



# PROFESSIONAL WORKER'S PACKET

Iowa District East—LCMS

## February 2022

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### IOWA DISTRICT EAST

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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**lcmside.org**

During these days of February we are getting ready for Lent. It's a time of self-reflection and deep conscientiousness. We know that and have been participating in it our entire ministries. Might I suggest an additional contemplation this Lenten Season? It is also a good time to reflect on the fact that we serve where we do and by what authority. As Walther would have us look, it begins with the Call. Where does the Call come from? From whom does the Call come? I often hear congregations and schools say "we sent a Call" to such and such. I know what they mean when they say that but is it as biblically accurate as it should be?

In Acts 1 we are told that the prayer of the assembly was this: "(Lord) Show us which of these two you have chosen." When Paul introduces his first epistle to the Corinthians he says, "called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God." He says much the same thing when writing to the churches of Galatia, "an apostle sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father." Again, in his letters to the Ephesians, Colossians, and II Timothy he says, "an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God." He then uses a little stronger language when writing I Timothy and Titus when he says, "an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope."

There can be no mistake from whom the Call comes. It comes from God Himself. It does not originate with the congregation. If anything, *the need* originates with the congregation, but the Call is from God through the Church. The scriptures are quite flexible as to how God extends the Call and by what measures He uses through the Church to the recipient.

In Acts 1 He uses the casting of lots (notice, not ballots, but lots). In Acts 6 the brothers of the gatherers were to select seven men who were known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Later in Acts 15 it was the congregation who was to select the couriers of the Churchly letter that was sent with answers to theological and practical questions. In Acts 20 Paul explains that the overseers of the congregations were selected and placed by the Holy Spirit. The means are not delineated but the origin is.

When all is gathered from the Word of God on this issue it is clear we serve where we do because this is where God has sent us to serve. It is His will, His command, His choosing that we reside with and among the sheep and students where we have been placed. It's not always easy and sometimes not pleasant but it is the Garden of Eden (Walther's term) where the paradise of perfect Word and Sacrament are served.

**We do not lean on our own understanding but on the wisdom and perfection of His Word and Sacraments.**

Not only does He place us, but He also gives us the materials with which we serve. Whether it is in the classroom with instruction or in the chancel with preaching and administration, He provides the substance of the ministry. We do not lean on our own understanding but on the wisdom and perfection of His Word and Sacraments. Therein is the authority to preach and teach as well as the strength to carry on in the ministry for the sake of the sheep Jesus died and rose again to save.

Blessed service in the places you serve!

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President

# Calendar of Events

February 2022

February

March

April

9	IDE LHM Convention	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
15	Good Friday	IDE Office Closed
19	Board of Directors	IDE Office
26	Call Day	CSL
26	Vicarage and Deaconess Placement Service	CTSFW
27	Candidate Call Service	CTSFW

## Congregation Statistics

2021 Congregation Statistics reports are due Feb. 28, 2022. If you have questions, please contact Pam Krog at the IDE office at [pam@lcmside.org](mailto:pam@lcmside.org) or call 319-373-2112.

# Vacancy Updates

As of 1/31/2022

February 2022

## Calling Congregations

Delaware, St. Paul	David Weber (Vacancy Pastor)
Elma, St. Peter	
Garrison, St. Mark/Shellsburg, Zion	Dean Rothchild (vacancy pastor)
Keosauqua, Our Saviour	Mark Brase (vacancy pastor)
Mason City, Bethlehem	Jesse Burns (vacancy pastor)
Swisher, King of Glory	Terry Small (vacancy pastor)
Westgate, St. Peter/ Fayette, Grace	Ronnie Koch (vacancy pastor)

