

Report of the West Conference

The primary activity of the West Conference this year has been the monthly gathering of professional leaders for fellowship, support and education. Our gatherings have included presentations on leadership development, stewardship renewal, efforts to relieve hunger through the work of Feed My Starving Children and the Northern Illinois Food Bank, our synod's working group on peace in the Middle East, and our shared ministries through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. One of our gatherings featured a conversation with Bishop Miller and another was a "Thank You Luncheon" for church staffs hosted by Hosanna Lutheran Church in St. Charles. Thank you to all of the congregations who have shared their hospitality this year.

The West conference was also able to make two benevolence donations, one to the synod's general fund and the other to the Campus Ministry at Northern Illinois University to help expand programs of support following the campus shootings in February.

As we go forward into the new year, efforts are underway to help network Christian Education staff and volunteers for support and idea generation. A similar effort will begin for music and worship leaders.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Mark H. Larson
Dean