



PROFESSIONAL WORKER'S PACKET

Iowa District East—LCMS

December 2019

President's Piece for Peace	2
Calendar of Events	3
Special Announcements	4
Vacancy Updates	5
Directory Updates	6
From Rev. Dr. Rothchild, Assist. to the President	7
Capital Campaign Update	8
IDE Schools	9
District Life Coordinator	10
Parish Nurse	11
IDE Archives	12
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	15
Rural & Small Town Ministry	17
LCEF	21
IDE Middle School Retreat & Snowlympics	22
IDE Lutheran Hour Ministry Convention	27

IOWA DISTRICT EAST

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
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lcmside.org

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

December 2019

Blessed Advent greetings to you and joyous Christmastide. Have you ever heard someone say “without (such and such) it just won’t be Christmas”? They may be referring to the lack of a decorated tree in the home, lights strung around their house, certain hymns or the day and time of the Children’s Christmas Program. Sometimes it is something so simple as the amount of snow that is or isn’t on the ground come December 24th. Traditions can have a way of dictating outside of their boundaries.

I am not opposed to traditions. The Lutheran Confessions speak of them as helpful and beneficial as long as they communicate the Gospel. The problem with tradition is when it becomes traditionalization. (I know, my spell checker is going crazy right now). There probably is no such word but it serves the purpose of my article. What I refer to is traditions that overtake the Gospel and distort the narrative of Holy Scripture. I speak of such notions that Christmas just isn’t Christmas without some such traditions being experienced that particular year. Christmas is always Christmas since it comes to us in the written Word of God. It needs no trappings, it needs no decorations, it needs no formal program to be what it is. It is simply what it is. It is the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the flesh. He has come to be with us, God with us. His mission is to save us from the condemnation that our sins deserve. He comes to take our place, in our flesh, to redeem us, both flesh and soul, from eternal damnation.

To avoid the problem of traditionalization (there goes my spell checker again) it is helpful for us to see Christmas within the context of salvation. Christmas is not an end in itself. It is only the beginning of the earthly life of the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity. It is the beginning of the physical plan of salvation.

There is hardly anything in the birth narrative that does not have a relationship to the Jerusalem event of Holy Week 33 years later. The angels of who sang of His glorious birth also told the women “He is not here, He has risen.” The stone manger in which He was laid as a tiny infant was only but a picture of the tomb He would be laid in after having paid our debt in full. The shepherds watching over their flocks by night in Bethlehem were told to go and see. They did and when they did they went into the town telling all they had heard and seen. At Jesus ascension He gave the directive to the Apostles to go into all the world and proclaim the Good News of His resurrection. The list could go on and on but I think you understand what I am saying.

Christmas is Christmas, and nothing can prevent it for it has already happened in time for eternity. Preach it, teach it, live it, and proclaim it to the ear who will hear you just exactly what it is. Celebrate with your traditions, they are fine and helpful as long as they do not add to or take away from the biblical narrative God has given us in Holy Writ. Let traditions remain traditions and not become tradionalization. (Oooops, there is that red squiggly line again). Maybe I better leave it as is and not violate my own rule of going beyond the text and at the same time never fall short of it either.

God bless you all and grant you the peace and joy that comes through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus has come, He still comes, therefore now all is well (NOEL).

President Saunders

Calendar of Events

December 2019

December

24-1/1 Christmas and New Years Holiday District Office Closed

January

22 Life Sunday

28 IDE Board of Directors IDE Office

31-2/1 IDE Middle School Retreat Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

April

4 IDE LHM Convention Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

10 Good Friday District Office Closed

28 Call Day - CSL St. Louis, MO

29 Call Day - CTSFW Ft. Wayne, IN

May

4-5 Spring Workers' Conference Bethany Lutheran Church

June

12-13 IED LWML District Convention Hotel at Kirkwood Center, CR

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

From St. John Lutheran Church - Center Point

Our pastor, **Rev. David Hansen**, is retiring at the end of the year. His last service at St John Center Point will be on December 29th at 9 am. We will have a guest preacher, Pastor Andrew Johnson (Pastor Hansen's nephew), for this service.

The Elders at St John are planning a reception after the service to celebrate Pastor Hansen's 38 years of service to our congregation. The reception will be held at the Center Point Community Center on the lower level of the Andersen Library Building at 720 Main Street in Center Point from 11:30 am to 2 pm.

You and your congregation are cordially invited to the reception to wish Pastor Hansen well and thank him for his service to the Church.

In Christ,
Jim Swales
Chairman Board of Elders

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

From IDE Board of Stewardship and Congregational Services

The District's Board of Congregational Services is pleased to announce that a new program within the district will launch for the Lenten 2020 season called "Bring It Home." The goal is to promote Biblical literacy in the home and offer the family an opportunity for family devotions five days a week.

The centerpiece of our program is two books: "The Bible Story" and "Know the Bible" accompanied by five Bible readings per week and short video presentations by pastors in the district with short explanations of the Bible readings. Sign up and weekly access to the videos and devotions will be through the District's website. Watch for more details to come in early 2020.

