



PROFESSIONAL WORKER'S PACKET

Iowa District East—LCMS

April 2025

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IOWA DISTRICT EAST

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
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MARION IA 52302-3093

Phone: 319-373-2112



lcmside.org

President's Piece for Peace

April 25

Our regional Council of President's meeting is held each Spring in Sioux Falls S.D. At this meeting President Terry Forke of Montana was going to present a paper on "truth." Unfortunately, he had a funeral to conduct so he was not able to attend the COP meeting. So, he sent me his paper and asked me to present it to the group. It is never an easy task to present someone else's work, especially when they are of the brilliant caliber of a Terry Forke.

The paper was so thorough and informative, I thought I would share a few of his golden nuggets with you all. He begins by evaluating the many approaches to truth used in academia today. I will only list them: Correspondence theory, Pragmatic theory, Scientific theory, Private theory and Mystical theory. All of which are of human origin and process that ultimately are "subject to change." That is the fundamental problem with human oriented notions of truth.

Truth is not, nor can it be, of human origin if it wants to have any credibility at all. In fact, anything of human origin is not of divine truth, it is falsehood (which is the opposite of truth.) Truth cannot be founded on human reason and observation for 4 reasons. 1. Our powers of observation are damaged by sin. 2. Our reason is damaged by sin. 3. We have not received a promise from God that we will be able to know His creation as it really is. 4. We are particularly susceptible to the attacks of Satan.

The foundation of truth is and only is Christ Jesus Himself. No less than 28 times in the Gospel of John alone Jesus says, "I tell you the truth." He tells the truth because He is the truth. Nothing false ever did or could come from His mouth. He is the eternal Son of God; "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Jesus is the Word of God. Since He is the Word, and He is truth, the Holy Scriptures are the truth, our truth now and forever.

The foundation of truth is and only is Christ Jesus Himself.

It is not unusual that I run into situations (usually of complaint against someone) that someone just wants a chance to tell me "their truth." What that means is they want a chance to speak against someone without there being any chance of rebuttal or correction. I wonder how that notion of truth meshes with Matthew 18:15 that directs us to meet with anyone, and initially with them alone, of whom we have complaint? It doesn't.

There is no "my truth." Truth is not subjective, it is objective. The source of truth is the Word of God in all of its divine authorship. It is that truth that sets us free. "Thy Word is truth" says the Scriptures. Whose word? God's Word revealed in Jesus Christ.

This paper is a masterpiece with so much more in it than I have revealed in this article. President Forke directs us away from ourselves and into the objective reality that can only be known because God reveals it for the sake of Truth guiding, directing, and saving our lives from the consequence of sin and death. In the Truth we have Life, and we have it to the full.

God keep us in the Truth for it is credible and trustworthy.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Vacancy Updates

As of 3.31.25

April 25

Calling Congregations

Cedar Rapids, Trinity (Associate)

Fairbank, St. John

Jesup, Grace

Garrison, St. Mark

Shellsburg, Zion

Lacona, St. Paul

Mechler-Dallas, St. John

Marengo, St. John

Marion, St. Paul - Senior Pastor

North Liberty, St. Silas

Waverly (Artesian) - St. Paul

Ronnie Koch (Vacancy Pastor)

David Hasselbrook (Vacancy Pastor)

Tim Bickel

Thomas Van Hemert (Vacancy Pastor)

Nathan Knaus (Vacancy Pastor)

Daniel Krueger (Vacancy Pastor)

Dean Rothchild (Vacancy Pastor)

George Volkert (Vacancy Pastor)

Pastor Calls

Accepted: Jesse Schlie, Jefferson City, MO

St. John, Denver

Pending: Nathan Wille, Trinity—Clinton

St. John, Marengo

Sean Hansen, St. Paul—Mt. Vernon

Our Savior—Zephyrhills, FL

Declined: Jesse Schlie, Jefferson City, MO

St. John, Marengo

Michael Erickson, Bethany, Cedar Rapids

Immanuel, Charleston, IL

Kevin Richter, St. John, Reinbeck

Our Savior, Minot, ND

Commissioned Calls

Accepted: Aaron Huesmann, Indianapolis, IN

Central Lutheran School, Newhall (Music)

