

IDE TODAY

Iowa District East—LCMS

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November 2014



OFFICIAL NOTICE: The Thirty-ninth Convention of Iowa District East of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod will be held June 26-27, 2015 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, 1200 Collins Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Each voting parish is entitled to have one pastoral delegate and one lay delegate. The delegates' names (as well as alternates) should be sent to the District Office and received by January 30, 2015. The business of the Convention will include elections and actions on overtures. The following offices will be filled by the Convention:

- President (3-year term)
 - First Vice-President (3-year term)
 - Second Vice President (3-year term)
 - Secretary (3-year term)
 - Treasurer (3-year term)
- Board of Directors**
- One Ordained Minister (6-year term)
 - Two Laypersons (6-year term)
- Board for Constitution Review**
- One Ordained (6-year term)
 - One Layperson
- District Nominations Committee**
- Two Ordained (3-year term)
 - Two Laypersons (3-year term)
 - One Commissioned (3-year term)

Each congregation may nominate individuals for these various positions. Nominations for the President and Vice-Presidents should be returned to Rev. Mark Brase; all other nominations are to be returned to the District Office or to jon@lcmsside.org as soon as possible but no later than January 30, 2015. Information and Nomination forms have been supplied to the congregations.

In Christ,



Rev. Mark H. Brase

Secretary, Iowa District East – LCMS

Advent Devotions

Iowa District East will be providing devotions for this Advent season. These short devotions on the daily lectionary will be available beginning December 1st at www.lcmsside.org. They will go through Christmas Day, December 25th.

We are very thankful to the pastors of the Davenport circuit for their willingness to serve as the authors for this year's Advent Devotions.

A printable booklet will also be made available on our website.

President's Piece for Peace

For the past few publications of IDE Today we have been walking our way through Jesus' gift of reconciliation in the Church according to Matthew 18:15-17. I cannot overstate how important it is that we understand these verses as God's gift to the Church rather than instructions how to rid ourselves of "dead wood" or "clear out the slackers". These verses express the depth to which we are to go, out of love, to rescue an erring brother or sister in the congregation who has fallen by the way of danger to their salvation.

Going to see them face-to-face is primary. If those efforts are not fruitful we are to visit them with one-or-two witnesses for the purpose of clarification and honesty. The hope is that this effort will bring about repentance. "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church;" (vs. 17a). Even Jesus is telling us that some efforts are met with refusal to listen or even rejection of brotherly love. In such a case we still do not give up. "We tell it to the church." When you are concerned that your brother has sinned in a way that makes you fear that he will lose his faith you make extended efforts to rescue him. While it is true that all sins are alike in that all are rebellion against God and equally damnable, some sins are more fully developed and pose a greater danger to our lives (see James 1:13-15). I quote Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs in his commentary on Matthew when he says:

A pastor deals differently with a man who privately confesses that he has occasional sexual fantasies about a female coworker than with a man who openly acknowledges a ten-year affair with said coworker. There is greater cause for concern over a woman who, every day, calls all of her friends to gossip cruelly about the pastor's family than over a parishioner who, tired from a particular days work, snaps back with an uncharacteristically critical comment during a meeting. (Concordia Commentary, pg. 918).

Telling it to the church is not for the sake of magnifying the sin. It is for the purpose of asking for additional help to save the brother. More prayers, more voices of concern, more efforts at rescue may be what is needed. Once again the verbs in these verses are participles. That means the efforts to rescue are not one time events but exercised until it is clear and apparent they have not been fruitful. Love drives Matthew 18:15-17, not anger or revenge. Love from God through us to our neighbor. Jesus is telling us our neighbor is most needy when their soul is deprived of the Word and faith is in danger. God moves us to love Him so much that we love one another with this depth of compassion and care. Reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ means we are reconciled to one-another.

President Saunders.

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders
President
Iowa District East



St. Silas—North Liberty

On September 7, St. Silas began having Sunday School at 9:00 am, the same time as Bible class. Families come to the church building together, the children meet in the back of the sanctuary, the youth and adults meet in the first few rows of the nave. After opening with prayer together, they have their respective teachings, and at 10:00 am they join together for Divine Service. There are nine children at Sunday School on a regular basis. This year they're working through an overview of the Bible, covering the major accounts in the Old and New Testaments. The teaching and activity for each biblical account focus on what God has done for us in Jesus.



