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President’s Piece for Peace
Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

We are not only asking “what next”, we may also be asking “how”? With 2020 has come the experience of a lifetime. They stack atop of each other. COVID, DERECHO, and a contentious election year. This year is one for the books; that is for sure. We may very well be a little anxious about what we have had to endure as well as wonder what is yet in store. While apprehension is one thing, dealing with this as servants in the Church is another.

One of the characteristics of a Lutheran Church Worker is compassion, caring, and a “fix it” aptitude. These are wonderful attributes the Lord of the Church has given us and they make for excellent shepherding and teaching. At the same time such deep compassion that wants to fix that which is broken can lead to deeper anxiety. When we run into members who have contracted COVID or any other illness for that matter, we want to be able to fix it for them. When we are not able to do that, it is frustrating. The same applies to our members who have suffered damage to building and property from the storm of August 10th. We see the carnage, the loss of roofs and the use of facilities. We are saddened by the corn fields where stalks now lay on their side. It hurts us as we perceive the pain of members who have farmed for a vocation that may not be able to continue in that line of work.

All of these things and many more turn on the “fix it” button in our desire to serve them. I know this frustration and have wrestled with it for over 30 years in the ministry. Each and every time I am challenged with this I only place myself in the company of the frustrated. So what do we do for them? How do we help them? How do we continue to minister to them? What about the classrooms and the students who have to practice social distancing along with having to wear masks? How do we care for those who are quarantined? How can we encourage our sheep to come and gather with one another in the assembly of the Saints to receive God’s Holy Word and Blessed Sacrament?

First of all, we adjust, don’t we? We have no other alternative but to make adjustments. Adjustments does not mean compromise. We do not, nor will we ever compromise what we believe, teach and confess is true. We just have to adjust as to how we teach it, bestow and receive it. This we have done remarkably well and I have admiration for all you IDE Servants. There will be more adjustments ahead. We must realize that and prepare for it. The adjustments as a result of DRECHO will be financial as much as physical. The crops lost to this storm will result in the millions of dollars across Iowa. We pray insurance and federal assistance will fill the gaps but there will be adjustments to people’s lives that we are most recently not used to making.

Second, it is most helpful for you, the Servant of Christ, to know that these are things you cannot “fix”. You are not equipped with resources nor training to repair roof tops, grain bins, fallen trees, siding, and etc. If you do own a saw and can use it skillfully go right ahead. If you can drive a tractor or combine and are able to assist, that is fine. All in all these are not going to fix the situation. Buildings are still damaged and crops are still lost. Members are still hurting and wondering, “what is next,” and, “how do we deal with this.”

It is most helpful for you, the Servant of Christ, to remember your Call and what the Lord has given you to exercise the Call. He has given you His Word, a powerful Absolution, the Sacraments and an office through which these are given. We are theologians of the Cross. We don’t lead our members to the Land of Oz promising them God will shower buckets of money down on them, or miraculously rebuild grain bins overnight. We must refrain from presenting Jesus as a Santa Claus who comes with presents for all those who have been good throughout the year.
President’s Piece for Peace
Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Amidst all this that has brought unwelcome change is the Word of God that does not change. That is what you have been given. Take them to the cross of Christ Jesus who took upon Himself the storm of our sin and death. There He endured the fires of hell in order to defeat Satan and his minions. Holding on to the cross shows us the One who went the extreme length to redeem us from the darkness and wind of eternal death. Going to the Sacrament is a participation in His victory revealed through His resurrection.

While we may want to fix the loss of buildings and income, we cannot. It is beyond our training, resource, and skill as called workers in the Church. What we can do is give them a Good Word. We can direct them to Christ and bring Christ to their hurting souls. He is never in short supply. Jesus is always present where He has promised to be. Christ is with us full of mercy. We serve our members and students by bring Christ to them in every situation and in every need. God bless you my fellow servants. God grant you strength and courage to trust what He has given to His Church that they may not only know Him but also know that He knows them.

President Saunders
Calendar of Events

September
12 IED LWML Convention

October
5-6 IDE Fall Pastors’ Conference

These events are subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please stay tuned to www.lcmside.org for more information on these events as they approach.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The IDE Fall Pastors’ Conference is still scheduled to happen. See page 18 of the packet for more information.

The IDE Confirmation Retreat (October 9-10) and the IDE Sr. High Retreat (Nov. 20-21) are being postponed to a later date in the spring.

The Iowa Teachers’ Conference (October 26-27) has been cancelled for this year.

