



IDE TODAY

Iowa District East, LCMS

In This Issue
LCMS Mission to Spain
District Convention
Capital Campaign Update

DISTRICT UPDATES



DCE/School/Teacher Calls

Vacancies:	Bethany, Cedar Rapids	DCE	
	Valley School, Cedar Falls	HS Math	
	Valley School, Cedar Falls	Spanish	
	Trinity, Davenport	3rd grade teacher	
	St Paul, Latimer	Lead Teacher/Principal	
	St Paul, Latimer	5-8th grade teacher	
	Central, Newhall	Principal	
Accepted:	Michelle Hines	Red Bud, IL to Central LS, Newhall	3rd grade
	Hannah Krenz	Valley, CF to Sierra LS, Carson City, NV	
	Emily Root	English District to Trinity, Cedar Rapids	
Pending:	Corey Nelson	MN S to Trinity, Davenport	
	Frank Parris	Asheville, NC to Central, Newhall	Principal
Declined:	Michael Kipp	Calvary, Sioux City to Bethany, CR	DCE
	Susan Eberhard	Rapid City, SD to St Paul, Latimer	
	Johannah Miesner	IN to Trinity, Davenport	

Calling Congregations

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Vacancy Pastor</u>
Charles City, New Hope	Chris Gorshe
Osage, St John	Clarke Frederick
Waverly, St Paul	Randy McHone
Jesup, Grace	David Weber
Fairbank, St John	John Block

District Calendar

June	
20	Lutheran Family Day
23	Early Childhood Conference
25	IDE Golf Outing
29-30	IDE District Convention
July	
4	Independence Day, District Office Closed
31	Board of Directors, District Office, 9 AM

Pastor Calls

Accepted: Rev. Jeffrey Schanbacher Jefferson City, MO to Grace, Blainstown

District Convention

June 29-30, 2018
 Life Together: Laity & Clergy
 The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, Cedar Rapids



Registration Links

Delegates, Advisory, & Guests: <https://ide2018.eventbrite.com>

Exhibitors: <https://ide2018-exhibit.eventbrite.com>

Registration is now open for the convention. Please register online using the links provided below. Also be sure to check out our district website "Convention '18" page for information, forms, and updates as we get closer to Convention.

About the Cover

"Faith Alone, Scripture Alone, Grace Alone"

Artist: Kate Margheim

The drawing displayed in our feature photo for this issue was an entry for the "Chalk the Walk" event in Mt. Vernon, May 5th, 2018. The event was sponsored by St Paul Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon.

Students Pictured:

Back Row, L to R: Molly Bany, Kate Margheim, Matthew Bany; Front Row: Mason Bany

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders

In this edition of the IDE Today, I continue with our focus on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Of particular interest is a document written in 1545 called the Wittenberg Reformation. It was written to clarify and re-state what the Reformation of 1517 was all about. In this edition, the Reformers clarify the need and blessing of the Sacraments.

It is quite interesting and somewhat telling that the 1545 document says nothing about baptism in its section on the sacraments. The most likely reason for that is the fact there wasn't that great of a controversy over the sacrament of baptism between the Lutherans and Rome. The greater conflict over baptism would later manifest itself over and against the Anabaptist who believed a person must be baptized again, in place of infant baptism. At the time of 1545 there was enough agreement concerning baptism that the Reformers didn't address it. Both believed baptism was instituted by Jesus and that it is not simple water only, but water connected to God's Word of Promise. The Promise worked forgiveness of sins, delivered from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this.

The same agreement did not exist for the sacrament of Holy Absolution. This 1545 document says: "They (Rome) have an armful of coarse errors concerning enumeration, satisfaction, and indulgences, and it is as plain as day that they have said not a word about faith and trust, whereby people acquire forgiveness of sin." The basic error of Rome was not with sorrow over sin or confession of those sins. Their error was making penance necessary for absolution. Penance is a list of actions prescribed by the priest that need to be carried out by the confessor before the absolution was of any benefit to the sinner. The acts of penance were various but in the end they were all works of meritorious righteousness. The confessor would never know if their works were numerous enough or good enough. No comfort.

