



IDE TODAY

Iowa District East - LCMS

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New Hope in Charles City

2021 Summer Camp at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

DISTRICT UPDATES

As of Dec. 1, 2021

New Pastor Installations in the Iowa District East

CALLS FROM THE FIELD (May - October 2021*)

5.29.2021 Rev. Dr. Andy Watkins, Cedar Rapids St. Paul—Bennet, IA and St. Paul—Stanwood, IA

CANDIDATE CALLS - 2021

7.25.2021 Tanner Post—CTSFW St. Paul—Sumner, IA and St. John—Spring Fountain, IA

+ Called to Glory +

Rev. Donald Illian June 13, 2021

Rev. Alvin Jeske October 11, 2021

Rev. Carl Richardson November 2, 2021

Vicars in the Iowa District East

VICARAGE PLACEMENTS 2021-2022

Micah Brooks—CTSFW Trinity—Hampton, IA

Kyle Lewis—CSL Our Redeemer—Iowa City, IA

Mark Zieroth—CTSFW Our Redeemer—Cedar Falls, IA

Calling Congregations (as of Dec. 1, 2021)

CONGREGATION

St. Paul—Delaware, IA

Our Savior—Ft. Madison, IA

St. Mark—Garrison, IA/Zion—Shellsburg, IA

Our Saviour—Keosauqua, IA

Bethlehem—Mason City, IA

St. Paul—McGregor, IA/Trinity—Guttenberg, IA

King of Glory—Swisher, IA

St. Peter—Westgate, IA/Grace—Fayette, IA

VACANCY PASTOR

Rev. David Weber

Rev. Chris Roepke

Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild

Rev. Mark Brase

Rev. Jesse Burns

Rev. Caleb Schewe

Rev. Terry Small

Rev. Ronnie Koch

About the Cover

Pastor Isaac Johnson of New Hope Lutheran Church in Charles City baptizes a child.

Read more about the ministry happening there on pages 12 and 13.



Iowa District East - LCMS



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DCE/School/Teacher/Others

New Calls

Teacher	Nickolas Utech, Deerfield Beach, FL	Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport
Teacher	Rachel Meyer, Milwaukee, WI	Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport
Teacher	Jodi van Etten, Williamsburg	Lutheran Interparish School, Williamsburg
Teacher	Jennifer Rethwisch, Victor	Lutheran Interparish School, Williamsburg
DCE	Darci Russell	Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2022 Iowa District East – District Convention is being held at the Cedar Rapids Marriott over **June 24-25, 2022**. The deadline for delegates, nominations, and memorials is **January 31, 2022**. All congregations have had pertinent forms mailed to them in October of 2021. Registration will open shortly after Easter (April 17, 2022). For more information, please go to LCMSIDE.ORG/IDECONVENTION .

Iowa District East– LCMS
2022 District Convention
Cedar Rapids Marriott
June 24-25, 2022

Calendar of Events

December

24-Jan 3 Christmas Holiday
(IDE Office Closed)

January

8 Church & Clergy
Finance/Treasurer Workshop

25 IDE Board of Directors
IDE Office

January continued...

28-29 Middle School Retreat
& Snowlympics
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

31 Convention Materials Due
Delegate Forms Due
Memorials Due
Nominations Due

President's Piece for Peace - The True Miracle of the Nativity

The miracle of Christmas is that God came to meet with His creation in person. In the Old Testament times He spoke through prophets. Often, He was given human characteristics for our benefit to better understand His personhood and the attention He gave to matters of salvation. It was not uncommon for God to be said to have flared His nostrils. Of course, God is Spirit and had no nostrils or a nose for that matter. But depending on the context the flaring of His nostrils was either to express His anger at disobedience or it was also used to picture how sweet the aroma of the prayers of the faithful were as they ascended from the altar of incense.

Now, at the nativity of our Lord God, He has come to meet us face-to-face. When Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary she was the tabernacle for the Son of God. It was God's Son she carried for nine months. It

was the incarnate Lord she gave birth to in the little town of Bethlehem. As any dutiful mother would have done upon His birth, she wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and held Him close to her for warmth and comfort. When she looked at Him, when she smiled at His little face, she was seeing the face of God.

The miracle of Christmas is that God came to meet with His creation in person. He did this because He had issue with His creatures. Sin was a broken barrier between He and us. His flared nostrils had good reason to flash flames of fire. In His anger He could have rightly destroyed us. He could have

given up on us.

But His love would not let Him do that.

He chose to resolve the issue in person.

