



PROFESSIONAL WORKER'S PACKET

Iowa District East—LCMS

December 2023

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lcmside.org

President's Piece for Peace

December 23

Have you ever said, "Asher Rosh Hashanah?" Probably not in those exact words but you have said them before, only in English. They are Hebrew for "Happy New Year." While there is no biblical reference in the Old Testament celebrating the New Year, it had become a festival all to its own with prescriptions and feasts. The Jewish calendar celebrates New Year on the first of September (Tishri). In their calendar it is the 7th month. It was a time of solemn prayer, personal stocktaking, and quiet joy. No hoopla, whistles, or horns at midnight.

Rosh Hashanah would be celebrated over 10 days with the people thinking over their past deeds of the previous year and trying to make a fresh start during the upcoming year. It was traditional to clear up misunderstandings with the family and friends. Each one must search his soul with penitence and make new resolutions for the future. During those ten days God exercised His judgement upon all who fail to keep His Law. Their only hope: symbolism. Their rejection of Jesus has left them with nothing but ritual symbolism.

The main custom of Rosh Hashanah was to go to fresh running water on the first of September (Tishri). There they would say a prayer to the Almighty asking Him to wash away from them all their sins and drop them in the depths of the water. After that came the festival of feasts.

Each of the foods prepared and consumed had a symbolic nature to them. The head of the family would read from Nehemiah where the prophet says: "Eat of the fat and drink of the sweet." For this reason, sweet foods are the order of the day. A staple for this festival was fish, commonly called "gefilte fish." It was broiled fish dipped in honey and covered with nuts. The symbolism was fruitfulness and plenty, a good wish for each other for the coming year.

Accompanying the fish were slices of apples covered in honey. Carrots were sliced in round cuts to visualize money. It was a way of wishing for a prosperous new year. Young couples who desired a child in the upcoming year would consume pomegranates with its many seeds symbolizing fruitfulness.

All of these were met with prayer for forgiveness for wrongs of the past and blessings for the future. To ensure the prayers would be heard, they would bake pastry (challah) and decorate them with a ladder on top, or a bird. These would provide a means for the wishes and prayers to reach the heavens.

***Our joy for this new year
rest solely in Jesus Christ
and His merits.***

How about you? What is your New Year celebration going to consist of? Maybe some of the same rituals but with a certainty that Jewish Rosh Hashanah cannot provide. Let's begin with the water. We have already been taken to the water that has drowned the Old Adam and brought forth the redeemed child of God. This is already complete in the blessed gift of baptism.

I suppose we will have feasts of sweet foods on our dinner tables. But what is the sweetest of all is not a symbol of anything. It is the real and present Body and Blood of Jesus who forgives our sins and strengthens faith in Him for each day let alone the upcoming year. Our connection to fish is as sweet and fruitful as it gets. The Greek letters for fish spell out "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior." He is our great joy for peace in any day, the days past as well as the days to come. For in Him we have a day that will not be followed by any other day. The day of the resurrection will bring us home to live in the mansion prepared for us before the beginning of time.

President's Piece for Peace

December 23

All of this is safe and secure. The security is not found in our resolutions to do better this upcoming year. Truth be told, we can make efforts galore but will fall dreadfully short of the perfection God requires. That is why our joy for this new year rests solely in Jesus Christ and His merits. He went to the cross of judgment because reflection on our self can only reveal the need for a Savior. That is who Jesus is, our Savior from sin, death, and the Devil. There can be no peace and joy without Him.

Our prayers ascend to the Father through Jesus, not because of a pastry with a bird on it. They ascend because Jesus has redeemed us to the Father with perfect obedience and sacrifice. The Father accepted His payment on our behalf demonstrated in Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

No symbolism here, just real, and divine facts from His Word. All of what we do in the Church points to Jesus who is present with us in Divine Service and promises to splash us with His gifts unto eternal life. That to me is the best way to enter the new year. In fact, I would change the "Asher Rosh Hashanah" to "Barak Rosh Hashanah." The difference? The latter says "Blessed New Year." That is our prayer for each other, blessings from God that are sweeter than honey.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Calendar of Events

December 23

December

22-1/1 Christmas Holiday

IDE Office Closed

January

26-27 Middle School Retreat & Snowlympics

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

30 Board of Directors

IDE Office

CHURCH MUSIC - SOLUTIONS -

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Vacancy Updates

As of 11.29.23

December 23

Calling Congregations

Homestead, St. John;
Wellman, Good Shepherd

Keystone, St. John

Manchester, Our Savior

Marion, St. Paul - Associate

Newton, Our Savior

Osage, Trinity

Swisher, King of Glory

Williamsburg, St. Paul

Gary Sears (Vacancy Pastor)

David Lingard (Vacancy Pastor)

Caleb Schewe (Vacancy Pastor)

Joel Picard (Vacancy Pastor)

Byron Northwick (Vacancy Pastor)

Brad Brown (Vacancy Pastor)

Stuart Rethwisch (Vacancy Pastor)

Pastor Calls

Accepted: Jay Jaeger, St. Paul, Buckeye

Gary Timm, Westfield, NJ

St. Paul, Alden (installed Nov 12, forming dual)