The Reformation recognized the uncertainty this error created. The Reformers saw nothing in Holy Scripture that spoke of penance. As a result, the doctrine of private confession/absolution (C/A) is completely predicated on the cross of Jesus Christ and His meritorious work. It is Jesus' accomplishment for all the world that is bestowed in Holy Absolution. The confessors are still contrite and confess the sins that burden their consciences. However, there is no prescription of penance that must be done in order to benefit from the absolution. There is only forgiveness given to the sinner based on the promise and gift of Jesus.

Many Lutherans today are unfamiliar with C/A and think that it is too Roman Catholic for us to do. In reality, Rome does not own the doctrine of C/A, they only introduced error into it. It is good and right that we use this precious gift God has given to the Church. It is the Fifth Chief Part in Luther's Small Catechism. We do well to ask our pastors to teach us about this marvelous means of grace and to exercise it for the sake of the sheep. C/A is one of God's gifts to the Church, it is good for us, it is our blessing.

Holy Communion received lengthy attention in the 1545 document, and for good reason. There was more controversy over the Lord's Supper than the other sacraments. The primary error of Rome was not whether the Body and Blood of Jesus was present in the Lord's Supper, both agreed that Holy Scripture says that most clearly. That error would arise in short time by those who claim the bread and wine are only a representation of the body and blood of Jesus. The error of Rome was the deception that the priest makes a sacrifice whereby he earns forgiveness of sins for the living, and release from purgatory for the dead. The power of the Sacraments lies in the indelible character the priest acquired at his ordination. Rome ignored the power of the Word of God that makes a sacrament. As a result, the teaching of Rome was that going to the Supper was a good work on the part of man, earning them its benefits. This error is the same as the previous one when it came to the Holy Absolution, since Rome taught that penance (a work of man) was necessary for forgiveness. This differentiation alone was enough for the Reformers to deny entrance to the Lord's Supper of anyone who held to a different doctrine than Scripture.

By 1545, it was clear that admittance to the Lord's Supper was for those who have previously been examined and absolved, not persisting in open vices, and also having a right understanding of what this sacrament is, namely, a participation in the true body and blood of Christ, and of the purpose of this participation, namely, that faith be aroused and strengthened. By this reason and teaching the Reformers have passed on to the Church of today the practice of closed communion. Closed communion is a statement that *admittance to the Lord's Supper is for*

“

*There is only forgiveness
given to the sinner
based on the promise
and gift of Jesus*

”

all who believe the doctrines taught and practiced by our church body. That is another way of saying we must be in altar and pulpit fellowship with those we commune. It only makes sense that one who communes at the altar will want to know what that altar believes and confesses. The normal and expedient way to do that is catechesis or instruction in the doctrines of the church. Instruction usually takes many weeks to complete. When full agreement is confirmed, then we rejoice communing together.

The 1545 Wittenberg Reformation had more to say concerning the sacraments. They explain why the Lutherans do not consider four more that Rome does (confirmation, ordination, marriage, invocation of departed saints). I will cover those four from a little different perspective. While Lutherans don't consider these additional rites as sacraments, it doesn't mean we do not value them.

God keep you all safe in the redemptive waters of Baptism, as He speaks to you gently with the Good News of Forgiveness in the Holy Absolution, and strengthens you with His Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders is the President of Iowa District East and Assistant Pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, IA.



IDE Vicars

A photo from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, pictures the Vicars assigned to Iowa District East for the 2018/2019 school year: Patrick Baldwin, Trinity, Hampton; Nathan Knaus, Trinity, Chariton; Nathan Wille, Our Redeemer, Cedar Falls.



L to R: Nathan Knaus, Nathan Wille, President Brian Saunders, Whittney Baldwin, Patrick Baldwin



Our Redeemer, Iowa City
L to R: President Saunders, seminarian Joshua Otterman, Ender, Iden, and Anna Otterman, Rev. Brent Hartwig

A Work In Progress

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild

I enjoy spending time working in my yard. There are tasks like mowing and bagging and trimming which take a certain amount of time. The reality is that yard work is a cycle which is never complete as it always needs repeating. One also hopes that one's neighbors take care of their yards so as not to be an eyesore when people drive down the street.

The life of the baptized in Christ Jesus has some parallels to yard work with one significant difference. Our lives have been made complete in Christ Jesus by virtue of our baptism. St Paul states: *"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority"* (Col. 2:9-10). In Christ Jesus we have received forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Those are the gifts which have made us complete in Christ Jesus.

