

## 2015 Convention Report of the Parish Education/Campus Ministry Committee

The Parish Education/Campus Ministry Committee of the MT District is committed to make themselves known and available to the congregations and pastors of the district so we can be utilized for consultation, educational resources, and pastor, teacher and early childhood training. We will set up conferences to encourage, support and aid the pastors in their congregations as they train up and equip their people and leadership taskforce for service and mission outreach.

In grateful response and in service to our Lord in His Kingdom, the Parish Education/Campus Ministry Committee Chairman outlines a brief summary of the activities and events of the past three years.

The Committee has continued its annual ECH Conferences at Trinity in Great Falls. On October 4 & 5, 2013 the 9<sup>th</sup> annual ECH Conference entitled HEALTHY IN CHRIST - BODY, MIND & SPIRIT was held.

Pres. Terry Forke presented on Healthy Doctrine - Healthy Church.

Mr. Steve Gruenwald, Health and Wellness Educator, Concordia Plan Service, St. Louis, MO presented several sectionals on the importance of healthy teachers and healthy children, encompassing the entire physical and spiritual health of God's people. Judy Williams, Mt. Clemens, MI - formerly of Billings, MT presented four sectionals, #1 What Should I be Teaching? Growth and Development of the Young Child by Mortha Jander #2 Activities that support Age Appropriate Goals - A Curriculum Guide for a Lutheran EC Program #3 A Yearly Plan: Physical Education, Nutrition, Health and Safety -Trinity ECH Center, Clinton Twp MI #4 Let's Move It Move It, Move It: - songs, games and activities for each letter of the alphabet. Patricia Stricker led action rhymes and games and presented the Make & Take activity making horseshoe nail crosses.

On October 3 & 4, 2014 the 10<sup>th</sup> annual ECH Conference entitled EQUIP, EMPOWER, & SEND was held. Mark Schoepp from wheat Ridge Ministries was the keynote speaker. His presentations were The Brain - Living Inside God's Design, Play, Rest & Sleep, The Brain & Planning in the Church, and Bridge Ministries. Mark is the Director of Congregation Engagement for Wheat Ridge Ministries. Pres. Forke presented sessions #1 Equipping Children in Catechism; # 2 Equipping Children with Bible Stories.

Patricia Stricker led the Art Creations - Look What I Made! She shared various art projects that children could make during the school session to bring Christ into the home as outreach. Patricia also led a storytelling session - Telling God's Story and one entitled Fingers Tell the Story.

There was also a Sharing Your Ideas & Happenings session.

The 2015 ECH Conference is in the planning for the first weekend in October. Judy Williams of Mt. Clemens, MI will be the keynote speaker.

The conference is still in the planning stages. Early Childhood Directors and teachers are asked to express their wishes for topics and content of interest. Ideas surrounding Reformation and the upcoming celebration would be welcomed. Six state accredited training hours were earned.

An Administrator Conference for the Parochial School Principals, Teacher Representative and Pastoral Contact was held in Great Falls April 4 & 5, 2013. Pres. Forke chaired and presented at the conference with Mark Schoepp of Wheat Ridge Ministries on video link due to a sudden illness so he couldn't attend in person. Representation of almost all the parochial schools made this a very successful conference.

The next Administrators Conference is planned for April 2015.

The Chairman has attended two conferences for the Education Executives and two ECH Conferences.

The 2013 ECH Conference was held in Livermore, CA Feb. 27-Mar 1 at their District Office facilities. It was entitled "My Father's Vineyard". Cindy Steinbeck was the keynote speaker. She presented excerpts from her book available through CPH. CPH presented the new One in Christ series now available offering comprehensive religion resources for infants through kindergarten. Samples of the revised "In His Hands" was reviewed. A presentation on Recruitment & Retention was given and the importance of marketing our schools.

The 2014 ECH Conference was held in Omaha, Neb. at King of Kings, on April 2-4. It was entitled "Where the Wild Things Are" and the theme was ministering and reaching children where they are.

Confedex 2013 was held on the Concordia Austin, TX campus. Dr. Don Seigel a three star general was a keynote speaker giving us his insight on trust and faith and questions of partnerships and how we motivate others for service. He said it was about service, about the future, about growth potential and about witnessing and bringing glory to God; trusting God blessed the process. He said it was about competence and capabilities and results. Each improved through education and experience; therefore be good at what you do. Plan, pray, trust, act and give God the reigns. Don't be afraid. Use the gifts God has given us and walk out in faith. He left us with the question - Are you in it for your glory or God's glory?

Dr. Kurt Senske led the session on Conversations About Leadership. He stated that God does not need our good works but we need to provide the good works. Our skill sets today are not always what we need for the future. Therefore surround yourselves with

God's Word and embrace your talents and the talents of others. Trust God has placed us where our skills set and ability to learn lies. Serve your Lord.

Confedex 2014 was held on the Concordia University campus in Irvine, CA. It was entitled "Unhidden" Matt. 5:14 "You are the light of the world..." We met in California to look at engaging our world. Call it media, call it culture, but there is no doubt the world is coming to our schools and churches. We need to respond, and respond effectively. We must intentionally lead our schools to be Unhidden. At this conference Pastor Bill Hood put together a fantastic team of presenters to bring the multicultural communities to our attention as we serve our schools and churches in outreach ministry. We came to realize that the mission field is now our own country.

The Chairman has also participated in several monthly Executive ECH phone conferences put on by Lutheran School Ministries in St. Louis. She would like to share the ideas and resources with the MT ECH teachers, Directors & lower elementary teachers. Input as to the best method, phone conference, District website etc. would be welcomed.

As the Parish Education/Campus Committee we serve you, the MT District. Our vision for the future is outlined in our goals & activities listed on the MT District website for you to reference. As a committee we want to be intentional and directed in our goals and activities as we strive to communicate and serve the MT District, Parochial Schools, Preschools & Childcare programs, Sunday Schools, Congregations and the Campus Communities in our areas. Your input as to your needs and services will further help us work in harmony to the greatest advantage and God's glory. We hope to focus a greater communication partnership so our work is serving your needs and your ministry.

In His Service,  
Patricia Stricker - Parish Education/Campus Ministry Chair