Lynn Casselman, Gilbert, AZ

St. Paul, Eldora/Good Sherd Lutheran
Preschool Teacher

Pending: Jeremy Brey, St. John—Mayville, WI

Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport
MS History

Sarah Brey, St. John's—Mayville, WI

Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport
5th Grade

Robert Lunak, Milwaukee—WI

Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport
Principal

Declined: Kyle Klemp, Wahiawa, HI

Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids
(Principal)

Vacancy Updates

As of 3.31.25

April 25

Commissioned Openings

Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids	Principal, Assistant Principal, Interim Principal PT Curriculum, PT Counselor
Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport	Principal, 4th Grade Teacher, 5th Grade Teacher
Valley Lutheran School , Cedar Falls	3rd Grade Teacher, MS & HS LA/Drama
Central Lutheran School, Newhall	4th Grade Teacher
Little Blessings Preschool, Davenport	Early Childhood Director

Directory Updates

April 25

The IDE Directory is now available at LCMSIDE.ORG. Viewing the directory requires a member registration at the IDE website. Please email any contact updates to pam@lcmside.org. If you wish to update pictures for the directory profile pages, please send those to dsanchez@lcmside.org.

Please take some time to watch the tutorial video to learn how to register, login, and navigate the directory from your computer or mobile device: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swPqgszcJ6o>

Calendar of Events

April

5	LERT Disaster Response Training	IDE Office
18	Good Friday	IDE Office Closed
29	IDE Board of Directors	IDE Office
29	Call Day—CTSFW	Ft. Wayne
30	Call Day—CSL	St. Louis

May

2-3	LERT Disaster Response Chainsaw Training	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
8	IDE Floor Committee MTNG	IDE Office
26	Memorial Day	IDE Office Closed

June

27-28	IDE-LCMS District Convention	Radisson Hotel—Cedar Rapids
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Due to a construction project at the Cedar Rapids Radisson, registration for the Iowa District East—LCMS Convention has been delayed. We are currently determining the impacts of the construction project on the necessary convention spaces and the available rooms. We are optimistic the convention will still be held at the Cedar Rapids Radisson, and are securing the final details needed prior to launching registration and collecting fees. Our target date for launching registration is April 21. We will also release the workbook at or before this time. Thank you for your understanding.

(bah-da bah-da-da-da)* Monday, Monday!

April 25

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb.

Mark 16:1,2

If you were around in 1966 (yes, some of us were) you heard the hit song by The Mamas and The Papas entitled "Monday Monday". You might want to check this song out on the internet. It is quite catchy.

Mondays....Oh those Mondays. The song declares: *Monday "Won't go away" and what it brings is "here to stay."* Though the song is about a man whose girl leaves him on a Monday, many people who have a Monday through Friday job, hate Monday mornings because it means grudgingly going back to work.

Monday means the weekend is over and when our alarms go off (the one in our head or the one on the nightstand) it means time to get up and get at 'em. For this is the first day of the work week.



On their first day of the week, when everyone got back into their normal routine, the two Mary's and Salome got up early, just after sunrise Mark tells us, to accomplish a very unpleasant task. They traveled to the tomb to better prepare our Lord's lifeless body for the sleep of death. Oh, sure, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, actually buried Jesus. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds, and Joseph wrapped our Lord's body with strips of cloth and these spices. Then they rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

But this was a rush burial. Now that Passover was over the women came back "to do it right". Not a fun task for the first day of the week, but it had to be done.

Okay, we all know the surprise these three devout women experienced and how that surprise changed everything and everyone.

But still ... you have Mondays. Every seven days you have a Monday. And for the most part they aren't fun. As the song says "*Monday 'Won't go away' and what it brings is 'here to stay.'*"

What does your Monday bring? All those papers that need grading, or at least reviewing, still piled on your desk, where you left them last Friday afternoon, as you were so eager to "get out of here and start the weekend". OR those smiling mischievous faces of a special few who are all charged up from two days off, ready to exhibit their creative pranks for another five days? OR that lonely child, you alone know what she is going through because she confided in you and you promised to check in with her and keep her in your prayers. Yes, it is true, Monday "*Won't go away" and what it brings is "here to stay."*

So let's go back to Mark 16. What did Monday bring to those three devoted women? That's right! The joy of Easter! The joy of life! The joy that this world isn't "the end" of anything! The joy and honor of being the first to carry the greatest message the world every has or ever will hear! The joyful message "He Lives! He has risen from the Dead!" That joy is "*here to stay*".