Rev. Donald Krause
Chairman
Board of Stewardship and Congregational Services

Vacancy Updates

As of 12/1/19

December 2019

Calling Congregations

Charles City, New Hope
Clinton, Trinity
Eldora, St. Paul
Alden, St. Paul
Buckeye, St. Paul

Clarke Frederick (vacancy pastor)
Anthony Dodgers (vacancy pastor)
Troy Peperkorn (vacancy pastor)
Karl Bollhagen (vacancy pastor)
Matthew Rueger (vacancy pastor)

Pastor Calls

Accepted: Rev. David Hasselbrook, Waverly
Rev. Terry Small

St. Paul, Evansdale
St. Silas, North Liberty

Pending:

Declined: Rev. Joshua Haller

Trinity, Clinton

DCE / School / Teacher Calls

Vacancies:

Accepted:

Directory Updates

December 2019

36 Cedar Rapids Concordia	remove	Dvorak, Jessica DCE
53 Dvorak, Jessica	remove	from professional church workers page
71 Dvorak, Jessica	Add	Dvorak, Jessica, DCE, 1942 Washinton Ave SE, Cedar Rapids IA 52403. Phone 785-249-8435; jessica.dvorak14@gmail.com (11.1.19) address: 1365 First Ave SW, Cedar Rapids 52405-4807; wife: Dawn; email: grotht@trinitycr.org; church: Trinity, Cedar Rapids; Phone C: 720-737-1283 O: 319-366-1569
14 Groth, Ted	Add	Rev. Ted Groth grotht@trinitycr.org
37 Cedar Rapids, Trinity	Add	address: 1365 First Ave SW, Cedar Rapids 52405-4807; email: dancetil-dawn22@gmail.com
71 Groth, Dawn	Add	Candidates Ordained page
25 Hasselbrook, David S	remove	David S. Hasselbrook (Renee); Address: 741 Central Ave, Evansdale 50707-1613; c# 908-524-4551; davehasselbrook@gmail.com; St Paul, 735 Central Ave, Evansdale 50702-1613; O: 319-232-7657
14 Hasselbrook, David S	Add	Circuit # 010 Evansdale, David Hasselbrook
9 Waterloo Circuit #010	Add	Evansdale - Remove David Steege
9 Waterloo Circuit #010	Remove	from Pastors section
13 Francik, Doug	remove	address to Emeritus: 4172 Garnet Cir, Marion 52302; defrancik@gmail.com; spouse Earlene; cell phone: 760-519-9187
28 Francik, Doug	add	from Pastors section
17 Lemke, Larry	remove	Address to Emeritus: 517 Windsor Dr, Solon 52333; lgllemke@yahoo.com; spouse Margarite; Cell phone: 712-221-1506
29 Lemke, Larry	add	transferred to Ohio
30 Saylor, Kevin K.	remove	delete address from Emeriti- went to active pastors
31 Small, Terry	remove	425 27th Ave, Unit #5, Amana 52203; (Debby); 319-594-6392; St Silas, PO Box 922, North Liberty 52317-09622; O: 319-432-8832; smallts@gmail.com/ Installed 11.10.19
21 Small, Terry	add	Correction Dennisarndt@mediacombb.nef
27 Arndt, Dennis	Correction	Secretary: remove Kie Maas; add Katie Dalluge
49 Waterloo	Faith	Rev. Terry Small - delete vacancy pastor
46 North Liberty	update	

**Please continue to send directory updates to:
pam@lcmside.org**

The Snow and Cold Have Arrived

December 2019

Sometimes you make good use of the “day” which you are given. A recent Saturday saw temperatures near 50° and I was able to get the rest of my leaves gathered and my Christmas lights put up. We only have our maple tree in the front yard on which the leaves have not fallen. We are leaving the season of fall and heading into the season of winter.

The very next week, winter weather arrived with snow and cold temperatures. It always takes a while to adjust. On the positive side of things, the weather forecast talks about temps in the mid-forties by next week, but will it be enough to melt the snow we received?

We are also making the transition from the end of one church year to the beginning of another. Jesus says in Matthew 24:12-14, **“And because lawlessness is increased most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end it is he who shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come.”**

What might love which has grown cold look like? Do we fail to see the needs of others around us? Do we not take the time to hear the cries of people who are hurting? Maybe we are guilty of failing to forgive others, which demonstrates a love which has grown cold! Jesus put it this way: **“For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.”** **“Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.”** Matthew 25:42-43, 45.

Jesus had arrived to do battle with the unholy trinity of sin, death, and the power of the devil. He did that through His suffering, shed blood, death, and glorious resurrection. Christ Jesus feeds and quenches us with His body and blood in the Holy Supper. Jesus has welcomed us into His kingdom through the water and word of our Baptism. Jesus has clothed us with His merits and righteousness as Isaiah 61:10 declares: **“I will rejoice greatly in the Lord My soul will exult in my God, For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness.”** As the hymn says: **“Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall; You have opened paradise And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia.”** What we have not done for others, Jesus has done for us and to us!

