



IDE TODAY

Iowa District East - LCMS

In this issue

President's Piece for Peace
LCMS Pastor's Day at the Capitol
LEA Esther Award

DISTRICT UPDATES

As of June 7, 2023

New Pastor Installations in the Iowa District East

<u>Installation</u>	<u>CALLS FROM THE FIELD 2023</u>	<u>Called To:</u>
6.4.2023	Jay Jaeger, Alden	St. Paul Lutheran Church—Buckeye
6.4.2023	Christopher Navurskis, Huron, SD	King of Kings Lutheran Church—Cedar Rapids
6.11.2023	Matthew Shilling - Evansville, IN	Trinity Lutheran Church—Davenport (Associate)

CANDIDATE CALLS - 2023

7.16.2023	Nickalaus Palmer—CSL	St. John Lutheran Church—Newhall
6.25.2023	Joel Peter Wagner—CTSFW	St. Paul Lutheran Church—Latimer
7.15.2022	Mark Zieroth—CTSFW	Our Redeemer —Dubuque, St. Matthew—Sherrill (Associate)

VICARAGE PLACEMENTS - 2023

Matthew Baker—CTSFW	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church—Cedar Falls
Ethan Boester—CSL	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church —Iowa City
Zachary Johnson—CTSFW	St. Paul Lutheran Church—Eldora
Jacob Shepard—CTSFW	Trinity Lutheran Church—Hampton

Calling Congregations

CONGREGATION

VACANCY PASTOR

Our Savior—Bettendorf, IA (Associate)	
Immanuel—Charlotte, IA	Rev. Daniel Redhage
Holy Cross—Davenport, IA	Rev. Steve Anderson
St. John—Homestead	Rev. Gary Sears
Our Redeemer—Independence, IA	Rev. Thomas Van Hemert
St. John—Keystone, IA	Rev. David Lingard
Our Savior—Manchester, IA	Rev. Caleb Schewe
St. Paul—Marion, IA (Associate)	
Our Savior—Newton, IA	Rev. Joel Picard
Peace—Oelwein, IA	Rev. David Hasselbrook
Trinity—Osage, IA	Rev. Byron Northwick
Immanuel & St. Paul—Readlyn, IA	Rev. George Volkert
King of Glory—Swisher, IA	Rev. Brad Brown
Good Shepherd—Wellman	

DCE/School/Teacher/Others

New Calls**DCE****Exec. Director** Henry Pahlkotter—Saginaw, MI

Executive Director, Valley Lutheran School - Cedar Falls, IA

Teacher Benjamin Dubke—CUW

High School Math, Valley Lutheran School - Cedar Falls, IA

Mary Dubke—CUW

K-12 Music, Valley Lutheran School - Cedar Falls, IA

+ Called to Glory +

Rev. Dr. Donald Loesch

April 8, 2023

About the Cover

A group photo of Iowa District West and Iowa District East pastors, along with the LCMS Synod Delegation and LCMS Iowa Legislators at the Grand Staircase in the Iowa Capitol Building.



Iowa District East - LCMS



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Calendar of Events**July**

29–Aug 2

LCMS National Convention
Milwaukee

15, 17

Concordia Plan Services
Virtual Townhall**August**

4

Early Childhood Conference
Gloria Dei, Urbandale**September**

8–9

LWML Fall Retreat
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

10

Principal's Conference
August 10**October**

9–10

Fall Pastors' Conference
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

11–12

Doxology
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Davenport

13–14

Confirmation Retreat
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

14

IDE Education Workshop
Zion, Hiawatha

31

Board of Directors

November

3–4

Pastors' Wives Retreat

Lutherans
For Life**Issues As We Age Workshop**

September 16, 2023 - 9AM - 2PM
Bethany Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids IA

President's Piece for Peace - Set Apart to Serve

Last month I was able to attend the Call services for both our seminaries. This is the moment each candidate receives his Call sent by God through the Church where he will feed the Lord's sheep with the Truth of God's Word and the gifts given in the Holy Sacraments. It is an exciting time and a day no candidate ever forgets throughout his entire ministry.

