



# **IDE TODAY**

**Iowa District East - LCMS**

## **In this issue**

Welcome to New Pastors

LERT Volunteers Provide Aid

140th Anniversary for Trinity - Cedar Rapids

# DISTRICT UPDATES

As of January 3, 2025

## New Pastor Installations in the Iowa District East

### Installation

		<u>Called To:</u>
<b>7.14.24</b>	Rev. Josiah Schultz (CSL)	St. John Lutheran, Keystone
<b>7.21.24</b>	Rev. Isaiah Armbrecht (CTSFW)	Our Savior Lutheran, Manchester
<b>7.28.24</b>	Rev. Michael Manz	Our Savior Lutheran, Newton
<b>10.20.24</b>	Rev. John Dolde	Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Mound
	Rev. Michael Kolesar	Calvary Lutheran, Deep River (New Dual w/ St. James, Victor)
	Rev. Brad Brown	King of Glory Lutheran, Swisher (New Dual w/ Concordia, Cedar Rapids)

### Retired

<b>7.1.24</b>	Rev. Steven Anderson	Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Mound
<b>10.2.24</b>	Rev. Larry Feldt	St. John Lutheran, Denver
	Rev. Clark Frederick	Messiah Lutheran, Mason City

### Called to Glory

<b>8.26.24</b>	Rev. Jan Horne, Robbins
<b>10.22.24</b>	Rev. Leonard Aurich, Dubuque

## Calling Congregations

### CONGREGATION

St. John Lutheran Church—Denver, IA  
St. Mark Lutheran Church—Garrison, IA  
St. John Lutheran Church—Fairbank, IA  
St. John Lutheran Church—Homestead, IA  
Grace Lutheran Church—Jesup, IA  
St. Paul Lutheran Church—Lacona, IA  
St. John Lutheran Church – Marengo, IA  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church—Mason City, IA  
Messiah Lutheran Church—Mason City, IA  
St. John Lutheran Church – Melcher-Dallas, IA  
St. Silas Lutheran Church – North Liberty, IA  
Zion Lutheran Church—Shellsburg, IA  
St. Paul Lutheran Church—Waverly (Artesian), IA  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church —Wellman, IA

### VACANCY PASTOR

Rev. David Menet  
Tim Bickel  
Rev. Ronnie Koch  
Rev. Gary Sears  
Rev. Dr. David Hasselbrook  
Rev. Nathan Knaus  
Rev. Daniel Krueger  
Rev. Karl Bollhagen  
Rev. Dr. Byron Northwick  
Rev. Nathan Knaus  
Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild  
Rev. Thomas Van Hemert  
Rev. George Volkert  
Rev. Gary Sears

## DCE/School/Teacher/Others

### **New Calls**

<b>DCE</b>	Dalton Rau, Concordia Nebraska	Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf on <b>8.24.24</b>
<b>Teacher</b>	Rev. Adam Baumann, Garrison	St. Paul Lutheran School - Latimer

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 42nd Convention of the Iowa District East will be held June 27-28, 2025 at the Cedar Rapids Radisson. Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann will present on the convention theme "The Authority of the Word: The Word Walks Us Through Life, Psalm 119:105."

**The deadline for delegates, nominations, and memorials is January 31, 2025. All congregations have had pertinent forms mailed to them in October of 2024. Additional forms are available at the webpage for the convention. Registration will open in April. For more information, please go to [LCMSIDE.ORG/IDECONVENTION](https://LCMSIDE.ORG/IDECONVENTION).**

**Iowa District East– LCMS  
2025 District Convention  
Cedar Rapids Radisson Hotel  
June 27-28, 2025**

## Calendar of Events

**January**

- 28 Board of Directors  
*IDE Office*
- 31 Convention Forms Due

**February**

- 11 Pastors' Day at the Hill  
*Urbandale/Des Moines*

**April**

- Convention Registration Opens
- 18 Good Friday  
*IDE Office Closed*
- TBD Board of Directors

**April continued...**

- 29 Call Day - CTSFW  
*Ft. Wayne*
- 30 Call Day - Concordia Seminary  
*St. Louis*

**May**

- 26 Memorial Day  
*IDE Office Closed*
- TBD Board of Directors

**June**

- 27-28 IDE Convention  
Cedar Rapids



Iowa District East - LCMS



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## President's Piece for Peace - Maintaining Unity

When reading the epistles of St. Paul it is clear he has a personal connection with the recipients of these letters. His opening remarks are very generous with thanks to God for their fidelity to the Gospel and commitment to the church through struggles and trials. He is always praying for them and encouraging them. And, when needed, it calls them to repentance that sin may not have its way with them.

