



# PROFESSIONAL WORKER'S PACKET

Iowa District East—LCMS

May 2025

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**IOWA DISTRICT EAST**

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
1100 BLAIRS FERRY RD  
MARION IA 52302-3093

Phone: 319-373-2112



**lcmside.org**

# President's Piece for Peace

May 25

The Easter Season is the anchor of the Festival half of the Church Year. From Advent to the season of Holy Trinity, all the readings flow from out of this most blessed of seasons. It is the season of the marvelous truth that Jesus has overcome sin, death, and the Devil with His resurrection from the dead. Darkness gives way to light; death gives way to Life. Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life.”

That message is tireless to the ears of the hurting conscience. And hurting is the conscience of the sinner. It is good for us to delight in the Easter message because it was and is so necessary for our salvation. I will show you just how much in a very familiar text that sometimes doesn't get the full attention of what it is saying to us. I refer to Isaiah 53:4-5 for starters.

Verse 4 tells us about our condition in the flesh. We are “sickly”, that is what infirmities are. Our entire life is lived infected with the virus of “iniquity” and “transgression.” The Hebrew word for iniquity is a gavel coming down by the judge with a guilty verdict even before we are able to open our mouths to speak. There are no excuses, no explanations, no bargaining. The Hebrew word for transgression is willful disobedience. While we may know what is right and wrong, good or bad, what God's Word says and how it guides our actions; the Old Adam in us does not care. It does what it wants because of our desire for personal pleasure determined by what we think we like. All of which results in the fruit of sorrow.

So, what does Easter have to do with that? It is what Jesus got because of all that verse 4 identifies about us. He got “stricken”, “smitten”, and “afflicted”. Once again, the Hebrew goes deeper than the English. To be stricken is to be beaten so severely that every human eye would notice the vicious manner in which discipline was carried out. To be smitten is to have something smeared on you with disastrous effect. The iniquities and transgressions of all mankind were smeared on Jesus as He hung on the cross such that He became the guiltiest of all mankind. To be afflicted is to be humbled. Jesus, who sat at the right hand of the Father from eternity entered humiliation. He who sat On High, became the lowest of beings, the Suffering Servant for the fallen. What did Jesus get for being our substitute? Punishment!

***It is the season of the marvelous truth that Jesus has overcome sin, death, and the Devil with His resurrection from the dead.***

What do we get because He substituted for us? “By His stripes we are healed.” To be wounded by stripes to say that the instrument applying the punishment entered His flesh so deep that it became one with Him. That is why St. Paul says, “He who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God.” We are healed. To be healed is the word for darning a hole in a sock. It is the repair of that which is broken, the stitching together of that which had been torn apart.

We are healed, reconciled back with God the Father because of Jesus Christ. His death, burial, and resurrection seal for us the Father's kindly countenance upon the fallen. Pentecost will describe for us just how the benefits that Jesus earned become ours. Pentecost will bring the merits of Jesus to the recipient by God's grace. That will be the topic for the next article.

God bless you all and may His Eternal Peace pacify the guilty conscience. May His resurrection joy prove beyond all doubt that He is the Lord of Life, indeed, your Lord of Life.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders  
District President

# Vacancy Updates

As of 4.28.25

May 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:

Pending: Paul Preus, Ellendale, ND

St. John, Marengo

Daryn Bahn, Beatrice, NE

Trinity, Cedar Rapids (Associate)

Declined: Nathan Wille, Trinity—Clinton

St. John, Marengo

Sean Hansen, St. Paul—Mt. Vernon

Our Savior—Zephyrhills, FL

Joel Picard, Trinity—Knoxville

Zion—Mondovi, WI

## Commissioned Calls

Accepted: Rachel Meyer, Trinity—Davenport

Trinity—Racine, WI

Joel Kilgus, Green Valley, IL

Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport  
Principal

Pending:

Declined: 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)

Rachel Meyer, Trinity—Davenport

Divine Redeemer Lutheran School—Hartland, MI  
(Teacher)

Ralph Teske, Peoria, IL

Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport  
(Teacher)

# Vacancy Updates

As of 4.28.25

May 25

## Commissioned Openings

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



# Directory Updates

May 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](mailto:pam@lcmside.org). If you wish to update pictures for the directory profile pages, please send those to [dsanchez@lcmside.org](mailto: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>

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## Calendar of Events

### May

2-3	LERT Disaster Response Chainsaw Training	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
8	IDE Floor Committee MTNG	IDE Office
21-23	Theological Symposium	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
26	Memorial Day	IDE Office Closed