The IDE Pastors’ Wives Retreat (November 6-7) has been cancelled for this year.
Calling Congregations

Bennett & Stanwood, St. Paul  
Daniel Redhage (vacancy pastor)

Charles City, New Hope  
Clarke Frederick (vacancy pastor)

Davenport, Risen Christ  
Calling an Assistant Pastor

Reinbeck, St. John  
(vacancy pastor)

Marion, St. Paul  
Dale Glawatz (vacancy pastor)

Garrison, St. Mark/Shellsburg, Zion  
Dean Rothchild (vacancy pastor)

Sumner, St. John & St. Paul  
Michael Parris (vacancy pastor)

Pastor Calls

Accepted:  Aaron Hambleton, Redeemer—Lisbon, ND to...  St. Paul Lutheran—Eldora, IA

Pending:  Isaac Johnson, IDE to...  New Hope—Charles City, IA

Declined:  Stephen Preus, Trinity Lutheran—Vinton to...  Hope Lutheran—Fremont, CA

DCE / School / Teacher Calls

Accepted:  Rev. Andrew Watkins, Sayre, PA to Trinity, CR—6th Grade Teacher

Pending:

Declined:  Paul Johnson, St. Paul—Trenton, MI to St. Paul—Marion DCE
The 2020-2021 Fall Directory is currently in publication. Please send any updates for the directory as you have them throughout the year. Updates will be made to the online directory weekly and posted in the professional packet each month as usual. Questions and updated information can be sent to the Pam Krog:

pam@lcmside.org
319-373-2112
Humbled by the Humble!

At 12:20pm on Monday August 10th my wife received a text message from the maid of honor from our wedding. It read: “You are about to get hit by strong winds.” Lynette has a 19 year old son who is a weather guru and should be a TV weatherman someday. Crist, the weather guru, was letting us know what we would experience beginning in about 10 minutes. The derecho did arrive and the rest is history. It gave us a firsthand experience in the best and worst of people. People came to help. Others came to scam and price gouge.

Two neighbors arrived with hand saws and clippers to begin the task of cutting my work car out from under the canopy of our maple tree which covered it. The car was unscathed other than the deer alarms which need to be glued on. Help continued to arrive over the next week. The disaster crew from the Southern District arrived and were able to help many people in Cedar Rapids and in Benton County, which was devastated.

You can only do so much sawing and hauling of trees that you need a break. I had heard that Benton County had been hard hit so on Wednesday August 12th I drove to the churches throughout the County along with Central Lutheran School to assess damage. The next day I covered most of the churches in the Cedar Rapids metro area. The damage varied from place to place.

I am serving the vacancy at St. Mark Lutheran in Garrison and Zion Lutheran in Shellsburg. Even though neither place had power on August 16th the Divine Service was held in both places, one with piano and the other acapella. During the sermon at Garrison I came to the verse in my sermon where Jesus says: “Come unto Me, all who are weak and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” I could go no further and had to stop and collect myself. Dealing with the events of the past week had really drained me, and I was heavy-laden and I needed the rest that only Christ Jesus could give unto me through His Word and Sacrament. It was the very Word I was privileged to proclaim and the real body and blood of Christ Jesus that I was able to distribute in the Lord’s Supper for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of the faith of those receiving it and myself that brought me rest.

To see part of our home destroyed was tough to handle. There is a loss and a grieving process which goes with it. As I go around and assess projects I see and hear the stories of others and witness their loss. I had one person come over and help put the initial tarps on my roof where trees had punctured holes in my roof. We also removed as much as we safely could from my room. I ran into this person a week or so later and asked how he was doing. He replied with a smile, “Fine.” I then asked about his home and he said, “Okay, other than the two limbs on my roof.” I was truly humbled by this humble servant. He was more concerned with helping others than for this own needs. We got those limbs off his roof the next day.

Last month I wrote about serving, this month I was humbled to be served by so many others. Such is the love of Christ being shown to others amidst the unexpected trials. I am thankful not only for God’s love in Christ Jesus in redeeming me but for people helping and serving me and many others after this derecho!

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild
Assistant to the President
Capital Campaign Update

Proclaiming Christ Jesus!
Luke 24:46-47

Capital Campaign
Approved 6-29-12 by Iowa District East in Convention

- Pastors are being contacted by phone for potential names of those saints in Christ Jesus who may wish to make an individual gift.

- Dr. Rothchild will send a letter of introduction to potential donors and will follow-up with a phone call to schedule a personal visit.

- Dr. Rothchild will show the DVD and share other information at the time of his visit and the saints will be given a donor form to complete as they deem appropriate.

- I wish to thank all our faithful donors, both individuals and congregations.

As of 9/3/2020

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For further information, please contact **Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild**
319-373-2112 (office), 319-350-9564 (cell)
drothchild@lcmside.org.
Teacher as Gardener

3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.” Matthew 13:3-9 ESV

Last month I told you about a young person who, when she was 13 years old, invented a hollow flashlight that was battery free. Ann’s reason for the invention was to assist her relatives in studying at night. I encouraged you to be that “light” in the lives of your new students this school year. Whatever type of learning you and your students are adjusting to, I pray that Jesus is using you to be His light in your time together.

