



PROFESSIONAL WORKER'S PACKET

Iowa District East—LCMS

August 2021

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[lcmside.org](https://www.lcmside.org)

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

August 2021

I suppose like many of you, while traveling on vacation you take time to attend a Sunday morning worship service at a near-by LCMS congregation. You have an opportunity to meet new people, introduce yourself to clergy serving in another district, and enjoy the fellowship of a common confession of the Faith. My wife and I had just such an opportunity this summer as we traveled well across the country.

It was a beautiful church building with an excellent organist and a fine singing gathering of saints. We enjoyed meeting the pastor who was generally interested in who we were and where we were from. The congregation was large so they had two pastor's and also a vicar. It was the vicars last Sunday before returning to the seminary where he would resume his preparation for the Holy Ministry.

Since it was his last Sunday he was the preacher. As a District President I evaluate many sermons as requested by our preachers in the Church. So, as I listened to the sermon I am also doing an evaluation of the message as to how textual it is. The Vicar made a valiant attempt to sum up his year with the folks (especially in the past COVID year) and bring application of the text to the hearer. That is a very difficult task in and of itself, but I give him kudos for the effort.

When all was said and done my wife asked me what I thought of the sermon. I thought for a moment and answered, "I thought it was a donut sermon." When inquiring what that meant I said that it went round and round with the theme and then expressed nice sugary coatings on the outside, but there was nothing in the middle.

This, of course, led my wife to beckon from me an explanation of this evaluation. Because the vicar really had to get in two topics (textual and his departure) with this sermon he had to bring it back so as to keep everyone from being confused as to which topic he was referring to. That wasn't the core problem though. Nor was he short on attempts to preach the gospel, although the gospel he preached was not from the text. It was an interval of nice sentiments as to how much the Lord loves you. There is nothing wrong with hearing how much the Lord loves us. Yet I begged for an answer to the question, "so what?"

What I mean is this, there was no law to his sermon at all. The three texts had plenty of law in them but the sermon had none. I was not convicted of anything, no malady, no sin, no iniquity from which I needed a Savior. Oh, I heard about a loving Jesus, but from what? The message never got to the Cross of Calvary. There was no atonement measured out far and above the sins that I need to repent of. I heard of a Jesus who was sweet and glazed rather than a Savior from sin.

I was pointed to His love rather than the place where His love was made concrete for me. I heard nothing of my baptism and its holy gifts, I was not taken to the words spoken just 40 minutes earlier with the absolution, nor was there any reference to the Table at which I would receive the resurrected Body and Blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of my sins and the strengthening of faith in Christ Jesus that comes with it. The certainty of God's grace has locality to it and I need to be pointed to it.

"The Gospel comes to rescue you from the deadly consequence of having been killed in your sin."

President's Piece for Peace

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

August 2021

This was just a good reminder for me, and also for me to remind you, about preaching. Donut sermons might taste good to the pallet but they do nothing for the soul. The sweetness of the Gospel is in response to the sour taste of the Law. The Gospel comes to rescue you from the deadly consequence of having been killed in your sin. The “so what” is not about making me feel good about myself. It is about pointing me to He who is good and has done good things *for me*. Feed your sheep dear men of the pulpit. Feed them meat, substance, and nutrition sent from above.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Calendar of Events

August 2021

August

6	EC Conference	Gloria Dei—Urbandale
16	Education Workshop	Trinity—Cedar Rapids
27-28	Doxology Event	Trinity—Davenport
28	LERT Training	Immanuel—Cedar Falls

September

6	Labor Day	IDE Office Closed
10-11	LWML Fall Retreat	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

October

4-5	IDE Fall Pastors' Conference	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
8-9	IDE Confirmation Retreat	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
21-22	Iowa Educators Conference	Des Moines
26	IDE Board of Directors	IDE Office

November

5-6	IDE Pastors' Wives	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
19-20	IDE Sr. High Retreat	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Vacancy Updates

As of 8/6/2021

August 2021

Calling Congregations

Ft. Madison, Our Savior	Chris Roepke (vacancy pastor)
Marion, St. Paul's	Jerry Doellinger (vacancy pastor)
Garrison, St. Mark/Shellsburg, Zion	Dean Rothchild (vacancy pastor)
Westgate, St. Peter/ Fayette, Grace	Ronnie Koch (vacancy pastor)
McGregor, St. Paul/Guttenberg, Trinity	Caleb Schewe (vacancy pastor)
Mason City, Bethlehem	Jesse Burns (vacancy pastor)
Keosauqua, Our Saviour	Mark Brase (vacancy pastor)
Delaware, St. Paul	David Weber (vacancy pastor)

Pastor Calls

Accepted:

Pending:

Declined:	Christopher Jackson, Forestville, WI	Bethlehem, Mason City
	Collin Duling, Los Angeles, CA	Trinity, Cedar Rapids
	B. Andy Wright, Keystone	Bethlehem, Mason City
	Anthony Dodgers, Charlotte	Peace, Sussex WI
	Jonathan Crawford, Dubuque	St. Paul's, Marion

