



IDE TODAY

Iowa District East - LCMS

In this issue

President's Piece for Peace
St. Silas' New Home in North Liberty
Many New Pastors in the IDE

DISTRICT UPDATES

As of November 30, 2023

New Pastor Installations in the Iowa District East

Installation

Called To:

6.25.2023	Joel Peter Wagner—CTSFW	St. Paul Lutheran —Latimer
7.16.2023	Nickalaus Palmer—CSL	St. John Lutheran —Newhall
7.15.2023	Mark Zieroth—CTSFW	Our Redeemer —Dubuque, St. Matthew—Sherrill (Associate)
8.6.2023	Mark Kluzek	St. Paul Lutheran— Wapello
8.20.2023	Kevin Zellers, Jr.	Zion Lutheran—Hiawatha
8.27.2023	Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano	St. Paul Lutheran—Readlyn, Immanuel Lutheran —Klinger
9.24.2023	Terry Quick	Holy Cross Lutheran— Davenport, Lutheran Homes (Davenport)
9.30.2023	Jay Weideman	Peace Lutheran— Oelwein, Our Redeemer Lutheran— Independence
11.12.2023	Jay Jaeger	St. Paul Lutheran—Alden

VICARAGE PLACEMENTS - 2023

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

Calling Congregations

CONGREGATION

VACANCY PASTOR

St. John—Homestead	Rev. Gary Sears
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
Trinity—Osage, IA	Rev. Byron Northwick
King of Glory—Swisher, IA	Rev. Brad Brown
Good Shepherd—Wellman	Rev. Gary Sears

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. Daniel Q. Johnson

Lavonne Sandersfeld

November 18, 2023

November 19, 2023

About the Cover

Members and many supporters of St. Silas Lutheran Church in North Liberty gather for a Reformation Service on Sunday, October 29 at their new home. Turn to pages 14 and 15 to read more on St. Silas Lutheran Church!

Calendar of Events

January

26-27 Middle School Retreat
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

31 Board of Directors
IDE Office

March

29 Good Friday
IDE Office Closed

April

23 Board of Directors
IDE Office

29-30 Spring Workers' Conference
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

May

18 Pre-Retirement Workshop
IDE Office



Iowa District East - LCMS



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President's Piece for Peace - Set Apart to Serve

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.



REV DR BRIAN S SAUNDERS

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.

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

***He is our great joy for peace
in any day, the days past as
well as the days to come.***

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 Saunders
District President
Iowa District East—LCMS

Congregation Historian Dilemma

Assuming that every IDE congregation has someone who serves as the historian responsible for the gathering and filing of significant information about the congregation, then here comes the important question: What does one save? What can be discarded? The Church Council would more than likely take responsibility for assuring the preserving the Business Meeting Minutes, and also that there is a registering of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, deaths, and list of members. But what about other documents?

We live in an era where much documentation is ending up in an electronic format. Things used to be available via the typewriter and Gestetner (what's that?) that left a paper-trail. From the viewpoint of preserving documents, the hard-copy paper-trail is still the most lasting. Gramophones gave way to vinyl records, then replaced by ferrous cassette tapes, and for the moment the CD is in style until the next innovation. But devices that can play or read those "documents" begin to disappear. So here is a suggestion to congregation historians from your IDE archivist. Save whatever you feel will be of use to someone in the future who is tasked to put together a continuing history of the congregation. Save ordination/installation & commissioning worship bulletins of LCMS ordained and commissioned workers. Preserve worship bulletins of special occasions (dedications, congregation anniversaries, other anniversary events) and do the IDE Archives a favor by forwarding a copy of such bulletins to its files. Preserve weekly or monthly newsletters in so far as they contain an historical newsworthy article.

As for photographs (church workers who serve(d), confirmation classes, celebration occasions), the best preservation are those printed as hard copies. However, there needs to be information on the back, or the photo eventually becomes meaningless. Save memorabilia of events and, rather than storing them in a boxes and letting them sit in some damp dark room, display them while there is an interest. If nobody cares anymore, then maybe that is the clue that something needs to be discarded. There is no rule that will apply to every congregation. Be a creative historian and alert to things that may be considered important many years from now. And if the LORD returns within our life-time, then who needs them? If HE delays that event for more decades, then folks in the future will appreciate the things you held on to.