God will keep us in the faith and His Church will always be a missionary church until Christ returns on the last day. Paul states in 2 Thess. 2:16-17, **“Now may our Lord Jesus Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.”**

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild
Assistant to the President

Capital Campaign Update



Proclaiming Christ Jesus! Luke 24:46-47

Capital Campaign
Approved 6-29-12 by Iowa District East in Convention

- Pastors are being contacted by phone for potential names of those saints in Christ Jesus who may wish to make an individual gift.
- Dr. Rothchild will send a letter of introduction to potential donors and will follow-up with a phone call to schedule a personal visit.
- Dr. Rothchild will show the DVD and share other information at the time of his visit and the saints will be given a donor form to complete as they deem appropriate.
- I wish to thank all our faithful donors, both individuals and congregations.

As of 11/14/19

Gifts received to date:	\$808,726
Gifts promised in next 1-7 years:	\$18,550
Total to Date:	\$827,276

For further information, please contact **Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild**
319-373-2112 (office), 319-350-9564 (cell)
drothchild@lcmside.org.



“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2 KJV

It was Christmas Eve sometime in the 1960’s, the night of our Lutheran school’s children’s Christmas service. We had been coached and prodded by our teacher to speak LOUDLY and c-l-e-a-r-l-y. My younger sister rose to the occasion with a glorious recitation of Micah 5:2. It was unexpected by the parents and other congregation members because out of this 2nd grader came a prophecy all could hear and understand, even the word “Ephratah”! Though small in stature, her message from Micah came through boldly, in a LOUD and c-l-e-a-r voice.

Isn’t that like the Lord? He chooses the seemingly small and insignificant to work His miracles and fulfill His promises. He selected this little dusty town, Bethlehem, as the birthplace of the incarnate Son of God.

Sometimes we, too, feel so insignificant. We feel as though we really aren’t making a difference. When we look at ourselves, using the world as our reference point, we often feel inadequate or lacking. Remember, however, that God uses that which the world considers little or meaningless to accomplish His purpose.

This passage reminds us that God doesn’t always choose the most likely candidate. He carries out His plans through the most surprising and unremarkable people. By the world’s standard, some of the weakest, youngest, or smallest were Jacob, Joseph, and David. Yet God chose each of them in His plan of salvation. Or, consider that an unknown girl, a simple carpenter, and a little town called Bethlehem were chosen to welcome and care for the Prince of Peace. Our heavenly Father sent His Son to us as a newborn in a lowly humble form to deliver His message of love and salvation.

How encouraging to know the Lord knows and loves us for who we are on the inside. Our value and significance is not based on the size of our school, the number of years we’ve been teaching, our success as a coach, or the size of our bank account. So, there you go! The pressure is off! In joy, we can look at ourselves fully assured of an inheritance in heaven, won by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Your life is full of Christmas Eve services. Use them as opportunities to loudly, boldly, and clearly tell your students and children in your care about Jesus. From the infant who is only a few weeks old in your daycare program to the senior in high school, you have the joy of proclaiming the love of Jesus through your ministry each and every day.

May our Heavenly Father open our hearts to receive and proclaim the news that Christ has been born so that we might have eternal life now and forever!

Jan Doellinger
Assistant to the President, Schools

Life Sunday

Life Sunday may be observed on the Sunday closest to January 22nd, that horrible day when the United States Supreme Court decided in the Roe V. Wade decision that unborn babies are not worth defending by law. This coming year, that Sunday would be the January 19th, 2020. Or, perhaps Life Sunday would be incorporated better into the life of the Church along with one of the appointed Feasts.

Christmas Eve (December 24th) and **Christmas Day** (December 25th) are obvious opportunities for you to teach and proclaim that our Lord Jesus was born as a tiny, defenseless baby so long ago for us and for our salvation. Father in heaven, grant us grace to proclaim Christmas joy every day, and offer your peace to every mother, father, son, and daughter!

The Feast of **the Holy Innocents, Martyrs** (December 28th) is a tragic remembrance of the baby boys in Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod. We pray in the Collect for that day: "Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying." Lord, help us also to make the good confession in our lives as well as with our words, defending innocent babies with our words and with our actions!

The Feast of **the Annunciation of our Lord** (March 25th) is also a wonderful time to preach into the ears of God's people that our Savior Jesus was made man, not only at His birth, but 9 months prior to that at His conception! We confess in the 2nd Article of the Creed: *And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...*

Whenever you observe Life Sunday this year, remember the murder of 1.2 million tiny little unborn babies in the United States every year by elective abortion. Pray for moms, dads, babies, grandparents, friends, and neighbors, that we may speak God's Word as God gives us opportunities. Help to offer alternatives to abortion in your area. Give a special offering to Lutherans for Life. Most importantly, offer the forgiveness of every sin, including abortion, to everyone, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Here are your resources from Lutherans for Life for Life Sunday: <https://www.lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2020/>

Rev. Alex Post
District Life Coordinator



I've never met a sandwich I didn't like. That's not to say some haven't taken some time to get used to the flavor. The sandwich I've been chewing on lately is more of the analogous kind: being sandwiched between aging parents and adult children. I had always heard of the phrase "sandwich generation" and now I understand its meaning. I've also learned that similar phrases exist depending upon the circumstances. For example, "club sandwich generation" describes adults wedged between their parents, adult children and grandchildren, and "open-faced sandwich generation" describes anyone involved in elder care.

