

2012 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 congregation 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 Oct. 2 & 3, 2009 the 6th Annual ECH Conference entitled - PRAY, PRAISE & PLAY was held.

Rev. Bruce Zagel, Ambassador of Reconciliation presented sectionals entitled *God's Children in Prayer* and *Negative Pay/Abuse & Its Effect on Families*. Pres. Terry Forke presented a sectional on *Praise, A Lutheran Perspective*. Jason Schleicher, DCE, Trinity Billings presented two sectionals at the conference; *Music For Prayer & Praise*, and *Music For Praise & Play*. Debbie Lee, Director of Wee Disciples in Great Falls gave a brief presentation entitled, *Growing in Your Education*. In this report the importance of teachers furthering their education and undertaking the Colloquy process was addressed. Rev. Kent Stenzel led a round table discussion on *Policies & Procedures*. Patricia Stricker presented sectionals entitled *Teaching Methods To Make Play Learning Fun* and *Fostering Positive Learning & Discipline Through Play Centers*. She also led the Make & Take Art Project where the attendees made prayer pillows.

On Oct. 1 & 2, 2010 the annual ECH Conference entitled - BUILDING FOUNDATIONAL BLOCKS was held.

Pres. Terry Forke presented on *Water of Life - Teaching Baptism & Hold Fast To the Confessions - Teaching the Creed*. Patricia Stricker led sectionals on *Teaching Prayer & Worship, Teaching Songs & Memory Passages, Teaching Stories & Sharing Ideas, Learning Centers & Building Strong Foundations*. During the Make and Take session the attendees made Jesus/Disciple Dolls for teaching Bible lessons. Rev. Greg DeMuth of Kalispell led two sectional on *Hope Foundations our need for a firm Christian foundation in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*.

On Sept 30 & Oct 1, 2011 the 8th annual ECH Conference entitled CREATED & SAVED - SENT TO SERVE was held.

Jennifer Welch an LEA National ECH Leadership Institute Presenter led the group in three sectionals entitled *Playing Nicely Together & Parent Relationships*, *Becoming a Lutheran ECH Center of Choice & Qualities of Greatness* and *Intentional Nurturing of Spiritual Champions*. Pres. Forke led a sectional entitled *Let the Little Children Come To Me*, and one entitled *God's Gift of Life*. Patricia Stricker presented sectionals on *Teaching About God's Creation*, *Growing Our Schools* and *Sharing Ideas & Play Fun*. The Make & Take Art session consisted of making cross shaped trivets using river rocks to bring the visual cross to the home dinner table.

Six state certified hours were given to attendees at each of our conferences for all who needed to satisfy yearly training hours.

This year's ECH Conference is planned for the last weekend in Sept. of 2012. The theme will be GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG CHILD - GROWING HEALTHY IN BODY MIND & SPIRIT. A representative from the Concordia Health Plan will be a featured presenter.

An Administrator Conference for the Parochial School Principals, Teacher Representative and Pastoral Contact was held early in 2009 by Roy Williams, co-chair for the Parochial Schools. Following this conference Roy Williams retired from his many years of faithful service to the MT District.

On April 1 & 2, 2010 Pres. Forke chaired and presented at the Administrator Conference in Great Falls along with Debbie Lee of Great Falls and Rev. Howard Schreibeis of Miles City. The conference was very informative and well attended with almost all the schools in the District represented. The next Administrator Conference will be in March or April of 2013. The Parish Education Committee asks for presentation topics, areas of interest and concern as well as feedback from earlier conferences in order to best serve the parochial schools at the next conference.

Grant opportunities were advertised in 2009 and new guidelines were drawn up by the B.O.D. Recommendations for the distribution of these funds no longer needs to be voted on by the Parish Education Committee, so please send your requests into the District Office.

The Chairman has attended two conferences for the Education Executives and two ECH Executive conferences as well as taking part and being a presenter representing Montana at the LEA Convocation in Cincinnati, Ohio in March of 2011. Patricia gave a 75 minute presentation on *Christian Learning Through Play Centers* at the Duke Energy Center to foster positive Christian life applications in the ECH and lower elementary grades. A CD Rom was purchased for the MT District containing the audio recordings of 100 of the LEA

presentations given by various presenters on a wide range of topics.

The Chairman has also taken part in monthly Executive ECH phone conferences put on by Lutheran School Ministries in St. Louis and various webinars hosted by LEA.

The Campus Ministry Committee was meshed with the Parish Education Committee due to the declining economy. Rev. John Sias has accepted to co-chair this sub-committee.

Our objective is to encourage congregations to support local campus ministry, Lutheran college students, and church worker student and also encourage students to attend Lutheran colleges.

Our first goal is to provide support to congregations in promoting Lutheran Colleges. Our activity is to set up an annual Lutheran College information Sunday in LCMS churches in the MT District that is early in the school year and not in the middle of the summer months.

Our next goal is to track and communicate identity of Lutheran College students. We hope to do this by encouraging Pastors and parents to communicate and track Lutheran students in local colleges via websites, church bulletins, and church announcements. We also want to encourage congregations to actively use the Lutheran college students in their congregations.

The last goal is to provide a Christian forum to support college students and nurture Christian fundamentals in education. The activity we hope to implement is to invite Lutheran College students and friends to attend a dinner or luncheon forum monthly.

The vision for the future is outlined in the goals & activities of the Parish Education/Campus Committee. We hope to have these goals and activities listed on the website for you to reference. The committee plans to communicate more via this District Website. 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 & Childcares, Sunday Schools and Congregations. Your input as to the needs and services we can support as a committee will further help us work in harmony to the greatest advantage. By use of the Montana website we hope to focus a greater communication partnership with you so our goals are serving your needs and your ministry.

In His Service,

Patricia Stricker
Parish Education/Campus Chairman