

BUSINESS MANAGER NEWS
Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts



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|---|------------|
| Month Ending March 2021 | |
| Anticipated Amount | \$113,500 |
| Actual Receipts | \$110,939 |
| Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts | |
| Anticipated Amount | \$227,000 |
| Actual Receipts | \$226,234 |
| Over (under) anticipated amount | \$ (766) |
| Use of Mission Receipts | |
| Remitted to Synod (45%) | \$102,150 |
| Balance for District programs & ministries | \$124,084 |
| Total Receipts | \$226,234 |
| Mission Receipts Compared with Last Year | |
| Month ending March 2021 | \$226,234 |
| Month ending March 2020 | \$246,846 |
| Over (under) last year | \$(20,612) |

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

**BY GOD'S GRACE, GIVING BECOMES
 A PRIVILEGE AND AN OPPORTUNITY
 RATHER THAN AN OBLIGATION.**

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).



The Apostle Paul wrote, “*We were therefore buried with [Jesus] through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life*” (Romans 6:4).

We now live new lives. The old is gone; the new is here. Sin no longer enslaves us. We are not bound to obey our evil natures. The Holy Spirit empowers us as new creations to offer ourselves to God as His instruments of righteousness. He equips us to do the good works that He has “*prepared in advance for us to do*” (Ephesians 2:10).

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in many mission and ministry areas? The District strongly supports missions with almost 2/3 of the budget: 1/3 for Synod missions and 1/3 for District missions. This total, \$ 1,411,372, is almost the same as the congregation mission support budget for the fiscal period. The remaining 1/3 of the budget covers congregational support services (Human Care, Education, Youth, Stewardship) and administrative expenses. Your dollars make a difference in carrying out the mission and ministry in Iowa District West and across the world.

Safety & Security Seminar - Keep Your Church Safe!

In the wake of violent events the last several years, many pastors and church leaders are looking for information to help make church facilities safer. Providing a safe environment for the people who attend church services and activities is one of our greatest responsibilities and challenges in today's society. Plan now to attend the Church Safety & Security Seminar on Thursday, **October 28** at St. Paul, Fort Dodge (note revised date). This all-day training is essential for every congregation. Watch for more information.

Religious Freedom Challenges Facing America

With changes in the culture today, ministries need to be legally prepared for the changes that are taking place, especially if the Equality Act becomes law. The Equality Act does *not* include *any* religious exemptions. The Equality Act would eliminate the significant protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. To learn more on the Equality Act; check out the [Equality Act PDF Resource](#).

Congregation leaders are invited to consider ADF Church Alliance Membership. ADF is a proven advocate and defender of religious liberties. ADF Church Alliance is a membership program that provides legal help so you can freely preach and operate your church in accordance with Christian principles. Because of the IDW partnership, you will receive a 20% discount - click link to join the [Church Alliance](#) and use Promo Code IDW20.

Benefits of membership include:

- Religious liberty document review: ADF reviews your church's documents to minimize threats to your religious freedom.
- Direct access to attorneys: Consult ADF attorneys with religious liberty questions.
- Pro bono legal representation: ADF can represent your church in cases involving its religious liberty issues.

Sherri Huston, regional director at ADF Church Alliance, would be happy to speak with you about the ways they can serve your congregation. You can contact her at shuston@adflegal.org or 480.388.8263.



Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference



The Iowa District West Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Conference will be held at St. Paul, Fort Dodge this fall. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, **September 21** from 8 am - 3:30 pm. All ministry assistant professionals are invited to enjoy a relaxing, inspirational, and educational day. More details will be shared next month.

May – Mental Health Month

The pandemic has added a lot of stress to the lives of all people in the last year. LCMS mental health summary:

Pre-COVID: CHP population above national benchmarks for depression and anxiety

Mid-2020: 6% increase in anxiety, depression, sleep medication use

Today: Mental health and substance abuse - #2 by episode count in 2020 claims and #1 preventive care

There is good news! Concordia Plan Services has been able to help and can continue to help church workers on the health plan. Here are some good online resources from the [LCMS](#) & [CPS](#). In summary, to access your EAP benefits go to MyCigna.com or call 866-726-5267. For questions, contact Sara Correnti, Manager, Health & Welfare Member Wellness Products at Sara.Correnti@concordiaplans.org.