Being in the midst of a sandwich can often mess with your brain. On the one side you're witnessing your kids who were so dependent upon you for everything (feeding, staying safe, learning, etc.) becoming independent adults navigating the adventures of marriage, starting families and building homes and careers. On the other side you're also witnessing your parents – who always seemed so strong, confident and independent – now counting on you for major life and healthcare decisions.

You can insert a joke here about being in a pickle when it comes to living within the sometimes messy sandwich, but what I've come to realize is this: it's what we do, and it's not a burden. No, it's not always easy putting on and off the different parent/child hats, but life this side of heaven will always have its challenges. Call it love, obligation or duty, but God placed me into a family, and families care for one another. I wasn't able at the age of 5, 15 or even 25 to care for my mom, but then again, I didn't need to be. Now I am able, and now my mom needs me.

I also bit into this sandwich when God blessed us with children. Being a parent is the toughest job I'll ever have – and love. Even though my kids are married and out of the nest, parenting doesn't end when a certain age is reached by the child, or when a particular life-event happens. Lord willing, I want to be a part of my children and spouses' lives finding ways to encourage and support them throughout their life adventures.

Maybe "sandwich" isn't the best way to describe the stage we're in currently. A better expression and analogy would be that we're in a "wrap:" Because of our family relationships, we are rolled up and intermingled in the lives of our parents and our children, and with our good Lord holding us tightly, that's a good place to be.

By Steve Gruenwald, Director of Worker Wellness, Concordia Plan Services

Submitted by:

Ronda Anderson

Iowa District East Parish Nurse Representative

I D E A R C H I V E S

Iowa District Teachers' Conference Minutes

This is a continuation of the Iowa District Teachers' Conference Minutes which was introduced in the May 2019 edition of the Professional Packet. This translation from German to English will cover the Minutes recorded for sessions held by Iowa District Parochial School Teachers from 1904 to 1911.

Part 4

Conference held at Lowden, Iowa
6-8 June, 1906

Forenoon. 6 June.

Today is once again the day of joy of the dear colleagues' conference, an important word! What would we teachers do without them? We would be like to a mill-wheel, which stands still once the creek dries up. It is the conference that cheers us up, admonishes us; that is why today you can see an expectant look on the faces of the brothers. They know the rich blessing that is possible from this gathering.

The conference began at nine o'clock. The colleagues sang Hymn No. 124 "Draw Us to Thee." Colleague Hild read aloud a prayer and the Psalm 23. After the devotion, things moved on to the election of officers. The same officials had the honor of continuing in their various offices. Colleague Hild addressed a number of heartfelt words of thanks to the conference. They had delighted him, at his Jubilee, with a little gift. God sustain him for many years to come!

It was voted on that the time for the morning session last from 9:00 until 11:30 and the afternoon from 2:00 until 5:00.

A catechesis about Making Use of the Holy Supper was the wish of the brothers to be heard first of all. The presentation was made by Colleague Bertram. The enthusiastic critique and debate made the teachers' gathering profitable for all the brothers. After accepting the presentation, the remaining time was taken up with addressing practical questions.

In regard to mental Arithmetic, our colleagues displayed a great interest. Mental arithmetic, when properly taught, not only does more than any other agency in giving pupils insight into the real nature of numbers and numerical relations, but it also adds keenness to the mind in general and strengthens its power of concentration. To be thus efficacious, however, any course in mental arithmetic must be based upon sound pedagogic principles and proceed along sound pedagogic lines. Observation must precede comparison; sense impressions must come before thought relations can be established; rational movement proceeds from the known to the related unknown, from the single to the complex, and from the particular notion to the concept. This was in short the basis upon which the discussion ran.

As the noon hour was fast approaching, the conference closed with the prayer of all prayers.

Afternoon Session.

In the afternoon, the conference met with the continuation of the work of the undersigned: A Lecture on Physiology. His work was accepted as far as it has been put forward. This was followed by adjournment with prayer.

Forenoon. 7 June.

The conference opened their morning session with singing and prayer. A hardworking biblical story about Eli and Samuel generated a lively discussion. Our Colleague Hafner divided the work into six sections:

1. Samuel's Parents.
2. Hannah's Prayer and Favorable Hearing.
3. The Wicked Sons of Elis and Threat of God's Judgment.
4. How Samuel was Called to be a Prophet
5. How God carries out His Threat to Eli and his sons.
6. How God Punished the Philistines.

The presentation of this work was clear, therefore, it was also accepted.