Retirement	Rev. Donald Krause, Delaware	7.1.2021
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Ordained & Installed	Tanner Post, St. John and St. Paul, Sumner	6.25.2021
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Commissioned Calls

Accepted: Rachel Meyer, Milwaukee to Trinity, Davenport - Teacher

Pending:

Declined:

Other: Jodi van Etten, Preschool - Colloquy
Jennifer Rethwisch, Kindergaren - Colloquy

Directory Updates

August 2021

Updates for the published version of the Iowa District East Directory are due on August 27. The directory is distributed at the Fall Pastors' Conference, October 4-5. Please send any updates for the directory as you have them throughout the year. Updates will be posted in the professional packet each month as usual. Questions and updated information can be sent to the Pam Krog:

pam@lcmside.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

If you know any high school graduates who will be attending the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, or Wartburg College this fall, please help them get connected to LCMS campus ministry by sending names and contact information to:

University of Iowa
St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel
Rev. W. Max Mons
ph. 319-337-3652
email: stpaulschapel.iowacity@gmail.com

University of Northern Iowa
College Hill Lutheran Church
Rev. John Wegener
ph. 319-266-1274
email: chlc.lcms@cfu.net

Wartburg College - Waverly, IA
St. John Lutheran Church
Rev. Jon M. Ellingworth
Ph. 845-216-3300
Email: pastorellingworth@gmail.com

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." ²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. Acts 1:21-26

Each of us has a story. Each of us has a story as to how we got to where we are today – the start of a brand-new school year 2021-2022. For those of you who will be starting another school year in a classroom with a group of students or whether you are sitting behind a desk tending to administrative duties, each of you are in this place for a reason. It is where God wants you to be and He has chosen you to be His servant leader in this time and place.

Let's consider Matthias and Justus. What is their story? We don't hear about their story until Acts 1. They had followed in the footsteps of Jesus and were with the disciples throughout His ministry. Both Matthias and Justus had heard Jesus preach His parables and witness His healings. They, too, saw their Savior's crucifixion and witnessed His ascension in to heaven. They would have had opportunities to talk with Jesus and get His advice on a situation, even sharing a laugh.



Apparently, both Matthias and Justus were suited to the task of becoming Disciple #12, replacing Judas. In order to move forward on this decision, Peter convened the remaining group of disciples and commenced praying, *"You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two You have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."* Acts 1:24 Then, as was the tradition in those days they cast lots to determine God's will for their decision, and the lot fell to Matthias. He was selected to take the place of Judas.

Usually when we think of being chosen, it's a position of honor or distinction. It may be a reward for hard work or having a certain level of natural talent. Casting lots surely is an unusual type of choosing for us 21st century people. However strange it is to us today, the method the apostles used made sure God was the one doing the choosing. The only qualification needed was that it be someone who had been with Jesus from the beginning, from His baptism through His resurrection.

Beyond that one qualification, God was to do the choosing. Besides Matthias and Justus there were multiple other people who had been part of Jesus' story for all or part of His ministry, but it was God who would place the right person in the right position. This wasn't about skill or accomplishment. It wasn't about being perfect. He was to be himself and serve Jesus in his daily life. And that work is both extraordinary and unremarkable at the same time.

You, too, have been chosen. How you got to this time at the beginning of a new school year 2021-2022 isn't as important as what you do now in this coming school year. Each of us has been chosen by baptism to be the people of God called to this place and time to live out our faith and tell our students about Jesus. Few of

us will be immortalized for that work. Yet, to be followers of Jesus, companions with Him in ministry and sent out to serve, is an incredible honor and privilege, an extraordinary, life-changing calling.

Guess what - we are still sinful human beings. We sometimes fall into the trap of worrying. If we are an administrator or director we worry about people having the right qualification(s) for a particular role on the staff. As a teacher or other staff member, we worry if we have what it takes in terms of skills and qualifications to step up and take the role that needs doing. Remember what the main qualification of the early church was - a relationship with Jesus. Maybe Matthias wasn't quite sure he wanted that role of apostle and what hardships might come his way because of it. Yet, his relationship with Jesus is the qualification, because that's the only thing that will sustain him in the challenging work that lies ahead.

Hear this good news. In your baptism, you were united with Jesus in His death and resurrection. It is the Father who brought you into this relationship to be a companion with Christ on this journey from beginning to end. You've already met the qualification for service by the Father having claimed and called you through baptism. You were the one chosen by lots to a place of service in His kingdom. You might be a Matthias who has been chosen in this moment for a place as a classroom teacher or administrator, or you might be a Justus whose calling is somewhere else doing some other piece of God's work. Either way, you may get very little recognition for it, but it is the work of God to which you have been called and equipped.

May the Lord sustain you through His Word and Sacrament during this 2021-2022 school year that lies ahead. Trust not in your own strength but in the One who has called and chosen you to do this most important work. Take time to celebrate this relationship with your students and your colleagues because you all have been chosen by God! This is indeed a glorious story!

