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- Cory Kroonblawd, Eagan, MN  Trinity—Hampton, IA
- Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano, Fairborn, OH  Our Redeemer—Iowa City, IA
- Tanner Post, Lakefield, MN  Our Redeemer—Cedar Falls, IA

Calling Congregations

**CONGREGATION**  **VACANCY PASTOR**
- New Hope—Charles City, IA  Rev. Clarke Frederick
- Trinity—Clinton, IA  Rev. Anthony Dodgers
- St. Paul—Eldora, IA  Rev. Troy Peperkorn
- St. Paul—Alden, IA  Rev. Karl Bollhagen
- St. Paul—Buckeye, IA  Rev. Matthew Rueger

**About the Cover**
The group photo at the installation of Rev. Ted Groth at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids.
President’s Piece for Peace - The Festival Half
Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders

With the first Sunday of December we will have completed the Church Year and embarked upon yet another. For the next six months we will be in the “festival” half with Scripture readings informing us of Jesus’ pending birth to the day of His ascension and the blessed Day of Pentecost. Festivals will fill this next six months. We will celebrate Christmas, Epiphany, Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost. This being the case, it is helpful for us to understand what a festival is and how the Church properly celebrates it.

The word festival comes to our English language from Old French, which means “suitable for a feast; solemn, magnificent, joyful.” It is bound to religion and folklore with a significant attachment to agriculture (harvest). A festival is an event celebrating some characteristic of a community’s religion or culture. When we in the Church enter this festival half of the Church Year, what aspect are we celebrating? How do we demonstrate that aspect by how we celebrate the festival? Is it about mankind and our expression of gratitude? Is it about mankind receiving gifts? Is it some or all or both?

The congregation where I served my vicarage held what was called “The Feast of Rummage” every October. Members would bring in rummage from their homes, items they had no use for but someone might purchase for their use. The item was donated to the rummage and throughout an entire week the gymnasium was abuzz with shoppers looking for a good bargain. I remember the pastor telling me he questioned whether this was a good thing to do based on the fact what was rummaged was second or even third hand items that were tossed onto a table for sale in the church. While it raised quite a bit of money, which I think was used to make physical improvements to the buildings, he didn’t like the way it took over the church even through a Sunday morning. He indicated it missed the understanding of a “festival.” What was celebrated?

How was it expressed in the festival? Whether he had a point or not I leave for you to decide.

In the “festival half of the Church Year” the focus is on the Gift of God to mankind. The object and subject of the Scripture Readings is Jesus sent by the Father to redeem lost and condemned humanity. The entire mosaic of the festival half is The Son of God come to fulfill all righteousness. Upon fulfilling all righteousness the Holy Spirit comes through the Word and Sacraments to make us righteous before the Father.

That is why the festivals of this half of the Church Year are about receiving Christ and His saving work. The manifestation of these festivals is every Sunday when the Holy Word and precious Sacraments are placed into our ears and over our lips. In these we continue to receive the Gift of God, our Savior Jesus.

The best expression of gratitude for these Gifts is to come to the place where these Gifts are given. I speak of the Divine Service, God coming to serve us. In this service we receive Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. It is also appropriate to express gratitude by speaking of who He is and who He is for. Do this to your neighbor, whoever they may be. The festival half of the Church Year is a most advantageous time to invite family, friends, neighbors and strangers to come and receive the Gift of God in Christ Jesus. God bless this effort in and through you. Blessed Festival half of the Church Year to you!
Receiving and Doing!

Have you ever talked about having balance in your life? If one is to have such a thing, our lives need to be centered in Christ Jesus. For only Jesus brings balance to one’s life. That all begins with a worship life which flows in and from the Divine Service. The introduction to Lutheran Worship states:

“Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. Music is drawn into this thankfulness and praise, enlarging and elevating the adoration of our gracious giver God. Saying back to Him what He has said to us, we repeat what is most true and sure. Most true and sure in His name, which He put upon us with the water of our baptism. We are His. This we acknowledge at the beginning of the Divine Service. Where His name is, there is He. Before Him we acknowledge that we are sinners, and we plead for forgiveness. His forgiveness is given us, and we, freed and forgiven, acclaim Him as our great and gracious God as we apply to ourselves, the words He has used to make Himself known to us. The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then from us back to Him. He gives His gifts, and together we receive and extol them. We build one another up as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Our Lord gives us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Finally His blessing moves us out into our calling, where His gifts have their fruition.”

