

IDE TODAY

Iowa District East—LCMS

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Spring 2016



Calendar 2016

April

- 19 IDE Board of Directors
- 21 Worship Committee
- 28 Professional Church Workers

May

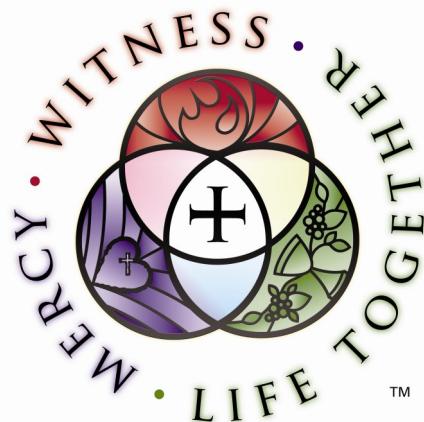
- 14 LWML Board Meeting
- 20 IDE Symposium @ Io-Dis-E-Ca
- 30 Memorial Day
- District Office Closed

June

- 4 Convention Delegate Meeting
- 17-18 LWML Convention Oskaloosa
- 20 IDE Golf Outing
- 22 Lutheran Day at Adventureland

July

- 4 Independence Day
- District Office Closed
- 5-8 Higher Things Conference



IDE Update

Calling Congregations:

Charles City, New Hope—Chris Gorshe (vacancy)
 Davenport, Immanuel—Peter Mueller/David Anderson (vacancy)
 Davenport, Risen Christ - Associate Pastor vacant
 Davenport, Trinity—Associate Pastor of Worship
 Luzerne, St. Paul—David Lingard (vacancy)
 Mason City, Messiah - Clarke Frederick (vacancy)

Call Update: Accepted:

Jesse Burns, Sandborn, IA to Redeemer, Ventura
 Chris Lockie, Davenport to Racine, WI
 Michael Musick, Luzerne to Coralville
 William Traphagan, ND to St. Paul Bennett/
 Stanwood

Declined:

Karl Bollhagen, Hampton to Red Bud, IL
 Mitch Otto, Coralville to Baldwin, IL
 Jason Peterson, Burt, IA to Grace, Waterloo

DCE/School/Teacher Calls:

Pending:

Leah Welter, DCE Concordia CR to Grace—
 Winter haven

Accepted:

Jan Doellinger—Assistant to the President –
 Schools

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders

Imagine yourself sitting in church, having sung the Hymn of the Day, and now preparing your ears and mind to hear the proclamation of the Word. To your dismay you hear that the sins of your life will be forgiven as soon as you deposit a fitting sum in the money chest. Next you are informed that the red cross of indulgences, bearing the papal arms, was as mighty as the cross of Christ. As if you were living a nightmare you wonder did you hear correctly. Then the sermon continues by telling you when you deposited a coin in the chest for a soul in purgatory, the soul left purgatory for heaven as soon as the coin touched the bottom of the chest. Such a message would guilt you into the responsibility of making sure your favorite family member would get to heaven. Such a sermon would lay aside the scriptural call for the sinner to repent of their sin and believe in Jesus for forgiveness. Instead salvation security took the shape of a round metal coin.

That could not happen, you say. Well, it did. These were the sermons and instructions a young man by the name of Martin Luther heard as he took his new post to teach theology at Wittenberg University. In astonishment Luther wrote a letter in protest to the Bishop of Magdeburg but received no reply. He then wrote the same letter to the Bishop of Brandenburg who was acquainted with Luther. He responded with a warning to Luther that he was attacking the power of the church and would get in trouble. His advice, "hands off, forget it."

Luther was not the type to bury his head in the sand and watch saddened and hurting souls go without the comfort of the Gospel. He penned the Propositions against the selling of indulgences and the harm they bring to the Gospel. Within fourteen days the Propositions circulated throughout all of Germany but no one responded favorably in the hierarchy of the Church.