There were 61 candidates from both seminaries combined eligible to receive Calls. While we rejoice with these men and the congregations who will be receiving them, we mourn over the 54 congregations who applied for a candidate and did not receive one. That's right, almost 50% of the calling congregations did not receive a pastor they so dearly need. Those 54 congregations will continue in a vacancy for another year, with all the challenges that vacancies

incur, hoping they can apply next year and receive a shepherd. The ratio deficit is only going to grow exponentially.

The situation with clergy shortage is concerning enough. The number of Lutheran School Teachers

and DCE's is even more scant. More and more of our Lutheran Schools are doing the best they can to fill teaching positions but the availability to do this with those trained in our Synodical Concordias (meaning they are well trained as teachers as well as in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions) is less likely than it has ever been in our Synod's history.

I alert you to this for two reasons. First: There is dire need to encourage, recruit, and support our men to enter preparation for the Holy Ministry. There is as much need to do this for men and women to enter the teaching service of the Church. Our Synod has embarked upon a program to do just that. It is entitled, "Set Apart to Serve". Efforts are being made on a large

scale to increase the number of students at our Concordias. Each district is involved in this mission,

including our own. We pray the Lord of the Church raise up and prepare

those who will be sent out into the harvest field to seek and save the lost while feeding the found.



REV DR BRIAN S SAUNDERS

***Pray unceasingly for the gift of
Church Workers that God will send to
care for the souls He has redeemed
through His Precious Blood.***

Synod can only do so much. While some of this effort falls on the pastors and teachers in our local congregations and schools, the bulk of it falls on the members of our congregations and the parents of their children.

Commend this effort every Sunday in Divine Service as well as every day in home devotions to prayer. Pray unceasingly for the gift of Church Workers that God will send to care for the souls He has redeemed through His Precious Blood.

Recruiting is one thing necessary. The second point I want to bring to your attention is the retention of those who currently serve. It is one thing to support students preparing for ministry, it is another to support them while in the ministry. It begins with thanking God that He has seen fit to send you a shepherd to tend your flock. With gratitude we express joy that He who taught so many sends teachers to grow the spiritual and academic acumen of our children. Speak words of support, thanksgiving, encouragement, and

appreciation for your pastors and teachers. Treat them with respect, and honor the fact God sent them. The book of Ephesians identifies servants of the church as God's gifts who deliver His Gifts. See them this way and express it in the way you treat them.

Every vocation has its challenges. Whether it is church work or secular work, it is even more difficult when criticism and critique is the conversation about them or to them. I write a monthly article to our church workers with insight and instruction as to their responsibility in the ministry. I teach, strengthen, build up, and instruct when it comes to the ways pastors conduct the Office and teachers oversee in the classrooms. That is why I am choosing to write this article to the congregations concerning your pastors and teachers.

They need your encouragement, your support, kind words, and gentle spirit. If there is need for addressing something with them, do it as you would want to be addressed. Do so with love for them, caring for them and their families. With a heart of appreciation and a desire to help them grow in their vocations. Speak words and carry out actions that reveal to the outside world what real love looks like. When the community hears you speak of your pastor or teacher, do they hear respect, love, and encouragement? Will a fellow member be more encouraged about their shepherd by how you speak of him? I hope so. I pray so.

We have so few to fill our pulpits and train our children as it is. We need not drive them away from the service for which they spent time, money, and energy preparing for. God help us to recruit. God speak through our mouths and our actions to retain those whom He has Called to serve in the Church.