Our schoolchildren should write a distinct or readable handwriting when they end their school years. In order to achieve this goal, great diligence must be used in our schools to teach the right writing lessons. Mr Stolper had therefore been told to give us a lecture on the topic: Writing Lessons in our Schools. It is impossible to reproduce everything this lecture brought to light. Some colleagues have certainly had to take the blame and say: Here you have failed. This good lecture was accepted.

To make the most of the brief time remaining, the conference decided to compare its travel expenses. The total for this year was \$37.77; The average \$3.68. With prayer, the conference adjourned.

Afternoon.

The assignments for the presentations at the next conference engaged us during a part of the afternoon:

1. Catechesis concerning the 3rd Petition, Colleague Geisemann.
2. Presentation concerning Paul's Travels, Colleague Catenhusen.
3. A Discourse on Adjectives, Colleague Bertram.
4. Show and Sham in Education, Colleague Mattfeld.
5. Solar System, Colleague Stolper.
6. Methods in Arithmetic, Demonstrated, Colleague Schmidt.
7. Overview about the Animal Kingdom, Colleague Malte.
8. Which Schoolteachers have the Greatest Influence on our School System, Colleague Hild.
9. Lecture on Physiology, The undersigned.

The invitation from Colleague Catenhusen was received with thanks. So the place for our next conference is, God-willing, Lyons, Iowa; the date 22-24 May.

An interesting discourse on Turkey was lead by Mr. Catenhusen. Annotations in regard to the modes of living were the principal characteristics. He spoke of the education of the people which is very backward. European Turkey is a Mohammedan country, ruled by Mohammedans, and all the surroundings show the effects that Mohammedanism has upon the people, and their advancement in civilization and wealth. The Turks are very polite. They are continually making elaborately courteous remarks to one another.

The discourse proved that our colleague labored deliberately upon it, and successfully carried it out. The essay was accepted.

The conference adjourned.

Forenoon. 8 June.

The Conference, starting with a devotion, started their last session. Colleague Geiseman spoke candidly about the topic: The Use of the Globe. With sound interest the conference listened to the able oration of Mr. Geisemann. Many practical hints were given, and demonstrations worthy of note ascertained. Humor, keenness of thought, and eloquence were at the speakers demand. His oration was accepted.

Mr Mattfeld presented his work to the conference on the topic: School Discipline. This work, too, was presented in an instructive and quite nice way. It was adopted.

Again, on behalf of the brothers, The undersigned had to confess: This conference, too, was a true blessing for all those present. Yes, we must exclaim with the psalmist "How shall I reward the Lord for all His kindness that he does to me."

With the hymn: "God Bless Our Departure" and with the prayer of all prayers, the conference ended.

A.T.L. Secretary.

[—to be continued—]

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



December 2019

IDE MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT & SNOWLYMPICS - JAN 31-FEB 1



Each one of us has our own unique taste of what we enjoy, some like Country music, others prefer Rock or Rap music. But let us not forget Classical music, Jazz, Blues, Hip Hop or Christian music. At the 2020 IDE Middle School Retreat, our youth will study God's gift of music with Pastor Ferch. Together, we will look back to the Old Testament and learn how music was involved in the life of the church. We will peer back into history to see how the early church used music in the Divine Service and how that applies to the church today. We'll also answer an equally important question of, "How does Satan influence our youth with music?" Pastor Ferch will have samples of popular songs that today's teens listen to and together as we parse the words of the song. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, our youth will recognize the influence of Satan through all genres of music. The

Snowlympics on Saturday, where IDE youth groups compete in a series of outdoor winter events!

Our presenter is Pastor Bradley Ferch from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA. You can register online or download a registration form at www.lcmside.org. The retreat will take place beginning on Friday, January 31 at 7pm and going through 3 pm on Saturday the February 1. This retreat includes a pizza snack on Friday evening and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. A full schedule can be found at the link above.

2020 Summer Camp Theme: Teach Us To Pray

One pillar of Christian life that we can often struggle with is prayer. What are we supposed to say, anyways? When does anyone have time to pray? How can we be sure that God is even listening? Are my problems are too big or too little to trouble God with? On top of this, our sins plague us and, out of shame, we might think that God probably doesn't want to hear from us.

These are real questions, but Jesus gives us real answers. Jesus teaches us in the Lord's Prayer about what a loving God we have. Jesus himself teaches us how and what to pray for. In our greatest joys and our deepest sorrows and despair, we learn that we have a God who is eager to hear from His children. We learn that we have a God who provides for our needs and forgives us our sins. More than this, through diet of God's Word, we understand and trust that our prayers are heard and answered by God, who gives us what's best for us in His time. This coming summer, our campers will get to learn about prayer just as the disciple did who asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Registration for summer camp opens on **Friday, January 10**, so stay tuned to campiodiseca.org for more information!

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

Camp Presentations

Would you like to know more about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? Camp Director Daniel Sanchez is available to speak to congregations and groups about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's mission, facilities, and programs. Call 319-848-4187 to schedule a speaker!



