

# ARCHIVES

## IOWA DISTRICT EAST

From June 1954 to January 1955, *The Lutheran Witness* carried a series in the *Iowa District East Edition*, by Rev. Walter S. Wendt, on the history of the work of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Iowa from day one until 1952. A second series, focusing on the first 25 years of Iowa District East's existence, also put together by Rev. Wendt, was presented in the same periodical with the title: *History of Iowa District East 1936-1961*. This history was published in Volume 80, No. 15-16, 18, 21-25. The material which follows has been typed out and put into digital format by IDE Archivist Allen E. Konrad in March of 2008.

### **History of Iowa District East 1936-1961**

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was organized in 1847 in Chicago. The declared reasons for organizing the Synod were these: "To secure unity in doctrine; to extend the kingdom of God; to train ministers and teachers; to publish sound Lutheran books and periodicals." In the course of the years the Synod was divided into Districts or geographical territories. As the Synod grew in numbers and territory, new Districts were formed, and among them was the Iowa District, officially organized in 1879.

Lutheran pastors had come into Iowa as early as 1848, when Rev. Friedrich Lochner of Illinois made a survey trip along the Mississippi River going as far north as Dubuque. In 1858 Rev. C.A.T. Selle of Rock Island, Ill., began to preach in Iowa City, Luzerne, and Wellman. The mother congregation of all our Missouri Synod Lutheran churches in Iowa was St. Paul's at Luzerne, organized May 22, 1859. There were several other congregations, organized by other Lutheran synods before that time, which are now members of our District, namely, Lacona, Saint John's, Clinton, and Sherril's Mound. They joined the Missouri Synod some years later.

For 57 years the state of Iowa remained as one District of the general Synod. During those years it grew in membership and activity. Some years before 1936 it became evident to the members of the Iowa District that the Lord's work could be done more efficiently and economically if the state were divided into two Districts. As a result the general Synod was petitioned to permit dividing the Iowa District into two Districts. This request was turned down the first time because there were no "Whereases" in their resolution. This delayed division for three years. Having followed proper procedure, permission was granted in 1935, and steps were taken to make the division of the old Iowa District into the Iowa East and Iowa West Districts in 1936 at Waterloo.

In 1879, when the Iowa District was organized, it numbered 23 congregations. When it was disbanded in 1936 it numbered 217 congregations, Iowa District East having 88 congregations, 78 pastors, 23, 596 souls, and 16, 169 communicants. Iowa District West consisted of 129

congregations; 111 pastors, 37,759 baptized souls, and 25, 540 communicants. On the basis of this membership the assets of the Iowa District were divided on a 60-40 basis. Iowa West getting 60 per cent and Iowa East 40 per cent.

### **Details of the Division**

The boundary line dividing the Districts was to be the east boundary line of Winnebago, Hancock, Wright, Hamilton, Story, Polk, Warren, Clarke, and Decatur counties. This gave Iowa West 50 counties and Iowa East 49 counties. The Iowa City property was to remain the property of both District, to be supported jointly, while the Ames and Cedar Falls colleges were administered by their respective Districts.

### **1936 Convention in Waterloo**

The final convention of the old Iowa District was held in Waterloo, Aug. 24 to 28, 1936. There were 400 delegates present, the largest attendance ever. Significantly the essay for the convention had the title "The Providence of God," by Prof. E.W. Eifrig. Dr. John W. Behnken, President of the Synod, was present, and in his opening sermon spoke words of encouragement to the members of both Districts, based on Matt. 14:27: "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid." It was a time of grasshoppers and drouth {sic} so that it was with mixed emotions, misgivings, and secret hopes, yet with a trust in God, that the division took place. The final meeting of the old Iowa District took place in the spacious auditorium of Waterloo East High School on the last day of the convention. Dr. Behnken spoke briefly, and when he had finished, Rev. Herman Harms, first President of Iowa East, and Rev. A. Schwidder, first President of Iowa West, shook hands before the audience, wishing each other God's choicest blessings in their respective District. After the entire assembly had arisen, while the men of Iowa West stood at attention, the men of Iowa East left the auditorium, and the old Iowa District was no more. It took a little time for all of the details of the separation to be worked out, but after the joint meeting of the boards of directors of the two Districts in September each District began to function as a separate unit and to continue with the work of furthering the kingdom of God.

### **Elections**

The election of the first officers for Iowa District East showed the following results: President: Pastor Herman Harms, Davenport; First Vice-President, Pastor C. Hesse, Eldora; Second Vice-President, Pastor Paul Brammer, Saint Ansgar; Secretary, Pastor Otto Schultz, Westgate (the only one to hold the same office throughout the 25 years of our District); Treasurer, Paul Schuetz, Monticello; Board members: Pastors P.L. Bornhoeft, Cedar Rapids; Theo. Hinck, DeWitt; W.D. Oetting, Waterloo; Teacher H.W. Albrecht, Atkins; Henry Haerther, Atkins; H. Timmerman, Waterloo; and Walter Vieth, Davenport. Circuit Visitors: Pastor O. Nieting, Cedar Rapids Circuit; Pastor H. Maas, Davenport Circuit; Pastor H.J. Heilmann, Dubuque Circuit; Pastor Geo. A. Koch, Eldora Circuit; Pastor Theo. Frese, Waterloo Circuit; Pastor Albert Bostelman, Williamsburg Circuit.

New pastors admitted at the 1936 convention to the District and to the Synod were: Pastors Obert Kruger, Davenport, Immanuel; Arnold Schmidt, Lockridge; Walter Huchthausen, Melcher; E.L.

Steumpfig, Elkader; Edmund Weiss, St. Martins, Marengo; Theo. J. Eickelberg, Waverly-Artesian; William F. Krueger, Willman {sic}; Walter S. Wendt, Ottumwa; Paul G. Barth, Clinton, Trinity.

Congregations joining the Synod at this convention were: Trinity, Millersburg; Redeemer, Elkader; Trinity, Ottumwa; First Lutheran, Belle Plaine; Bethel, Sutherland; and Immanuel, Iowa Falls.

Of the 78 pastors present at the convention in 1936 only 11 have remained in the Iowa District East as pastors throughout the past 25 years. Three of them, Pastors Theo. Kinck, W.D. Oetting, and Otto Schultz, have remained in the same parish since 1936. The others are: Pastors E.H. Beckman, Theo. Eickelberg, Fred Ilten, I.G. Kitzmann, E.L. Runge, W.F. Ullerich, E. Weiss, and W.S. Wendt.

The following pastors were present, left the District for a time, and now are with us again: Pastors Wm. Krueger, Martin Peters, A. Ranzau, E.L. Stuempfig, and Arnold Schmidt.

Pastors present then but now living in retirement in our District are: Pastors E.H. Grummer, P.W. Hoppel, H.J. Heilmann, E.F. Hempel, Herman Maas, and W.W. Schreiber.

None of the teachers who were present then are still in the active teaching profession. The following, however, are still living in the District either in retirement or in some other occupation: R.L. George, A.A. Glandorf, F.G. Torgler, F. Voightman, H. Waech, Henry Suhr, and H. Huedepohl.

Twenty-five years have come and gone and with these years most of those who are serving the various churches in our District as pastors and teachers in 1936.

### **Conditions in the District in 1936**

There was no money available in the Church extension Fund to lend for erecting needed churches. Not enough money was raised for the synodical budget to adequately man our mission stations. Salaries for the missionaries were set at \$75 a month plus house rent.

There were more than 300 candidates for the ministry on the waiting list to be called into some parish so that they might serve in the work for which they were trained. Some candidates for the teaching profession were not given calls but were merely employed, because the congregations were not able to pay the salary of a called teacher. An encouraging note was sounded whenever a congregation was able to give their candidate teacher a call for full-time work. One teacher had to be dropped because there were not sufficient funds in the treasury to support him. Many pastors had to wait months for salary checks, and some congregations never did make up what they lost. The winter of 1936 as well as the summer was a hard one—weatherwise. For nearly a month the temperature did not go above zero. And when the mercury finally climbed above the zero mark for the first time again, some men came out wearing straw hats to mark the occasion. Many schools had to be closed for weeks because of the severe winter.

The Iowa District East and Iowa District West jointly supported a full-time superintendent of education. He was H.F.C. Mueller of Fort Dodge. There were 31 parochial schools in the District at the time of the division, with 1,392 pupils enrolled. Six pastors were still teaching school. There were 76 Sunday schools, with an enrollment of 3,910 pupils. There were 33 Saturday schools, having an enrollment of 494. Vacation Bible schools were just coming into being as is attested by the fact that there were only eight of them, with an enrollment of 183. Seven of our parochial schools were still teaching German in 1936.

### **Finances**

Iowa District East's share of the Church Extension Fund was \$61,909, all of which was either out on loans or pledged to be loaned. The first budget set up by the District amounted to \$25,363.14, compared with a budget of about \$560,000 for 1961. If a congregation raised \$18 per communicant for all purposes it was unusual. **Lutheran Witness** subscriptions were to be paid for by individual subscriptions and special moneys received from the congregations, but not all responded, so that some of the *Witness* money had to be taken from the District Treasury.

### **Highlights of 1936**

The Rev. Carl Hesse of Eldora was the first editor of the Iowa East Supplement of the **Lutheran Witness**. There were about 5,500 subscribers to the *Witness* at that time.

A new mission had been started at Oxford, which had no place of worship. To alleviate this situation the congregations at Homestead, Marengo, Conroy, and Immanuel of Williamsburg collected \$1,000 to make possible its own place of worship and a home for the pastor. A house was bought, and this served as chapel and residence. A church building was dedicated at Gresham, seven miles northwest of Dunkerton. (This congregation no longer exists.) What is now the congregation at Bennett was at that time a two-point parish together with Sunbury. Services were begun at LaPorte. (This mission did not materialize.) Work was begun in Tipton in 1936. This group is still being served from Bennett. Services were also begun at Waukon.

Iowa Falls was the scene of the annual Luther Day observance sponsored by the Eldora Circuit. This was held each fall with an attendance of around 3,000.

### **1937**

The year 1937 began in a unique way in Eldora—with a choir rehearsal being held after the bells had rung out the old year and welcomed in the new. There were too many activities to hold the choir before that time, so it met shortly after midnight to rehearse for the New Year's Day service. The rehearsal was very well attended.

The state penal institutions and mental hospitals were being served by neighboring pastors. Those being served were Anamosa, Eldora, Fort Madison, and Independence.

A new church costing \$3,000 was dedicated at Elkader on Jan. 10.

A Luther Day observance, with an attendance of 5,000 for the three services, was held in Cedar Rapids May 23. The evening service was dedicated to the Walther League society which was celebrating its 44<sup>th</sup> birthday that day.

Bethany in Cedar Rapids was struggling to see the light of day. Not being able to obtain enough funds to build a chapel for worship services, it fixed up the two-car garage on its property into a parish house and held services there. This helped keep the congregation together but did not solve the problem of getting a house of worship. The mission at Iowa Falls received a boost when it was able to rent the Friends church for its services. Within our District there is one Lutheran hospital, and that is at Hampton. It is run under the auspices of Lutherans in the surrounding area.

A St. James Liturgical Society conference was held in Dubuque. About 150 persons registered. A new church was dedicated at Guttenberg on Aug. 8.

The first convention of the Iowa District East was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Aug. 16-20, 1937.

Four candidates were received into membership with Synod at this convention. They were Pastors B. Bruch, Bremer; J. Koch, Bennett and Sunburg; F. Boelter, Lacona-Melcher parishes; and H.H. Kirchman, Mac Gregor {*sic*}.