### June

27-28	IDE-LCMS District Convention	Radisson Hotel—Cedar Rapids
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### July

7-9	Continuing Ed CTSFW	Trinity, Vinton
18-19	LWML Summer Retreat	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
22-24	Continuing Ed CTSFW	Redeemer, Ventura



## SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

915 - 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Marion, Iowa 52302

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[www.mystpauls.org](http://www.mystpauls.org)

Phone: (319)377-4687

Rev. Alan Kornacki, Jr, Associate Pastor

April 1, 2025

To: Delegates to the 2025 Convention of Iowa District East - LCMS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Marion, your host congregation, welcomes you as a delegate to the 42nd Convention of the Iowa District East, LCMS. The convention is to be held on **June 27-28**, with registration opening at 7AM and opening worship beginning at 9AM. The convention will be located at:

### THE CEDAR RAPIDS RADISSON

1200 COLLINS RD. NE

CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52402

We are pleased to share with you these items which require your special attention to assure your valued participation at the Convention.

**Online Registration** is now open. The voting delegate fee is set at \$170 and includes all meals. Advisory delegates and guests must also register (\$10) and may purchase an optional meal package, available for \$100 for those wanting to partake in the meal service at the convention. The deadline for registration is **June 13, 2025**.

The online registration is available at the IDE website: <https://lcmside.org/convention-delegate-registration/>

**The Credential Form** for Delegates is available on our district website. Visit <https://lcmside.org/ideconvention/> to access the form. In order to be eligible to vote, voting delegates must submit a Credential Form. The form must be printed, filled out, and signed by the two listed congregation officers, and submitted to the IDE District Office so that it is received before the start of convention.

**Hotel Room Reservations** at The Cedar Rapids Radisson need to be made by Friday **June 13, 2025**, at the latest. Reserve rooms online at <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/G9659245>. Rooms are \$129 per night for both Thursday the 26<sup>rd</sup> and Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>. You may also register by calling 319-393-6600. If you choose to call, please make sure to reference the Iowa District East Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Convention. Hotel reservation information will also be available to you upon registering online for the convention.

**New Delegate Orientation is mandatory for all**, and will be held on Friday, June 27, at 8:00 AM at The Cedar Rapids Radisson. The voting process will be done through smart-devices, and the orientation will cover this training.

Any questions may be directed to Daniel Sanchez at [dsanchez@lcmside.org](mailto:dsanchez@lcmside.org) or please call the IDE District Office at 319-373-2112.

In Christ,

Rev. Alan Kornacki, Pastor



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod

<sup>17</sup>... *The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be<sup>[a]</sup> in you.* <sup>18</sup> *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.* John 14: 17,18

It's that time of the school year again. It's that time when teachers, administrators, staff members, kids, and parents are getting ready to say "Good-bye". In some ways, we're wondering "Where did the year go?" We're asking, "Wasn't August just a few weeks ago?" I know...I know. Maybe, like so many of us, the question is actually this statement. "Let's get this school year over with." I don't know about you, but there was more than one time this year when I questioned our school ministry theme chosen for this school year. ENDURE. I wasn't the only one. In talking to many colleagues over the months they, too, were experiencing bumpy situations where we were called to ENDURE!

Yes, May is the month of "Good-byes". We will say Good-bye to students, faculty, administrators, and other staff members, some of whom will not be back next year. We will also say Good-bye to parents, whom we will still next year, but not in the same relationships now that their last student has graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade or a senior in high school. We will also say Good-bye to administrators who are retiring or moving on to lead a different school.

This past month, as we observed all the special events of Holy Week, we saw our Lord say "Good-bye" to His disciples. Because He was true man as well as true God I am sure there were human emotions bubbling up in Him throughout the Last Supper. In fact, in John's gospel our Lord even said: <sup>17</sup>... *The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be<sup>[a]</sup> in you.* <sup>18</sup> *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.* John 14: 17,18

Throughout the pages of Scripture Jesus is comforting each of us these words. As He said "Good-bye" He also said "Hello"! I am leaving in just a little while, He told His disciples but you will not be alone. Then comes the great words of comfort and assurance in verse 18: *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."* That is our Lord's "Hello" to us. He says, "Hello, I am coming to you in new and lasting ways. I am coming to you through the Word. Not just ink stains on a page but the living life-giving, inspired Word of God. I am coming to you through the products of nature, water poured on the head of that new baby brother or sister who was born this school year or for that matter that 80-year-old grandparent of one of your students! I am coming to you through the wheat of the fields and the fruit of the vine. When you partake of the Supper I have prepared for you." These are the ways our Lord says "Hello" to every generation of those who are faithful to Him. "Good-bye, yes, for a little while, but our Lord's "Good-bye" is not His last word. His "Hello" is our comfort, our strength, and our assurance that will be there until we He calls us home to be with Him in heaven. His "Hello" assures us of the forgiveness He grants to each one of us thought we don't deserve it.