## Pastor Calls

Accepted:	Brent Keller, Alcester, SD	St. Paul McGregor/Trinity, Guttenberg
Other Accepted:	Rev. Harrison Goodman, Anamosa Installation at St. Paul, Mt. Vernon	Higher Things 2.24.2022
Pending:	Sean Smith, Steeleville, IL Tim Brisbois, NEB Travis Berg, Latimer Kent Peck, Mead, KS Daniel Redhage, Lowden	Bethlehem, Mason City St. Peter, Elma Trinity, Cheyenne, WY St. Peter, Westgate/Grace, Fayette Heritage, Valparaiso, IN
Declined:	Mark Pierson, Costa Mesa, AZ Matthew Durance, Greenleaf, KS Christopher Beck, Bloomington, IL	Trinity, Cedar Rapids - Associate Trinity, Davenport - Associate Trinity, Davenport - Associate
Calling Candidate:	St. Mark, Garrison/Zion, Shellsburg Trinity, Cedar Rapids - Associate	
New Dual Parish:	Our Savior, Ft. Madison & Concordia, Burlington	1.26.2022

## Commissioned Calls

Accepted:	
Pending:	Tara Darling, Immanuel, Wisconsin Rapids to St. Paul, Mt. Vernon
Declined:	

# Directory Updates

February 2022

Page	Action	Update
16 Pastors	remove	Korth, Daird - called to heaven - 12.12.21
38 Elma, St Peter	remove	Korth, Daird - called to heaven -vacancy
51 Principal	remove	Steve Stortz - called to heaven
55 Teacher	remove	Charlene Colangelo - called to heaven 1-11-2022
28 Emeriti Pastor	Add	Royce E. Rinehart (Theodora) PO Box 211, Danville IA 52633: revroyce73@gmail.com: 319-753-1140

The 2021-2022 IDE Directory was distributed at the Fall Pastors' Conference. If you did not get yours, please check with your circuit visitor. 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](mailto:pam@lcmside.org)

# God Has Sculpted Us This Year\*

February 2022

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ (2 Cor. 1:3–5).*

(The following was adapted with permission from “Sculpted” by Lee Elcov.)

A young colleague of mine told me back in April, as the pandemic settled heavily upon us, “I will not be the same educator when this is over.” An understatement, as it turns out. I know you have tried again and again to orient your hearts to God’s sovereignty and perhaps you have done so without that quiet inward reassurance that the Spirit sometimes adds to bolster our faith. Such silence is the sculpting of God.



In these times, you may not have realized it but you have been sharing in the sufferings of Christ. He stood quietly at your side as you sought to trust and obey the Lord despite the darkness and the clamor. That is reason enough for praise.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ (2 Cor. 1:3–5).*

Christ has not been impervious to your pains and bruises from the pandemic, politics, or precautions. Jesus surely shared your heartache when you taught from home, or your school was closed, or your students were afraid. He knows how you yearned for a coffee with a co-worker, or a face-to-face conversation with a parent.

The backdrop to your prayers over these months was dark Gethsemane. Jesus knelt there with you, familiar ground to him. Nine times in 2 Corinthians 1 Paul speaks of comfort using the word *paraklesis*, akin to *paraklete*, the Holy Spirit. The God of all comfort does more than telegraph a few verses to us. *The Message* captures it:

*He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. 2Corinthians 1:4*

The Son of Man himself learned the one thing that the omniscient God could not know: “Son, though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ...” (Heb. 5:8). You have met him in that same scarring school and he joined you as you struggled Job-like with all your aching whys. This wasting season has not been wasted on you, dear friends. You have been sculpted by the chisel of longsuffering into comforters.

In the seasons ahead you will surely not be like Job’s wearisome and foolish comforters. You will, in fact, be a better teacher in your school than you once were. With your faith of higher carat gold than before, you will enrich the students you teach and the staff you work with by your more Christ-like presence and patience, by your wisdom, grace, and trust, maybe even by your words. You have taken up your cross and thus are sculpted more closely to the likeness of Christ. That is why at this season I’m so thankful and honored to be numbered with you among the followers of Christ.

Jan Doellinger  
Assistant to the President, Schools

# District Life Coordinator

## Like Sheep, We All Have Gone Astray

February 2022

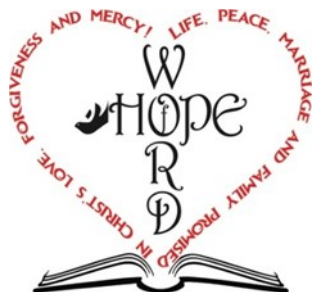
How do we show the love and mercy of Christ to those who have participated in an abortion decision?