Important Dates

January 10
Summer Camp Registration Opens

January 31-Feb 1
***IDE Middle School Retreat
& Snowlympics***

April 4
IDE LHM Convention

June 17
1st Day of Summer Camp

August 1
***I Believe In Camp
Fundraiser Auction***



THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2018, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received \$10,000 in Thrivent Choice contributions! Thank you donors for making this program a success for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Will you help make **2019** an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice" to designate your choice dollars for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca today.

Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Needs List

campiodiseca.org/needs-list/

Support Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca: Your Congregation's 2020 Mission Budget

Though many of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's donations come from individuals and families, we also rely on congregations for financial support. Some congregations are generous enough to add Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as a line item in their mission budget. Other congregations have groups such as their LWML societies make financial contributions.

Congregational contributions make the mission of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, that is, providing Christ-centered recreation, education, and inspiration for all, a reality. It isn't merely about keeping the lights on or paying the heating bills, but it ensures that Camp's guests have a quality experience at a quality location. Does your congregation currently support Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? We hope that is will!

Also, check out our new ***I Believe in Camp*** monthly giving program. It's a great way for your household to make support Camp's important mission for as little as \$25/month. Details are available at our website!

THANK YOU!!!!!!

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org



A newsletter of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

REACHING RURAL AMERICA FOR CHRIST



Our "Life Together"

- To follow the core beliefs of the LCMS
- To equip rural professional and lay leaders
- To support congregations in community engagement



Please Pray for These Important Dates

Dec. 12 – Webinar

"Always Prepared to Give Reason for Your Hope"

with the Rev. Craig Niemeier, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Worms, Neb.
1–2 p.m. CST

Jan. 9–12

Making Disciples for Life Initial Gathering
LCMS International Center, St. Louis
lcms.org/making-disciples-gathering

Jan. 16 – Webinar

"LCMS Rural and Small-Town Church Dynamics"

with the Rev. Todd Kollbaum, LCMS RSTM director, and Amy Gerdts, associate director of Communications, Lutheran Bible Translators
1–2 p.m. CST

Feb. 13 – Webinar

"Rural and Small-Town Disaster Response"

with the Rev. James Daub, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Havelock, N.C.
1–2 p.m. CST

Eyes Fixed on Jesus

Over 150 pastors and lay leaders gathered Nov. 14–16 at the Doubletree by Hilton Bloomington-Minneapolis South in Minneapolis, Minn., for the 2019 National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference.

The Rev. Dr. Keith Schweitzer, a dual-parish pastor in Iowa who also serves as a substitute teacher, attended the conference for the sixth time and presented for the first time. He was just one of many congregational leaders from coast to coast who were in attendance. Over the course of three days, the attendees were impacted by inspirational plenary speakers, practical sectionals, time together in worship and Bible study, and time for attendees to encourage and support each other. In the words of Jocelyn Benson, exhibitor and presenter, Wittenberg Academy, "Having attended every single RSTM National conference (since Storm Lake, Ia.) and being in a small town, small congregation myself, I wish everyone knew just how vital and worthwhile this conference is!" And first-time attendee, Rev. Armand Boehme shares the same sentiment when he said, "You have no idea how delightfully refreshing this is!"

In keeping with the theme of "Running with Endurance: Eyes Fixed On Jesus," those in attendance considered topics such as: seeking Christ's presence in rural and small-town areas, the pastor and congregation's role together and within the community, and carrying out ministry with patient perseverance in an impatient world. The Rev. Robert Zagore led the theme Bible study (Heb. 12:1b–2a) for the conference, sharing how God trains and equips us to joyfully endure in whatever setting God gives us. The Rev. Todd Kollbaum opened and closed the conference with meditations on the blessings of faithful endurance in rural and small-town ministry and a reminder to stay focused on Jesus in all we do. The Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil discussed faithfully engaging our world without shrinking from the current challenges, and how we can bring healing to the broken by providing a positive, hopeful witness. In addition, participants were able to choose from breakout topics such as dealing with addictions, mental health, bi-vocational pastors, stewardship, community engagement, youth ministry and more.

On the heels of this wonderful conference, plans are being made for RSTM to join in the new *Making Disciples for Life* conferences. The first will be held Jan. 9–12 in St. Louis. Make plans to join us!

Thank you to all who attended the 2019 national conference! To keep up to date with 2020 events, go to lcms.org/rstm or contact the RSTM office by emailing rstm@lcms.org or by calling 888-463-5127.



The Rev. Robert Zagore, executive director, LCMS Office of National Mission, leads the "Eyes Fixed On Jesus" Bible study.

One for the Books

LOOKING BACK ON THE RSTM 2019 NATIONAL CONFERENCE



^ The Rev. Todd Kollbaum and Amy Gerdtz, of LCMS RSTM, shared about rural and small-town church dynamics.

◀ Breakout sessions offered many opportunities for learning in smaller group settings.

Social hour and fellowship were highlights!