So, where will your "Good-byes" and "Hellos" be in the month of May in your classroom or your offices? "Good-bye" brings things to a close. "Hello" starts a new relationship. "Hello" brings newness and freshness. God's "Hello" assures us that our human "Hellos" builds up and strengthens us.

As you have ENDURED this school year and are bringing it to a close with "Good-byes", never ever forget this promise: *"I [Jesus] will not leave you as orphans; I [Jesus] will come to you."* God the Father is continually using His special means of Word and Sacraments to say "Hello" to you. May that assurance give you everlasting comfort and peace as you take the time to pause and reflect on the school year past and prepare for the next round of "Hellos!" coming up.

Jan Doellinger  
Assistant to the President, Schools

## Redeemer Children Share the Light of Life

“Did Mary have morning sickness?” “How are twins formed?”

These represent questions asked by children and adults after a Bible study hour taught by the children. The Life Team of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown, IA sponsored the event on March 23. The day was chosen as our Life Sunday due to the proximity to the Annunciation of our Lord on March 25.

The Divine Service offered readings about life and light and the hymns had us singing the same. Pastor Alex Post carried the theme through in his sermon beautifully balancing Law and Gospel and affirming the value of life, God’s bountiful forgiveness in Jesus, and challenging all to be Gospel-motivated voices for life. Following the sermon he installed and commissioned Redeemer’s Life Team of nine life-affirming members.

The real fun happened in the children-led adult Bible class! The previous Sunday each child received a Lil’ Lutherans 4 Life fetal development booklet. They were asked to bring it back for Life Sunday ready to read the fetal activity associated with their card and the Bible verse inside. During the week they could do the Child Connection and Family Activity ideas in the card.

We were blessed to have more than nine children, but we had plenty of booklets. At times older children helped the younger ones read and some grey-haired old pastor helped a few times as well! We then switched the booklets for the poster size fetal development pictures so all could see even better. But the fun really intensified when each child received a Touch of Life fetal model to show the adults and then share with the adults by distributing them to the various tables. Who was more amazed at holding these life-like models of God’s handiwork, adults or children? It was hard to tell!



To give the hard-working teachers a break, we viewed the Baby Olivia video and a video depicting the “flash of light” seen at the moment of fertilization that tied in beautifully with the Light of Life theme.

Next Pastor Post connected what the children taught about fetal development with the Annunciation and the conception and development of Jesus in the womb. He had them teach about this by reading Bible passages focusing on our Savior’s work from the very beginning of His life in the womb. Everyone grew in their understanding that the Light of Life started shining well before Christmas!

We then fielded questions like the ones at the beginning of this article. But space is limited so we won’t tell you any of the answers! We praise the Lord of Life for what He accomplished through His Lil’ Lutherans 4 Life on our Life Sunday.

By Rev. Dr. James Lamb

Submitted by Iowa District East Life Coordinator Rev. Alex Post

# Parish Nurse—Brain Supplements That Do or Do Not Work

May 25

The advertisements on television say that this pill or that pill will improve your memory and help you to stay focused. Over 25% of adults over 50 are taking pills that “keep your brain healthy”. It is unclear, as the FDA does not require makers to prove the supplements are effective, if they do not make any claims about specific diseases. The following is what experts say about some of the popular items.

**B Vitamins:** B vitamins like B6, B12, and B9 (folic acid) all play a role in brain health. But unless you're low on them or pregnant (folic acid is a must to prevent birth defects), a supplement is unlikely to help. If you are at elevated risk for Alzheimer's, ask your doctor if medication should be prescribed. The research into the use of vitamin B supplements to boost cognitive ability is inconclusive. You should stick with food sources like leafy greens to stay sharp.

**Caffeine:** Caffeine pills and powders aren't a good idea, because of the risks if you overdose. But you can enjoy coffee guilt-free if it doesn't interfere with your sleep or make you jittery. Some might be good for your brain. It is a stimulant that helps perk you up, plus it promotes energy by blocking brain receptors for a chemical called adenosine.