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders

District President

Iowa District East—LCMS



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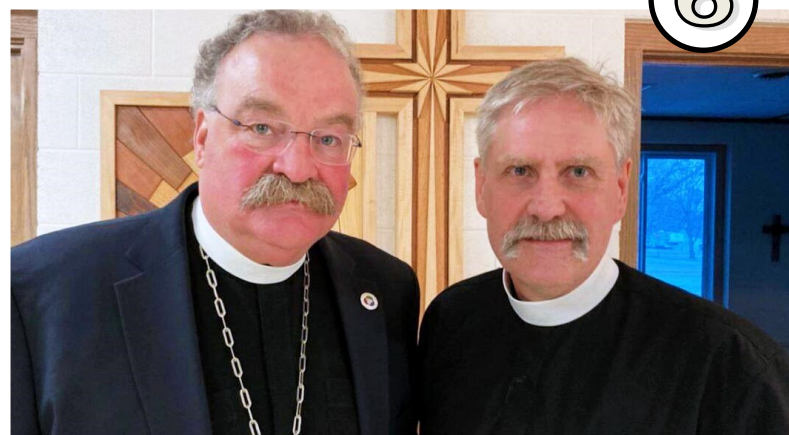
1. Pastor Christopher Navurskis is installed at **King of Kings Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids!** He comes to the district from Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron, SD and was installed on Sunday, June 4.
2. Pastor Matthew Vesey was installed at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Delaware, IA** on November 5, 2022. Pastor Vesey had previously served at St. Paul, Lu-
zerne (1993-1996) and St. Paul, Mt. Vernon (1996-2000).
3. Welcome (back!) to Pastor Jay Jaeger to **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Buckeye.** He was installed on Sunday, June 4 and had previously served the parish for a number of years.
4. Call Placements from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne for 2023 are Mark Zieroth to **St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Sherrill IA** and **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dubuque IA** and Joel Peter Wagner to **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Latimer IA.** Vicarage Placements to the IDE include: Matthew Baker (Brookings, SD) to **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls;** Zachary Johnson (Keystone, IA) to **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora;** and Jacob Shepherd (Charleston, IL) to **Trinity Lutheran Church in Hampton.** Pictured





here left to right: President Saunders, Jacob Shepherd, Marizza Shepherd, Matthew Baker, Pamela Baker, Zachary Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Mark Zieroth, Taylor Zieroth, and Peter Wagner.

5. From Call Night at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Nickalaus Palmer (Belle Plaine, IA), was called to **St. John Lutheran Church in Newhall**, pictured here with leadership from the congregation. We also welcome Ethan Boester who has been assigned to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Iowa City for his vicarage
6. On Monday, March 27, **St. John Lutheran Church in Hubbard** was blessed to have a group of visitors stop by from our Synod headquarters in St. Louis. This included President of the LCMS, Matthew Harrison. They heard about how we sponsored the Gerzhyk family from Ukraine and wanted to hear their story.
7. **Faith Lutheran Church in Waterloo** dedicated their new sanctuary crucifix on Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023. The space had previously been occupied by an empty cross.





Around the Iowa District East

1. Fourteen individuals went through the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training at **Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowden** on Saturday, January 14, 2023. Those attending were from Lowden, Mt. Vernon, and Readlyn.
2. The 2023 IDE **Lutheran Hour Ministry Convention** was held on Saturday, April 29 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Jeff Craig-Meyer, Senior VP and Chief Strategy Officer provided updates on LHM's International Internship Program and the LHM *Gifted for More* resources. Greetings were also extended from IED LWML President Martha Hartwig.
3. Each Sunday afternoon a line of neighbors grows longer and longer outside the doors of **Bethany Lutheran Church**. These people patiently wait for their turn to be registered and proceed to the food pantry that is open from 1-3pm each Sunday. The pantry is a client choice pantry, meaning the neighbors can take what they need for the week, while respecting the posted limits on some items. Personal care items such as toilet paper, soap, laundry detergent pods, feminine hygiene kits, kitchen trash bags, toothbrushes and toothpaste are available in addition to canned, dry, frozen, and refrigerated nutritious food.