The Evening Roundtable time allowed participants to share ideas about what works and to seek help with problems.



The Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil opened eyes and provided encouragement during the "For Such a Time As This" plenary session.



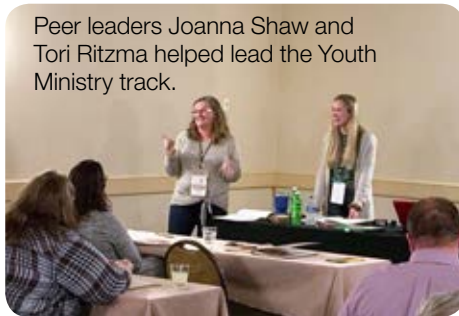
^ Exhibitor Bingo was lots of fun and offered participants opportunities to win fabulous prizes ... including a \$200 gift certificate from Thrivent!



◀ The Rev. Dr. Mark Wood shared about the *Making Disciples for Life* program during the banquet Friday evening.



⬆ Bi-vocational ministry, led by the Rev. Troy Neujahr, was one emphasis of the conference.



Peer leaders Joanna Shaw and Tori Ritzma helped lead the Youth Ministry track.



⬆ The conference was well-attended, and the food was excellent!



⬆ The plenary sessions were well-attended and received great feedback.



Rural & Small Town Mission

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Contact us

We want to hear from you! If you have ideas for future issues, comments, or feedback on articles you've read in *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, please contact the RSTM office.

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How to Subscribe

To subscribe to *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, contact the RSTM office by calling 888-463-5127 or sending an email to rstm@lcms.org.

Support This Work

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports and encourages rural and small-town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament.

Click the Give Now button to support the work of RSTM.

GIVE NOW

Thrivent members: Remember that RSTM is eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars!



GOD'S BLESSINGS TO AMY GERDTS!

After serving as the coordinator for LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM) since 2009, Amy Gerdt is joining Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) as their Associate Director of Communications. Her last day with RSTM is Jan. 3, 2020. We pray for a smooth transition for Amy and blessings on the work of both RSTM and LBT going forward.

RSTM Events Update

2019 was another great year! As the year wraps up, we hope you'll look at the calendar of upcoming RSTM events to see if there is an event near you in 2020 or a resource you can use.

We'd like to invite everyone to join us online each month for the RSTM webinars. Up next is **"Always Prepared to Give Reason for Your Hope"** on Dec. 12, followed by **"LCMS Rural and Small-Town Church Dynamics"** on Jan. 16, 2020. Find past webinars in our archives.

Register for one of our Engaging Your Community (EYC) or Engaging the Wandering (ETW) events at lcms.org/rstm. These partner events offer practical resources and training in communication skills, to better reach out to our wandering members and communities with Christ's love. Contact your district or the RSTM office if you are interested in holding an event near you.

RSTM's newest events, **Welcoming Workshops**, are something we think your congregation will love and benefit from. These day-long events will help congregations become more welcoming places, providing God's Word to both current members and guests. They will offer practical resources on Welcoming Buildings, Welcoming Publications and Welcoming People. Online registration is available for all these events.



We are in the process of scheduling events for 2020. Contact your district if you are interested in having an Engaging or Welcoming event come to your area. If you would like to know more about either of these events or how to register for an event, please contact RSTM at 888-463-5127.



Previous Scholarship Winner:
Joshua Marlatt
Trinity Lutheran Church
Waconia, Minn.

\$1,000 LCEF SCHOLARSHIPS

for LCMS high school seniors & college students

LCEFCENTRAL.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry



IDE Middle School Retreat & Snowlympics January 31-February 1, 2020

Each one of us has our own unique taste of what we enjoy, some like Country music, others prefer Rock or Rap music. But let us not forget Classical music, Jazz, Blues, Hip Hop or Christian music. At the 2020 IDE Middle School Retreat, our youth will study God's gift of music with Pastor Ferch. Together, we will look back to the Old Testament and learn how music was involved in the life of the church. We will peer back into history to see how the early church used music in the Divine Service and how that applies to the church today. We'll also answer an equally important question of, "How does Satan influence our youth with music?" Pastor Ferch will have samples of popular songs that today's teens listen to and together as we parse the words of the song. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, our youth will recognize the influence of Satan through all genres of music.

Registration

\$50 per student

Register online through [EventBrite](#), or send your completed order form with a check for \$45 to the district office:

IOWA DISTRICT EAST - LCMS
1100 BLAIRS FERRY RD
MARION IA 52302-3039

Forms

All student will need to bring a completed [Health & Photo Release](#) form with them to camp. This can be found on our district website, along with a [packing list](#), at [lcmside.org](#)

Questions

Visit our district website online for information about the event, or contact the district office: dsanchez@lcmside.org / (319) 373-2112.



REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ AGE _____ GENDER: M / F

REGISTRATION TYPE (circle): Youth / Adult Chaperone

☐ Send a check for **\$50** with this form to the District Office:

IOWA DISTRICT EAST
1100 BLAIRS FERRY RD
MARION IA 52302-3039

☐ Students will need to fill out a camp Health and Photo Release Form. Bring this with you to camp. The form can be found on our district website at lcmside.org.

