



# PROFESSIONAL WORKER'S PACKET

Iowa District East—LCMS

## November 2020

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[lcmside.org](http://lcmside.org)

# President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President

November 2020

At this writing I am preparing for heart bypass surgery in less than a week. Many blessings and prayers are being offered up for me and messages of comfort have been sent to me by my Brothers in the Office and friends in the Faith. All of this is so greatly appreciated and beneficial to my soul as well as my body. I enter this endeavor with no worry and with complete confidence in Our Lord Jesus Christ. The words of Psalm 41:1-3 speak volumes every time I devote upon them.

*"Blessed is he who has regard for the weak. The Lord delivers him in times of trouble. The Lord will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness."*

The question I have been getting from many is, "How is this happening? You eat right, exercise regularly, and your blood pressure and heart rate are excellent. How is it that this bypass surgery needs to take place?" My simple answer: I inherited these genes from my father. I say that not with disgusted voice nor angry disposition. I say it with honor and pride on behalf of what I also inherited from my father which is of greater importance.

The sin given from Adam and Eve to all humanity has worked its way through my father and also to me. This is I know all too well. It is the reason my body breaks down and from time to time requires medical attention. It is because of this, and sin's ultimate consequence, that my father saw to it that I received the cure for the condition of sin. It was He who made sure that each of his children were brought to the baptismal font where we received forgiveness of sins, where the Holy Spirit took residence and created faith in Jesus. It is also there that the promise of everlasting life in Christ was granted. My father took us to church, he assisted us every Saturday night as we prepared for our Sunday school lessons. He oversaw our catechism preparation for confirming the Faith we were baptized into. Together, as a family of God, we would approach the Table of our Lord and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, the strengthening of faith, and the promise of life everlasting. I can vividly remember sitting on the footstool beside his chair and listening to him read Holy Scripture to us with astounding wisdom explaining what it meant.

While my father was a terrific baseball player (much better than his son) and an honest and successful mechanical engineer, his most important vocation was being a faithful husband and dutiful father. As such I have inherited from his guidance and direction the very cure for what ails me most. I am brought by grace into the Holy Kingdom of God and a Child of Salvation. That is why I can face this challenge and any other set before me with confidence in the promises of God. I know my sin is ever before me yet I also am sure and certain of the price that was paid for my sins has covered me in the Blood of Jesus.

Some might think I am saying my father was a saint. Well, he was. Just as I am a saint and you are a saint. We are saints by He who has cleansed us from all unrighteousness. We are saints by He who never loses sight of our greatest need and fulfills it. We are saints even on our sickbeds and when we are laden with illness. We are saints because the Cross of Christ has redeemed us, restored us, and rescued us from sin, death, and the devil.

# President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President

November 2020

In these days leading up to my surgery I am anything but patient. At the same time I am at ease. My health will be better than it has been for years. I will be stronger and in better shape than recent past. Be it God's will I will recover in short time and back at all my duties which I love and adore as a servant of the Word. I am sustained by your prayers and devotional words. Thank you for them all. I am also ready for whatever outcome there is because of the faithful and committed efforts of my father for his son.

*President Saunders*

# Calendar of Events

November 2020

## November

26-27 IDE Office Closed IDE Office

## December

24 – Jan 4 IDE Office Closed IDE Office

## January

29-30 IDE Middle School Retreat & Snowympics Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

**These events are subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please stay tuned to [www.lcmside.org](http://www.lcmside.org) for more information on these events as they approach.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

# Vacancy Updates

As of 11/02/2020

November 2020

## Calling Congregations

Bennett & Stanwood, St. Paul

Reinbeck, St. John

Marion, St. Paul

Garrison, St. Mark/Shellsburg, Zion

Sumner, St. John & St. Paul

Daniel Redhage (vacancy pastor)

(vacancy pastor)

Larry Lemke (vacancy pastor)

Dean Rothchild (vacancy pastor)

Michael Parris (vacancy pastor)

## Pastor Calls

### Accepted:

Pending: Kevin Richter, Duluth, MN

St. John, Reinbeck

Sam Beltz, Oskaloosa

Armed Forces - LCMS OIM

Stephen Preus, Vinton

CLTS, St. Catherines, Ontario CA

Declined: Thomas Cowell, Burt/Algona

St. John/St. Paul, Sumner

## DCE / School / Teacher Calls

### Accepted:

### Pending:

### Declined:

# Directory Updates

November 2020

PG #	RECORD	ACTION	INFORMATION
25	Johnson, Isaac	Delete	accepted call to New Hope Lutheran Church, Charles City
25	Larson, Kurt	Delete	accepted call- out of state
15	Johnson, Isaac	Add	new address: 607 7th Ave, Charles City 50616 /email: isaacrwj@gmail.com /home phone: 563.726.5476
37	Charles City, New Hope	Add	New Pastor: Rev. Isaac Johnson
42	Homestead- St John	Delete	Belinda Baack, secretary
42	Homestead- St John	Add	Jessica Murley -secretary; email: sjlcsecr@outlook.com
57	Cedar Falls-Valley School	replace	Jamie Panning/ replace with April Schriever/ April's email: April.Schriever@vlscrusaders.org
27	Christ, Dean	Delete	transferred to Kansas District -July 2020
49	Waterloo, Grace	Add	Secretary: Denise Oler and email- officeadmin@gracewaterloo.org
23	Wright Andrew	Change	Office number: 319-442-3514/ not 422
31	Warnsholz, Merle	Email	delete aol email; add warnmerle@gmail.com