New teachers were A.C. Stoppenhagen, Immanuel, Davenport, and Eldore Handrich, Newhall.

Resignations: Pastors L. Eschbach and August Mueller; Teachers E.A.G. Mueller and L. Zobel.

Important resolutions were passed by this convention. It created the combined office of full-time superintendent of Christian education and missions. The appointing or electing of the man to this office as well as the directives governing the scope of this work was to be left to the Board of Directors. This ended the office of a full-time superintendent of education in Iowa East. Congregations were urged to elect young peoples committees. Since the Walther League had not divided into two districts when the District itself had, the convention went on record urging the Walther League to divide into Iowa East and West also. They, moreover, encouraged the Walther League to organize its zones according to circuit lines for better administration and supervision. Confirmation reunion services, too, were encouraged by this convention.

The District also reiterated a Church Extension rule established in 1931—that the congregation must have on hand 50 per cent of the assets of the building project under consideration before the Church Extension Fund would provide the other 50 per cent by a loan.

The convention adopted a resolution to observe the centennial of the Saxon Immigration with the rest of the Synod in 1938. It was reported that 350 candidates for the ministry were without calls. Present at the convention were 157 men. The essayist was the Rev. O. Nieting, Newhall. Subject: "The Person of Christ."

Salaries of the pastors of subsidized congregations were set at \$75 a month plus \$5 a month allowance for each dependent child. It was reported that Lutheran students attending Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls were transported to Waterloo by bus to attend services. All parochial school teachers were urged to obtain teachers certificates from the state. The convention endorsed the sending of Lenten banks to every communicant in the District to help raise funds for the synodical budget. Some of the congregations which now number 300 to 400 communicants or more had memberships of from 65 to 70 at this time. Television was as yet not a part of the American scene. As a result it was a memorable occasion and accomplishment for choirs to sing on the radio. This bold venture was undertaken during the year by children's choirs from Latimer and Ottumwa when they presented half-hour concerts over Radio Station WOI, Ames. The Supplement carried listings of all the names of people giving memorial wreaths in memory of fellow Christians having departed this life. The Eldora Circuit was conducting successful officers' conferences at this time. Early spring and summer was the season for many annual mission festivals, and many congregations held services outdoors, depending on the accommodations available. It was not unusual for a congregational band to provide the music for the singing at such outdoor festivals.

Immanuel of Williamsburg dedicated a new school in September 1937. October 10 marked the dedication of a new church at Rudd. The congregation at Latimer had a service which was unique in that it marked the reaching of 500 members in that congregation. Sunday school teachers' institutes were also carried on in the fall of this year at the suggestion of the District convention. A mass choir of the Eldora Circuit gave three concerts in the counties making up its circuit. There were 107 voices participating.

Millersburg dedicated its new church in December. The building cost about \$4,500. On Dec. 19 Fredericksburg dedicated its new church, erected at a cost of about \$5,000.

Rev. George Perlich, then at Keokuk, was serving from 18 to 20 prisoners at the Fort Madison prison. This was the beginning of the blessed work of our church at the state prison. Rev. Conrad Born, pastor at Spring Fountain, near Sumner, departed this life Dec. 24, 1937.

## 1938

A conference of regional teacher superintendents and circuit visitors was held in Cedar Rapids to clarify some overlapping duties of the superintendents and the circuit visitors.

With the arrival of Pastor Otto Beer at Homestead, the resignation of a veteran of the cross and a pastor well remembered throughout the District, Rev. F. Wolter, took effect. His resignation, together with the resignation of Pastor Aug. Mueller a year previous, marked the passing of an era.

Pastor Heilmann undertook holding services in Oelwein and Arlington in the hope that perhaps congregations could be started in these communities. The number of candidates for the ministry without calls had dwindled to 223 in 1938.

Since 1917 there had been in existence an association known as the National Lutheran Educational Society made up of volunteers from four District of Synod – Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. It had as its objective to start a Lutheran college in one of these states. In the course of the years this association raised nearly \$150,000. When the depression days came, interest in this organization, with funds still there, began to wane. At a meeting at Boone, Iowa, the association voted to give the following sums toward educational work: \$15,000 toward the student center at Iowa City; \$18,500 to Bethany College, Mankato, Minn.; \$25,000 to Valparaiso University. Earlier they had given \$21,500 for a proposed student center at Ames. They also made other gifts toward education in Nebraska and South Dakota. The association disbanded in 1938 without having accomplished their original goals, but still having aided the cause of education.

At Trinity, Cedar Rapids, the Home Mission Society held its annual silver tea. Among the antiques on display at this occasion were some baptismal certificates that were 100 years old.

In June The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod met for its triennial convention at St. Louis and elected our District President Harms as the Fourth Vice-President of Synod. Since he would not be permitted to hold the District presidency as a synodical Vice-President, Rev. Carl Hesse, First Vice-President of the District, was elevated to the presidency of the Iowa District East as its second President.

The Secretary of Education reported that only 7 congregations had cradle rolls, with 199 on the rolls. This worthwhile function of the Sunday school was in its infancy at this time.

One of the first changes to be made upon the succession of Pastor Hesse to the District presidency was the appointment of Pastor Geo. Koch of Hampton as editor of the Supplement in his place.

The final report of President Harms, upon relinquishing his office, was as follows: New candidates becoming pastors in the District were: Pastors Lester Peter, Belle Plaine; Ed Dohrmann, Victor; E. Yohr, Trinity, Osage; Walter Bussert as assistant at Trinity, Davenport; M.F. Scheel as assistant at Immanuel, Waterloo. New pastors entering the District: Pastors Otto Beer, Homestead, and R.J. Torgler, St. John's, Clinton.

Bethany at Cedar Rapids was privileged to dedicate its new house of worship on June 26.

Two new fields were opened: the west Waterloo mission, now Grace Lutheran, and the Shell Rock-Finchford field. A student was sent to Centenary to do summer work in the newly started preaching station.

The week of August 7 saw the congregation at Wellman conducting a week-long tent service with guest speakers each evening and neighboring choirs coming to sing special anthems. The report stated that there was an average of 115 in attendance at these services, and that quite a few unchurched people were attracted to the services.

The school at Oxford was reopened in September as was also the school at Delaware. Pastor Theo. Klatt of St. Paul's, Sumner, was suddenly called into eternity early in October.

After 51 years in the ministry Pastor Julius Friedrich, institutional missionary at Iowa City, resigned his pastorate to live in retirement in St. Louis, Mo. Pastor Friedrich pioneered in Iowa City as a student pastor and as institutional missionary among the unfortunate and the ill at the university hospitals at Iowa City and Oakdale. The work begun at Iowa City by Pastor Friedrich will continue to bring eternal dividends, and our Lutheran Christians throughout the state of Iowa will continue to receive direct benefits from his work whenever they are confined to one of the state hospitals or are attending the University. At the time of his resignation the work in both fields was well established. The problem confronting the directors after his resignation was whether to revert to the services of one man or to continue with two men functioning as had been the case the last years of Pastor Friedrich's ministry. After prayerful deliberation the board concluded that the work should continue with two men. A call was issued to Rev. John Bertram of Fort Dodge to take over the institutional work while Pastor L. Wuerffel was to continue with the student work.

### **1939**

Communicant membership of the District was 16,665 in 1939.

The year began with Pastor J. Bertram assuming the work of the second institutional missionary at Iowa City on January 5.

The West Davenport Mission, which is Immanuel Church today, was beginning to grow mainly through work among children in the area. At the time there were nearly as many children attending Sunday school as communicant members. The work among children in that area has helped to make this a flourishing congregation at the present time. This emphasis continues.

February 1, 1939, marked the date of the development of the mission at Shellsburg into Zion congregation. It was being served at the time by student William H. Ilten. A dwelling and four lots were purchased. The house was to be used as a combination church and parsonage. Before that time services had been held in a hall above a grocery store.

### **The Saxon Centennial**

During the course of the year 1939 the congregations of the Iowa District East joined in special observances of the Saxon Immigration in 1839. Celebrations were held on May 14 by the Cedar Rapids circuit in Memorial Coliseum, by the southern part of the Waterloo circuit in East High, Waterloo, and by the northern part at Saint Ansgar. The Davenport circuit gathered in a hall near DeWitt; the Dubuque circuit held one celebration at Sumner and one at Dubuque. Because of the size of the Williamsburg circuit, three celebrations were held, one at Ottumwa, one at Marengo, and one at Keokuk. The Eldora circuit observed the anniversary at their annual Luther Day in August at Iowa Falls. A thank offering was gathered which amounted to over \$20,000.



## **Walther League Becomes Separate District**

At the urging of the 1938 synodical convention, the Walther League also divided along synodical lines so that the Iowa District East came into being as a young people's district. The first Iowa East Walther League convention was held at Trinity, Cedar Rapids, May 27-28, 1939. A choral union concert was a part of this convention program. Mr. Bert Boehm of Ottumwa became the first district president.

On February 27 fire destroyed the church edifice of St. John's in Clinton. The children of the lower grades were evacuated without a mishap from the annex at the rear of the church, which was used for classes. As a result all the classes of the school had to be meet in the main school building. Lenten services were held in the Episcopal church hall, and Sunday school and Sunday worship services were held in the Junior High auditorium.

## **Intersynodical Conference**

May 8 marked the date of an intersynodical conference of pastors of the Davenport, Dubuque, and Cedar Rapids circuits with the pastors of the Dubuque conference of the American Lutheran Church. This conference was held at Cedar Rapids in an effort to bring about closer doctrinal agreement between the members of the two synods. At this meeting Dr. Reu of the American Lutheran Church presented an essay on "Unionism" and Dr. William Arndt of St. Louis presented an essay on "Election." Although Dr. Reu stated that he had changed his position of former years on the doctrine of election – a doctrine over which the American Lutherans split with the Missouri Synod in the early years of their formation – it was found that differences of more recent date had arisen which still divided us.

The *Call of the Cross*, the first full-length movie produced by our church, was being shown throughout the District and Synod in 1939. Church services were begun at Clear Lake with the Legion Hall being used as a place of worship. An attempt was made to start a mission in Elgin, Iowa, about 20 miles north of Elkader. A new mission was begun in Wapello. This was the first venture of our church in Louisa County and is still the only Missouri Synod church in that county. Mount Pleasant was also begun as a mission station. Both of these stations were being served by candidate Alton Koch.

## **1939 Convention**

August 12-17 found Immanuel of Waterloo serving as hosts to the second convention of the District. Representative of Synod to the convention was Rev. H. Harms, Fourth Vice-President of Synod. The essayist was Dr. Theo. Buenger. His subject: "The Three Last Theses of Walther's *Church and Government*."

In addition to those already reported as having entered the District as pastors were: Pastor R. Torgler, St. John's Clinton; and Pastor E.W. Wuggazer, Trinity, Millersburg. Teacher Edward Schamber resigned as a teacher.

The mission report stated that the mission at Centenary would be moved to Fayette in the near future. Resolutions adopted regarding mission stations were the following: the Board of Directors was authorized to grant the subsidies at the first of each year subject to the approval of the next District convention. The missionary and lay representative of each congregation were to give personal reports on the missions at the District conventions.

Because of the lack of funds the request of three mission congregations for additional loans in addition to the \$4,000 allotted to them had to be turned down although there was dire need for additional funds to build chapels in each case.

Subsidy by the District for students preparing for full-time service in the church was discontinued. Those who were at the time receiving such support would continue to be cared for by the District. Congregations and circuits were encouraged to handle cases that might come up.

