

IDE Today

Iowa District East - LCMS
Fall 2017

In This Issue

President's Piece for Peace
District Convention
Capital Campaign Update

DISTRICT UPDATES

Calling Congregations

Charles City, New Hope Chris Gorshe
 Gladbrook, Christ Troy Peperkorn
 Newton, Our Savior Joel Picard
 Osage, St John Clarke Frederick
 Readlyn, Immanuel Larry Feldt
 Readlyn, St Paul Ronnie Koch
 St Ansgar, Immanuel Michael Parris
 Waverly, St Paul Randy McHone

Pastor Calls

Accepted: Rev. Dave Rempfer Blairstown to St John, Seward NE
Pending: Rev. Joel Brassfield Chilton, WI to Our Savior, Newton
Declined: Rev. John Preus Clinton to St John, Rockford IL

Transfers

Transferred In: Rev. Douglas Francik (Earlene) Marion
Transferred Out: Rev. Matthew Moss (Katie) Minnesota S.

DCE/School/Teacher Calls

Vacancies: Bethany, Cedar Rapids DCE
 King of Kings, Cedar Rapids DCE
Pending: Mary Arrick, MI to St Paul, Latimer Lead Teacher

Calendar

NOV 23-24 Holiday, District Office closed
 DEC 22- JAN 1 Holiday, District Office Closed
 JAN 11 Youth Committee Mtg. - 6 PM

District Convention

June 29-30, 2018

Submission Deadlines

JAN 31: Delegates, Nominations, & Memorials
 FEB 16: Reports

Convention forms and information can be found on our district website, under the tab "Convention '18".



Life Together: Laity & Clergy
 Iowa District East, LCMS

About the Cover

Pictured on our cover are various images from within our district this past fall. A brief description follows:

Top Row (L to R): A photo from a special worship service, celebrating 50 years of education at Lutheran Interparish Schools (Williamsburg); Students from Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids participate in the "Walking for a Cause" event; pastors posed together at College Hill, Cedar Falls where a special service was held in celebration of 75 years of campus ministry.

Middle Row (L to R): Displayed is a beautiful banner made by Connie Jeske, a member of St John, Wellsburg, in celebration of the congregation's 75 year anniversary; students from St Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center, Iowa City, enjoyed a campfire at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca this fall, along with other festivities celebrating the beginning of fall semester; a banner welcoming students back this fall, displayed for the celebration of 75 years of campus ministry at College Hill, Cedar Falls.

Bottom Row: people gathered at a special 50th Anniversary celebration, Lutheran Interparish Schools, Williamsburg.

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders

In this unique year of Reformation 500, I have been bringing to you specific insights into the minds of the Reformers as they wrote and spoke the Reformation into the Church. While the Reformation officially began on October 31st of 1517, it took shape over the next 53 years. One specific year that affected the Reformation was 1545, when a document was written called the Wittenberg Reformation. It was a clarification of what had been developing over the previous 28 years and serves as a template for the years to come.

One particular focus in 1545 was the "Office of the Ministry", also known as the "Preaching Office." There was no question the Reformers began from the precept that the Preaching Office is a divinely ordered office, established by Christ Jesus Himself. They then list three reasons for the existence of the Office:

1. "It is an eternal, unchangeable truth that the preaching office and service of the sacraments is necessary, and that the church is bound to this, and that the people of God and the elect do not exist except only in the group where the voice of the Gospel and the sacraments are present."
2. "God has mandated that the church herself should elect persons to the preaching office and service of the sacraments, and that through these persons elected by the church He wills to act; He awakens many among the same, and enlightens them with special gifts for the betterment of the church, just as Paul commanded Titus to appoint and set in place priests in each city, and as he has ordination in mind when he writes to Timothy."
3. "Obedience is owed by God's command, under pain of eternal damnation in all matters commanded or forbidden by the Gospel, to those persons who are called to the Preaching Office and service of the

sacraments, and who thus carry out the high, divine work of teaching the Gospel rightly and distributing the sacraments according to divine command."

4. "In summary, proper heartfelt reverence with proper humility is owed to the Preaching Office, through which God is at work and present among us, and the highest form of worship consists in helping to preserve this Ministry with sustenance, protection, and all good will."

