



Iowa District East

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

August 18, 2014

Greetings in the Name of Christ our Lord,

Two years have come and already gone since the 2012 Iowa District East Convention. It has been a joy and a learning experience serving as your president. I pray each day for God's guidance and wisdom as I carry out the responsibilities of this office. We are now making preparations for the IDE Convention of 2015. It will be held June 26-27 here in Cedar Rapids at the Marriott Hotel. The host congregation is St. John Lutheran Church in Center Point.

The theme for the convention is "Witness, Mercy, Life Together." An emphasis will be placed on "Mission: The Church in Motion." What a wonderful opportunity for us as we gather together, laymen and clergy, at the feet of a teacher of the church and are fed with the Words of Eternal Life. The synodical representative will be Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr., the 2nd Vice-President of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Our keynote speaker for Bible study and Missions is the Rev. Randall L. Golter, LCMS, Executive Director for Office of International Missions.

In preparation for this convention, I have been reading the convention minutes of the conventions chaired by Dr. C.F.W. Walther. It wasn't until the end of his service as president of the synod that conventions actually voted on issues. Prior to that the assembly gathered together for the purpose of studying Scripture, reading the Lutheran Confessions and discussing the impact the study has on the life of the parish, both local and abroad.

Memorials are the right of the church and have brought many good and healthy issues to bear upon the life of the baptized. I certainly want each congregation, pastor or circuit that wishes to present a memorial to do so with my blessing. At the same time I would ask that we give consideration to keeping them to a minimum for the purpose of allowing the most efficient use of our time together in study and discussion of the Holy Scriptures. I leave this to the best judgment of our congregations and pastors.

More information will be forthcoming the closer we come to the due dates of nominations and other information needed for the convention workbook.

God bless you and His lovely Church as we go into this next year with the desire to grow in faith and unity.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders

