



Together in Christ— Rejoicing for Eternity

A Few Thoughts

July 4, 1776 – It was a day destined to become prominent in American history. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on that day.

Once again, this July 4 we take time to celebrate Independence Day and the freedoms we have in our country, the United States of America. In Seward, Nebraska's July 4th City, our population swells on July 4 as people come from everywhere to celebrate. There is entertainment, a big parade, and the town square is covered with exhibitors. There is food galore, family get-togethers, contests, and on and on. The evening ends with a great fireworks show. It is indeed a good

day to celebrate the freedoms that we have by the grace of God in this United States of America.

But yet these freedoms that we have and celebrate can't compare to the greatest freedom that a person has in Jesus Christ. I was reminded of that once again this past June 6 when I had the opportunity to baptize our new grandson, Caleb, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Seymour, Indiana. There was a miracle that took place that day as Caleb was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. God claimed him as His own, as His child. The greatest freedom ever of forgiveness, life and salvation are

his through faith in Jesus Christ. The blessing shared after his baptism says it well: *"The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting. Amen."*

That is the freedom that is yours and mine through faith in Jesus as our Savior, a freedom that began also at our baptism. It indeed is a freedom that we can celebrate every day of our life.

Celebrating that freedom with you,

Rev. Gene Gierke
Romans 15:13



KIDS Stamp/KIDS Count

Many of us have heard the phrase, "Money doesn't grow on trees." As Christians, we strive to practice stewardship—and that is more than money. But the money part is often the topic that is most often neglected.

Maybe that is because we need help with the conversions.

LCEF has two specific resources for K-8th grades in the K.I.D.S. Stamp Program (Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship) and the K.I.D.S. curriculum.

To learn more about how these stewardship resources can be implemented in your congregation, contact Gene Gierke at 402-641-1485.



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In Case of Emergency. . .

LCEF's Family Emergency StewardAccount® is an LCEF investment offering an opportunity to set aside funds for the unexpected and unplanned expense, while earning competitive market rates. This "Rainy Day" StewardAccount currently pays an interest rate of 2.25%.

Preparing for the unexpected requires a commitment to putting money away consistently, and then drawing upon it only for true emergencies. For optimal growth, the Family Emergency StewardAccount requires an electronic investment (at least monthly) with a minimum amount of \$25 until the account bal-

ance reaches \$10,000.

Important features of this account include:

- \$25 minimum investment to open
- Interest rates adjusted monthly
- Initial quantity of checks provided free
- Minimum check is \$250, with a limit of 12 per year.

For more information, contact Gene Gierke in the Nebraska District Office at 402-641-1485 or visit www.lcef.org.

Is your family prepared for life's surprises?



Consider opening an LCEF Family Emergency StewardAccount today.

Step 1: Are You Asking the "Build or Remodel" Question?

Is a building project looming in your congregation's future? The Architectural Advisory Committee is a service of LCEF that helps LCMS congregations plan and build or remodel church buildings, schools, and other church-related structures.

The Architectural Advisory Committee strives to help pastors and build-

ing committees with their facility questions, offering them advice on how to plan and build worship facilities that are functional, beautiful, and give clear witness to the Christian faith.

This service offers free ad-



vice by phone, written correspondence, and/or an on-site visit. Also, an architectural advisor will meet with a congregation on a one-time basis for expenses only.

If building or remodeling is in your congregation's future, contact the Nebraska District Office at 888-643-2961 to learn more.

Step 2: How Will We Fund It?

Whatever your capital stewardship needs. . .

- Building Renovation
- New Construction
- Debt Reduction or Retirement
- Ministry Enhancement
- New Mission Start or Relocation

. . .LCEF's Capital Funding Services has the experienced consultants and financial experts you need to make your vision a reality!

Capital Funding Services (CFS) consultants work one-on-one with your leaders and development staff to grow God's stewards so your ministry vision can become reality. CFS con-

sultants receive no commissions for their partnership in this ministry. Their greatest reward is the service they provide.

To learn more, contact us at 888-643-2961.



Outreach Ministry in the Nebraska Sandhills

In the spring of 2009, LCEF awarded 25—\$1,000 Outreach Ministry Grants to congregations and organizations throughout the Nebraska District. Outreach ministry has taken place in a variety of places and activities throughout the state—even in the Sandhills of Nebraska. We share an excerpt from the Swede Valley Lutheran Church, Hyannis, report.



“The Outdoor Live Nativity will be cancelled due to the extreme cold.” Have you ever had this happen to you and then discovered that you were secretly quite relieved? Or maybe you have found yourself in a Live Nativity crouching behind livestock thinking, “This must be why Christ was born in a stable—so that there would be animals to act as windbreaks.

Last year, after trying to reschedule, reschedule and finally cancel the Live Nativity due to extreme cold weather in December, 2008, a family from one of our rural churches in the Sandhills of Nebraska offered to host the Live Nativity inside their heated sale

barn located at the east edge of Hyannis.