We can't help but notice how important the Pastoral Office is to the Reformation. The congregation and the Office always go together; each needs the other and does not exist without the other. It is also interesting that the Reformation places pastors in Office through the church, but makes no mention of voters assemblies. It is not as though voters assemblies are not a permissible way to do this, but the Reformation knew of no such assembly.

“*Bishops were not a separate stand of men; they were parish pastors who were elected by the church to exercise oversight for the sake of maintaining pure doctrine, good preaching and proper teaching.*”

They relied on a more Episcopal system. The obedience owed to the Office is not a blind acceptance of the man, but a faithful reception of the Word of God that the office holder preaches and teaches, as long as it is in accord with the Word of God. The penalty that number 3 above refers to is directly tied to 'justification by grace through faith'. Were that objected by a parishioner, the parishioner would have placed themselves outside the saving gift of the Gospel.

Within the Office of the Ministry is a rank for the sake of oversight and good order. The Reformers call this the Office of the Bishop. The unity and harmony the Reformers were looking for in the church was expected to happen through the Bishopric. This is expressed in 1545 when it was written: "There is no other way toward Christian Concordia and unity than this alone, that the bishops plant proper doctrine and Christian use of the sacraments, and that on these terms we be subject to them as prelates of the church, which we pledge ourselves to do." The 1545 Wittenberg Reformation laid out six responsibilities of the bishop: i

1. "The bishops should therefore appoint God-fearing men in their principalities and lordships, men who teach properly."
2. "God commands that they carry out ordination with proper solemnity, namely, with examination and instruction...the proper work of bishops is to order the examination be conducted with great diligence and with instruction, so that unfit persons not be admitted, but only fit persons...this helps toward understanding and unanimity to doctrine."
3. "The bishop is to pay attention to the rectors and preachers that they teach and rule properly. In time past, this was the chief reason for the holding of visitations...they are to preserve proper doctrine concerning God and good morals."
4. "When necessary, God commands that false doctrine and blasphemy be punished with the ban, and proper doctrine and good discipline be maintained."
5. "There is great need for the holding of synods (conferences)."

6. "The bishops should exercise particular diligence as overseers of doctrine in the proper running, and care of universities and particular schools."

As we can see, the Reformers had no problem with the term bishop nor their overseeing responsibilities. In fact, they placed the unity of the church within the ranks of the bishopric. Bishops were not a separate stand of men; they were parish pastors who were elected by the church to exercise oversight for the sake of maintaining pure doctrine, good preaching and proper teaching. Once again, the Reformers demonstrate a dependence on true doctrine and the life of the church.

The Pastoral Office today may not be filled exactly the way the Reformers did it, but there remains a tremendous amount of similarity on the importance of the Office and the respect of the Church toward it. God bless our pastors as they bring the Words of Jesus to the souls in the Church.

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- i. The Wittenberg Reformation, Translated by John R. Stephenson; Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, 2016; pp. 24-25
 - ii. The Wittenberg Reformation, Translated by John R. Stephenson; Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, 2016; pp. 30-31

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



Food For Thought: Lessons Learned!

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild

In my 20 plus years serving as a Parish Pastor, and in the years I have spent in meeting with donors here in the District for our Proclaiming Christ Jesus campaign, I have learned many lessons. I thought it would be helpful to share a few of those things with our readers.

It is important for us to realize that "God owns all that we have." We are just managing what we have been given as we pass from being part of the church militant to the church triumphant in heaven. People who think that they own what they have been given in life are simply wrong!

The second stewardship principle of our Synod points this out: "God's stewards have been entrusted by God with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him."

We know that God wants us to give of "the first fruits" of our labors. First-fruit giving is that which is planned and deliberate. The giver thinks through how they are going to support the work of the Gospel in their midst. We read in Proverbs 3:9-10: "*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops, then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*" Paul presents similar thought when he says: "*For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we have expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.*" (II Cor. 8:3-5).