Jan Doellinger

Assistant to the President, Schools

Parish Nurse - The God-Given Gifts We Often Take For Granted

August 2021

How many of you wake up each morning and seriously wonder if you can see, hear, taste, smell, swallow, touch, talk, walk, and then go on about your day? Chances are not many and, furthermore, not very often. I have just had several of these experiences, and it has been life-changing and very eye-opening. Oh the gifts of our God-given senses and abilities that we take for granted!

After two days of a sore throat, a visit to my primary care physician (with whom I have a nearly 30-year history), steroids and antibiotics, I lost my voice. I mean seriously no intelligible sound came out. What was **this** all about?!? Since I have just moved into a new home and live alone, I had plenty of things to do that didn't require me to talk to anyone but setting-up services did require a voice. Thankfully I have wonderful, helpful friends who came to my aid, who could make phone calls and get services started.

I contacted my primary care physician after several days of no improvement, and he made an appointment for me with an Ear, Nose and Throat physician. I saw her in a couple days, and she gave me higher doses of medications I was already taking and performed a visual scope of my throat and vocal cords. The area was red and swollen. Swallowing was difficult and cords were unable to vibrate to produce sound. There was also a small white lesion at the top of the vocal cords and more on one vocal cord than the other. She told me several times that the lesion did not look cancerous. Whew, that was a relief! After a couple more weeks of waking up, trying to talk to no avail, undergoing more medications, tests, scopes, CT scan, hearing test, etc., the ENT physician said the lesion was enlarging, and it had to come off. Then she listed all the potential side-effects of this type of surgery: broken teeth, tongue injury and soreness, vocal cord damage and a voice afterwards but possibly not my former and usual voice. What were my alternatives?!? I had been able to do my own shopping, settling into my new home, and work in the yard, but not intelligibly talk to anyone. I used gestures and wrote notes. I missed a number of planned events including the very special 29th Annual Concordia Conference for parish nurses, health ministers and health advocates that had been cancelled last year.

The surgery was scheduled for June 3. I am sure I have not prayed for anything as fervently as I had for my doctor and the return of my voice since my son's military deployments. The surgery was a success, and after a day I did wake up the next morning and did have a voice. It was coarse, raspy, and not recognizable as my old voice, but **a voice** for which I was very thankful! Praise the Lord! What a gift to have a voice! This is something I had taken for granted and will not take for granted nor abuse in at least the near the future. I have become more thankful for all senses and abilities that I have taken for granted. Thankfully, God provides these miraculous gifts to us without our thanking him on a regular basis. All of us may need to reconsider our God-given gifts and our more regular prayers of thanks for our many God-given gifts.

LPNI Health Topic – July 2021 by Jamie Spikes, RN, PhD, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Parish Nurse, Manhattan, KS, jamiespikes@gmail.com.

Submitted by Ronda Anderson RN, Iowa District East Parish Nurse District Representative

District Life Coordinator—It's Time to Speak

August 2021

Our Sunday morning Bible study at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown just purchased with their collected offerings a set of pamphlets from Lutherans for Life entitled:

*“How You Can Speak:
Ideas on how you can speak on behalf of those
who cannot speak for themselves.”*

Listen to God speak to you in His Word from Proverbs 31:8-9:

**“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.”**

There are over 200 practical ways that you, your congregation, and your family can speak and defend all human life in this booklet! Here are just a few:

- God Himself will teach you what to speak (Exodus 4:12).
- Speak in the church, using Life Quotes and Life Thoughts in the Church Year in the bulletin, studies, sermons, and newsletters.
- Speak through worship, singing Scriptural and confessional hymns that affirm God's love and forgiveness for everyone He has made.
- Speak to your family, remembering Baptism birthdays, teaching children about all 9 months of life in the womb from the moment of conception/fertilization, promoting sexual purity and chastity, and encouraging a teen struggling with these issues.
- Speak up and support Lutherans for Life. Speak on social media, speaking the truth in love. Pray in front of an abortion clinic. Learn scientific and medical facts about human life, especially fetal development.
- Encourage others to speak: pastors, school teachers, shelters for mothers and children, children at a kids' day picnic with an emphasis on defending life, or at a diaper drive.
- Speak to the local newspaper, radio, television station, or erect a for-life billboard.
- Speak to your community at the fair, the library, the jail, the parade, a forum or panel, a public debate, a candlelight memorial for victims of abortion, a life chain, or march for life.
- Speak to government and elected officials. Run for office. Vote for and support for-life candidates. Write letters. Send emails. Make calls.
- Speak by doing: adopt, or help pay for an adoption. Collect diapers, clothes, and toys for babies. Support an adoption service agency, like Lutheran Family Service. Visit shut-ins who can't come to worship. Withdraw support from organizations or business that fund pro-abortion agencies. Make blankets for the families of newborn babies. Speak about the importance of chastity and marriage.

The Lord Jesus be with you as you speak on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves!