(bah-da bah-da-da)* Monday, Monday!

April 25

Okay all you teachers and administrators and para-professionals and pastors...this message is now your message! First of all, let the Spirit work through this great Easter message to daily transform your Mondays (and for that matter the other six days as well) from gloom and sadness and boredom to one of rejoicing and hope, and peace, and assurance. As the Spirit works this message into every cell and fiber of your being, then share it through your thoughts, words and actions, and personality with your students. For that very special First day of the week is here to stay.

* (bah-da bah-da-da). If you know the song "Monday Monday" you just have to include these syllables with the tune!

Jan Doellinger

Assistant to the President, Schools

We are so grateful for your dedication and support of the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. Last year we raised over \$600,000 which will be used to support students in the 2024-2025 school year. Our new goal for 2024 is \$1,148,202 which is based on the number of tax credits available. Your generous donation is eligible for a 75% tax credit on Iowa state taxes.

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IOWALUTHERANSTO.COM



SUFFERING AND THE RESURRECTION

Posted on March 20, 2025 by Rev. Jonathan Conner

Submitted by Iowa District East Life Coordinator Rev. Alex Post



Believing And Speaking The Resurrection Into Our Suffering

Tucked into Paul's second letter to the Corinthians are two verses of profound significance for Christians journeying through affliction and suffering. They're worth memorizing. Paul writes,

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence (2 Corinthians 4:13-14).

Looking To God's Promises In Our Suffering

The Apostle Paul reaches back into this text and pulls it into his present context (thereby showing us how to lasso Scripture and bring it into our contexts). Paul had experienced great affliction (see the verses referenced below) and he found solace and solidarity in the confessed faith of the saints who had gone before him. What's happening here is really important to appreciate. Paul is showing us that Christ-confessors (i.e. Christians) share the same faith as the Old Testament saints. We worship the same God, confess the same Lord, and we celebrate the same promises. The only difference is that the Old

Testament saints looked forward to the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ. We look back to them (even as we too look forward to those yet to be fulfilled in the Last Day resurrection).

Paul begins his letter to the Corinthians by sharing the severity of the suffering he and his companions had endured:

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

It was so bad that they despaired of life. Maybe you've been there. You've gone through deep affliction or dark suffering. Perhaps you're going through it now – a betrayal, a diagnosis, a tragedy, a financial blow, a mental break. What do you do when the darkness comes? That's the question Paul is answering.

Confidence In Christ In Our Suffering And Resurrection

So he writes, "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe, and so we also speak..." In other words, because we share the same faith as God's Old Testament saints, we make the same bold confession of confidence in our Lord. What is Paul's confession?

[We know] that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

Paul is shining the blazing light of God's Gospel promise in Jesus into his darkest moments and encouraging us to do likewise. He's saying, "Here, friend, bring this light into your shadowy sorrows. It will give you hope." So he confidently asserts, "We know..." He doesn't say, "We hope, we wish, we think this might be the case." He says, "We know." Just like the psalmist, Paul is speaking confidently of God's goodness and of his certainty in God's saving actions. And Paul sees those saving actions clearly displayed in the resurrection of Jesus and its implications for us...

A Great Reunion Coming

But look what Paul adds to it. He is confident that when God raises him and the Corinthian Christians (and us), that God is going to "bring us with you into his presence." There's so much hope packed into this! In addition to being raised in imperishable, glorified, powerful, and Holy Spirit empowered bodies (see 1 Corinthians 15:42-44), Paul is confident that God is going to bring believers together. In other words, there's a great reunion coming!

Those who have confessed Christ and have been separated by death are going to be reunited. Parents, children, spouses, siblings, friends – we are going to be reunited – and Jesus is going to be there with us. Having been a pastor for over 20 years, I have stood at the graveside and wept with many dear families. We have grieved our dead together, but think about what Paul is saying: In the resurrection we will be able to celebrate our reunion together! Doesn't this make your heart soar with hope?

Identity In The Resurrection

But there's another promise baked into Paul's confident confession of Christ. Look at his pronouns: *us* and *you*. Paul has specific people in mind, people he knew personally and cared about. Here's why that's important: God isn't going to raise generic, identity-less people. He's going to raise specific people who have confessed Christ, people you know, people for whom you care deeply.