Luther was a man of conviction and loyalty to the vows he took at his ordination. He vowed to uphold and teach the Word of God. His conscience was burdened by the fact that indulgences were a direct antithesis to the Word. Indulgences may have been a sure fire way to raise a great deal of money but they in no way reflected the love of God for fallen humanity. That love was most vividly manifest in the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Luther's shibboleth from the sacred scriptures was Romans 1:16-17. The enlightening words were "The righteous will live by faith." By faith, not by works of the Law, not by coins contributed into a coffer, not by emotional experiences of elation and euphoria; but by faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning work on the cross. Salvation comes by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, bestowed by Scripture Alone (the sacraments are Word with a physical element).

Armed with the whole of sacred scripture Luther set out to confront the errors being taught and replace them with the Holy Truth. It officially began on October 31st, 1517 with the 95 theses nailed to the castle church door in Wittenberg. We will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation next year. Between now and then I would like to write a series of articles about the history of the Reformation, including pertinent names, cities, documents and subjects. It will be a good time to look at what makes us Lutheran. C.F.W. Walther (first president of the LCMS) said that the Lutheran Church is the true visible church on earth in doctrine and practice. In succeeding publications of IDE Today we will break that down into its finer points and

(Continued on page 4)

discover what has been handed down to us as children of the Reformation. My prayer is that it will strengthen us in our resolve to maintain true doctrine. The Truth of God is the power that guides the practice in our daily lives of liturgy. May the wonderful identity we share lead us to boldly proclaim the Truth with invitation to others that they may join us in Gods Service of Word and Sacrament.



Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders is the President of Iowa District East.

Immanuel Waterloo



The weekend of June 13 & 14 was a special time of celebration at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Waterloo. They celebrated Rev. Dr. Gerald Kapanka's 25 years in the preaching ministry of the LCMS. On Saturday evening the Governing Boards of Immanuel gathered at the Sunnyside Country Club in Waterloo for an evening meal and entertainment. The Sunday worship service was held at Grace Lutheran Church with Rev. Randy McHone as the guest preacher and Rev. Donald Illian as officiant. A special anniversary choir sang. The worship service was followed by a congregational meal and program. Pastor and Amy's 25th wedding anniversary was also observed during the celebration.

Capital Campaign

(As of: 3-7-16)



Proclaiming Christ Jesus!
Luke 24:46-47

Update

Gifts received to date:

\$582,896

Gifts promised in next 1-8 years:

\$34,500

Total to date:

\$ 617,396

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

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

Preaching a Changeless Christ to a Changing World

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild

It has been said that if you don't like the weather in Iowa, just wait and it will change. Our phone rang at 5:30am with the announcement that my wife's school was canceling classes due to the weather. I looked outside later and things were dry, then came some snow, a little rain, and everything turned to slush. The weather did change.

The caucus season has come and gone for 2016. The continual ads and phone calls have come to an end until this fall when both will again occur in full force. We can be thankful for the respite from all of that for the time being. Weather and politics are ever changing events that we encounter in our lives.

It has been said that some things never change. The One who never changes is Jesus Christ. We read in Hebrews 13:8, "**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**"

A couple of those worldly things which never seem to change are death and taxes.

There is a definite cycle to things. People are born into this world as sinners and they commit sin and so stand in need of God's forgiveness. Babies are brought to the baptismal font and the changeless Christ changes them as He calls them by name, forgives their sin, calls them His own, and welcomes them into His family known as the Holy Christian Church.

The baptized are sent out into the world each Sunday from the Divine Service to live out their lives in service to their neighbor. The closest neighbors are those in our own homes and families. We sin daily and God calls us to repentance through faithful preaching of the Gospel of the changeless Christ. We confess our sins and we receive Holy Absolution from the Word of Christ and the voice of our Pastor. We receive forgiveness in the Holy Supper as Christ Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. What a privilege it is to be able to receive the Lord's Supper each week in our churches.

There are places and locations other than our own congregation where this is taking place through Word and Sacrament where we are supporting that work through our District mission offerings. I mentioned those District missions last year and this year our District Mission committee is working on a District Mission Sunday. That comes as a result of a resolution which was passed at the District Convention this past June. The designated Sunday will probably be either in April or May but each congregation will be deciding how and when it wishes to participate in this.