Despite what Scripture says about taking a life, women faced with a crisis pregnancy are often convinced that abortion is the right choice or the only choice. With this conclusion, no wonder so many abortions occur. Nearly 3,000 abortions occur daily in the United States. That's equivalent to the deaths from the attack on 9/11, recurring every day in America. As a person, family, and country, we have gone astray like sheep. When our Shepherd calls out to us, "Come follow me," do we know His voice? Do we recognize the love and mercy of Christ when He says, "Your sins are forgiven, go and sin no more"?

As sinners, it only takes one suggestion to reinforce our sinful nature. Suddenly, we are convinced our reason for abortion is acceptable, perhaps even more so because it is legal. The truth is we make many sinful decisions, and we often follow the wrong voice instead of turning to the Word of God. St. Paul reminds us in Romans 6:1-2:

**What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?  
Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

One sin covered up is often replaced by two or more sins. God tells us that where there is light and truth, darkness has no place. At Word of Hope, we share God's truth with guilt-ridden people to reveal the darkness of sin and shine light on the freedom from guilt in Christ's forgiveness. Through the blood of the Lamb, Jesus, there is forgiveness, grace, and mercy. This gift from God in Christ is at the heart of our approach to abortion recovery at Word of Hope.

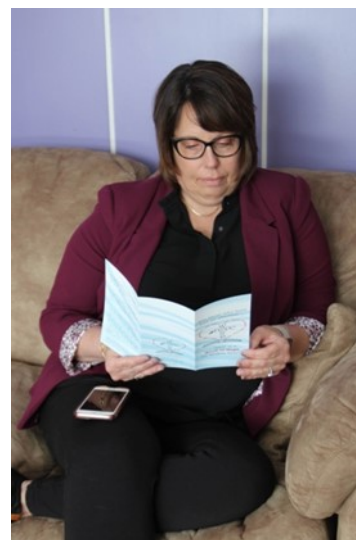


Word of Hope (WOH), a ministry of Lutherans For Life, is a national hotline that offers confidential services 24/7 by phone, text, email, and video. We provide prevention, intervention, and healing resources for life issues like abortion by proclaiming the value of all life as divinely created and redeemed by Christ. At WOH, we acknowledge that forgiveness from sinful decisions and reconciliation with God through Christ is the Christian's cyclical path of sanctification. Our abortion recovery method leads individuals through the journey of recognizing their pain because of sin to living with a revived hope in Christ's promises.

At WOH we walk with each person through the six steps of abortion recovery. **1) Recognize** the source of their pain, the suffering related to sin, and the need for a Savior. **2) Respect** how every person is a sinner and vulnerable to follow a secular worldview instead of God's value for life. **3) Relate** the grief to the greater tragedy of death by abortion. **4) Release** of guilt and grief by trusting in Jesus for forgiveness from sins. **5) Redemption** in Christ that reconciles the forgiven sinner with God. **6) Rehabilitate** the individual through the healing process to be a Gospel-motivated voice For Life in the church and community.

Anguish and guilt often replace the relief sought through an abortion. When someone struggles with the overwhelming guilt of a past sin, like abortion, repentance and reconciliation are the only source of relief. There is hope! **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"** (1 John 1:9). Through all our days, the Lord never leaves us nor forsakes us. He is a patient God, waiting and wanting all to come to repentance and be saved.

So how does Word of Hope show the love and mercy of Christ to those who have gone astray by participating in an abortion decision? We seek to reach the lost and injured sheep. Healing begins by sharing God's Word so His voice of love, mercy, and forgiveness is made known. The journey continues by connecting individuals with a local congregation where Word and Sacrament regularly affirm the hope in Christ's promises. Visit <https://word-of-hope.org/> for more information on healing.