The Bethany Food Pantry was established June 13, 2021. Their food reservoir and partner is HACAP (Hawkeye Area Community Action Program) and have averaged 71 neighbors each week since January 2023. These neighbors then take the food home to an average of 277 weekly people in those households! Most weeks there are 8-14 first time neighbors who come to the pantry.

It takes a platoon of people to pick up, transport, unload, and stock the shelves to be ready for those neighbors each week. The food picked up weekly is anywhere from 450 to 1700 pounds! Seven volunteers help each Sunday afternoon from 12:30 to 3:00 to serve the neighbors that come to the pantry. The volunteers assist neighbors in shopping and taking groceries.





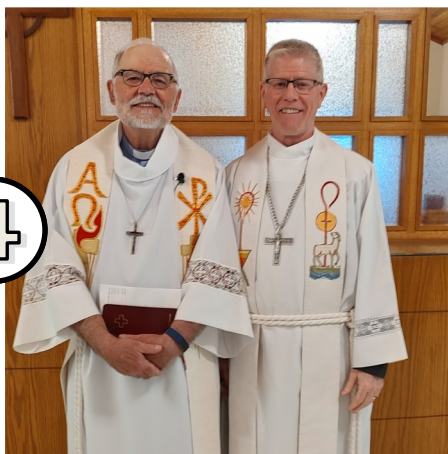
3



ies to their cars, restocking the shelves, and developing relationships with our neighbors. These interactions have led to some spiritual conversations and opportunities to pray with those that come to the food pantry. Many people help by donating funds to the food pantry, personal care items, new Christian children's books, Bibles, new Thrivent t-shirts, knit hats and scarves, just to name a few of the wonderful donations.



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4. **Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha** held an Ascension Day service on Thursday, May 18 (Ascension night). This was the first time this service was held on Ascension Thursday in a long time. Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild officiated the service and IDE President Rev. Dr. Brain Saunders was the guest preacher with his sermon on Psalm 47, entitled "The Throne of Victory!" Congregation members from all the Cedar Rapids circuit churches were invited to attend.



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5. The Ladies Aid at **Trinity Lutheran Church in Guttenberg**, put together Valentine care bags for residents of the local assisted living center. Ladies are Norma Thiese, Helene Kuempel, Carol Smith. Reports from the facility are that the project brought "much joy" to the residents! Contents included candy, homemade cookies, skin products. Also included was a vintage Valentine card with Bible verse that was discovered in the rafters of a local home.



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6. 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, Atkins** on March 28, (Palm Sunday) were Hilda Hines, Madelyn Kenny, William Rinderknecht, Stella Tjelmeland, and Evangeline Vogt. They are pictured with Pastor Doug Woltemath.



Lutheran Family Service—LCMS Pastors Stand United in God's Truth for Life at Iowa Capitol

On March 28, LCMS Pastors from all across Iowa made their way to Des Moines to attend the 2023 LCMS Pastors Day on the Hill organized by **Lutheran Family Service**. It was a day of inspiration, information gathering and fellowship (see photos of the day below).

In today's culture, fellowship and support is needed now more than ever. Not only as brother pastors, but for our LCMS legislators and other legislators that stand up to defend God's truth for life. LCMS Pastors' presence, encouragement, support and prayer bears with it deep meaning and impact.

Attendees were transported back in time by President Matthew Harrison exploring ancient societal views on abortion. Deaconess Tiffany Manor reinforced the need for the LCMS church and all her Pastors and members to be a voice for life and active in the Kingdom of the Left. Lutheran Family Service Deputy Director, Kim Laube, shared the landscape of critical "life" legislation currently impacting Iowans (abortion and physician assisted suicide) as well as providing resources and action items.

Next was a chance to meet and encourage our LCMS legislators at the Iowa State Capitol as well as meet with other Iowa legislators to thank, share our views, encourage and pray with.