The educational report showed that two new schools had been opened since the previous year. There was an increase of 27 pupils over the year before. The majority of our teachers were reported to be holding certificates of some kind. The Sunday schools showed an increase of 359 pupils over the previous year. There was an increase of 16 Saturday schools since 1938, with an increase of 122 pupils. The number of vacation Bible schools had risen to 24 with a total enrollment of 548 pupils.

The young people's report showed that there were only 50 societies belonging to the Walther League and that only half of the young people of the District were enrolled in Walther Leagues or young people's societies.

The Treasurer was authorized to remit 30 per cent of all budget receipts each month to the synodical treasury.

The office of the Secretary of Stewardship was established. The person holding this office was to be a pastor of a voting congregation, was to attend all District board meetings, but was not to be a member of the board. His term of office was three years and he was to be elected by the convention.

The convention voted that one third of the Centennial Thankoffering be placed into the District Church Extension Fund.

The convention ratified the action of the Board of Directors in taking over full control and support of institutional mission work in Iowa City. The District also announced itself willing to assume the sole control and management of student work at Iowa City if Iowa West would agree. The student pastor at Iowa City was chosen to be the official archivist of the District and was authorized to collect all historical materials from congregations and the District for the archives.

The Iowa District East was also authorized to acquire a seal.

A memorial service and an educational service were part of the extra services of the convention in addition to the opening Communion service. Present were 182 delegates, pastors, and teachers.

The election showed the following results: President: Pastor C. Hesse, Eldora; First Vice-President: Pastor P. Brammer, St. Ansgar; Second Vice-President: Pastor O. Nieting, Newhall; Secretary: Pastor Otto Schultz, Westgate; Treasurer: Mr. Paul Schuetz, Monticello.

Board of Directors: Pastor P.S. Bornhoeft, Cedar Rapids, Secretary of Education; Pastor Theo. Hinck, DeWitt, Secretary of Missions; Pastor W.D. Oetting, Waterloo, Secretary of Young People's Work; Teacher E.J. Studt, Waterloo, Secretary of Student Subsidy; Mr. Henry Haerther, Atkins, Financial Secretary; Mr. H. Timmermann, Waterloo, Church Extension Chairman; Mr. Walter Vieth, Davenport, Chairman of the Board.

Circuit Visitors: Pastor F. Starke, Cedar Rapids Circuit; Pastor H. Happel, Davenport Circuit; Pastor H.J. Heilmann, Dubuque Circuit; Pastor George Koch, Eldora Circuit; Pastor O. Koch, Waterloo Circuit; Pastor A. Bostelman, Williamsburg Circuit.

First Stewardship Secretary of the District was Pastor T. Joeckel, Williamsburg.

During the fall of the year St. Paul's, Williamsburg, was busy collecting a carload of corn for the congregation at Garland, Nebr., whose members had suffered severely by drouth {sic}. The members living in town gave cash, which was used to purchase corn.

The Walther League set up a lecture bureau which listed the names of lectures and lecturers available to the Walther Leagues and young people's societies of the District.

The new mission at Wapello conducted a preaching mission to interest the people of the community in our mission in their midst. This mission was held late in September with services each evening for a week. About two-thirds of those attending were non-Lutherans.

In the month of October Grace at Waterloo dedicated its first house of worship. To assist the mission in Iowa Falls, a woman, Mrs. August Meyer, furnished the congregation with a house to be used as a parsonage without charge.

During the month of December Immanuel in Davenport dedicated its enlarged chapel and the brick school building which was added to the rear of the church.

## 1940

Within a year after their church had burned to the ground, St. John's Congregation, Clinton, dedicated its new \$45,000 brick structure in February of 1940. Two pastors from Iowa East accepted calls to become professors at our preparatory schools. They were Pastor Herbert Glock, grand Mound, as professor at Concordia, Oakland, Calif., and Pastor Obert Kruger, Immanuel, Davenport, as professor at St. John's, Winfield, Kans.

On April 28 St. John's, Wellman, dedicated its new church edifice. The Wellman paper made the following comment about this church: "Like the pioneers of old, who hewed their churches out of the forests, the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church has built a new place of worship. With their own hands and their tools they have erected a church. This church came from the native oak timber donated by the members. The men of the congregation felled the trees, cut and sawed the lumber and timber. They installed the plumbing and made the light fixtures. Every portion of the completed church except the electric wiring represents their own direct efforts." The completed structure was a beautiful church for the members of the Wellman congregation. The pastor under whose personal supervision this project was completed was Pastor William Kruger.

### **Third District Convention**

The third convention of Iowa East was held in Cedar Rapids with 79 pastors, 19 teachers, and 76 lay delegates present. For the first time the lay delegates attended Communion together with the pastors and teachers at the opening convention service. This has been a regular practice ever since. Dr. Henry Grueber, Vice-President of Synod was the official representative of Dr. Behnken. The essay was a continuation from the 1937 convention essay by Pastor O. Nieting on "The Person of Christ."

New pastors received into the District were: Victor Koepke, Iowa Falls; Harold Roschke, Waverly; Alvin Starke, Immanuel, Davenport; Richard Gutknecht, St. Martin's, Marengo. New teacher: F.R. Behnke, Latimer. Resignations: Pastor F.A. Brauer, Sumner; teachers: E.G. Steinbach, E.D. Huedepohl. Received into His heavenly kingdom was Rev. J.A. Duerr.

The mission report stated that the District was now supporting 17 called ministers, two candidates, and two students; and two missions were being served by neighboring pastors.

The District rescinded all resolutions pertaining to the calling of a man for the joint office of superintendent of missions and of Christian education.

A request for a decision on the status of women teachers was answered by the convention in the following manner: "That our lady teachers be held to attend the teachers' conferences, that they take part in the deliberations and discussions, deliver papers and render practical demonstrations but not doctrinal essays."

A resolution was also adopted that all delegates representing our District at delegate synods be housed at District expense.

A radio committee was appointed which was authorized to secure time on WMT for religious broadcasts if possible.

Concordia, Burlington, was privileged to dedicate a new church on Nov. 10. Unique about this building was the fact that the congregation had purchased a church which had been abandoned to make way for the building of an ordnance plant. The church was torn down, hauled to the site,

and rebuilt at a cost of \$4,000. This was the only way it was possible for the congregation to obtain materials for a church during these war years.

## 1941

1941 was a year of shortages and rationing, of boys being drafted, of battles and prayers for peace and the welfare of our boys and girls in the Armed Services. Here and there were notices that a son's life had been sacrificed on the battle field. It was also a time of rising prices and of necessary salary raises to meet the costs. The District board at the beginning of the year noted an increase of \$10 a month toward the salaries of the missionaries in the District.

The District Walther League undertook to extend an invitation to the International Walther League to hold its 1942 convention in Cedar Rapids. This was the first attempt to have an International in Iowa. (The invitation was not accepted.)

Trinity at Clinton dedicated its new house of worship on June 1. Total cost about \$6,000. The erection of this chapel, seating 160, gave this new mission congregation a boost in its efforts to better serve the Lord in South Clinton.

Pastor H. Harms was elevated to the position of First Vice-President of Synod. The Rev. Carl These, Eldora, District First Vice-President, was automatically elevated to the presidency of the District. Another intersynodical conference was scheduled with the pastors of the American Lutheran Church for the month September. The first survey of the possibility of starting a church in Newton was made already in 1941. Twenty years later we are finally able to start a church at that place. Pastor Otto Nieting became the second Stewardship Secretary, by appointment, when Pastor Joeckel left the District.

No District convention was held in this year. Instead, a pastor-teacher conference of Iowa East was held with Immanuel, Williamsburg, serving as host.

The new *Lutheran Hymnal*, which is still in use in our churches today, was ready for distribution during this year. Many congregations immediately began using the new hymnal in their services. This made for uniformity in our Lutheran services throughout the land as congregations introduced the new hymnal and the liturgical services outlined therein. Before the introduction of this hymnal very few of our congregations held identical services.

Lutheran students attending college at Cedar Falls were becoming more numerous each year so that it was felt advisable to begin work there. The District purchased a home near the college campus which was to serve as a student center. The Rev. Edgar Brammer became the first student pastor at Cedar Falls.

The fall of the year saw several new churches dedicated in the District. The first of these was at Atkins, where a \$27,500 brick, Gothic style church building was dedicated early in October. This was followed by the dedication in Ottumwa of that congregation's first house of worship, erected at a cost of \$6,000. Prior to that time the congregation there had been worshipping in a Seventh-day Adventist church. The third congregation to dedicate a new house of worship was

St. Paul's at Bennett, which at the end of October had completed its frame structure with a seating capacity of 140 at a cost of about \$6,000. The 800-pound bell in the tower was obtained from an abandoned Presbyterian church. The fourth congregation to dedicate a new church was the one at Latimer, which early in November rejoiced with thankfulness to God at the completion of the structure which would seat some 400 worshipers.

One congregation in the District gave the janitor a title of honor by listing this position under the heading: "Church Broom Engineer."

Before the close of the year a new mission was started in an area two miles southeast of Waterloo called Home Acres.

## **1942**

The year 1942 began with city congregations considering, and some offering, evening services for those who had to work on Sunday morning to help with the war effort. Some of the churches were offering their social rooms for Red Cross work during the war years.

The mother congregation of our District at Luzerne rebuilt its original house of worship at a cost of \$6,000. The entire structure was given an attractive face lifting, but still the congregation was able to use their original building as their house of worship.

Synod set aside Mother's Day as the day for a special offering for the Army and Navy Commission, that arm of our church which goes with the boys in the service to minister to their spiritual needs through the printing of special literature and the providing of service centers for them. This day was set aside for many years to come for such a special offering for the Army and Navy Commission.

After many months of effort to obtain sufficient funds from the congregations of the District to make possible the use of Radio Station WMT, Cedar Rapids-Waterloo, to preach the Gospel message over the air, the committee in charge was able to schedule a series of broadcasts on Saturday mornings for a 15-minute period. The program was entitled "The Devotional Hour of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod of Iowa District East." The first broadcast was presented on May 9.

### **LWML Is Organized**

May 20 was a red-letter day in the District. On that day the first meeting for the purpose of organizing a women's organization known as the Lutheran Women's Missionary League was held with more than 200 women present representing 45 congregations. This meeting resulted in the organizing of our district LWML and the adoption of a constitution. Mrs. Adele Widman of Waterloo was chosen first district president of the league.

### **District Convention at Keystone**

The fourth convention of the District was held at Keystone Aug. 10-14.

New pastors received were: Paul Burgdorf, St. John's, Clinton; Luther Schember, McGregor; William Ilten, Trinity, Clinton; Alton Koch, Mount Pleasant-Wapello; John Beiderwieden, Denver; Enno Schuelke, St. Paul's Williamsburg; Luther Koepke, Elkader; Erhard Harms, Iowa Falls; Edgar Brammer, Cedar Falls; Paul Koch, Bremer; H.J. Eggold, Assistant, Immanuel, Waterloo; C.J. Sangers, St. Paul's, Waterloo; K. Richard Schliepsiek, Fayette; W.J. Tensmeyer, Elkader.

Teachers: Richard Bendick, Saint John's, Clinton.

Pastors E.F. Melcher, C. Roemer, and Otto von Gemmingen were received into the heavenly kingdom.

Resigned: Pastors A.H. Deletzke, H.A. Bentrup, and F.J. Oetjen.

Essayist was Pastor John Bertram of Iowa City on "The Kingly Office of Christ and Its Significance for the Present Time."

The District was reported at this time to be employing 19 full-time missionaries, two candidates, four teachers, one institutional missionary, and two student welfare workers. The convention granted the missionaries a raise in salary of \$15 per month plus \$5 per child additional.