When our lives are Christ-centered in the Divine Service we can move out into our calling. We can serve our neighbor with good works as Paul says in Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Those good works flow from faith and give evidence of the faith we are confessing. God bestows upon us His gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in the Divine Service. Those gifts come to us from Christ Jesus who earned them for us through His suffering, death, and resurrection!

God’s Word does what only it can do. “For the Word of God is living and active and shaper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12. It is the preached Law of God, which cuts, prunes, and kills, so that the Gospel can resurrect and make alive! Our balance comes from Christ Jesus as Paul wrote: “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.

Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild is Assistant to the President and Director of the Proclaiming Christ Jesus Campaign.
DCE/School/Teacher/Others

New Calls
Megan McMullen – Anchorage, AK Teacher—Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport
Emily Woodall—Cedar Rapids Teacher—Valley Lutheran School, Cedar Falls

DCE Internships
Amanda Segebart Bethany Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids
Beatrice Lala Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha

Other
Andrew Folkmann, Tulsa OK Program Director —Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Calendar of Events

December
24–Jan 1 Christmas Holiday
IDE OFFICE CLOSED

January
28 IDE Board of Directors
31–Feb 1 IDE Middle School Retreat

April
4 IDE LHM Convention
10 Good Friday
IDE OFFICE CLOSED
28 Call Day at Concordia Sem.— STL
29 Call Day at CTS— FW

Capital Campaign Update
As of November 14, 2019

Gifts received to date
$808,726

Promised in the next 1–6 years
$18,550

TOTAL TO DATE
$827,276

Proclaiming Christ Jesus!
Luke 24:46-47
1. **St. Stephen’s Ladies Society in Atkins** hosted the Iowa East District Benton Zone Fall Rally on September 26, 2019. Pictured above are attendees at the rally. Many wore hats as rally attendees would have worn in the past.

2. Members of **Faith Lutheran Church in Waterloo** set up the Witness of the Crosses on October 12. The crosses represent all the children who have been killed by abortion in the U.S. since 1973.

3. **Faith Lutheran Church in Waterloo** welcomed 10 new members on October 6. From left to right: Jill and Josie Dean, Bob & Gail Noltensmeier, Pastor David Menet, Mark Mohr, and Jason, Lindsay, Hayden, Kayla, and Peyton Toenges.

5. Central Lutheran School in Newhall hosted the 2018-2019 Iowa District East Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 2nd. Finalists for the 3rd and 4th grade division were Loralie Childers (1st), Brogan Smith (2nd), and David Harper (3rd). Finalists for the 5th and 6th grade division were Connor Fencl (1st), Eli Rethwisch (2nd), and Emma Oberg (3rd). Finalists for the 7th and 8th grade division were Keller Wilson (1st), Josh Howe (2nd), and Sarah Claney (3rd).

6. In September, Trinity Lutheran in Osage recognized Sandy Krause for serving 20 years as Trinity’s “housekeeper”. She has also been the church secretary for almost that long. She is also very active in the LWML. “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

7. Confirmands from St. John Lutheran Church in Wellsburg. Don de Neui (left) is from the very first group of confirmands of St. John in 1943 and is pictured with Hannah Buttjer who was confirmed in 2019.

1–2. VBS at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Mound An average of 38 children attended each day, and learned the Bible lesson from Astronaut (Pastor) Steven Anderson. Fun science experiments highlighted the Bible story and verse each day. Music, crafts, games and snacks were all part of the morning. Songs from the week were shared at the worship service on Sunday June 23.

Several youth from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ventura used their scout status to benefit the congregation property. These scouts each had to design their projects, gain approval from the scout association and the church voter’s assembly, raise funds, solicit volunteers, and see the projects through completion.