Submitted by Rev. Alex Post, Redeemer Lutheran - Marshalltown, IA

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



August 2021

Summer Camp 2021—Believe and Confess

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” Romans 10:9-10

We had an excellent summer at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca! Thanks be to God, all programs operated safely and every session was completed without interference from the pandemic. Campers from all areas of Eastern Iowa and beyond have come to a dozen different camps to enjoy themselves while learning all about Jesus and their faith.

Throughout their time at camp, our campers took the time to learn about the Christian faith that they believe and confess. Learning all about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for their forgiveness and salvation, campers also spent time focusing on confessing, that is, telling the truth of Jesus to others.

We pray that all of our campers have had a fantastic time with us here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca! As we all look forward to next summer, look for an opportunity to come out for one of our retreats this year, or have your own church or church group book their own retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Stay tuned for information on our Fall Workday and Spring Cleanup, as well!

BELIEVE &
CONFESS
ROMANS 10:8-10

2021-2022 Iowa District East Youth Events

October 8-9 - Fall Confirmation Retreat

November 19-20 - Sr. High Retreat

January 28-29 - Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email 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!



THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2020, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received over \$9,000 in Thrivent Choice contributions! Thank you donors for making this program a success for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Will you help make 2021 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!



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Needs List

Paper Towels; Toilet Paper; First Class Postage Stamps; Batteries: 9v, AA, AAA; Cleaning Supplies: disinfecting wipes, window cleaner, all-purpose cleaner. **Please see our web site for a complete list: www.campiodiseca.org.**

Important Dates

August 3-6

Higher Things Confirmation Camp

September 10-11

LWML Fall Retreat

October 4-5

IDE Fall Pastors' Conference

October 8-9

IDE Fall Confirmation Retreat

November 5-6

IDE Pastors' Wives Retreat

November 19-20

IDE Sr. High Retreat

January 28-29

IDE Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics

From the Kids, For the Kids

Each year the camp collects an offering called From the Kids, For the Kids. It's a way that we buy new program equipment here at camp so that kids can have a more enjoyable experience.

In just the past few years we've been able to replace all of our canoes at the camp pond, buy new lifejackets and paddles, put in new basketball hoops and paint the basketball court, and improve our rec field and challenge course! THANK YOU for your help in making Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca a more enjoyable facility! On average, our campers donate over \$1,000 per summer.

This year, we're going to focus on rebuilding our disc golf course! We think having a great disc golf course is another solid activity not just for summer camp, but year round! The other neat thing is that we'll share a portion of these donations with another children's ministry in Eastern Iowa. After all, it's from the kids, for the kids!

THANK YOU!!!!



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

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email office@iodiseca.org



Resources for You as You Serve Others

Lutheran Family Service staff are here to support you, your family, and members of your church and community.

You, pastor, are in our thoughts and prayers as you continue to care for others during these difficult days. We are here to support and help you, your family, and those in your care.

We know that many helping professionals are experiencing various levels of “compassion fatigue” today. Are you? How would you know?

It’s not uncommon—in fact it’s quite common—for those providing care to another in distress, especially after sustained and intense periods of caring to experience compassion fatigue.

Symptoms can be emotional, physical, or spiritual. You might find yourself feel-

ing fine one moment and extremely emotional the next. You might be quick to react with anger, which is not usual for you. You might be feeling the need to sleep a lot, or to eat or drink more than normal for you. You might find that doubts about your abilities, call or faith creep into your thoughts. Some have entertained thoughts about leaving the ministry all together.

If you’re experiencing any of these or other signs of compassion fatigue, know that it’s not just you, that it’s normal under these circumstances, and that you’re not alone! God has put other people—including LFS counse-

lors—in your circle of Christian friends and family to support you.

Call the LFS office at 515-251-4900 to schedule a time to meet in person or by computer telehealth link with one of our counselors. Neither distance nor cost are a barrier. If you have Concordia Health Plans, you likely have 6 sessions available to you at no cost through the Employee Assistance Program.

This same support is available for your wife and children, and anyone in your parish you know needs extra help.

Call us—it’s why we’re here!

LFS’ Director of Counseling Services, Toni Larson, LISW, has been sharing information about COVID-19 fatigue at circuit wikles throughout the state. If we haven’t been to your circuit yet, invite us! Call Toni at 515-573-3138 to schedule a date and time for that presentation.

CARING FOR YOURSELF IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULT WORK

Our work can be overwhelming. Our challenge is to maintain our resilience so that we can keep doing the work with care, energy, and compassion.

10 things to do each day

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Get enough sleep. | 6. Focus on what you did well. |
| 2. Get enough to eat. | 7. Learn from your mistakes. |
| 3. Vary the work that you do. | 8. Share a private joke. |
| 4. Do some light exercise. | 9. Pray, meditate or relax. |
| 5. Do something pleasurable. | 10. Support a colleague. |

For More Information see your supervisor or visit www.istss.org, www.proqol.org and www.compassionfatigue.org

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FOCUSING YOUR EMPATHY

Your empathy for others helps you do your job. It is important to take good care of your feelings and thoughts by monitoring how you use them. The most resilient workers are those that know how to turn their feelings to work mode when they go on duty, but off-work mode when they go off duty. This is not denial; it is a coping strategy. It is a way they get maximum protection while working (feelings switched to work mode) and maximum support while resting (feelings switched off-work mode).

