

- District Convention—Photo Retrospective
- Sumner Anniversaries
- Confirmations Within IDE



MISSION: THE CHURCH IN MOTION

Calendar 2015

August

29 Worship Workshop

September

3 Circuit Visitor Catechesis
7 Labor Day (District Office Closed)
9 Schools Committee
10 Missions Committee
17 Worship Committee
21 Stewardship and Congregational Services Committee

October

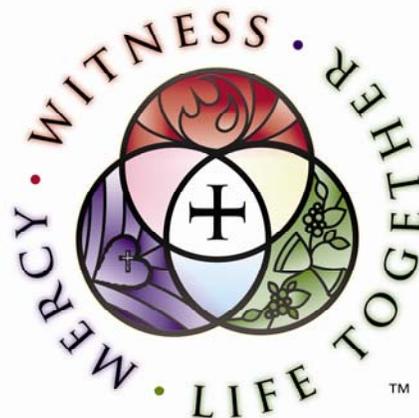
5-6 Fall Pastors Conference
9-10 Confirmation Retreat
15-16 Teachers Conference
18 Life Presentation—Hiawatha
23-24 Pastors' Wives Retreat
27 District Board of Directors

November

7 LWML Board
20-21 Senior High Retreat
26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday (District Office Closed)

December

24-31 Christmas Holiday—District Office Closed



IDE Update

Calling Congregations:

Mason City, Messiah - Clarke Frederick
(vacancy pastor)
Ottumwa, Trinity—Kevin Saylor (vacancy pastor) -
Calling From Seminary
Ventura, Redeemer - Scott Kozisek (vacancy pastor)
Waterloo, Grace - Pastoral Transition

Call Update:

Pending:

Mark Brase, Fairfield to Baldwin, IL
Jordan McKinley, Stanwood/Bennett to
Breckenridge, MN

Declined:

Grant Bode, New Ulm, MN to Redeemer, Ventura

DCE/School/Teacher Calls:

Vacancies:

Trinity, Davenport—Preschool Teacher
Readlyn, Community – Principal

Accepted:

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders

Over the past 5 editions of IDE Today I have been expanding on the use of Matthew 18:15-18 for the sake of caring for the most important members of the congregation. The most important members are those brothers and sisters who have sinned against Christ and their neighbor but remain in an impenitent condition. As we have learned, the goal of Matthew 18:15-18 is to bring an erring member to repentance for the purpose of bestowing the power filled grace of God in Holy Absolution. As Jesus told his disciples post resurrection "repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations." Every time we are given the privilege to proclaim the forgiveness of sins upon a sorrowful soul this Word of Jesus continues in our midst.

This is meant to bring us comfort and strength to carry out the Lord's bidding. Jesus concludes this section in Matthew 18 with more words of comfort. In verses 19-20 (the concluding verses of this section) Jesus says "Again, I tell you if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." These two verses are said in the context of verses 15-18 which speak to the need to rescue the wandering church member.

In our day and age of "bigger is better" Jesus is making a point that brings us comfort. God the Father will hear the prayer and bless the efforts of a group even as small as two or three in the church. We would never question God's attention given to a matter where a large assembly makes requests but to do so for such a few may not be important enough for Him (so our Old Adam thinks). There is nothing more important than the salvation of the souls He died to save. He is not content with a majority of the people or even a percentage of more than 10. Jesus died to pay for the sins of all people and rose from the dead to prove to the world He is there one and only Savior. When two in the church pray for a lost (or a soul heading in the wrong direction) the Father in heaven hears and listens to the prayer because His resurrected Son is in the midst of the church. We pray to and through Christ and as such God the Father hears us. The importance of this text is not the number, large or few, of the disciples present but on the promise of He in whose Name the church gathers.

Matthew 18:15-20 is a compliment to chapter 7:1-6. There we are told that your brother or sister in the church is as precious to you as a "holy thing" or a "great pearl". Therefore we care for them, we do not cast them out. Every effort is made that they may repent of their sin and return to the fold. If and when the many efforts of love are rejected verse 17 allows for the most drastic step in order to show them the seriousness of their sin. This section of verses is about one thing and one thing only: caring for a needy, wandering, sinning brother or sister.

If you have missed my efforts to expound on this very vital text you can go to the IDE website and look up the past editions. They may be helpful for bible class or catechetical reminder of the biblical guidance and directive to rescue the most important members of our churches.



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

IDE Re-elects Saunders president

Delegates to the LCMS Iowa District East (IDE) convention, June 26-27 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, elected the **Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders** of Cedar Rapids by acclamation to his third three-year term as district president.