Someone recently shared with me that you can't out give God. They didn't give me a biblical passage but knowing the person I know that is a principle that she has lived with during her lifetime. The passage from Malachi 3:10 comes to mind: "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,*" says the Lord of hosts, "*if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until there is no more need.*"

In this same train of thought Paul gives us this admonition: "*Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all*

grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed" (II Cor. 9:6-8). It is a joy to give so that the Gospel can be proclaimed!

One of the first lessons in stewardship I learned was in my first parish when Leroy Bruns said: "Pastor, we either give because we have to or because we want to." Giving is either from a sense of obligation or because we are the redeemed and baptized in Christ Jesus. The new person in Christ Jesus also recognizes the need of his neighbor. i

“ ...you can't out
give God ”

Another layman, Myrlin Hall, made this statement in Bible Class: "Pastor, we can always grow in the grace of giving." We grow as Christ works in us and through us to trust Him in all things, to see the need of our neighbor, and to know that God will supply all that we need to carry that out. But our focus is always upon Christ. ii

God gave us the very best He had when He gave us His Son Jesus Christ. That is easy for us to forget or to gloss over. II Cor. 8:9 states: "*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*" That richness consists of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in His name. Having that we can be content. In that same sense let it be said that "all" we have is a gift from God. Whenever doubt about what we have been given creeps in we can return to Luther's meaning to the Apostles' Creed. Those words focus upon what He has done and continues to do for us! I leave you with these words of St. Paul: "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*" (Phil. 4:13 & 20). As we hear of this wonderful reality: "*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.*" (Gal. 2:20).

- i. *The Cross Marked Life: A Stewardship Bible Study*, by Dean F. Rothchild, 2010. "The study focuses on three principles: Gratitude for God's Gifts, The Need of My Neighbor, and Trusting That I Will Never be Without."
- ii. Rev. Daryl G. Rothchild, Christian Stewardship should simply be called: "Christ"! 2017. Unpublished article, used by permission. "So it is that our doing, our service, our giving, which are all functions of God's Law, cannot make us clean or holy or righteous, for we have already been declared that in Christ! This is the point made by the writer of the Book of Hebrews with these words: "*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*" (Hebrews 12:2) Jesus is both the "author" of our faith and the "perfecter of it, we are not. To imply anything else is to denigrate both Jesus' work and what He provides us.



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

Capital Campaign Update

As of November 9, 2017

<p>Gifts Received to date \$690,890</p> <p>Promised in the next 1-7 years \$35,380</p> <p>Total to date \$726,270</p>	 <p>Proclaiming Christ Jesus! Luke 24:46-47</p>	<p><i>For more information, contact:</i></p> <p>Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild deanrothchild@lcmside.org 319-373-2112 Office</p>
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Archives

Securing Your Church Records

How important are your Church Records (baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, church council and voters' meeting minutes)? If fire were to destroy them, or a tornado scatter them over several counties, would it matter all that much to your congregation? Absolutely! Your IDE Archivist has an offer you can hardly refuse.

At the last District Convention, a photo-stand was set up at the IDE Archives display table, and the records of congregations who contributed material were digitally photographed. Records were returned that same week to those who brought them in, and a compact disk with the digitized records was provided to the congregations. An extra copy was then filed with the IDE Archives. All this at no charge to the congregations. The same opportunity will be offered at our 2018 District Convention. If your congregation wishes to take advantage of this offer, email me at onamission1939@gmail.com.



Rev. Allen Konrad is the Iowa District East Archivist. Submissions to the archives can be sent to:
onamission1939@gmail.com

The Wise Men and You

Jan Doellinger *"Urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:1b-2)*

A young girl was walking along a beach when up ahead she saw that thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People were watching her with amusement. While she was doing this, a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all



these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!" The girl seemed crushed, but after a few moments her eyes lit up, and she bent down, and picked up another starfish. She hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked at the man and replied, "Well, I made a difference to that one!" A few moments later they both were busy throwing starfish back into the ocean, one at a time.

The young girl certainly was having an immediate effect on starfish, but what about you? No, I'm not talking about you and starfish. Have you wondered how your *Christian living*, by that I mean *"living a life worthy of the calling you have received"*, is having an immediate effect on others, or even a long-range effect? Perhaps the Wise Men that Matthew wrote about in chapter 2, who were following a star, can shed some "light" on this question.