Our Savior, Bettendorf

Pending: Alan Kornacki, Campbell/DuQuoin, IL

Kurt Brandon, Higginsville, MO

Kurt Brandon, Higginsville, MO

Samuel Beltz, Oskaloosa

St. Paul's, Marion

Our Savior, Newton

Trinity, Osage

St. Paul, Williamsburg

Declined: Caleb Schewe, Monticello

John Henry III, Fairmont, MN

Matthew Resner, Moberly, MO

Bethlehem, Greenleaf/St. Peter, Barnes, KS

Our Savior, Manchester

St. John, Keystone

Called to
Glory Daniel Q Johnson, Cedar Rapids

11.18.2023

Commissioned Calls

Park View Lutheran, Eldridge - DCE Search

Accepted:

Pending:

Declined:

Called to
Glory Lavonne Sandersfeld, Williamsburg (11.19.2023)

Directory Updates

December 23

PG #	RECORD	ACTION	INFORMATION
15	Jaeger, Jay	Add	Dual with St Paul Alden on 11.12.23
33	Alden, St Paul-Alden	delete	vacancy pastor.
27	Johnson, Daniel Q	delete	Called to Glory 11.18.23
75	Sandersfeld, Lavonne	delete	Called to Glory 11.19.23
40	Homestead, St John	delete	1930 V Avenue
40	Homestead, St John	change	Church address: 1928 V Avenue
12	Dolde, John	delete	Pinehurst Dr NE
			new address: 2504 Linwood St SW, Cedar
12	Dolde, John	Add	Rapids 52404

The 2023-2024 directories were distributed at the Fall Pastors' Conference. If you are unable to attend the Fall Pastors' Conference, your directory(ies) will be available for you to pick up at your following circuit meeting. **Please review your current directory information and send any updates to:**

pam@lcmside.org

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6

You can't begin to count the number of questions your students, or your kids or grandkids, for that matter, have asked you since school started back in August. When is lunch? Can I go to Felix's house and work on our project? Why can't I have an iPhone 15 with the titanium case? Can you give me some money to buy a snack at the movie? Why do I have to empty the dishwasher? What is the assignment for tomorrow? Did you put your name on your paper? Yah-da, yah-da, yah-da!



As educators, we have been known to say there is no such thing as a silly question. I know I said it many a time but deep down inside you and I know there is such a thing as a silly question. Here's one such example. Pastor Clyde was dressed in his suit and clergy collar. He was on his way home from officiating a funeral. He stopped by KwikStar to pick something up when he was approached by a parishioner who spots him in his church clothes and asked, "Hey Pastor! Why are dressed so fancy in the middle of the week?" To which Pastor Clyde replied, "I just finished a funeral for good, old Bob." With a straight face the member asked him, "A funeral for good, old Bob? What? Is he dead?" Pastor Clyde did his best to keep it together and not reply, "No, he's not dead. Bob just wanted to have his funeral to see who came. If a person didn't show up for his funeral today, Bob, isn't going to send them a Christmas card in December."

You and I can come up other examples of silly, foolish, and even stupid questions. For example, you've just scooped the driveway of 23 inches of snow and the snowplow comes through and fills it up again. Along comes your neighbor from down the road on his snowmobile and says, "I just love winter. Don't you?" Silly question. But what about this one – "Jesus, don't you care?" Isn't that a silly question to be asking any time, but especially at this time of the church year?

Why would someone say "Jesus, don't you care?" in the first place? Rather than point the finger at someone else, there have been times when we've been guilty of asking the same question. The reason behind it usually stems from fear or doubt or both. We have emotions. That's the way we were created. We were born with them, inherited from our first parents Adam and Eve. Before they fell into sin they didn't have fear or doubts. When sin came into the world it was turned upside-down. So, when something comes at us that stresses us out or we can't handle, we get anxious. We worry. We're uncertain about what to do and what the future may hold. We fear what may happen to us. That's just the way we were made. Though we might not verbalize it, these thoughts originate in our sick, hurting, and sinful heart.

That's not the end of the story. Thanks be to God! For us sinful human beings who believe in Jesus we know there is an escape. The gift of faith given to us by the Holy Spirit strengthens us as we work to overcome our weakness. We trust in God's promise that He is reaching His caring hand out for us to cling to. Through His Word the Holy Spirit gives us what we need to get through the storms of life.

In the Luke 2 Christmas story there are number of things that don't seem to connect with the story of salvation – that Jesus does care. That God would send His only Son from the glory of heaven to the sinful earth doesn't seem to connect. That the holy and almighty Son of God would choose to be born in a stable and visited by lowly shepherds doesn't seem to connect. About 700 years before Jesus was born, God's prophet, Isaiah, announced that a child would be born into this world. That child is described as *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*" (Is.9:6). Jesus comes as the perfect Son of God. He comes to be our Savior. God the Father chose His only Son Jesus to connect Himself those who live in this fallen creation. That means us - you and me!

"Jesus, don't you care?" Silly question. By grace, through faith we know and believe that Jesus is the most amazing and perfect connection to Isaiah's announcement: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given."* When there are times that we feel like asking, "Jesus, don't you care?" remember what He did for us. Then the answer is a resounding "YES!" God chose to connect with us by sending the gift of His Son, Jesus. Rejoice in this gift that God has given you and me. He is the gift that keeps on caring.

**Jerry and I pray that you and yours
have a blessed Christmas!**

Jan Doellinger
Assistant to the President, Schools

Parish Nurse - Anger

December 23

By Jennie Johnson, RN-BC, PhD *I'm a Christian nurse who helps people navigate the murky waters of healthcare.*

Recently we attended our 8-year-old grandson's Little League baseball game and came across this amazing sign. It has life lessons for all of us.

Reminders from Your Child

I'm a kid.

It's just a game.

My coach is a volunteer

The officials are human.

No college scholarships will be handed out today.

If you would like to change something...volunteer.

Hillside Little League (Omaha, Nebraska)

It made me think about how we all handle the stressors of our daily lives. Do we overreact or do we try and remain calm? A great quote from the book, *The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed*:

So, if you want to become the kind of person your child wants to be around after the big game, act more like a grandparent...Grandparents don't criticize or micromanage in the moments after the game.... critique the coach's strategy or referee's call. Even in the face of embarrassing failures on the field, grandparents support their grandchildren.

What a great quote that avoids overreactions and is good for heart health.

Years ago, our son's Pony League coach literally yelled at the officials whenever he perceived a bad call or when his son made an error on the field. I wasn't surprised when a few years later he died from a massive heart attack in his 40's.

An angry response or emotional reaction raises blood pressure to dangerous levels which damage the arteries and organs throughout the body leading to heart attacks, strokes, dementia and kidney damage.

So, the next time you have a situation that induces a great amount of anger, take a time out and go for a walk, deep breathe or say a prayer. Don't count to 10...count to 1,000.

A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control (Proverbs 29:11).

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



Life Sunday may be observed on Sunday, January 21st, 2024, as we give thanks that Roe V. Wade was overturned last year after nearly 50 years of legal abortion in the US. Or, perhaps Life Sunday would be incorporated better into the life of the Church along with one of the appointed Feasts.

Christmas Eve (December 24th) and **Christmas Day** (December 25th) are obvious opportunities for you to teach and proclaim that our Lord Jesus was born as a tiny, defenseless baby so long ago for us and for our salvation. Father in heaven, grant us grace to proclaim Christmas joy every day, and offer your peace to every mother, father, son, and daughter!

The Feast of **the Holy Innocents, Martyrs** (December 28th) is a tragic remembrance of the baby boys in Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod. We pray in the Collect for that day: “Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying.” Lord, help us also to make the good confession in our lives as well as with our words, defending innocent babies with our words and with our actions!

The Feast of **the Annunciation of our Lord** (March 25th) is also a wonderful time to preach into the ears of God’s people that our Savior Jesus was made man, not only at His birth, but 9 months prior to that at His conception! We confess in the 2nd Article of the Creed: *And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...*

Whenever you observe Life Sunday this year, remember the murder of nearly a million tiny little unborn babies in the United States every year by elective abortion. Pray for moms, dads, babies, grandparents, friends, and neighbors, that we may speak God’s Word as God gives us opportunities. Help to offer alternatives to abortion in your area. Give a special offering to Lutherans for Life. Most importantly, offer the forgiveness of every sin, including abortion, to everyone, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Here are your resources from Lutherans for Life for Life Sunday:

<https://lutheransforlife.org/event/life-sunday-2024/>

Pastor Alex Post, Iowa District East Life Coordinator



When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he 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 9:36-38

In response to Overture 1.01 of the 2018 Iowa District East—LCMS District Convention, a district task force has been commissioned to, within the Iowa District East, to aid efforts to recruit and retain church workers in the LCMS. The synod has also launched Set Apart to Serve, an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. This IDE Task force met in May, September, and November of 2022 and has developed the following vision statement:

We pray for God, through the intentional efforts of faithful mentors and ministries, to raise up and sustain well-qualified Lutheran church workers who are full of the love of God and are supported in their physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual well-being so that they may joyfully serve Christ and His church in their lifelong professional and personal vocations.

In addition, three initial goals were established: 1) Congregations, schools, ministries, families, and individuals regularly pray the Lord would send workers into the harvest; 2) All church workers view themselves as mentors; and 3) Cultivate a culture of well-supported workers. Achieving these goals will happen over time, but beginning with the Professional Packet, we hope to provide resources aimed recruiting and retaining church workers, beginning with providing prayers to be included for use in Divine service, school assemblies, classrooms, staff meetings, or at home.

On the next page, we continue learning about our 4 different IDE Church workers. We'll be taking a look at who and what their influences are for entering church work, and learning about the joys and challenges of church work and ministry. We hope their stories show us how you can be a mentor to those who you might encourage to enter church work!

This month's prayers for worship, school, and home:

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that as your Son once came humble and mounted on a donkey, He comes to us now in humble means of Word and Sacrament. Bless Your church with faithful pastors, that through their preaching our hearts may be stirred up to say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father in heaven, Your Son sent the disciples back to tell John what they saw and heard. Set apart in our own days faithful men and women to serve as teachers, DCE's, deaconesses, and musicians; that through their teaching we may know Your Son, the Coming One, who graciously gives a double portion of comfort. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For faithful pastors, that through their preaching and administration of the Sacrament, we would not faint with fear and foreboding in these gray and latter days, but confidently straighten up and raise our heads as our redemption draws near, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

For an increase of church workers, that by their service more would turn their hearts to the Lord, saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," let us pray to the Lord, **Lord, have mercy.**

More on LCMS Set Apart to Serve here: lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve

Through *Set Apart to Serve*, the LCMS is intentionally working to identify, encourage and form future church workers for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until His return. Visit lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve to learn more.

SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



IDE Church Workers: What are your greatest joys in ministry? Over the time you've served, has anything changed about what you enjoy most? What are some ways that you have grown as a person since serving in full-time church work?



Rev. Michael Scudder - Faith Lutheran, Mt. Pleasant.

My greatest joy is being used by God to share His Word and Sacraments with His people. One of the things I have come to enjoy the most bringing those gifts from Divine Service and visiting folks in their homes, at the hospital, etc. In growing as a person, I've become much more "forward" in confessing Christ to a messed up world!

Connie Powell - Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids

I love being able to share God's Word with my students and their families. I love starting my day in prayer and Bible study with my fellow colleagues and the genuine care and support we show one another. One of my greatest joys has been being able to teach my own children and enjoy their time at our Lutheran school! As I gain in my years of experience, I have learned to no longer sweat the small stuff. God has a way of working things out and I have learned to trust in His timing and lean on Him for strength through difficult times. Living in this changing world around us, I find great comfort in knowing that God never changes and His Word will prevail!



DCE Tara Darling—St. Paul Lutheran, Mt Vernon

I love witnessing "Ah ha!" moments during Bible studies and confirmation classes! The beginning of my ministry focused on Youth and Youth Adults, but I've really grown to appreciate leading Adult Bible studies. My life has change so much since I first began serving. I have also had the opportunity to walk alongside friends and church members through many joys and struggles. This has helped me to grow in compassion and understanding, learning that there is often so much more to any story than we initially see.

Deaconess Faith Swenson - College Hill Lutheran, Cedar Falls

The greatest joy of being a deaconess is being in a position where I am constantly able to point people to Christ and his gifts (Word and Sacrament), especially people who are marginalized in society and seeking God's mercy. Talking with college students about all the struggles they face from the world. Especially, being in a position to listen and guide the young women who are trying to navigate an increasingly anti-Christian and anti-Biblical womanhood world that tells them to do things a be things with their body and soul that is against their Christian worldview. I have found myself in prayer much more now that I am a church worker, than before. I especially find myself praying for my brothers and sisters in Christ who are going through difficult times. This has been great for me a Deaconess because it keeps me focused on the needs of those around me.



Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are humbly reminded that God's love is unending and His mercy endures forever.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Carole White

Iowa East and West District Vice President

800-843-5233 | lcef.org



Lutheran
Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

lutheranfamilyservice.org

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409 Kenyon Road, Suite C

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Walking Through The Dementia Desert

by Rev. Dave Gunderson, tLMFT



Walking through the valley of dementia...

Did you forget where you left your glasses? No problem. Did you forget you wear glasses? Then you may have a problem. If you need to ask someone what day it is, no problem, but if you ask for that date three times in a row in less than five minutes, you may have a problem. That is my mother-in-law's situation. While writing a check for her church offering, she asked me repeatedly what the date was because she suffers from dementia.

Dementia is defined as the loss of cognitive functioning which includes thinking, remembering, and reasoning to such an extent that it interferes with a person's daily life and activities. While dementia covers various kinds of memory loss, the main one is Alzheimer's disease which is a progressive disease that currently has no cure.

It is estimated that 6.7 million Americans over age 65 are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2023. Further statistics indicate about 1 in 9 people (10.8%) over age 65 have Alzheimer's dementia. Two-thirds of those Americans over age 65 with Alzheimer's dementia (4.1 million)

are women. Deaths due to Alzheimer's disease between 2000 and 2019 have more than doubled, increasing 145%. 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia

With these facts, pastors and other church workers are sure to be dealing with church members or family members suffering from dementia.

What can one do to help those suffering from this disease?

Pray. Pray for those suffering from the illness, pray for patience in dealing with those who are ill, and pray for compassion and wisdom as you minister to these people dwelling in the desert of dementia.

Seek knowledge. Learn the facts about this disease so you have a better understanding. Read articles, listen to podcasts, or read a book on the subject. Visit with someone at the nursing home or senior center who deals with these individuals on a daily basis for their insight on how you can minister better to them.

Learn to listen. Listening to a person with memory loss is challenging, as they often repeat things over and over again. Listening to them includes not arguing with them. A cardinal rule is to never argue with a dementia patient. This may require some creative thinking as the dementia person may get stuck on a certain topic. The listener's challenge is to learn to change the topic in order to help the individual.

Share stories, validate feelings and learn key terminology

Avoid saying phrases like, "Do you remember?" to a person suffering memory loss. It only adds to their frustration. A different approach is to share a story from their past like, "*I remember when we lived in the blue house by the train tracks....*" and let the individual add what details they choose to share. Don't be shocked if they can recall old memories going back years, but not an event that happened in the last hour.

When listening to a person with dementia, they may express a host of feelings, and it is wise to validate those feelings. Even if the reason for such emotions may not make sense to us, they are still real to that person and we don't need to argue with them, but instead support those emotions.

Learn proper terminology with this illness. For example, "sundowning" is a phrase that refers to a state of confusion occurring in the late afternoon and lasting into the night. Sundowning can cause different behaviors, such as confusion, anxiety, aggression or ignoring directions (something to remember when setting a time to visit those with dementia).

Live in and share God's grace

Provide spiritual support. Offer to read a devotion with your loved one. Use familiar scripture passages like John 10, Psalm 23, or any other psalms that might bring some peace and comfort. Praying the Lord's Prayer is beneficial for them to hear or possibly join with you in saying. Hymns and other Christian songs can be very helpful as music often helps calm the individual.

