



IDE Today

Iowa District East - LCMS

Spring/Summer 2017

In This Issue

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IDE UPDATES

About the Cover

In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation our cover for this issue features an image of Martin Luther.

Calling Congregations

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Charles City, New Hope | Chris Gorshe (vacancy pastor) |
| Grinnell, Immanuel | Fred Berry (vacancy pastor) |
| Newton, Our Savior | Joel Picard (vacancy pastor) |
| Sherrill, St. Matthew | Kris Kincaid (vacancy pastor) |
| Waverly, St. John | Michael Knox (vacancy pastor) |
| Waverly, St. Paul | Ronnie Koch (vacancy pastor) |

Pastor Calls

ACCEPTED:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Zachary Voss | CTSFW to Homestead/Wellman |
| Keith Brustuen | Waverly to St. Paul, Montevideo MN |
| Jan Horne | Robins to Calvary, Deep River |
| Randall Golter | MO to Trinity, Davenport (Sr. Pastor) |

PENDING:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jon Ellingworth | Pawling, NY to Our Savior, Newton |
| Jon Ellingworth | NY to St. John, Waverly |

DECLINED:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Sean Hansen | Mt. Vernon to Zion, Vernon TX |
| Ross Engel | Middleburg FL to St. John, Waverly |
| Stephen Krenz | Hoffman IL to Immanuel, Grinnell |
| Ronnie Koch | Fredericksburg to St. Paul, Montevideo MN |
| Mark Milatz | Brighton MI to Trinity, Davenport |

VICARS (2017-2018):

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Robert Ricard | CTSFW to Hampton |
| Michael McGinley | CTSFW to Chariton |
| Luke Scheele | CSL to Our Redeemer, Iowa City |

DCE/School/Teacher Calls

VACANCIES:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| St. Paul, Latimer | K-2 teacher |
| Trinity, Cedar Rapids | 7th grade |
| Bethany, Cedar Rapids | DCE |
| Community Lutheran School, Readlyn | |

ACCEPTED:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Emma Auger | Concordia, River Forest to St. Paul's, Marion (DCE) |
| Chris Auger | Concordia, Chicago to Central Newhall |
| Jade Wilds | Concordia, Mequon to Valley, Cedar Falls (teacher) |
| Patricia Monroe | Concordia, St. Louis to Word of God (deaconess) |
| Loren VanDenBerg | Trinity, Cedar Rapids to NE WI LHS, Green Bay WI |
| Nicholas Muench | CLS, Readlyn to Marengo IL |
| Sandra Muench | CLS, Readlyn to Marengo IL |

DECLINED:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Rebecca Livo-Biensanz | Aiken SC to St. Paul, Latimer |
| Nicholas Muench | Readlyn to Itasca IL |
| Brian Mann | Trinity, Winfield KS to St. Paul, Latimer (teacher/lead teacher) |
| Jill Schmitzer | Trinity, Davenport to Trinity, Sturgis MI (teacher) |
| Jill Schmitzer | Trinity, Davenport to Immanuel, Alpena MI (teacher) |

Calendar

September

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 21 | Missions Committee Mtg. |
| 28 | Circuit Visitors Meeting |

October

| | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 2-3 | Fall Pastors Conference |
| 6-7 | Confirmation Retreat |
| 13-14 | Pastors Wives Retreat |
| 24 | Board of Directors Mtg. |

November

| | |
|-------|--|
| 17-18 | High School Retreat |
| 23-24 | Thanksgiving (District office closed) |

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders

During this 500th anniversary year of the Lutheran Reformation I wanted to highlight some of the main elements of the Reformation as written and preached by Luther himself. In 1545 Luther teamed up with two other renowned theologians, Johannes Bugenhagen and Phillip Melancthon, and emphasized their original writings in face of mounting opposition to the Augsburg Confession of 1530. One of the main points mentioned in this writing was the necessity for "Proper, pure doctrine, which God has given, revealed, and mandated to the church." Pure doctrine is constantly under attack and no less so today.