The radio committee was authorized to obtain a half hour of time on Radio Station KXEL, Waterloo, for a Sunday morning broadcast, since it could be had at less than the cost of the 15 minutes' time on WMT. The District went on record to guarantee \$1,800 to cover the cost of broadcasts, to be collected from congregations and individuals.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League's request to be recognized as an official auxiliary organization of the District was granted, and the District authorized that two members of the board of directors be represented on the LWML district board.

The convention redivided the six circuits of the District into nine so that the following circuits comprised the District from then on: Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Dubuque, Eldora, Saint Ansgar, Victor, Waterloo, Westgate, and Williamsburg.

The convention voted to again help subsidize students studying for full-time service in the church.

Officers elected at the convention: President: Pastor Carl Hesse, Eldora; First Vice-President: Pastor Otto Nieting, Newhall; Second Vice-President: Pastor P. Brammer, St. Ansgar; Secretary: Pastor Otto Schultz, Monticello; Board of Directors: Mr. Edgar Strieter, Davenport, Chairman; Pastor H. Heilman, Fairbank, Secretary of Missions; Mr. W. Haesemeyer, State Center, Secretary of Church Extension; Pastor John Schliepsiek, Hubbard, Secretary of Christian Education; Teacher E. Studt, Waterloo, Secretary of Young People; Pastor Geo. Koch, Hampton, Secretary of Student Subsidy and Institution and Student Work; Mr. H. Jaeger, DeWitt, Secretary of Finance; Pastor W.D. Oetting, Waterloo, Stewardship Secretary.

Circuit Visitors: Cedar Rapids, Pastor C. Krog; Davenport, Pastor P. Happel; Dubuque, Pastor W. Schreiber; Eldora, Pastor E. Brewer; St. Ansgar, Pastor W. Leckband; Victor, Pastor R.P. Young; Waterloo, Pastor O. Koch; Westgate, Pastor H. Wunderlich; Williamsburg, Pastor A. Bostelmann.

Regional School Superintendents: F. Eggerding, Luzerne; A.E. Will, Davenport; H.H. Suhr, Westgate, and O.H. Kamprath, Williamsburg.

The congregation at Grand Mound celebrated their fall mission festival in a unique, although we would say most proper, manner. Each family was asked to bring along an unchurched family to the mission services. In that small community 20 unchurched families were brought by the members to their mission festival.

Nov. 15 marked the dedication of a new frame church at Wellsburg, where the congregation had been worshiping in an old rented store building which was inadequate in every way. Mount Pleasant meanwhile secured a house of worship by purchasing a house which was remodeled into a combination church-parsonage.

### **1943**

Early in 1943 some congregations were reported to be beginning to give their pastors allowances for operating their car in the service of the congregation.

The congregation at Deep River purchased a house which was to be used as a combination chapel and parsonage.

Circuit Visitor Albert Bostelmann of Williamsburg was the first of the District pastors to become a chaplain in the Armed Forces. The war continued to take its toll and the pages of the Supplement listed more and more memorial services in our congregations for boys lost in action.

In the spring of the year the pastors of the Victor Circuit made a canvass of Albia preparatory to holding services there during the Lenten season.

The LWML had grown to a membership of more than 1,650 by this time. The league held its first convention at Waterloo on May 19, 1943.

Pastor Arnold Schmidt was the second pastor from the District to enter the army chaplaincy.

### **Fifth District Convention**

St. John's, Clinton, was host to the fifth convention of the District on Aug. 9-12, 1943. New pastors in the District were Arthur Werfelman, assistant at Trinity, Davenport; A.V. Kuster, Jesup; Wenzel Tolson, Millersburg; Alfred Ernst, Wellsburg.

New teachers were Elroy Venzke, Immanuel, Davenport; and R. Steinbart, St. Paul's, Waverly.



Richard Bendick resigned as teacher.

Pastors A.H. Deletzke and C.E. Guenther were received into the heavenly kingdom.

Essayist was the Rev. Otto Koch, Reinbeck. His topic: "The Prophetic Office of Christ."  
Synodical representative was the Rev. Herman Harms.

The convention rejected an overture for an enlarged missions committee. The convention voted to set aside any surplus in the District treasury at the end of the year for a post-war expansion fund. It was reported that 89 per cent of the workers in the District and 74 per cent of the congregations had entered Synod's pension plan. The radio committee reported a balance of \$1,100 in its treasury. The convention voted to continue the broadcasts.

The Lutheran Laymen's League was granted permission to organize on a districtwide basis. The congregation at Homestead made recordings of hymns sung in German in their Sunday morning service for Iowa University for the purpose of preserving these hymns in their original language. One of these is at the University, another is in the Library of Congress, and the Homestead congregation has the third one.

On Aug. 1 the congregation at Fayette was able to dedicate its first house of worship. Part of the lumber was obtained by tearing down a church near Strawberry Point.

### **District LLL Is Organized**

After having been granted permission by the District synod at Clinton to organize a Lutheran Laymen's League in the District, a meeting was called for that purpose on Oct. 3 at Immanuel, Waterloo. There were some 200 men present at this initial meeting. Mr. Walter Vieth of Davenport was elected first president of the District LLL>

Pastor A. Werfelman, assistant pastor at Trinity, Davenport, was the third pastor from the District to enter the Armed Forces as a chaplain.

St. Paul's Church, Home Acres, was dedicated on Oct. 10, with all but \$300 worth of labor having been furnished by the members in erecting the building.

The first District Missionaries Conference was held in November at Cedar Rapids. The year 1943 came to a close with many congregations investing their surpluses in government bonds to be used for building and expansion programs after the war. The District ended the year with a surplus of a little over \$8,000, the first surplus in the history of the District. For many years a member from Wilton Junction gave \$2,000 each year for the work of our synod.

### **1944**

A winter fire destroyed the interior of the chapel at Keokuk. Five weeks was needed to repair the damage done by the fire, and during that time services were held in a Baptist chapel.

The District purchased a home for the institutional missionary in Iowa City. The LWML held its second convention at Cedar Rapids. St. John's and Concordia congregations at Newhall resolved to amalgamate into one congregation, taking the name Saint John's, with the church to be located in Newhall.

The many changes in pastorates and the calls issued to various pastors in the District gave evidence that the war had put an end to the oversupply of pastors; now suddenly there was a shortage, and some congregations had to call many times before they were able to obtain a pastor.

The District held its second missionary conference at Cedar Rapids. Although there were no new churches built during the year 1944 because of building restrictions, Iowa Falls was nevertheless able to purchase the Friends Church in which they had been worshipping and the parsonage for \$7,500.

## 1945

The year 1945 started off with Saint John's Church of State Center being destroyed by fire on Jan. 1. This removed one of the religious landmarks in Marshall County. It had been erected in 1874.

In June Pastor Erhardt Harms of Iowa Falls reported for duty as chaplain in the Army.

The 1945 District convention was held at St. Stephen's Church, Atkins. Synodical representative was the Rev. Dr. Christian Barth, and the essay "The Christian Pastor" was presented by the Rev. mark Steege of Readlyn, Iowa.

The following pastors had entered the District since the last convention: E.H. Tode, Fredericksburg; P.E. Leischner, Iowa Falls (rural); C.Thomas Spitz, asst., Immanuel, Waterloo; R.W. Kabelitz, St. John's, Victor; R.G. Juengel, St. James's, Victor; C.T. Wuerffel, Marion; H.C. Wolters, Luzerne; H.F.C. Mueller, What Cheer; L. Braeunig, Denver; O.T. Schreiber, Newhall; Dean Kasischke, Albia; W.Schroeder, Riceville; K.J. Baumgart, Trinity, State Center; A.W. Meyer, asst., Trinity, Davenport.

Teachers received were C.A. Zeddies, Immanuel, Waterloo; Virgil Wurr, Artesian; Walter Paul, Trinity, Davenport; H.A. Weinrich, Keystone; E. Bloedel, Trinity, Cedar Rapids; G.L. Potratz, Fairbanks.

Pastor Otto Koch was called into his eternal home. Pastor H.F. Greif, resigned from the ministry. The following teachers resigned: F.E. Eggerding; F.G. Torgler; F. Voightman; R.L. George; R.A. Steinbart; O.A. Glanddorf; J.C. Mattfield.

New congregations received were Trinity, State Center; and Peace, Shell Rock. Five congregations were reported as having become self-supporting: Belle Plaine; Bethany, Cedar Rapids; Iowa Falls; Marion and Trinity, Clinton.

The Board of Directors was commended for employing seven seminary students to make a survey and canvass of larger cities of the District with the objective of starting new mission fields. The Board was also instructed to seriously consider the feasibility of acquiring a trailer mission to serve especially the southern counties of our state in exploring mission possibilities there.

The limit of \$4,000 on loans from the Church Extension Fund was lifted, and the minimum pledge by congregations toward Synod's work was eliminated. The Secretary of Stewardship was made an advisory member of the Board of Directors.

The convention sanctioned the purchase of a home for the institutional missionary at Iowa City and changed the terminology of our student work from "Student Welfare Service" to "Student Service Work" The erection of a student chapel and the purchase of a parsonage at Cedar Falls were authorized.

The convention resolved to establish the office of Executive Secretary of Christian Education. The calling of a man for this office was placed into the hands of the Board of Directors. All funds received from the Peace Thankoffering and the Postwar Fund were set aside for the establishment and development of new missions and Christian day schools in the District.

On Tuesday evening of the convention the welcome announcement was made that hostilities with Japan had ceased. Pastors left the convention immediately to conduct services of thanksgiving in their own congregations, which had been previously arranged for as soon as this was a reality. On Wednesday Dr. C. Barth led the convention delegates in a service of thanks for peace.

New officers elected at this convention were Pastors W.D. Oetting as Second Vice-President; Theo. Hinck as Stewardship Secretary; and O. Kamprath as Secretary of Young People's Work. Newly elected circuit Visitors were: Pastors W. Stoll, Cedar Rapids; W. Leckband, Eldora; I.G. Kitzmann, St. Ansgar; Theo. Rottman, Victor; Carl Krog, Waterloo; M. Steege, Westgate; and E. Schuelke, Williamsburg. During the year many of the women of our churches served trainloads of soldiers as they stopped in some of our cities while being transported on troop trains across the state. With the cessation of hostilities the soldiers were returning home to jovous {sic} welcomes.

In the fall of the year articles of incorporation were accepted by the society known as "The Lutheran Home for the Aged," which was destined to do great service for the aged in the state. Original headquarters for the association were at Williamsburg.

The members of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Men's Club sent an objection to Washington, D.C., to the proposed action by Congress to set aside Oct. 31 as "National Arthritis Day" inasmuch as it would conflict with the long-established Lutheran Reformation Day.

## 1946

On April 28 the "Lighted Lantern" broadcast over Radio Station WMT, Cedar Rapids, began under the direction of Pastor P.L. Bornhoeft of Trinity, Cedar Rapids.

Many congregations were beginning to lay plans for new church buildings or for enlarging their present facilities, long delayed because of material shortages during war years.

The seventh convention of the Iowa District East marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding was held at Immanuel, Waterloo, Aug. 12-15.

New pastors received were E. Breiholz, Wellman; R. Fechner, Conroy; E.L. Wittenberg, Lacona; A.H. Bertram, Home Acres, Waterloo; J.F. Choitz, Iowa City campus pastor; F. Schultz, Dubuque; A. Ranzau, Millersburg; and Robert Otto, Jesup.

Teachers entering the District were L.W. Duscher, Immanuel, Williamsburg; Ed Hafemeister, Conroy; W.G. Horn, Homestead; W. Eggers, Luzerne.