Now that your year is underway, let’s talk about gardening. How are you going to keep your crop of students growing in the days ahead? If you have your own garden, you know that it takes more than light to produce a crop. Even if you’ve only grown one plant, you can see parallels between gardening and classroom leadership. Here are six pieces of advice to consider as you plough your way through 2020-2021.*

Growing things is fun! It’s exciting to see little plants burst forth from the soil in search of sunlight. Maybe all you see is dirt for a few days. Soon, however, you’ve got plants popping up all over the place. Over the next few weeks and months you measure growth and enjoy watching the changes. Pretty soon comes the harvest, and you enjoy the tomatoes in a salad. And so it is for teachers. You love to see your students grow, and there is a sense of accomplishment when the learning clicks. Enjoy the highs! Celebrate them during the year with your students, parents, and co-workers. Most importantly, celebrate growing in faith in Jesus!

Tend the soil. Iowa has some of the best soil in the world. Las Vegas, when I lived there, proved differently. You can have the soil tested by ISU’s Master Gardeners to see what you need to do to improve the soil environment. Then follow their advice for the best kind of fertilizer, weed killer, or transplanting. Jesus talked about this in His parable. Depending where the seed falls will determine its future. Emerging plants need attention. They can’t fix the problem themselves. So, get involved. Don’t be afraid to get your hands dirty. Keep your eyes and ears open to the needs of your students.

Check your local climate. Corn grows really well in Iowa because we have a great climate. If you want to grow grapes in Iowa, you have to find the right variety for our climate. To get a successful crop, you have to plant plants that will grow in your climate. Likewise, in the climate we find ourselves today, all of us need to be sensitive to our student’s needs, make adjustments in your classroom climate, adjust to the various learning styles when necessary, and be flexible in your planning.

Watch for intruders. Weeds. Insects. Rabbits and deer. Wind. If you sow some seeds in May, and then ignore them until June, one if not all these intruders will disrupt your plan for a fruitful harvest. As classroom gardeners, we need to be vigilant against intruders that come to invade our tender crop. Some of these in-
truders are not as dangerous as others. Others may appear to be harmless, even beautiful or cute, but can harm and even destroy plants quickly. And sometimes, when you pull a weed, if you’re not careful, you’ll pull out a plant or two. Be vigilant about disruptive influences that upset relationships and learning, and be ready to take action.

Don’t let your plants spread. I was watching a video the other day where a gardener was giving advice on cutting back petunias so that the plant can thrive producing more blooms. On the other hand, some plants, like cucumbers and pumpkins, need to roam. It takes a skilled gardener to know when to prune and when not to prune. Grow with your students to learn what makes them flourish at times and wilt at other times. Each one of your students is a person uniquely created by God. Provide for their needs, even it takes some pruning.

Enjoy the harvest. At the end of the day, it’s all about the harvest. You enjoy seeing vegetables grow and mature, but that experience pales in comparison to eating those vegetables. Gardening is about results. Throughout the school year you will be assessing student progress, testing formally and informally. You’ll know how each of them is doing in all of the subjects, but that’s not the final outcome. Ultimately, you’ll be talking to your students about Jesus, eternal life, forgiveness, and encouraging them to tell others about Him. “He who has ears to hear, let him hear”, says Jesus. Our progress and growth expectations don’t always go the way we would like, but when we all get to heaven, it won’t matter anyway.

Effective gardeners are never entirely content with their product. Maybe with a higher quality of soil or a different watering system, they could still do better. So it is with effective teachers. We know we need to keep tinkering, evaluating, and improving our methods because our world keeps changing. Teaching is a calling, and when we see progress and growth we celebrate. The Lord will provide you with what you need to grow the students in your care. I’ve heard talking to plants helps them grow. Talk to your Heavenly Father. He’s the Master Gardener!

*Thank you to Richard Blackaby in “The Leader as Gardener”.

Note from Jan: As you can tell, I wrote this article before the August 10 derecho. We’ve seen damage that has been incomprehensible to gardens, trees, crops, and other forms of vegetation. Hours and years of tending and caring for this part of God’s creation was ruined and lost in a matter of minutes. Despite this loss, we know the Master Gardener is seeing us through this disaster because He knows exactly what we need and He is a keeper of promises. Even now, new shoots are springing up, and what was once old is made new. So, too, in your classrooms. Your students are more precious than the “lilies of the field”. Tend to them with what they need to grow in their faith and love towards one another. Take care of them and yourself!
As I write this article, the COVID-19 virus case numbers in my state of Missouri are increasing and it is now considered a COVID red state. Our governor and local authorities have recommended, but not mandated, masks and social distancing. We struggle for answers to keep people safe while respecting their freedom and opinions. At the local food bank, clients and volunteers wear masks and use hand sanitizer frequently. In other settings of our community, little has changed from prior practices to COVID-19.

Do I trust my neighbor to self-identify and take proper measures if exposed to COVID-19? One would hope so, but the virus continues to spread. Can we trust the scientific community to develop a successful vaccine? Are current treatment options for COVID-19 trustworthy?