The Church of the Reformation is always concerned about pure doctrine in what is preached, taught and practiced in the congregation. I know that some fain at this and even go so far as to say that doctrine divides the church. That is never a true statement. It is not doctrine that divides the church but *false doctrine* that divides the church. True unity in the church is not found in anything other than pure doctrine.

Luther brings out the necessity of pure doctrine for two reasons: 1. Its source. Doctrine is given by God and mandated to the church. 2. The devastating effect of false doctrine upon the members who hear it and believe it. In other words, false doctrine endangers saving faith.

In the preface to the Book of Concord (1580) the Reformers had the necessity of pure doctrine in mind when they said:

"When a number of pious, irenic, and learned theologians noted these developments, they saw clearly that there was no better way to counteract the mendacious calumnies and the religious controversies that were expanding with each passing day than, on the basis of God's Word, carefully and accurately to explain and decide the differences that had arisen with reference to all the articles in controversy, to expose

and to reject false doctrine and clearly to confess the divine truth...we mean specifically to condemn only false and seductive doctrines and their stiff-necked proponents and blasphemers. These we do not by any means intend to tolerate in our lands, churches, and schools inasmuch as such teachings are contrary to the expressed Word of God and cannot coexist with it."

False doctrine cannot coexist with the Word of God. The reason for that is that pure doctrine comes from Christ Jesus Himself and He had only one mouth. He spoke with a literal sense intending to be understood as He Himself explained what He meant. "Thy Word of Truth" the Gospel of John says, and "The Truth cannot be broken." It is not a word that can have multiple meanings. It has the one meaning intended by Jesus when He spoke them and or the Prophets and Apostles recorded them under inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the "Way the Truth and the Life." As the Truth He cannot double or triple-speak. Doctrine comes to us from the Word of God, therefore must be preached and taught in purity. Apart from pure doctrine there would have been no Reformation to celebrate. Not one that brings the sweet and wonderful Gospel to terrified ears and hearts. The source of pure doctrine is Jesus Himself and is therefore mandated to the church.

The Gospel is pure doctrine and *"is the power of God onto salvation for all who believe it"* (Romans 1:16). False doctrine saves no one. It does not create faith, it does not strengthen faith, it carries no one over the threshold of eternal life. It is one of the great tools of Satan who desires to lead everyone astray into his realm of darkness. The only power Satan could not withstand was the power of the Word. It resisted his temptations in the wilderness, it sustained the crucifixion unto death as it crushed Satan's head in atonement for the sin of the world. Salvation is a gift from God by grace

through faith alone. That is pure doctrine and any other teaching is from the realm of darkness. To pick and choose at doctrine without understanding that one weak link endangers the entire chain is a modern day thought. The Apostles or the Reformers never thought like that. Each and every link is sturdy and strong or the chain cannot be trusted. To err on even one primary part is to endanger any other part. According to the Reformers pure doctrine was not a matter of simply being right; it was a matter of righteousness earned and given by grace to the sinner. Forgiveness of sins by the redeeming blood of Christ is pure doctrine. Believing that forgiveness can be earned by the sinner is false doctrine and leads away from grace.

The Reformation begins with a foundation that can be trusted. A foundation built on pure doctrine drawn from God's Word. Upon this foundation, this Rock, we may stand with all confidence. The confidence is only in what Christ has done for us and given to us as a gift. Can you say with absolute certainty you are a member of the Kingdom of Salvation? Yes you can. You can say so without fear because you lean on what has been given to you in the Means of Grace. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses you from all your sin. This is His promise, His gift. This is pure doctrine.

“

False doctrine saves no one. It does not create faith, it does not strengthen faith, it carries no one over the threshold of eternal life.”

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



OFFICIAL DISTRICT CONVENTION NOTICE

The Fortieth Convention of Iowa District East (IDE) of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod will be held **June 29-30, 2018** at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, 7725 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA. The convention theme is *Life Together: Laity and Clergy*.