In Matthew 2 we read of the Wise Men (called Magi) coming from "the East", probably Persia, to see the baby Jesus. How did people in a distant land know or even care about the coming Messiah? To understand the answer to that question we have to go back some five hundred years before the birth of Christ. In spite of the warnings from the prophets, the Israelites, God's chosen people, chose to establish what we call today a "politically correct society". They chose to worship any god they wanted, and according to Judges 17:6, they "did what was right in their own eyes." Enter Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian army, sent by God to defeat the Israelites, who carried them off to Babylon. During their stay in Babylon, we read of God's people; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, Daniel and the lions, and Queen Esther, all of whom strongly witnessed their faith in that far-off land. During the 70 years of exile, the Persians defeated the Babylonians. At the end of those 70 years, the Persians allowed the Israelites to return to their home.

Some of these exiled Israelites chose to stay behind because they had established their homes and businesses in this land. They also established their faith, and that faith, with the hope of a coming Messiah/King, was carried down through their witness century after century. Five hundred years later, that faith that was witnessed during all those years, motivated the Magi to travel to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem, to worship the newborn Christ.

Fast forward to 2017. Let's think about the way we live out our calling, the one we received in Holy Baptism. We aren't able to look 500 years into the future, let alone 5 minutes. We don't know the effect our Christian witness in words and actions will have on others in our classrooms, congregations, our homes, or where we work and play. We do know this...God has and will continue to use our words and actions to bring about good in His Kingdom.

You are a child of God. You have been given gifts, talents, and a unique personality. As you live a December "worthy of your calling" with all the pressures and tensions unique to this month and all the months the Lord gives you, I encourage you to be aware of the opportunities and influence your faith and witness will have on your students and their families, congregation members, your family, and co-workers. You may not know or see the results in your lifetime, but you will have an eternity to see how the Holy Spirit used you as His instrument. May God bless you with humility, gentleness, and patience as you make a difference in bearing one another in love today and always. Shine like stars!



Jan Doellinger is assistant to the President for schools.

ST PAUL Delaware

St Paul recently undertook to help support LCMS Missionary Rev. Roy and Eliza Askins who are serving in Hong Kong. They are the daughter and son-in-law of a couple at St Paul, Richard and Kim Weed. They were also in seminary with Pastor Donald Krause. With the help of a Thrivent Action Grant, St Paul held a Potato Bar Meal, serving 76 in all.

\$1,412 was raised, far beyond what was expected! St. John's, Monticello aided through a generous donation. The event was a great encouragement to everyone, and especially to the Askins.



2017 IDE Confirmation Retreat Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Pastor Anthony Dodgers (Immanuel, Charlotte) was the presenter for the 2017 IDE Confirmation retreat over October 6-7 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. About 70 youth and adults studied The Apostles' Creed under the theme, *Believe and Confess: The Trinity & Me*. Pastor Bert Mueller led the worship times over the course of the weekend and youth engaged in all sorts of activities including Relay Games and Cup Wars!



PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT

Nineteen Iowa District East pastors' wives attended the October 2017 retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. It was a time for making new friends, learning from each other and bonding. Cassie Beltz, Licensed Mental Health Therapist, presented to the group on life stresses. Amy Redhage treated us to violin music on Friday evening and during our closing on Saturday. The staff at camp made us all feel welcome with great food and a private setting. Next retreat: October 12-13, 2018 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Encourage your pastor's wife to attend.



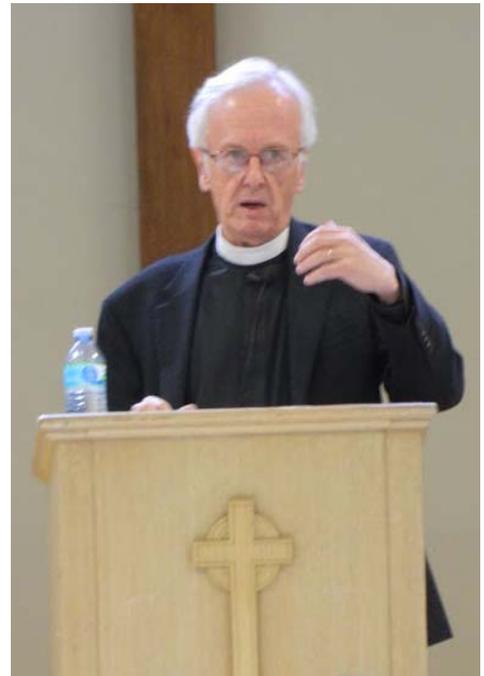
LEFT: Group photo of pastors' wives.