**Please continue to send directory updates to:  
pam@lcmside.org**

# The Last Piece of Ground!

November 2020

There is a folder which sits on my desk which is labeled with the words: cemetery plot. It contains some information about where my wife and I plan on being buried when we die. I am writing this article on October 29<sup>th</sup> and tomorrow I will conduct the funeral for a departed saint from St. Mark Lutheran Church in Garrison, Iowa.

I remember it was about 25 years ago when I was visiting my parents. My father said, "Dean, get in the car, I want to show you something." We drove to Persilla Watts cemetery on the west side of Rugby, North Dakota. We stopped on the south side and my father said, "That is the last piece of ground I will ever buy." Now both of my sainted parents have their remains entombed there.

My wife and I have decided that we will retire in Cedar Rapids and have found funeral plots at a cemetery in Marion, Iowa. We just have not gone and purchased them. It is not as if we are somehow going to avoid death! The Bible is quite clear: "**For the wages of sin is death.**" "**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**" Romans 6:23, 3:23. There is no getting around death unless Christ Jesus comes while we are still living. As I look down the road, I know that by having those plots purchased that it will be one less thing for my family to deal with when the time comes.

It doesn't matter which cemetery one is buried in, it is all "resurrection ground." St. Paul states: "**But we do not want you to be uniformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.**" 1 Thess. 4:13-18.

Sin and its consequence of death will put me in that grave. The death and resurrection of Christ Jesus which has defeated sin and death and the power of the devil will bring my body out of that grave on the last day. Our baptism united me with made His death and resurrection out. As Paul says, "Comfort one another with these words."

After those plots have been bought, maybe I will have the opportunity to take my children and grandchildren to that cemetery in Marion and say: "That is the last piece of ground I will ever buy." I can then share the words of St. John: "**And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.**" 1 John 5:11-13.

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild  
Assistant to the President

# Capital Campaign Update



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 11/2/2020

Gifts received to date:	\$842,349
Gifts promised in next 1-7 years:	\$12,750
<b>Total to Date: \$855,099</b>	

For further information, please contact **Rev. Dr. Dean F. Rothchild**  
319-373-2112 (office), 319-350-9564 (cell)  
[drothchild@lcmside.org](mailto:drothchild@lcmside.org).

# Biscuits 101

November 2020

**18** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

A while back I read a story about a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country.

The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits Amen."



Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today. I don't like COVID 19. I don't like racial tensions and unease. I don't like that Satan is doing "victory laps" because we can't worship normally. Mix all of this together and we get a big batch of sinful, self-centered human worthlessness. Not much to be thankful for, right?

But...wait a minute. We, who know Jesus, are not **worthless**. We're **priceless!** Not because of who we are but because of the ONE who loves us. This isn't the God who just made a batch of biscuits. No, instead this was the God that fashioned our lives. He went far beyond biscuit-making when He decided to exchange our worthlessness and make something even better. God demonstrated a value for us that followed from His mercy which came directly from His willingness to send His own Son to live, die, and rise again for us. He thereby reconciled himself so that we might again live as we were created and redeemed to be.

You see, God never says, "Ooops! Never saw that coming!" No! Make no mistake. Jesus told His disciples and us that ALL authority in heaven and earth had been given to Him! Why? So, that when life gets hard we can bring Christ to all who would put their trust in Him. This, so that we might be blessed and be a blessing to others.

# Biscuits 101

November 2020

It sometimes makes us afraid to hear that some things aren't going very well right now. We ask that God would help us to hear that all authority in the whole world is His, for the very earth is His. That fear subsides when we see how He put that authority into action in order to save us through the cross. May we use the authority that we have been given in this world to serve those whom He brings into our lives so that they, too, might know Jesus as Savior. Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it. For that, we give unending thanks and praise!

Jan Doellinger  
Assistant to the President, Schools

# District Life Coordinator

November 2020

Dear friends in Jesus Christ our Lord:

That's what the reporter from the Marshalltown Times-Republican told me a few weeks ago over the phone. "Your display is attracting attention." Every year, before the Life Chain on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of October, we display 100 white crosses in the church lawn, along with large signs that tell how many babies are aborted each year in our nation, and proclaim Jesus' love and forgiveness to all. In the 8<sup>th</sup> year we've done this since I've been here, this is the first time the newspaper contacted me or anyone about the Life Chain or about our pro-life display. There are usually at least 50-60 people from area churches holding signs and praying silently along Center Street for an hour at the Life Chain.