*By Deaconess Pamela Buhler and Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, Submitted by Rev. Alex Post  
Lutherans For Life: Word of Hope Hotline: 888.217.8679*



# IDE ARCHIVES



## OPPORTUNITY TO DIGITIZE CHURCH RECORDS

With the Iowa District East Convention scheduled to take place on **24-25 June, 2022**, congregations that have not yet had their Church Records (baptisms, confirmations, marriages, deaths) digitized have an offer by the IDE Archivist to photograph those records during the time of the Convention. Your pastor or convention delegate need only to bring the record books to the convention and hand them over to the archivist. They will then be photographed and held secure until the end of the convention. Then your representative can pick them up and take them home again.

Why bother? After all, they are safe and secure right where they are now. Safe and secure until some disaster strikes. In the past year, with some of those severe tornados tearing across the country, "secure" documents were later discovered many miles away from their "secure & safe" location. To have them digitized and a compact disk stored at the IDE Archives, you can be assured that if your congregation should happen to lose those records, there is a copy available at another location. And a bonus. Instead of hauling out the "big book" to find information for inquiring researchers, the congregation will have its own compact disk for easy access to information.

To help your archivist know whether he should plan to set up the photographing equipment at the convention, get the approval of your congregation to have the records digitized and then let me know that those records will be showing up at the Convention.

Allen E. Konrad  
IDE Archivist



# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



February 2022

## Summer Camp Registration Now Open

### 2022 Summer Camp Theme: The Focus

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2*

Christians live in a world with plenty of distractions. There's plenty going on from entertainment, school, sports, and extracurricular activities that divide our attention. Though these things can be good, they become distractions when we place our identity in them instead of Christ, and it can become easy to lose focus on what is truly important, and who we are – children of God. The Bible is filled with people who have lost focus on the promises of God, and we know that we don't have to look far into our own lives to know our focus often drifts from the will of God to our own sinful will.

But in the midst of focusing on ourselves, Jesus came into this world and did not lose focus. Jesus was focused on saving us. He was focused on doing his Father's will for us by enduring the cross. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God sees us as His children and forgives us our sins, even for the times we lose focus on Jesus and our identity as children of God.

This summer, campers will look to Jesus, The Focus. We'll take a look at the great cloud of witnesses in the Bible who were focused on Christ and His promises for us. In Jesus, the race that is set before us is won. He is the author and perfecter of our faith that gives us the right to be called children of God. We look forward to a fantastic and safe summer in 2022 as our campers learn about The Focus at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!

Registration is available at our website where you can select between online registration or downloading and mailing in a registration form with your deposit. Be sure to keep an eye out for summer camp brochures at your church or school, as well! If your family is new to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, Family's First Camper is a scholarship program that brings down the cost of campers coming from families who have never sent children to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, so be sure to claim that if applicable! Additional financial aid is available for those needing assistance, but be sure to have the camp scholarship application in by May 22, 2022.

With regards to COVID-19, safety guidelines, health standards, and expectations from guests are constantly changing and evolving. A more detailed health plan will be released closer to summer. Over the past two summers, basic mitigation tactics implemented across our program have allowed us to operate free from COVID-19. Our hope is that Camp will feel as normal as possible for our campers so that they don't notice the behind-the-scenes changes that help mitigate COVID-19. At this point, we are unsure of the impact COVID-19 may have on our program. We currently plan to continue the same basic mitigation tactics implemented last summer, but we will of course consider state and local health guidelines as summer approaches, so be on the lookout for more information as we get closer to summer!

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!



## THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2021, 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 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!

## 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](http://www.campiodiseca.org).

## Important Dates

February 28

*Discount Registration Deadline #1*

April 9

*IDE LHM Convention*

May 2

*Discount Registration Deadline #2*

June 15

*First Day of Summer Camp*

July 30

*I Believe in Camp Fundraiser Auction*

August 2-5

*Higher Things Confirmation Camp*

October 7-8

*IDE Confirmation Retreat*

## 2022 Summer Staff

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is one of dozens of Lutheran camps across the country looking for college-aged young adults to make a difference in the lives of children. The opportunity to serve at a camp awaits. Go to [www.nloma.org](http://www.nloma.org) to start your summer camp service today!

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca also needs Junior Counselors (JC's) to assist the summer program. Applicants should be at least 15 years old. JCs spend the week with a cabin group enjoying the many camp activities and serving as a positive role model and motivator for younger campers while helping the cabin counselors supervise younger campers. It's a great experience for only \$100 per week.