Each voting parish (an individual congregation or multiple congregations served by one called and ordained pastor) is entitled to have one pastoral delegate and one lay delegate. The delegates' names (as well as the alternates) should be selected and submitted prior to the January 31, 2018 deadline. The business of the Convention will include elections and actions on overtures. The following offices will be filled by the Convention:

President (3-year term)

First Vice-President (3-year term)

Second Vice President (3-year term)

Secretary (3-year term)

Treasurer (3-year term)

Board of Directors - One commissioned minister (6-year term)

- One layperson (6-year term)

Constitution Review Committee - One ordained (6-year term)

District Nominations Committee - Two ordained (3-year term)

- Two laypersons (3-year term)

- One commissioned (3-year term)

Synod Committee for Conventions Nominations - One professional church worker (PCW)

- One alternate (PCW)

Each congregation may nominate individuals for these various positions, submit overtures concerning District or Synod business and ideas for Synod mission and ministry emphases for consideration at the convention.

The District Convention packet to be mailed by October 1, 2017 will contain information, deadlines, forms and pertinent information. This information will also be made available on the Convention page of the IDE website.

In Christ,



Rev. Mark H. Brase

Secretary, Iowa District East – LCMS

On January 10, IDE President Saunders and IDW President Turner, along with representatives of Lutheran Family Service, met with members of the Iowa State Legislature who belong to LCMS congregations. The topics of conversation centered on life issues and pro-life legislation.



Front (L to R): Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Senator Mark Segebart, Senator Jason Schultz. Back (L to R): Quinn Adair (Perry Lutheran Home), Senator Tim Kraayenbrink, Kim Laube, Representative Mary Ann Hanusa, Senator Roby Smith.

CONCORDIA Fort Wayne, IN

Students who have been placed in Iowa District East pose with their wives and President Saunders.



(L to R): President Brian Saunders, Zachary and Kendra Voss, Robert and Jenna Ricard, Michael and Kelsi McGinley.

Remembering the Reformation

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild

October 31, 2017 will mark the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther posting the 95 thesis on the Castle Church door in Wittenburg, Germany. When my wife and I were there in March of 2016 we could not get into the Castle Church as it was being renovated for the anticipated flood of visitors this year. Our Synod has adopted the slogan, "It's Still All About Jesus" to highlight the reformation this year. How that anniversary is commemorated will vary from congregation to congregation, from circuit to circuit, and from District to District.

In a recent Bible class that I was teaching I bemoaned the practice of trying to use gimmicks to build the church. One lady piped up and said: "We need to trust the Word." I was reminded of the hymn, Thy Strong Word, written by Martin Franzmann back in 1969. Let me share some of the words before commenting on them:

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia, Praise to Thee who light dost sent!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Breathes Thine own life breathing breath.
Refrain

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness.
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess. *Refrain*

From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light. *Refrain*

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name. *Refrain*

(LSB 578: 1-5)

Franzmann's hymn begins with creation in v. 1 and quickly gives us a glimpse of the results of the fall into sin, namely showing mankind as "dwelling in darkness." He also declares what the result of sin is, namely death. But into that scenario we see God breathing His own life giving breath through His Son Jesus Christ.

It's STILL

all about

Jesus

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous. That Word of course is none other than Christ Jesus who came in human flesh to be our Redeemer and Savior, our sin-bearer. He fulfilled all righteousness for us through His active and passive obedience. He gives up His perfect righteousness for our unrighteousness by going to the cross to make atonement for all sins. Paul says: "God made Him who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21).

We see the voice of the church joined together in a Christ-centered hymnody, singing of Thy glory as manifested in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yes, *It's Still All About Jesus*. We do proclaim the mercy of God as we live out our baptism in our daily vocations, in the places and stations where our "mouths speak Thy holy name."

As to His Word, Jesus says: "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17). Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the

truth, and the truth shall make you free. If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:31-32, 36.)