How to become better at switching between Work and Off-Work Modes

1. Make this a conscious process. Talk to yourself as you switch.
2. Use images that make you feel safe and protected (work-mode) or connected and cared for (non-work mode) to help you switch.
3. Develop rituals that help you switch as you start and stop work.
4. Breathe slowly and deeply to calm yourself when starting a tough job.

Print this page, then cut out the pocket card to the right.
Put it in a place where you will see and read it frequently.

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 These Important Dates

July 22 – Webinar "Schools Overview"

with Dr. Rebecca Schmidt, associate director of LCMS School Ministry
1–2 p.m. CST

September 9 – Webinar "Ministry After the Pandemic – Making Disciples for Life"

with Rev. Dr. Steven Schave, director of LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission and LCMS Church Planting
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

Meet the Challenge

Change." It's a tough word that carries a lot of baggage. Many, if not most, people have an innate dislike of the idea of change. "Can't we just keep things the way they are?" "It's worked this long, hasn't it?" "We've never done it that way before." These are just a sampling of our regular mantras against change.

I recently had the opportunity to help my kids move "cross country" due to a new call. Selling a house, loading up a moving truck, saying goodbye to friends and co-workers ... all the makings of stressful change! As we cruised on down the roads, though, we passed a myriad of other moving vans of various sorts and sizes. It struck me then: Just how many people were going through changes in their lives just like my kids? How many of them were embracing the adventure and how many of them were resistant to or reluctant about the change?

Attitude really makes all the difference. We sojourners in this fallen world find ourselves in a constant state of change. Since the fall into sin, this world has been changing, and not for the better. In fact, we continue to move ever more rapidly towards death. We in the church find ourselves in an increasingly difficult situation in which to carry out our mission



and ministry. In a world which constantly tries to come up with its own answers yet cannot save itself or right its path, where do we fit into the picture? Where do our perception and our reality fit together? Are we embracing the change, meaning meeting it head on, or are we reluctantly and resistantly trying to maintain a status quo?

(continued on page 3)

THIS MONTH'S WEBINAR:

JOY in Youth Ministry

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth"
(3 John 1:4).

You also know the joy of watching children and adolescents walk in the truth of the Gospel and God's Word. As they walk, young people bring energy, imagination, insight and unique skills to their congregations, as you live together in God's grace and serve your community. The family of God is unique, born and unified through Baptism and strengthened by our good Heavenly Father. In the church family, God provides a place for young people to belong and nurture their faith.

You may also know the heartbreak of when a child of God walks away from Him and His church. You may know these young people well, as part of your own biological family or congregation. Doubts, challenges and temptations damage relationships between family

members and between God and His children. Young people may also "fall through the cracks" due to life's transitions or staff transitions.

Starting in 2017, LCMS Youth Ministry conducted research with millennials who grew up in the LCMS. Some of these young adults were currently disconnected from the church, but many had remained in LCMS congregations. Some of these were congregations in which they were baptized and confirmed, while others had found a new church home after high school or college graduation. We learned a lot about practices of healthy youth ministry in many congregational contexts.

In our research, rural congregations showed unique strengths and unique challenges in their support of young people as disciples of Jesus Christ. These young adults also told us plenty of things that were consistent across church sizes, locations and settings. One important, positive factor is the importance of

grace-filled, Jesus-focused *relationships*. These relationships were present in Christian families, Lutheran congregations, Lutheran and public schools, and peer-to-peer connections. In these relationships, confession and absolution was experienced, God's Word was shared and prayers were lifted up in Jesus' name.

During this webinar on youth ministry, we will dig into some of the data pertaining to rural and small-town ministry and also the "Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry" derived from our research and God's Word. Whether you are a pastor, parent, commissioned minister, lay person or church staff member, you play an important role in connecting young people to Jesus and His church. It's a wonderful privilege to serve young people and watch them walk with Jesus and His truth for a lifetime. We hope you will be encouraged by the opportunities God has placed before you to serve and invest in young people!



Students listen as Vicar Craig Wehmeyer teaches an evening Bible class at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner Robins, Ga., in 2019.



Rural & Small Town Mission

Reaching Rural America for Christ is published monthly by LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission.

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We want to hear from you! If you have ideas for future issues, comments, or feedback on articles you've read in *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, please contact the RSTM office.

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How to Subscribe

To subscribe to *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, contact the RSTM office by calling 888-843-5267 or sending an email to rstm@lcms.org.

Support This Work

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.

Click the Give Now button to support the work of RSTM.

GIVE NOW

Thrivent members: Remember that RSTM is eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars!