According to Merriam-Webster, the definition of the noun trust is a firm belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, etc. A synonym of trust is faith and an antonym is doubt or skepticism. How to find trust in this chaos? For us as Christians, the foundation of trust is in knowing that God is in control. He works through bad situations for His ultimate good. Being in God’s Word is essential to finding and building trust in our relationship with God. Prayer and meditation are important ways to discipline our minds as we talk to God and then listen to Him. These are tools for finding trust not only during this pandemic but always.

Six weeks ago, after Phase One of the quarantine, our congregation resumed services in the church building. Three weeks ago, one of the fire sprinklers flooded the sanctuary necessitating a move to the Fellowship Hall for Sunday services. There have been challenges in securing the needed repair parts. While the repairmen were working in the ceiling it was noted that we also need a new roof on an older section of the church. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for the foreseeable future. Our pastor recently reminded us that no place in the Bible does it say that God will not give us more than we can bear; what He promises is that He will always be with us! Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on our own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

Taken from Parish Nursing Notes Vol. 2 Issue 1
by Carol Broemmer, RN, MA
LCMS Missouri District Parish Nurse Representative
Parish Nurse, Christ the King Lutheran Church
Lake Ozark, MO 654049
cbroemmer@charter.net

Submitted by Ronda Anderson, RN
LCMS Iowa District East Parish Nurse Representative
One night several years ago, when we were living in the village of Koaka in the Kono area of Sierra Leone, our neighbor’s house was struck by lightning. As the flames burned the grass roof and climbed higher into the sky, I joined the crowd that was gathering to watch. When the people began to comment among themselves about the fire, I was struck by the difference in outlook between my culture and theirs.

If the same situation happened in America, the people who gathered would be commenting on what a shame it was that the family lost their home, what a tragedy. But that night in Kono, people were saying, “I wonder what they did? I wonder what they did to anger the spirits to cause their home to be struck by lightning?”

So many people in Kono live in fear of the spirits who they believe control their lives. They are always concerned about whether or not they have made the right sacrifices or done the right things to protect themselves and their families....

Jim and Susan Kaiser related this story in 1996 while they were serving with the Kono New Testament translation team. Twelve years later the completed New Testament was presented to the Kono people. It was the culmination of over twenty years of dedicated service and partnership between missionaries, translation team staff, the Kono community, and prayer and financial supporters here in the U.S. Having Scripture in their hands was cause for much rejoicing among the Kono. At last there was an opportunity to learn about the one true faithful and loving God!

But the story doesn’t end there.

Translating God’s Word is just the beginning of the process. If people don’t engage with Scripture—read it, listen to it, share in the church and at home—it is meaningless. Today, the Kono Literacy and Scripture Engagement Program continues to promote God’s Word through literacy, translation and training.

The Kono have come a long way, but there is much work still to be done. Click here to read more about the Kono and the New Testament dedication in 2008. To learn how you can help the Kono community continue its walk of faith today click here.

by Linda Gari
Lutheran Bible Translators
DAMAGE REPORT!

At our staff meeting on the morning of Monday, August 10, we reviewed our summer and looked ahead to a bit of quiet for the remainder of the month. Though not a “normal” summer, it has been hectic and chaotic year since the pandemic hit in March. We talked about and planned out inexpensive projects and improvements that would make things safer in the age of COVID-19 as the family reunion on Camp prepared for a cool dip in the swimming pool. But our plans for rest and ease were about to change.

By 12:30PM, the derecho storm had arrived and a host of destruction with it. By the grace of God, everyone on Camp was safe throughout and after the storm, and no major damage occurred to Camp facilities. The afternoon was spent clearing the road for the family reunion to evacuate Camp. Aside from downed trees and debris everywhere, we had electrical lines both downed and uprooted. After a few days of wonderful volunteer help, we were able to get our infrastructure accessible so that we could haul logs and brush to the horse pasture as we built massive burn piles. Around 80 trees and large limbs have come down across camp, but we expect to find out more damage once the leaves come down in the fall. A month later, the vast majority of the main cleanup is done, though the damage from the storm can still be noticed.

Electricity fully returned to Camp on Saturday, August 15 and, with that, we began hosting volunteers the very next day. With the Iowa District East office in Marion out of commission due to the storm Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca became a center for LCMS Disaster Response efforts across Eastern Iowa for a few weeks. Dozens of highly trained volunteers came from all across the country with equipment and provided aid to areas significantly impacted by the storm, doing work ranging from chainsawing and dropping trees to removing trees and branches from homes.

We hope to continue to host more volunteers throughout September and October as we have availability. It has been a blessing to serve our district, congregations, God’s people, and our communities from Belle Plaine to Olin in August, and we look forward to participating in this mission going forward. You can support this effort. Donating to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca’s Disaster Response allows us to house, feed, and host volunteers FOR FREE as we utilize their efforts to help Eastern Iowa recover from this disaster. Email director@iodiseca.org or call 319-848-4187 to see how you can support an upcoming volunteer group!
Camp Presentations

Would you like to know more about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? Camp Director Daniel Sanchez is available to speak to congregations and groups about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's mission, facilities, and programs. Call 319-848-4187 to schedule a speaker!

