



LCEF ON THE MOVE

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT EDITION



March 2009

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the March issue of **LCEF on the Move**.

The Lenten season is one of the busiest times in our churches, as most congregations have special midweek services and other observances of the season. As we move into the spring season, many building projects will begin and others will continue to move through the discussion stages. The feature article on page 2 of **LCEF on the Move** details several steps in the building process that must be addressed in order to have a successful building program.

As I travel around to churches these days, the talk seems to center on the economy and its effects on the lives of church members and congregations. I am seeing some congregations who are experiencing some decline in offerings that might be attributed to the economic downturn. More concerning though is that many of our schools are experiencing a slowdown in re-enrollments and indication from some parents that their child or children will not be returning next school year. This is an issue that I would ask you to keep in your prayers. It is never an easy decision for a family to choose to withdraw from a Lutheran school. Many of our schools have tuition assistance programs and I would encourage families to inquire about these programs before making the ultimate decision.

In spite of a weak economy, LCEF remains fiscally strong and ready to assist congregations with their financing needs. The fact is that many building projects have been delayed over economic concerns. I am happy to tell you that churches that have decided to move forward with building plans are finding contractors that are willing to negotiate over price with the result that it appears as though more building can be built at a lower cost than those built a year or two ago.

Upcoming issues of **LCEF on the Move** will continue to focus on the positive moves that churches can make to be more effective in ministry. I pray that these efforts will lead to more people hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ and be brought into a saving relationship with Him.

Thanks again for your past, present, and future support of LCEF.

In HIS Service,

Dennis Klussman
LCEF Vice President

The Building Process...How Can LCEF Help?

In last month's edition of **LCEF on the Move**, readers were introduced to the LCEF Arch of Services, a number of steps that a congregation goes thru on its way from developing a strategic plan for ministry to dedicating and operating a facility.

This month, emphasis is given to three critical steps along the way that **must** be completed in order to have a successful building project.

Determine the Space Needs of the Congregation

No two congregations are alike and no two buildings are alike. In order to have a successful building project, it is imperative that there is consensus in the congregation about what will and what will not be built in a given project. In most congregations, the needs are obvious. In the rest of the cases, it may take a building committee to survey the congregation in order to make certain every voice is heard. In addition to identifying the needs, it is also imperative that the needs be prioritized, as it may not be possible to do everything at one time.

Assess the Scope of the Project

Congregations often know what they need, but are unsure how to get from an idea to reality. A member of LCEF's Architectural Advisors Committee can often help the congregation move the process along. The result is that the congregation is able to engage an architect (traditional process) or contractor (design-build) who can begin the process of putting ideas on paper and facilitating design. It is much better to ask an architect to go back and redesign a project on paper than make such decisions as the building is being built. It is also at this step in the process that Laborers for Christ can be considered to assist in the project.

Address Financial Issues

At the same time a building committee is working with architects and contractors, a finance committee should be formed to address the cost of the project and how it will be paid for. The LCEF Vice President can analyze the current finances of the congregation and assess how much the congregation can afford to spend on the project. It is also at this time that LCEF's Capital Funding Services can assess how much a capital campaign might generate to reduce the amount borrowed. During this part of the process, it may be necessary for the finance committee to work with the building committee to reduce the scope of the project or help develop phases of the project so that the congregation is able to afford and operate the facility once built.

If a congregation works through these three steps, the result should be consensus on what needs to be built, an efficient and effective design, and a financing plan that is manageable on the part of the congregation. In other words, a successful project.



KIDS Stamp Corner

We are hearing more often that the current economic downturn can only be changed by changing our spending habits. That is another name for stewardship. Stewardship can never be learned too early in life. That is why LCEF developed the KIDS Program.

KIDS stands for **K**ids **I**nto **D**isciplineship and **S**tewardship. This program, offered in day schools and Sunday schools, allows children to purchase stamps that can be exchanged for investments in an LCEF account upon completion of a stamp booklet.

Kids also learn the benefits of investing for the future while also supporting the mission and ministry of a congregation. Activity books help keep kids involved and encourage them in their stewardship life.

For more information about the KIDS Program call LCEF at (800) 843-5233.

The Blurb

(for use in church bulletins, newsletters, etc.)

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is committed to providing financial resources in support of the work of Lutheran congregations and schools, as well as our Districts and the Synod itself. This is a challenging task that can only be accomplished by the willingness of individuals and congregations to make an investment in LCEF. Call 1-800-THE-LCEF (843-5233) or visit www.lcef.org for more information on how you can help provide place and space for churches to carry out ministry.

At Your Service

(LCEF Services Update)

Laborers for Christ is a service of LCEF that benefits both the recipient of the service and the provider of the service.