“
The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then back from us to Him.
”

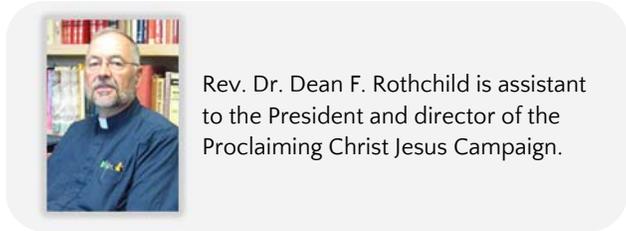
By nature we are like the weeds which pop up in our yards. That should not be a surprise as the Lord said after the fall into sin: *"Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field"* (Genesis 2:17-18). The weeds need to be plucked out and killed. The same is true for the sin which still clings to us and reflects itself at times, in unrighteous deeds and unholy living. Entering into that scenario was the incarnate Christ Jesus who went to the cross as the Lamb of God, bearing the sins of the whole world. His death and resurrection has resulted in our justification before God.

Paul states: *"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption"* (1 Cor. 1:30). In our baptism, Christ Jesus clothed us with His righteousness which covers our unrighteousness. We are given His holiness in exchange for our unholiness and His redemption has brought us from being lost and condemned to being reconciled and forgiven!

A lawn needs proper feeding which is why I pay to have my lawn treated four times during the course of the year. With the treatments, dandelions and weeds are not a problem, but I still have to deal with ant hills which have been prolific this year. Our lives in Christ Jesus continually need the proper nutrients which God supplies in Word and Sacrament.

The Church is in the feeding and sustaining business. The expressions "feeding the found," and "seeking and saving the lost," continue to define the work which Christ Jesus has given to His Church. The found come to the Divine Service with a hunger and thirst for the gifts of God which God delivers. In Holy Absolution, Christ-centered preaching and the Holy Supper, people receive the forgiveness of their sins. The Church forgives, feeds, nurtures and frees, and then sends people forth into the world to seek and to save the lost.

As the introduction to Lutheran Worship so beautifully states: "The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then back from us to Him. He gives his gifts, and together we receive and extol them. We build one another up as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Our Lord gives us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Finally His blessing moves us out into our calling, where His gifts have their fruition."ⁱ May God keep His Church faithful to Her mission.



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

ⁱLutheran Worship, CPH, 1982, p. 6.

Capital Campaign Update As of May 5, 2018

 Proclaiming Christ Jesus! Luke 24:46-47	Gifts received to date \$737,956	Promised in the next 1-7 years \$28,400	Total to date \$766,356
	For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild deanrothchild@lcmiside.org / 319-373-2112		

God's Reign In Spain

An update from Rev. David and Shelee Warner, LCMS Missions to Spain

While we lived in Sevilla, we shared God's love with people we met through our day-to-day lives like our next door neighbor Manoli. Right before we moved to Cartagena, she and her husband came to a church service! We don't yet know what growth God will give through our planting and your watering, but together we wait in hope and expectation for the harvest God will bring.

A new member, Vincente, joins in the Divine Service, having completed his membership class. Vicente (pictured below with Rev. Warner) worked with our newly ordained pastor (Nov 2017), Jose Luis de Miguel. His daughter is also studying in youth confirmation classes. Also a new member, Martina (pictured right), was baptized as a child of God during the Divine Service in Cartagena.



Children of Sevilla, Spain



Manoli (neighbor in Sevilla), Shelee Warner



Pastor Warner with new member, Vincente, and his children



Pastor Warner baptizes new child of God, Martina.

The two most important tools we need to continue the ministry work in Spain are PRAYERS and FINANCIAL SUPPORT. *Thank you for prayerfully considering making a donation today.*

Online Donations can be made securely online: www.lcms.org/givenow/warner. Donations by check: Pay to "LCMS" with "WARNER-SPAIN" in the memo. Mail to: Mission Central, 40718 Hwy E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034, or mail to Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, PO BOX 66861, St Louis, MO 63166-6861.

Thank you for laboring with us in God's harvest!

In Training

Jan Doellinger

*"...rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."
(1 Timothy 4:7b-8, NIV)*



Train yourself. One of the first things that comes to mind, at least for me and probably for you too, is physical training. We see people jogging, biking, walking, working out at the gym all hours of the day and night. People of all shapes, sizes, and ages are working at keeping the old ticker operational. Physical fitness talk is all around us.