BELOW: Amy Redhage plays violin for guests of the Wives' Retreat.



FALL PASTORS' CONFERENCE

On October 2nd and 3rd, Iowa District East pastors gathered for the annual Fall Pastors' Conference at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Fellowship and meals were shared in addition to many teachings. This year's guest speaker was Dr. John R. Stephenson, Concord Lutheran Theological Seminary (St. Catherine's, Ontario CA).



LUTHERAN INTERPARISH SCHOOL Williamsburg

Mark Grewe, Principal

Lutheran Interparish School celebrated their 50th anniversary with a special Open House on Saturday, September 16th. Family, friends, alumni, and members of the community were invited to come and tour the building to see the changes that LIS has made over the last 50 years. Approximately 60 people were greeted and shared in the tours hosted by members of the faculty and the Parent-Teacher League.

On Sunday, September 17th, Lutheran Interparish held a special worship service to thank God for the many blessings He has given to LIS over the past 50 years. All four of the sponsoring congregations canceled their normal Sunday worship services and joined in the worship service held in the LIS gymnasium. Guests started arriving early for the 9:00 AM service as shuttle buses began bringing bus loads of people from the Williamsburg Rec Center, and Golf carts began bringing people from the town square and surrounding neighborhoods. By the time worship began, the gym was almost full with nearly 600 guests ready to praise



God as the processional began. The worship service was followed by guest speaker, former 8th grade teacher, Dean Scheele, who shared memories of his tenure at LIS. A celebratory brunch was served to guests, providing fellowship and great food!

Lutheran Interparish School first began classes as an association on August 31, 1967. Fifty years later, God continues to bless them as they serve families at LIS, sharing the Gospel message and providing a quality Christian education to every student through the Lutheran School.

Lutheran education was not a unique concept in the local area back in 1967. In fact, St John, Homestead had supported a Christian day school since 1880; Immanuel Lutheran had supported a Christian day school since 1898, and both St Paul and neighboring Trinity, Conroy, had supported Lutheran Schools since 1905. The RICH LUTHERAN HERITAGE was embedded into the beginnings of these four congregations as they came together to form Lutheran Interparish School.

Although the idea of an interparish school had been talked about since the Fall of 1964, the reality didn't take effect until voting assemblies from St John, Immanuel, St Paul, and Trinity Lutheran Churches took action to adopt the concept on April 30, 1967. Each had specific reasons for closing their schools and joining a new association known as "Lutheran Interparish School". On May 10, 1967, the Interparish School Board met and formed the association. The first elected officers on the Board of Directors were Milford Heitman, Chairman and Dale Baack, Secretary-Treasurer. Leo Fastenau, who was serving as principal at St Paul's school, was appointed by the Board of Directors to become the first principal of Lutheran Interparish School.

Enrollment at the new Lutheran Interparish School on the first day, was 260 pupils; ten teachers constituted the faculty. Roughly a year later the enrollment had increased to 269 students. Since then, their enrollment has fluctuated and now LIS serves 133 students.

May God continue to bless LIS as they continue their mission: Nurture faith in Christ, educate with excellence, and equip for life.



COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL Readlyn

Community Lutheran School students in Readlyn (pictured right) raked leaves for church members around town on October 13th as one of their service projects. A little drizzle didn't discourage these servant hearts!

COLLEGE HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH Cedar Falls

College Hill Lutheran Church recently celebrated 75 years of campus ministry on September 23-24, in honor of the anniversary of the dedication on February 15, 1942. The celebration on Saturday started with Vespers with the help of past pastors of CHLC. To add to the service, the choir, brass ensemble, and bell choir each offered musical selections.