Please contact Program Director Andrew Folkmann by emailing [programdirector@iodiseca.org](mailto:programdirector@iodiseca.org) for more information or to receive an application.



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

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A newsletter of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

# 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

### April 21 – Webinar

#### "Disaster Response in RSTM"

with Rev. Michael Meyer, director of LCMS Disaster Training  
1–2 p.m. CST

### May 19 – Webinar

#### "Preparing Your Grad for the Next Step"

with Rev. Marcus Zill, director of LCMS Campus Ministry and LCMS U  
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

# Looking Forward to What Is to Come

**A**s we transition from one year to the next, from the season of Christmas to the season of Epiphany, we are reminded of just how transient our time here on earth truly is. There isn't anything in this world that remains the same consistently over the course of time. Several years ago at a congregational revitalization event I was leading, I had the opportunity to listen to a member of the host congregation who was reminiscing about the good old days of the congregation. Long gone were the fellowship gatherings, the parties and celebrations along with fellowship times when the church was packed to maximum occupancy and sometimes even beyond. It is always a joy to consider these "good times." However, we must always remember that they are and remain memories of times and seasons which have passed. Too often, we spend our time not only reminiscing, but also lamenting how things will never be that good again. This attitude is definitely a major impediment to accomplishing mission and ministry into the future.



If all we ever do is look back, we can't move into the future in faithfulness and trust in the Lord of the Church. Indeed, we must look forward to what is to come. The church exists for the work of the Kingdom until that time that Jesus returns. Until then, no matter our congregational circumstance, our work has not yet ended. He is still calling us to faithful mission and ministry, however that may look in the present and into the future. In fact, the harvest fields even in this mid-winter are ripe! This is why/how we can rejoice in what God has done for us and in

*(continued on page 3)*



# It's *Still* All About Jesus

**I**n my travels and work with congregations and districts throughout our Synod I have the great privilege to bring support and resources to rural and small-town congregations. In doing this, I am always amazed at the fortitude of so many of these congregations. They have seen wars, internal struggle and external strife; they have lived through good times and bad. Yet, through it all, multitudes have found respite in the comfort of Christ's Gospel proclaimed and delivered in these places.

Yet, too often in today's climate, they have slipped into a feeling of hopelessness, a general sense that they have little to offer the church and the world. What is forgotten here is that it isn't about any particular place or time. In fact, *it's still all about Jesus!* That is what got them this far in the first place, and it will be the hope that sustains them. In fact, it's the hope we are privileged to share with a hopeless world.

Throughout the world, even in our own back yard, there will always be persecution, bloodshed, hatred, malice and evil. Yet, it is our call to continue in the hope of the Lord and to proclaim His loving-kindness to all people. This is why I said in a blog post a couple of years ago, "From LWML to men's clubs, Sunday schools to VBS, youth groups to older adult ministries, these congregations are uniquely



situated to provide hope and healing to areas often forgotten and often ignored. Hardships and roadblocks can make these ministries a challenge to remain viable, but there are many who are addressing this challenge head on. They are creatively maintaining their mission presence so that the lost might hear about Jesus."

So, in an effort to continue mission and ministry, have you ever considered these questions?

- Did you know that, on average, more than two thirds of people living in rural and small-town areas have no connection to a Christian church?
- How can congregations deal with the challenges and issues that rural and small-town congregations face and still be faithful to the mission of the church?
- How can you reach out to the lost and wandering around your congregation, all while dealing with the realities of an aging congregation with seemingly fewer and fewer resources?

On Thursday, Jan. 13, from 1–2 p.m. Central time, the Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM), explored these topics and more in a free webinar on "Rural Ministry Resources."

Kollbaum discussed the resources available to support your ministry and provide practical, relevant ideas for engaging your community with the Gospel. View this webinar at [resources.lcms.org/multimedia/rural-small-town-mission-webinar-rural-ministry-resources](https://resources.lcms.org/multimedia/rural-small-town-mission-webinar-rural-ministry-resources).