Pastors P. Brammer and M.A. Russert resigned their offices during the year.

The convention essay was presented by Pastor Geo. Perlich, State Center, on "The Lutheran Congregation." Dr. Herman Harms was synodical representative.

New congregations organized in the District were Concordia, Waterloo; and St. Paul's, Albia.

The postponing of the calling of a full-time Secretary of Christian Education by the Board of Directors was commended by the convention. A special committee was authorized to study the feasibility of creating a full-time Secretary of Missions and Education.

The convention also adopted a resolution creating a joint committee on public relations with Iowa West for the purpose of representing our Districts jointly before legislation boards and officials. The committee representing Iowa East was to consist of the District President, the Secretary of Institutional Missions, and a layman.

The District also went on record in favor of establishing a Lutheran chair of religion at Iowa University.

During the year the Cedar Rapids and Waterloo circuits instituted separate Lutheran Day observances in addition to the one sponsored by the Eldora circuit.

Pastor Mark Steege was another minister from the District to become a professor when he accepted the call to our Springfield seminary.

At the close of the year Chaplain Peter's heart and that of his prison congregation were gladdened by the dedication of a chapel at the state prison which was churchly in its appointments, giving a religious atmosphere, previously lacking, to their worship services.

## 1947

First Lutheran, Belle Plaine, was able to dedicate its enlarged church in February. To obtain lumber for this project the members purchased an abandoned rural school which was then torn down and the salvaged lumber used for the building.

The Missouri Synod inaugurated the "Each One Reach One" program for its members as a part of the Centennial Thankoffering venture throughout the Synod, 1947 being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

The congregation at Center Point dedicated its new chapel made possible through the purchase of three army barracks.

St. John's, Oskaloosa, was privileged to dedicate their new house of worship in October.

Many congregations and their auxiliary organizations were sending food and clothing to those suffering in the war-torn areas of Europe, adopting certain families to feed and clothe.

## 1948

A change of editors of the District Supplement took place at the beginning of the year with Pastor William Zabel, Charlotte, replacing Pastor George Koch. St. John's, Victor, remodeled its church facilities at a cost of \$20,000.

The Rev. L.W. Wickham was employed by the Home for the Aged Association as promotional secretary to lay the groundwork for erecting a home for the association. Noteworthy was the love shown by the members of St. Stephen's, Atkins, toward their retiring pastor, the Rev. G. Rickels, who had served their congregation for 28 years. The congregation resolved to pay his full salary until his pension would start and after that \$100 a month until he reached his 50<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry. They also underwrote the doctor and hospital bills during his last illness.

Zion, Shellsburg, dedicated its new house of worship on June 13, and Saint Paul's, Dubuque, rededicated its renovated house of worship.

The 1948 convention was held at St. Paul's, Williamsburg, Aug. 16-19. The Rev. Dr. J.W. Behnken represented the synod. The essay "The High-Priestly Office of Christ" was presented by Dr. C.S. Mundinger, president of St. John's College Winfield.

Pastors received into the District were Max Jank, Fredericksburg; Ralph Radtke, Concordia, Waterloo; Wilbur Becker, Fayette; A.R. Aschbrenner, Bremer; Arthur Lindner, Hampton; Marvin Geffert, Stanwood; E.H. Hartman, Oxford; Ewald Recks, Deep River; W.T. Wolfram, Ventura; A.W. Galen, Concordia, Waterloo; Norman Rothe, Van Horne; John Zimmerman, Eldora.

Teachers receivedP: E.R. Kiekhaefer, Groth, Dubuque; Wilbur Joseph, Klinger; Willis Lindeman, Artesian.

Resignations: Pastors P.L. Bornhoeft, Cedar Rapids, and J. Bertram, Iowa City.

Received into their heavenly home were Pastors G. Schroeder and G. Rickels.

The convention went on record urging the consolidation of smaller congregations into one parish wherever practical. The Williamsburg and Victor circuits were recircuited into three so that the Mount Pleasant, Williamsburg, and Oskaloosa circuits were established.

New officers elected at this convention: Pastors Geo. Perlich, Second Vice-President; R.P. Young, Secretary of Missions; E.L. Runge, Secretary of Education; F. Ilten, Secretary of Institutional Missions; H.H. Kirchmann, Stewardship Secretary; Mr. P. Schmidt, chairman of the Board; E.A. Heiden, Financial Secretary; and Teacher F.R. Behnke, Secretary of Young People's Work.

New Circuit Visitors: Pastors Theo. Rottman, Dubuque; B.W. Bruch, Eldora; W. Tensmeyer, Mount Pleasant; L. Braeunig, Oskaloosa; M.F. Scheel, Westgate.

New congregations received: Redeemer, Ventura; Our Savior, Bettendorf; Concordia, Waterloo; Trinity, Knoxville; Grace, Montezuma; Calvary, Deep River.

A memorial marker at site of the Old Zion Lutheran Church near Beed's Lake north of Hampton was unveiled on Sept. 26. Zion was the first Lutheran church in Franklin County, and its three daughter congregations, Saint Paul's, Latimer; Immanuel, Grant Center; and Trinity, Hampton, made possible this marker. Our District congregations joined in the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) to help provide grains, foodstuffs, and money for overseas relief. A church music workshop was held at St. John's, Clinton. A 32-page booklet covering the history of our Lutheran Church in Iowa was made available through the efforts of Pastor L. Wuerrfel, then at Iowa City. The Rev. John Schliepsiek succeeded Pastor J. Bertram as our third institutional missionary at Iowa City.

## 1949

The year 1949 saw the birth of a new magazine in Synod, known as *This Day*. Our joint public relations committee with Iowa West made a presentation of a special copy of Governor Beardsley in Des Moines.

A number of new churches were completed and dedicated during the course of the year: Newhall; Bettendorf; Trinity, State Center, Mount Pleasant; Blairstown; Melcher; and at Marion the congregation dedicated its enlarged church. St. Paul's, Latimer, dedicated its new school.

Dr. Walter A. Maier appeared at a Lutheran Hour rally in Waterloo on April 24.

The District convention was held at Keystone, Aug. 15-18. Rev. F.A. Hertwig was the synodical representative. The essay, "The Savior in the State of Humiliation," was presented by Pastor John Choitz, Iowa City.

Pastors received into the District were: E.L. Stuempfig, Bennett; E.H. Widmann, Cedar Rapids; H.H. Frohn, Elkader; E.F. Heinicke, Evansdale; M.E. Pape, Hubbard; A.T. Kellerman, Latimer; A.H. Mette, Albia; R.M. Muhl, Immanuel, Williamsburg. Teachers received: H.C. Ohrman, Klinger; H.F. Stichweh, Conroy; K.A. Hufnagel, Immanuel, Waterloo; M.G. Watkins, Immanuel, Waterloo.

Resignations: Pastors H.F.C. Mueller, Herman Maas. Teachers W. Joseph, H.A. Winrich, E.J. Studt.

A Department of Public Relations was established for the District to be headed by an elected District chairman and assisted by a representative from each circuit. Pastor Walter S. Wendt of Belle Plaine was chosen to be the first chairman of Public Relations of the District.

The **LUTHERAN WITNESS** Supplement subscriptions were placed into the budget of the District. The matter of a full-time Stewardship-Mission-Education Secretary was tabled. Delegates to the 1950 convention at Milwaukee were elected. Citations were made to the four pastors present who had served as chaplains in the Armed Forces, and a medal was presented to each by a representative of the Armed Services Commission.

Because of illness Pastor Zabel resigned as Supplement editor. He was succeeded by Pastor George Koch. Rev. Walter D. Oetting of Waterloo succeeded Pastor C. Hesse as District President when the latter accepted a call outside the District.

The District convention of the Walther League was held at Belle Plaine as a one-day convention, with a large crowd of young people in attendance. On Dec. 7 the Public Relations Committee of the District was organized in a meeting at Cedar Rapids so that it could be a functional part of the District's machinery.

## 1950

The membership of the Iowa District East had grown to 32,231 in 1950 and included 22,190 communicants. There were 100 congregations in the District. Pastor L. Peter was commissioned as full-time Protestant state prison chaplain at Fort Madison. The Davenport Circuit Lutheran Schools held their first talent festival, which has become an annual affair since that time. The Home for the Aged Association acquired its first home at Vinton when it purchased the old hospital and an annex for \$35,000. They also bought an entire block of ground to serve as a park adjoining the home.

Many congregations began building new churches during the year. Grand Mound renovated and enlarged its church. Knoxville, with the help of a grant of \$6,000 from the District LWML, was able to complete its chapel. Shell Rock dedicated its new house of worship, and St. John's at State Center rejoiced at being able to have its own beautiful house of worship after many years

of doing without after fire had destroyed their church. Trinity at Clinton completed an addition to its church. Wilton Junction dedicated a new altar and a 1,300-pound bell.

The convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod elected President Herman Harms as First Vice-President of the Synod. This being a full-time position in the church, Pastor Harms bade farewell to Iowa to take up his new duties in St. Louis, Mo.

## 1951

During the year 1951 five new churches were dedicated in the District, namely, those at Homestead, DeWill, College Hill, Cedar Falls, Alden, and Grace, Waterloo. A new school was dedicated at Latimer, and Trinity in Ottumwa dedicated its enlarged facilities. Pastor Otto Nieting became the first superintendent of the Home for the Aged at Vinton.

The District convention was held at Trinity, cedar Rapids, Aug. 13-16, and was the first convention ever to meet in a tent. The synodical representative was Dr. Walter Lichtsinn, Third Vice-President of Synod. Essayist was Dr. John Choitz, continuing his essay on the Atonement.

Christ Church, Gladbook, became the 101<sup>st</sup> congregation in the District. Pastors received into the District were William Hilst, Fayette; O.H. Moll, Washington-Wellman; William Reddell, Klinger; M.V. Meyer, Buckeye; Fred Voigtmann, Luzerne; George Kupke, St. John's, Osage; Otto Schumacher, Bettendorf; H.W. Michels, Elma; William Weber, Shell Rock; Clarence Rabe, Oskaloosa; W.E. Bok, Deep River-Montezuma.

Teachers received were Arnold Werling, Newhall; Carl Rogahn, Klinger; and George Roggatz, Lowden.

Teacher H.S. Bertram of Lowden resigned.

Called to their eternal rest were Pastors Rudolph Juengel and William Zabel.

The convention set a basic minimum salary for pastors of subsidized congregations of \$200 per month, plus \$20 per month for each dependent child, plus \$25 per month for each place served for car allowance.

A Secretary of Adult Education was added to the elected officers of the District, who is to be a member of the Board of Directors.

The convention went on record together with Iowa West to invite Synod to locate its new Senior College in Iowa, an invitation which was not accepted.

The convention voted, at the request of the laymen, to permit laymen as well as pastors and teachers to attend the convention Communion service, beginning with the 1952 convention.

The convention recommended a continuation of holding sessions in a tent, as was inaugurated at this convention.



A Rural Life Commission of three members was authorized to be appointed by the Board of Directors of the District.

New officers elected at this convention were: Pastors W.D. Oetting, President; George Perlich, First Vice-President; Fred Ilten, Second Vice-President; R.P. Young, Secretary of Missions; L. Braeunig, Secretary of Education; H.J. Heilman, Secretary of Institutional Missions; H.H. Kirchman, secretary of Stewardship; Teacher F.E. Behnke, Secretary of Young People's Work; Mr. Robert Ilten, chairman of the Board; and E.A. Heiden, Financial Secretary.

