



Reflecting news and views

The Reflector

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District Executive: Kevin Kessler

Father's Day Blankets for CWS



A Tie Won't Keep Dad Warm.

Thinking of giving your Dad another tie for Father's Day? How about warming your Dad's heart instead! Through **Church World Service** share the gift of warmth with those who need it most.

While a tie won't keep your Dad or any dad warm during a crisis, an emergency blanket from a Blankets+ Sunday would. Warmth during a time of disaster is essential to survival. Your congregation can provide that hospitable affection by holding a CWS Blankets+ Sunday in honor of dads everywhere.

Through the help of congregations like yours CWS was able to distribute over 22,000 blankets during times of need in 2012. This includes the more than 10,000 blankets that went to help victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Schedule your Blankets+ offering now. When your congregation or group partners with CWS it lets people know in times of catastrophe that they are not forgotten. We are eager to provide your Blankets+ resources today and to assist you in any other way we can. Contact Heather Willson at the CWS Regional office at 888-297-2767 or email at hwillson@churchworldservice.org
Find out more at www.blanketsplus.org.

Notes from the Moderator: Mark Flory Steury



Spring has arrived! It's exciting to see the trees filled with beautiful, green leaves, to see the green grass and the colorful flowers. God's creation is being renewed. I, too, feel renewed in the spring. At district conference this fall our focus will

be on "Renew". How are we as individuals and congregations renewed?

One way that congregations are experiencing renewal is through the Vital Ministry Journey. This is a program developed by the Congregational Life Ministry Team of the Church of the Brethren. During this journey, individuals meet in small groups to study the Bible, pray and discuss questions together. How is God speaking to us a congregation? Where is God leading us? You'll be hearing more about this at district conference!

We'll be hearing several stories of renewal during district conference. We hope you can join us! May you and your congregation continue to experience renewal in the months ahead.

Material Resources ships 27,000 pounds of clean-up supplies to Illinois, CWS appeals for help to restock

In response to storms and the flooding that has plagued the state of Illinois this spring, the Church of the Brethren's Material Resources program has begun shipping clean-up supplies on behalf of Church World Service. Material Resources, based at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., works on behalf of ecumenical partners and other humanitarian organizations to process, warehouse, and ship disaster relief materials



Read the full story at www.brethren.org/news/2013/material-resources-ships-supplies-to-illinois.html

Reprinted from NEWSLINE a Church of the Brethren e-mail service.

Cws Emergency Cleanup Buckets Now Reaching Illinois More Buckets Urgently Needed To Fill Demand



May 3, 2013--Over the past 10 days, Church World Service has shipped nearly 1,500 CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets to Illinois for flood-affected households and expects to ship thousands more, thereby creating an urgent need for additional supplies

The buckets shipped included 500 that were quickly distributed to people cleaning up after storms and floods by the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Wheaton, Ill. An additional 992 CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets are slated to arrive at the American Red Cross in Rolling Meadows Friday for distribution to area households on Saturday.

"With needs assessment ongoing, CWS expects to respond to additional requests from Illinois for Emergency Cleanup Buckets next week," said Barry Shade, CWS associate director for Domestic Disaster Response.

Heavy precipitation from early 2013 storms and floods in Illinois has resulted in widespread, and severe flooding. **The state has declared 48 counties as disaster areas.** Flooding has occurred on

numerous rivers and their tributaries, including the Mississippi, Illinois, Green, Spoon, Rock, DuPage, and Sangamon rivers.

The need for CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets in Illinois is quickly outstripping CWS's supply. Shade is urgently appealing for congregations and other community groups to assemble and send buckets. "The Ferncliff, Ark., warehouse is now empty of buckets, and the supply in the **New Windsor, Md., is rapidly being depleted.** We are in urgent need of replenishment," he said.