*It’s **Still All About Jesus** and what HE has done for all which people need to hear. God help our Pastors and congregations as they faithfully proclaim His life-giving Gospel!*



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

Capital Campaign

Update as of July 12, 2017

Gifts received to date

\$674,443

Promised in next 1-7 years

\$40,100

Total to date

\$ 714,543



Proclaiming Christ Jesus!
Luke 24:46-47

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild

deanrothchild@lcmside.org

319-373-2112 Office

2017 IDE Parish Nurse Convocation



(L to R): Nancy McHone, Verla Paulson (Grace, Waterloo), Ronda Anderson, (Bethany, CR), and IDE President Saunders.

We had a small but great gathering of parish nurses at Bethany Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 25. LCMS President Harrison greeted us by video. District President Saunders then led us in a devotion revolving around Hebrews 13:17:

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

We looked at the scripture setting, at other scripture using the word joy and found that it didn't always include a feeling of happiness but was connected with persecution.

When our pastor's work is a joy for him it benefits both of us! How about telling our pastors after leaving a service, "I believe God's word and I want to live a Godly life." There was a whole lot more to this devotion!

Julie, a Holy Yoga instructor led us in some chair yoga. Next we watched Dr. Bruce Hartung's educational video on "Holding Up the Prophet's Hand". Each parish nurse or health minister received a copy of this book. Dr. Hartung encourages us to form Worker Support Teams within our congregations.

We continued conversation over lunch and wrapped up with some more networking. A written report was submitted by Rev. Alex Post, the IDE Life Coordinator.

Currently the IDE count is at 12 parish nurses and 5 health ministers in our district. Each one is involved in varying degrees. Please contact me if you are interested in beginning a parish nurse ministry or need help supporting something that is already existing.

Blessings!

nurse.bethanycr@gmail.com

319-364-6026



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

CALVARY Deep River

Celebrating 75 Years

Members of Calvary Lutheran Church in Deep River celebrated 75 years of 'God's Deep River of Grace' on Sunday, July 16. Calvary Lutheran Church was organized July 12, 1942. The Rev. R.P. Young was pastor at this time. Services were held in the Deep River Memorial Hall until a house was purchased and remodeled into a chapel, which was dedicated November 8, 1942. Under the leadership of Pastor Wilbert Bok, the building of a new church was undertaken. On July 11, 1954, Calvary dedicated their present house of worship.



In the 75 years, Calvary has been served by thirteen resident pastors. They were the Revs. Ewald Recks, Wilbert Bok, George Mumm, Arnold Bernthal, Marion Pierson, William Lewis, Eugene Stohs, Kenneth Wagener, Matthew Rueger, Michael Parris, Cory Rajek, Thomas Shumaker, and Paul Nus. Pastor Stuart Rethwisch of St. John's, Victor has been serving Calvary as vacancy pastor since June of 2016.

Rev. Jan Horne's Installation on June 25th at Calvary, Deep River.



L to R: Michael Kolesar, Gary Sears, Jan Horne, Stuart Rethwisch.

LWML Iowa East District

A New Logo

A new logo has been revealed for LWML! Through this identity, the hope is to empower members through deeper connections, tradition, and the desire to serve God. The symbol was created with this in mind; one that represents the members of both the LWML and the church. A heart to represent the love and giving nature of the members; a drop to symbolize the blood of Christ and tear of compassion; and a cross above all else to proudly show purpose behind the efforts of the LWML. Here you can see an enlarged image of one of the logo uses. A short video about the creation of our new logo can be found on YouTube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJVuMkax94s>.



ST. PAUL'S Luzerne

Rev. Dean Duncan's Installation

Installation service was held on Sunday, November 6 at St. Paul's Lutheran in Luzerne, Iowa. Rev. Dean Duncan has been installed as pastor. He will be serving as pastor for the dual parish formed between St. Paul's and First Lutheran of Belle Plaine.

L to R: Mark Leckband (Garrison/Shellsburg), Andrew Wright (Keystone), Dean Duncan (Bell Plaine), Stephen Preus (Vinton), Marvin Lorenz (pastor emeritus).



COLLEGE HILL Cedar Falls



50th Anniversary

To the left is a picture from the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Thomas Wegener.

OUR SAVIOR Muscatine



Katie and Allen Ball, long time members of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Muscatine all dressed in their red, white, and blue on the 4th of July weekend Sunday. God Bless America and God bless you!