Live under Grace. People with dementia will say and do some nasty things that can hurt caregivers. Caregivers will fail to say and do the right things, because we are all sinful human beings. However, as God's people we live under the grace of God. This means we are forgiven by God and enabled to forgive others and ourselves.

How can we help those who are caring for loved ones with memory loss?

1. **Include these individuals in your daily prayers.** Ask God to give them the patience and wisdom to care for their loved one in the best possible way. Ask God to guide you in your ministry to them.
2. **Walk alongside them.** Take time to give them a call or to stop by for a visit, or invite them out for a lunch or cup of coffee. These caregivers need someone to hear their hurts, frustrations and fears. In listening, don't seek to solve their problems, but rather validate their feelings and be one who encourages them and supports them as they travel this tough road.
3. **Provide resources.** While families may know more about the disease than you do, they may not be aware of some of the resources available to help with financial, medical and legal areas. Other resources can include support groups for those struggling or connecting them to fellow church members who may have walked this journey in the past. If your church has a ministry like Stephen Ministers, they can be a great help for those caring for loved ones. Another resource is a counselor who can listen to their fears and struggles. Agencies like Lutheran Family Service offers Christian counselors who can be another way to help those struggling to care for loved ones with memory loss or some other illness.
4. **Help them take a break.** Ongoing caregiving is exhausting physically, emotionally, and mentally for caregivers, especially if they have the individual with memory loss living with them in their home. If you can recruit members to provide coverage for an evening, or a day, or even a weekend, so the caregiver can get a break, this can be a tremendous blessing. (Depending on the level of care, some specialized training may be needed.)
5. **Help them to live under God's grace.** Caregivers will make mistakes, and feel guilty. Caregivers will make decisions about their loved one that may leave them feeling guilty. As members of the body of Christ, our calling is to encourage each other, to help each other and to remind each other that we live under the amazing grace of a Lord and Savior who loves us, forgives us, and is with us always.

These suggestions are just a small sampling of the many ways church workers and church members can help those struggling with this illness or help those who are caregivers to the ones with this illness. Hopefully, this article has been helpful, but to learn more check out

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/alzheimers-disease-fact-sheet> or go to Alzheimer's Association at <https://www.alz.org/> Another good source is the book. **New Every Day Navigating Alzheimer's with grace and compassion** by Dave Meurer. This book includes a strong gospel message and can be found at your local library.

Always in the care of the Good Shepherd

Finally, remember that a person with memory loss is still a child of God. They may not always remember the names of those they love, but the One who loved and died for them knows them by name. We are not saved by remembering our Bible verses, or how well we remember the catechism, but rather we are saved by God's amazing grace in Jesus Christ.

Just as a little infant may not know all the details of what God has done for them, but is still saved through the miracle of water and word in Baptism, so those who have suffer memory loss are saved with the same amazing grace. What a joy it is to know that someday their journey through the dark valley of dementia will be over, and they will be face to face with their loving Shepherd who has been with them all the way.

Lutheran Family Service counselor, Rev. Dave Gunderson, tLMFT, serves clients throughout South Dakota via telehealth.

If you or someone you know is in need of Christ-centered mental health or marriage counseling, refer to or contact us today to schedule an appointment.

- Rev. Dave Gunderson, tLMFT
- Call: 605-271-1081
- Email: info@lutheranfamilyservice.org
- Web Form: <http://lutheranfamilyservice.org/contact/>

Lutheran Family Service walks with those experiencing difficult times through mental health counseling, marriage counseling, crisis pregnancy counseling, and adoption services.

I D E A R C H I V E S

100 Years ago

The Iowa District News **D E C E M B E R** Vol. 2; No. 12; 1923

- p. 94: **Editor Wishing a Blessed Christmas in the German Language**
- p. 94: **My Savior is Born**—A Gospel Sermon by H. Sieck
- p. 95: **Minnesota-Iowa Walther League Rally on the Shores of Okoboji**—[Some excerpts from the article]-On August the 18th, encouraged by splendid weather the Walther Leaguers of Iowa and Minnesota readily found their way to the nationally and favorably known summer resort at Lake Okoboji and Spirit Lake. The committee in charge had for the term of three days rented the Methodist Camp Grounds located on the eastern shore of Lake Okoboji. Two large tents were erected, the large tabernacle seating several thousand was fittingly decorated and arranged for a genuine Walther League Rally...At two o'clock, youthful vigor and rapture seized the opportunity to assert itself when the giants of baseball fame in Iowa defied their masters of the same art from Minnesota. The reason for the outcome of the game has not as yet been officially determined, but as a matter of fact Minnesota suddenly broke away and finished the game victoriously...The evening was devoted to a program of Walther League talent. There were several solos both instrumental and vocal, dialogues, a play, etc. Informal talks were given by Walther League officers and the entertainment was concluded with a stereopticon lecture relating the complete history and work of the Walther League. Sunday proved to be a pleasant surprise in every sense...Rev. Meyer, Lakefield, Minn., Pres. of the Minn. District of the Mo. Synod, delighted the audience with a splendid sermon in the forenoon service. Rev. Dallmann, Milwaukee, succeeded in causing all Lutheran hearts to beat with thanksgiving for the treasures they possess in their church, with his spirited address in the afternoon...A mass choir from Minnesota assisted in the music and also a Lutheran band from Iowa during the services on Sunday...It will be of interest to many to learn that one purpose of this rally was to inquire of the leaguers how they would welcome a permanent summer camp for Walther Leaguers in particular and Lutherans in general in the Middle West. This question was submitted to those in attendance and enthusiastically received. It was resolved after a lengthy discussion to invite the Walther League Districts of Nebraska and Dakota to consider the movement with the Districts of Iowa and Minnesota. The committee in charge of the rally were requested to pursue to this end the course already taken.
- p. 95: **Our Synodical "Grace Before Meat"**—Ever since the venerable saint Doctor Graebner, quite a number of years ago, on a steamboat trip to Perry Co., suggested to sixty or more pastors who were to attend a conference at Altenburg to sing "Grace" and he himself, at the piano, accompanied our singing "*Speis' uns, o Gott, deine Kinder,*" which made a profound impression upon crew and passengers, it has become ever more a usage in our circles, especially at festive occasions, to sing that prayer. But since English is almost everywhere getting the right of way, it has often been regretted that we have no English version of that stanza. When Mr. E. Seuel, acting as toastmaster about two years ago, had some songs printed on the napkins for an alumni