(continued from page 1)

As I continue to ponder this situation, I have come to the conclusion that we must engage this ever-changing world in whatever ways we can. We must embrace or meet head on the changing world so that the clear message of the Gospel can be heard above the noise and clatter. We may not like what is happening around us (and much of it we shouldn't), but God has called us to be where we are so that we can do the very thing He has called us to do: be light in this sin-darkened world. As Matthew 5:14-16 says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before

others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Here, where our perception and reality meet, we are — the Body of Christ called to be a light to this ever-changing world. The changeless truths of the church are ours to share: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, salvation by grace through faith alone, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Confession and Absolution are those never-changing gifts we have. What a great and glorious opportunity we have to engage those around us with this Good News! May God bless you with the strong faith and fervent love we need to lead in the changing world.

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 **Schools Overview** on July 22, followed by **Ministry After the Pandemic** on September 9. Find past webinars in our archive. Watch for information on all our upcoming events!

RSTM's **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 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 2021!

In addition, pray for the new **Making Disciples for Life** conferences and watch for information on a regional event coming near you!

IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION
Check out the new website: iowalutheransto.com

SCHOOL IS ABOUT READY TO START FOR 2021-2022!
WE HAVE 5 SHORT MONTHS TO RAISE TUITION
ASSISTANCE FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR!



Our Lutheran schools also
teach in outdoor classrooms.



**Due to spring legislative action,
ILSTO now gives a 75% Iowa tax credit!**

ALSO NEW TO ILSTO

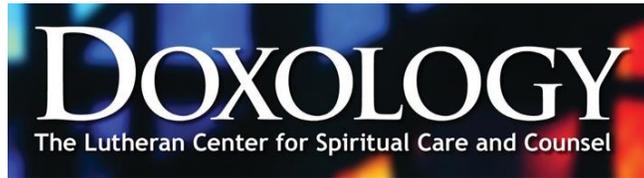
A change in ILSTO policy makes sure more of your donations to ILSTO stay with your designated school. This is up to a limit of 70% of need as determined by financial assistance formulas of ILSTO. Wouldn't it be great to help a student attend a Lutheran school instead of paying taxes? Please help spread the word to potential donors so we can award Lutheran school families the maximum allowed by law. For year 2021 the ILSTO goal is \$814,860.

Call today for more information: Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991

By reaching our goal, ILSTO will be able to assist more students attending Iowa Lutheran Schools:
increase enrollment
provide ministry with the community
share the Gospel with more children and their families.

Now that's something to think about.
Call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more information.

We are currently at 20% of our goal!



A DOXOLOGY SEMINAR

Trinity Lutheran Church ✕ Davenport, Iowa
Saturday, August 28, 2021 ✕ 8:15 AM – 3:15 PM

Speaking up Christian Confession in an Age of Sexual Confusion

The new federal administration has reimposed government policies at odds with historic Judeo-Christian positions regarding abortion, marriage, sex and gender. More pressing than political matters is the wide spread confusion in American culture regarding sex, marriage and gender which greatly complicates Christian life and witness. This Seminar prepares Christians to advocate confidently, purposefully and positively for the biblical vision of human sexuality within their families and in the public square not merely on religious freedom grounds, but as a matter of common sense, compassion and human flourishing.

Presenters

Dr. Ryan T. Anderson

Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D., is the President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, and the Founding Editor of *Public Discourse*, the online journal of the Witherspoon Institute of Princeton, New Jersey.

He is the author of *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment* and *Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom*. He is the co-author of *What Is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense* and *Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination*, and the co-editor of *A Liberalism Safe for Catholicism? Perspectives from "The Review of Politics."* Anderson's research has been cited by two U.S. Supreme Court justices, Justice Samuel Alito and Justice Clarence Thomas, in two Supreme Court cases.



He received his bachelor of arts degree from Princeton University, graduating *Phi Beta Kappa* and *magna cum laude*, and he received his doctoral degree in political philosophy from the University of Notre Dame. His dissertation was titled: "Neither Liberal Nor Libertarian: A Natural Law Approach to Social Justice and Economic Rights."

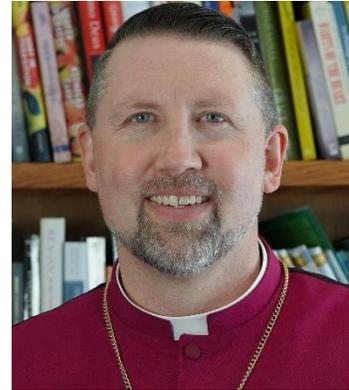
Anderson has made appearances on ABC, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, and Fox News. His work has been published by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, the *Harvard Health Policy Review*, the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, *First Things*, the *Claremont Review of Books*, and *National Review*.

He is the John Paul II Teaching Fellow in Social Thought at the University of Dallas, a member of the James Madison Society at Princeton University, and a Fellow of the Institute for Human Ecology at the Catholic University of America.

Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford

Lucas V. Woodford, MDiv, STM, DMin is President of the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Farmington, MN.

Pastor Woodford is the author of *Great Commission, Great Confusion, or Great Confession?* (Wipf & Stock, 2012). He is co-author with Harold Senkbeil of *Pastoral Leadership: for the Care of Souls* (2nd ed Lexham Press, 2021) and their book on contextual mission, *Culture of the Word*, is forthcoming from Lexham in 2022. He has written numerous articles published in *The Lutheran Witness*, *Logia* and *Seelsorger*.