Members of Our Savior Lutheran, Muscatine who served a Meal to the Homeless at the Muscatine Center for Strategic Action.



Vacation Bible School Week

For VBS we had a theme of "A Mighty Fortress" and studied the "solos" of the reformation. We played outdoor games (the parachute picture), did crafts, and had bible lessons. One of the photos shows Pastor Pautz teaching that faith is a gift (the gift bag around Kayla's neck) and that God is continually giving gifts that we receive by faith.



What Good Is a Chaplain?

Rev. Christopher Neuendorf

Serving in a nursing home setting brings with it a strong sense of discouragement. It is, of course, very rewarding work. The residents are always grateful and seldom critical. The staff is very encouraging. The families of those under our care do not hesitate to express their appreciation. And sometimes, wonder of wonders, there is that blessed moment when a resident passes from death to life, coming from a lifelong state of unbelief to a newfound faith in Jesus Christ. And yet, the discouragement remains.

What kind of discouragement? In a parish setting, the pastor is of course frequently confronted with helpless cases. There will always be those members under his care who struggle beyond the rest with grief and suffering. There will always be those whose earthly bodies are ravaged by disease. There will always be those with whom the pastor has forged a deep personal connection who finally succumb to bodily death, leaving the funeral officiant himself among the bereaved. Thankfully, in most parish settings such cases form only a portion of the entire work of the ministry.

But in a nursing home setting, those cases are not the exception, but the rule. Every resident is there because, in one form or another, he is dying. Not necessarily *actively* dying. Many residents will only be there temporarily and will finally, triumphantly, return to their own homes to continue the aging process. Many more will live for months, maybe years, in the nursing home itself. But on every visit to the nursing home, the pastor sees those whom he loves progressed even further on the road that will end only with their departure from this life.

That road is often not a pleasant one. Capabilities that were once taken for granted are now only memories. A resident making his slow, painful way down the hall with the assistance of a walker feels the breeze as a younger, stronger man walks swiftly past, no doubt on important business. A mother who once raised a household of children in all capability, dignity, and honor is now reduced to the status of a child in the view of visitors a generation or more younger than herself. Add to this that slew of illnesses, devastating the mind, twisting the limbs, afflicting the body and tormenting the soul, making their grim progress until finally there is nothing left but suffering and death.

In such a setting, the chaplain may feel helpless. What can he really *do*? What good is he? He cannot adjust medications. He cannot perform surgeries.

He cannot assist confidently with day-to-day bodily care. And even if he could, he is witness to the ultimate futility of such measures. Why even try?

But that is where the pastoral office is different. The chaplain has more to offer than comfort, more to give than temporary healing. He bears the words of eternal life, vouchsafed to him by the One who is the Resurrection and the Life, the suffering Servant who bore our illnesses and took our diseases. He brings the forgiveness of sins, and with it life and salvation.

The chaplain does not only bring comfort to a patient dying of cancer. He brings the promise of a life free from cancer, lived eternally in victory over cancer and in liberation from all its dreadful effects. Nor does the chaplain only bring compassion to those whose minds are devastated by dementia. He brings the promise of restoration, of a life in which all the effects of dementia will be not only halted, but reversed and conquered once and for all. Nor does the chaplain only bring consolation to the bereaved, a listening ear and a shoulder to cry on. He brings life, resurrection from the dead, and eternal triumph in Christ, who for us has vanquished death and the grave.

If the chaplain is only here to give what can be seen and experienced here and now, then he is worse than useless. But if what the Scriptures tell us is true, and if our God in Christ can be believed, then the chaplain gives more than we dare imagine. If I didn't believe that, I would have given in to despair long ago. But the knowledge of what God accomplishes through the Office of the Ministry gives me strength to serve Him no matter how discouraging the situation may seem to mortal flesh.

What a victory God has given us in Christ! May we all come through the forgiveness of sins to the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, to that life promised us by Him who is the Resurrection and the Life. Amen.