Contact the District Office for more information:
dsanchez@lcmside.org or call 319-373-2112.



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IDE Youth Event

Online Registration Planning Sheet

Name	Email	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Gender	Age	Church / City	Registrant Type
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
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				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth

Visit this event at [EVENTBRITE](#).

If you have questions please contact Daniel Sanchez at dsanchez@lcmside.org or 319-373-2112.



This information is confidential. Youth leader needs to collect and bring this form along for each IDE youth event.

Iowa District East Youth Event Health Form and Photo Release

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Gender _____ Birthday ____ / ____ / ____ Age _____ Grade this Fall _____
Address _____ Information Provided By: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____
Parent 1 First Name _____ Last Name _____ Cell _____ Work _____
Parent 2 First Name _____ Last Name _____ Cell _____ Work _____

IF NOT AVAILABLE IN AN EMERGENCY, NOTIFY:

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____ Cell _____
Doctor _____ Phone _____
Dentist _____ Phone _____
Pharmacy _____ Phone _____

NAME OF FAMILY MEDICAL/HOSPITAL INSURANCE:

Insurance Carrier _____ Policy # _____
Insurance Phone # (if applicable) _____ Primary Insured's Name _____
Activity Restrictions by parent's/physician's advice?: _____
Other information we need to know? _____

ALLERGIES: __ Hay Fever __ Poison Ivy __ Insect Stings __ Asthma __ Food(s): _____
__ Peanut Butter __ Nuts __ Penicillin __ Other Drugs: _____

Medications Brought To Event: _____ Notes on Giving: _____

Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, antacids, anti-diarrhea medication and first aid **MAY / MAY NOT** (CIRCLE ONE) be administered to my child, as needed, by designated chaperones.

Special Considerations? _____

AUTHORIZATIONS AND PHOTO RELEASE:

This health history is correct so far as I know and the person herein described has permission to engage in all prescribed event activities except as noted above. I also give permission to the event coordinator or chaperone to order x-rays, routine tests and treatment. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I give permission to the physician selected by the event coordinator to transport, hospitalize and secure proper treatment, order injection and/or anesthesia and/or surgery.

I grant to Iowa District East the right to take photographs of me and my family in connection with the Iowa District East youth events and retreats. I authorize Iowa District East, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that Iowa District East may use such photographs of me and my family with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including, for example, such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content. I agree that if I have any concerns or questions regarding the use of such photographs I should contact the Iowa District East office, in writing, in a timely manner.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND GIVEN TO YOUR YOUTH COUNSELOR ATTENDING THE EVENT WITH YOU. THE YOUTH COUNSELOR COLLECTS AND RETAINS THE IDE YOUTH EVENT HEALTH FORM FOR EACH PARTICIPANT. DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

What should I bring to Camp?

Bible
Sleeping Bag
Pillow
Appropriate clothing and shoes for activities

DO NOT BRING

Irreplaceable or valuable items
Cell Phones
iPods, mp3 players, etc.
Extra money
Nuisance items that distract from the purpose of the event

You are responsible for any items you bring to camp

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Nuisance items that distract from the purpose of the event

You are responsible for any items you bring to camp

IDE LHM District Convention—April 4, 2020

“The Cost of Free”



Iowa District East Lutheran Hour Ministries annual convention is **Saturday, April 4, 2020** at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, 3271 Sandy Beach Rd. NE, Solon, IA 52333.

Our guest speaker will be the **Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook, Vice President, Global Ministries.** He will be sharing how global outreach efforts are reaching others with the Gospel message. **All are invited to attend.**

Registration: Registration open at 9:00AM

Convention starts at 10:00 AM and conclude at 4:00 PM.

Registration is \$12 (\$15 at the door), includes a noon meal and snacks. Please register by March 29, 2020 to allow time for meal planning. (Extra restrooms available.)

Directions: Take I-380 until exit 10 (Swisher, Shueyville) and head east on 120th St. [F12] until stop sign. Turn right onto NE Curtis Bridge Rd. and follow it until Sandy Beach Rd. Turn left onto Sandy Beach Rd. and follow it to the Camp. Watch for Camp signs.



Booklets help strengthen sick woman's faith in Madagascar



LHM-Kenya VBS Reaches 100 Children



Homeless girl finds hope at puppet show in Myanmar

To register, complete this form, enclose check and mail to:
Dick Hoelz, 3519 Heatheridge Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-7624.

Make checks payable to: IDE LLL

Phone number _____

Number attending _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Congregation _____

Email _____



Submissions for the next edition of our
Professional Workers' Packet are due
January 4

Please email articles, photos and announcements to
Daniel Sanchez, IDE Communications/Events/Technology Coordinator
dsanchez@lcmside.org



The Professional Packet is Iowa District East's monthly newsletter sharing updates on vacancies, upcoming events, and district news.