New Circuit Visitors elected were Pastors O.T. Schreiber, Cedar Rapids; Theo. Eichelberg, Davenport; Theo. Rottman, Dubuque; B.W. Bruch, Eldora; W. Tensmeyer, Mount Pleasant; A. Bertram, Oskaloosa; H. Wolters, St. Ansgar; William Reddel, Westgate; and C. Schroeder, Williamsburg.

## 1952

The year 1952 was the year in which Synod's Conquest for Christ Crusade was held in an effort to raise 10 million dollars to meet the great challenge the Lord had placed before the church. The movie *All That I Have* was produced for showing as a part of this crusade. Our Iowa District East raised \$319,000 toward this fund.

Wellsburg and Gladbrook formed a joint parish under the pastorate of Dean Kasischke.

The Home for the Aged in Vinton, after being remodeled and redecorated, was dedicated on Aug. 3.

The District convention was held at St. Ansgar, Aug. 11-14. Dr. Arnold Grumm, Vice-President of Synod, represented Synod. Essayist was Prof. Alfred von Rohr Sauer, who spoke on "The Comfort of Christ's Exaltation, with Special Reference to Pertinent Passages of the Old Testament."

New pastors who entered the District were: M.H. Sonntag, Sumner Rural; R. Going, Burlington; D.P. Bergmann, Trinity, Osage; W.A. Reitz, Guttenberg; W.H. Schlie, Belle Plaine; H.H. Kespohl, Conroy; A.W. Mommens, McGregor; W.J. Nierman, Blairstown; K.F. Schroeder, Iowa Falls.

Teachers accepted into the District were: G.W. Brottmillier, Immanuel, Waterloo; C.W. Laabs, Trinity, Cedar Rapids; A.F. Winterstein, Luzerne; E.T. Mueller, State Center.

St. Mark's, Garrison, was received ad a member of Synod.

Pastor H.H. Kirchman resigned from the ministry, and Pastor Fr. Wolter entered into his eternal rest.

New and revised regulations governing the establishment of new mission congregations in the District were adopted. A student-service policy at Iowa City was also adopted.

New churches dedicated during 1952 were St. John's, Marengo; Immanuel, Waterloo; and the chapel at Wapello, which was erected with the assistance of an \$8,000 grant from the District Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Westgate enlarged and remodeled its church.

### 1953

The year 1953 marked the death of a former President of our Iowa District, Pastor Theo. Wolfram, and also the death of Pastor Walter Becker, superintendent of the Home-Finding Society for 28 years. Also departing this life were Pastors Theo. Schulz and P.L. Bornhoeft, both former well-known pastors of this District.

Rev. Harold Roschke of Waverly was appointed to fill out the vacancy as Secretary of Missions caused by the death of Pastor R.P. Young.

Four new churches were dedicated during the year. Lacona dedicated its new building in March; Keokuk, after worshipping for many years in a basement church, was able to build the superstructure; and the new congregation at Garrison completed construction of its new chapel. Our Savior at Bettendorf also completed its new stone structure.

St. Paul's, Williamsburg, completed work on its new school building so that it could be used shortly after the opening of the fall term of school.

A joint conference was held for the first time for the pastors and teachers of the Iowa East and West Districts at Lake Okoboji in August. The occasion was the beginning of the 75<sup>th</sup> observance of the organization of the Iowa District as a part of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod..

### 1954

This was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of the Lutheran churches of the State of Iowa into one District of Synod. The official date for the observance in the congregations was set for June 27. In connection with this celebration a historical sketch of every congregation in the District appeared in the supplement edition of the **Lutheran Witness**. The District convention in August also took recognition of this milestone of Lutheranism in Iowa with special historical essays. A special thankoffering for church expansion was raised during the course of the year.

The District convention was held at Immanuel, Waterloo, Aug. 16-19. Rev. Dr. F. Hertwig, Fourth Vice-President of Synod, represented Dr. Behnken. Essayists were Pastor George Vogel, Greenfield, Iowa, who presented an essay on "The History of Iowa District East from 1879 to 1936," and Pastor Walter S. Wendt, Davenport, on "The History of Iowa East from 1936 to 1954."

New pastors received into the District were: Walter Leckband, Jesup; A.K. Stenzel, Monticello; Alex Holm, Buckeye; N.M. Hasz, Dillon; R.F. Jaeger, Marengo; A.R. Allman, Osage (rural); G.E. Schubarth, St. Paul's, Williamsburg; W.C. Johannes, Washington-Wellman; J.L. Strelow, Readlyn; Hugo Hein, Melcher; Henry Bieberdorf, Fredericksburg.

New teachers: Dennis Klug, Klinger; Glenn Prange, Artesian; C.C. Mader, Newhall; and H. Einspahr, Latimer.

Called to their eternal rest: Pastors August Mueller, R.P. Young, and Herman Wolters.

Zion, Hiawatha, was organized and joined our Synod.

A change was voted by the District in the regulations regarding subsidized congregations, in which the District would pay off the indebtedness of the congregation if they would become self-supporting. As a result of this change in the mission policy the following congregations became self-supporting: Knoxville, Ventura, Bettendorf, Shell Rock, Keokuk, Oskaloosa, Shellsburg, Center Point, Deep River-Montezuma, What Cheer, Burlington, and Denver.

A special anniversary hymn composed by Pastor Martin Pape, Hubbard, was sung at this convention.

The convention also adopted rules for the organization of new mission stations.

The cost of sending convention delegates to the synodical conventions was from this time forth to be included in the District budget.

The publishing of the histories presented by the two essayists in book form was authorized by the convention to be financed from the District budget. The title of the book published as a result of this resolution and distributed among our congregations was *Seventy-five Years of God's Grace, 1879-1954*.

New officers elected at this convention were: Pastor I.G. Kitzmann, secretary of adult education; Pastor A.T. Kellerman, secretary of Christian education; Teacher Dennis Klug, secretary of young people's work; Harold Grover, chairman of the board; Walter Guenther, secretary of church extension; W.L. Hessemeyer, secretary of finance; E.A. Heiden, treasurer. New Circuit Visitors: Pastor John Zimmerman, Eldora; Alton Koch, Mount Pleasant; C.W. Rabe, Oskaloosa; Walter Schroeder, St. Ansgar; Edgar Brammer, Waterloo.

The Walther League held its first camp session at Camp Wapsie Y north of Cedar Rapids during the month of August. This has been the camp site of the league since that time.

St. John's at Victor was able to dedicate its new school during the course of the year. A new chapel was completed at Deep River, which the LWML of the District helped to make possible by donating \$5,000. The congregation at Lacona observed its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The 75<sup>th</sup>-anniversary offering from the District for church expansion brought in about \$20,000.

## 1955

On Feb. 13 Mr. Robert Ilten of Cedar Rapids, a former chairman of the District Board, entered his eternal rest.

Pastor August Stenzel of Monticello began doing extensive work among the prisoners at Anamosa Reformatory. Rev. William Ilten, Clinton, succeeded Rev. George Koch of Grand Mound as editor of the District Supplement.

The Mount Vernon-Lisbon congregation was officially organized. A Lutheran Nursing Home was established by the Lutheran Hospital Association of Hampton in that city. The Home for the Aged announced the purchase of the King's Daughter Hospital at Perry, which was to become its second home for the aged after remodeling for that purpose. The movie *The Unfinished Task* was made available to the congregations of the District in connection with the "Building for Christ" drive conducted throughout Synod.

The 13<sup>th</sup> convention of the Iowa District East was held at Alden, Aug. 15 to 18. Dr. Herman Harms, First Vice-President of Synod, represented Dr. John Behnken. The essayist was Dr. W. Birkner on "Christian Stewardship."

Pastors received into the District were: E.L. Brandt, Marion; A.W. Wilkening, Van Horne; John Nieman, Williamsburg (rural); E.C. Kleidon, Burlington; G.A. Mumm, Deep River; R. Underwager, Hiawatha-Mount Vernon; D. Braunersreuther, Evansdale; F. Kowert, Jesup; J. Wangerin, Fayette.

Teachers received into the District: J.A. House, State Center; H.E. Schmidt, Waterloo; E.E. Borcharding, Conroy; L. Haertling, Bremer, Theo. Abresch, Artesian.

Called to his eternal rest was Teacher Henry Stichweh of Conroy.

The newly organized congregation at Mount Vernon-Lisbon was received into membership with Synod.

This was the fourth convention to be held in a tent, and it was also noteworthy because at this convention a documentary film for posterity was made under the direction of the Public Relations Department, Charles Heff and Walter Fuchsteiner of Clinton doing the filming under the supervision of Pastor William Ilten of the Public Relations Department. This film was to be kept by the Department for use whenever desired by any of the congregations or its organizations.

The convention went on record endorsing the Preaching-Teaching-Reaching Evangelism mission and authorized our mission secretary together with the District contact man to implement this program of evangelism within our District.

The convention went on record to give the coming international convention of the Walther League in Ames in 1956 its prayers and moral support.

The convention saw the innovation of coffee breaks, which has been a custom since that time at District conventions.

Delegates to the synodical convention in St. Paul, Minn., were elected.

The District at this time numbered 36,705 souls, of whom 24,567 were communicant members. There were 24 day schools in the District, with an enrollment of 1,269 pupils. There were 98 Sunday schools, with an enrollment of 19,058, with 2,900 enrolled in Bible classes.

During the month of September St. John's at Clinton observed its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

St. James at Victor and Trinity at Osage rejoiced at the completion of their new churches during the year.

Holy Cross, Davenport, and the congregation at Elma did extensive remodeling and enlarging of their houses of worship.

A new school was dedicated at Conroy.

A number of congregations completed new parsonages for their pastors during the year.

## **1956**

The year 1956 marked the first time in the history of the church that the international Walther League held its convention in the State of Iowa. Although a previous attempt had been made to invite the convention to meet in our state, this was the first time that the invitation had been accepted. The campus of Iowa State University at Ames became the site of the convention. This was also the first time in the history of the Walther League that an international convention was held on a college campus. The success of this convention caused the Walther League to establish this as a definite policy for all future conventions.

Hosts to the convention were the Walther Leagues of Iowa District East and Iowa District West. A crowd of 6,500 people attended the opening convention service on Sunday afternoon, July 22, with Dr. John W. Behnken as the speaker. Highlighting the program were daily workshops, the Waltherletics program, which was a summer afternoon sports program, and a skip day in the form of the world's largest hay ride, in which 2,400 leaguers rode on 110 racks for an evening of fun and frolic after a chuck-wagon supper at Lodges State Park near Boone. A Choral Union concert presented by 350 voices marked the final portion of a history-making convention held within the confines of the Hawkeye State.

This was also a year when other joint projects with Iowa West came into being. A State Fair exhibit was established at Des Moines, which was to become an annual affair and which received good response on the part of the fair-goers. The Life of Christ art competition was held, in

which artists throughout the state were asked to enter with drawings and paintings centered around the life of Christ in the Four Gospels. The response was good, and a collection of about 30 pictures made up the first show, which was displayed in the various art museums and at colleges within the state.

A joint pastors' and teachers' conference was again held at Lake Okoboji with those of Iowa West late in the month of August.

During the course of the year our Public Relations representative presented a special certificate of appreciation to the TV stations for their courtesy in showing the Synod-produced program "This Is the Life" on their stations. This was on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of this program.

Christ Lutheran, a new mission, was begun in Cedarloo, located between Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

The congregation at Burlington purchased a Lutheran church near the downtown section of the city to take care of its growing needs. Trinity in Clinton purchased an apartment building, which was renovated into Sunday school and meeting facilities.

The congregation at Center Point and at Gladbrook dedicated new churches during the year.

Immanuel, Waterloo, dedicated its fine new parish school to help take care of their growing school enrollment.