Important Dates

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, these retreats are subject to change, postpone, or cancel.

- **September 12**
  - IED LWML Convention

- **October 5-6**
  - IDE Fall Pastors’ Conference

- **October 9-10** - POSTPONED TO SPRING
  - IDE Confirmation Retreat

- **November 6-7**
  - IDE Pastors’ Wives Retreat

- **November 7**
  - Fall Workday

- **November 20-21** - POSTPONED TO SPRING
  - IDE Sr. High Retreat

THRICENT CHOICE

In 2019, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received over $10,000 in Thrivent Choice contributions! Thank you donors for making this program a success for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Will you help make 2020 an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

Go to [https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/) or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice" to designate your choice dollars for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca today.

Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!

Needs List

Lawn Tractor; Paper Towels; Toilet Paper; First Class Postage Stamps; Batteries: 9v, AA, AAA; Cleaning Supplies: window cleaner, all-purpose cleaner. Please see our web site for a complete list: [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org).

Camp and COVID-19

Are you wondering how your camp experience is impacted by the pandemic? Do you want to know how Camp is planning to host your group and make sure that you are being safe? Head over to our website to review our policy guidelines and camp updates at:


We are going to do our very best to make sure that our guests and staff stay safe in this time, and we want to make sure that you are informed! Over the past month, we installed a water bottle filler attachment to the drinking fountain!

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A newsletter of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

REACHING RURAL AMERICA FOR CHRIST

“... and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord...”

—Post-Communion Collect, Divine Service, Lutheran Service Book

Our “Life Together”

• To follow the core beliefs of the LCMS
• To equip rural professional and lay leaders
• To support congregations in community engagement

Please Pray for This Important Date

Aug. 6 – Webinar
“Grace Place”
with the Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman, interim president/CEO of Grace Place Wellness Ministries, St. Louis
1–2 p.m. CST

Sept. 24 – Webinar
“Thinking Outside the Box: Partnerships”
with the Rev. Tom Schlund of Algona, Iowa
1–2 p.m. CST

Oct. 15 – Webinar
“Deaconesses and the Rural and Small-Town Congregation: Partnership and Ministry Models”
with Deaconess Faith Swenson of Fairbank, Iowa
1–2 p.m. CST

STONG FAITH, FERVENT LOVE

Reframing Scarcity as Opportunity

Safety and security are very important to us as human beings. In fact, they are among the very basic needs of human existence. We strive to secure for ourselves a safe and secure future where we don’t have to worry about what happens but can live life out in relative peace and comfort. When this safety and security is threatened, we naturally move to protect ourselves. It’s natural — it is just what we do.

As congregations gathered around God’s precious Word, we often act the same way. We desire safety and security in our churches and we love when we have it. Indeed, for a long time that was the case in many of our congregations. Things were relatively good for a reasonably long time. Then, for many, things started to change. Members wandered away and new ones were hard to find, the building began to cost more and more to maintain, the congregation aged, and the budgets moved further into the red. When this happened, instead of planning and preparing for a future that looked different from our past, we hunkered down, trying to keep our heads low and the lights on. Self-preservation became the name of the game and the Gospel became cloistered in these tight groups bent on survival, forsaking evangelism.

Now, into this mode of congregational survival comes a virus of pandemic proportions. Now, even the small groups of believers are forced to shelter in place and the pews become utterly empty. Congregations that were facing a scarcity of both financial and human resources are

(continued on page 3)
Grace Place Wellness Ministries for Rural and Small Town Ministry:

When It’s **REALLY GREAT** and **REALLY HARD**

by Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman

W hose best day in ministry ever was followed the next day by his worst? There’s reason to vote for Elijah the prophet. After the mountaintop victory over the prophets of Baal, Elijah ran for his life and collapsed under the broom tree, telling God that he was finished; he had had enough and wanted to die. What happened?

Grace Place Wellness Ministries nurtures vitality and joy in ministry by inspiring and equipping church workers to lead healthy lives. Maybe Elijah had neglected his own well-being so that in a time of ministry crisis, his first response was to throw in the towel. Every pastor and church worker is just a few short steps away from a ministry collapse like Elijah’s. We love what we do, but far too often we live close to the edge of spiritual, relational, emotional, physical and financial exhaustion.

Church workers live within a unique paradox. Ministry is really great, but it’s also really hard. Part of what makes Christian ministry so great is that it is very hard. No pastor can perfectly fulfill the widely varied and demanding expectations of the office. The vast majority of pastors report that they find their ministry calling richly rewarding and that they wouldn’t trade it for anything. They also report that their spiritual, emotional

For 20 years, Grace Place Wellness Ministries, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has been teaching church workers and their spouses to tend to their own wellness for the sake of the ministry to which they are called. Self-care is not selfish. When the flight attendant warns parents to “put their own oxygen masks on first,” their concern is for those who need their assistance. The Lord’s people that we serve in ministry need us at our best — on Sundays, in times of joy and celebration, and especially in times of trial and great need.