People are eating healthier, or at least a goodly number are trying to. Organic and whole food grocery stores can be found in communities. Local grocery stores have organic food sections. Organic food, in many cases, is more expensive. Several years ago we were invited to a relative's house for Thanksgiving. Mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, and all the fixings were laid before us. Taking center stage was the turkey – an organic turkey. Seventy dollars later, and it didn't taste any different than a Butterball. Nonetheless, grocery store ads and various other kinds of media are forever giving us opportunities to partake of a "healthy" lifestyle.

Even kids can get on the healthy eating bandwagon. Some time ago, when our oldest granddaughter was 8 years old, we went out for breakfast. Not only



was I watching what I ate, but so were these two little 8 year-old eyes. Toast came with my meal. I proceeded to open up one of the *little* packets of strawberry jelly for my toast. This cute little schnickelfritz said to me, "Gram, there's 96 grams of carbs in that jelly, and no protein, and a buhjillion (ok, my exaggeration) grams of fat!" Good grief little one! I wasn't even going to use the whole thing. You know what I did? The jelly stayed in the packet and I ate my toast dry. ☹️

The passage from Timothy quoted above is talking about spiritual fitness, training ourselves to be godly. Timothy isn't talking about physical fitness that comes with exercise and eating healthy. True, on our own we can drop pounds by making changes in our diet and using an exercise program. This, however, does nothing for the soul. The soul is what counts. Living for this life and the life to come is what Paul is discussing with Timothy, his young co-worker.

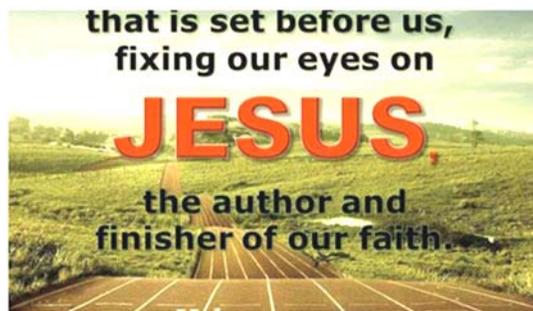
In Ephesians 4, St Paul gives us some guidance on what spiritual guidance looks like. He says, beginning with verse 22: *"put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and*

that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (NKJV)

This is the godly living we encourage teachers in our IDE Lutheran preschools and schools and other church workers, to be practicing and intentionally incorporating everyday into the ministry of our IDE Lutheran schools and congregations. This is the godly living *all of us* are encouraged to adopt. Not that you aren't already doing it, but strive even harder to exhibit this type of spiritual fitness.

We have a summer ahead to reflect, contemplate and embrace what God would have us do in the days ahead that God gives us. The Father will guide us, the Holy Spirit will motivate us, and the Son will be forgiving us when we slip in our spiritual fitness efforts. May our focus be looking forward in faith, not on our own accomplishment, but because of what has been given us through the precious gift of Christ, our Savior.

May God be with you in your spiritual workout in the days ahead!



Jan Doellinger serves IDE as the assistant to the President for schools.

IDE Spelling Bee

The Annual Iowa District East Spelling Bee was held at Lutheran Interparish School in Williamsburg on March 3, 2018. Six schools bringing thirty-nine students, participated in the event. Each contestant received seventy-five words and six oral words, with the top three contestants from each of the three age levels moving on to an oral spell down to determine three trophy winners.

The 3rd - 4th grade winners

1st place went to Eden Thomas, Dubuque Lutheran, Dubuque, 2nd place to Eli Rethwisch, Lutheran Interparish School, Williamsburg, and 3rd place to Davin Harper, Lutheran Interparish School, Williamsburg.

The 5th - 6th grade winners

1st place to Keller Wilson, Valley Lutheran, Cedar Falls, 2nd place to Maggie Primrose, Trinity Lutheran, Cedar Rapids, and 3rd place to Connor Fencel, Valley Lutheran, Cedar Falls.

The 7th - 8th grade winners

1st place to Hannah Borah, Valley Lutheran, Cedar Falls, 2nd place to Maddie Hodgins, Trinity, Cedar Rapids, and 3rd place Tyler Schaefer, Lutheran Interparish, Williamsburg.