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

*Reaching Rural America for Christ* may be reprinted with acknowledgment given to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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## Contact us

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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[lcmrstm](https://www.facebook.com/lcmsrstm)

## 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](mailto: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!*

## Looking Forward, continued

the work our eternal Lord has called to us to accomplish. For He sent His Son into the flesh that we might be saved and shine His light into this bleak world, singing with Psalmist:

*“O Lord, our Lord,*

*how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory above the heavens.*

*Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,*

*to still the enemy and the avenger.*

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,*

*the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*

*what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

*Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings*

*and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;*

*you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen,*

*and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,*

*whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

*O Lord, our Lord,*

*how majestic is your name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8)*



## 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 **Disaster Response in RSTM** on April 21. 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](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 2022!

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





# YOUNG INVESTORS STEWARDAccount®

## Help Your Child Save for the Future

It's reassuring knowing your child is God's child— secure in His grace and love. When you join the Y.I. Club with a Young Investors (Y.I.) StewardAccount®, your child's savings can help others experience God's love through the sharing of the Gospel. When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you are supporting LCMS ministries — without forfeiting competitive rates.

VISIT [LCEF.ORG/YICLUB](https://lcef.org/yiclub) OR CALL 800-843-5233 TODAY!

### BENEFITS AND FEATURES

- Minimum of \$25 to open the account.
- Interest compounded and paid monthly.
- Children ages 7-18 can earn up to \$50 a year for community service and good grades.
- Help empower ministries in Kingdom work.

 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
> where investments build ministry

**Carole White**  
LCEF District Vice President | Iowa East and West  
515-240-2229 | [Carole.White@lcef.org](mailto:Carole.White@lcef.org)

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IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION  
Check out the website: [iowalutheransto.com](http://iowalutheransto.com)



**\$814,860**

**Total amount donated in 2021 to ILSTO. Thank You!**  
**We reached our goal for 2021. In 2022 the statewide STO**  
**Program grows from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000!**

**The '22-'23 financial assistance need for Lutheran School children will exceed \$1.5 Million.**

**Our goal is to raise \$1,050,836 in 2022 through the ILSTO 75% tax credit program. Students and families need your help.**



**Sent to  
Serve**

**ILSTO Elementary & Secondary Lutheran Schools in Iowa:**

Trinity, Boone

Clarinda Lutheran

St. Paul, Fort Dodge

Zion-St. John, Paullina

Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran, Spencer

Valley, Cedar Falls

Trinity, Davenport

St. Paul, Latimer

Community, Readlyn

Trinity, Cedar Rapids

Zion, Denison

Central, Newhall

St. Paul, Sioux City

Lutheran Interparish, Williamsburg





Lutheran Family Service is bringing LCMS Pastors from around the state together to hear from speakers—including Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz from the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington D.C.—and meet with our LCMS lay members (1 Representative and 5 Senators) currently serving in the Iowa legislature.

Pastors will be meeting with these elected brothers and sisters in the faith to share concerns about life issues, ask questions, listen to any information they might share, voice support for the protect life amendment, and pray with and over them for their Important work.

Pastors, please plan to join us this year! Mark the date in your calendar today: Tuesday,

February 8, 2022. We will gather at 8:45 am at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale, for breakfast, speakers and a brief orientation, then travel to the state house where we will meet with legislators.

This is the third year for Pastors Day on the Hill. Pre-registration is required to attend. Check your email for a registration link sent to you on Friday, January 14 or follow this link to register today:

**[REGISTER HERE.](#)**

This is a critical time for life issues in our country. Your participation will be a great encouragement to our LCMS members as they represent God's plan for life at all stages and will make a difference! Please plan to join us!