Along the way in each lesson there is also opportunity for instruction in God's commandments, reflection on the examples of the saints who have gone before us, and especially a call to repentance and faith. Reading the account of the fall the children reflected on God's severe, and yet just, punishment of death for sin. They were then pointed to Christ crushing the serpent's head, not just for Adam and Eve, but for them! In connection with Abraham the children have been learning what it means to fear, love, and trust in God above all things and keep the First Commandment.

One of the emphases at St. Silas is to assist the heads of house in bringing up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. In fact all of the goals for Sunday School begin "Assist parents with..."

1. Assist parents with giving their children a good knowledge of the Biblical narrative, both Old and New Testaments. Along with this teach the proper distinction between Law and Gospel.
2. Assist parents with teaching their children the basics of the faith as contained in the Small Catechism. Assist catechumens in learning the catechism by heart.
3. Assist parents with teaching their children the meaning of Christian worship by studying the liturgy, the Church year, hymns, and the sanctuary.

To assist parents the children are sent home with a review sheet so that parents can re-read the reading for the day, review the main points that were taught, and ensure that their children retain the Word of God and take it to heart. Families have also been given copies of The Story Bible or 120 Bible Stories and a hymnal for use in the home.

As a further help Learn-by-Heart booklets have been made. They're designed for different age ranges and work up to learning the whole Small Catechism by heart. Each Sunday before Sunday School/Bible Class and after Divine Service, members of the congregation recite their section for the week to learn-by-heart guides, who then initial the booklets. The children are working on parts of the Creed. The Bible class is working on the Table of Duties as we study the topic of vocation.

Thankfulness

On Thursday November 27, we will observe the National Holiday of Thanksgiving. Many of us will attend church services either the night before or on the actual day. As we gather we will remember the many things for which we are truly thankful. Martin Luther wrote:

To begin with, we must rejoice at the less important good things which we enjoy according to the Second Table of the Law in that our bodies and possessions are protected. For these gifts are of minor importance when compared with those which we enjoy according to the First Table: that God has revealed Himself, has made known what He intends to do with us, gives His Word, grants faith and the Holy Spirit, hears prayers, daily increases His church, etc. These things are so great that no tongue is able to amplify and praise them as they deserve.¹

As one reads through the epistles of St. Paul, we see the declaration of thankfulness coming through again and again. For Paul it was often expressed in thankfulness for the people to whom he was writing and their participation in the Holy Gospel. So what will you be thanking God for this Thanksgiving Day?

As I think about it some of the following thoughts come to mind. I thank God that His Word shows me who I am by nature, a sinner in need of God's forgiveness. Christ Jesus comes only to sinners. I can thank God for the water and Word of Holy Baptism where I became His child and Jesus' death and resurrection became mine! I can also thank God that Jesus assumed human flesh in the incarnation to deal with the sins of the whole world, mine included! I can thank God that Jesus went to the cross with those sins, became sin for me and for you, and suffered, bled, died, and rose again on the third day for the justification of all people.

I can thank God that I receive Christ Jesus—and all His work on my behalf—when I come to the Divine Service. I get to meet Jesus over and over again. I can rejoice and give thanks in what I have been given, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation! We remember that when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper He also gave thanks!

I thank God for my family, my wife and children, and grandchildren! In my work here in Iowa District East, I thank God for the many people with whom I have been privileged to meet with in our "Proclaiming Christ Jesus" capital campaign. I thank God for the congregations and individual donors who have given to help fund new mission starts here in Iowa East. I thank God for the growth which He is providing both at New Hope Lutheran in Charles City and at St. Silas Lutheran in North Liberty. As St. Paul states: "We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously hears in the word of truth, the gospel" (Col. 1:3-5).

1. What Luther Says, Vol. III, p. 1352.

Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild is assistant to the President and director of the Proclaiming Christ Jesus Campaign.





Capital Campaign

(As of: 10-29-14)

*Approved on 6/29/12 by Iowa District East
in Convention.*

Proclaiming Christ Jesus! Luke 24:46-47

Update

Gifts received to date:

\$411,758

Gifts promised in next 1-10 years:

\$43,783

Total to date:

\$ 455,541

· Pastors are being be 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.