This was the district's 39th convention.

Also elected were:

- **Rev. W. Max Mons**, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center, Iowa City, Iowa, newly elected as first vice-president. He has been the Cedar Rapids South circuit visitor since 2006.
- **Rev. Dr. Matthew W. Rueger**, pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Hubbard, Iowa, second vice-president. Rueger previously (2002-15) was the district's first vice-president.

Saunders and other elected officers were installed during the convention's closing service.

Under the convention theme of "Witness, Mercy, Life Together — Mission: The Church in Mission" — based on Acts 8:1 — delegates adopted resolutions to:

- ask the president of the Synod to convene a task force to review and evaluate the Synod's dispute-resolution process.
- establish and support an IDE Missions Sunday each April.
- publicize and promote triennial circuit convocations.
- protect IDE representation in LCMS elections — pertaining to statistical requirements for electoral circuits, as addressed in LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2.
- re-examine and increase direct IDE financial support of the Synod.
- make geographical adjustments to the district's Cedar Rapids South and Williamsburg circuits.
- make minor changes to the district bylaws concerning recommended changes from the Synod and reorganizing district committees.

Other convention highlights included:

- the convention essay presented by the Rev. Randall Golter, special assistant to the Synod president. Golter is leading the Synod's celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and its "Preach the Word" initiative. He spoke on the Church, life together in Christ and how the Church's mission flows from local altars and congregations.
- the Synod president's report, given by the Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, LCMS second vice-president, who served as LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison's representative to the convention. Wohlrabe also answered questions from delegates.
- a presentation by the Rev. Daniel S. Johnson, catechist to Eurasia for the LCMS Office of International Mission, on his work in Siberia and other international mission efforts of the Synod.

This year, for the first time, IDE convention delegates were able to register online. They also experienced drastically reduced time for votes to be tallied, with the introduction of digital-voting keypads.



Mission: The Church in Motion

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild

The theme Bible passage for our recently completed District Convention was Acts 1:8, **“but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”** All of the witnesses are gone but the Church and her mission remains. The Church is sent to proclaim the message of Christ Jesus, crucified and risen for the justification of the world. The Church never has to wonder what her mission is but must be faithful in engaging the world with the Gospel and thus be “The Church in Motion.”

So what does that look like in your congregation? How does Christ’s mission flow from the altar and pulpit where His people are fed and sent out into the world? It has a unique look in every place where God’s people are gathered as a church throughout our District. It is the same Word and Sacraments which forgive sins and then sends God’s people out into the world where the gifts have their fruition.

As a District there are certain things that we have committed to do together. While it was in the planning stages at our 2012 convention, St. Silas Lutheran Church was formed and received into Synod in January of 2014. They have a good location in North Liberty and Pastor Andy Richard continues to faithfully preach God’s Word and administer the Lord’s Supper each Sunday. They are receiving subsidy from the District to help them get established.

The 2012 convention authorized the Proclaiming Christ Jesus capital campaign to help with new church starts in the District. The goal was a minimum of \$600,000 over 5-7 years. As of this writing we have received a total of \$541,000 in gifts and future intentions. We thank God for the generosity of congregations and individual donors who have contributed to this. The District mission committee continues to look at other possible new mission starts.

From our District budget we support a variety of ministries through Iowa District East. We heard excellent presentations on Saturday afternoon at the convention. One delegate remarked, I never realized that our District was involved in all of these missions!

Rev. Tim Eckert serves as the Pastor of Word of God Lutheran Church. His work is among the deaf community throughout Iowa District East. He holds Divine Service on Sundays both in Cedar Rapids and in Davenport. He also has various preaching and teaching stations throughout the District. Our District is one of only about 3 which provide funding for work amongst the deaf. They too need to receive the Gospel through the signed Word and the Sacraments.

Lutheran East Side mission is being served by Pastor Dave Anderson and by Jeannie Mirfield. The mission also has a whole host of volunteers who help in the many tasks. The children of God gather for the Divine Service each week. Other activities include: Ladies Bible Study, the after school program, Junior/Senior High School Youth Program, The ESL program, in the Spring they host a Spanish Bible study. They also host an eight week Children’s summer program. They have a food pantry which is open the fourth Sunday of the month. They also operate a clothing closet. This is a faithful mission which exhibits The Church in Motion, in areas of Witness, Mercy, and Life Together.

College Hill Lutheran in Cedar Falls is a congregation which serves the students attending UNI. Rev. John Wegener has served there for 8 years. They have been blessed with good student leaders. Not only does the permanent congregation receive the gifts of God on Sunday mornings but also those who are students at UNI. For the past number of years some of the students have engaged in some sort of mission service event over their spring break.