**L-theanine:** A natural amino acid, L-theanine seems to have potential for improving mental performance, especially when combined with caffeine. Studies have been small, such as one in 2019 that included 30 people. Until there's more research, a safe bet is to drink green tea: It naturally contains both L-theanine and caffeine, as well as antioxidants that may help your mental and physical well-being in other ways.

**Omega-3s:** The traditional Mediterranean diet, which includes omega 3-rich-fish, is linked to a lower risk of dementia. But can omega-3 supplements help? So far, large studies (including one sponsored by the National Institutes of Health) haven't proved that. One possible exception: People with the APOE4 gene mutation, which is tied to Alzheimer's, might benefit if they start taking the supplements early enough, a 2017 review shows.

**Curcumin:** Found in turmeric (an ingredient in curry powder), curcumin has been noted for its antioxidant powers. Does it help explain why Alzheimer's rates are lower in India? A UCLA study found that people who took curcumin fared better on memory tests and had less buildup of abnormal proteins in their brains. But this study only included 40 people, and other research hasn't found this result, so more studies are needed.

**Food First:** While certain supplements might help in some cases, most healthy people don't need pills to stay sharp. Eating a diet that is rich in vegetables, berries, whole grains, and fish: key parts of the so-called MIND diet (Mediterranean Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay) Diet is a way to support brain health as you age. Staying physically active, getting enough sleep, taking care of any medical conditions you have, keeping up your social connections, and challenging your mind by being a life-long learner can make a significant difference, too, and it is good for the rest of your body.

From Kansas Parish Nurse Ministry Faith Community Nursing Newsletter, Spring 2025  
Submitted by Ronda Anderson RN, Iowa District East Parish Nurse Representative

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# He is Risen!

## Alleluia!

The tomb is empty. The victory is won.  
Jesus has conquered sin and death—for you!

### Easter Blessings!



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“He is not here; He has **risen**! Remember how He told you while He was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be **delivered** over to the hands of sinners, be **crucified** and, on the third day, be **raised** again.’”

**Luke 24:6-7**



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# MAY 1

## DEADLINE FOR FIRST WAVE OF APPLICATIONS

**WE HAVE  
OVER \$1  
MILLION  
IN TAX  
CREDITS  
TO  
AWARD  
FOR 2025**



**PLEASE  
HELP US  
RAISE  
FUNDING  
FOR 2026-  
2027**



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**IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL**  
TUITION ORGANIZATION

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**CONTACT  
DEWEY AT  
712-260-  
2991  
FOR MORE  
INFO**

# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



May 2025

## Iowa Lutheran Theological Symposium May 21-23, 2025

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is excited to once again host the Iowa Lutheran Theological Symposium! **This year's theme is Sexually Pure and Decent: Reflections on the 6th Commandment.** Speakers include Cassie Beltz, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with Lutheran Family Service; Rev. Jonathan Conner, pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, IA; and Rev. Dr. David Lewis, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. The Symposium is a theologically enriching event for pastors, church-workers, and lay-people! Registration, a tentative schedule, and the list of speakers can be found at [campiodiseca.org/symposium/](http://campiodiseca.org/symposium/) or by scanning the QR Code.



[Symposium Info  
&  
Registration](#)



## In Need of Summer Staff

We are still in need of **male and female counselors** who have a desire to serve others, share the Christian faith, and be a role-model for all the kids who attend camp! Serving as a counselor is also a great way to develop professional skills such as working and communicating with people of all ages, being able to adapt, and making quick and sound decisions in a variety of situations. We anticipate needing **up to 4 more counselors** to accommodate the amount of campers getting registered! We're primarily looking for **college-aged , LCMS young adults** to serve as counselors in **overnight and day camp settings**. To get started with the application process, go to [www.nloma.org](http://www.nloma.org), or scan the QR Code, and complete a summer service profile. Be sure to list Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as your first-choice camp!



[Summer Staff](#)



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org)

email [office@iodiseca.org](mailto: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!



## Important Dates

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*

August  
*Registration Launch for Trail Rides & Horseback Riding Lessons*



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



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

## 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](http://www.campiodiseca.org).

## 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](mailto:programdirector@iodiseca.org) for more information or to receive an application.



[Junior Counselor Application](#)

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org)

email [office@iodiseca.org](mailto:office@iodiseca.org)





# APOSTLE'S CREED AND LORD'S PRAYER

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca  
July 29 - August 1, 2025

Sometimes the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed can seem like a chore or some motion we go through, something we memorize and spew back out without thinking too much about it. It can seem like some fantasy wish list for God that never comes true. I mean, "Thy kingdom come?" Come on! But when we compare the Lord's Prayer and the Creed, we can see not just a fantasy, but a promise. His promise to us, not based on us, but based on who He is as we confess Him and pray to Him, we will see how it's all connected.