God the Father sent His Son to reconcile fallen creation back to Him. He did

this in person, He did this face-to-face.



REV DR BRIAN S SAUNDERS

Keep in mind that God did not send an email, a text, a snapchat, or even a letter. He sent His own Son who had a face.

That is the way of the Church. We are the Body of Christ and as such have no other ways and means to conduct ourselves than in the manner set by our Lord. It is He who lives in us since it is He who was placed upon us in our

baptism. When the water and Word was splashed upon us we became members of the Church. We became, by grace, Christian with the new mind to behave as those who belong to the Prince of Peace.

It is in this newness of Christ that we address one another in the Church. That means we interact face-to-face. Whether it is to rejoice over good news or to confront concerns, we do this as God did in Jesus. We do this face-to-face. Keep in mind God did not send an email, a text, a snapchat, or even a letter. He sent His own Son who had a face. That is the Church. It sees the face of the other and it allows the other to see your face. So much

communication is non-verbal. A great deal of what we are trying to say or need to say is heard with the eyes. Speaking face-to-face is the only way our expressions can display love and appreciation for each other.

Hearing with our eyes allows us to receive what someone is saying to us without being offended. It takes fear away and paves the path for growth and maturation. This is evident by the fact that the face of God at times communicates the Law and where we have transgressed it. It calls us to repentance. At the same time, we know that the face of God carried our burdens to the cross and made payment in full for our sake. In His face we not only see but hear redemption and reconciliation.

My prayer this Christmas is that we recognize the true miracle of the nativity. By doing so, we are then moved not only to worship at the feet of the Son of God but also to recognize that we are His Body. We are His mind and compassion for one another. He took the time and made the effort to save us in person. By this act our personhood is fully forgiven. What a privilege to live a life that forgives others. In this way, miracle of Christmas is lifelong.

Merry and Blessed Christmas to you all,

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders

District President

Iowa District East—LCMS

IDE LHM District Convention—April 9, 2022

Iowa District East Lutheran Hour Ministries annual convention is **Saturday, April 9, 2022** at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, 3271 Sandy Beach Rd. NE, Solon, IA 52333.

Our guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, the Lutheran Hour speaker. **All are invited to attend.**



Registration: Registration opens at 9:00AM

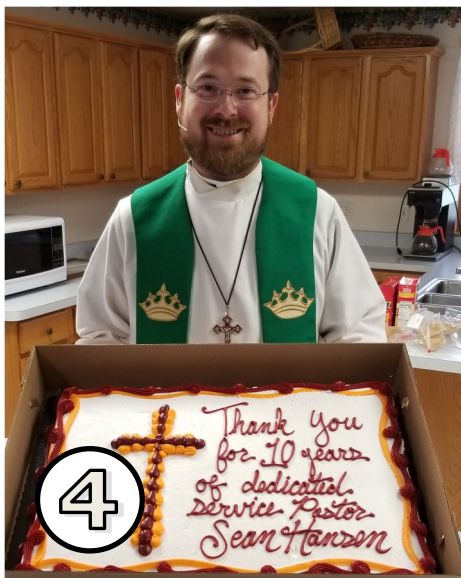
Convention starts at 10:00 AM and concludes at 4:00 PM.

Registration is \$14 (\$17 at the door), includes a noon meal and snacks. Please register by April 3 to allow time for meal planning. You may also contact Dick Hoelz at 319-363-1214 or email rahoelz@imonmail.com for reservations. (Extra restrooms available.)



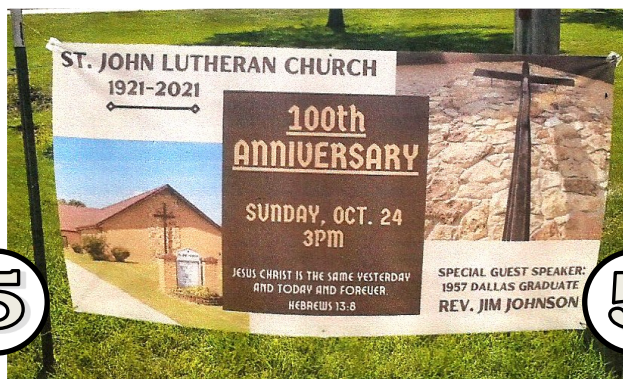
Pastors in the IDE

1. Rev. Andy Watkins (4th from the right) was installed as Pastor at **St. Paul - Bennett and St. Paul - Stanwood** on May 29. Pastor Watkins is also a 6th grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Cedar Rapids.
2. Pastor Daniel Redhage of **Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowden** was surprised after the church service on June 27, 2021 on his 15 years of being in the ministry. He was presented a plaque by the elders of the church.
3. Pastor Tanner Post was called to **St. Paul - Sumner and St. John - Sumner (Spring Fountain)**. He was installed on July 25th, 2021. Pastor Post previously served his vicarage at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls.
4. This summer, **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon** celebrated Rev. Sean Hansen's 10 years of his ordination and installation, all of which have been in Mt. Vernon.