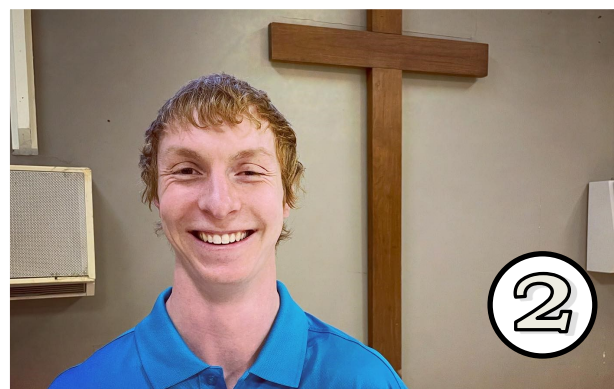
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IDE Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics & Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

1. The 2023 IDE Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics was held January 27-28, 2023 at **Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca**. Pastor Mark Squire of Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Ansgar, IA presented under the theme of, *"Lord, Teach Us To Pray."* Snow (finally) arrived the weekend of the retreat and the campers were able to enjoy broomball and several other outdoor activities.
2. Alec Deppe joined **Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's** staff in December of 2022. He has been involved in camp life at various camps throughout his life. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Leisure, Youth, and Human Services from the University of Northern Iowa in May of 2021. Originally from Ankeny, Iowa, he moved to Cedar Falls for college and joined the campus ministry (College Hill) at UNI, where he met his wife April. They moved to Waverly, Iowa in March of 2022 and welcomed their first child in December 2022! As Director of Programs and Retreats, Alec works to ensure a great summer program and that Camp's retreat needs are met.





Campus Ministry

1. **St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel** in Iowa City defeated **College Hill Lutheran Church** in Cedar Falls in a battle for the IDE President's Cup on April 22, 2023. The match took place at the baseball field at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids.
2. Students from the University of Iowa had an end-of-year celebration on May 9 at Pastor Mon's house with tacos, s'mores, and many games of crossnet.
3. Graduating students from the University of Northern Iowa place their handprints on the wall in the basement of College Hill Lutheran Church. Pictured here with Pastor Wegener are Jonah Lange, Shelby Weier, and Ben Bacher.
4. The **2023 Theologian in Residence** took place March 3-5, 2023 at St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel in Iowa City. This year's guest presenter was Rev. Dr. Ben Haupt, Associate Provost and Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He addressed the question of, "What should I do with my life?" as he spoke on the topic of vocation and the many ways to serve our neighbors.





Spring Workers' Conference and Iowa Theological Symposium

5. The **2023 Spring Workers' Conference** took place May 1-2, 2023 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca and featured Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz presenting on Old Ways, Fresh Insights: *Lutheran Preaching According to Old Missouri*. Preachers included Rev. Isaac Johnson, Rev. W. Max Mons, and President Saunders.

6. About 30 people attended the **Iowa Theological Symposium** May 24-26. A preaching workshop was held on the 24th, with various presenters taking up the topic of *The Christian (Church) in a Technological Age*. Notable Presenters included Dr. Zachary Farrel, Rev. Dr. Gregory Schulz and Rev. Dr. Joel Okamoto among a total of 7 different presentations.



LEA ESTHER AWARD - Marilyn Fahrmann

1. It was a special evening at **St. Paul's Lutheran School in Latimer** Wednesday, May 10, 2023. The highlight of the evening was a special presentation by Dr. Jon Laabs, Executive Director of Lutheran Education Association. LEA is the only professional organization for educators in our Lutheran schools throughout the US and internationally. Dr. Laabs was at the concert in person to present Mrs. Marilyn Fahrmann with LEA's "Esther Award" which is based on the Esther 4:14b *"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"* There were no other recipients this year. The award is given from LEA when the circumstance presents itself. Marilyn has served at St. Paul her entire ministry since 1982. Most recently, during the COVID pandemic the newly called principal, Mr. Steve Stortz and 2nd grade teacher, Charlene Colangelo contracted the virus in late November. This was two-thirds of the full-time staff. Because of personal health complications, both of these workers passed away.