Rev. Christopher Neuendorf pastors Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Davenport and is Chaplain at Davenport Lutheran Home.

TRINITY Lowden



Ladies Aid and others produced 47 quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The group has been donating quilts for many years as one of their service projects.

ST. PAUL Mount Vernon



Confirmation Class of 2017

Front (L to R): Blake Zahradnik, Megan Baumler, Aliya Keaton, Sydney Shultz, Ben Sullivan. Back (L to R): Rev. Sean Hansen, Crysten Sanchez.

Mission of Hope

St. Paul has been providing and serving meals at Mission of Hope on a quarterly basis. Below is a picture of some of our members serving a meal on April 12th.



Teaching the Faith: Adults

Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe

Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, York NE

Reawakening When I accepted the call to serve as Senior Pastor at Faith in York, NE I assumed that Adult Bible Class would be a walk in the park. I was coming from a 2,000+ member congregation in a large city. As Associate Pastor at St. Peter's, I helped to oversee and execute a weekly Wednesday evening Bible study that brought in 300-400 people a week. This was in addition to teaching the Adult Information Class for new members and administrating the youth confirmation program. It did not take long to discover that rural and small town ministry has its own unique blessings and challenges! Over two years later, we are seeing 40-60 adults every Sunday morning for the pastor-led Bible class, in addition to strong attendance at many small groups that meet throughout the week. But it was not always this way. Here are some things I learned in my first two years at Faith.

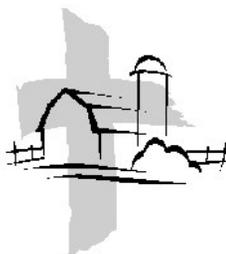
Get the Lay of the Land Every church is different, and it is important to understand where the congregation has been and where they would like to go. The first large-scale study we undertook at Faith brought new faces into the Adult Bible class, but it was also met with resistance. I might have avoided some heartache as the new pastor if I had been more patient.

Balance (διδάσκω) and (οικοδομή) (διδάσκω) is a biblical Greek word for the kind of formal instruction at which Lutherans have historically been pretty adept. (οικοδομή) is the kind of teaching and learning we experience when we share life together. In 1 Thess. 5:11, Paul talks about "encouraging each other and building one another up." This is an important function of the local congregation. At Faith, all the teachers are encouraged to know the material and to be able to share it compellingly, but we also understand that much of what brings adults into Bible class happens outside of Bible class!

Be Multigenerational Early into my time at the first ministry I served, I discovered that adults will more likely attend a study if there is an option available for their kids at the same time. Also, just about everyone is more excited to study if there is food present! This has held truth at Faith, and we often try to make sure some kind of refreshment is available when we gather to study God's Word together.

Be Intentional Regardless of the generation you are attempting to reach, a congregation's leadership must be intentional. I frequently mention the current Bible class topic in my preaching, and new faces are regularly encouraged to consider joining the discussion on Sunday mornings. We even managed, by God's grace, to turn a potential Bible class destroyer into one of the most powerful evangelism tools at our disposal!

As with all things in ministry, this is an ongoing process. Feel free to email me at pastortrampe@gmail.com or give me a call at 402-362-3000.



Reaching Rural
America for Christ



Rural & Small Town Mission

ST. STEPHENS Atkins

Three Sisters-In-Law Celebrate 298 Years Between Them!

Esto Jennings turned 100 on February 23. Dolores Keiper turned 100 on May 22. Betty Keiper turned 98 on April 10. Dolores and Betty married Esto's brothers, Irv and Ray (both deceased) respectively. Irv also lived to see his 100th birthday.

All three women were married at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church where all three are members.

Confirmation Class

Macy Schanbacher, Jenna Welty, and Rachel Woodley pictured here with Pastor Doug Woltemath.

The young ladies made a public profession of faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ in the Rite of Confirmation at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Atkins.



ST. PAUL Dubuque

Walk for Life

On Saturday, January 21, a group from St. Paul in Dubuque participated in the Dubuque County Walk for Life.