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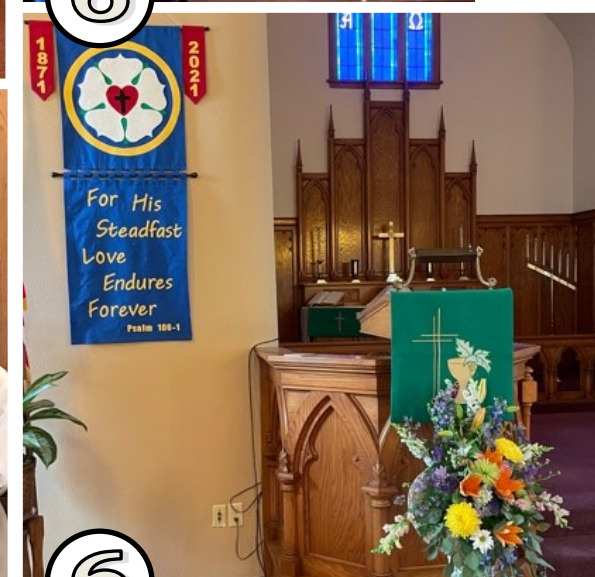


Congregations

5. **St. John Lutheran Church in Melcher-Dallas** celebrated their 100th anniversary on October 24, 2021. Rev. Jim Johnson, a former member who went into the ministry after graduating in 1957, was a guest preacher. Service was led by Rev. Gregory Hyatt and the choir performed special music.
6. **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Mound** celebrated their 150th Anniversary on Sunday June 27, 2021. Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe was the guest preacher and after the worship service gave a presentation on the history of the Missouri Synod, especially in eastern Iowa. A catered dinner followed. Pastor Wohlrabe is pictured along with current Pastor Steven Anderson. Rev. Dr. Wohlrabe is the 2nd Vice President of the Synod and serves on the board of the Concordia Historical Institute.
7. Rev. Steve Rasmussen (pictured 4th from the right) retired from the ministry on May 30, 2021 from his many years of service at **Our Savior in Ft. Madison** and also at **Our Saviour in Keosauqua**. The service was led by Rev. Michael Scudder of Faith Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant with President Saunders preaching.



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1. It was a busy August at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon**! Members of the church hosted an ice cream social in support of their local schools and families in need. Later in the month, they hosted their annual food stand at Lisbon Sauerkraut Days to raise funds for community outreach.
2. In July, **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsburg** hosted a meal packing event through Meals from the Heartland. The members, including congregations in the circuit and community, packed 20,000 meals to feed people across Iowa and the Midwest. After gathering for worship on September 12, the congregation had a Service Sunday. One team went to sort through historic documents and another team went to Lake Iowa and helped with end-of-the-season maintenance of camp sites.
3. The Ruth Circle of **St. John Lutheran Church in Center Point** celebrated 50 years. Organized May 12, 1971, the group





meets monthly to study the Bible. Together they have shared the joys and sorrows of life by staying grounded in His Word.

4. Making a public profession of faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ in the Rite of Confirmation at **St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Atkins** on Palm Sunday, March 28, were Mallory Kenny, Laura Junge, Jonathon Becker, Thomas Carte, and Landry Ruehle. They are pictured with Pastor Doug Woltemath.
5. Reformation Day was celebrated with the baptism of Luther Amos Peters. He is the fourth generation of his family to be members of **St. John Lutheran Church in Wellsburg**. Pictured are Pastor Bruce Zimmermann, elder Keith Balvanz, parents Andrew and Ashley Peters, and Luther's brother Edwin and sister Abigail.