The fact always remains that Christ Jesus does not change. The fact always remains that people are sinners and in need of the Savior. Jesus says: "**And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**" John also states: "**And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.**" I John 5:11-13. May our Pastor's and churches be about proclaiming the changeless Christ in the midst of a changing world!

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



St. Paul's Marion

St. Paul's CREW Mission Marathon was a 72 hour mission trip. Instead of going to somewhere outside of the state, St. Paul's High School Youth Group (CREW) decided to keep it local by helping people and groups in the area.

They were able to help at Cedar Valley Humane Society, SAINTS Rescue (for cats), Unbridled Spirits in Lisbon, Food Bank, ReStore, Salvation Army, a home of a congregation member's house, benches for the outdoor sanctuary, and Waypoint. The group also had devotions and camped out in their "homeless" village. Each day they wore a different colored shirt that had the logo and a bible verse on them, serving as a witness. The t-shirts provided the opportunity to share what the groups were doing. They hope to do the event again this year.



Redeemer Ventura



Rev. Jesse Burns was installed as Pastor at Redeemer—Ventura on September 20. Pictured are the pastors who were in attendance and participated. Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger (front row second from right) conducted the installation. Rev. Burns is pictured in the center of the front row.

St. Paul's Bennet/Stanwood



Rev. William Traphagan (center) was installed as Pastor at St. Paul's Bennett and Stanwood on December 13th at Stanwood.

Lutheran Family Services

Logos are things that speak without using words. The Greek root of the word 'logo' means word or speech. In today's modern commercial world logos are part of branding strategies that are meant to send consistent messages to the observer. When we first began this logo revision project, the first question we had to ask was, what do we want it to say? We of course wanted it to speak about Christ and about how we work for Him and His church through adoption, mental health, crisis intervention, marriage, pregnancy counseling and more. Let me assure you, that's a lot of talking to do for one logo. I hope you agree the final product will speak loudly about our loving God and how that translates through us to others.

A few decades ago LFS adopted its current logo and it has served us well since then. Today a new logo is born that will speak for us in the decades ahead. It will be a new message about a 114 year old commitment from LCMS Lutherans to provide the ministry of Lutheran Family Service so that we might walk with others with Jesus.

Please join us in praying that God will use this new logo as a message of Christ's hope to the hurting, help for the needful, strength for the weak and spiritual wellness for those broken in spirit.

Rev. Max Phillips
Executive Director

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE LOGO

Lutheran Family Service is a Christian organization that is focused on helping people. Our logo combines our deep roots in the past with our hope and vision for the future. We've taken the Maltese Cross, a historical symbol of our faith, rounded its points to make it more welcoming and extended one of its points to more closely resemble the recognizable cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Within the spaces between the arrowheads are human figures, surrounding the cross and living in the promises of Jesus. This implies congregation, community, family, and support; all things that define Lutheran Family Service. The bright colors are rays of hope that inspire and point to a brighter future.

The logo is easily accompanied by our name and vision statement—"For nothing is Impossible with God"—to fully reflect Lutheran Family Service as a Christian organization dedicated to walking with people in their need.



**Lutheran
Family Service**

For Nothing is Impossible with God

IDE Pastors' Wives Retreat



On October 23–24, 2015, seventeen wives of pastors in Iowa District East gathered at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. They enjoyed fellowship, learned from featured speaker Sharla Fritz. Sharla is a well-known author, blogger and an LCMS pastor's wife. She led three sessions specifically geared toward the vocation of pastor's wife. President Saunders led a fourth session.

The retreat was a wonderful success and plans are underway to hold another one this Autumn, October 14 & 15, 2016.

St. John's—Wellsburg

Members of St. John Sunday School, Wellsburg spent the fall making blankets and putting school kits together for delivery to Orphan Grain Train's newest distribution center in Clemons. The children Hannah Buttger, Ella Buttger and James Buttger, along with their mother Angela and Sunday School teacher Janice Peters, presented Art and Sandy Duncan with six blankets and thirteen school kits along with a donation of \$200. Members of the congregation also participated by "buying the supplies" in the children's mission store and donating to their bake sale.



