

THE EASTERN DISTRICT HELPS train and equip missional leaders to discover and cultivate resources in order that **CONGREGATIONS BECOME** spiritually stronger, better equipped, more outwardly focused, fiscally sound **MISSION OUTPOSTS** that identify and embrace outreach opportunities in their community, their region & throughout the world to...

SHARE THE LIGHT

"Crossing Over"

In April, 46 of our Eastern District, LCMS Educators, along with 2,600 Lutheran Educators from ten countries, gathered at the Lutheran Education Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, under the theme, "Crossing Over."

Helping them focus on that theme was author and futurist, Dr. Leonard Sweet.

"When I was born, 'text' was a noun and 'contacts' were something you put in your eyes," Sweet told the convocation audience. It was "a Gutenberg world -- very different from the world now.

"The question is, are we Gutenbergs going to cross over into the present world?" He characterized today's world with the acronym of "TGIF" -- Twitter, Google, iPhone and Facebook.

"To cross over into the TGIF world," he said, "we better learn how to prepare [students] for the world coming at them, ... a whole different way to communicate." He said that instead of "words and points," such communication should be done with "images and stories ... the way Jesus taught."



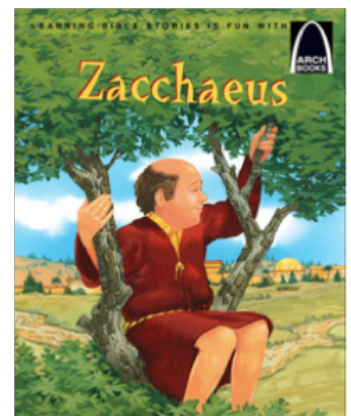
Referring to the biblical account of the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, Sweet issued a challenge to all of us, "God has raised you up for such a moment," he said. "Maybe you're the ones who have to get your feet wet [and] cross over into the TGIF culture -- a culture that is desperate to hear the stories of Jesus, starting in Genesis and going all the way to the maps."

And in those words, Sweet speaks to the congregations of the Eastern District, all 138 of us, your congregation, my congregation, encouraging each one to "get your feet wet and cross over into the TGIF culture - a culture that is desperate to hear the sweet Gospel of the Christ of Easter!"

Arch Books on iPad!

There are sixteen Arch Books on the iTunes store, in iPad app format. This is a first for CPH and, these are among the very few, if not only, Bible story books for children available on the iPad. Take a look at all 16 titles available by looking at CPH's Apps now found in the iTunes store. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/concordia-publishing-house/id375144434>

These are really cool apps. The child can listen and watch as the book is read to them, or...you can record your own voice reading the book to the child. The bright, beautiful iPad display is really quite stunning and Arch books are a perfect fit for this platform.



<h2>Across the District</h2> <p>The following are dates of interest from congregations and organizations across the district.</p>	May	May	May/June
	May 10/11 Buffalo/Rochester Spring Pastor Conf. Notre Dame Retreat	May 17 Eastern District Admin Prof Conference Pioneer, Angola, NY	May 30 Memorial Day Eastern District Office Closed
	May 10/12 Philadelphia/Pitts Spring Pastor Conf. Willow Valley, PA	May 20/22 Pastor's Wives Retreat Beaver Hollow, Java Center, NY	June 6 Summer Camp Begins Pioneer Retreat Center Angola, NY
	May 13/14 Eastern District Board of Directors Philadelphia, PA	May 23-25 LCMS Regional Funding Academy Bronxville, NY	June 23-26 LWML National Convention Peoria, IL

New Activity Book for Preschoolers

The Story of Jesus, a preschool Scripture activity booklet, has been produced by the International LLL Eastern District. The booklet will be used at the New York State Fair Bible Booth this summer.

Miriam Mokry, project coordinator, and Sarah Meas, graphic designer, are members of Trinity, Utica, NY. Fred Neebe, who promotes the fair booth, says 2,000 copies of the eight-page booklet will be made available this year.

Copies of the booklet are available to other Eastern District congregations to use as giveaways. A sample copy may be obtained by contacting the following: State Fair Office, c/o Grace Lutheran Church, 709 Main Street, Vestal, NY, 13859 or via email at GraceOffice@GraceVestal.org. Each additional copy costs 40 cents, plus postage.

Neebe's closing comment? "The Lord Jesus has certainly blessed this outreach program."

Administrative Assistants Conference

The Eastern District is sponsoring a one-day conference for all Eastern District congregation and school administrative assistants. The conference, to be held on Tuesday, May 17th at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, will focus on the theme, "Breathing in the Spirit for a Healthy Journey" based upon Isaiah 58:11. Information on the Eastern District Administrative Assistant's Conference can be found at www.lcmsed.org under the "What's New" button on the homepage.