A traveling plaque was presented to Trinity Lutheran, Cedar Rapids for earning 518 points in the competition; 2nd place in the point totals was Lutheran Interparish, Williamsburg and 3rd place was Valley Lutheran, Cedar Falls.

Other schools competing were: Central Lutheran, Newhall; Community Lutheran, Readlyn; and Dubuque Lutheran, Dubuque.



Front row, L to R: Eli Rethwisch, Davin Harper, Eden Thomas. Middle row, L to R: Maggie Primrose, Keller Wilson, Connor Fencel. Back row, L to R: Hannah Borah, Maddie Hodgins and Tyler Schaefer.

ST PAUL'S CHAPEL AND UNIVERSITY CENTER Iowa City

It's been a busy spring at St Paul's Chapel and University Center. Most notably, the Chapel purchased a new organ. We heard it first on Easter Sunday and it was wonderful! The Chapel has planned a Dedication Day for Sunday, June 24, at 2 PM. Please plan to attend "The Blessing of an Organ, Responsive Prayer and Hymn Festival", followed by a Cake and Punch Reception.

Theologians in Residence was held Feb 23-25. Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger, pastor of St John's Lutheran Church, Hubbard, was the presenter for the weekend. Dr. Rueger presented on his book "Sexual Morality in a Christless World."



Variety! (the Chapel's talent show) was a huge success despite the questionable winter weather. God has truly blessed us with so many talented members. All funds raised go toward our students attending the LCMSU conference. Too many other fun activities to list were apart of the Spring Semester for all ages.

May 6th was a bittersweet day for the Chapel as we honored our graduating seniors. God blesses us with students for such a short time, but we look forward to new students joining our Chapel each fall.



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL Cedar Rapids

On April 27 the New Horizon's Band performed a wonderful concert for the students at Trinity Lutheran School, CR. One of the band's percussionists, Alice Hoffmeier, is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and longtime supporter of the school. Alice arranged for the concert. She and her fellow band mates fall into the category of 55+ who enjoy music and fellowship with other musicians. The students loved the concert and learned that making music doesn't end once you are out of school!



Top Left: Students get involved in the concert. Top Right: Alice Hoffmeier, percussionist and member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Below: The New Horizons Band performing for the students at Trinity.



First Aid Kits for Classrooms

Trinity Lutheran Church's Board of Human Care applied for a Thrivent Action Grant to help make first aid kits for the classrooms at Trinity Lutheran School for the 2018-2019 school year. The kits will be helpful when a band aid or ice pack is needed. Thank you to Thrivent and the Board of Human Care! Your kindness is appreciated.



TRINITY Lowden

Trinity held its Annual Ham Dinner event on March 11, 2018. The event has been a tradition for 20+ years. The money raised goes to Iowa District East Missions and various other groups in our church.



LUTHERAN INTERPARISH SCHOOL Williamsburg

Students at LIS hosted a "Special Person's Day" on April 21, 2018. Following, are several photos from their fun filled day with their special persons:



Third grader Keegan Kendall, fifth grader Braysen Doehrmann, and third grader Henry Long master the trio-threesome jump roping combination.



Sixth grader Amelia Reed and her grandmother Marilyn Vittetoe, braid a friendship bracelet.



First grade student Marcus Pirkl works on a word search with his Grandma and Grandpa.



Second grader Lana Day and her father, Tony try out the photo booth.



Third grader Matthew Wille reads Mr. Popper's Penguin to his Grandma, Jane Wille, Great Grandma, Delores Wille, and Oma, Luanne Heitshusen.

2018 LCEF IDE Scholarship Recipient

There will be a total of 19 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) district scholarships announced this spring. The first is an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa, and an outstanding student at Cornerstone Academy. Rachel Eckert is the recipient of the 2018, \$1,000 LCEF Iowa District East scholarship. Eckert plans to attend Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, in the fall and study materials engineering.

In his letter of recommendation for Eckert, Trinity Associate Pastor Michael Vokt wrote: "The reasons for this recommendation transcend [Rachel's] excellence in academics, robotic competitions, and music. What sets Rachel apart from other students are the many ways she demonstrates her love for her neighbor, both those who are nearby and those who are far, far away."

Vokt shared Eckert's accomplishments and efforts to serve her neighbors. Eckert helped establish FIRST in Kenya which impacted almost 3,000 children; she founded and coached the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Team at East Side Mission (Urban Ministry Center of the LCMS in Davenport), and has volunteered in countless ways both in her congregation and her community.