Rev. Max Mons has served at St. Paul’s Chapel in Iowa City since July of 2001. They have excellent student leadership as well. I had opportunity to teach a Bible Class at the Chapel back in December. I was informed that at least three or four of the young men in attendance were planning on attending the seminary. What a blessing this is to the future work of Christ’s Church.

Our two campus ministries have been fertile grounds for encouraging young men to attend the

seminary. I can think of three pastor's serving in our district who were active in our campus ministries while in college: Rev. Chris Gorshe and Rev. Chris Lockie are products of College Hill Lutheran and Rev. Troy Peperkorn was involved at St. Paul's Chapel. God be praised for our campus ministries!

We are blessed to have Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca sitting in the middle of our District. This is a solid Lutheran Camp which has excellent leadership and a committed Camp Board. Many physical improvements have been made over the last years and the Camp usually serves as the meeting place for our Fall Pastor's Conference. Hats off to Camp Director Daniel Sanchez and Site Manager, Mr. Paul Moritz. The Pastor of the week program continues to provide excellent spiritual guidance each week. Please consider having your Pastor serve in that capacity as it is a wonderful opportunity to interact with the youth of our district.

Rev. Michael Musick of Luzerne has been providing visitation at the UI hospitals for a number of years. He is putting in 20 hours a week. We are grateful that LCMS people can be served by an LCMS chaplain. It is a wonderful service that we can provide but is no substitute for the calls on members by their own Pastor. **Our members need to be sure that they register as LCMS when they enter the hospital.**

New to our District budget in 2015 was a line item to help provide worship space for the Lutheran congregation in Saville Spain. We are also providing direct missionary support for four missionaries, three of whom were called by the Office of International Mission from congregations in our District to serve in other places: Rev. Dan Johnson, Catechist to Russia and the Baltics, Rev. Mike Paris, Macau, and Rev. Arthur Rickman, Latin America and the Caribbean. Rev. David Warner is now serving as a missionary to Spain and will be working with all of the congregations in Spain.

As your congregation continues to be involved in Mission: The Church in Motion, may God lead and direct your efforts and may you never lose sight of the promise of Jesus. **“And I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gate of Hades shall not over power it.”** Matthew 16:18.



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

Capital Campaign

(As of: 07-13-15)



Proclaiming Christ Jesus!

Luke 24:46-47

Update

Gifts received to date:

\$500,008

Gifts promised in next 1-8 years:

\$40,750

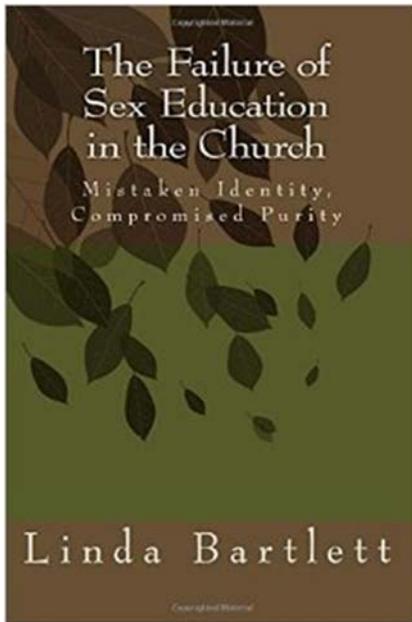
Total to date:

\$ 540,758

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

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

From the District Life Coordinator



READ THIS BOOK:

The Failure of Sex Education in the Church: Mistaken Identity, Compromised Purity

By Linda Bartlett

Dear saints in Christ Jesus:

This book is desperately needed at this critical time in our life together as the Church in this society. Linda investigates the secular humanist ideology of sex education and how it has infiltrated our churches and schools. Instead of self-identifying as “sexual” beings, we should see ourselves as God sees us: holy, washed, redeemed sons and daughters of God.

Here is a review of the book from our District President Brian Saunders:

“In her latest book Linda Bartlett asks the same question St. Paul did to the Church at Colosse. In Colossians 2:20 Paul asks “Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules?” Linda’s research on this topic is second to none. She uncovers the perversity of the Kinsey Report, Margaret Sanger of Planned Parenthood, and Mary Calderone of SIECUS which have become the standard authorities on sexuality in America today. Linda points out how the Christian Church has adopted and accepted some of the basic tenets of these worldly voices when it comes to sex education. This book challenges the Church to return to instruction concerning purity, order of creation, family and faith. She beckons the Church back to a biblical understanding of humanity and the limits of the young mind to understand sexual content. Her critique is not without recommendations to correct this downward trend in our society. I find her insights to be compelling and her use of Biblical narrative to be in accord with the Lutheran Confessions. This is a must read, and I do mean a must read for parents, pastors and teachers of the Church.”