Marilyn was the person who once again stepped in again to lead and help the students and staff work through this difficult time. With the help of Jan Doellinger, ATTP-Schools, congregation members, Board members, Lutheran Family Service, parents, and other volunteers Marilyn coordinated the efforts to finish the school year with care, concern, calling an administrator to replace Mr. Stortz and a teacher to replace Mrs. Colangelo, and of course, much prayer. There is no doubt in my mind the Lord's hand was involved in having Marilyn in this position "for such a time as this". To put it in the words of one of her former co-workers, "She [Marilyn] is the glue that's been holding the school together, and the epitome of the definition of what it means to be a Lutheran school teacher. She always went over and above what was expected." Marilyn continues to serve part-time on the staff at St. Paul's as the Title 1 Math and Reading teacher.



Palanga Lutheran Parish Update

2. The **Palanga Lithuania Parish** (pictured right) solemnly celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of its Church and Diaconal center, according to their pastor, Rev Dr. Darius Petkunas. The festive service was attended by the congregation, honored guests of the city, church members of the neighboring parishes and Latvia.

Palanga believers were especially happy that the parish was visited by Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis, who explained the signs of Christ's Church in his sermon. The Bishop elaborated on the appeal of King Solomon's prayer: "Will God really live on earth? Not even the heavens and the heights of the heavens can contain you." God visits his people through the means of grace established by himself, through the holy word preached in the pulpit, baptismal water in the baptistery, the word of forgiveness in Absolution and the Sacrament of the Altar, when Christ comes to His people with His body and blood. In this way, the church becomes "the house of God and the gate of heaven" and the Lord, whom "heaven and the heights of heaven cannot contain," lives in it.

The cornerstone of Palanga Church was laid on July 30, 2005, and the church was dedicated on July 14, 2012. The first to respond to the request for help from Palanga was the Human Care Fund of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and especially Iowa District East, led by President Rev. Dr. Gary M. Arp. Lutherans of the Iowa District East generously donated to the construction of the church, the faithful from Iowa flew to Lithuania at their own expense and contributed much to the construction with their labor.

The Palanga Parish thanks God that it has been able to worship in its church for ten years. At the service on August 28, 2022, the faithful thanked the Lord for the generous blessings. "Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices" (LSB 895).

Iowa District East Job Opening: Business Manager

The Business & Office Manager of Iowa District East works directly with the District President, Treasurer, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca Director and Treasurer, Office Committee, Board of Directors and other IDE Missions (campus ministries, mission congregations, deaf ministry and Eastside Mission) in the management of the District's finances and business. Key tasks of the IDE Business Manager include bookkeeping, accounting, and payroll services. This position also supervises two employees (Administrative Assistant and Communications / Technology / Events Coordinator) in the District Office.

An applicant for this position should have the ability to operate basic business software and Microsoft applications, maintain accurate records, manage resources of the district, and have high attention to detail. This individual should also have a basic knowledge of Iowa District East, its congregations, circuits, and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, representing Iowa District East in a warm and friendly manner in all interactions.

Requirements for this position are a bachelors degree in accounting or business management or seven years of experience in bookkeeping and office management. It is preferred that this position be filled with a member in good standing of a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. **Preferred start date: As soon as possible.**

Primary work location: Iowa District East office in Marion, Iowa. Benefits include vacation, retirement savings plan and health insurance. Salary to be negotiated. Submit applications to Iowa District East Administrative Assistant at pam@lcmsside.org



2



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The **IDE TODAY** is published 2 times a year for the enjoyment of the members of the congregations of Iowa District East of the LCMS. Copies are sent to each congregation for distribution. A color PDF copy can be downloaded at lcmside.org. Articles and pictures can be emailed to Iowa District East: dsanchez@lcmside.org. Content may also be submitted through the IDE website at lcmside.org/submit-ide-today-content.

Submissions for the next edition are due November 27, 2023.