3 Avery Moritz (Girl Scout) made a stand holding activity bags stocked with a variety of items intended to calm youngsters during church service. 4. Austin Richardson earned the rank of Eagle Scout, completing an installation of a stained glass window featuring a cross with Lutheran seal where an unused and deteriorating door once stood. 5. Blake Billings earned the rank of Eagle Scout by replacing badly weathered signage on the church property. Dakota Burress also earned the rank of Eagle Scout by constructing a new storage shed for the congregation.

6–7. A Talent Show and Ladies Spring Tea Party at St. John Lutheran Church in Victor were among several special fundraisers Ghana Harvest Missions. Ghana Harvest Mission is led by Pastor Salifu, a LCMS trained pastor and native of Ghana. St. John’s raised $7,500 for Ghana Harvest Missions, which works to establish churches in over 300 communities, teach members to read and write, translates Bibles, baptizes, trains pastors, and provide Lutheran education.
8. Ida Strunk and 9. Lemira Collett are each over 100 years old and still serving as a part of the group of quilters from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsburg. Members of the group include: Donna Collingwood, Dorothy Lane, Vera Knock, Loretta Glandorf, Joan Heitman, Evelyn Hudson, Sally Trimple, Evelyn Lutz, Darlene Read, Lemira Collett, Ida Strunk.

10-11. Trinity Home Missionary Society is celebrating 100 years as a women’s auxiliary arm of Trinity Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. One hundred years ago in February, 1919, twelve women joined together in Pastor Uhlig’s parlor to establish this group as an English speaking option to the Trinity Ladies Aid Society. As it’s name suggests, Trinity Home Missionary has been faithfully aiding Trinity Congregation, families, and our community through Bible study, prayer, education, and service. In 1942, Trinity Home Missionary became a charter member of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, which is now International, National, District, Zone, and local in scope. Many women of the congregation attend our meetings, help with lunches and fundraisers, and work within our Guilds as we Serve the Lord with Gladness!

12. The Piece Sewers/Peace Sowers of St. John Lutheran Church in Keystone created and sewed some 80+ quilts this year over the winter months. Some of these quilts have been sent to Lutheran World Relief, some to the seminary for students, some to the Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Quilt Auction, some to the Willis Dady Homeless Shelter, and some will be kept for benefits/fundraisers that may come up during the year. This quilt was specially made from material donated by the family of Maxine Walters and the ladies called the quilt "Maxine’s Flower Garden". Maxine was a member of this quilting group for many years. She passed away unexpectedly in December 2018. Pictured are Eleanor Roquet, Alice Junge, Margie Selken, Susie Albers, Carla Albertsen, Sue Meyer, and Betty Selk. Not pictured are Arlene Taschner, Shirley Meyer, Janet Meeks, and Dorothy Brecht.
Welcome, New Pastors!

1. New pastor calls and vicarage assignments from Call Day on April 30, 2019 at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Pictured from left to right: President Saunders, Nathan Knaus (Trinity, Chariton), Matthias (Naomi) Wollberg (St. Peter, Riceville), Robert (Jenna) Ricard (Trinity, State Center), Tanner (Madison) Post of Lakefield, MN (Vicar—Our Redeemer, Cedar Falls), Cory (Tori) Kroonblawd of Eagan, MN (Vicar—Trinity, Hampton).

2. Caleb Weight is greeted by Pastor Piotter and group from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf during Call Day, May 1, 2019 at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Installations

3. Installation of Pastor Ted (Dawn) Groth at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. Pastor Groth’s previous call was at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Broomfield, CO. 4. He shares an embrace with Pastor David Renfro.

5. Pastor David Hasselbrook of Waverly, IA is now called to St. Paul Lutheran in Evansdale.

6. Pastor Eric Obermann is installed at Grace Lutheran Church in DeWitt. Pastor Obermann’s last call was at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Custer, SD.

7. Pastor Rob Ricard of Johnston, RI is installed at Trinity Lutheran Church in State Center.

8. Pastor Nathan Knaus of Solomon, KS is installed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Chariton. He also served his vicarage at Trinity, Chariton.
9. Pastor Caleb Weight of Andover, MN is installed as Associate Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bettendorf.