This year was different. The day after the Life Chain, 5-7 high school students came each day for 4 days, about an hour each time, and held signs protesting our display. Several adults came and joined them too.

I went out to talk to them. I asked them when human life begins. One of them said, "at birth." I said, no, it doesn't! No scientist, biologist, theologian, philosopher, or politician thinks that human life begins at birth. I told the children how each baby is unique and loved by God from the moment of conception, how our tiny heart begins beating around 21 days, how our tiny little feet are formed by 10 weeks, and how Jesus Christ our Savior Himself was conceived and lived for 9 months in His mother Mary's womb before He was born at Christmas.

But then, another woman stopped by. She told the high schoolers that she'd been raped at age 17, aborted her baby, and used to protest just like they did. But then God later gave her a daughter, who was born. She wept. She regretted her abortion. She repented. Jesus forgives her.

Friends in Christ: never give up preaching, teaching, proclaiming, and praying for God's precious gift of life, from the moment of conception onward. Jesus loves and forgives!

Rev. Alex Post, Iowa District East Life Coordinator

# Lutheran Bible Translators - Infinite Transformation

November 2020

The rains have returned to Botswana! The life-giving water broke the drought that plagued this southern African country last year. **Water physically transforms this semi-arid country.** Rain means crops will grow and wildlife can flourish.

That's not the only transformation happening in Botswana.

Rev. Tim and Lisa Beckendorf serve with the Khwe language project in northern Botswana. **As they began translation, they discovered there was confusion regarding God's Word and the church.** "For most of the participants in the checking sessions that we've had, this is really their first contact with the Bible," Tim and Lisa reported. "For the most part, they are all active in the local churches, however, after one session a participant commented to me, '**We want to know what the church is. There are so many different churches in our villages and all they do is sing and pray, they don't teach us the Bible.**' Even our translators are in unfamiliar territory as we work through Genesis. They really have never heard the stories before."

**Today, even those in remote villages have access to Scripture through audio recordings. Interest in literacy is growing. People attend church knowing they will hear God's Word in their own language.** Though the translation team is unable to meet in person due to COVID-19, work continues on translation and the development of literacy materials.

When it rains in Botswana, the transformation of the land happens fairly quickly. But as dry season approaches the lush landscape returns to its barren state. **Though it offers life, rain is often unpredictable and inconsistent,** providing transitory fulfillment for ongoing needs.

As the Khwe community is discovering, **God's Word is constant and reliable**, offering nourishment for the soul under any and all circumstances. It provides unending and unlimited opportunities for spiritual transformation—transformation that impacts lives for eternity. **As Isaiah 40:8 tells us, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever."**

Thank you for bringing God's transforming Word to those in need of mother tongue Bible translation. Visit us on [Facebook](#) for the latest updates and news.

by Dr. Mike Rodewald  
Lutheran Bible Translators

# ILSTO—Bulletin Items

November 2020

Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization Bulletin items:

Thanks for your support of Lutheran education. ILSTO would love to award more financial assistance but we need your help to do so. There certainly is a great need in our LCMS schools so families can continue to send their children to an Iowa Lutheran Elementary/Secondary School. As you begin thoughts of end of year giving, RMD distributions, and other tax planning, please consider a donation to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. Your donation can be cash, RMD, appreciated stock, or even grain. The 65% Iowa tax credit is the largest tax credit in Iowa and there are also added tax benefits to C-Corporations if that includes you or someone you know. For more information about ILSTO go online to [www.iowalutheransto.org](http://www.iowalutheransto.org) or call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991.

## November 1

Students in our Lutheran schools need your help! The Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization is at 20% of its \$950,000 goal as of Nov. 1. You have until the end of the year – Dec. 31 – to mail your gift. We know the need is becoming greater – How can you help? Remember the financial benefit to a contributor is a 65% tax credit on Iowa income taxes (which can be carried over for five years) and also a charitable contribution on your federal form. For more information about ILSTO go online to [www.iowalutheransto.org](http://www.iowalutheransto.org) or call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991.

## November 8

Time is short – December 31 is just around the corner! The Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO) will gladly accept your gift that will provide financial assistance to our students. Your donation needs to be postmarked no later than December 31. Tax credits are available on a first come first served basis so the closer you donate to the deadline please call to make sure credits are available. You will receive a 65% tax credit on your Iowa taxes and charitable contribution itemized deduction on your federal form. To get more information for donating to the ILSTO go online to [www.iowalutheransto.org](http://www.iowalutheransto.org) or [www.iowasto.org](http://www.iowasto.org) or call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991.