First, congregations and organizations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod may use the Laborers For Christ (LFC) program to help them build facilities needed for ministry at costs that are usually less than those offered by contractors.

Laborers for Christ also provides benefits for those who serve as Laborers. It is an organized group of dedicated Christian men and women who spend a portion of their retirement time working for LCMS congregations and schools. They become active in the congregations they serve during the construction and forge life-long bonds with members.

Since its inception in 1980 in the Rocky Mountain District, Laborers For Christ has become a mission outreach of the LCMS and has helped more than 700 LCMS organizations nationwide complete their building projects.

For more information about Laborers for Christ, please call (800) 843-5233 or visit the LCEF website www.lcef.org.

Did You Know?

Did you know that LCEF has approximately 63,000 investors?

These investors receive a fair rate of return on their investment; a history of financial strength that would be the envy of other financial institutions; and something other institutions cannot offer: the Ministry Divided. Investments at LCEF help build churches that make a difference for eternity!

Current *LCEF* Loan Rates

Congregations (Loans Amortized Up To Twenty Years):

Annually-Adjusted Loan: 5.875%
(Loans > \$2 Million Adjusted Monthly)

Five - Year Balloon Note 6.375%

Ten - Year Balloon Note 6.875%

Construction Rate is 1% Higher During Construction Period

1% Loan Origination Fee

Rostered Church Worker Mortgage Loans (Loans Amortized Up To Thirty Years):

One Year Adjustable Rate Loan (10% Down payment): 5.000% - 5.500%

Five Year Adjustable Rate Loan (10% Down payment): 5.250% - 5.750%

Final Interest Rate Based Upon Down Payment and Credit History

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A Monthly Newsletter of the Missouri District LCEF

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For additional information, visit the LCEF website www.lcef.org or call (800)-843-5233.



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Congregation Endowment
(5-Year Fixed)

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	-- 3.025%	3.059%
\$10,000	-- 3.150%	3.187%
\$100,000	-- 3.275%	3.315%

Congregation Endowment
(60-Month Floating)

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	-- 3.025%	3.059%
\$10,000	-- 3.150%	3.187%
\$100,000	-- 3.275%	3.315%

Congregation Certificates
(Minimum Investment \$100)

	Rate	APY
Demand	-- 1.375%	1.382%
StewardAccount®	--	--
\$100	-- 2.375%	2.401%
\$250,000	-- 2.500%	2.529%
\$500,000	-- 2.625%	2.657%
\$1,000,000 +	-- 2.750%	2.785%

IRA Jumbo
(Minimum Investment \$100,000)

	Rate	APY
5 Year Fixed	-- 3.375%	3.418%
60 Month Floating	-- 3.025%	3.059%

Family Emergency StewardAccount

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$25	-- 2.875%	2.913%

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



StewardAccount® Certificates

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	-- 0.750%	0.753%
\$1,000	-- 0.875%	0.879%
\$5,000	-- 1.250%	1.257%
\$10,000	-- 2.375%	2.401%

Fixed Term Notes
(Minimum Investment \$500)

	Rate	APY
6 Month	-- 1.500%	1.508%
9 Month	-- 1.625%	1.635%
1 Year	-- 1.750%	1.762%
18 Month	-- 2.000%	2.015%
2 Year	-- 2.125%	2.142%
3 Year	-- 2.250%	2.269%
5 Year	-- 3.000%	3.034%
6 – 10 Year	-- 3.125%	3.162%
11 – 15 Year	-- 3.375%	3.418%
16 – 20 Year	-- 3.625%	3.675%

Floating Term Notes
(Minimum Investment \$100)

	Rate	APY
2½ Year (30 Month)	-- 2.005%	2.020%
5 Year (60 Month)	-- 2.650%	2.676%

IRA Dedicated Certificates

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	-- 0.750%	0.752%
\$1,000	-- 0.875%	0.878%
\$5,000	-- 1.250%	1.256%
\$10,000	-- 2.375%	2.396%

HSA FlexPlus Certificates

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1	-- 2.500%	2.529%
\$2,500	-- 3.000%	3.042%
\$5,000	-- 3.500%	3.557%
\$15,000	-- 4.000%	4.074%

Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccount®

	Rate	APY
\$1,000	-- 2.375%	2.401%
\$25,000	-- 2.625%	2.657%
\$50,000	-- 2.875%	2.913%
\$100,000 +	-- 3.125%	3.170%

Dedicated Certificates

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	-- 0.500%	0.501%
<i>Custodial accounts for minors: \$25</i>		
\$1,000	-- 0.625%	0.626%
\$5,000	-- 0.750%	0.752%

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.