## **1957**

Bethlehem Congregation of Mason City was added to the growing number of congregations of our District. They transferred to us from the Wisconsin Synod. Rev. C. Hinz is the pastor.

Work was begun in the northwest area of Cedar Rapids for the purpose of beginning Concordia Congregation. Center Point and Shellsburg became separate parishes, each having its own resident pastor.

The Life of Christ art display was scheduled for showings throughout the year in Iowa and was receiving wide acclaim from the art world. Walther League youth caravaners made their first appearance in our District during the course of the summer months. A division of town and gown at Iowa City was made so that Saint Paul's Chapel was to serve as a church for student work and the townspeople of Iowa City would become members of the newly organized Redeemer Congregation in the east section of Iowa City.

Rev. Frank Schultz of Hubbard succeeded Pastor William Ilten as editor of the District Edition when Pastor Ilten accepted a call to the congregation at Montebello, Calif.

A program called "Eternal News" was inaugurated over Station KXEL, Waterloo, by Pastor M.W. Bergmann. The congregation at Wilton Junction observed its centennial during the course of the year.

The District convention was held at Blairstown Aug. 12-15. Pastor Walter Lichtsinn, Third Vice-President of Synod, represented Dr. Behnken. The essay "The Liturgies and Music of the Lutheran Church" was presented by Dr. Walter Buszin of St. Louis.

Pastors received into the District included: W.D. Tolson, Grand Mound; G.A. Krengel, Oskaloosa; M.W. Bergmann, Grace, Waterloo; G.F. Meseke, Buckeye; W.M. Royer, Melcher; C.H. Gutekunst, Christ, Waterloo; W.B. Strandes, State Center (Rural); J. Constable, Iowa City, campus pastor; P.E. Bussert, Alden; W.E. Heddrich, Center Point; W.A. Ave-Lallemant, Readlyn; William Kucenski, Evansdale; George Fehl, Trinity, Clinton; Roy Radloff, Shell Rock; M.L. Russert, Osage; Robert Olson, Concordia, Cedar Rapids.

Pastors A.W. Brauer, W.S. Schreiber, and W.T. Wolfram resigned from the ministry to go into retirement.

Pastors Fred Starke and George Koch were called to their eternal rest.

Teachers received into the District were: Alvin Keil, Readlyn; Norbert Wenzel, Immanuel, Williamsburg; Marvin Brandt, Luzerne; L.J. Kurth, St. Paul, Williamsburg; Roger C. Laesch, Trinity, Cedar Rapids.

Teachers W.G. Horn and E. Kiekhaefer resigned from office, and H. Albrecht and H. Suhr went into retirement.

Christ, Waterloo; Our Redeemer, Iowa City; and Bethlehem, Mason City, were received into membership with Synod.

There were 11 congregations vacant at the time of the convention.

The convention went on record urging that all teaches called or hired for our day schools have certificates to teach in accordance with the laws of our state, and where they do not have them, that the congregations make it possible for their teachers to take summer courses so that they might obtain their certificates.

The Department of Adult Education urged the establishment of Bible institutes in our circuits. In response to this resolution the first Bible institutes began appearing in the District.

Qualifications were set up for the office of District school superintendent, including the fact that he was to be an advisory member of the District Board and also to promote effective preconfirmation religious instruction in our day schools.

In order to increase the funds in the church Extension Fund, a special campaign was authorized to be conducted by the Secretary of Church Extension, Mr. Hubert Fairchild, to join the "God's

Bank" program of Synod to get more people to loan money to the Church Extension Fund of Synod. In 1957 a goal of \$500,000 was set for the District.

The registration fee for delegates attending the convention was raised from \$8.50 to \$10.00. Expense money for convention choruses was to be received from the District treasury. A special committee to study the matter of honorariums was established and was to report to the next convention.

Circuit Visitors were authorized and made responsible for suggesting capable men from their circuit for District offices to the nominating committee before an election year.

The convention granted the request of the Southern Pastoral Conference to change its spring conference dates to either the second or third week after Easter.

The publishing of a booklet by the Missions, Stewardship, and Public Relations department of the District was authorized. The purpose of this book was to make available information for the orientation of new pastors entering the District.

The convention authorized the appointment of a committee of two to serve as the District Welfare Committee, which is to function in conjunction with Synod's Department of Social Welfare.

The convention also established a four-day in-service training workshop with half the cost to be borne by the District and half by the congregations. Training will deal with pastoral care and preaching.

A standing recruitment committee was authorized, which is to act as a clearinghouse for recruitment materials and to stimulate and solicit scholarship funds. The committee is to consist of the District President (ex officio), secretary of institutional missions, a teacher, a layman and women (advisory member). Committee to be appointed by the District President.

New officers elected at this convention were the following: Pastor R.M. Muhl, secretary of Christian education; John Constable, secretary of adult education; Otto Schumacher, secretary of institutional missions; Teacher Harold Schmidt, Waterloo, superintendent of schools; Dr. Walter Stromer, chairman of the board; Hubert Fairchild, secretary of finance.

New Circuit Visitors: Pastor Julius Koch, Cedar Rapids; William Redell, Dubuque; Carl Wuerffel, St. Ansgar; J.D. Wangerin, Westgate; John Nieman, Williamsburg.

The Williamsburg Circuit conducted a Reformation Festival rally at Marengo, commemorating the 440<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

The congregation at Vinton purchased a home near their church, which was remodeled into an educational building. Trinity in Cedar Rapids was privileged to dedicate its new school building and auditorium.



The congregations at Mount Vernon, Christ, Waterloo, and Hiawatha dedicated new churches during the year. Immanuel Congregation of Davenport completed and dedicated its education building and auditorium unit of their church plant with services to be held in the auditorium until they would be able to complete their church building sometime in the future.

The year ended with the sad news that our second President of the Iowa District East, Pastor Carl Hesse, had departed this life on Dec. 31.

## 1958

The year 1958 was a year in which probably more churches, schools, and additions were built within the District or extensively remodeled than in any other year in the history of the District.

Bethany, Cedar Rapids, dedicated its new church and parsonage; St. John's, Waverly, completed its church building; Redeemer, Marshalltown, dedicated its new house of worship. The congregation at Hampton dedicated its new educational unit, and Latimer built an addition to its school building. Grace, Waterloo, added an educational unit to its church structure.

St. John's, Monticello, did extensive remodeling and redecorating of its church, as did the congregations at Artesian and Bremer. There were about five or six ground breakings for new buildings also during the year.

The dual parish of Hiawatha and Mount Vernon was separated into two congregations, each now having its own pastor. The congregation at Hiawatha became self-supporting on July 1.

After many years of trying the Walther League was able to hold its first LSV school in the District at Cedar Falls Teachers College with good success.

Rev. Frank Schultz became full-time chaplain at the Eldora State Training School for boys.

The District convention was held at Immanuel, Waterloo, Aug. 11-14. For the first time in a number of years sessions were held in the spacious auditorium of Immanuel Lutheran School instead of in a tent.

Dr. John W. Behnken was the representative of Synod, and Dr. Oswald Waech, St. Louis, the essayist, speaking on evangelism. He heads the Evangelism Department of Synod.

Pastors received into the District: Otto Nuechterlein, Keystone; A.E. Bernthal, Deep River-What Cheer; C.G. Meyer, Reinbeck; N.T. Laesch, Marengo; E.W. Koberg, Trinity, cedar Rapids; Clarence Stenbeck, Elma; William Stock, Millersburg; H.T. Rosenberg, St. Paul's, Williamsburg; E. Moldenhauer, Klinger; Robert Wolff, Wellsburg-Gladbrook; Edgar Senne, Mount Vernon; Eugene Kramer, Saint Paul, Sumner; Gerald Milbrath, McGregor-Elkader.

Pastor William Nagler resigned to go into retirement.

Our first student pastor and institutional missionary at Iowa City, Pastor Julius Friedrich, was called to his eternal home.

New teachers: R. Frese, Homestead; Jerome Carlson, State Center; Glenn Offerman, Atkins; James Mannel, Saint John's, Clinton; Curtis Hagen, Latimer; Loren Rehmer, St. John, Victor; Donald Bublitz, Westgate. F. Helberg retired from the teaching profession.

Concordia, Cedar Rapids, became a member of the Synod at this convention.

The District had eight congregations without pastors at the time of the convention.

Rules for organizing a new mission congregation were brought up to date. The baptized membership of the District had now passed the 40,000 mark, with 27,161 communicants.

The convention authorized the administration of recruitment funds and scholarship funds for professional workers in the church be administered by the District Board through the Recruitment Committee. Amounts of scholarships were set at from \$100 to \$500, according to need.

The Church Extension loan drive report showed that loans amounting to nearly \$400,000 had been made to Synod's Church Extension Fund by June 1. The chairman was encouraged to keep the drive going so that the goal of \$500,000 might be reached by the end of the year.

The Board of Directors of Iowa East was authorized to hire an executive secretary to work under their supervision, and they also were authorized to establish a central office for the District.

New District regulations were authorized to be added to the synodical *Handbook*.

The convention also voted to hold the Communion service at its convention on Monday evenings of the convention and to open the convention with a regular business meeting and to hold the committee meetings on the afternoon of the opening date.

Delegates for the San Francisco convention in 1959 were elected.

## 1959

Five circuits of the District held PTR missions in the course of the year – Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Westgate, Williamsburg, and Oskaloosa. All of them proved quite successful.

A pastors' "In Service" workshop of preaching was held at the continuation center at Iowa University in Iowa City. The pastors attending agreed that they had profited greatly by their attendance. They voted to ask the District to plan another future workshop on some other phase of pastoral work at a future date.

The synodical convention at San Francisco made room in its exhibit hall for a showing of the Iowa Life of Christ Art Display. Several thousand people had occasion to view this display.

Three men from Iowa East were elected to serve on synodical boards. They were Pastor Elmer Koberg, Cedar Rapids, on the Board for Missions to the Deaf; Hubert Fairchild, Marshalltown, Board for Support and Pensions; E.A. Heiden, Osage, on the Nominating Committee.

The Rev. Clemens Schroeder succeeded Pastor John Schliepsiek as institutional missionary at Iowa City.

Congregations completing new houses of worship during the year were Immanuel, Williamsburg; Our Redeemer, Iowa City; and the congregations at Reinbeck and Lowden.

St. John's at Hubbard dedicated its new church and education building.

St. Paul's, Luzerne, renovated its church in preparation for the Centennial observance during the month of July.

The congregation at Keystone dedicated its new education building, as did the congregation at Eldora. Trinity in Davenport completed its new school as the first unit of its building program.

The congregation at Millersburg improved its church plant, and the congregation at Fairbanks build an addition to its church.

## 1960

The year 1960 began with the congregation of the Davenport Circuit preparing to hold their PRT mission during the month of February. Like the others held in the District, it proved highly successful.

St. Paul's, Sumner, conducted what they called Operation Toy Lift. This was a venture on the part of the ladies and the young people of the congregation to repair and make some 850 toys to be sent at Christmas time for use as gifts to the Lutheran children attending the community centers in St. Louis, Mo.

The District convention held at Lowden had its session in a tent Aug. 15-18. Synodical representative was Pastor Arthur Nitz, Fourth Vice-President of Synod. The essay, titled "Reconstructing Confirmation for Our Day," was presented by Dr. Arthur Repp, St. Louis seminary professor.