## November 15

**TELL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS ABOUT THE ILSTO:**

You've been reading about the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. This giving opportunity isn't just for Lutherans – anyone who pays Iowa state income tax can donate and receive the tax benefits. Please help spread the word to someone you know who would like to assist students in Christian education while receiving a great tax benefit of a 65% tax credit on their Iowa state tax and 35% federal tax itemized deductions. For further information, please contact Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991. Check the website:[www.iowalutheransto.org](http://www.iowalutheransto.org)

## November 22

**IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION:** This is the program whereby you can in effect send your tax dollars to benefit families wanting to send their children to Lutheran elementary & secondary schools in Iowa. The benefits you receive are two-fold: 1) You get to see more children experiencing the love of God every day, and 2) You will receive a 65% tax credit on your Iowa state income taxes and a charitable deduction on your Federal return. Families need your help. Please help us fund our students at 100% of need. Currently ILSTO is at 20% of its goal. For further information, please contact Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991. You might also check the websites: [www.iowalutheransto.org](http://www.iowalutheransto.org) and [www.iowasto.org](http://www.iowasto.org).

# ILSTO—Bulletin Items

November 2020

## November 29

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR IOWA LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY and SECONDARY SCHOOLS? You have been told many ways you can assist by participating in fundraisers, volunteering your time and we hope you are able to do some of those. And here is another! It is the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO). This is a way to expand our schools and reach out to those in our churches and community. By donating to the ILSTO, more students are able to receive more financial aid to enable them to attend. In addition, the benefit to you is a great tax credit of 65% on your Iowa state taxes. Donate \$1000 and receive a tax credit of \$650 plus a charitable deduction on your federal taxes. There are also special Federal tax benefits for C Corporations. For further information, please contact Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991. You might also check the websites: [www.iowalutheransto.org](http://www.iowalutheransto.org) and [www.iowasto.org](http://www.iowasto.org)



# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



November 2020

## FALL WORKDAY: November 7: 9AM - 4PM

Do you need firewood (or MORE firewood!) to go with your firewood? The focus of this year's workday is to finish the clean up of brush and debris that remain on camp from the August 10 Derecho storm. We're thankful for all the help to clean up our main areas in the weeks and months since the storm. We've been able to clean up several dozens of trees so far. It's allowed us to get back to hosting groups and making sure our site is safe for use, but we still have a long ways to go and your help is needed!

Now that we've had the chance to go out into the woods and around Camp, we've found plenty more spots that need to be cleaned up. The day will include cutting trees throughout camp and our trails, moving brush to our brush piles, and tiding up activity areas. We hope that after this workday we will be restored to pre-Derecho status and you can take whatever you cut home if you so desire! That's right, come get the firewood that you need to help get you through the winter! As always, lunch is on us! Email [sitemanager@iodiseca.org](mailto:sitemanager@iodiseca.org) to let us know you're coming, but feel free to just show up and meet at the Alpha Lodge beginning at 9AM or anytime after that.



## IDE Middle School Retreat & Snowlympics

It is our hope that our first youth retreat of the 2020-2021 season will be with IDE Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics. We're exploring both the possibilities of a regularly scheduled event or a one-day event on Saturday, January 30. Stay tuned for more information at <https://lcmside.org/msretreat/>.

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org)

email [office@iodiseca.org](mailto:office@iodiseca.org)

# 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.*

**November 6-7 - CANCELLED**  
**IDE Pastors' Wives Retreat**

**November 7**  
**Fall Workday**

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

**January 29-30**  
**IDE Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics**

## THRIVENT 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 2019 an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

Go to <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).**

## Support Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Your Congregation's 2021 Mission Budget

Though many of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's donations come from individuals and families, we also rely on congregations for financial support. Some congregations are generous enough to add Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as a line item in their mission budget. Other congregations have groups such as their LWML societies make financial contributions.

Congregational contributions make the mission of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, that is, providing Christ-centered recreation, education, and inspiration for all, a reality. It isn't merely about keeping the lights on or paying the heating bills, but it ensures that Camp's guests have a quality experience at a quality location. Does your congregation currently support Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? We hope that is will!

Also, check out our new **I Believe in Camp monthly giving program**. It's a great way for your household to make support Camp's important mission for as little as \$25/month. Details are available at our website!

# THANK YOU!!!!!!



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org)

email [office@iodiseca.org](mailto:office@iodiseca.org)

# I D E ARCHIVES

## Travelling Missionary Report by Johann F. Döscher [Part 2]

[This is a continuation of an article which was started as Part 1 in the October, 2020—Iowa District East Professional Packet. As a review, the introduction is being repeated.]



Johann F. Döscher

**Introduction:** *Der Lutheraner*, a publication of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, featured an article in Vol. 17: No. 10—25 December, 1860 about what Missionary Johann Friedrich Döscher [Doescher] experienced as he travelled from Iowa City, Iowa to the German settlements springing up in the surrounding counties. The German article presents itself within three columns of a page and has no paragraphing or headings. The translation, paragraphing, and headings are those made by the IDE archivist.