We also had a time to look back at the history of CHLC at the reception. We read letters from Pastor Brammer's sons in which they reflected on the early days of the church, and rejoiced that it continues to serve the students of the University of Northern Iowa. The past and current pastors spoke about CHLC and what God has done through it. We recounted its beginnings as well as some of the major events and activities throughout the years, in the lives of students and members of CHLC, and in the history of UNI. Pastor Marcus Zill, Director of Campus Ministry & LCMS U, gave a few words during this time too. Saturday closed with a viewing of a documentary of interviews with members of the congregation. The celebration ended with Pastor Zill serving as our guest preacher for Divine Service on Sunday. Lots of memories were shared, including some that had never been heard before. College Hill is looking forward to the next 75 years of sharing the Gospel with the generations of students to come.

ST PAUL Mt. Vernon

In September, in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon assembled a LEGO® mosaic of Luther's Seal. Families each took home a block to assemble, and then all the blocks were put together at the church to form the Seal.

In October, St. Paul Lutheran in Mt. Vernon hosted a Reformation Walk at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Over 100 people attended. Participants went to several locations and learned about the posting of the 95 Theses, the story of Katie Luther's escape from a convent in a fish barrel, as well as several other interesting topics from Luther's time.



IMMANUEL Grand Mound



“Martin Luther is working on a secret project at the Wartburg Castle. *What could it be?*” On July 16, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Mound hosted a “puzzle room”, entitled, Mystery at Wartburg Castle. The puzzle room was a multigenerational experience where attendees worked together to find the solution to the puzzle (*what is Martin Luther’s secret project?*). By solving clues, finding hidden keys, and unlocking doors, attendees were able to solve the puzzle, piece by piece!

Sara Anderson created and ran the puzzle room experience. Many groups enjoyed the puzzle room and were able to learn something about Martin Luther.

ST PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHAPEL & UNIVERSITY CENTER Iowa City

The Fall Semester started with over 15 new students attending the Chapel. Fall highlights started with a Townball Game and Welcome Back Dinner in August. The students enjoyed a campfire at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca and a servant event at Uptown Bill’s Coffee House and Bookstore. And also, right before finals, a Nerf Battle.

The ever popular GREATEST COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME EVER, LUTHER BOWL XVII, was played in November. A good time is always had by all.

Our students traveled to College Hill Lutheran at UNI to attend the Fall Fling Study Weekend. Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt spoke on his recent book “Hallmarks of Lutheran Heritage”.



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL Cedar Rapids

Walking for a Cause

Trinity Lutheran School has sponsored a Walk-A-Thon for the past six years as our main fundraiser. The event happens in early October and takes place at the school's quarter mile walking trail. Our dear little preschoolers utilize the gym for their walking days. The Walk-A-Thon serves a few purposes: A healthy option for our students, versus selling items; a fundraiser to assist with non-budgeted needs at school; a community outreach component.

This fall our goal was to raise \$12,000.00 with 10% going to our endowment fund and 10% going to a Lutheran school in Texas to help with hurricane relief. This would leave us with just over \$9,500.00 for non-budgeted items. The students blew the goal out-of-the-water! We raised \$15,000.00 which allowed us to send Pilgrim Lutheran School in Houston, TX a check for \$1,500.00 to help repair hurricane flood damage. Pilgrim Lutheran School serves students from 18 months – 8th grade in the Southwest Houston area. Each year we select a "community service project" component to go along with raising money for Trinity. This year we felt compelled to reach way beyond our Iowa community and help our Lutheran school community. Pilgrim Lutheran School sustained extensive damage from Hurricane Harvey. We have had building damage of our own in the past and understand how much it can impact your ability to conduct school and activities. We pray our donation helps Pilgrim Lutheran continue their ministry.



Thank you to everyone who made our annual Walk-A-Thon a huge success! It is always a fun day.

Pinwheels for Peace

The First-Eighth grade students at Trinity Lutheran School in Cedar Rapids completed an art project where each student customized and assembled a pinwheel. Part of the assignment included writing *what peace means to you* on the inside portion of the pinwheel. One hundred fifty pinwheels were displayed on the front lawn of the school, in hopes of encouraging others to "be peace" in a sometimes crazy world.