Community Lutheran School

God gave us a beautiful Saturday in October for Community Lutheran School's first ever Prayer & Fun Color Run. This event was held as a fundraiser to help support our school and our mission to give our students a Christ-centered education. The event started off with a warm welcome by our new Principal, Mr. Nick Muench. Everyone then gathered together for a prayer by Pastor Matthew Moss. Ready to start the race, we all headed towards the city park where the Kids Dash took place first, followed by the 5K run/walk. While the runners/walkers made their way through our small town of Readlyn, they were reminded to pray to God.



At different points throughout the race, there were signs that asked the participants to pray for things such as Church Leaders, Educators, Farmers, Parents and Grandparents. We wanted each runner to be able to meditate on these things and draw closer to our Lord through prayer. Each

one of our participants was also given a "prayer band" before the race so that they could write down different prayer requests of their own. Our 3rd through 8th grade classes also made special signs for the race that included prayer requests as well as Bible verses about prayer.



Lastly, to celebrate the grace and mercy of our Lord, the race included different "color cloud" stations throughout the race. At these sites, our volunteers enjoyed spraying colored powder on each runner. This was a great way to complete the event and we are so thankful that we were able to come together in Christ and enjoy some wonderful fellowship. Next

year, we hope to do the same and we would love to have you join us here at Community Lutheran School!

LWML

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Iowa East District has been hard at work. During the 2014-16 biennium, the LWML Iowa East District will distribute \$93,406 to missions near and far. Recently, LWML Iowa East District President, Joan Berquist had the pleasure of presenting a check for \$10,000 to Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary to fulfill our grant to the Seminary's Food and Clothing Co-Op. As a former seminary wife, President Berquist knows the importance of this program for our seminary families first hand.



This summer in Oskaloosa, the women of the LWML Iowa East District will hold our 38th Biennial Convention and have the opportunity to vote on a new mission goal (and new missions to support) for the upcoming biennium. All women of the LCMS who are located in the Iowa East District are welcome to attend. For more information, please visit us online at www.lwml-ied.org.

St. John's, Waverly & Prince of Peace, Coralville

The Sunday School programs of St. John's Lutheran Church, Waverly and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Coralville were partners for the last year in their mission project to help out a Lutheran school in Ghana, Africa. Missionary Nicholas Salifu started the Concordia Preparatory School in 2012 with a handful of children. This year there are 450 students in grades Preschool - 3. The Sunday School classes began the last school year with a goal to raise money to provide uniforms for the children in Ghana.



However, because the enrollment is growing so quickly the goal needed to adapt. Third grade classrooms for this school year were really needed, specifically, roofing materials. So the Sunday School offerings were sent to Ghana and used for roofs for the 3rd graders. The classrooms were completed when the fall semester started this September. The children were happy to greet Rev. Salifu when he made a return visit to St. John's Waverly in September to report on the work in the school , the progress of the students, and goals for the future.

St. Paul's Mt. Vernon

St. Paul's Mt. Vernon had a living nativity on December 3. The event was held at Memorial Park in Mt. Vernon as part of Mt. Vernon's Magical Night. Several live animals were there, including a camel!



St. John's—Victor



Left to right- St. John's pastor Stuart Rethwisch, Lori Kolesar, Jennifer Rethwisch, and St. James Victor pastor Michael Kolesar

celebrated with a dinner and program the centennial of the work being done through our St. John's Ladies Aid in June.

St. John's had their quarterly voters meeting in the early afternoon and then came what once was just a congregational time together in past years. But this year, beginning at 4:30 began the 'feeding of the 6,000.' What began as the project for our joint VBS with St. James Lutheran in Victor, was about to be fulfilled. Kids Against Hunger (KAH) satellite out of the Quad Cities arrived and the process began. With about 85 volunteers of many ages from both congregations, VBS attenders and other visitors, the 6,000 meals were packed and loaded within 45 minutes.

For \$.25/meal, KAH provides all the necessary elements, by means of donations raised by the sponsoring church or organization. The dried food products consist of soy meal, rice, dried vegetables and a vitamin-mineral powder. These are combined in bags by the volunteers, heat-sealed, and shipped to needy areas- sometimes by the Orphan Grain Train.