While this is true of his opening remarks, have you ever taken notice of his closing remarks? He is also very consistent in what he says when signing off and bidding them farewell. His most common final statement is, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." Blessing others with the grace of God is a fine and wonderful way to bid farewell. Whether it be the final time of communication or a departure in the morning until reuniting in the evening. To bless others with the grace of God is the language of love in the Holy Church.

Recently I was driving to an elders meeting that took me south on highway 218. It was a quiet afternoon drive until a vehicle was traveling over 100 miles an hour going north in the southbound



**Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders**  
District President  
Iowa District East—LCMS

lanes. I would have had no time to react to avoid the vehicle if it were in my lane. I am thankful it wasn't but very shortly after passing me (along with two county patrolmen in chase), another vehicle was in the path of the

oncoming vehicle. It was a fatal collision that seconds earlier, and ten feet closer, could have been me.

With this tragedy came the thought; What was the last thing I said to anyone that day, or that week? Did I bless them with God's grace? Did I wish them well? Did I say anything that revealed the fact I care for them? It is worth giving consideration to isn't it? Whether we depart from others not to see them again, or if it is from morning until evening, departing with the words of St. Paul to the church is the language of personal care and well wishes. Should those be the last words anyone hears from you, they would be sufficient to reflect what we believe and in Whom we believe.

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

Whether accidents occur or nature takes its toll, our desire is for the fellowship of the Holy Christian Church to dwell in the courts of the Lord's House forever. Until that time, it is a wonderful privilege to reflect our love for each other and appreciation for fidelity to the Faith and commitment to the church especially when struggles beset us.

Let your parting words with anyone you converse be the blessing of the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. These are the words with which I bestow upon you the reader of this article.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

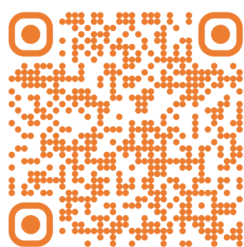
### About the Cover

Rev. John Wegener is interviewed for College Hill Lutheran Church’s mission video. Videos on various IDE mission areas were completed in 2024 including IDE Lutheran Schools, Campus Ministry, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, Deaf Ministry, and Church Plants. Scan the QR Code to the right or go to the IDE’s YouTube Channel or Facebook page to watch them now!



Scan/Click to Watch

### Theological Journal for the Church



Scan/Click to Sign Up

Iowa District East’s *Theological Journal for the Church* has returned! The intent and purpose of this theological journal was for the training and building up of the theological acumen of the laity in the IDE. The journal received positive feedback during its time in publication, both among the IDE’s clergy and laity. We are pleased to bring back this wonderful blessing for our Church after several years off.

### LCEF District Vice President Job Opening - Iowa District East/Iowa District West

We at the Iowa District East-LCMS would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to **Carole White** for her many years of wonderful service to our district, her congregations and ministries, and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)! May God bless her with many happy years ahead! That means there is a job posting for the LCEF District Vice President position that serves both Iowa District East - LCMS and Iowa District West - LCMS. For more information, scan the QR code.



**THANK YOU, CAROLE!**

The primary mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is to provide financial resources and related services for ministry, witness, and outreach of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). In so doing it shall raise funds primarily through the issuance of corporate notes and other debt instruments. Its assets shall be used exclusively for the following: To provide financing and services for the acquisition of sites; the construction of facilities; the purchase of buildings and equipment; operating expenses; professional church worker education; the residential housing needs of professional church workers; and other purposes approved by its governing board consistent with the ministry and mission of the Synod under policies approved by the Board of Directors of the Synod.