Pastor John Crawford shaves his head for Charity

Students at St. Paul in Dubuque raised money during Vacation Bible School week for charity. Pastor John Crawford promised the kids if they raised \$500 he would shave his head; they raised over \$700!

The Pastor followed through on his promise and had his head shaved like that of Martin Luther (with a bald spot in the middle) to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Reformation.



Teaching the Faith: College/Young Adults

Rev. Marcus Zill

Director, LCMS Campus Ministry & LCMS U

I have spent nearly my entire ministry working with the young people of the Church, especially those who are college age. It is both exhilarating and challenging. Here are a few thoughts about teaching the faith to this age group:

Raising the Bar I have yet to meet any single college-age young adults who complained that something was too deep for them. While many teachers seek to “dumb” things down or present material in a subjective fashion, young adults are nearly always seeking precisely the opposite. I am convinced that college-age adults can handle whatever depth of catechesis you might offer them, and the deeper the catechesis, the more they will want.

Authenticity The young people of the Church expect two things from whatever you might teach them. First, they want the truth and they want it straightforward and unvarnished. In a world that is a gray sea of confusion around them, they are looking for that which is black and white. Give it to them. Second, they also want to know if you believe it yourself and are passionate about that which you are teaching them. If it means something to you, it will mean something to them. The opposite is also true: if it's not important to you, it's not going to seem important to them.

Make It Worth Their Time Young people, whether in college or not, have less time than ever before. Nothing will keep them from returning to a Bible class opportunity more than believing it is not worth the time they invest in it. They are certainly dedicated (they can binge entire TV show seasons on Netflix over a weekend, after all!), but their time is limited.

Opportunities to Ask Deep Questions Our young people have many substantive questions, and they are used to simply “Googling” answers. They need an outlet to bring up their own topics. In many ways, the depth of one's biblical understanding will be proportional to the depth of their questions. They have many questions. They are dying to ask them. Let them. And don't be afraid to take time to research things and get back to them when you are prepared.

Integrate or Segregate? Many rural and small town congregations often lament that they can't have separate Bible classes or studies (especially on Sunday morning) for their high school youth, college students and young adults. However, you shouldn't assume that young people view this as a negative thing. While they certainly like to hang out with those their age, they also want to feel incorporated into the fuller body of Christ. In short, they want to be Church.

These are just a few of many tips for teaching the faith to today's college student or young adult. There is much, much more to explore. Feel free to email me at marcus.zill@lcms.org or call 307-760-7497.



TRINITY Cedar Rapids

Faithful Servant Mary Becker

Trinity Lutheran School celebrated the retirement of Mrs. Mary Becker on Sunday, April 20. During her 35 years of teaching at Trinity Mrs. Becker has had the privilege of impacting the lives of over 800 students! She always knew she wanted to be a teacher. As a young child she would play “school” on the steps of her childhood church basement, instructing all the little children. There were role models that lead Mary to attend Concordia College and turn her play of school into a profession.

Right out of college Mary taught at Zion Lutheran School in Pierce, NE in a combination classroom with first and second grade students. She was only at Zion for one year as she met her soon-to-be husband, Todd, and moved to Cedar Rapids.

She was hired in August of 1982 after Mrs. Karen Otto left the Kindergarten position to move to another Lutheran school along with her husband, Terry Otto, a former seventh grade teacher at Trinity. During her years at Trinity Mrs. Becker has been our resident Kindergarten teacher, except for one year when they needed her to teach second grade.

Mary is looking forward to retirement and plans to travel and organize closets. She is excited to have more play dates and sleep overs with her three grandchildren, Zach, Lexi, and Kendall Jones. She has things she will miss about teaching; “I will miss the eagerness of young children, their creativity and imagination, and all the hugs.” A few things she will not miss is the alarm at 6:15 am, and bringing half of her kitchen to school some days for projects and activities. Mrs. Becker, your love for Jesus and your daily enthusiasm to help children grow will be missed at Trinity!

Mrs. Mary Becker and her family at her retirement celebration



Front row (L to R): Kendall, Zach, and Lexi Jones. Back row (L to R): Will Jones, Lisa (Becker) Jones, Mary, Todd Becker, and Justin Becker.