Woodford is a member of the Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul, MN. He has served as an adjunct instructor for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN and the Institute of Lutheran Theology in Brookings, SD.

Dr. Woodford is a Fellow in the Collegium of DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, charged with research, writing and speaking regarding the care of souls in the contemporary context. He is a frequently invited presenter on matters related to soul care, missiology, marriage, sex and gender issues.

Program, Saturday, August 28, 2021

8:15 AM – 8:45 AM **Matins**

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM ***Making the Case for Man-Woman Marriage***

Dr. Anderson

What is marriage? How can we defend it today? Any assessment of what “marriage equality” demands depends on first determining what marriage is—what sort of relationships must be treated as essentially the same. This session defends the principle that marriage, as a comprehensive union ordered to family life, requires a man and a woman. It highlights the great social benefits of enshrining this principle in law. And it points to the legal consequences of redefining marriage in law.

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM **Q&A**

Dr. Anderson

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Break**

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM ***Biology Isn’t Bigotry: Responding to the Transgender Moment***

Dr. Anderson

Can a boy truly be “trapped” in a girl’s body? Can modern medicine really “reassign” sex? Is sex something “assigned” in the first place? What’s the loving response to a friend or child experiencing a gender-identity conflict? What should our law say on these issues? Drawing on the best insights from biology, psychology, and philosophy, this session offers answers to all of these questions while providing a nuanced vision of human embodiment and a sober and honest survey of the human costs of getting human nature wrong.

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM **Q&A**

Dr. Anderson

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM **Break**

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM ***Beyond Religious Liberty: Being Heard Today***

Dr. Anderson

The Supreme Court redefined marriage and now it seems the Biden administration is redefining sex and gender. What all does this mean for the law and public policy? Yes, religious liberty will be threatened, but

so too will privacy, safety, equality, and good medicine--not to mention a harmful ideology now has the backing of law. What does this mean for how we raise our children and how we interact with our neighbors? This session offers practical guidance on how you can respond.

12:15 PM – 12:30 AM **Q&A**

Dr. Anderson

12:30 PM – 1:15 PM **Lunch**

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM ***Speak up! Promoting Sexual Virtue and Biblical identity
from Generation to Generation***

Rev. Dr. Woodford

We live in a world that has lost its story. People are trying to make sense of the chaos, asking: “Who am I? Where do I come from?” Explicit sexuality is the new norm. Marriage has been redefined. The transgender madness is pressing down upon us. Countless people who no longer know their place in life, in marriage, in a family or in eternity have been sexually wounded and defiled. It’s imperative that parents, grandparents, pastors and church workers regularly, openly and naturally teach the biblical narrative of sex and marriage from creation through the fall, to the new creation. This session will equip you to speak up concerning the hope you have as those baptized into God’s story and given a new and holy identity in Christ. You will learn how to champion sexuality as a holy calling rooted in the relationship of Jesus and His church. From generation to generation, we need to regain clarity on what it means to be male and female, husband and wife, father and mother as revealed in our Lord’s Word of creation, redemption, and sanctification. Come see how God’s plan of salvation is played out in the family and in the Holy Christian Church, which is the bride of Christ.

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM **Round Table Discussion**

Dr. Anderson & Rev. Dr. Woodford

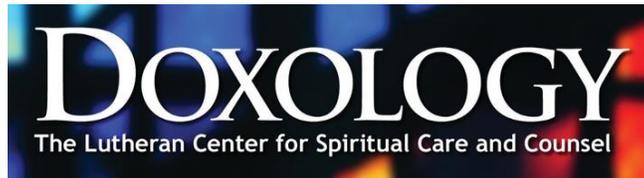
The presenters will field questions from the audience.

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM **Prayer for Travelers**

Registration

- Registration available at www.doxology.us
- Cost: \$15 (\$8 for students) includes lunch.
- Pastors can register for both Saturday’s seminar and Friday’s preconference for \$15 which includes lunch on Saturday.
- Deadline for registration is August 16.

Pastors: There is a Friday pre-conference available to you. See below.



Friday Pre-Conference for Pastors
Trinity Lutheran Church ☒ Davenport, Iowa
Friday, August 27, 2021 ☒ 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

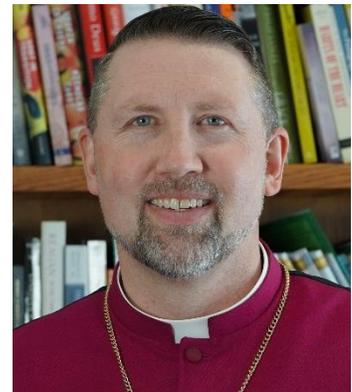
Caring for Souls in an Age of Sexual Confusion

Presenter

Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford

Rev. Lucas V. Woodford, MDiv, STM, DMin is President of the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Farmington, MN.