The role of District Vice President (DVP) acts as a relationship manager, working with LCMS congregations, schools, ministry partners and church workers by building relationships, identifying needs and proposing solutions where LCEF can provide financial and other resources to grow ministry in partnership with the district. This position’s geographic territory includes the state of Iowa.



SCAN/CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO ON LCEF POSITION



## New Pastors in the Iowa District East - LCMS

1. Pastor Isaiah Armbrecht was ordained and installed at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Manchester, IA on July 21, 2024. Pastor Armbrecht is originally from Williamsburg, IA, and comes to the IDE from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN after graduating and having also completed his STM. Welcome home to Iowa, Pastor Armbrecht!
2. Rev. John Dolde was installed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Mound, Iowa on October 20, 2024. Pastor Dolde traveled east on Highway 30 after having served as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids for the past few years.
3. Pastor Josiah Schultz (top of next page, center-left) was installed at St. John Lutheran Church in Keystone, IA on July 14, 2024. He was ordained earlier in the summer in Olathe, Kansas. He comes to the IDE straight from having graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Welcome, Pastor Schultz!



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4. Rev. Michael Manz (center-left) was installed as Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Newton, Iowa on Sunday, July 28. Pastor Manz has been a pastor for 15 years and has served congregations in various capacities including full-time, as a bi-vocational pastor, and as a vacancy pastor. He is passionate about teaching Bible classes and preaching, and he loves teaching confirmation. Welcome, Pastor Manz!



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5. Rev. Dr. John Stephenson was installed at Lutheran Living Communities- Vinton on July 16. He comes to the IDE from having served many years at Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada. He was the longest serving teacher in the seminary's history. Welcome, Pastor Stephenson!

**WELCOME, PASTORS!**



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## 140th Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church - Cedar Rapids

Trinity Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids celebrated her 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the weekend of August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Trinity was organized in August 1884 by Pastor Philip Studt of Luzerne. On November 24, 1884 classes began at Trinity Lutheran School. On April 12, 1885 Trinity became affiliated with the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod. Church services were held in German until 1918 when regular services in English began.

Trinity has been involved in the Cedar Rapids community throughout its history, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Good Friday and Easter services were held in the Strand Theater, several years at the Paramount Theater, and then at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum until the Flood of 2008. The Good Friday service is now held in the school gym with Easter services in the church sanctuary. The flooding of the Cedar River in 2008 devastated much of Cedar Rapids but not the church. Our church family was very involved in the immediate recovery efforts, joining with sister congregations to distribute essential household items to those impacted by flooding.

Trinity has worshiped at its present location since 1957 and recently went through a sanctuary update. The sanctuary was painted and stained, new floors were laid and others were refinished while we worshiped in the school gym.

A full year of celebration included former Pastors of Trinity returning as guest preachers and culminated with the formal Anniversary worship celebration. During the year, former Pastors

Doug Francik and Larry Lemke were guest preachers, as well as sons of the congregation Pastor John Mueller from Emmanuel Lutheran in Dwight, Illinois and Pastor Gary Timm from Our Savior in Bettendorf, Iowa. Iowa District East President Saunders was the guest preacher for the formal anniversary weekend and on Sunday morning a celebration meal was served following the service. A congregational picture was taken in the refurbished sanctuary with

*Continued on bottom of next page...*





## “God With Us” at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

In 2024, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca had the opportunity to teach campers about *God With Us*. Campers learned God was with His people in the Old Testament as well as during His life and ministry on earth, and how He is still with us, and loves us, today through His Word and the Sacraments. This is the same, unconditional, love that was shown for us when Jesus died upon the cross, the love that won for us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Registration for Summer Camp 2025 *With Open Arms* opens in late January 2025!



... **Trinity Lutheran continued...** congregational members wearing their 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirts. A program showcasing the history was shown during the meal and history displays were placed in the fellowship hall. Children of the congregation were able to enjoy time in a bounce house or play on the school playground. Three commemorative oak trees were planted on the east side of the church by the congregation.