10. Pastor Terry Small is installed as Pastor at St. Silas Lutheran Church in North Liberty. He has previously served in Iowa District East as Executive Director at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca and as Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Homestead and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wellman.

11. Pastor Caleb Schewe is installed at St. John Lutheran Church in Monticello. His previous call was in South Dakota at Trinity Lutheran in Wilmont, SD, and Our Savior in Corona, SD

12. Pastor Matthias Wollberg is installed at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Riceville, Iowa.

Also new to the Iowa District East but not pictured is Pastor Brian Licht at Risen Christ Lutheran in Davenport. His previous call was at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Carroll, IA.
1. Twenty-three pastors’ wives from around the district gathered at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on November 1st and 2nd for the 5th annual Pastors’ Wives’ Retreat. On Friday evening, President Saunders led the group in Vespers, recognizing All Saints’ Day. Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger presented several sessions to the group throughout the weekend discussing his book, "Sexual Morality in a Christless World." All who attended were able to relax and reconnect as they shared in the joys and struggles of parish life. The group looks forward to next year’s retreat featuring Dr. Bev Yahnke on November 6-7, 2020.

The 2019 Spring Workers Conference took place at Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha on May 6-7, 2019. The 2020 Spring Workers’ Conference will held May 4-5 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids.

2. Rev. Dr. Cameron MacKenzie presents on the Leipzig Debate at the 2019 Spring Workers’ Conference. The Leipzig Debate was a public examination that took place in 1519 and centered around many of Luther’s teachings and objections that arose from his posting of the 95 Theses.

3. Pastor John Wegener of College Hill Lutheran Church of the Pastors’ Conference planning committee leads announcements and introduces Dr. MacKenzie.
Fall Pastors’ Conference

The 2019 Fall Pastors’ Conference was held over October 7-8, 2019. The presenter was Dr. Bruce Schuchard, professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He presented on The Week of the Final Passover in the Gospel According to John. The 2020 Fall Pastors’ Conference will be held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, IA over October 5-6.

4. Pastor James Preus of Trinity Lutheran Church in Ottumwa poses a question for Dr. Schuchard.

5. Prior to joining the faculty at Concordia Seminary, Dr. Schuchard served as pastor right here in Iowa District East at St. James Lutheran Church in Victor from 1990 to 1997.

6. Pastors enjoying food and fellowship at dinner on the first day of the conference.
IDE Confirmation Retreat: Baptism

The **2019 Confirmation Retreat** took place October 11-12 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. The presenter was Pastor Stephen Preus of Trinity Lutheran Church in Vinton, IA. Worship times were led by Youth Committee Chairman Bert Mueller. Baptism was the topic of discussion, in particular, how the baptism of infants helps us understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how we are all saved by God’s grace alone.

1. Participants play some icebreaker activities on Friday night of the retreat.

2. Pastor Stephen Preus teaches on Baptism. The catechumens did a fantastic job of asking questions throughout the sessions.

3. Pastor Bert Mueller of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Westgate preaches and leads a devotion.

4. A photo of around 65 participants which includes groups from Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, Ventura, Mt. Vernon, Lowden, Marshalltown, Westgate, Ottumwa, Independence, and Charlotte.
Summer Camp 2019: By Faith

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” - Galatians 2:20

At Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca this summer, campers took the time to learn about their Christian faith. They learned about how their faith cries out to Jesus to RECEIVE from forgiveness and life him, about how their faith CONFESSES the truth about God, and how their faith ACTS in love and service to those around them. Finally, campers learned how this gift of faith SUSTAINS them as they go about their lives.

It was once again an overall beautiful summer at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Overall camp attendance was up nearly 10% as attendance reached its highest total in seven years. Thank you to all of those campers who attended, as well as all who came out the I Believe in Camp Fundraiser Auction. In the end, over $6,000 was raised for the mission of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca.

1. The IED LWML Fall Retreat took place at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca September 6-7.

2. “Under Construction” was the theme for the 2019 Iowa Early Childhood Educators Conference at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale August 2. This conference was an event jointly planned by EC Directors in Iowa West and Iowa East. Kari Markla, Early Childhood Consultant and Jan Doellinger, ATTP-Schools were on the planning committee representing IDE. Seven Early Childhood centers from IDE were in attendance.