Trinity Lutheran School Cedar Rapids

Cash 4 Students

Trinity Lutheran School has participated in the Cash 4 Students Hy-Vee receipt collection program for the past three years. This past year (May 1, 2016-March 31, 2017) we collected **\$1,228,605.45** in Hy-Vee Receipts! We will receive just over \$6,100.00 from Hy-Vee.

This community fundraiser is truly a whole community effort! School parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, and the area LCMS Lutheran church members are all responsible for this great fundraising success. The dollars received from Hy-Vee is used to balance a very tight budget at Trinity Lutheran School. Thanks for helping us reach our goal!

Don't stop shopping and saving receipts, we are enrolled for the 2018 Cash for Students Program. You can turn in all your Hy-Vee grocery, pharmacy, gas, and drug store receipts (must be between April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018) to Trinity or an area LCMS Lutheran Church. Thanks for helping us raise funds for TLS!



National Lutheran Schools Week

All of the students at Trinity gathered to make a cross during National Lutheran Schools week.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHAPEL Iowa City

Spring Semester

Highlights from the spring semester include Theologian in Residence. This years speaker was Rev. Dr. John Vieker, who spoke on the subject of Lutheran Hymnody. Students from Iowa, UNI, and ISU, as well as members of IDE congregations attended the presentations. Graduation took place the second weekend in May and we said good-bye to several students (pictured below).



Shortly after the students left in May, the University of Iowa sent St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel the names of over 160 incoming freshmen, who had selected LCMS as their religious preference on the ACT exam. Once we receive these names, we got to work contacting these students and welcoming them to St. Paul's through letters, emails, phone calls, and in-person visits during orientation. Once the students arrive in August, they will receive an LCMSU drawstring bag filled with chapel goodness.

We also took some time to have some fun this summer. Our first ever congregation retreat was held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in June. Fire Nights, a once a month gathering at Pastor Mons' home took place in June and July.



TRINITY Vinton

Confirmation Class

Trinity Lutheran Church, Vinton was pleased to welcome five youth to our church membership. Pastor Stephen Preus confirmed Kaylie Appleby, Reese DeVries, Eli Powers, Owen Rhinehart and Chloe Tharp during the Divine Service on Sunday, May 7th (pictured below). On July 16th we also received Margo Redlinger as an adult confirmand. We have had the bonus of having Margo's two children, Lauren and Jack, join our Sunday School classes this last year.



Party in the Park

In June, Trinity had a float in Vinton's "Party in the Park" parade. The float gave tribute to the 500 year anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The sign says it all: "*It's Still All About Jesus.*" Church members and youth wore hats that had "500" stapled for all to see. Many of our Sunday School children came to ride on the float, while some of the older children and adults walked by the float and gave candy to the young spectators. Trinity's Vacation Bible School was "Mighty Fortress" and ran from July 23-26. The Education Board planned many activities for the week.. The month ended with Trinity Jr High and High School youth groups going on a bus trip to the Creation Museum/Ark Encounter from July 31 - August 4.



GRACE DeWitt



This year's Confirmation Class pictured with Rev. Ron Rafferty and DCE Mark Sperry at Grace Lutheran Church on April 30th.

TRINITY State Center

Trinity Lutheran Church, State Center enjoyed their Vacation Bible School with the theme of "Kenya, Here We Come!" It was based on the Mission Trip that a group from Iowa East took to the Lutheran Church and School in Migori, Kenya last summer.

The ladies taught the women of Migori to read patterns and sew with a pedal powered sewing machine. The kids learned to use a pedal powered sewing machine. The men helped the people of Migori paint their Church. The kids painted the pipe organ chamber. The Missionaries took school and medical supplies to Kenya. The kids put together 92 health kits and 35 baby layettes for Orphan Grain Train.

We tied it together by reminding the kids that God uses us to help other people locally and all over the world. God has given us everything. He gave us salvation through His Son Jesus. We respond to His great love for us by using the abilities that God has given us.





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