Here's the point: Paul is assuming our identities are retained in the resurrection. You are going to be you forever. Your loved ones are going to be your loved ones forever. The things that make you unique and beautiful and the things that make your loved ones unique and beautiful will be redeemed and be shot through with the glory of God. In the resurrection we won't lose our identities – we will lose our sin nature! – but our identities will be retained even as they are glorified and made more beautiful by Christ.

This is the promise Paul is exhorting us to lasso into our present darkness. He knows exactly how deep the darkness can get – he was there! – but he also knows that because Jesus has risen from the dead and is coming back to raise us too, the darkness is not eternal. Life and light in Christ are. This is why Easter means so much to us. It is God's emphatic declaration and promise that He has and will banish the darkness and bless us with life and light forever. Believe and speak this into your suffering. – Pastor Conner

Read the full article here:

<https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/2025/03/sufferingandresurrection/>

If you or someone you know would benefit from Christ-centered mental health counseling, refer to or contact us today.

- Call: 515-573-3138
- 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.

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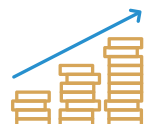
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Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



April 2025

Summer- Coming Soon!

Summer Camp

Registrations are continuing to come in, so don't hesitate to reserve your spot for this summer! Our early registration discount runs until May 1. We are excited for the upcoming summer camp season and look forward to sharing the gospel with all who attend! However, we are still in need of counselors. Camp counselors lead their cabin group in all of the various camp activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, Bible study, and more! For more information on becoming a camp counselor, go to campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/staff/ or contact Program Director, Alec Deppe at 319-848-4187 or programdirector@iodiseca.org.



Summer Camp

Iowa District East Theological Symposium

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is excited to be hosting this year's IDE Theological Symposium from May 21-23, 2025. **The theme is Sexually Pure and Decent: Reflections on the 6th Commandment.** The Symposium is a theologically enriching event for pastors, church-workers, and lay-people! More information on the schedule, registration, presenters, and how to support the Symposium, will be available soon at campiodiseca.org/idesymposium/!



Symposium Info
&
Registration

SPRING CLEANUP: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Saturday, May 3 from 9AM - 4PM

On May 3rd, join us here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as we get things ready to go for a busy summer camp season. We're going to clean up Mary and Joseph Cabins and across the main site, including clearing some trees and branches. Weather permitting, we will look to do some work around the horse arena as well!

We'll have tasks for people of all ages, so you can bring the whole family! Plus, lunch is included! Email sitemanager@iodiseca.org to let us know that you are coming. We appreciate your help in making Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca beautiful for the upcoming year!



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? Interim Director Dylan Lampe and Program Director Alec Deppe are available to speak to congregations and groups about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's mission, facilities, and programs. Call 319-848-4187 to schedule a speaker!



THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2024, 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 2025 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!



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Needs List

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper; First Class Postage Stamps; Batteries: 9v, AA, AAA; Cleaning Supplies: disinfecting wipes, all-purpose cleaner. **Please see our web site for a complete list: www.campiodiseca.org.**

Important Dates

May 1
*Registration Discount
Deadline #2*

May 3
Spring Cleanup!

May 21-23
IDE Theological Symposium

June 11
1st Day of Summer Camp

July 26
*I Believe in Camp Fundraiser
Auction*

Junior Counselors

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca also needs **Junior Counselors** (JC's) to assist with the summer program. Applicants should be at least **15 years old**. JCs spend the week with a cabin group, enjoying the many camp activities and serving as a positive role model and motivator for younger campers while helping the cabin counselors supervise younger campers. It's a great experience for only \$100 per week. Please contact Program Director Alec Deppe by emailing programdirector@iodiseca.org for more information or to receive an application.



Junior Counselor
Application



[Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca](https://www.facebook.com/CampIoDisEca)



[@campiodiseca](https://www.instagram.com/campiodiseca)

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

Lutheran Church Eastside Mission

Annual Report 2024

Message from Mission Chair Amy Dawson ~

This past year was an exciting time at the Mission! The generosity of our donors helped support our various programs and events. We appreciate our donors and always strive to be good stewards of their donations. Please see a list of our accomplishments on the second page.