In Part 1, I speculated that Döscher's seminary training took place at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. I was wrong. So I take this moment to make some corrections to what I had to say in Part 1. While reviewing *Seventy-Five Years of God's Grace: A History of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Iowa, 1879-1954*, by Geo. A.W. Vogel & Walter S. Wendt

[p.24ff], I discovered that he graduated from Ft. Wayne Seminary in the summer of 1859, a young man in his early twenties. His assignment upon graduation was to seek out German populations in Iowa and attempt to gather the people into Lutheran preaching stations, the ultimate goal being the establishing of Lutheran congregations of the Missouri Synod. He and his wife lived in Iowa City. *Seventy-Five Years* reveals that Pastor Döscher only served in Iowa City for 3½ years and then took a call to Hampton, Rock Island County, Illinois. After 2 years, he returned to Marshalltown, Iowa to serve that congregation. In 1866, he accepted a call to Mechanicsville and serve 2 English-speaking congregations at Lisbon. In 1868, he became pastor of Trinity Lutheran at Boone. A year later, he went to St. Paul Lutheran at Ft. Dodge from where he continued promoting the organization of congregations in the surrounding area and motivating seminary graduates assigned to this area to carry on the travelling missionary spirit.

[Translation Begins]

## **Poweshiek County**

From here I had to go 20 miles southwest to a gathering of Germans in Poweshe County. After a few hours, I came to a big beautiful prairie. Since it was extremely warm, I could only let my horse go slowly. I have a place in the middle of this prairie where I usually arrive at noon and stop for an hour to let my horse graze a little and I myself eat some food. Again, I made no exception to this rule; I tied my horse to a tree around which there was a lot of beautiful grass, and I sat next to it to make do with a little cake and sausage. The one thing I still lacked for my lunch was a drink of cold water, especially since the sausage was too salty. I asked for a little water at the next house I came to. The good man had to let down the bucket several times until he brought up a little and this (J—o—wa!) looked like a lot of mud. But because the man had put so much effort into it, but, despite its bad appearance, nevertheless declared it drinkable, and the thirst was great, I did not reject it. I arrived at my people around 3 o'clock. I gave a rather long sermon in the evening. The local people are almost all Swiss, some old venerable fathers with their families. I particularly loved a Krieger from Holstein, an old bachelor who is staying with these people. I believe that he is a sincere Christian. He has never been absent from the worship service.

## **Montezuma**

From here, the next morning, I turned 12 miles west to the town of Montezuma, from where I wrote my last letter to you. I arrived just before noon. I stayed with a man named Meier. The same is a Bavarian, but a rough, terribly unrefined man and, as I have now learned, an Odd Fellow and Freemason. I spent the afternoon reading, learning Latin, and so forth, and, in the evening, I preached as usual. I had already learned from Mr. Meier the previous time that in a town 24 miles from Montezuma, called Oskaloosa, there were quite a lot of Germans who most probably did not yet have a preacher; similarly, on the way from Iowa City to Oskaloosa, some German families were without preachers. But since I had made arrangements for a worship service for the next Sunday in Millersburg, I had to return there the next morning (it was already Saturday).

## **Millersburg**

The distance from Montezuma to Millersburg is 20 miles. Since I rode a little faster this time, I had already arrived at the mentioned town at noon. But I went to a man who lives two miles on the other side of Millersburg. This man is called Eggert, is from Württemberg and, according to the external characteristics, a sincere Christian. He has been providing the reading service for several years now, to which he, his family and the few German neighbors gather on Sunday. I spent the afternoon partly in confidential conversation, partly with memorization of Latin words. The next morning, we went to the city where we held our worship service in the private home of a shoemaker. This shoemaker is from Leipzig, a small person, but high of spirit. He has brought the people around Millersburg to the point that they have become a congregation, and has presented them with a kind of constitution, the content of which I have not been able to approve at all. The name of the congregation is: "Protestant"; about the confession it is merely stated:

“The pastor shall preach the Gospel clear and pure according to the Lutheran Reformation”; the pastor shall be called to serve for a period of one year; the majority of the congregation’s votes should be decisive in all cases. It is very easy for this man to make any trouble for me, because, as you know, it is difficult to deal with haughty people. This time, however, he has been somewhat humiliated, or at least shamed.

I never take a Bible with me on the journey, and I am not particularly concerned about it, so that the people I preach to have to read the text of it to me, and I see how they use the dear Bible or whether they even have one in the house. Sometimes I find them extremely dusty, that you have to first clean it. In this house, however, I found neither a diligently used, nor a dusty one, but no Bible at all! When I asked Mr. Shoemaker for one, he was completely embarrassed, but sneaked out the back door to borrow one from the nearest neighbor. An old mother saw this and exclaimed quite audibly: “He must first borrow a Bible!” When the good man had brought the borrowed Bible, I gave a rather long sermon about the epistle of the previous Sunday. Those in attendance, who were located in four rooms, seemed to be quite attentive. After the sermon, I also baptized a child. I have already told you a few things verbally about this congregation. You will remember me telling you how a preacher from the Iowa Synod tried to get these people to themselves in a cunning way. However, their efforts, the pastor and the candidate he brought with him, seem to be at the point of remaining fruitless.