Go to this website for CWS Emergency Cleanup Bucket contents and instructions: <http://www.cws-global.org/get-involved/kits/emergency-clean-up-buckets.html>

Contributions to support CWS emergency response efforts may be sent to your denomination/communion or to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. (REF: EARLY 2013 STORMS, FLOODS and TORNADOES APPEAL {U.S.} # 627-X.). Donations to our emergency response efforts around the globe may also be made online. See CWS Appeal #627-X, <http://www.cws-global.org/newsroom/appeals-and-updates/update2-us-storms-2013.html>

CWS Emergency Response Specialist Susanne Gilmore, based in Manhattan, Kansas, is the point of contact for **CWS assistance in Illinois.** sgilmore@churchworldservice.org; 785-477-7823



2013 District Conference November 1 & 2, 2013*

Hosted By:

Mt. Morris Church of the Brethren
Assisted by Pincrest Community

Moderator: Mark Flory Steury,
Neighborhood Church Of The Brethren

Friday evening speaker: Jonathan Shively

Please watch for registration
information in the coming weeks.

*Note change in the conference schedule
to Friday and Saturday only.

Silent & Live Auctions at District Conference

Benefiting a variety of Ministries

This year we are doing things a bit differently. For the Silent Auction we are asking each Church to provide a basket of goodies with a theme, such as kitchen, movie night and so on. We are also asking for **baked goods** for the Silent Auction. For the Live Auction we are asking people to provide nice **Arts and Crafts items**, such as woodworking, paintings, maybe pottery. We would like to have a dozen or so items in the Live Auction. If you would like to provide an item, please let me know ahead of time what you are planning to bring.



For more information, please contact Rick Koch at 815-499-3012 or at revrick-dutchtown@jcwifi.com.

Bus to NOAC at Lake Junaluska



Don and Patti Weirich will be coordinating a bus to the **2013 National Older Adult Conference (NOAC)** this September. Since the NOAC registration brochure

was printed and mailed before the travel arrangements were finalized, we want you to know that there will be a bus for people from the Illinois-Wisconsin District. Some will have to travel to the nearest stop but they can avoid driving all the way to NOAC.

We will need at least 35 people to confirm their space on the bus which will travel from Mt. Morris, Illinois (need a commitment of 10 people there), stop at Timbercrest in North Manchester, and travel on to Dayton, Ohio, before heading to NOAC. The return trip will be in reverse order.

A note about additional stops for this bus: If there is interest they will stop in Elgin, IL, after Mt. Morris; and they do plan on a Middlebury, IN, stop before going on to Timbercrest. This provides lots of options that people can use to their advantage.

Contact Don and Patti Weirich for more information: theweirichs@frontier.com
phone: (574) 825-9185 (574) 825-9185 FREE

Information Reporting

All ordained ministers, licensed ministers, and congregations need to keep the District Office informed of **changes in contact information**. Changes include: phone number, cell phone number, email address, mailing address, and congregational email or website. **Please email Beth Carpentier, bethc.iwdcob@att.net** or call **(309)649-6008** with your updates. Your effort will save valuable staff time trying to track down these changes. Other information to share: changes in key leadership positions at the church or the death or serious illnesses of minister, retired ministers, or spouses. Help us serve better!

Remembrance: James "Jim" E. Renz, 94, died May 19 at Pinecrest retirement community in Mt. Morris, Ill. He was a former director of social welfare for the Church of the Brethren, and founder of the Renz Addiction Counseling Center in Elgin, Ill., which now serves thousands of people through treatment and prevention programs. The Daily Herald newspaper notes that when Renz started the center 52 years ago it was a one-man operation in a small office on the second floor of a downtown building. It was Renz hard work and dedication as a Church of the Brethren pastor with a lifelong commitment to service, that propelled the center to become one of the largest nonprofits that serve northern Kane and western Cook Counties of Illinois, said the newspaper. Renz was a pastor in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois before he moved to Elgin to serve on the denominational staff in 1952. Read the full article at www.dailyherald.com/article/20130529/news/705299653.

A memorial service was held at Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren on June 2.

CEU Credits for Ordained Ministers

Do not wait to begin to log your Continuing Education Units. The **2015 Five-year Ordination Review process** for ALL ordained ministers will launch in 2014. Ordained ministers are required to produce verification of **5 CEU credits** for this five-year period. It is **your responsibility** to secure certificates, letters or verifying documentation regarding CEU credit. Retired clergy are exempt from this requirement with the exception of those retired clergy actively involved in Interim Ministry.