As Trinity Lutheran School celebrates its 140<sup>th</sup> school year this year there are many plans in place to celebrate how God has blessed Trinity Lutheran School. Some of the tentative plans to celebrate the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Trinity Lutheran school are:

- November – All school drone picture in the shape of the numbers 140 Cup cakes at lunch; PE – 140 steps/sit ups/push up challenge
- December – 140 years of sharing the story of Christmas; January – Mid Winter tournament is celebrating its 60th year – alumni event; February – 140 reasons we LOVE our school wall display; March – National Lutheran Schools Week – 140 reasons/activities/verses; April – Send 140 cards to shut-ins, donors, former staff; May – something fun!

God has blessed Trinity Lutheran Church & School for 140 years and we pray that He will continue to provide for us.

*Submitted by Zach Rowley, Trinity Lutheran Church*



## Around the IDE

1. Harvey Peters is installed as Vicar at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls on Sunday, August 4 for the 2024-2025 year.
2. Also installed on August 4 was DCE Dalton Rau at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bettendorf as the Director of Youth Ministry. Dalton is a recent graduate of Concordia University Nebraska.
3. Rev. Steven Anderson of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Mound retired after shepherding the congregation for over 11 years. Immanuel had been blessed to have him as their pastor as he fed them with God's Word and Sacrament. The saints at Immanuel held a brunch after Divine Worship on Sunday, June 30 and presented them with an engraved rock with the Joshua 24:15 reference as he and his house has indeed served the Lord. He and Sara will be missed, and the congregation wishes them a happy and healthy retirement!
4. President Saunders and IDE Business Manager Ryan Johnson won the 2024 IDE Golf Outing held at Tara Hills Golf Course outside of Van Horne on June 24, 2024.





### IDE LERT Teams Bring Mercy to Iowa Flood Victims

In June of 2024, several Northwest Iowa communities were devastated by flooding, including several LCMS congregations and their members. Notably, the congregations of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hawarden and Christ the King Lutheran Church in Spencer were significantly damaged, as were the homes of 3 pastors and many members in those congregations. In response, LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) volunteers from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bettendorf (top left) and King of Kings Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids (top right) answered the call to aid our brothers and sisters in Christ in northwest Iowa. Both congregations are equipped with disaster response trailers and equipment and have volunteers skilled in flood recovery. In late July, the team from Bettendorf deployed to Spencer and can be seen here restoring the basement of a home (bottom right). Over September 13-15, the King of Kings LERT team deployed to Spencer and worked on 3 different homes installing insulation, drywall, and more (bottom left). Thanks be to God that both Christ the King in Spencer (on 12/15/2024) and Trinity Lutheran in Hawarden (on 9/1/2024) are back in their facilities and have now been able to resume worship services!





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## Congregations & LWML

1. The staff at Trinity Lutheran School began the 2024 academic year, with new teacher Hope Muehler (Concordia University Chicago) being installed and commissioned. Also honored was Mary Becker for the 50 year anniversary of her commissioning.
2. The Sunday School children at Trinity Lutheran Church, Conroy planted a tree at church to grow as does their love for Jesus Christ over the summer of 2024.
3. Community Lutheran School in Readlyn supported The Luke 2 Project by walking in the Readlyn Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 30, 2024! Every Friday in December the staff, students, and families were encouraged wear their Luke 2 shirts to school and out in the community sharing the Christmas story of our Savior's birth!
4. A parsonage renovation at St. John, Oskaloosa arose from a desire to communicate to their pastor that they want his focus to be on the Proclamation of the Gospel, the teaching of the faith to young and old, the visitation of the souls in need, and the engagement of our local community as an ambassador of the Gospel.