### **Between Millersburg and Oskaloosa**

From Millersburg, I wanted to go to the Germans 15 miles from this little town, on the way from Iowa City to Oskaloosa. For today, however, I only went seven miles with a man for whom I was to baptize two children. I started my journey the next morning with something on my heart, because I could not get any sure report about the people I wanted to go to. Nevertheless, I finally found them after a long search. It was a pretty tough morning for me. The sun was shining very warm and without any mercy, continually sent down its hot rays upon me so that I began to have a strange feeling in my head. Of course, the joy was greater when I reached my goal. The man I had been looking for and found went by the name of Kilsmann. From him I learned the details and circumstances of the people living there. He said they were all Prussians and nearly all related to each other, about 10-12 families. For some time they belonged to the Evangelical Church, 12 miles from here; but especially “the old mother-in-law is not at all satisfied with it; she would be immensely pleased to hear a pure Lutheran pastor preach once again. I asked whether they had joined with that evangelical pastor, to which he replied that they had not. In particular, I rejoiced that I found in the house of this man the dear Book of Concord and Dr. Luther’s House Book of Prayers/Sermons. Joyfully opening my mouth, I proclaimed the dear Word of God to the people who had come together in the evening. As sheep which do not have a shepherd, I immediately led them to the Chief Shepherd Jesus Christ on the green lovely pasture of the Gospel, preaching to them about the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm: “The Lord is my shepherd” and so forth. I carried on with the Word until almost midnight; instead of sleep, tears came to eyes of the people. They wished that I would return to them within 4 weeks and preach.

## Oskaloosa

The next morning, Mr. Kilsmann accompanied me 4-5 miles to show me the next way to Oskaloosa. I arrived in this city at 3 o'clock. It is about the size of Logansport. Of the Germans in this city, I knew only two names, namely Hubert and Platner. I went to the latter. But he sent me to a man named Föhlinger [Foehlinger]. In him I had met up with the right one. He has already given a lot of efforts earlier to establish an "Evangelical Congregation" in Oskaloosa. I told him, of course, that I was not Evangelical, but Evangelical-Lutheran, against which he had nothing to object to. He told me that the Methodists had been trying for four years to form a German congregation in this city, but that not a single one had come to them so far. Later and elsewhere, I heard that the Methodists want to give up on this place altogether. But Mr. Föhlinger said that it would not be difficult for a Lutheran preacher to gather a congregation in Oskaloosa. A few years ago, he said, there was an Evangelical congregation of about 30 members. He had written to Mr. Hartmann in Chicago about a capable man.

The same, however, had proved to be highly incompetent in the office. With the baptisms of children, he drunk himself dead drunk; in the house he was extremely jovial, sung the most shameful street and drinking songs, and after three months he had again already run away. Now most in this city are rude mockers, who asked nothing about God and His word. Nevertheless, I arranged a worship service for the evening. About 15 people gathered for the same. They seemed to be listening quite attentively. I promised to come back after four weeks.

## Between Oskaloosa and Fairfield

The next morning, I planned to leave early to get from Oskaloosa (in Wabash Co., 74 miles from Iowa City) to Fairfield, a town in Jefferson Co. The way to that place is about 45 miles. But this plan was thwarted for me; because it rained quite heavily all morning. However, I left Oskaloosa at 1 o'clock in the afternoon to cover at least part of the way. I came to a German in the evening, an old man named Johann Ritter. Here I was received quite kindly and accommodated. To my great disappointment, however, I learned that there were three rather large German settlements nearby, which the Methodists had already taken to themselves.. The old man of course assured that he wanted to stay with his Catechism, but since the Methodists, in order to achieve their purposes, usually declare everything to be the same, they will eventually succeed in gradually catching them all. I would like to prevent this in a fair way; but how can I do this?

## Fairfield

The next day I had another 30 miles to Fairfield. It was unusually warm again. At noon, I had my horse fed by an American farmer; but I myself wanted to make do with a few wild cherries. But the farmer had more mercy with my stomach than I did myself, and asked me to come to his house for a meal. After I rode a few miles, I came to a town called Emmington. Here I found a single German, a person from Holstein. This man was extremely friendly, invited me to stay with him the next time and said that he had joined the Methodists for lack of a Lutheran sermon. I found a German in Fairfield who told me that there were only two Germans in the city and that

the people in the countryside already had a pastor. Since I did not want to stay in an inn, I rode a few miles out of the city and stayed with an American farmer.