Many of the kids who combined and packaged meals, before they got on the hayracks.

Sunday, Oct. 18th, St. John's Lincoln Township in rural Victor received and reflected God's very being as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Missionary Rev. Daniel S. Johnson revisited us again, as it had been a few years since we were one of the first congregations to host him as he gathered funds for the Lord's Mission work through him. Sharing with the 8 am Bible Class his work of providing catechetical materials and pastoral resources as well as being the LCMS liaison to the Siberian Lutheran Church body, he also gave an update to the work begun between the IDE and the diaconal center in Palanga, Lithuania. He described his travelling from Marshalltown Iowa to Germany, the Baltics and Eurasia and across Siberia. Our Ladies' Aid served up more than muffins for mites for the Bible Study and after worship service. We had

College Hill—Cedar Falls

28 high school students attended the annual High School Weekend Retreat at College Hill Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls on January 16th and 17th. The weekend included time on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa and at the UNI Wellness and Recreation Center. The students were introduced to the LCMS U campus ministry as they gathered together on Saturday for Bible Study, Vespers, and Compline, and then on Sunday morning for Bible Study and the Divine Service. The weekend was capped off with a grand potluck in the Brammer Student Center.



St. Paul's Sumner

On Sunday morning, September 27, 2015, the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sumner, celebrated their 100th anniversary with a special service of thanksgiving. Some 150 people attended the anniversary service and the dinner that followed.

The guest preacher for the occasion was the Rev. Alvin Jeske of Browerville, Minnesota, a former pastor of the congregation. Miss Rhonda Dedor, a daughter of the congregation, served as guest organist. The Sunday School children provided special music for the service.

The members of St. Paul's rejoice and praise God for his abundant goodness and mercy shown to us throughout these 100 years. We give thanks to the Lord for graciously preserving to us his holy Word and sacraments, and for providing us faithful pastors to preach his Word in truth and purity.



Vinton Lutheran Home

At the Vinton Lutheran Home, we want only the best for our residents. We are blessed to have the support of wonderful family members, staff, pastors, friends, and the community who also want what is best for those we serve.

Since we are a non-profit facility, funding for specialty devices or resident “extras” are not always available. We are thankful for our Lutheran Home Auxiliary which does a great job of raising funds for specialty items for our residents. With its support we decided to add another staff-provided fundraiser to have an even greater budget for resident “extras.”



Finding the fundraiser that we felt would be most profitable took time, but we finally came up with “The Drive Thru.” We used the amazing food talents of our Dining Services Director, Justin Ealy, and the help of our management team to serve \$6 hamburgers or cheeseburgers on pretzel buns, and \$2 chocolate or vanilla malts. This fundraiser took place every Wednesday from 11:00am-1:00pm, beginning on July 22nd and running through October 14th.



Drive thru customers drove under the front Lutheran Home canopy and placed their orders. They then pulled to the end of our driveway and picked up their order within minutes. Our drive thru was a bigger success than we could have ever imagined. It was the talk of the town!

We raised enough funds to purchase an “It’s Never too Late” computer system, which is a touch screen computer specifically designed for the elderly. This system is portable, user friendly, and can be used individually or in large group activities. Thanks to our fund raising efforts, we are the first facility in our immediate area to have this system, and it has been greatly enjoyed by our residents.

The rest of the funds raised during our drive thru will go toward the purchase of a new handicapped accessible van. We currently have one such van, but need another to be able to take more residents on outings.

God has truly blessed us throughout our fundraising efforts this summer. Thank you to our staff, resident families, and community who helped make this fundraiser such a big success. We are grateful for the continuing support as we strive to provide “Quality Christian Care” to all of those we serve.