Find the book at www.amazon.com (paperback or Kindle). Learn what pastors, parents, and educators are saying about the book at www.ouridentitymatters.com.

Contact: lindabartlett@mchsi.com

Come also to hear Linda speak on the topic of our identity this fall at a congregation near you!

Rev. Alex Post
District Life Coordinator
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Marshalltown, IA

District Convention



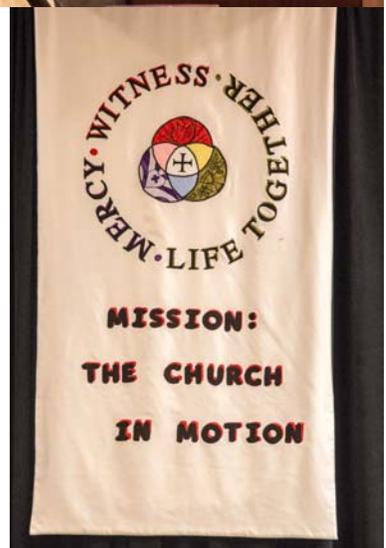
“but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses ...



Photo Retrospective



...both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8



St. John's/St. Paul's—Sumner

ST. JOHN'S (SPRING FOUNTAIN), SUMNER, CELEBRATES 140TH ANNIVERSARY

On the morning of Sunday, June 7, the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church (Spring Fountain), rural Sumner, celebrated their 140th anniversary with a special service of thanksgiving. With some 160 people in attendance, the service included the dedication of the elevator and entrance ramp that had been completed recently, providing handicap accessibility to the church. Following the service, a hearty turkey dinner was enjoyed by all.



The congregation also noted the 35th ordination anniversary of their pastor, the Rev. George A. Volkert, as well as the over 25 years he has served their parish. Pastor Volkert was ordained on June 8, 1980, at his home church, Trinity, Odebolt, Iowa. He was installed as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church (Spring Fountain) and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sumner, on October 29, 1989.

The guest preacher for the occasion was the Rev. Albert H. Buelow of West Des Moines. Pastor Buelow was serving Trinity, Odebolt, during Pastor Volkert's seminary years and at the time of his ordination.

The members of St. John's rejoice and give thanks to God for all his steadfast love and mercy shown to us through all these years. We praise the Lord for preserving to us his holy Word and sacraments, and for providing us faithful pastors to preach his Word in truth and purity.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SUMNER, TO CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sumner, will celebrate their 100th anniversary with a special service on Sunday, September 27. The anniversary service which will be held at 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Alvin Jeske, a former pastor of the parish, will serve as the guest preacher for the occasion. Friends and former members are cordially invited to attend the service

LWML IED & New Hope—Charles City

New Hope of Charles City joined the LCMS on April 21, 2012. The congregation leased property from the Evangelical Free Church in Charles City, and found itself in need of an organ, laptop computer, and a laser printer.

During the 2014-2016 convention of the LWML Iowa East District, a mission grant for startup funds was approved. On May 30, 2015 I had the privilege to worship with the congregation and present them with a check to complete the \$5,600 mission grant goal.



Through the faithful giving of LWML women, and by the grace of God, many missions have benefited from our mite offerings. This biennium, the LWML IED's goal is \$93,406.00. At this time, we have paid out half of this goal. A complete list of the LWML-IED Grants for the current biennium can be viewed online at <http://lwml-ied.org/mission-grants/>.

St. Paul—Delaware



These photos were submitted by Pastor Donald Krause of St. Paul—Delaware. They are pictures of two groups of new members that the congregation has added within the last year.

We hope that this will be an encouragement to our smaller congregations and show that even they can experience new growth in those who come to receive the gifts of God given in Word and Sacrament.

Immanuel Davenport

Immanuel announces with gratitude to our Almighty God the celebration of our 90th anniversary. We would like to invite all past and present members to a reunion homecoming celebration at 6:00 pm October 24, 2015 (following 5:00 worship) featuring food, fellowship, memorabilia and sing along. We will also have special-themed services at 9:00 am Sundays for the whole month of October, as well as October 25 at 3:00pm. We hope you can join us!

Rev. Chris Lockie (pictured with wife Corrine, children Levi, Anna, and Katie) now serves Immanuel since 2010. If you have attended Immanuel we would love if you could come help us celebrate the bounty with which God has blessed us in these past 90 years!