3. About two dozen staff people from our Lutheran Homes in Davenport and Vinton gathered at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca September 10th for their annual spiritual retreat. The theme this autumn was “Back to Basics—Past, Present, Future.” Both Pastor Neuendorf and Pastor Schmidt presented and the remainder of the day was spent evaluating the basics of physical, spiritual, employee, and community care being provided.
4. Mr. Andrew Folkmann is the new Director of Programs and Retreats at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. He had previously spent 4 summers on staff at Camp from 2013-2016. Andrew is from Denver, Iowa, and his home church is St. John Lutheran Church in Denver.

5. College Hill Lutheran Church welcomed back members of Brothers in Christ Productions as they filmed part of their next film Stand Firm. We first partnered with Brothers in Christ Productions back in 2017 when they shot their film Crave, of which Stand Firm is a sequel to. 6. Fall Fling at College Hill Lutheran Church took place over November 1-3 with Rev. Ted Giese of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada presenting. Rev. Giese is well known for reviewing movies and providing a Lutheran understanding to them.

7-8. St. Paul’s Lutheran Chapel and University Center has been busy welcoming the new incoming class at the University of Iowa. The Welcome Back Fire and Dinner had record attendance. On the news front, The Mission Trip planned for May 2020 to Ethiopia had to be changed for safety reasons. The Mission Team will now be traveling to New England to help with converting a former ELCA church building to a LCMS church and help with repairs at a LCMS summer camp. A Brief Introduction to Christianity is a new campus ministry the Student Leadership Team hosted at the University of Iowa Memorial Union this fall. This brief introduction to Christianity is designed to introduce people to the basic tenets of the Christian faith.
1–3. On Sept. 22, Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf observed their 50th anniversary as a congregation and the 45th anniversary of their building with a celebratory worship service and catered meal. Former pastor Rev. Mark Anderson served as the guest preacher. The history of Word of God began as early as 1938 when pastors from Iowa District West came to Iowa East to preach to the deaf. In 1969, the district called Rev. Quintin Quade to establish a congregation for the deaf in Cedar Rapids. A total of eight pastors, one lay minister, and many members have served as the body of Christ in this place over the years. The theme from Isaiah 40:8, “The Word of our God will continue forever,” is a fitting reminder of how His living Word has served us in the past 50 years and will continue to give life to His church forever.

4–5. An organ was gifted to St. Silas Lutheran Church in North Liberty by Concordia University Chicago. The beginnings of the installation were even covered in an article in the Iowa City Press-Citizen.

6–7. The IDE LHM Annual Convention was held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on April 13, 2019. The Speaker was Dr. Beverly Yahnke of Doxology. Dr. Yahnke wasn’t able to be there in person due to her husband’s illness, and he passed away later that day. Despite this, Dr. Yahnke web-conferenced into the convention and presented on the topic of depression and gave an excellent and amazing presentation. The 2020 Convention will be held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on April 4, 2020 with Rev. Dr. Tony Cook presenting.
8. A joint LYF event of pizza and bowling of youth from **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charlotte** and **Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowden** before heading to the Higher Things Conference at Concordia University in Chicago.

9. Confirmation at **Trinity Lutheran Church in Vinton**.

10. Confirmation at **St. John Lutheran Church in Monticello**.

**National Youth Gathering Pictures**

The 2020 National Youth Gathering was held at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, MN over July 11-15 under the theme of Real Present. God. based on Psalm 46. Several groups from across the IDE attended and submitted pictures seen at the top and to the right.
District Representatives

District President          Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
Asst. to the President    Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild
Business/Office Manager   Sherry Brendes
Admin. Asst./Receptionist Pam Krog
Communications/Tech/Events Daniel Sanchez
1st Vice President         Rev. W. Max Mons, S.T.M.
2nd Vice President         Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger
Secretary                  Rev. Mark Brase
Treasurer                  Corey Nuehring
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IDE Archivist              Rev. Allen Konrad (onamission1939@gmail.com)
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