Allen E. Konrad, IDE Archivist



New Pastors in the Iowa District East - LCMS

1. Pastor Mark Zieroth (center left) was ordained and installed at **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Dubuque** and **St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Sherrill** on Saturday, July 15 as the Associate Pastor. Pastor Zieroth served his vicarage at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls from 2021-2022 and graduated in 2023 from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne.
2. Pastor Jay Jaeger (center) was installed at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Alden** on November 12, 2023. Pastor Jaeger returns to a congregation where he previously served between 2000-2014.
3. Pastor Mark Kluzek (center left) was installed to **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wapello** by Pastor Michael Scudder on Sunday, August 6. He has previously served congregations in Missouri, New Mexico, and here in Iowa.
4. Pastor Jay Weideman was installed to **Peace Lutheran Church in Oelwein** and **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Independence** on Saturday, September 30. Pastor Van Hemert from Center Point served as liturgist, while President Saunders preached and installed Pastor Weideman. Pastor Weideman is originally from Anamosa and a former member at St. John Lutheran Church in Monticello.





5. Welcome to Rev. Terry Quick (center-right under the cross) to **Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Davenport and Davenport Lutheran Home**! He was installed on Sunday, September 24 and he comes to the district from previously serving at Lutheran Senior Services in St. Louis.
6. Welcome to Pastor Joel Peter Wagner to **St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Latimer, IA**! He was ordained and installed on Sunday, June 25 by President Saunders. Preaching was Rev. Wesley Hromowyk of Columbus, Ohio, with Rev. David Kind of Minneapolis, MN serving as liturgist. Pastor Wagner graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne in 2023.
7. Welcome to Pastor Kevin Zellers Jr. (front, left of baptismal font) to **Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha**! He was installed on Sunday, August 20 by President Saunders, with Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild (Vacancy Pastor) serving as liturgist and Rev. Kevin Zellers Sr. preaching. Pastor Zellers comes to Zion from St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran in Swanville, MN.
8. Welcome to Pastor Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano to **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Readlyn and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Klinger**. He was installed on August 27, and comes to the IDE from King of Glory Lutheran Church in Elgin, IL. Pastor also previously served as a counselor at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in 2015 and also served his vicarage at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Iowa City. Welcome!
9. Welcome to Pastor Nickalaus Palmer to **St. John Lutheran Church in Newhall**! Pastor Palmer was installed this past Sunday, July 16. From nearby Belle Plaine, Pastor Palmer graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 2023.





Around the Iowa District East—LCMS

1. **Mr. Ryan Johnson** joined the Iowa District East—LCMS staff in August as the new Business and Office Manager. He replaces **Sherry Brendes**, who retired in September after 18 years at the IDE-LCMS. Thanks be to God for her many years of service!
2. **President Saunders and Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild** won the 2023 **IDE Golf Outing** on a playoff hole with a score of 2 over par on June 26 at Fawn Creek Golf Course in Anamosa.
3. The group from St. John Lutheran Church in Clinton (top) and 40 people from IDE Congregations (**St. Paul—Mt. Vernon, St. John—Denver, St. John—Clinton, Our Redeemer—Cedar Falls**) attended the July 18-21 Higher Things Conference in Carbondale, IL under the conference theme Beyond Reasonable Doubt.
4. Vicar Zachary Johnson from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne was installed at **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora** at a Matins service on July 9, 2023. Vicar Johnson and his wife Hannah are from the IDE (Keystone)!





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5. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls participated in the Historic Churches Tour sponsored by the Cedar Falls Historical Society on October 15,

2023. Our Redeemer was one of six downtown churches participating in the event. Congregation members served as docents. The community learned the history of the church building (well over 100 years old) and the congregation itself, which stemmed from leaders of Iowa District East, along with members of College Hill Lutheran, establishing this daughter congregation in the early 1960s to serve an expanding Cedar Falls community. Participants were given a 12-page booklet explaining the symbolism of the central stained-glass window and woodcuts in the front of the chancel.

6. June Zhiss, member of **Trinity Lutheran Church in Guttenberg**, cares for the church flower garden and has recently added a reminder to passersby and parishioners to "Walk with God". She made signs and placed a variety of shoes along a path that winds through the garden. Plants were donated by church members. The garden attracts many people who are walking by.
7. The **IED LWML Fall Retreat** took place September 8-9 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca and featured guest speakers Rev. Harrison Goodman and Crysten Sanchez of Higher Things and Cynthia Kahn from POBLO International.