· Thank you to all of our faithful donors, both individuals and congregations

For further information, please contact Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild at:

319-373-2112 (office), cell: 319-350-9564 or
deanrothchild@lcmiside.org

Calendar

November

27-28 District Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December

24–
Jan. 2 District Office Closed for Christmas

January

27 Board of Directors
30-31 Jr. High Youth Retreat

February

5 Missions Committee
Youth Committee
9 BSCS Meeting

IDE Update

Calling Congregations:

Lowden, Trinity - Steven Anderson (vacancy pastor)
Mason City, Messiah - Clarke Frederick (vacancy pastor)
Ottumwa, Trinity—Kevin Saylor (vacancy pastor)
Ventura, Redeemer - Scott Kozisek (vacancy pastor)
Waterloo, Grace - Pastoral Transition
Williamsburg, St. Paul - Gary Sears (vacancy pastor)

Call Update:

Accepted:
Thomas Ogilvie, MN S to St. Paul, Williamsburg

DCE/School/Teacher Calls:

Vacancies:
Cedar Rapids, Trinity – Principal
Readlyn, Community – Principal

Accepted:
Nichole Beaver-Perez,
Austin TX to Central, Newhall – Principal

Trinity—Guttenberg St. Paul—McGregor

On August 3, Andrew Jacob Preus was ordained as Pastor at St. Paul - McGregor. He was then installed as Pastor of Trinity - Guttenberg and St. Paul - McGregor. Iowa District East President, Rev. Brian Saunders, presided and Rev. Rolf Preus (father of Andrew) preached. Three of Andrew's brothers also participated along with 18 other pastors. A reception was held after the service.



Front: Reverends John (Trinity-Clinton), Rolf (North Dakota),
Center: Andrew, Back: Stephen (Trinity—Vinton) and Mark
Preus (Wyoming).

Pastor Preus was born in Grand Forks, ND, lived in Racine, WI, and eventually returned to graduate high school at East Grand Forks Senior High in 2006. He attended Minnesota State University (Mankato) and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Theory from the University of Minnesota (Morris) in 2009. He went on to graduate from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, ON with a Master of Divinity degree in 2013. Pastor Preus finished his course work for his Master of Sacred Theology degree at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne this past spring.

Pastor Preus is the eighth son of eleven brothers and one younger sister. Seven of his brothers are currently Pastors or studying to become one. Two

of his brothers (Stephen and John) are pastors in IDE. In the summer of 2009, Pastor married Leah Frehr and they now have 3 children, Jacob (almost 4), Solveig (1-1/2), and Kristiana born this past September. Leah is a stay at home mother who also works part-time, from home, as a bio-statistician for a cancer research hospital.

His Dual Parish is very excited to have this energetic, Confessional Lutheran young man to minister and teach them in the years to come. He and his family reside at the parsonage in Guttenberg.



Front: Stephen Preus, Rolf Preus, Andrew Preus, Brian Saunders, Brian Thorson, Dean Rothchild. Back: Robert Benson, Paul Nus, Jesse Cearlock, Kristian Kincaid, Leonard Aurich, David Anderson, Donald Krause, Anthony Dodgers, Mark Preus, Andrew Grey, Mark Brase, John Preus, Dale Glawitz, Troy Pepperkorn.

Immanuel—Waterloo



Immanuel Lutheran Church and Preschool groundbreaking was held on Sunday, October 26. Immanuel is relocating from Waterloo to a new site on Oster Parkway in Cedar Falls. Phase 1 of the building project is expected to be completed Easter 2016.



Immanuel Lutheran Waterloo Sunday School students are connecting to their community by their recent servant projects. The PK class made cards for our Immanuel shut-ins. The K-2 students made place mats for Meals on Wheels. And the 3-8 grade students made cards for hospice patients.





Trinity—Cedar Rapids

On October 17, Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids, held its annual walk-a-thon fundraiser. The theme was “Walking Makes A Difference”...by collecting funds for the school, collecting donations for the Liberia Project, exercising for a healthy lifestyle, and spending time with family and friends. All the classes walked for 30 minutes, and many parents, grandparents, and friends joined the students in their walk. This year our goals were: \$10,000.00 profit and 125 bottles of hand sanitizer for Liberia. We met BOTH our goals! The school now has \$10,000.00 to use for several programs, and we shipped 154 bottles of hand sanitizer to Liberia to help with the Ebola outbreak.

Storm Damage Update



This past summer Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids, sustained a significant amount of storm damage. Thankfully, school was already out for the summer and much of the damage occurred while no one was in the building. Unfortunately, it destroyed the gym floor and roof, our stage area, and caused other water damage throughout the building.

Trinity is thankful for the prayers and support from many people, not only in Iowa District East, but from across the country. They have received financial support from St. Paul - Marion and several Granny Basketball teams from IDE. Some of the long distance support came from an alumnus in Colorado and several Granny Basketball Groups from the Des Moines area.