Church workers who tend to their own wellness are able to give their very best in ministry. Join us for this month’s webinar where the Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman, program director for Grace Place Wellness Ministries, offers encouragement and training for some simple measures to safeguard your own wellness for the sake of those you serve.

Maybe Elijah had neglected his own well-being so that in a time of ministry crisis, **HIS FIRST RESPONSE WAS TO THROW IN THE TOWEL.**
now faced with an enormity of struggles that just might seem too overwhelming to deal with.

While it would be easy for us to throw up our hands and give up, we are reminded that this isn’t what we are called to be. We must remember that the Lord of the church has planted our congregations in their respective communities to faithfully carry out His mission. These days of fear and survival can, with proper perspective, be reframed as a perfect time for congregations to recapture the mission zeal of days gone by. Our faithful God has promised His church that He will always be with them. Until that day when He deems that their mission has been completed, the faithful will have more to do for His glory.

I have called this, in other places, a “new reality for the future of our congregations.” This new reality can be framed as one of opportunity, rather than one of scarcity. Churches have the opportunity to reach out to people who for a long time weren’t interested in hearing the Good News because their lives were seldom challenged. The security that we as humans were attempting to strive for was the very thing that set up the temptation to remain self-sufficient. This pandemic has challenged that status quo and shown many that life and health are not guaranteed. People around (and often in) our congregations desire security again, and we have the opportunity to provide them with true security and peace. In the faithful proclamation of the Gospel and right administration of the Sacraments, the communities around our congregations can find the safety that the world offers but doesn’t deliver.

Pastor Todd Kollbaum

RSTM Events Update

Don’t forget that Rural & Small Town Mission provides free monthly webinars on topics important to congregations in town and country settings. Up next is Grace Place on Aug. 6, followed by Thinking Outside the Box: Partnerships on Sept. 24. Find past webinars in our archive. Watch for information on all our upcoming events!

RSTM’s newest events, Welcoming Workshops, are something we think your congregation will love and benefit from. These day-long events will help congregations become more welcoming places, providing God’s Word to both current members and guests. They will offer practical resources on Welcoming Buildings, Welcoming Publications and Welcoming People.

Register for one of our Engaging Your Community (EYC) or Engaging the Wandering (ETW) events at lcms.org/rstm. These partner events offer practical resources and communication skills for reaching out to our wandering members and our communities with Christ’s love. Contact your district or our office if you are interested in holding an event near you. We are currently scheduling for 2020!

In addition, pray for the new Making Disciples for Life conferences and watch for information on a regional event coming near you!
Registration
Registration and Check-In begin at 12:00 PM on Monday, October 5th.
Cost is $50 for Pastors and Vicars, $30 for Online Livestream Option, $20 for Emeriti and Wives

Register online at https://lcmside.org/fall-pastors-conference-registration/, or fill out a paper registration form and return to the district office with a check. Mail to: Iowa District East LCMS, 1100 Blairs Ferry Rd, Marion IA 52302-3093.

Housing
Attendees may stay at camp for an additional $28 or find housing on their own. A block of rooms has been reserved at Days Inn & Suites in Cedar Rapids. Room rate is $69.95 plus tax. Call Days Inn to reserve a room.

DAYS INN & SUITES
2215 BLAIRS FERRY RD
CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52402
319-378-3948

Presenters and Topics
The presentation times will consist of various presentations and papers from pastors within the district. You may register for an online livestream of the conference if you do not plan on attending because of COVID-19 precautions. District Business will be on Tuesday morning, Also on Tuesday, October 6, LCMS President Harrison will join in via teleconference along with LCMS 1st Vice President Lange to discuss various synodical topics and information. The topics and presenters are:

1st Corinthians and the Body
Rev. Bert Mueller - St. Peter Lutheran, Westgate and Grace Lutheran, Fayette

What’s Wrong with Church Growth?

Social Justice: What does this mean in the LCMS?
Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders - President, Iowa District East—LCMS

Godly Beauty vs Worldly Beauty
Rev. Andrew Preus - Trinity Lutheran, Guttenberg and St. Paul Lutheran, McGregor

Pericope Study on Trinity 18 and Pentecost 19
Rev. James Preus (1-Year, Trinity 18) and Rev. Justin Kane (3-Year, Pentecost 19)
REGISTRATION FORM
2020 IDE Fall Pastors’ Conference
October 5-6 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
REGISTER ONLINE AT LCMSIDE.ORG

Name_________________________________________

Congregation___________________________________

Address _______________________________________

City_________________________ Zip_______________

Phone ___________________________ Email ____________

REGISTRATION TYPE

_____ Pastors, Vicars, Church Workers ($50)
_____ Online/Livestream Option ($30)
_____ Emeriti, Wives ($20 )

HOUSING

_____ I will stay at camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. ($28)
_____ I will find my own housing away from camp.