In her letter of recommendation, Eckert's piano instructor Roberta Quist wrote:

"[Rachel] has taken the admonition of Christ to love your neighbor as yourself to heart. This is evidenced by her copious service to the church and community.... Rachel is an outstanding student and a joy to work with. She is one of the most disciplined and hard-working students I have ever had in my studio. She is able to meet obligations at school and in her community while maintaining excellent academic standards...."

Rachel has competed in many piano competitions at the local and state level, and has won numerous honors. She is quick to encourage other students in my studio and willingly participates in studio activities. She is always looking to learn from others and to share her knowledge with her peers."

"LCEF is blessed to recognize young Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod members such as Rachel with this scholarship," said Carole White, LCEF District Vice President – Iowa East and West. "It is inspiring to see our young people go above and beyond to serve others in our Lord's name. As one in a long family line of LCEF investors, Rachel has also displayed a unique understanding of what Lutheran Church Extension Fund strives for as an organization in the church."

In her scholarship application, Eckert wrote: "Through investments, loans, grants, and teaching materials (such as the Young Investors Club), LCEF provides opportunities for Christians to manage their money in a way that glorifies God. 1 Timothy 6:18 commands us to 'Do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.'"

Learn more about investments, loans and ministry support at lcef.org and follow the [regional newsfeed](#) for the remaining 2018 scholarship awards.



Rachel Eckert

LUTHERAN HOME FOR THE AGED ASSOCIATION-EAST

In keeping with our theme, "Providing Quality Christian Care," our Lutheran Homes in Vinton and Davenport provide worship opportunities for residents on Sundays and Wednesdays during Advent and Lent, as well as special church festivals.

Pictured here are residents in worship at the Vinton Lutheran Home with Chaplain Larry Schmidt conducting the service. Rev. Stephen Preus of Trinity, Vinton conducts the worship service on the last Sunday of each month.

In addition to private Communion offered by home church pastors, group Communion is also offered to LCMS residents on a monthly basis by Home Chaplains.



IOWA DISTRICT EAST

ST ANDREW Van Horne

The rite of Confirmation was given to nine catechumens on Sunday, May 6, 2018.



IMMANUEL Grand Mound



Pictured left, is a photo from March 31, 2018, at Immanuel in Grand Mound. Hunter Wright (center), a member of Immanuel, is holding a Thrivent banner. Hunter is working on his Eagle Scout project, and volunteered to re-do the landscaping at Immanuel as his project. The day before Easter, this group gathered to remove bushes and rocks and, as weather permits, this spring will complete the landscaping with new bushes, perennials, mulch, and edging. Materials were provided by a Thrivent Action Team.

IMMANUEL St Ansgar

Installation of Rev. Mark Squire on February 11, 2018.



L to R: Rev. Michael Parris, Riceville (emeriti); Rev. Clarke Frederick, Mason City; Rev. Bruce Kaltwasser, Osage; Rev. Mark Squire, St. Ansgar; Rev. David Renfro, Cedar Rapids; Rev. Christopher Gorshe, Riceville; Rev. Mark Koschmann, St. Paul, MN

Parish Nurse

Organ Donation: Pass It On

A gift with a major impact—one that will long be remembered with gratitude—takes just a bit of preparation. When you become an **organ** donor, you can save the lives of up to 8 people. And if you donate tissues like blood cells, bone or corneas, you can help even more.

Organ transplantation was once considered an experimental procedure with a low success rate. Many transplanted organs survived just a few days or weeks. But researchers have transformed transplant surgery from risky to routine. It's now the treatment of choice for patients with **end-stage organ disease**. Each day, about 80 Americans receive a lifesaving organ transplant.

"The outcomes of transplantation are really so good these days that it truly makes a difference for the people who receive organ transplants," says Dr. Sandy Feng, a transplant surgeon at the University of California, San Francisco. "The organs are clearly lifesaving."

The problem now is that there aren't enough organs to meet the demand. In early 2011, more than 110,000 people were on the nationwide waiting list for an organ. As a matter of fact, Pastor Ron Rafferty at Grace Lutheran Church in Dewitt is in need of a kidney right now! If you are willing to learn more please contact U of I Hospital transplant specialist, Shelly at 319-356-8368.