After nearly 5 months, much of the school put back together. There are a few projects not done, but should be completed this year. The gym roof and floor were replaced, along with carpet in the main office and front foyer. The next phase of repairs will include some much needed classroom work, asbestos removal, kitchen upgrades, and adding air conditioning to the older section of the building.

Trinity—Vinton

Three Junior High students attended the IDE Confirmation Retreat at Camp Io-Dis -E-Ca October 10-11. They were Samantha Hammond, Jonathon Kreutner, and Hailey Sundwall. This Retreat was titled “Until He Comes.” The topic was the Lord’s Supper as the central act of the Church’s public witness. The youth enjoyed renewing acquaintances from other retreats and meeting new friends. The sessions were excellent and they had lots of fun during the activities. The retreat concluded with several servant events, helping to prepare camp for winter.



On Reformation Sunday, Rev. Jan Horne of Robbins served as guest preacher. After service everyone went to the Parish Hall for breakfast. The senior and junior youth prepared and served the food. The free will offering will help with youth activities.



The annual hay ride for Family Fun Day was October 26. The weather could not have been better. Everyone got a chance to ride through the fields on the hay rack. The youth played various games while the adults got a chance to talk. Afterwards they gathered for grilled pork, burgers, hot dogs, and s’mores. Members attending ranged from 3 to 77 years old!



St. Paul's Chapel—Iowa City

Here Come The Hawkeyes!

Quick: How do you turn a sleepy Midwestern town into a thriving center of activity? Easy: Have 30,000 students move here at about the exact same time! As Iowa City once again welcomes our Hawkeyes back home, St. Paul's reaches out to the students, encouraging them to join us for all our activities and worship times. The student leadership team met chapel visitors and newcomers, greeting them with stadium cups filled with candy and information about St. Paul's and welcoming them to life in Iowa City.

The fall semester is always a busy time in campus ministry. With an expanded van shuttle service, students are finding it easier than ever to participate in chapel life. Students are immersing themselves in Word and Sacrament, joining Wednesday night Evening prayer and Bible study, daily Noon prayer, Sunday morning Bible study, and the Divine Service. In addition to all the opportunities for study and worship, there is plenty of time for fun! Students had a great time heading out to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca for our annual bonfire and hayride, picnicking on the front lawn, touring downtown, and just enjoying time together as chapel buddies.



College Hill—Cedar Falls

Fall Fling Study Weekend

The college students of College Hill—Cedar Falls hosted about 40 students from several universities and colleges in Iowa for their annual Fall Fling Study Weekend on October 3-5. The weekend included square dancing and a bonfire on Friday night, and a very interesting presentation about angels and demons by the Rev. John Dreyer of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne on Saturday.



Football Road trip! On October 11-12, UNI students, Anna and Reba Zeller, along with Tim Gamble of College Hill Lutheran Church, travelled to Vermillion, South Dakota to watch the UNI football game and to visit their families.

Pictured from left to right at Concordia Lutheran Church, Vermillion, SD: Rev. Samuel Needham, Timothy Gamble, Anna Zeller, Reba Zeller, Jeni Zeller, and Dr. Marvin Gamble.

Trinity—Chariton

On October 12, Trinity - Chariton celebrated their 25th Anniversary with the Divine Service at 9:00 am followed by Sunday School and an afternoon Divine Service at 3:00 pm followed by a catered meal. The services were conducted by Rev. Dean Christ with former member, Rev. Michael Musick preaching at the afternoon service.

Claudia and Jamison Owens, Susan Christ and Gary Willoughby provided special music to enhance the services. The meal was attended by 70 guests and members. Everyone enjoyed visiting after the meal.

Trinity started as a mission congregation of The LCMS in Chariton by Pastor J. Max Davis. St. John – Melcher was the parent congregation. The original group of Chariton folks who worked with Pastor Davis were: Larry and Sue Mitzner, Ann Roach, Pam and Mark Richardson, and Dan and Tammi Christensen. Many members of St. John – Melcher helped with the city wide phone canvas to invite Chariton residents to the first services in the fall of 1989.



Eight young people were confirmed at Trinity - Chariton on Reformation Sunday, October 26: Nicolas, Zackary and Nathan Ho, Mackenzie and Kelsey DeVore, Shayla and Blair Holohan and Gabriel Garner are shown with Pastor Dean Christ.



District Life Coordinator



Greetings to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My name is Alex Post, and I'm the District Life Coordinator for Iowa District East of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. I am called to serve God's people at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown. And I am blessed by God with my wife Esther, our son Logan (3), our daughter Elsa (2), and another child due to be born in March 2015!