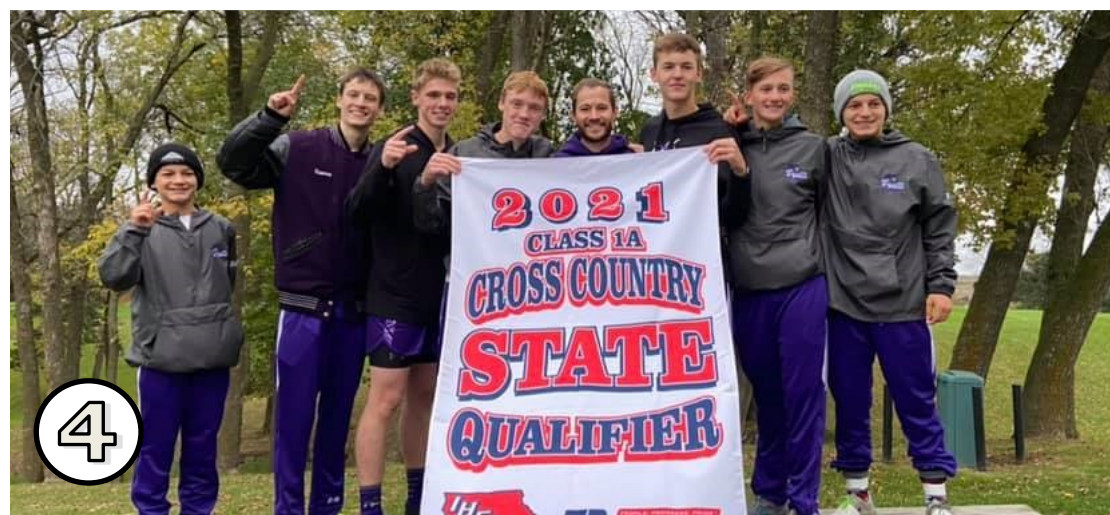
6. On September 12, **Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha** installed Darci Russell as their new Director of Christian Education (DCE). She was installed on the very day Sunday school children and youth came back together to celebrate the first day of Sunday school. Darci and her family come to Zion Lutheran from Waverly, Iowa.

7. **Our Savior Lutheran Church in Muscatine** celebrated its 60th congregational anniversary. Our Savior members enjoyed together a 60th anniversary cake, a potluck, and games in celebration of all the many blessings given to Our Savior through the past 60 years.



IDE Schools

1. In May, the LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Teacher Award was presented to Becky McKinney (center-left) of **Central Lutheran School in Newhall** by Dr. Jonathan Laabs, Executive Director of Lutheran Education Association.
2. Two schools in Iowa District East received National Lutheran School Accreditation this summer. Receiving the awards are (left) Principal Steve Stortz from **St. Paul's Lutheran School in Latimer**, and (right) Mark Grewe, Principal at **Lutheran Interparish School in Williamsburg**. This is the first accreditation award for St. Paul's, and the fourth award for LIS.
3. Matthew Gerhold was installed as the full-time K-12 Music Teacher at **Valley Lutheran High School in Cedar Falls** on September 21 in front of the students, staff, and special guests. Matthew attended and graduated from Central Lutheran School in Newhall.
4. The Cross Country team at **Valley Lutheran School** competed at the State Meet in 2021, finishing 4th in their first ever appearance as a team. Congratulations!





Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Summer Camp 2021: Believe and Confess

After a limited program in 2020, **Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca** returned to a more normal summer in 2021. Attendance was about 95% of where it was in 2019, a solid rebound from the Day Camp-only program of the previous year due to COVID. Camp is pleased to report a summer in which there were no COVID cases reported, so thanks be to God for a safe summer for campers to enjoy the outdoors and learn about their Savior!

Under the theme *Believe and Confess* (Romans 10:8-10), campers learned about what (and in Whom!) they believe while also learning how to confess their faith. Campers learned about God the Father, who created and sustains all things, and provides us with everything we need out of Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy. Campers focused on Jesus, God the Son, and His great love for us in taking upon Himself the sin of the whole world on the cross to redeem this fallen creation. From there, they learned about God the Holy Spirit, who calls His church to gather to receive the forgiveness of sins, and also to pray, praise, and give thanks.

Thanks be to God for a great and safe summer and to the summer staff in helping things get back to normal this year. Pictured above (front row left to right): Amanda Bruns, Grace Fleming, Olivia Laube, Lydia Armbrecht, Jaime Knox, Sarah Redhage, Elizabeth Paul, Noah Russell, and Lizzy Beisel. Pictured above (back row left to right): Director Daniel Sanchez, Site Manager Dylan Lampe, Ardis White, Hunter Wright, Drew Simmons, Jared Campbell, Nathan Hoft, Martin Happel, and Program Dir. Andrew Folkmann.