Our theme throughout 2024 was “A Renewed Vision” in which we tried to incorporate into all of our events. God has continued to meet us where we are giving us all a renewed hope.

As we embark on a new year, we will continue our partnerships with currently established organizations. However, we are also asking God to help us acquire new partnerships and community opportunities.

Another goal for 2025 is to expand our food pantry. We feel we are located in a food desert, and many of the people who frequent our Wednesday pantry ask us for other items.

Again, thank you for a great year, and we look forward to an even greater 2025!



Mission Statement ~

...so that all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:4

Thank
You

Thank You to our Donors ~

We, at Eastside Mission, are eternally grateful to everyone who has supported us in our efforts to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Davenport's inner city. We appreciate your efforts more than you know, and we would like to thank those individuals, churches and organizations who went above and beyond in supporting us.

A special thank you to Mission attendees who collectively donated \$927.17 in support of their Mission.

Jeff & Linda Anderson

Kay Berry

Kyle & Aticia Coney

Brian & Amy Dawson

Vivian Sue George

Harlan & Lois Kundel

Nick & Dixie Lewis

Marty & Jeannie Mirfield

Timothy Raleigh

Scot & Karen Schaar

Stan & Cindy Stanfield

Rev. Andy & Dawn Watkins

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Davenport, Ia.

Iowa District East, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

LWML Iowa East District

LWML IED Davenport Zone, Ia.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, Ia.

Park View Lutheran Church, Eldridge, Ia.

Risen Christ Lutheran Church, Davenport, Ia.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Geneseo, Ill.

Rev. Dr. Andrew Watkins, Pastor - (302) 858-2851

Follow us on  @facebook.com/LESM.IDE

805 Tremont Avenue, Davenport, IA 52803

(563) 323-6812

EastSideMissionDav@gmail.com

Accomplishments

Our most exciting and happiest moments at the Mission in 2024 have been celebrating ~

- 24 baptisms, souls brought into God's kingdom during the past **two** years.
- 18 children who attended our VBS.
- 6 children we were able to send to Grace Lutheran Church Camp.
- the many people and organizations we have assisted through our bread and pastries giveaway.
- the Lord's supper with those who attend our Monday evening service.
- with the children who attended our Kids for Christ program.
- with those who joined us during our Open House.
- pumpkin decorating.
- kids Christmas Shop and Wrap.
- children's Christmas program.
- community clean up recognition.



**Thank you donors for making
all this possible!**

Donations

The Mission gladly accepts donations and Thrivent Choice Dollars to support our ministries and programs.

Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to help with Mission needs and projects.

Staff and/or volunteers would be happy to help with the process to set up and lead an Action Team for the Mission.

If you can help, donations can be mailed to the address below or if you have questions, please contact us. Thank you!



Meet our Board Members ~

Amy Dawson, Chair, Immanuel
Karen Schaar, Vice Chair/Acting Secretary, Park View
Lois Kundel, Treasurer, Immanuel
Tim Petersen, Financial Secretary, St. Paul's
Jeff Anderson, Member, Risen Christ
Aticia Coney, Member, Eastside Mission
Dixie Lewis, Member, Our Savior
Rev. Dr. Andrew Watkins, Pastor



Rev. Dr. Andrew Watkins, Pastor - (302) 858-2851

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10 Ways To Welcome A Church Worker

by Rev. Dave Gunderson, tLMFT



The new pastor and his wife arrived to their first church located in a rural area. They were met by the church president, who explained to the pastor that the congregation had wanted to paint the inside of the parsonage, but they also had to get into the fields for early planting. The president then added, “Maybe this works better because now you and your wife can select the colors you want.”

After a couple of days, the pastor called the church president and asked, “My installation is a week away and we have some extra time. Maybe my wife and I could do some of the painting ourselves?” The church leader agreed and told them to go to the local hardware store and charge everything to the church.

The next day the pastor contacted the church president and asked, “We picked up the paint and supplies, but the ceilings are very tall, does the church have anything we can use?” The church leader replied, “Yes, in the church basement there are some sawhorses and in the garage are some boards, they would work for you.”

Unfortunately, the church leader didn't tell the pastor that there were sawhorses that the ladies used for their quilting work and there were old sawhorses in the storage room. The sawhorses used by the ladies were out in the open, and that's what the pastor used, and sadly they ended up with paint on them.