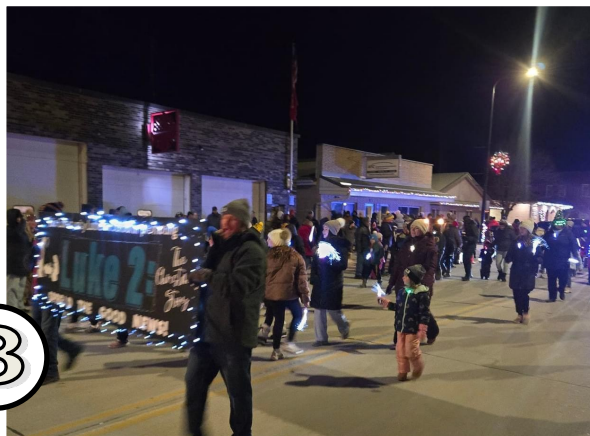
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At the July 2024 Voters meeting, the saints at St. John moved unanimously to complete the parsonage renovation project which included a complete remodel-



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el of the Entry/Kitchen/Dining/Living space. The demolition began on October 14, 2024. They removed a wall that separated the kitchen space from the primary living/dining space opening the entire space and added a large island with plenty of counter space for baking and eating. The project was completed on December 10, 2024.

Congregational President, Benjamin Vanderwilt, led discussions regarding these matters during a time when their pastor was receiving a Divine Call every month. The congregation wanted to put the best foot forward for their current a pastor and his family, in addition to considering the potential need to extend a Divine Call for a new pastor someday.



5. The Iowa East District LWML held their convention June 21-22, 2024 at the Cedar Rapids Radisson Hotel under the theme *Shout It Out! Praise the LORD!* based on Isaiah 12:5. The Convention was hosted by the Williamsburg and Westgate zones. They also adopted a 2024-2026 total mission goal of \$103,500 between scholarships and grants! Thanks be to God for the LWML and their continued support and their mighty mites!





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## More Events, Campus Ministry, & Disaster Response

1. The IDE Pastors' Wives Retreat took place November 1-2 with Kelly Schumacher of Agnus Dei Liturgical Arts presenting on Religious Art in the church. Around 25 ladies attended this year's retreat which also featured a watercolor painting session.
2. Pastor Caleb Schewe led the 2024 Fall Confirmation Retreat with over 90 people in attendance this year! The theme for this year's retreat was The Lord's Prayer.
3. The 2024 Fall Pastor's Conference took place over October 7-8, 2024 with Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger, President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis presenting on Genesis 1:1-11 Historical and Christological Perspectives. It was certainly a joy to host President Egger as he is a native of Muscatine, IA.
4. Rev Sawyer Meyer of Olive Branch, Mississippi led a Church Revitalization Workshop put on by the IDE Worship Committee on November 9. Nearly 40 people attended from 5 different LCMS districts to learn about how to revitalize, restore, or replant their congregation.



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5. A LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams) Chainsaw Training took place October 24-25 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. LERT leaders from King of Kings Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids (Don Church and Jason Koepnick) helped train 5 new chainsaw operators. Stay tuned for more information on more LERT classes for the Spring of 2025 if you have a desire to participate in disaster response!

6. Fall Fling at UNI featured Rev. Mark Preus from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church & Campus Center in Laramie, WY. Pastor Preus presentation was titled, "Lost in Translation: Teaching that Can Be Restored in Lutheran Hymns." College students gathered over October 18-20 and also featured a line/square dancing outing.

7. The new academic year kicked off at the University of Iowa and students were welcomed back by St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center at Pastor Mons' home. Later in the fall, the annual Luther Bowl game (bottom left) took place!



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## District Representatives

District President	Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
1st Vice President	Rev. W. Max Mons, S.T.M.
2nd Vice President	Rev. Michael Knox
Business/Office Manager	Ryan Johnson
Admin. Asst./Receptionist	Pam Krog
Communications/Tech/Events	Daniel Sanchez
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)

IOWA DISTRICT EAST - LCMS

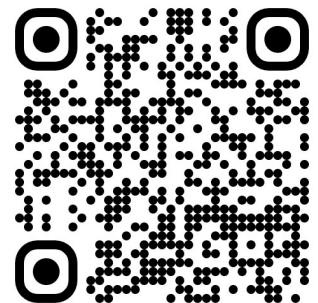
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**Submissions for the next edition are due May 24, 2025**



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