banquet at the Seminary, he included also the English version which I submitted of that German prayer. Since then I have several times been requested to send these words to the "Lutheran Witness". Perhaps others may wish to use them. Here they are: [Melody 636 LSB]

God, Thy children, Thee addressing,
On this meal implore Thy blessing,
Pardon sins, grant us Thy favor,
Strengthen all that fear or waver.
May Thy grace at all times guide us
And with all we need provide us,
Till at length to us be given
Feasts with saints through Christ in heaven.

- p. 96: **Golden Wedding Anniversary**—Celebrated at Lowden, Sunday, December 2. On this day the Rev. and Mrs. J.H. Brammer rounded out fifty years of happy wedded life. */* [Some excerpts from the Lowden News] Reverend Brammer was born November 30, 1850, in Wardboehme, Circuit Celle in the former Kingdom of Hannover, Germany. After a journey through France he embarked from Brest and arrived in New York in 1869. His ministerial training was received at Concordia seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, where he was a student from 1869 to 1872. On January 26, 1873, he was ordained in the Immanuel church, St. Louis. His first charge was in Denver, Colorado, where he served nine months. He was called from Denver to Lowden, where he delivered his first sermon on October 25, 1873. He served Trinity Lutheran for 47 years, until July 4, 1920. A slight deafness had made it difficult for him to perform the duties of his office and he resigned from his office. */* Mrs. Brammer was born in Rock Island, Illinois, on August 10, 1856. She met J.H. Brammer at Rock Island, a theological student at the time, as he spent his vacations with the late Rev. C.A. Mennicke and sometimes substituted for the pastor during his absence. On December 3, 1873, Miss Elsie Kroeger of Rock Island and Rev. J.H. Brammer of Lowden were married at Rock Island by the Rev. C.A. Mennicke. The evening after the wedding, rain and snow fell and continued for the next several days. Travel became hazardous, railroad connections between Rock Island and Lowden being very poor so that wagon roads had to be resorted to. They arrived in Lowden several days later but their household goods not coming for some time. When the goods did finally arrive, they were much the worse for their journey over rough and frozen roads.
- p. 97: **Children Friends Society**—In almost all congregations in the district, it is customary to gather a collection for the Children's Home at Christmas. This year, as usual, the small collective envelopes will be sent out, and we hope that the love for the baby Jesus will move old and young to participate in this collection, so that we can continue the work of the children's mission and possibly do much more than in the past in this noble cause. */* Although the large collection for the synodical building fund has only just been held and great demands are placed on our dear Christians in the state, we know that they will still have a mite left for their Children's Home and for the Children Friends cause. */* Thirty-one children, almost all babies, have been accommodated so far in 1923, and several are likely to find a home before the end of the year. Of these 31, 20 were sent to the home and four, immediately after, were admitted to Lutheran families. If we consider that most of these little children would probably never have been baptized and brought to our and their Savior without our work as a friend of children, we must be convinced that our society is missionary in the fullest sense of the word. */* Although we have more than five thousand members on the list, about half of them have overlooked the opportunity to send in or give their contribution to their pastor or collector this year. Let us try to extend a friendly reminder to these members of the society this month. Those who have not paid their

dues for several years are assumed to no longer want to belong to the Children Friends Society, and their names are deleted. However, they can re-enter at any time by sending in their dollars. */* Present in the home are: Lillie, a seventeen-year-old girl; and the “baby boys”: Glenn, 15 months; Eugene, 6 months; and Everett, 3 months old. The latter may not be put up for adoption for the time being, as he does not yet belong to us. We hope to take in some more babies in a few days. The Superintendent.