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Campus Ministry

1. A "Welcome Back" dinner was hosted by **St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel in Iowa City** at Pastor Mons' home on August 27, 2023 as students begin the new school year at the University of Iowa.
2. The annual Luther Bowl flag football game took place on October 1, 2023 at St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel in Iowa City. Rev. Daniel Johnson and Rev. Michael Scudder served as referees once again. After the game, the students had s'mores and fellowship at the Mons residence.
3. Fall Fling at **College Hill Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls** took place November 10-12 with Rev. Dr. Todd Peperkorn of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne presenting on *One Loaf: How Christ Keeps Us Together When Everything is Falling Apart*. Rev. Dr. Peperkorn is the Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at CTS-FW, and also serves as Director of Vicarage and Internship. After presenting on Friday and Saturday, Dr. Peperkorn preached at Divine Service on Sunday morning.
4. A group of college students and members from College Hill Lutheran Church toured and then volunteered last Saturday at Alternatives Pregnancy Center in October.





Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca—Summer 2023

5. This summer, campers learned about the love of God in Christ through the theme of *Hear Our Prayer* at **Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca**. As campers dug through Scripture, they answered the questions of when to pray, where to pray, how God answers prayer, and perhaps most importantly, what prayer teaches us about God and who He is. In our greatest joys and our deepest sorrows and despair, we learn that we have a God, Our Father in Heaven, who is eager to hear from us, His children. As God's children this summer's campers can, with all boldness and confidence say, **HEAR OUR PRAYER**.

6. This year, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca said "goodbye" to two wonderful servants in Beverly Ahlemeyer (Bottom right, 27 years as Office Administrator) and Kathy Milroy (14 years as Cook/Kitchen Manager). Kathy retired at the end of the summer and Beverly took her leave from Camp at the beginning of November. Thanks be to God for their many years of service to our campers and guests, and we hope you enjoy your retirements!





Other Events

1. More than 30 people attended the Church Musician Workshop at **College Hill Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls** on September 30, 2023. Kantor Richard Resch, Professor and Kantor Emeritus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN led the workshop with an emphasis on organ and choral coaching with liturgical planning for small to medium size parishes.
2. The **IDE Confirmation Retreat** took place at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca October 13-14, 2023. Around 75 youth and chaperones attended from 11 different congregations in the IDE. Pastor Samuel Beltz from **St. John Lutheran Church in Oskaloosa** taught on The Apostles' Creed and how God works, learning about each person of the Holy Trinity and how they relate to and cooperate with one another. Rev. Alex Post from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown led the devotional times. The youth enjoyed a whole host of activities from get-to-know you games to enjoying several outdoor activities like archery, canoeing, and rock wall climbing.





Fall Pastors' Conference and Pastors' Wives Retreat

3. The 2023 **Fall Pastors' Conference** took place at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca over October 13-14 with Pastor Jeffery Hemmer, Assistant to the President of the LCMS, and author of *Man Up!*, presenting on Christological Anthropology. Preachers included Rev. Peter Hoft, Rev. Michael Knox, and Rev. Andrew Gray.

4. More than 30 ladies gathered for the annual **Pastors' Wives Retreat** on November 3-4. The retreat featured Christina Roberts, Kantor of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Grand Rapids, MI presenting on *Joy With Music Crowned: Listening, Learning, and Signing the New Song*. IDE President Saunders and 1st VP Pastor Mons also led a few of the devotional times for the weekend.





A New Home in North Liberty

St. Silas Lutheran Church in North Liberty has purchased a new site to conduct Word and Sacrament ministry in North Liberty serving the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids corridor. They are now the proud owners of a storefront location in a North Liberty strip mall, sandwiched between an early childhood development center and two childcare facilities. The new site offers increased visibility to our community as well as much needed space for our Sunday School. They would like to extend special thanks to President Saunders and to Carole White of LCEF.

On September 24th, St. Silas hosted the last Divine Service at their previously rented strip mall location. At that site, the Sunday School children sat in the hallway outside the restrooms. In the new facility, they have their own dedicated classroom. The new site will seat about the same number of people as the former, but has the option for overflow seating of about 15 people in the Sunday School area. Sadly, we were unable to move the pipe organ which was donated and moved to a congregation in Illinois. The renovation was led by congregation President, Pat Dermody, and his wife Sheryl and completed primarily by skilled and motivated volunteers from St. Silas and surrounding congregations, thus reducing the need for expensive outside contractors.

The members of St. Silas gathered on Sunday, October 1st for the Rite of Dedication of their new home as the doors were opened

Continued on next page.....