Please mail this form along with a check for payment to the IDE office by September 30th. Checks should be made out to IOWA DISTRICT EAST-LCMS; please note FALL PASTORS CONF 2020 in the memo. Mail to:

IOWA DISTRICT EAST - LCMS
1100 BLAIRS FERRY RD
MARION IA 52302-3093
OFFICIAL DISTRICT CONVENTION NOTICE

The 41st Convention of the Iowa District East will be held June 25-26, 2021 at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer will present on the convention theme "Persecution and Passion: Faithfulness Under the Cross."

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. A congregation that is part of a multi-congregation parish, other than the congregation supplying the voting lay delegate, may elect and depute an advisory lay delegate with voice but no vote. The delegates’ names (as well as the alternates and advisory) should be selected and submitted prior to the January 31, 2021 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 ordained minister (6-year term)*
  - Two laypersons (6-year term)*
- **Constitution Review Committee** - One ordained (6-year term)*
  - One Layperson (6-year term)
- **District Nominations Committee**
  - Two ordained (3-year term)
  - Two laypersons (3-year term)
  - One commissioned (3-year term)

*Incumbents are eligible for re-election.

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, 2020 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
DERECHO STORM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

On Monday, August 10, 2020, many Iowa District East churches, schools, and ministries in the middle section of the district were affected with severe storm damage from a Derecho storm. The Iowa District East has some relief funds available for financial assistance for congregations and schools:

A. Storm Relief Fund - restricted funds used to assist congregations and schools with insurance deductibles when storm damage has occurred.

1. A limited amount of temporary restricted funds are available. Amounts distributed will be determined by number of requests received.

2. Submit completed application with insurance claim number, policy declarations page showing the deductible amount, and 1-3 photos of damage.

3. Application deadline is **Friday, September 18, 2020**. Applications must be received in the District Office by this date in order to be included in the distribution of funds.

B. CONTACT INFORMATION:

1. President Brian Saunders – (319) 373-2112, (319) 389-5526, bsaunders@lcmside.org

2. Sherry Brendes, Business Manager – (319) 560-3587, sherry@lcmside.org
DERECHO STORM FINANCIAL RELIEF APPLICATION

CONGREGATION / SCHOOL: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

CONTACT PERSON: ___________________ CELL PHONE: _________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________

Insurance Claim #: ________________ Deductible Amount: $ _____________

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<th>Brief Description of Damage:</th>
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Is the damage preventing worship services, classes, etc. from being held? □ YES □ NO

Submit completed application with 1-3 photos of damage to: Iowa District East
ATTN: Sherry Brendes
1100 Blairs Ferry Road
Marion, IA 52302
sherry@lcmside.org
(319) 560-3587

DEADLINE: All applications must be received in the District Office before Friday, September 18, 2020, in order to be included in the consideration of distribution of funds.

QUESTIONS??: Contact Sherry Brendes at (319) 560-3587, sherry@lcmside.org.
DISASTER ASSISTANCE

To register and follow-up inquiries, call:

1-800-621-3362

If you use a TTY: 1-800-462-7585
711 or Video Relay Service (VRS): 1-800-621-3362

Please have the following available:
• Your address with zip code
• Condition of your damaged home
• Insurance information, if available
• Social Security number
• Phone number where you can be contacted
• Address where you can get mail or email address to receive electronic notifications

Direct Deposit: Disaster assistance funds can be sent directly to your bank account. Please provide your bank account type, account number and bank routing number.

Stay in touch with FEMA: When you register, you will be given a FEMA registration number. Write down your number and save it. You will need the number whenever you contact FEMA.

Online registration also available

Disaster assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status.
ASISTENCIA POR DESASTRE

Para inscribirse o dar seguimiento a su caso, llame al:

1-800-621-3362

Si usa TTY, llame al: 1-800-462-7585
711 o el Servicio de Retransmisión de Video (VRS): 1-800-621-3362

Por favor tenga disponible lo siguiente:
• Dirección con el código postal
• Condiciones de su propiedad dañada
• Información del seguro, si está disponible
• Número Seguro Social
• Número de teléfono donde se le pueda contactar
• Dirección donde usted puede recibir correspondencia o correo electrónico para recibir notificaciones electrónicas

Deposito Directo: Fondos de asistencia de desastres se pueden enviar directamente a su cuenta bancaria. Proporcione por favor su tipo de cuenta bancaria, número de cuenta y número de ruta bancaria.

Manténgase en contacto con FEMA: Cuando se inscribe, se le dará un número de registro de FEMA. Anote su número y guardarlo. Usted necesitará el número cada vez que se ponga en contacto con FEMA.

También puede inscribirse en línea

La asistencia de recuperación por desastres está disponible sin tomar en consideración raza, color, religión, origen nacional, sexo, edad, discapacidad, dominio del inglés o nivel económico.
Your Civil Rights
And Disaster Assistance

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 (Stafford Act) authorizes Federal assistance when the President declares a state, tribe, or territory to be a disaster area. Section 308 of the Stafford Act states:

“[The] distribution of supplies, the processing of applications, and other relief and assistance activities shall be accomplished in an equitable and impartial manner, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status.”

