy as much as we can. We are told that we deserve and need the newest and best of everything, and happiness will come from having much. In contrast, God’s Word tells us, “give, and it will be given to you...For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38). In God’s economy, we receive by giving. Jesus tells us that “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). The Apostle Paul wrote, “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you will abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). God gives us the capacity and the desire to give, and He promises to bless us through our generous giving (Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:10).

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

The District Stewardship Committee is providing a couple of stewardship emphasis programs from Ron Chewning/Stewardship Advisors; one is called *Faithful Stewards of God's Gifts* – “As We Have Opportunity, Let Us Do Good to Everyone.” The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). With changed hearts, we are enabled to render help and service to others (by the way, the Lions Club motto is “We Serve”). We are the instruments through which God works. Through our hands and feet, He brings love and care to the needy; through our lips, He tells others of His life-saving Gospel; and through our minds, hearts, and checkbooks, He supports the work of the church. As God enables us, we can give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord. “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58). Roger’s interpretation is “Always work *enthusiastically* for the Lord!”

The 41st Regular Convention of Iowa District West

Planning your budget for 2021? Remember to budget for the District Convention scheduled for June 27-29, 2021. Tentatively, there will be a small rate increase for the convention assessment: calculate \$70 per congregation and 22¢ per communicant member. The rate could be higher if the convention is not held at Camp Okoboji. This will be the first increase since 2009.



Safety & Security Seminar Rescheduled

The District has partnered with American Church Group/Brotherhood Mutual insurance company to offer training to keep church facilities safe from violent activity. Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, the October 15 program in Fort Dodge has been cancelled, or rather rescheduled for next year. Mark your calendar tentatively for Thursday, October 14, 2021.



If your congregation is looking for COVID-19 resources, there is a plethora of resources online - check out [Brotherhood Mutual](#).

Church & Clergy Finance/Treasurer's Workshop

Plan now to attend the upcoming workshop this fall, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, **November 14** (location TBA or the program may be held online). The guest speaker will be CPA Paul Pettit. He is the Business Manager at the Nebraska District and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Stay tuned for additional details.



National Save for Retirement Week



National Save for Retirement Week, October 18-24, is an effort to raise public awareness about the importance of adequate retirement savings. No matter what the worker's age or income, saving for retirement is not an option, it is a necessity! Now is the perfect time to review your plan and see if you are on track for your goals and make any necessary changes. Employers can distribute copies of the Concordia Plan Services Salary Deferral Agreement to employees ([click here](#) and scroll to Contribution Change).

Be Well Serve Well - Let's Walk!

Continue earning Vitality points and physical activity by signing up for the [Healthiest State 10th Annual Walk](#) on Wednesday, **October 10**. As a recent cancer survivor, I'm passionate about good health; walking is wonderful. Walking is one of the best ways to stay healthy. Walking together gives us an opportunity to catch up and refresh our minds, and the physical benefits add up, too! How awesome is walking? Walking improves memory, curbs inflammation, spurs creativity, increases physical performance, improves attention and concentration, lowers stress, and helps you lose weight.



Join the LCMS Synod-wide [Steps Challenge](#) in October. Registration is October 1-15 and the Challenge will take place October 16-31.