Rev. Kristian Kincaid Retirement



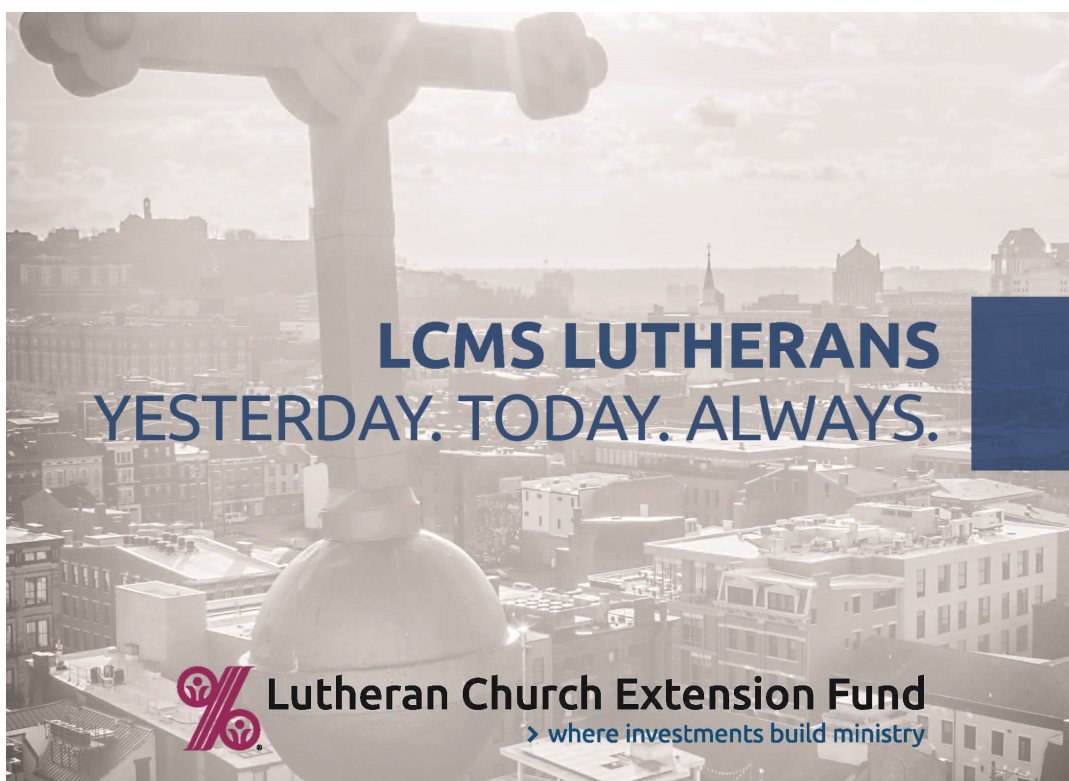
On Sunday, June 25, 2023, **Rev. Dr. Kristian Kincaid** preached his final sermon as Pastor at **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Dubuque** and at **St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Sherrill**. President Saunders provided a Farewell and Godspeed blessing at the end of the service. Pastor Kincaid had served at Our Redeemer since 1993, after previously serving 6 years in Nebraska, thus completing 36 years in ministry. Pastor Kincaid attended college at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA and was a 1987 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN. He received his doctorate in 2005 from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. A reception was held after the service for congregation and family. In addition to his ministry in Dubuque/Sherrill, Pastor Kincaid also authored *Living with Grief: Bound by Sorrow, Wrapped in Comfort*, which is published by CPH. Thanks be to God for his many years of faithful service!

... St. Silas Continued.

for the preaching of the Word of God in accordance with the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the administration of the sacraments according to the institution of Christ.

On October 29th friends, supporters, neighbors, and volunteers gathered to join us for a Reformation Festival in our new home led by Pastor Small with Rev. Max Mons of St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel in Iowa City, St. Silas' mother congregation, preached.

A reception followed with much of the congregation's history and transition to the new facility displayed.





District Representatives

District President	Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
Business/Office Manager	Ryan Johnson
Admin. Asst./Receptionist	Pam Krog
Communications/Tech/Events	Daniel Sanchez
1st Vice President	Rev. W. Max Mons, S.T.M.
2nd Vice President	Rev. Michael Knox
Secretary	Rev. Peter Hoft
Treasurer	Zachary Rowley
Asst. to the Pres.— Schools	Mrs. Jan Doellinger
IDE Archivist	Rev. Allen Konrad (onamission1939@gmail.com)
U of I Hospital Chaplain	Rev. Michael Musick (ideuichaplain@live.com)

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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 May 3, 2024