Section 309 of the Stafford Act applies these non-discrimination provisions to all private relief organizations participating in the response and recovery efforts.

In addition, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 also protects individuals from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in connection with programs receiving Federal financial assistance.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires FEMA to provide equal access to individuals with disabilities throughout FEMA’s programs and activities and throughout programs and activities carried out by recipients of Federal funds.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act requires FEMA to provide members of the public who are individuals with disabilities seeking information or services access to and use of information and data the same way they would be provided to members of the public who are not individuals with disabilities.

What forms of discrimination are prohibited by Civil Rights laws?

FEMA and a state, local, tribal or territorial government agency or other organization running a FEMA-funded program cannot – either directly or by contract:

- Deny (intentionally or unintentionally) programs, benefits, or services or
- Provide a different program, benefit, or service or provide them in a manner different from the way they are provided to others

based on an individual’s race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency, or economic status.

--- please see other side ---
FEMA provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- Written information in Braille, large print, audio, accessible electronic formats
- Qualified sign language interpreters
- Computer Assisted Realtime Translation (CART)

FEMA also provides services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- Qualified interpreters
- Information written in languages other than English

If you need assistance to access a FEMA-provided or a FEMA-funded benefit, program, or service, please contact the Civil Rights Resource Line at (833) 285-7448 [Press 1 for English, 2 for Spanish, 3 for the Language Line] or FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov

**What if I have a Civil Rights complaint?**

If you believe you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA at (833) 285 – 7448 [Press 1 for English, 2 for Spanish, 3 for the Language Line] send an email to FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov or mail the written complaint to FEMAOFFICEOF EQUAL RIGHTS, Civil Rights Section, 500 C Street, SW, Room 4SW-0915, Washington, DC 20472. You must file your complaint in writing within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act.

The civil rights complaint must include:

- Your name, address, and telephone number. Your complaint must be signed. If you are filing on behalf of another person, include your name, address, telephone number, and your relationship to that person, for example, friend, attorney, parent, etc.
- The name and address of the agency, institution or department you believe discriminated against you.
- How, why, and when you believe you were discriminated against. Please include as much detail as possible about the alleged acts of discrimination. Include names of individuals whom you allege discriminated against you, if you know them.
- Please include the names of any persons with additional information to support or clarify your allegations.

**What will FEMA do with my complaint?**

Once a complaint is filed, it will be reviewed by FEMA’s Office of Equal Rights to determine FEMA’s authority to investigate the issues you have filed a complaint about. If another agency has the authority to investigate, FEMA will notify you and send it to the appropriate agency. If FEMA has authority and has received a complete complaint, FEMA will investigate the complaint and will attempt to resolve any violations informally. If an informal resolution to address a concern or violation is unsuccessful, enforcement proceedings may be instituted.

**What if I am retaliated against for asserting my rights or filing a complaint?**

FEMA and a state, local, tribal or territorial government agency or other organization running a FEMA-funded program are prohibited from retaliating against you or any person because they opposed an unlawful policy or practice, or made charges, testified, or participated in any complaint action under a Civil Rights law. If you believe that you have been retaliated against, please contact FEMA’s Office of Equal Rights immediately.
This may seem a bit archaic, but then that is what one would expect from an archivist. I would like to talk about books in an era where so much is being done to digitize reading material. Unless your attention is drawn to it, you might never know that IDE has a room set aside which has been identified as a Library. When you enter the Office building through the double doors on the east side, you pass the reception desk to your right and end up in front of what used to be an office cubicle. At the far end of that room, there is a door which opens up into the IDE Library. Many of the shelves are still empty, but let me tell you of what has already been gathered and stored on some of them.

For you scholars who have some knowledge of the German language, know that the Library contains copies of *Der Lutheraner* (1844-Vol. 1 to 1941-Vol. 97, various issues up to 1952-Vol. 108, and finally copies from 1970-Vol. 126 to 1973-Vol. 129). On another shelf are volumes in German of *Lehre und Wehre* (1855-Vol. 1 to 1928-Vol. 74). As for English material, the Library contains *The Lutheran Witness* (missing are 1882-Vol. 1 to 1893-Vol. 11, but then most issues up to 2020-Vol. 139). If you have an interest in LCMS Church History, then you might want to look at what *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* has published (every issue from 1928-Vol. 1 to 2020-Vol. 93 is on the shelf). Your archivist has compiled an index of all CHIQ articles in digital format and you can obtain a copy by sending me an e-mail with the Subject Title: CHIQ Index. You should know that these Library books are not for signing out, but to be researched within the Library.
Submissions for the next edition of our Professional Workers’ Packet are due

**September 25**

Please email articles, photos and announcements to
Daniel Sanchez, IDE Communications/Events/Technology Coordinator
dsanchez@lcmside.org

*Iowa District East*

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

*The Professional Packet is Iowa District East's monthly newsletter sharing updates on vacancies, upcoming events, and district news.*