The week before the Live Nativity was a busy one that transformed a sale barn into a little piece of Bethlehem complete with a market area that served as a place for kids to make clay pots, decorate ornaments and cards, and have the opportunity at a “bookstore” to get an easy-to-read Bible for free.



Two performances were given on Wednesday evening, December 16, 2009, from the children in our Mid-week classes. They gave a very simple presentation of the Gospel account of the birth of Jesus. The cow mooed and the goats bleated along with the guitar/violin accompaniment as everyone sang Christmas hymns interspersed throughout the program.

Parents, grandparents, young children and their parents from different denominations and many people from surrounding communities gathered to hear the amazing Gospel message that Jesus Christ came down from heaven to die for our sins, and He was raised so that we might be with Him forever.

God heard our prayers for a large turnout! We were truly overwhelmed with the positive feedback. There were a number of people in the crowd who do not attend church but felt comfortable in coming to the barn to hear the story of Jesus’ birth retold.

With this type of local mission outreach, the Lutheran Church is becoming more visible as an active and vibrant ministry in this community.

The mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

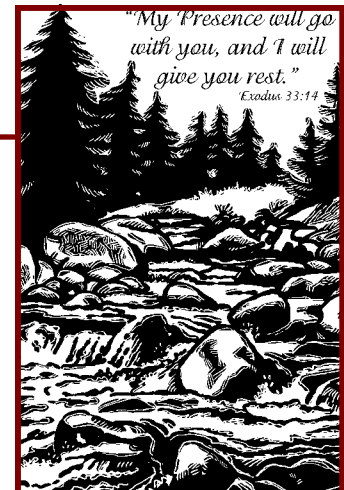
When HIS People Pray

July is often considered the month for vacations—especially as Nebraskans try to beat the heat and retreat to cooler locations.

It happens to be a month filled with opportunities for LC-MS church workers and lay members to serve, grow, and rest in God’s word.

Please keep our church body in your prayers during the following July events:

- LC-MS Convention, Houston, TX
- National Youth Gathering, New Orleans, LA
- International LLL Convention & Nebraska District Prairie Fire, Omaha





Lutheran Church Extension Fund Investment Interest Rates

July 2010

1-800-843-5233
www.lcef.org

10733 Sunset Office Drive
Suite 300
St. Louis, MO 63127

StewardAccount® Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.625%
\$1,000	--	0.750%
\$5,000	--	1.125%
\$10,000	--	2.125%

Dedicated Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.500%
\$1,000	--	0.625%
\$5,000	--	0.750%

Custodial accounts for minors: \$25

Fixed Term Notes

(Minimum Investment \$500)

	Rate	APY
6 Month	--	1.125%
9 Month	--	1.250%
1 Year	--	1.375%
18 Month	--	1.625%
2 Year	--	1.750%
3 Year	--	2.000%
5 Year	--	3.500%
6-10 Year	--	2.750%
11-15 Year	--	3.000%
16-20 Year	--	3.250%

Floating Term Notes

(Minimum Investment \$100)

	Rate	APY
2½ Year (30 Month)	--	1.670%
5 Year (60 Month)	--	2.320%

Next Generation Note*

(Minimum Investment \$5000)

	Fixed Term - Rate	APY
Next Generation	--	5.000%

Family Emergency StewardAccount Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$25	--	2.250%

Balances of <\$10,000 require monthly electronic investments

HSA FlexPlus Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1	--	2.000%
\$2,500	--	2.500%
\$5,000	--	3.000%
\$15,000	--	3.500%

IRA Dedicated Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.625%
\$1,000	--	0.750%
\$5,000	--	1.125%
\$10,000	--	2.125%

IRA Jumbo Notes

(Minimum Investment \$100,000)

	Rate	APY
5 Year Fixed	--	3.875%
60 Month Floating	--	2.695%

Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccount® Certificate

	Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	2.125%
\$25,000	--	2.250%
\$50,000	--	2.375%
\$100,000 +	--	2.625%

Congregation Endowment Note

(60-Month Floating)

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	2.695%
\$10,000	--	2.820%
\$100,000	--	2.945%

Congregation Endowment Note

(5-Year Fixed)

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	2.695%
\$10,000	--	2.820%
\$100,000	--	2.945%

Congregation Certificates

(Minimum Investment \$100)

	Rate	APY
Demand	--	1.125%
StewardAccount® Certificates		
\$100	--	2.125%
\$250,000	--	2.250%
\$500,000	--	2.375%
\$1,000,000 +	--	2.500%

*In conjunction with the purchase of the Next Generation Note, you have made a contribution to the LCEF. A portion of this contribution is non-deductible and considered a premium on the purchase of the note since you are receiving a benefit in return for the contribution (i.e., a 1.5% higher interest rate on the balance of the note). The APY on the principal amount of the Next Generation Note is 5.095%. If the non-deductible portion of the contribution (premium) is deducted from the interest you receive on the note, the yield-to-maturity is reduced to 3.16%.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.