Our God is the giver of life. Jesus said, **"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."** Jesus laid down His life for His

sheep willingly and took it back up again so that by believing in Him, they may have eternal life in His Name. We confess that God also gives us our earthly life, our material goods, and all that we need to support this body and life. We confess this in the 4th petition of the Lord's Prayer: **"Give us this day our daily bread."** We confess God's gift of life in the 1st Article of the Creed: **"I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."** And we confess God's protection of life and condemnation of murder in the 5th Commandment: **"You shall not murder."**

So what is a District Life Coordinator?

A District Life Coordinator helps to make district congregations aware of important life issues in the community, the state, the nation, and the world. A District Life Coordinator is the liaison between district congregations, the Missouri Synod, and affiliated organizations such as Lutherans for Life. Today, the evils of abortion, suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell experimentation, unjust war, poverty, disease, hunger, and murder end the lives of millions of innocent children, women, and men around the world. Every Christian is called by God to "visit orphans and widows in their affliction" (James 1:27), to tell the world that "the LORD hates...hands that shed innocent blood" (Proverbs 6:16), and to point sinners to our Lord Jesus Christ Who forgives every sin of those who repent and turn from their ways.

To that end, we pray every day for God to deliver the unborn, the poor, the elderly, the sick, and the needy from neglect, abuse, and from an evil death. Although our care for those in need begins and ends with God's Word and prayer, we also use the tools of petition, activism, public witness, and spreading awareness of God's gift of life – from the womb to the tomb – from conception to natural death.



Immanuel Fairfield

Over 135 Life Crosses were placed on the lawn at Immanuel, Fairfield to celebrate life - from conception to natural death and renewed in Christ crucified and risen. The signs read "Every hour more than 135 lives lost! Pray to end abortion!"

Lutheran Home for the Aged Association—East

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity throughout this past year in assisting with the Mission and Ministry of “Providing Quality Christian Care and Service” in the Lutheran Home Communities.

In 2014 through continued prayer and diligence, the foundation created sixty-nine years ago has continued to flourish. Each program of care shares the common philosophy centered on quality, personalized care, independence, individuality, choice of care and lifestyle. Our quest for quality Christian care remains responsive to the changing needs each day.

The Lutheran Home For The Aged Association – East is able to provide nursing care, memory care, assisted living, independent living, and home health care. As in past years, many lives were touched, relationships enriched and joys shared. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to provide services and care to over two hundred and eighty residents, tenants, and patients.



It has been a very busy and beautiful fall retreat season at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. A few of the notable retreats hosted at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca are the IED LWML Fall Retreat from September 12-13, the IDE Confirmation Retreat from October 10-11, and the Camp's Father/Child Retreat October 17-18. At the Confirmation Retreat, Pastor Sam Beltz from St. John Lutheran Church in Oskaloosa presented on "Until He Comes", which was a topic focused on the Sacrament of the Altar. At the Father/Child Retreat, Pastor Paul Beisel from Immanuel Lutheran in Iowa Falls led the adult Bible study, titled "The Family Altar: Liturgical Life in the Christian Home".



Joint Fall Pastors' Conference



The 2014 Fall Pastors' Conference was a joint conference with pastors from both Iowa District East and the Central Illinois District attending. The Rev. Dr. Roland Ziegler presented on "Only the Decalogue is Eternal" Martin Luther's Complete Antinomian Theses and Disputations. The conference was held October 6-8 at Immanuel in Rock Island, IL.



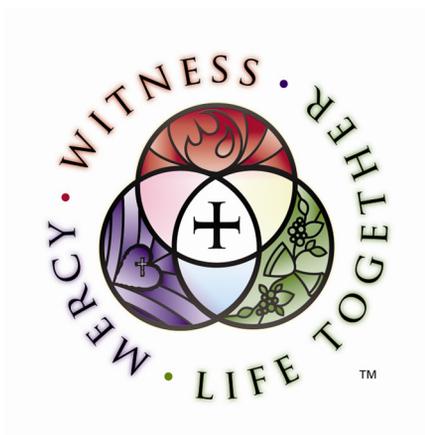
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IDE Today

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IDE Today is published 4 times a year for the enjoyment of the members of the congregations of Iowa District East of the LCMS. Copies are sent to each congregation for distribution. A color PDF copy of the *IDE Today* can be downloaded at **lcmside.org**. Articles and pictures can be emailed to jon@lcmside.org.

The next deadline is: **February 1, 2015**