### **Return to Iowa City**

The next day—on Friday—I put 37 miles behind me. In the morning I almost encountered a misfortune. My horse was suddenly frightened by something, took a quick turn with a huge jump and all of Pastor Döscher lay “in less than no time”—in the—? No! fortunately beside, on the green. At 3 o’clock, I was in Washington, a city like Huntington. Since I found only two Germans here, I decided to ride 15 miles further to Mr. Zager, who lives in the vicinity of Middleburg, and stay overnight with him. From his place, the next morning, I had another 15 miles to Iowa City, where I arrived at noon after a 13 day trip.

To my great joy, I met Brother Loßner [Lossner] at home. He had been there for eight days and had been at school all week, preparing for a sermon for Sunday morning. Since my father-in-law had sent me money during my absence, I bought harnesses for my horse the same day so that we could visit a sister congregation, 7 miles from the city, the next afternoon. It was easy to borrow a wagon. While Loßner was preaching in the morning in the city, I preached about a section of the Catechism in the afternoon in the countryside and in the evening again in the city. In the following week, I bought a “second hand buggy” for 35 dollars.

Last Sunday, we drove with it to another small congregation, 10 miles from here. Here Loßner preached while I was preaching in the morning and evening in the city. Besides these places, I still have one like this 9 miles north of here; another 18 miles in the same direction and a third 10 miles east of here. Loßner and I only visited the latter two places this week. So now I have a total of 18 preaching places. Travelling this every month takes three weeks each time and is a distance of about 325 miles. So I have to preach 22 times a month.

### **Seeking Assistance**

You can well see, dear Professor, that this is quite a lot for one man. Now that you have been kind enough to promise me help for next autumn, I think the question now is how best to help me, whether one of them comes from the seminary and takes over some of the many places of preaching, or whether there is some other approach. I think the obligation of modesty should hold me back from saying a lot about this. However, dear Professor, do not resent me for at least expressing my opinion. I think it would help me very much if someone came from the seminary and took over some of the many preaching places. He could take a maximum of 7 from me, because the others are all around Iowa City. In this way, I would still have to preach three times every Sunday and travel around every four weeks.

The worst thing, however, is that the little congregations do not yet hold together enough to give them a pastor. I think it would be best if we had the two persons here in Iowa City. With united strength, we could then well provide for the many preaching places, making larger special missionary journeys. Although my wife, when I am away, conducts school, I dare never stay away longer than 14 days. But missionary work is very special to my heart. If I can continue this, no effort is too difficult for me. I would love to be a traveling preacher. Yes, dear

Professor, if the existing forces of the seminary were to be used to serve in newer states—for example, Kansas and Nebraska—I would like to be available. But forgive me for being so self-opinionated. In any case, your insight will judge better what needs to happen than my inexperience.

It is quite peaceful in my city congregation, that which I feared has not come to an eruption. Otherwise, things are going slowly with us. May the Lord further the work of our hands and help us. I think I have a lot more to write to you; time and circumstances, however, do not want to allow it, and so forth.

Yours,

J.F. Döscher.

Allen E. Konrad  
IDE Archivist



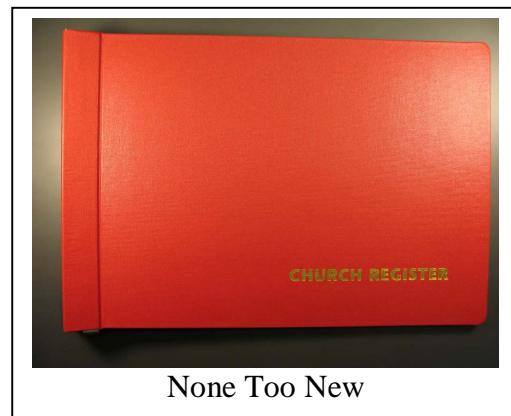
## Preserving Church Records Digitally



None Too Old

Have you noticed? Our district will be meeting in Convention in June of 2021. This is to inform you that your district archivist is offering one more opportunity for those congregations who have as yet not had their church records digitized [photographed]. The goal for your archivist is to have all congregation records on file in the archives and each congregation have a CD copy of those records for more easy access and a safe back-up in case something happens where the original records “disappear.” At this moment, there are about 83 congregations that have yet to submit their records for photographing.