CEU Notation: The district does not grant CEU credit for personal study and/or self-designed experiences you have had and/or books you have read. It is the minister's responsibility to secure a CEU certificate, Letter of Verification, and/or authentication document for completed training, seminars or workshops, or learning experiences offered by the presenting organization. This verification should always state the number of hours of the training – 10 hours of training equals 1.0 CEU credits. Please take personal initiative to become a life-long learner and increasingly effective minister of the Gospel.

Church of the Brethren care for Children in Disaster Areas

May 21, 2013 *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).*

Children's Disaster Services sends teams to Oklahoma; Brethren urged to support the work of child care volunteers through donations to the EDF



Children's Disaster Services (CDS), a department within Brethren Disaster Ministries, has sent members of its Critical Response Team to care for children and families affected by the powerful tornado that struck Moore, Okla., Monday May 20 causing 24 confirmed deaths including at least 9 elementary school children.

The American Red Cross has confirmed the need for CDS volunteers to care for children in their Family Assistance Centers. **CDS has mobilized two teams to be at work in Oklahoma**, including four Critical Response Childcare volunteers, several regional caregivers, and a project manager. The Critical Response Team has additional training to help children and families cope with extreme trauma and loss of loved ones.

Established in 1980, Children's Disaster Services works cooperatively with FEMA and the American Red Cross to provide care for children and families following disasters, through the work of trained and certified volunteers who set up child care centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers. Specially trained to respond to traumatized children, the volunteers provide a calm, safe, and reassuring presence in the midst of the chaos created by disasters.

Donations to the **Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) of the Church of the Brethren** will support the response by Children's Disaster Services. Go to www.brethren.org/edf or send a check to the Emergency Disaster Fund, Church of the Brethren General Offices, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Copied from NEWSLINE The Church of the Brethren e-mail news service

School Supplies at Annual Conference

2013 Witness to the Host City Classroom Central – Charlotte, North Carolina



Following last year's overwhelmingly successful drive to bring school supplies for St. Louis schools in need, we will again be collecting school supplies this year for Classroom Central in Charlotte.

Their Mission

Classroom Central equips students living in poverty to effectively learn by collecting and distributing free school supplies. Functioning as a Free Store for teachers, Classroom Central serves as an invaluable resource for area students and classrooms.

Their Vision

Classroom Central ensures that all children living in poverty have all the tools they need to not only learn but to succeed. When equipped with the proper supplies, we believe there's no limit to what children can achieve.

Their Program

Classroom Central serves high-poverty schools in six school districts: Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Gaston, Iredell-Statesville, Union, Kannapolis & Lancaster. Teachers and other school personnel in qualifying schools "shop" for free school supplies throughout the academic year. All materials distributed are given to students who do not have basic school supplies.

Their History

The Classroom Central dream began in early 2000. A team of local business leaders set out to provide free supplies to children living in poverty. After conducting a feasibility study to gauge the level of need and after two years of planning and a generous gift of \$200,000 in seed money from the Carolina Panthers Children's Charities, the Free Store opened its doors.

Last school year Classroom Central distributed more than 379,000 pens, 632,000 pencils, and 67,000 one-subject notebooks! The Annual Conference officers are asking those coming to Conference to bring much needed supplies to help keep this vital program well-stocked. The items most needed are:

- **Pens (one package), Pencils (two packages), Crayons (24 count box), Erasers (8-count)**
- **Markers (one package), Back Pack (gender-neutral in color)**

All donated items will be collected during the Sunday afternoon worship time and presented to the Executive Director of Classroom Central in front of the Conference at the close of business on Tuesday afternoon. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and support of this witness to the city of Charlotte. You can find out more information about Classroom Central on their website: www.classroomcentral.org