Two years later, some elders called on a lady member of the church who hadn't attended church or anything led by the new pastor. When the elders called on her, she responded by saying, "Anyone who would ruin our church property like he did has no business in the ministry."

This true story illustrates how a bad beginning can create difficulty in a church worker's ministry. What could that congregation have done differently? What could any church do to help make a church worker's ministry begin on a more positive note? Here are ten ways to welcome a new church worker.

1. Clear communication between pastor/church worker and congregation is critical.

Continual conversations between pastor and church leadership, plus church leadership needs to keep church members informed on what is happening concerning pastor/church worker's arrival, installation service, and other related items. Clear communication is essential.

2. Don't assume the pastor or church worker automatically knows everything about the church's traditions, history and customs that have been going on for decades.

3. If the church has a parsonage/teacherage, make sure the place is ready for them on day one.

This includes making sure appliances, furnace, and air conditioner are working or replaced if necessary. Having the house completely cleaned and any painting done before the church worker arrives. (The worker can change colors later if they want.)

4. Create a church worker support team.

This group should include at least one or two church elders, and two other members who are concerned about the overall welfare of the pastor/church worker and their family. A good description of this group can be found in [*Holding Up the Prophet's Hand: Supporting Church Workers* by Dr. Bruce Hartung](#).

5. Welcome the new church worker with gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores.

Instead of a food shower, have members give gift cards or cash gifts that allow the church worker to try some of the local restaurants and stores.

6. Have someone in the congregation give the pastor/church worker a tour of the community.

This tour can include the church worker's family and end with a meal at a local hang out or maybe a nice picnic at the local park.

7. In the first few months of the pastor/church worker's arrival, take time to stop by the office for a short visit in order to introduce yourself.

Consider inviting the pastor/church worker to your own home for a visit, or take them out for coffee or lunch. One might even consider inviting the church worker and their family over for a nice dinner or backyard barbecue.

8. Respect boundaries established by pastor/church worker and their families.

Supper time, evening hours, and days off are to be respected and protected by the congregation. (Only in case of an immediate emergency should one contact the church worker.) Allowing the pastor/church worker time with family will benefit the church worker and the congregation. If the parsonage belongs to the congregation that does not entitle any member including church leaders to stop by and invade the home. Proper respect includes setting up a time with the family for a visit or if repairs are needed.

9. Talk to them, not about them.

When the church worker/pastor does or says something that seems odd, before one speaks poorly about them (like the lady condemning the pastor over his use of sawhorses) take time to visit with them about the issue and share your concerns. In the 8th commandment, Luther says:

“We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.”

When something good is happening in the church, share your joy with the church worker/pastor. If the church worker or their family experience a blessing (like their oldest child scoring the winning touchdown) take the time to congratulate them. If you like the sermon, tell the pastor. Church workers need words of encouragement just like everyone else.

10. Participate and Pray!

Participating in worship services, Bible studies and church activities is a great way of showing support to the workers God has called to serve the congregation. It is also a great way to grow in one's relationship with our Lord and with fellow members. **Praying for those God has called to share the Good news of salvation in Jesus Christ is one of the joyful services all members can do!**

If you as a church worker (or that special church worker in your life) are in need of Christ-centered mental health or marriage counseling, contact us today.

- Angela Kollbaum, LIMHP, CPC, DCE
- Call: [402-644-8048](tel:402-644-8048)
- Email: AKollbaum@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.

**Upholding the Prophet's Arms and Having His Back
2025 Elder's Training Workshop**

*Saturday, April 5, 2025
9:30 – 2:30*

St. John's Lutheran Church
Monticello, IA
Iowa District East: Restoring Orthodoxy to the East

Presented by Rev. Max Mons of St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and
University Center

Session I: Faithful Membership and Encouraging Inactives

What is the purpose of a church membership list, for it must serve more than a yearly report for the Annual Rosters and Statistics. This session will address the godly intent of membership lists, drawn from the Scriptures. Then, this session will give steps for faithfully bringing back the wayward. Finally, this session will answer the hard questions of what to do with those names who will not come home.