Submitted by Sarah Smith and Lana Elwich

2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering

The 13th Annual LCMS National Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2016 in New Orleans, LA with the theme of “In Christ Alone”. During the Gathering, we will look at the book of Philippians and profess with others that it is in Christ alone that we stand. Leon Kroemer and Randi Petrik are the Iowa District East district coordinators for the Gathering. Leon has been to 12 gatherings and has served as IDE coordinators for the last 3 decades. Randi is a DCE at Bethany Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. This is her 5th gathering and first time to serve as District Coordinator. Their role is to serve as a liaison between the LCMS Youth Ministry, district office, and congregations for the 2016 LCMS Youth Gathering. As district coordinators they have the privilege to pray for those with whom they serve and for those who will be served through their work at the Gathering, to communicate and guide district congregations through the registration process, and provide support services as congregations prepare to attend the Gathering. They also may help with coordinating transportation for IDE participants, coordinate special IDE events at the Gathering, generate district materials to be used by IDE participants at the Gathering, and coordinate IDE booth activities at the Gathering. Please reach out to either Leon or Randi with any questions that you may have as you pray fully consider your churches participation in the 2016 LCMS Youth Gathering.



Davenport Lutheran Home

Family relationships are an important part of life at the Davenport Lutheran Home. The continuum of care and services available, including long-term care, assisted living, independent living, or short-term rehabilitation and skilled care, are designed to support and meet the needs of individuals and their family members as they advance through the aging process and require different levels of care.

It is our Christian mission fulfilled, when we are able to meet the needs of a variety of family members including married couples, parents and children, siblings, or employee and family members; and when prospective residents and their families reminisce about a great-grandparent, grandparent, parent, aunt or uncle who has lived at our facility and speak favorably of their stay. These events are proof positive of our success in providing quality programs and of the value of “word-of-mouth” marketing as family ties and traditions are sustained.



IDE For Life

Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ:

In the past year:

- **Lutherans for Life** had an excellent conference at the Creation Museum
- Mark your calendar for October 21-22 for the next LFL conference in Bloomington, Minnesota; read more at <http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference/>
- **LCMS Life Ministry** had an excellent conference in Washington, D.C. after the March for Life
- Mark your calendar for the next conference January 27-29, 2017, and find more information at <http://www.lcms.org/events/lifeconference>
- Linda Bartlett and a panel of pastors gave excellent presentations in Waterloo and in Marshalltown on ***The Failure of Sex Education in the Church***; read more at <http://www.ouridentitymatters.com/>
- I gave presentations on **embryo adoption** in Cedar Rapids and in State Center
- I gave presentations on the blessings of **family, marriage, and children** in Hiawatha, in Marshalltown, and in Carlisle
- We are getting involved with our **local pro-life committee for the unborn** and I encourage you to get involved with your **local crisis pregnancy center** or start your own pro-life group in your community
- I have **fetal models** and pro-life **ultrasound curriculum** to share with you, your school, and your congregation. Contact me! And read about it here: <https://blogs.lcms.org/2015/ultrasound-resource>

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

Pastor Alex Post, Iowa District East Life Coordinator
alexpost1226@gmail.com

On Sunday, January 31st, the Linn (County) Area Chapter of Lutherans for life hosted Dr. James Lamb, retired Executive Director of Lutherans for Life for a workshop at Trinity in Cedar Rapids entitled "THE OTHER END OF LIFE".

It was a focused on the fact that everyone has end of life issues whether they want to face them or not, so why not be prepared with Christian answers? Theological aspects of end of life issues were discussed, including that every life is precious to God and only he has the right to say when death should come. Practical aspects of end of life were also discussed, including current political views and laws vs. our Christian beliefs. In a world that sanctions abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia we need to stand up for those who can't speak for themselves and forgive and comfort those who are feeling guilty for their actions. As Dr. Lamb said, it's really very simple, obey God's word.





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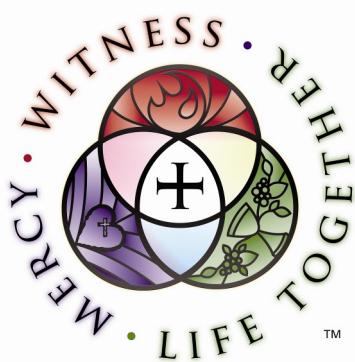
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IDE Today

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The next deadline is: **May 15, 2016**