Pastors received into the District were: Ervin Vaut, Spring Fountain; Eugene Kramer, St. Paul, Sumner; Wm. Chellow, Osage, rural; Wm. Jording, Keokuk; Arnold Griesse, Latimer; C.C. Gutekunst, Monticello; Wm. Thurber, Guttenberg; Marion Pierson, Deep River-What Cheer; Martin Hoyer, Center Point; Edward Lange, Shellsburg; Arthur Bliese, Lacona-Melcher; Norman Betke, Fayette; Donald Hoeferkamp, Delaware; Walter Marth, Concordia, cedar Rapids; Laurence Stacy, Belle Plaine; E.A. Wiedbusch, Bettendorf; Martin Mueller, Fredericksburg; Marcus Zill, Cedar Rapids; Kenneth Rogahn, new mission at Dubuque; Donald Krumsieg, Artesian-Bremer; Alfred Bertke, Washington-Wellman; Marvin Clausen, Garrison.

Resigning to go into retirement were Pastors John Schliepsiek, P.W. Happel, and H. Heilman.

Teachers entering the District were: Donald Frank, Readlyn; W. Bergdolt, Lowden; Ivan Hirsch, St. John, Clinton; H.W. Hennig, Evansdale; Dale Smith, Cedar Rapids, Trinity; David Held, Immanuel, Waterloo; Lavern Ventzke, St. John, Victor; and Billy Dieckhoff, Trinity, Davenport.

New missions were reported to have been begun at Fort Madison, Dubuque, and Newton.

Some changes were made in the regulations governing ministerial student scholarships. A policy for loans to deaconess students was also established.

The Rev. Marcus Zill, who had accepted the call into the District as the first full-time man in the District as Co-ordinating Counselor, was installed in the educational service held at the convention. He has established his headquarters at Cedar Rapids, which is also the District office headquarters.

The office of Secretary of Evangelism was established. He is to be a voting member of the Board of Directors. The Evangelism Secretary was instructed to arrange for a Districtwide PTR in 1962.

The convention authorized another "In Service" workshop to cover some phase of pastoral work, to be held in the spring of 1962.

The convention went on record as endorsing the effort of a special group of Lutherans within the District to establish and purchase a camp for use by District and congregational organizations.

The observance of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iowa District East was authorized for 1961. The District President was to appoint a special committee to make suitable arrangements.

New officers elected at the convention were: Pastor Walter Schlie, Secretary of Missions; Arthur Lindner, Secretary of Institutional Missions; and Eldon Brandt, Secretary of Evangelism.

George W. Pillers, chairman of the Board; John Heinz, Secretary of Church Extension; Herbert Blume, Secretary of Finance; Marvin Brandt, Superintendent of Schools.

New circuit counselors: John Nieman, Davenport Circuit; Walter Nierman, Mount Pleasant; H. Roschke, Waterloo; Fred Kowert, Westgate; Martin Sonntag, Williamsburg.

The Rev. John Schultz gave up the chaplaincy at Eldora to accept a call into the parish ministry. The vacancy was not filled by one of our men. A pastor from another group was chosen by the Board of Control.

The congregation at Marion was the only one to dedicate a church in 1960.

## 1961

The year 1961 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Iowa District East. A special committee made arrangements to observe this occasion during the year. The main observance was scheduled for Sept. 24, when all congregations planned to take note of this occasion. The District convention also took note of the silver anniversary through the presentation of a historical pageant written and directed by Pastor Marcus Zill and through an historical essay. The pages of the Iowa East Edition of the **Lutheran Witness** carried a brief history of the past 25 years during the months of July through November. The District also gathered a special offering for church expansion and recruitment of full-time workers from the District.

The beginning of the year saw five congregations in the Cedar Rapids area participating in a Spiritual Life mission to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their congregations.

Harold Schmidt and family of Waterloo left for Hong Kong, where Mr. Schmidt was to continue his work in the service of the Lord as a teacher.

The year 1961 also marked the preparation on the part of the congregations of the District for the Tri-State Lutheran Open House Week to be held in February 1962. District participating were to be the Iowa East, Iowa West, and Northern Nebraska.

The first Districtwide Lutheran parochial school talent festival was held in 1961.

This year also marked the use of circuitwide Bible institutes to a greater extent than ever before as a means of training our members to have a better knowledge of the Bible and Bible application. Nearly 750 were enrolled in these Bible institutes.

The Lutheran Laymen's League sponsored a successful Lutheran Hour rally at Cedar Rapids, with 4,500 in attendance. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Lutheran Hour speaker, addressed the gathering as the main speaker. Also appearing on the program was our Lutheran governor, Norman Erbe.

Pastor William Krueger became the new superintendent of the Home for the Aged Association.

The District convention was held at Hubbard, Aug. 14-17. Dr. Herman Harms represented the Synod. Dr. Lewis Spitz, St. Louis, presented the essay on "Dr. Walther Continues the Reformation." The Rev. Harold Roschke presented an historical essay on "The 25-Year History of Iowa District East."

New pastors received into the District were Kenneth Krahn, Fredricksburg; Walter Streicher, Immanuel, Williamsburg; Roger Hake, Oskaloosa; Roger Lange, Delaware; Paul Eggold, Luzerne; Larry Brelje, Newton; Patrick Cruppenick, Christ, Waterloo; and Edward Dohrman, Newhall.

Teachers received into the District were Raymond Flesch, Wilton Junction; E.C. Heinrichs, Atkins; Clarence Aufdemberge, Klinger; James Balzer, Conroy; Walter Schmitz, Artesian.

Pastors F. Herman Kretschmar and A. Brauer were called to eternal rest, as were two former pastors of the District, M. Scheel and Ed Frese.

The Rev. Ed. Grummer retired from the ministry.

The congregation at Evansdale became self-supporting. New missions at Dubuque, Newton, Fairfield, Fort Madison, and Muscatine were in various stages of organization.

The Rev. George Fehl, Clinton, became the new Stewardship Secretary to succeed Pastor B. Bruch, who accepted a call to another District.

The membership of the District had grown by this time to 45,195 souls, of whom 29,751 were communicants. The membership of our District nearly doubled during these past 25 years.

In the course of the past months we have endeavored to give you some of the highlights of the things that have happened in our District. Certainly there is much for which we would thank God with hearts and hands and voices. But we are wasting time if we stop long to ponder and reminisce upon the past or to stand still on its record. Before us lie unlimited challenges to continue working fervently in God's vineyard in the eastern half of Iowa. To project our thinking toward tomorrow our Co-ordinating Counselor Marcus Zill will present the concluding section of this historical sketch.

"The future is now." With these words Dr. O.C. J. Hoffmann painted the church in the years to come. Pointing to the Lord's words to the disciples in John 4, our Master said: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? Behold I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest."

The future is opening to us. Tomorrow is now. Not four months or four years from now. We look into the future of the Iowa District East. We need not look for brighter days. The Lord spoke to few more than the Twelve, and as He looked at the pagan Roman empire He said, "The fields...are white already to harvest." What would He say today of our District, with 45,000 soldiers in this Eastern Iowa division of the army of Christ? The numbers to be harvested, the number of workers, the acceptance of the Gospel message, all offer a far more favorable climate for "bringing in the sheaves" than in the days when Christ warned the disciples to stop speaking of waiting another four months to the harvest.

During the past months these columns, our services, our prayers, have been calling attention to the blessings of the Lord throughout the history of the Iowa District East and more particularly in the past 25 years. Let's summarize those blessings again. Where are we now?

We are founded on the Word of God... "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Cornerstone." (Eph. 2:20). And this Word of God, our unfailing guide, is the "power of God unto salvation."

Our power for present and future is the same that we have drawn on in the past...that of the Holy Spirit.

Yes, we stand on the threshold of the future...founded on the Word...this is our heritage; filled with the Spirit...this is our power working for Christ...He is our Lord and Master.

My assignment is to portray the future for you...the 25 years that lie ahead. You will be looking for specifics, and I'll give them to you.

In 1986, when our District celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of God's grace, it will have more than doubled its present communicant strength. There will be 100,000 baptized souls, of whom 65,000 will be communicants.

But unlike many urban District, Iowa East will not have doubled the number of pastors. Consolidation of parishes will in some measure offset the added clergy that will be needed to open new missions in the flourishing cities as well as in the strategic areas where our church has not yet reached.

The coming year will bring several multiple ministries to the larger parishes. The current use of secretaries will seem to multiply in the years ahead. While only five parishes employ full-time secretaries now, almost every congregation with 500 communicants or more will employ a secretary full-time at the end of the coming quarter century.

Whereas secretaries will relieve the pastor of much of the office and paper work, additional full-time workers will take their places on the parish staffs alongside the pastors and teachers. These workers will include parish workers, business managers, deaconesses, vicars, and directors of Christian education. The use of trained full-time lay workers will enable one pastor to serve several parishes that would otherwise have to close or drop out of existence as effective agencies of service and outreach in smaller communities.

Side by side these dedicated men and women of God will work with the church as the community of the concerned. They will reach out with the Gospel message to more than half a million people in our District who belong to no Christian church. They will seek the Lord's harvest in the growing metropolitan areas. They will serve and gather the Lord's sheep in the town and country areas with declining populations.

We have thanked God for His grace in enabling us to add more than 25 new congregations during the first quarter century of our District's existence. But even now, as we just enter the second quarter century, we find the doors opening wider than ever before. Five new fields have been entered in 1961 alone—Newton, Grinnell, Fairfield, Muscatine, Oelwein. This points to a future of expanding mission activity. Already half a dozen communities seem to be crying for the establishment of new missions, and many more will do so in the years to come.

While current policies have served well in establishing missions, the Board of Directors will constantly study the most effective means of financing and establishing new mission fields. During the coming 25 years special attention will be given to the mission of the town-and-

country church. These strategic areas that feed the cities also have the mission to reach their unchurched neighbors with the Gospel and to train their youth for real Kingdom service and leadership. Thus they will be not only workers in the Kingdom but also trainers of workers that will work elsewhere when they leave the town-and-country scene.

Yes, few, if any, will be the churches that will not have gone through a major building or remodeling program by Iowa East's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Increasing rises in cost as well as sound stewardship will spur the greater usage of nonworship space in the church buildings for multiple purposes. Separate rooms for separate agencies will become a thing of the past. No longer will there be rooms that will be the exclusive domain of the Sunday school, Christian day school, and other agencies or organizations. The small "cubbyhole" sacristy made possible by a chancel balanced by an organ chamber on one side with a small extra room on the opposite side, will be a thing of the past. Offices will no longer appear in parsonages. Suites of offices for the pastor, church secretary, and others will come into existence to allow the church staff to adequately study, work, serve, and lead the church as the "army of God."

While any attempt to predict giving would have to be based on income, we would choose to talk of percentages rather than dollars. At present the giving level of our people is approximately 3 per cent of their income for all purposes of Kingdom work. Even as the members will grow in grace and dedication to the Lord, 1982 will see Iowa East's members giving an average of 6 per cent of their income for home and worldwide Kingdom purposes. The giving will double in the 25 years in front of u.

Real progress, probably the most important, will be made in the area of education and evangelism during the coming decades. An increasing strengthening of the emphasis on the study of God's Word will continue. This will take place in the individual life, in the family circle, and the congregational program. By 1982 35 per cent of the communicants will be active in the group Bible study program of the church, 40 per cent of the eligible children will be enrolled in the stronger Christian day schools in the District, and 98 per cent of the preconfirmation children will be enrolled and active in the nursery classes and Sunday school program.

As the world draws closer to the "coming of the Lord," there will be increasing evangelistic concern on the part of the members. There will be an awareness that the church as an organized group might not always exist. More and more Christians will actively proclaim Jesus as Savior and Lord in their lives and through their words.

Yes, Iowa District East looks ahead, founded on God's pure Word, filled with God's Holy Spirit, working for Christ, our Lord and Master.

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