Session II: The Head of the Household Shall Teach His Family

The man wants to lead his family around the Word of God and prayer. When that's never been the practice, how do you start doing it, and how to you keep it up? What are the most time-tested resources to use? What can a man do in the home to bolster what the pastor is doing from the altar and pulpit?

Session III: The Pastor's Wife

What does the pastor's wife wish the elder's knew, but she won't tell them?

Session IV: Questions and Further Conversation

Schedule for the Day

9:30 Matins
10:00 Session 1
10:45 break
11:00 Session 2
11:45 - 12:30 meal
12:30 - 1:15 Session 3
1:30 - 2:15 Session 4
2:15 Responsive Prayer 2

This event is free of charge. A meal will be provided at no cost.

Freewill Donation

** A freewill donation will be collected for the 2025 Iowa District East Apollos Lectures Preaching Workshop. This year, Rev. Todd Pepperkorn from the Fort Wayne Seminary will present. **

Monday, October 20, 2025

The Apollos Lectures

*THE APOLLOS LECTURES IN PREACHING.
EQUIPPING THE PREACHER TO BE ELOQUENT AND
COMPETENT IN THE SCRIPTURES.*

IOWA EAST LLL DISTRICT CONVENTION

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace ...*

1 PETER 4:10

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

St. Paul Lutheran Church

915 27th Street • Marion, IA 52302

9:00 a.m. Registration opens

10:00 a.m. Convention begins

4:00 p.m. Convention concludes



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour*®

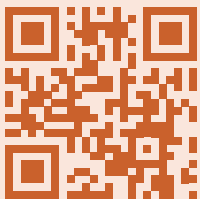
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

Iowa District East LCMS Update

Iowa District East LWML Update

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

\$18 per person - Includes lunch



Register at
lhm.org/iowaeast-lll
or scan the QR code with
your mobile device!

Registration Deadline: April 20, 2025

Learn how you can CONNECT to people ...



GLOBALLY

More than 3 BILLION people have yet to hear the saving message of Jesus Christ!



DIGITALLY

Every month, the question of "Who is Jesus?" is Googled 2.7 MILLION times!



LOCALLY

Imagine the impact of MILLIONS of Christians around the world loving their neighbors!

For more information or questions, please contact:

Allen Schmid, Iowa District East LLL District President: allenschmid@hotmail.com

Richard Hoelz, IDE LLL Treasurer: rahoelz@imonmail.com • (319) 363-1214

OR JOIN US

for a memorable afternoon as two distinguished
Lutheran Pastors present:

What is driving the decline in U.S. church attendance?

**The widespread availability of online church services:
pros and cons**

(L) Rev. Thomas C. Van Hemert
St. John Lutheran, Center Point, IA

(R) Rev. Stephen K. Preus
Trinity Lutheran, Vinton, IA



WHEN: Sunday, April 27, 2025, 4pm to 6pm

WHERE: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 904 Bluff St, Cedar Falls, IA

We will allow plenty of time for questions and comments from those in attendance.

**Our Redeemer
Lutheran**
Community Outreach





Dr. John Stephenson

The Rev. Dr. John Raymond Stephenson, a native of Hartlepool, England, holds a BA and MA from Oxford University (1974, 1982), a Diploma in Theology from Cambridge University (1975), and a PhD from Durham University (1983). He was ordained in 1985 and served Escarpment Lutheran Church, Lewiston, New York, before joining the Canadian Lutheran Theological Seminary faculty in St. Catharines, Ontario. He is the author of *The Lord's Supper* and *Eschatology* in the

Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics series, is the translator of Wilhelm Löhe's *Aphorisms Old and New*, and has published more than eighty journal articles.

The Lord's Supper

A review, critique, and application of the instructor's *The Lord's Supper* (2003) and subsequent writings on the doctrine and practice of the Sacrament of the Altar.

Location

Trinity Lutheran Church
1002 E. 13th St.
Vinton, IA 52349

Coordinator

Rev. Stephen Preus
Phone: (319) 457-0638
Email: stephenpreus@gmail.com

Schedule

Class begins each day at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 12:00 p.m. on the last day.