- p. 97: **Denison Special Conference**—The Conference met in Carroll on 31 October and 1 November. Only eleven pastors belong to this conference. Two members could not be present this time. Although this conference is small, it is a lot of work, as Pastor J.F. Günther remarked. Also during this conference, four papers were read. All were instructive and edifying. The distinguished speakers were Pastors Günther, Böhm, Geisler and A.W. Brauer. At Christmas and New Year, the members of this conference want to make a contribution to the good of the Pension Fund. On the Festival of the Reformation, in the evening, English services were held. A number of communicants from the local church also went to the Lord's Table with the pastors. Pastor Erbe of Boone gave a captivating sermon in which he urged his listeners to praise and thank God for the Bible book we now have in church and home. But we should now also hear and learn this blessed word until our end. Pastor Frese of Denison gave us a beautiful, timely confessional. Both sermons will be remembered for a long time by those of us who were privileged to listen to them. A.J. Müller

- p. 98: **Council Bluffs Circuit Meeting**—[As a result of a fund-driving campaign in the Circuit, the results were shared on November 25] It may be of interest to know what results were attained by the Council Bluffs Circuit. Seven congregations, Adair, Audubon (2), Oakland, Persia, Wiota, and Van Meter have not as yet reported. Sixteen congregations have reported a total of \$19,400.91. —G.V.

- p. 98: **Synodical Building Fund Campaign Returns**—A report by pastors from various circuit congregations on the amount of money their congregations have pledged.

- p. 98: **News Items**—By order of the District President, the Rev. Theo. Wolfram, the Rev. John Bertram was installed in **St. Paul's church, Fort Dodge** on October 14th by Pastor H.C. Koepke. Pastor Th. Stephan preached the English sermon, and Pastor M. Zabel, the German, and both assisted at the installation. — The Rev. H. Erck, Jr. of Leigh, Nebr., has been called to Hubbard, and the Rev. P.L. Bornhoeft, of Augusta, Mo., to Pomeroy. — On 11 November, Pastor H. **Kettler** was installed in **St. Paul's** congregation at **Schaller**, Iowa by the undersigned. Pastors Wehking, Iversen, Hoemann, Bartz, Hartmeister and Baumann assisted. Pastor Iversen gave the sermon. Geo. H. Koch. — The Rev. H. Schmidt of Giddings, Texas and Miss Marie Brammer, the former superintendent of Hampton Hospital, were **united in marriage** on Sunday, December second at Lowden, Iowa.

- p. 98: **Announcement**—Anyone interested in disposing of books or exchanging for others, should send titles and price for all available books to the undersigned. —Th. Schleipsiek

- p.99: **Minderkranz**—On 9 November, an old faithful pioneer from Iowa went to his blessed rest. Pastor Theodor Mattfeld died on that date in Pomeroy, Iowa, at the age of 82 years, 5 months and 10 days. He was born on 29 May, 1841 in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover. His father was Pastor Carl Mattfeld. He died when Theodor was 11 years old. After his death, his mother moved with her 7 orphaned children to Verden, where he entered the local grammar

school and studied there until 1858. He then reported to Pastor Louis Harms for missionary service. But because it was imperative that every missionary understand a trade, he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1865, he entered the missionary house at Hermannsburg, where he passed his exams in 1870 and was also ordained there. He was to begin a new mission with some of his colleagues in the Moluccan Islands. However, this later came to nothing and he was sent to America. Since he already recognized the Missouri Synod in Hermannsburg as a faithful Lutheran one, he went to it with preference. The German-French War, which was then underway, delayed the departure until December, 1870. On the 1st Holy Christmas Day, he arrived in St. Louis. He was colloquized by Prof. Brauer and Prof. Dr. Preuss, and was now waiting for a call. But since this was a long time coming, he stayed for a time in St. Louis, until Pastor Burkhardt of Springfield, Ill., asked him to help him out, since he had several posts to serve. Shortly before Easter, he received a call from Fort Dodge, Iowa, which he accepted. Here his work should be missionary work. He served a large field around Fort Dodge until he was called by four small congregations in Pocahontas and Calboun counties. He lived in the small community near Knierim. */* In 1876, he married Miss Magdalene Mertens, from which marriage came 9 children. Four of them died in tender childhood. In 1892, he accepted a call to Crozier, where he served faithfully until 1907; a throat ailment and old age forced him to resign from office, and he retired to Pomeroy. His partner died in 1911. From that time he lived with his daughter, who ran the household, and with an unmarried son. */* The funeral took place on 12 November in Pomeroy, with Pastor Albrecht officiating in the house; in the church, Pastor Schaefer gave the German funeral oration and Pastor Destinon the English funeral oration. The undersigned officiated at the grave. */* Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; henceforth, yes, the Spirit speaks: they rest from their work, and their works follow them. L.A. Mueller.

NOTE: This wraps up the year with the archivist giving you a peak into what was going on in this LCMS Iowa District 100 Years Ago. Having received neither negative nor positive comments about this approach, I am assuming no one will feel hurt if I do not do another 100 Years Ago from *The Iowa District News* out of the 1924 issues. And while I am at it, just what would you like to see from your IDE archivist when it comes to information in the *Professional Packet* ?

Allen E. Konrad—IDE Archivist
onamission1939@gmail.com

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



December 2023

Summer Camp 2024 - Immanuel: God With Us

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” - John 1:14

As 2023 winds down, our planning has now focused on next year. Mark your calendars! Registration opens for the 2024 summer camp program on **January 15!** Our summer camp theme is **“Immanuel: God With Us”** based on John 1:14. More information on our theme and registration will be available soon, so stay tuned!

Tentatively, our summer camp program will begin on June 12 and end on August 2. Staff training will likely kick off on May 29. Be sure to stay tuned at our website for more information. Our tentative schedule will be posted early to mid December.

