



Superintendent's Report August 2009

Ralph MacMullan Conference Center

In John 11:44, Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." You and I are included in the "them" as Christ's disciples in 2009. We are called to help people see the things that keep us from life and instead wrap us up in the kingdom of the devil. May God work through you this year to emancipate others from this world and help prepare from for life in eternity.

- The State of Michigan has heard concerns about the shortening school year. Your calendar should still include 1,098 hours of instruction but now must also include 171 days. MANS is still encouraging us to schedule as close to 180 instructional days as we can. The Labor Day start continues to be an option for Faith Based Schools, but if you start before it, consider taking the Friday off before the Labor Day holiday.
- You are required to teach about the Constitution (usually during September) to meet the State's Constitution Day Requirement. Please remind your Social Studies teachers about this requirement.
- The State Requires every Lutheran School to electronically file the Non Public School Personnel Report Form & SM4325 (Fourth Friday) Report. More information about these is contained on the CD-ROM. We did not have 100% participation last year, but our goal this year is to reach that level for all schools, both elementary and high school.
- John Schnack, Technology Specialist at CUAA (734.995.7354), has volunteered to lead technology presentations for staff development at our Lutheran Schools. John is very aware of emerging technology and can assist you with looking into purchasing NETBOOKS for your staff. Check that the NETBOOKS will be compatible with your Network.
- Please remember we are a member District in the Ministry Technology Mentor program. Your teachers will receive their lowest prices on all technology classes geared to assist teachers with integrating technology into their classroom. Perry Bresemann has indicated there will also be more developments regarding Staff Development through MTM in the future. Harv Schmit, St. Michael in Wayne, is piloting a program for the District in conjunction with Perry. You can visit MTM online at www.mtmproject.org and there is information on the CD-ROM.
- The MANS Conference will be in Detroit this October. You are encouraged to utilize your Title Funds to provide this staff development experience for your staff. The registration forms were electronically distributed in the Spring. Contact MANS at 800.394.5949 or visit www.m-a-n-s.org if you need information. There also is information about the conference

on the CD-ROM. This conference has been a highlight in the past and one of our best times to share ideas with others in faith based education. I hope to see all of you in Cobo Arena this October.

- Hearts for Jesus will be focused on Lutheran World Relief’s project of supplying Malaria Nets for children in Africa. Materials will be mailed to your school in the fall about how we might work together to make a difference in these children’s lives.
- I would like to revise the **District’s Electronic Curriculum** you received about two years ago. Please submit names of your teachers who might enjoy working or bring competency to this project. Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts will continue to be our focus.
- Rich Cohrs recommends a new Barna Book on our culture titled **Seven Faith Tribes**. Rich says it is very insightful at looking at the different groups in America and very interesting to consider what these groups have in common.
- Most Principal groups meet in Regional Meetings. If your group has a concern or special interest, please share those with your School Committee Representative so that we might discuss it at that level. Here are the representatives:

Bay, Northeast	Dennis Schmidt, Zion	989.662.4264
Central	Jim Landskroener, Our Savior	517.882.3550
District Staff	Bruce Braun, Superintendent	888.225.2111
High Schools	John Herzog, High School Assn.	248.856.0240
Macomb	Robert Hoch, St. Peter	586.781.9296
Midwest	Joel Bahr, St. Mark	616.281.7892
Northwest	David Truog, St. Peter	231.796.8782
Oakland Co. & Flint	Carl Hall, St. Paul	248.349.3146
Saginaw	Ronald Dressler, Bethlehem	989.755.1146
Southeast & Detroit	Michael Rosin, Christ the King	734.285.9697
Southwest	Charles Strohacker, Christ	269.429.7111
Thumb	Kevin Hendrikson, St. Michael’s	989.868.4809

- The 2012 District Convention will not be in October. We are instead looking at a State Wide Teacher Conference to be held for two days. MANS will have its next Teachers Conference in 2013 at Grand Rapids. The LEA Conference will be held in April 2011 at Cincinnati. If you have suggestion for a sectional or keynote speaker those are always welcome. The 2010 regional conferences held on October 15, 2010 (NW), and October 22, 2010 (SE), are being planned. Contact Joel Keup from Peace Saginaw for NW and Dave Waltz from St. John Lutheran in Fraser if you need information.
- Project 12 Baskets 248.656.7122 ext. 303 is available to raise funds for your ministry by selling donated items on the internet. Contact Barry Olson if you desire more information.
- Walter Heinz is the LAMP representative in Michigan. He is always willing to share information about this North America Ministry with our Lutheran Schools.
- Did you know that thus far over almost \$57,000 has been collected for Bethania Kids Ministries in India. We still have about 17 Lutheran schools who have not yet submitted their chapel

offerings. Our second check will be mailed on December 15th. If you have not yet sent in your offering to Mark, please don't hesitate beyond December 10th of this year.

- Track Information: Regional Meets on May 22, 2010 at Monroe, Lutheran H.S. North and Valley Lutheran. The State Meet is on Saturday, June 5th at Monroe High. We now have a permanent web location for this information, www.michigandistrict.org/m2a1StateTrack.html Contact Mark at our office for the details. Also, a PDF copy of the 2009 State Track Meet Program and the results of the meet are on the CD-ROM.
- The State Basketball Tournament is held in the Saginaw area this spring. Jeff Wallace, at Christ in Stevensville, is leading this group. A PDF copy of the 2009 Basketball Program is on the CD-ROM.
- Watch for information from Perry about Webinars to follow up on what you learned at the Funding Academy. There will be a fee if you wish to be part of this. Please let our office know if you hire an Admissions Counselor so we can network congregations pursuing this model.
- Dan Webster, speaker at the last two years' Summer Conference, is now using his program on observing your children and helping them be successful in congregations. The program is titled "Kid Unique, Helping Kids Discover Who They Are." The seminar, along with a 31-Day Follow-Up Experience, works best when a church and school unite together to create a five-week, kid-intensive initiative. Contact Dan directly if you desire more information at dan@authenticleaderipinc.com There is a sample attachment on the CD-ROM, as well.
- Because the theme of our Conference is evaluation, I'd like to get input on the services we offer your school and you through our office. This will assist us in assessing how we function and possibly making changes to serve the schools of the Michigan District better. We encourage you to take it during August. It is online at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=tI4Qq4QPw9LEhVpXT0eirA_3d_3d
- If you or your teachers or congregation members have moving or relocation needs, Bekins Worldwide Relocation Services Inc. has a Group Purchasing Agreement with Synod to provide discounted rates to LCMS Lutherans. They can visit the Web site www.lcmsmove.com and/or contact David Greenfield at 866.938.0013 or dg@WWReloServices.com. A sheet is included on the CD-ROM.
- Just like with Snowtire Conference, please go online and take the Principals Summer Conference 2009 Feedback survey at SurveyMonkey. The Web address is: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=0xfKr7OaxLbqmpO_2brII5uw_3d_3d
- There is lots of other good information on the CD-ROM, so please take a look at what's there.