Camp Emmaus Schedule for 2013



The theme for this summer's camps is "**All Things New**". A list of the camp dates is listed below. The registration form is available to download from the camp website,

www.campemmaus.org

July 13-14	Counselor-in –training 7PM Fri. – 2 PM Sun. Director: Jewel McNary (630-917-4210)	Finished grades 9-12 or older No Fee
July 13-14	Elementary 1 Camp , 2 PM Sat – 2 PM Sun. Finished grades 1-2 Director Mallory McPherson (815-677-0642)	\$60 per pair
July 16-19	Elementary II Camp , 4 PM Tue. – 2 PM Fri. Directors: Lisa Fike (815-275-5188) & Carol Fike (815-275-1562)	Finished grades 3-4 \$130
July 21-27	Senior High Camp 4 PM Sun – 2 PM Sat. /Directors: /Sara /Garner (630-456-4291) & Aaron Gerdes (815-991-5230).	Finished grades 9-12 \$250
July 26- Aug 3	Junior High Camp , 4 PM Sun – 2 PM Sat. Directors: Heidi Gerdes (815-991-5230) & Jim Miner (847-741-9804)	Finished grades 7-8 \$250
Aug 4-9	Elementary III Camp , 4 PM Sun. – 2 PM Fri. Directors: Elvira & Jim Lawdenski (630-640-3759)	Finished grades 5-6 \$200
Aug 9-11	Women's Camp Director: Sally Medearis (224-622-8933)	18 and older Contact Sally for rates.
Aug 30- Sep 2	Labor Day Family Camp Director: Mark Royer (847-888-4258)	All Ages Contact Camp for rates
Aug 31	Appreciation Diner	RSVP to camp
Nov 9	Leaf Raking 8 AM – Noon	All ages.

Don't judge someone
because they sin
differently than you.



Matthew 7: 1 – 2 NIV

“Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Pastor Alan Smith writes in the Brownsville, Md. Church of the Brethren Newsletter, “How many times do we find ourselves judging others? There are too many times that Christians are seen as a judgmental group of people. There are times that we earn that reputation.”

“There is a problem of holding others to a standard and thinking one sin is greater than another.. In God's eyes all sins are equal.. Sin is what separates us from Him.”

2013 Calendar

June

- 5World Environment Day
- 7-9Women's Camp – Emmanuel
- 9-15Youth Camp - Emmanuel
- 8Leadership Team Meeting, Peoria
- 14-16 ..Nat'l Jr Hi Conference, Elizabethtown, PA
- 16-22 ..Junior Hi Camp - Emmanuel
- 21First Day of Summer
- 21-27 ..Song & Story Fest, Camp Myrtlewood,
Myrtle Point, Oregon
- 23-29 ..Junior Camp – Emmanuel
- 27-29 ..Pre-Junior Camp Emmanuel
- 27CODE Meeting, Charlotte, NC
- 28Mission & Ministry Board, Charlotte, NC
- 29-July 3Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC

July

- June 29-3Annual Conference
- 4Independence Day
- 9Ramadan Begins
- 13-14 ..Counselor-in-training Emmaus
..Elementary I Camp, Emmaus
- 16-19 ..Elementary II Camp, Emmaus
- 21-27 ..Senior High Camp, Emmaus
- 26-3Junior High Camp, Emmaus
- 28Parent's Day

August

- 4-9Elementary III Camp, Emmaus
- 9-11Women's Camp, Emmaus
- 9-11Men's Camp - Emmanuel
- 10Leadership Team Meeting, Pinecrest,
Mt. Morris
- 30-2Family Camp - Emmanuel
.....Family Camp - Emmaus
- 31Appreciation Dinner - Emmaus

September

- 2Labor Day
- 2-6National Older Adult Conf.,
Lake Junaluska, NC
- 8Grandparent's Day
- 13Yom Kippur
- 15Bethany Sunday
- 21International Day of Peace
- 22First Day of Autumn

October

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month*
- 6World Communion Sunday
- 12Leadership Team Meeting, Neighborhood
- 18-21 ..Mission & Ministry Board, Elgin, IL
- 24World Disarmament Day
United Nations Day
- 27Reformation Sunday
- 31Halloween

November

- 1-2Ill.-Wisc. District Conf., Mt. Morris
- 3National Junior High Sunday
Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 9Leaf Raking at Camp Emmaus
- 11Veteran's Day
- 15-16 ..Leadership Team Retreat, Camp Emmanuel,
Mt. Morris, IL
- 24Christ the King Sunday
- 27Hanukah Begins
- 28Thanksgiving

December

- 1First Sunday of Advent
World Aids Day
- 8Second Sunday of Advent
- 15Third Sunday of Advent
- 21First day of Winter
- 22Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 25CHRISTMAS DAY
- 31New Year's Eve