Teachers Take Center Stage, Reformation Re-enacted

Trinity's teaching staff provided the message for Chapel on October, 5. The focus of their message was the reformation. The lively skit was written and directed by Trinity's very own Dr. Susan Benya. The teachers revealed their acting talents while portraying Martin Luther (Greg Fahnle), Johannes Tietzel (Mark Mueller), and sixteenth century peasants. The students were treated to an excellent performance. The chapel service highlighted the impact of Martin Luther's studies and how it led to the formation of the Lutheran church. All voices singing "A Mighty Fortress" was a perfect AMEN to the service!

ZION Wilton

On August 27th, 2017, Zion Lutheran Church celebrated the 160th Anniversary of Lutheranism in Wilton, IA. Guest speaker for the service was Pastor Keith Speaks, Zion's Pastor from 1993 to 1998, and now Senior Pastor for Hales Corner Lutheran Church in Hales Corner, WI. The theme and message of the day was "Hearts Abounding in Thanksgiving and Prayer." The celebration included special music provided by the children's choir and senior choir; Linda Timmsen, organist, Richard Sessler, pianist, and Paul Waech, trumpet. Following the service, there was a catered brunch and fellowship time for all in attendance.

Zion has had 14 Pastors in its 160 years, and is currently led by Pastor Daniel Ognoskie, who was installed as Pastor this last January.

Zion Eventide at Wilton honored area veterans on Saturday, November 11 by hosting a free appreciation breakfast. Local educator, Jeff Kaufmann, gave a very moving speech reminding everyone how humble veterans are and of their sacrifices. Wilton seamstress, Sharie Adkinsen, presented 3 quilts of valor, one going to Eventide member Donna Myers who served in the Army. Another is for Donna's daughter Kristen Myers, also an Army veteran, and the third is for Mrs. George Freeland in memory of her husband who recently passed away. Approximately 50 attended the event.



ST JOHN Wellsburg

St. John's Lutheran Church in Wellsburg, Iowa, celebrated its 75th anniversary, Sunday Nov. 12th with a morning worship service and a noon meal. In the afternoon their Pastor Bruce Zimmermann celebrated his 50th year in the ministry and 25 years as their pastor. Pastor Bruce Zimmermann led the worship, Rev. Tim Zimmermann preached, and Rev. Fred Zimmermann conducted the prayers for the anniversary of an ordination. Connie Jeske a member of St. John created a beautiful banner celebrating all these occasions.



LUTHERAN HOME FOR THE AGED Davenport / Vinton

On July 23rd our Davenport Lutheran Home dedicated a new Memory Care Unit. Rev. Chris Neuendorf, Chaplain, conducted that service, and Diane Gloede, COO, participated.

In mid-summer, Vinton Lutheran Home installed a new digital sign on the corner of 13th street and 2nd avenue, and several smaller signs to help with navigation throughout the campus. Under God's blessing these additions will help in providing



ELDORA CIRCUIT Reformation Celebration

In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the Eldora Circuit Churches got together to host a Reformation Celebration at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Iowa Falls, Saturday, October 29. The event began with a Circuit Choir practice followed by a presentation from Rev. Dr. Benjamin Mayes of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne; he presented on "Martin Luther's Baptismal Preaching." Rev. Dr. Mayes then led the congregation in Vespers Worship with musical selections from the Circuit Choir and the children of St Paul Lutheran School in Latimer sang as well. A traditional German meal of Bratwurst and German Potato Salad followed, among lots of other goodies. The day concluded with Rev. Dr. Mayes fielding a lively Q & A; questions included one about whether a Mormon baptism is valid if water and the right words are said. Over 200 attended this very joyful Reformation Celebration!

A cardboard cutout of Dr. Martin Luther was on display at the celebration, providing a "photo opportunity" for those in attendance.



L to R: Rev. Dr. Ben Mayes, Rev. Troy Peperkorn, Rev. Paul Beisel, Rev. Travis Berg, Rev. Karl Bollhagen, Rev. Dan Johnson, Rev. Michael Kearney, and Rev. David Splett.



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