College Hill—Cedar Falls



As always, the students of College Hill Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls had the pleasure of going on a mercy trip for Spring Break this year. Deciding to break away from the recent trend of visiting camps, this year 13 students and our campus director travelled to Cooksville, TN to help out with Habitat for Humanity. Getting there late Saturday night, our work began on Monday with installing cabinets and finishing up a shed. The next day we headed to the second house we worked on and the one we spent most of our week on. When we showed up on Tuesday we

arrived to four walls on top of a foundation, but that quickly changed. After the tresses were put up we managed to get the roof on just in time for the rain. While the brave souls up on the roof were doing that, others were finishing up insulation and putting in the windows for the house. In just our short three and a half days at the house, huge progress was made.

As our reward for our hard work, we treated ourselves to a day in Nashville. We visited sites like the Tennessee state capital and Broadway St. The UNI men's basketball team played the day we went to Nashville, so over lunch we were able to watch the game. Throughout the afternoon we continued to explore the downtown area. For dinner we experienced some of the best barbeque in Nashville. Finally before heading back to Cooksville, we went to Nashville Central Park and saw the Parthenon (a replica of the actual Parthenon in Greece).

All in all, the trip was not only a good break from classes but refreshing as well. As always this trip would not have been possible without the support that we receive from the congregation of College Hill and many other individuals. With that we thank the churches in our district for your continued support of campus ministry.



Confirmations



Two young adults were confirmed at **St. John—Keystone** on Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 at a service officiated by Rev. Andy Wright. They included Trinity Schnor and Keane Hermsen.



Four young people were confirmed at **St. Stephen—Atkins** in May of 2015.



Left: Confirmation Day, March 29, 2015 at **St. Andrew, Van Horne**. Pictured (L to R) Ben Parmenter, Desiree Kerkman, Rev. David Lingard, Sydney Williams and Eyan Garbers.



Immanuel in Grand Mound held Confirmation on Palm Sunday. Hunter Wright was confirmed by Pastor Steven Anderson.



Above: Confirmation at **St. Paul—Mt. Vernon** April 26, 2015 Adults: Pastor Sean Hansen, Crysten Sanchez-Youth Director Confirmands (l-r): Kate Margheim, Gunnar Hageman, Haley Hepker.

2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering

The 13th Annual LCMS National Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2016 in New Orleans, LA with the theme of “In Christ Alone”.

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



Vinton Lutheran Home

Having as its mission “Providing Quality Christian Care”, the Lutheran Home of Vinton (30 miles NW of Cedar Rapids) is in its 63rd year of serving adults with special needs that come with aging.

Supplementing excellent physical care given at the home is spiritual care provided through God’s Word and the Sacraments. Specific ways in which the love of God in Christ is shared are the following:

- Sunday Chapel Services
- Monthly Communion times
- Weekly Bible Classes
- Pastoral Care visits
- Mealtime devotions and prayers



Various levels of spiritual and physical care are offered through independent town homes, assisted living apartments, nursing facility (including a memory care unit) and home health services over a 35 mile radius. The Home is certified for both Medicare and Medicaid benefits. To learn more check out the Vinton Lutheran Home website at www.lhaa-e.org.

The Rev. Larry Schmidt is in his tenth year as part-time Chaplain at the Vinton Lutheran Home. As such, he supervises spiritual care ministry among residents, families and employees. Serving God’s people here in the spirit of Christ is enriching both to him and those he serves.

“ Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” – John 8:34-36

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca’s summer camp program ran from June 10 to July 28. Under the theme “Set Free”, campers learned all about how Jesus frees sinners. Campers are introduced to the words of Jesus, where he tells us all who have sinned are slaves to sin. But by Jesus’ death and resurrection, he has set them free from the punishment of their sin, giving them a new and free life, living as God’s children!



All of the previous year’s program returned once again, but were joined by Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca’s inaugural Basketball Camp! The summer concluded on Saturday, August 1 at Camp’s annual Summerfest. This year, 1-Mile and 5K fun runs were added to the day’s activities. Over 125 people attended the day’s festivities.





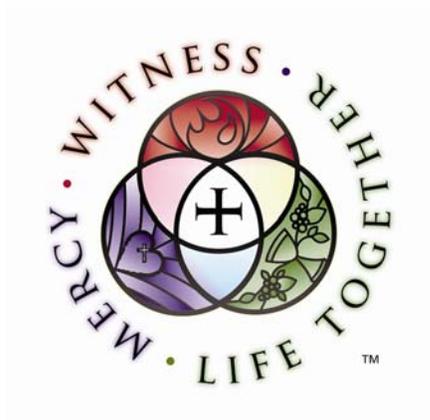
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IDE Today

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