The kidney is the most commonly transplanted organ. More than 16,000 kidney transplantations were performed in the U.S. last year. The wait, though, can be long. In February 2011, nearly 90,000 people were on the national waiting list for a kidney. Next most commonly transplanted is the liver, with more than 6,000 surgeries in 2010. That's followed by the heart, lungs, pancreas and intestines.

You can donate some organs—like a kidney or part of your liver—while you're still alive. You have 2 kidneys but really need only one. And the liver can re-grow if part of it is removed. But donating these organs requires major surgery, which carries risks. That's why living donors are often family or friends of the transplant recipient.

Most organs, though, are donated after the donor has died. The organs must be recovered quickly after death to be usable. Many come from patients who've been hospitalized following an accident or stroke. Once all lifesaving efforts have failed and the patient is declared dead, then organ donation becomes a possibility.

"When a person dies, it can feel like a burden to a family to make decisions about organ donation," says Feng. "So it would be a real gift to a family to indicate your decision to be an organ donor while you're still alive, so they don't have to make the decision for you."

In addition to organs, you can donate tissues. One of the most commonly transplanted tissues is the cornea, the transparent covering over the eye. A transplanted cornea can restore sight to someone blinded by an accident, infection or disease. Donated skin tissue can

be used as grafts for burn victims or for reconstruction after surgery. Donated bones can replace cancerous bones and help prevent amputation of an arm or leg. Donated veins can be used in cardiac bypass surgery.

You can help reduce the need for donated organs in the first place by living well. Lower your risk of developing a long-term disease that could lead to organ failure by being physically active and eating a healthy diet rich with high-fiber

foods, fruits and vegetables. Talk to your doctor about your weight, blood pressure and cholesterol. And while you're taking these healthy steps, be sure to sign up to be an organ donor so you can help others as well.

*Information from
National Institute of Health, March, 2011
<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/>*

"The LCMS encourages organ donation as an act of Christian love, but this choice is entirely up to the individual and/or his or her family and should not be a cause of guilt or regret, no matter what decision is made. The Bible has nothing specific to say regarding this issue. Therefore, it is a matter of Christian freedom and personal (or family) discretion". (LCMS Views- Life Issues)

Article submitted by Ronda Anderson, RN



Ronda Anderson RN is Parish Nurse at Bethany Lutheran in Cedar Rapids. She is assistant to the president as IDE's Parish Nurse District Representative.

Rural and small town missions

Sharing the Gospel With Muslims

In the seventh century, Christianity was afflicted by internal divisions, theological disputes and the worship of saints. Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, was exposed to unorthodox Christian beliefs that were widespread in Arabia. Unfortunately, those misunderstandings were perpetuated by the Islamic traditions that have been revered by Muslims up to our present time.

Islam's sources – the Qur'an (the holy book of Islam) and the Hadith (traditions on Muhammad's sayings and actions) – draw their ideas about Christianity from those distorted, heretical Christian sources. Islam rejects the Cross of Christ and replaces the Gospel with a legalistic and ritualistic system that does not speak to the heart of man.

Muslims, particularly the devout ones, pray to Allah five times a day, and follow the other four pillars of Islam with a lot of admirable zeal, but they have no loving relationship with Allah. Their relationship with him seems to be based on fear, and their religion is mostly a system of reward and punishments. St. Paul mentions: *"They have a zeal for God, but it is not according to knowledge"* (Rom. 10:2). Muslims actually have a distorted knowledge of God.

In addition, many generations of Muhammad's followers did not have the Bible in their own languages, so they have readily misunderstood the Gospel. The distorted message of the Gospel and the distorted view of the Trinity were written in the Qur'an, which is considered by Muslims to be the inerrant, verbatim words of Allah. Because of that, the misunderstanding between Christianity and Islam continues.

Hence, Muslims view the Christian faith and the Bible with suspicion. It is our vocation as Christians to remain true to the Great Commission, trust God and preach the Gospel of Christ crucified, so that by His grace, Muslims might be called to faith, through the power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, we should communicate to our Muslim friends the true faith in Jesus Christ. In this virtually borderless, modern world, it is incumbent upon us to be committed to evangelize Muslims if we are to see them come to faith in Christ.