Campus Ministry & Missions

1. This year, **St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel in Iowa City** has had a return to normal that has included several in-person activities including monthly dinners, men's and women's nights, a trip to the apple orchard, and so much more. Of course, the number one "together" activity takes place when meeting for the Divine Service on Sunday morning. What a joy it is to gather together and receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through God's Word and Sacraments.
2. **College Hill Lutheran Church** got the fall semester started on August 22 with a Welcome Home Parking Lot party. Everyone who showed up was treated to hot dogs, burgers, ice cream, a keg of root beer and a very fun volleyball game. Another event was hosted at Pastor Wegener's house on August 27 at which there was great food, great conversation, and a great bonfire with s'mores. A group hit the road for Camp Okoboji for our fall retreat on September 24-26. We all had so much fun doing some archery, relaxing by the lake, visiting the town and part of Arnold's Park, eating at The Ritz, and most importantly, sharing time with God and His Word.
3. The Lord said to his disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* Matthew 9:37-38. **New Hope Lutheran Church in Charles City** is a relatively new





mission congregation, having been founded in 2012 as a member of the LC-MS. Over the first years of our fellowship the Lord blessed us with many visiting pastors who came and fed the people, keeping them in the true faith. In 2020 our loving and generous sister congregations in IDE decided to support us in great abundance such that we could support our first full-time pastor. Their love has overflowed in Charles City and is bearing fruit for God's Kingdom as the church grows in faith and in number. I, Rev. Isaac Johnson, was called to be the Lord's undershepherd at New Hope (Wife: Kaite; Children: Elise, Clara, Lyla, James). Since I arrived in November of 2020, the words of our Savior quoted above have proven to be especially true in Charles City. There is so much to be done here for the Kingdom! These people are thirsting constantly for the water of God's Word and the confession of the true faith amidst an unbelieving world. They have received the truth of God with great joy, and their love for their neighbor is proving genuine time and time again. Many who were on the fringes of the congregation have joined the fold of God's flock, and several others who have strayed or never heard the Word are now hearing it. Although we face the challenges common to small congregations, the Holy Spirit has granted a willing and eager heart to these people for the work of the Kingdom. - **Rev. Isaac Johnson of New Hope Lutheran Church - Charles City, IA.**



4. Two additional LCMS Disaster Response trainings occurred at **King of Kings Lutheran in Cedar Rapids (below)** in May and **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls (left)** in August. The May training was a chainsaw training for those already trained as LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) volunteers.





IDE Events

1. Pastor Zachary Voss of St. John Lutheran Church in Homestead led the presentation on Confession and Absolution at the **Spring Confirmation Retreat** April 30-May 1. This was the rescheduled confirmation retreat from October 2020.
2. Dr. Rick Marrs of Concordia Seminary St. Louis presented at the **2021 IDE Spring Workers' Conference** over May 3-4. He presented on his recent book, Making Christian Counseling More Christ-Centered. In addition to pastors and church-workers in the IDE, several staff from Lutheran Family Services also attended.
3. The **Fall Confirmation Retreat** took place October 8-9 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca with Pastor Joel Koepp from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grinnell presenting on the Lord's Supper. This was the first regularly scheduled IDE Youth Event since the 2020 Middle School Retreat on January of that year.
4. The **2021 Fall Pastors Conference** occurred October 4-5, 2021 with Rev. Dr. Carl Beckwith presenting on Confessing and Teaching the Trinity. Dr. Beckwith came from Alabama, where he teaches at Samford University and serves as Associate Pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hanceville, Alabama.

5. The Clinton Zone of the IED LWML hosted the **2021 LWML Fall Retreat** on Saturday Sept. 11 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca with 65 women attending. The theme was “Jesus My Solid Rock” based on Psalm 62:6. Michelle Diercks, Podcast Host and Author, was the morning speaker and Rev. Eric Obermann of Grace, DeWitt, was the afternoon Bible study leader. Music was provided by Joy Schmid on piano and Amy Redhage on violin. The servant activity was Cards For Troops. A large in-gathering was given to the camp consisting of paper products, cleaning supplies, stamps, etc. A prayer walk was held outside based on devotions of Martin Luther.



6. **Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport** hosted a Doxology Event August 27-28. Speakers included Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, District President of the Minnesota South District—LCMS, and Dr. Ryan T. Anderson. The topic was Speaking Up: Christian Confession in an Age of Sexual Confusion. Doxology is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod whose primary purpose is to provide training, mentoring and consultation services for pastors seeking to enhance their ability to help people struggling with the ever-increasing personal, family and social complexities of contemporary life.





District Representatives

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Admin. Asst./Receptionist	Pam Krog
Communications/Tech/Events	Daniel Sanchez
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