## AGENDA FOR THE DAY

- 8:45AM – Arrival at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – 8301 NW Aurora Ave., Urbandale, IA 50322
- 9:00AM – Breakfast Served
- **9:15AM – Welcome & Overview of Kingdom of the Left Efforts – Past, Present & Future** – Rev. Max Phillips, Executive Director of Lutheran Family Service
- **9:25AM – Engaging the Church and Culture to Defend Life – Guest Speaker, Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**, Executive Director of Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) in Washington D.C. (an LCMS Synodical organization)
- **10:15AM – Iowa Life Issues Updates: Physician Assisted Suicide & Abortion** – Rev. Dr. Jim Lamb, Lutheran Family Service Life Advocate
- **10:25AM – Lobbying Tips & Logistics** – Kim Laube, Lutheran Family Service Life Ministries Director
- 10:45AM – Carpooling to Iowa State Capitol
- 11:10AM – **Meet & Greet** with the 6 LCMS Legislators at the Capitol
- **12:00PM – Lobbying & Praying** through in-person meetings with Legislators
- 2:00PM – Carpooling back to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church & Travels Home

**Register Today for Pastors Day on the Hill!**  
**Tuesday, February 8, 2022**



Dear Friends,

**The Office of National Mission is providing FREE respite retreats for Commissioned Workers and all Teachers (contracted and called).**

These three-day, two-night events will be offered by DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel. Some of you may already know either me, or my colleague, Pastor David Fleming; we are the featured presenters. Happily, we are both pretty high-energy, engaging and reasonably knowledgeable presenters, skilled at assisting Christians to flourish in their professional vocations!

**We invite you to encourage your teachers and all commissioned ministers to attend DOXOLOGY's "Take Heart!" Respite Retreats when they are offered within your region. A word of encouragement to your workers would be absolutely great. Please share this invitation with them!**

**Important Event Goals for "Take Heart: Renewed to Be a Blessing" Retreats**

Refreshment in the Word: prayer, worship, reflection

Encouragement and appreciation of vocation!

Transition from survival functioning to flourishing

Reacquaintance with spiritual care essentials and well-being

Preview and evaluation of personal strategies for self-care

Examine resilience strategies for personal and professional use

Best practices/strategies to increase confidence in conflict situations

Strengthen commissioned ministers and all teachers for ongoing service

Equip participants to return to parish/school, refreshed with new insights

Examine some strategies commissioned ministers and all teachers may share with those whom they interact

Events begin mid-afternoon on Friday and conclude early afternoon on Sunday. Please consider providing release time for those who would profit from attending this retreat.

If you'd like to learn more, please take a look at a quick overview of the respite retreats here: ["Take Heart! Renewed to Be A Blessing" for All Teachers and Commission Ministers here](#)

***Event pages for the first two retreats are here:***

**Wichita, Kansas - February 25-27 - [click here to learn more & register](#)**

**Green Lake, Wisconsin - March 18-20 - [click here to learn more & register](#)**

**Please encourage and assist all of your teachers and commissioned ministers to register for this event.** We're grateful for your assistance in helping us to serve the servants! (Hopefully, you'll be able to attend, as well!)

Questions always welcomed.

Every Blessing!

Beverly K. Yahnke, Ph.D.  
Executive Director for Christian Counsel  
[www.doxology.us](http://www.doxology.us)

# 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 open at 9:00AM

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

Registration is \$14 (\$17 at the door), includes a noon meal and snacks. Please register by April 2 to allow time for meal planning. You may also contact Dick Hoelz at 319-363-1214 or email [rahoelz@imonmail.com](mailto:rahoelz@imonmail.com) for reservations. (Extra restrooms available.)

**Directions:** Take I-380 until exit 10 (Swisher, Shueyville) and head east on 120<sup>th</sup> St. [F12] until stop sign. Turn right onto NE Curtis Bridge Rd. and follow it until Sandy Beach Rd. Turn left onto Sandy Beach Rd. and follow it to the Camp. Watch for Camp signs.

To register, complete this form, enclose check and mail to:  
Dick Hoelz, 3519 Heatheridge Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-7624.

**Make checks payable to: IDE LLL**

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_





# Lutherans For Life 2022 State of Iowa Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

## For Students in Grades 6 through 12

*Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation, e.g. confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a pastor or teacher.*

## Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: **Blessed For Life** with the Bible verse: “... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.” **Psalm 41:2.** (Consider being blessed with the gift of life, blessed by God for one’s entire life or blessed to be a blessing to others.)