Pastor Woodford is the author of *Great Commission, Great Confusion, or Great Confession?* (Wipf & Stock, 2012). He is co-author with Harold Senkbeil of *Pastoral Leadership: for the Care of Souls* (2nd ed Lexham Press, 2021) and their book on contextual mission, *Culture of the Word*, is forthcoming from Lexham in 2022. He has written numerous articles published in *The Lutheran Witness*, *Logia* and *Seelsorger*.



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Program

Learn how to preach, teach, catechize, evangelize and care for souls in a world of increasing sexual delusion and chaos. Using Scriptural teaching as well as case studies from his own pastoral practice, Dr. Woodford will provide useful examples of how to apply our Lutheran theology using actual examples of pastoral work.

Topic 1: *With Faith, Hope, and Love: Living our Baptismal Identity in our 'Anything Goes' Age*

All around us life is being turned upside down and inside out. Our sexually explicit culture threatens to strip the world of meaningful purpose and the self of any true moral character. This cultural madness and social mayhem infect the digital media and entertainment of our day. It's anything goes. However, this is also a moment of opportunity for the Church to boldly address the challenges of our age. Rather than retreat from the onslaught, we need to step up and speak up. Rather than cursing the darkness, we need to light a match to confront the toxic moral and spiritual influences all around. We can show how to find hope and develop good habits of faith

and life that combat this evil. We can build biblical character and the family unit not only among ourselves but for the next generation of Christians.

This session gives several real-life examples of how our Lutheran theology brings God's great light to this present darkness. Gain a clearer grasp of how the baptismal life brings the joyous reality of a redeemed, sanctified, and moral identity in Christ Jesus, and hope and light for a world languishing in darkness and death

Topic 2: *The Temple of the Holy Spirit: Considerations on the Theology of the Body*

Our society does not know what to make of the body, what it is meant to do, and how it is to be regarded. We live at a time when some of the sharpest social, moral, and religious conflicts have to do with the body. Consider the disagreements over sexuality and gender, marriage and divorce, homosexual intercourse and same sex marriage, artificial reproduction and genetic engineering, cosmetic surgery and gender reassignment, pornography and voyeurism, sexual abuse and prostitution, abortion and euthanasia, overeating and malnutrition.

As pastors we need to address these concerns and attacks on the body. In this fraternal discussion we will learn how to more confidently and courageously speak the truth in love regarding these foundational issues of human identity and purpose while providing healing and wholeness in Christ to the walking wounded and defiled.

Schedule, Friday, August 27, 2021

- 1:00 Prayer at Noonday
- 1:15 Welcome and introductions
- 1:30 Lecture #1
- 2:15 Table Discussion
- 2:40 Lecture #2
- 3:25 Table Discussion
- 3:45 Lecture #3
- 4:30 Q & A
- 4:45 Prayer for Travelers

Registration

- Registration available at www.doxology.us
- The Friday preconference is free to pastors.
- Pastors can register for this and the Saturday's seminar: Speak Up: Christian Confession in an Age of Sexual Confusion for \$15 which includes lunch on Saturday.
- Deadline for registration for the Saturday seminar is August 16.



Help Your Students Navigate the Unknown – and Win!

The emotional reserves of students are running low, yet they have a race to run—and a race to win. Do your teens know how to capitalize on simple practices that refuel and recharge? Teach them how, lead the way, and do it together.

Navigating seasons of crisis, comeback, and recovery requires the ability to cultivate connections, recognize the impact of stress, and reduce cortisol overload. These strategies not only help students combat anxiety, restlessness, and depression; they also position people of every age to thrive. **Run the Race Video Series** equips 6th to 12th graders to refuel and recharge in ways they can own. It includes simple, yet powerful hands-on activities and session handouts designed to foster meaningful connection among your students.

DISTINCT FEATURES

- Introduces students (6th-12th grade) to evidence-informed **Restorative Wellness**
- **3-Track Initiative** - impacting students, teachers, and parents
- **Student handout** for each session, which include thought provoking questions and opportunities to set individual goals
- **Parents' letter**, which includes engaging questions for their teen, and video links to view the program
- **SEL focused** - outcome driven around CASEL Competencies
- Run the Race can be used in the classroom and for **remote learners**
- Every participating teacher can receive **3 Continuing Educational Units (CEUs)** when used in educational setting
- The **Leader's Guide** paves the way for easy implementation
- Designed to impact entire student body in 2021 – 2022

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Six videos
- Student handout for each session
- Introduction letter for teachers
- Leader's guide
- Parent letter
- Support from Run Hard. Rest Well.®

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Stacey Dumbacher at Stacey@runhardrestwell.org
OR visit our website, www.RunHardRestWell.org

OUTCOME OBJECTIVES



Creating Connections



Reducing Cortisol



Hitting Pause



Prioritizing Sleep

*"Why is this not being taught?
This surpassed my expectations and
taught me that if I really want to be
healthy and succeed I need to take
breaks and evaluate where I am at."*

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

*"Life-changing! Thank you. The insights
were engaging and applicable. Your
practical tips have proven so helpful.*

This message is a gift!"

TEACHER TESTIMONIAL

Submissions for the next edition of our
Professional Workers' Packet are due
August 25.

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



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