Might I encourage the congregation that you are serving to consider digitizing its records by planning to present them to the archivist at the up-coming District Convention. At that time, the records of Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, and Deaths will be photographed during the convention so that the original records can be carried back to the congregation that same week. A CD will then be “burned” for the congregation and one for the IDE Archive files. Once the decision has been made to have the records digitized, please contact me so that I might organize myself accordingly



None Too New

# REACHING RURAL AMERICA FOR CHRIST



## 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

**Oct. 15 – Webinar**  
“Technology and the Church in Rural and Small-Town Areas”  
with Matthew Bergholt, coordinator of LCMS School Ministry  
1–2 p.m. CST

**Nov. 19 – Webinar**  
“Congregational Partnership Training”  
with Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director of LCMS Rural & Small-Town Mission  
1–2 p.m. CST

**December 10 – 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



“... 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*

## STRONG FAITH, FERVENT LOVE

# A Season for Everything

In these days of COVID-19, opening up and shutting back down, keeping track of where we are and where we are going, can be quite tricky. One thing that has been a blessing (and let's be honest, sometimes a curse) during this time is technology. I can't imagine how we would have fared through these pandemic days if we didn't have technology. So many people had to become instant Zoom, social media, Facebook and livestreaming experts just to have some semblance of gathering and a way to reach out to

the hurting and scared with the salve of the Gospel.

Now that things are opening up a bit (at least in some parts of the nation), what are we to do with all this tech? How can we use it as a blessing to our ministries and not just dump it to the side or allow it to supplant our gathering together as we are called to do?

First of all, we must discern what is best and most beneficial for our ministry. So often what we do out of necessity becomes

(continued on page 3)

## “FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, AND A TIME FOR EVERY MATTER UNDER HEAVEN:

a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace” (ECCL. 3:1–8).

# Technology and the Church IN RURAL AND SMALL-TOWN SETTINGS

by Matthew Bergholt

**IF I WERE TO MAKE AN EDUCATED GUESS,** I would say that over the course of the past eight months you either invested in some sort of technology for your congregation or, at the very least, thought about doing so. Regardless of your situation or location, the current ministry environment in which we find ourselves has impacted the way technology is used in churches both large and small.

So what does that mean for a rural or small-town church? In many ways, these churches are in a unique situation in that small changes can have a large impact on continuing their mission in uncertain times. To be honest, the “small church” is ideally situated to integrate new technologies such as online streaming, an impactful social media presence or a “drive-in” worship service, and many of you did.

However, that was all about reacting to the “right now.” What does it look like to be proactive in planning for the eventual end of COVID-19 and entry into the “new normal” of ministry when it comes to technology? Whether you already invested in technology or are planning to do so in the coming months, as you move forward it is important to focus on a few key best practices of technology integration and application in the church:

1. Before looking at a specific technology, you have to start with the question of “what are we attempting to accomplish?” Leave technology out of the discussion at the beginning and focus on the objective. Once you have that established, then it is time to determine the technology that can accomplish the objective. Putting the cart before the horse in choosing a technology first and then fitting it to the mission often fails, as there was no thought put into the “why” of purchasing or integrating a new technology.
2. Do not be afraid that making a change through the use of technology will automatically drive members away from your church.

In reality it is not the technology itself, but the manner in which the technology is implemented and communicated to the congregation, that will affect your members. More often than not your members will get behind a change if they understand and can internalize the reason for it, especially if they see it as beneficial for spreading the Gospel.

3. Regardless of where you are, what your comfort level is, where you “want to go” or where you end up, the most important thing to remember is to keep moving. Understanding this will help alleviate some of the “scramble to catch up” that we all experienced just a few short months ago and will better equip you to spread the Word.



Top: Peter Frank manages the livestream as the Rev. Wayne Huebner leads worship at Salem Lutheran Church, Afton, Mo.

Left: Bible class is led remotely as part of the deaf ministry program in 2019 at First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh.



THE  
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Rural & Small Town Mission

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LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports and encourages rural and small-town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament.

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# A Season for Everything, continued

what we continue as the norm. Instead, as restrictions are lifted, let's be certain that we are making informed decisions about what we continue and what we don't. Let's also consider the volume and content of our media usage. Perhaps it would be better, rather than having everything available online, to have select online content point toward our in-person gatherings. It's also important for congregations to have a plan in place in the event that in-person gatherings become more or less limited over time. We must be poised to operate in the best way possible depending on the scenario.

While every congregation will have different answers to these questions, the important thing is that we are asking them. In this edition of our newsletter and in the near future, we will have some information on some preferred methods and good guidance for use of technology in various ministry settings. If you are struggling with these issues, please take advantage of these resources and don't hesitate to reach out to us for assistance.



## RSTM Events Update

**D**on't forget that Rural & Small Town Mission provides free monthly webinars on topics important to congregations in town and country settings. Up next is **Technology and the Church in Rural and Small-Town Areas** on Oct. 15, followed by **Congregational Partnership Training** on Nov. 19. 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 offer practical resources on having 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](http://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!





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View this brief video! Click here: [lcef.org/connected](http://lcef.org/connected).



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Submissions for the next edition of our  
Professional Workers' Packet are due  
**November 30.**

Please email articles, photos and announcements to  
Daniel Sanchez, IDE Communications/Events/Technology Coordinator  
[dsanchez@lcmside.org](mailto:dsanchez@lcmside.org)



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