1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student’s name, grade (school or church), and email address. All entries submitted by a teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to [LFLoflowa@gmail.com](mailto:LFLoflowa@gmail.com) by April 1, 2022.

5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email [LFLoflowa@gmail.com](mailto:LFLoflowa@gmail.com) with any questions.
6. Grand prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2022 Lutherans For Life National conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.
7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.
8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)





## Rubric for Assessment of the Life Essay

(maximum of 21 points for each essay)

	3	2	1	0
<b>ORGANIZATION</b> Structure Transitions	Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis. Transitions are mature and graceful. The essay has a nice smooth flow between ideas.	Logical progression of ideas. Transitions are present equally throughout essay. The essay has a flow of ideas.	Organization is clear. Transitions are present in some places but may be missing in others. In places flow is interrupted or doesn't exist.	No discernable organization. Transitions are not present. Connections between ideas seem confusing or incomplete.
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> Background/History Thesis Statement <b>CONCLUSION</b>	Well-developed introduction engages the reader-creates interest. Contains detailed background information. Thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position or belief. Conclusion effectively wraps up & goes beyond restating the thesis.	Introduction creates interest. Sufficient background information is provided. Thesis clearly states the position or belief. Conclusion effectively summarizes topics.	Introduction adequately explains the background, but may lack detail. Thesis states the position or belief. Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends.	Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Thesis is vague or unclear. Conclusion does not summarize main points.
<b>MAIN POINTS</b> Body Paragraphs, Bibliography	The main idea or thesis statement is clearly defined. There may be more than one key point. Appropriate relevant information and details are shared from a variety of sources including personal experiences, observations, feelings and prior knowledge. Supporting details are accurate, relevant, and helpful in clarifying the main idea(s). Statistics or research are used effectively. A simple bibliography gives the references for the resources used.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares relevant information, facts and experiences. There is a clear distinction between general observations and specifics. Supporting details are relevant and explain the main idea. Research is evident and statistics are used. Missing information in bibliography.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares some information, facts and experiences, but may express feelings without much to substantiate it. There may be problems going from general observations to specifics. Stronger support and greater attention to details would strengthen this paper. Statistics and research do little to help support the main idea. Incomplete bibliography.	More than one of the following problems may be evident: The main idea is not identifiable. The writer shares some information, but it is limited or unclear. Details are missing or repetitious. Statistics are missing. No bibliography.
<b>FOCUS</b> LFL Mission, Conference theme verse	The paper is in complete agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper is in agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and somewhat focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper doesn't completely agree with the mission of Lutherans For Life and touches on the conference theme verse.	Little or no effort has been made to address the mission of Lutherans For Life and doesn't focus on the conference theme verse.
<b>BIBLICAL ACCURACY</b>	Several Biblical references give strong support for the main idea and are a natural part of the essay. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	Biblical references are used to support the main idea. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	There are places where a Biblical reference would have helped support the main idea. There are some problems with interpretation of the verses used. Citations are accurate.	Little effort is given to use Biblical references to support the main idea. Problems exist in the interpretation of the verses and their citations.
<b>STYLE</b> Writer's Voice, Audience Awareness	The paper is honest and enthusiastic. The language is natural yet thought-provoking. It brings the topic to life. The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words. Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure.	Writer's voice is consistent and strong. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed and remains engaged. Sentences have varied structure.	Writer's voice may emerge strongly on occasion, then retreat behind general, vague, tentative, or abstract language. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed, but must work at remaining engaged. Sentence structure shows some variety.	Writing is confusing, hard to follow. Language is vague. No audience awareness. No variety in sentence structure.
<b>MECHANICS</b> Spelling, punctuation, capitalization	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are correct. No errors.	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are generally correct, with few errors. (1-2)	A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (3-4)	Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization

	POINTS
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTION/CONCLUSION</b>	
<b>MAIN POINTS</b>	
<b>FOCUS</b>	
<b>BIBLICAL ACCURACY</b>	
<b>STYLE</b>	
<b>MECHANICS</b>	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church/School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Submissions for the next edition of the Professional Workers' Packet are due  
**February 24.**

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.*