6600 North Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
ctsfw.edu

Vinton, Iowa

July 7-9, 2025

The Lord's Supper

Dr. John Stephenson

Please return this completed form with your check (made payable to CTSFW) to: Concordia Theological Seminary, ATTN: Continuing Education, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Title (please circle): Dr. Rev. Deac. Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Email _____

Category	Price	Qty.	Amount
1.5 CEU course for pastors/professional church workers	\$175 x	_____ =	_____
1.5 CEU course for retired pastors/laypersons	\$125 x	_____ =	_____
CTSFW students/CTSFW vicars (Contact LeeAnna Rondot at CE@ctsfw.edu or by phone to register.)	\$0 x	_____ =	_____
1.5 CEU course for CTSFW vicarage/fieldwork supervisors (Contact LeeAnna Rondot at CE@ctsfw.edu or by phone to register.)	\$0 x	_____ =	_____

Name(s) of vicar/fieldworker(s): _____

ADDITIONAL CLASS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register by phone with credit card:
Contact LeeAnna Rondot at (260) 452-2204.

Register online:
Go to ctsfw.edu/CE/Vinton-Iowa.

Additional information about this class (including accommodations):
Rev. Stephen Preus
Phone: (319) 457-0638
Email: stephenpreus@gmail.com

More Continuing Education classes:
Visit our website at ctsfw.edu/CE.

Continuing Education opportunities:
LeeAnna Rondot
Administrative Assistant—Continuing Education
Phone: (260) 452-2204
Email: CE@ctsfw.edu

Dr. Jeffrey Pulse
Director of Continuing Education
Email: Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu
Phone: (260) 452-2273



Dr. David Petersen

The Rev. Dr. David H. Petersen became pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 2000. He earned a BS in history from Central Michigan University. He also earned a Master of Divinity, a Master of Sacred Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Petersen is a regular guest on Issues, Etc. and a contributing editor to *Gottesdienst: The Journal of Lutheran Liturgy*, where he writes both for the print journal and the blog. He also writes occasionally for *The Lutheran Witness*.

He and his wife, Jacqui, have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Twenty-First Century Preaching: Gleaning Method—Luther, Gerhard, Walther

In this class we will walk through Johann Gerhard’s methodology for preaching as well as that of early Missouri. We will compare this to classical rhetorical training as encapsulated in Cicero. Finally, we will walk through some of Luther’s and Walther’s preaching to see how they fit this same pattern.

Location

Redeemer Lutheran Church
301 S. Main St.
Ventura, IA, 50482

Coordinator

Rev. Jesse Burns
Phone: (712) 260-1070
Email: pastorburns10@protonmail.com

Schedule

Class begins at 9:00 a.m. each morning and ends at 12:00 p.m. the last day



6600 North Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
ctsfw.edu

Ventura, Iowa

July 22–24, 2025

Twenty-First Century Preaching: Gleaning Method—Luther, Gerhard, Walther

Dr. David Petersen

Please return this completed form with your check (made payable to CTSFW) to: Concordia Theological Seminary, ATTN: Continuing Education, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Title (please circle): Dr. Rev. Deac. Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Email _____

Category	Price	Qty.	Amount
1.5 CEU course for pastors/professional church workers	\$175 x	_____ =	_____
1.5 CEU course for retired pastors/laypersons	\$125 x	_____ =	_____
CTSFW students/CTSFW vicars <i>(Contact LeeAnna Rondot at CE@ctsfw.edu or by phone to register.)</i>	\$0 x	_____ =	_____
1.5 CEU course for CTSFW vicarage/fieldwork supervisors <i>(Contact LeeAnna Rondot at CE@ctsfw.edu or by phone to register.)</i>	\$0 x	_____ =	_____
Name(s) of vicar/fieldworker(s): _____			

ADDITIONAL CLASS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register by phone with credit card:
Contact LeeAnna Rondot at (260) 452-2204.

Register online:
Go to ctsfw.edu/CE/Ventura-Iowa.

Additional information about this class (including accommodations):
Rev. Jesse Burns
Phone: (712) 260-1070
Email: pastorburns10@protonmail.com

More continuing education classes:
Visit our website at ctsfw.edu/CE.

Continuing Education opportunities:
LeeAnna Rondot
Administrative Assistant—Continuing Education
Phone: (260) 452-2204
Email: CE@ctsfw.edu

Dr. Jeffrey Pulse
Director of Continuing Education
Email: Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu
Phone: (260) 452-2273

Submissions for the next edition of the Professional Workers' Packet are due
April 24, 2025.

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.