Pastors' Wives Retreat

The Eastern District Pastor's Wives Retreat is being held on May 20-22, 2011. The theme "Sisters in Christ", will encourage those in attendance to encourage one another even as Christ encourages us. The speaker for this weekend of Bible study and Christian conversation will be Mrs. Terry Kieschnick, the wife of Synodical President Emeritus, Jerry Kieschnick.

"Sister's in Christ" will be held at [Beaver Hollow Retreat Center](http://www.lcmsed.org) in Java Center, New York (about 10 miles east of East Aurora, and about 20 miles south of Buffalo. Registration information for this exciting event is posted at www.lcmsed.org under "What's New" or can be secured by calling the Eastern District office at 716.634.5111.



“Let There Be Light” Creation Conference September 17, 2011

Several congregations in the Eastern District-LCMS are pleased to announce the “Let There Be Light” Creation Conference featuring Answers in Genesis founder/CEO Ken Ham and Dr. David Menton to be held at the Conference Center-Niagara Falls on September 17, 2011. This is an exciting outreach opportunity for our Eastern District Lutheran churches.

It is the intention of the Creation Conference to:

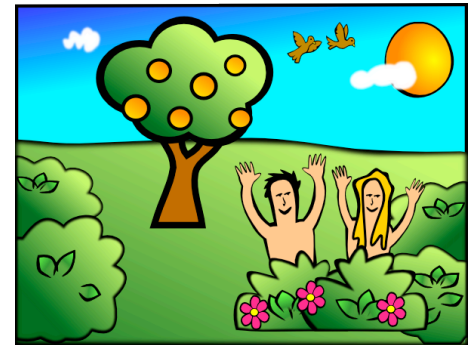
- Proclaim the biblical view of creation and the absolute truth of God’s Word;
- Ignite a passion in people for studying the Bible;
- Promote further education of the biblical view of creation;
- Shift perceptions of the Lutheran church; and
- Ignite and unify the Lutheran community in proclaiming mission and ministry.

Ken Ham is a world-famous biblical authority and is one of the most sought-after Christian speakers in the world. Dr. David Menton, a fellow Lutheran, is an ivy-league educated biologist who rejects evolution and holds firmly to the Word of God.

This will be a family-friendly event featuring children’s activities that will a puppet show, a dinosaur dig, hands-on science experiments, Noah’s Ark, art projects, face-painting, etc. There will even be a cry-room with a live-feed so you won’t have to miss anything. This is for young and old and in-between.

How can you help? First, please pray that God will continue to bless and direct the process. Second, get the word out. And lastly, volunteer. If you are able to help make this conference a success please call 716-622-5359, or email the conference organizers at creationconference@gmail.com.

It is our hope and prayer that you will join with us to make this a truly memorable event. Visit us at www.lettherebelightconference.blogspot.com for details and updates.



Be Well Rewards Program— Coming Soon!

Concordia Plan Services is introducing a new program designed to encourage Concordia Health Plan (CHP) members to take the next steps toward living healthier lives.

The Be Well Rewards program, running from May 1 – December 31, 2011, offers CHP workers and enrolled spouses up to \$250 for engaging in healthy behaviors. The program features a menu of healthy activities members can complete. Each activity is worth points, and members can earn up to 250 points which will convert to dollars on a debit card or store gift card, up to \$250 per person.

Continue to watch the Eastern District e-News for more information.

Philadelphia/Pittsburgh Spring Regional Conference

**Willow Valley
Conference Center
May 10-12, 2011.**

The conference will include a presentation by Pastor Barry Kuerulainen on LINC, a mission outreach organization based in Houston, Texas.

For more information, contact Eastern District Vice President, Pastor Kim Bode via email at hbgrace@epix.net or via phone at 570.561.6909.

Buffalo/Rochester Spring Regional Conference

**Notre Dame Retreat Center
May 10-11, 2011**

The primary presenter will be Dr. Terry Mortenson of Answers in Genesis/Creation Museum. Dr. Mortenson has shared his views on the creation-evolution controversy in 18 nations since the late 1970s.

For more information, contact Eastern District Vice President, Pastor Karl Haeussler via email at KHaeussler@aol.com or via phone at 716.692-3255.

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Boosting Your Women's Ministry on Mother's Day
(By Debbie Eaton)

Mother's Day is just around the corner, but it's not too late to start thinking about how you can honor, connect, and inspire the women of your church. This special day can be used to showcase how the influence of Spirit led women can be used by God.

Here are some ideas that may prove successful for your congregation:

1. ***Launching a New Women's Small Group.*** Pick a women's study, set a date and promote the study in the church bulletin, including a place where women can sign up for connecting with the small group and announce it from the pulpit.

2. ***Testimony from a Mother and Daughter Relationship.*** There is nothing as powerful as hearing multi-generational stories of a mother's influence on a child's life. The Bible teaches us that older women are to teach younger women. A testimony like this is inspiring, authentic and honors the important role the mother serves in her household.