Despite having great attendance once again this past summer, we had to turn away around nearly 75 campers because we didn't have enough summer staff. The time to start thinking about serving on Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's 2024 summer staff is now! You can get your application process started today by heading to www.nloma.org.

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 to start your summer camp service, coming in early November!

Please contact Camp Program Director Alec Deppe by emailing programdirector@iodiseca.org for more information on how you can work, learn, grow, and have an experience of a lifetime by serving on Camp's summer staff!



IDE Middle School Retreat (and Snowlympics!) January 26-27

The upcoming IDE Middle School Retreat and Snowlympics is scheduled for January 26-27, 2024 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca! Pastor Andrew Gray of St. John Lutheran Church in Marengo will present on **Creation's Night**. Visit <https://lcmside.org/msretreat/> for more information and to register!

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

Camp Presentations

Would you like to know more about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? Camp Director Daniel Sanchez is available to speak to congregations and groups about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's mission, facilities, and programs. Call 319-848-4187 to schedule a speaker!



Important Dates

January 15, 2024
*Summer Camp
Registration Opens*

January 26-27
IDE Middle School Retreat

March 1
*Registration Discount Deadline
#1*

June 12
1st Day of Summer Camp



THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2022, 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!



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

Needs List

Paper Towels; 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.**

New Camp Map!



Scan me!

[OR CLICK HERE TO SEE THE MAP!](#)

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

REGISTRATION FORM

**IDE Middle School Retreat
& Snowlympics**

January 26-27 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

REGISTER ONLINE AT LCMSIDE.ORG

**Creation's Night: Light in the Darkness
With Rev. Andrew Gray**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ AGE _____ GENDER: M / F

REGISTRATION TYPE (circle): Youth / Adult Chaperone

- ☐ Send a check for **\$55 per youth/ \$30 per chaperone** with this form to the District Office:

IOWA DISTRICT EAST
1100 BLAIRS FERRY RD
MARION IA 52302-3093

- ☐ Students will need to fill out a camp Health and Photo Release Form. Bring this with you to camp. The form can be found on our district website at lcmside.org. If you have submitted a health form in the last 12 months for a previous IDE retreat, it should be on file.

Contact the District Office for more information:
dsanchez@lcmside.org or call 319-373-2112.

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IDE Youth Event

Online Registration Planning Sheet

Name	Email	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Gender	Age	Church / City	Registrant Type
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
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				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth
				M F			<input type="radio"/> Adult <input type="radio"/> Youth

If you have questions please contact Daniel Sanchez at dsanchez@lcmside.org or 319-373-2112.

This information is confidential. Youth leader needs to collect and bring this form along for each IDE youth event.

Iowa District East Youth Event Health Form and Photo Release

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Gender _____ Birthday ____ / ____ / ____ Age _____ Grade this Fall _____
Address _____ Information Provided By: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____
Parent 1 First Name _____ Last Name _____ Cell _____ Work _____
Parent 2 First Name _____ Last Name _____ Cell _____ Work _____

IF NOT AVAILABLE IN AN EMERGENCY, NOTIFY:

Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____ Cell _____
Doctor _____ Phone _____
Dentist _____ Phone _____
Pharmacy _____ Phone _____

NAME OF FAMILY MEDICAL/HOSPITAL INSURANCE:

Insurance Carrier _____ Policy # _____
Insurance Phone # (if applicable) _____ Primary Insured's Name _____
Activity Restrictions by parent's/physician's advice?: _____
Other information we need to know? _____

ALLERGIES: __ Hay Fever __ Poison Ivy __ Insect Stings __ Asthma __ Food(s): _____
__ Peanut Butter __ Nuts __ Penicillin __ Other Drugs: _____

Medications Brought To Event: _____ Notes on Giving: _____

Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, antacids, anti-diarrhea medication and first aid **MAY / MAY NOT** (CIRCLE ONE) be administered to my child, as needed, by designated chaperones.

Special Considerations? _____

AUTHORIZATIONS AND PHOTO RELEASE:

This health history is correct so far as I know and the person herein described has permission to engage in all prescribed event activities except as noted above. I also give permission to the event coordinator or chaperone to order x-rays, routine tests and treatment. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I give permission to the physician selected by the event coordinator to transport, hospitalize and secure proper treatment, order injection and/or anesthesia and/or surgery.

I grant to Iowa District East the right to take photographs of me and my family in connection with the Iowa District East youth events and retreats. I authorize Iowa District East, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically. I agree that Iowa District East may use such photographs of me and my family with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including, for example, such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content. I agree that if I have any concerns or questions regarding the use of such photographs I should contact the Iowa District East office, in writing, in a timely manner.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND GIVEN TO YOUR YOUTH COUNSELOR ATTENDING THE EVENT WITH YOU. THE YOUTH COUNSELOR COLLECTS AND RETAINS THE IDE YOUTH EVENT HEALTH FORM FOR EACH PARTICIPANT. DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

What should I bring to Camp?

Bible
Sleeping Bag
Pillow
Appropriate clothing and shoes for activities

DO NOT BRING

Irreplaceable or valuable items
Cell Phones
iPods, mp3 players, etc.
Extra money
Nuisance items that distract from the purpose of the event

You are responsible for any items you bring to camp

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Bible
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This professional packet is for the months of December and January.
Submissions for the next edition of the Professional Workers' Packet are due
January 26, 2024.

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



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