We need to be confident that the power of the Gospel can change the hearts of Muslims as we preach God's Word. In addition, we must keep proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Muslims across the world and make evangelism a part of our Christian life, as it should be. A disciple of Jesus will be contagious in the way they express their Christian faith. Sharing Christ with the lost is not an option. It must be done through word and deed (Matt. 28:18-20).

Below are some suggestions for sharing the Gospel with Muslims:

Begin your conversation with Christian beliefs that are familiar to Muslims based on the Islamic traditions. For example, the Qur'an mentions that Jesus Christ is the Word of God, but the book does not explain what it means. Explain that important belief to your Muslim friend, but avoid using theological terms that they may not understand.

Respect your Muslim friend as an individual who is a sinner, like anyone else, who needs salvation. Be patient, and do not expect that a Muslim would kneel and repent from the first encounter. While some will not listen, others will, with time, be called to faith in Jesus Christ. Many Muslims need to hear the Gospel more than seven times before they start to listen.

Make an effort not to consider your Muslim neighbor as only a target for evangelism, but cultivate a genuine friendship with him/her. You must show genuine Christian love in word and deed. *"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Matt. 5:16).

Be sure to preach the Gospel and not yourself by drawing your Muslim friend into the Word. The Word of God is the best tool for evangelism. Be encouraged by the promise in Isaiah 55:11: *"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."*

Be careful not to denigrate the Muslim faith or criticize Muhammad or the Qur'an. When your Muslim friend brings up his/her belief in Muhammad as a prophet of Islam, respectfully divert the conversation to Jesus, His teachings and His ministry. Jesus is highly revered and exalted in Islam. Do not try to explain the Trinity or the sonship of Jesus in the preliminary stages of the discussions. These are difficult theological issues that most Muslims stumble over.

Be patient and ready to answer your Muslim friend's objections as Christ did in His encounters with skeptics. Christian beliefs should be explained, in the beginning, using the words of the Bible. St. Paul reminds us: *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart"* (Heb. 4:12).

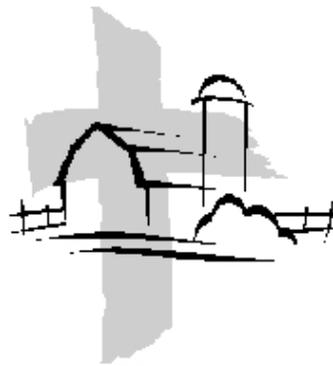
Emphasize that the Bible is inerrant and the Old and New Testament are in its message, the redemption of

sinful man. Explain to your Muslim friend the hundreds of prophecies that foretold the coming of the Messiah in the Old Testament.

Share your personal testimony, emphasizing the crucial difference between being a person living under the curse of the Law and being freed by the truth in Jesus Christ. Remember the apostle Paul shared his testimony in the New Testament as much as possible while preaching the Gospel. Introduce your Muslim friend to other Christians who could share their faith story, and invite Muslims to fellowship events and have them experience worship with you. St Paul reminds us: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the **power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek**”* (Rom. 1:16, emphasis added).

Be bold in inviting your Muslim friend to worship with you, trust the Holy Spirit, who calls people to faith from different nations, and know that in eternity, we all from different nations and backgrounds will stand together worshipping the Lamb of God: *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”* (Rev. 7: 9-10). Amen.

Contributed by
Rev. Hesham Shehab
Salam Christian Fellowship (LCMS)
A Faith Ministry to the Muslims
hicham.chehab@gmail.com



Reaching Rural
America for Christ



District Representatives

District President	Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
Asst. to the President	Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild
Business/Office Manager	Sherry Brendes
Comm./Tech. Coordinator	Christina White
Admin. Asst./Receptionist	Pam Krog
1st Vice President	Rev. W. Max Mons, S.T.M.
2nd Vice President	Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger
Secretary	Rev. Mark Brase
Treasurer	Corey Nuehring
Asst. to the Pres.- Schools	Mrs. Jan Doellinger
IDE Archivist	Rev. Allen Konrad (onamission1939@gmail.com)
U of I Hospital Chaplain	Rev. Michael Musick (ideuchaplain@live.com)

IOWA DISTRICT EAST - LCMS
 1100 BLAIRS FERRY RD
 MARION IA 52232-3039

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 can be downloaded at lcmside.org. Articles and pictures can be emailed to IDE TODAY editor Christina White: christina@lcmside.org.

Submissions for the next edition are due: August 15, 2018