



SPECIAL NOTICE: CONVENTION OFFERING

Dear Friends, Partners in Ministry,

As is our custom the Eastern District will receive a special offering at the opening Service of our Convention. This offering has been designated to benefit the District's Scholarship Fund.

During the past triennium the gifts of Eastern District Congregations have made it possible to provide scholarship support totaling over \$19,000 to 22 Eastern District students in Synod schools preparing for full time church work. Praise God for his glorious grace that makes such resources available. I thank you for your ongoing and enthusiastic affirmation of those who have chosen church work careers.

I am encouraging every congregation to plan to receive at least one special offering in late May or early June to allow the members to contribute to the Eastern District Scholarship Fund. I am also asking the entire District to join in prayer for God's blessings as we gather these funds to make an impact on the financial needs of training workers for our congregations and the mission of the church for years to come.

I believe it is important for members of our congregations to know more about our Synod's schools. Our church body is blessed with an extraordinary system of colleges and universities and two exemplary Seminaries. Representatives of Seminaries and Concordia College will be present at our convention. Please seek them out and show your support or learn more about the wonderful opportunities they offer.

It is right that congregations and the District provide a certain level of support to the students who choose to use the resources of our Concordia University System and Seminaries to prepare for their life's work. The offering received at the convention and the ongoing annual support of a small number of congregations is the only source of funding for the scholarships awarded each year by the District.

Please include the schools, faculties, students and staffs of our Synod in your prayers on a regular basis and take advantage of this opportunity to make a contribution to the development of leaders who can assist our congregations to look to God who is "Always Reforming" us for a world dying in the dark.

Included in this mailing is a series of bulletin paragraphs you may wish to use to alert your congregations to the convention offering. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel

God's peace

Pastor Chris Wicher, President
Eastern District LCMS

Sample Bulletin Paragraphs
For the Eastern District Scholarship Fund Offering
(May also be used in your newsletter)

Two Sundays Before Offering

In two weeks our congregation will participate in a special offering for our Eastern District Scholarship Fund to support the preparation of future church workers from our District. During the last three years \$19,000 in scholarships have been awarded to 22 Eastern District Students. Please plan now to make your contribution. If you are unable to be with us on _____ you may wish to make a contribution by placing an envelope marked "Eastern District Scholarship Fund" in the offering basket today or next Sunday or by leaving it at the Church Office. Please make checks payable to _____ Lutheran Church and write "Eastern District" in the notation.

One Sunday Before Offering

Next Sunday we will receive a special offering for the Eastern District Scholarship Fund. Over the last 10 years the Eastern District has provided \$134,000 in scholarship aid to help over 97 students as they prepare to become pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers who will serve in our churches, schools, and other agencies. Our participation in this offering will continue that tradition and help it to expand. If you are unable to be with us on _____ you may wish to make a contribution by placing an envelope marked "Eastern District Scholarship Fund" in the offering basket today or by leaving it at the Church Office. Please make checks payable to _____ Lutheran Church and write "Eastern District" in the notation.

On the Sunday of the Offering

Today this congregation has the opportunity to participate in the Eastern District Scholarship Fund. Our gifts will be combined with those of our brothers and sisters throughout the District to provide scholarship aid to those from our District who are studying at one of our Synod Schools in preparation for full time church work. The offering will be received *[at the door following the service, at a special time during the service]*. Please make checks payable to _____ Lutheran Church and write "Eastern District" in the notation.

On the Sunday after the Offering

Thank you to all who participated in last Sunday's offering for the Eastern District Scholarship Fund. If you have not yet given your gift, it is not too late. Please place your gift in an envelope marked "Eastern District Scholarship Fund" in the offering basket today or by leaving it at the Church Office. Please make checks payable to _____ Lutheran Church and write "Eastern District" in the notation.