## Things to Know

**When:** July 29 - August 1, 2025

**Where:** Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

**Who:** Registration is open to both groups and individuals. Confirmants can come with their classmates and a chaperone or register individually and be chaperoned by one of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's camp counselors. This event is open to all youth going into grades 5-8.

**Cost:** \$300 per person

### Included:

Aside from edifying catechesis and distinctly Lutheran worship, participants will spend time in activities such as

- Archery
- Canoeing
- Rock climbing
- Zipping (zip line)
- Disc golf
- Swimming
- Large-group games
- Campfire and s'mores
- So much more!

# APOSTLE'S CREED AND LORD'S PRAYER

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

July 29 - August 1, 2025

*Rev. Brett Simek - Trinity Lutheran Church Rantoul, Hilbert, WI*

After being convinced to be a Lutheran pastor by his Jesuit (Catholic) high school, Pastor Simek has been involved with HT in a number of ways including CCV, housing coordinator, and assistant chaplain, before being ordained in 2015. He served as the catechesis coordinator for HT for 8 years! He now serves Trinity Lutheran Church Rantoul, Hilbert, WI, and is the husband of Nicole and father of Joel, Elijah, and Jude. As a husband, father, pastor, and student, he has seen and felt the great influence of distinctively Lutheran teaching and the comfort and confidence it gives.



*The Camper Profile, Health Form, Health Screening Form, and Release of Liability must be completed for each camper. To register a group please follow the registration instructions located on the website as well as the informational packet. Groups and individuals should **register online or by mailing the Camp Registration Packet to Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca by July 22nd.***

Higher Things is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. Its mission is to make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. HT accomplishes this through conferences, retreats, and various print and online content.

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is a mission of the Iowa District East of the LCMS. Leveraging a best-in-class outdoor recreational and camping environment, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca exists to promote and provide Christ-centered education, recreation, and inspiration for individuals and groups of all ages. Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca offers year-round, Christ-centered programs that support the ministries of local congregations, nurture the faith of individuals and families, and motivate people toward congregational involvement and living in their God-given vocations.

## Contacts

Alec Deppe  
Director of Programs and Retreats  
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca  
(319) 848-4187

Tana McKenna  
Retreat Coordinator  
Higher Things  
(888) 482-6630 ext. 4  
retreats@higherthings.org





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## Fighting Fires: The Obstacles Pastors Face

by Lindy Hinckley, tLMFT



Beginning on January 7th, the foothills bordering the Los Angeles, California communities of Altadena and Pacific Palisades burst out in flames. According to the Los Angeles Times, these small brush fires grew into a conflagration that killed 28 people, destroyed 18,000 buildings valued at more than 275 billion, and left a burn zone 2½ times the size of Manhattan. The Los Angeles area is where my dad was born and it is home to my extended family members. Sunset Boulevard, and Malibu, and the Pacific Coast Highway are familiar places from my childhood and teenage years. Starting the evening the fires began, my husband and I watched breathlessly with many tears, as it all went up in smoke and fire. We sat in disbelief and admiration as firefighters battled the blazes with limited water availability and terrifying conditions.

### Putting Out Fires

What do the fires in California have to do with obstacles church workers face? I was talking one afternoon with two pastors and they mentioned that often times pastors are referred to

as firefighters as well as being shepherds. Pastors are the ones in the church who “put out fires.” This was an interesting concept since I had spent several weeks watching the valiant efforts of the firefighters in California. They had to surmount incredible obstacles in fighting fires that can be compared to what pastors sometimes face in their spiritual battles.

## **Strong Winds**

The L.A. firefighters attempted to put out fires while the strong Santa Ana winds blew with gusts up to 90 miles per hour that some labeled apocalyptic. The wind usually blows the fire uphill but, in this case, they blew the fire downhill. Sometimes pastors can face stiff opposition like these winds; the devil certainly likes to create storms and turmoil in congregations.

The Apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 4:14**: “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” A pastor must do a lot of prevention work in mitigating differences between congregation and even community members.

## **Obstacles**

Many people fleeing the Pacific Palisades had to abandon their cars on Sunset Boulevard and firefighters attempting to reach the fire had to bulldoze these cars out of the way to reach their destinations. Just as the firefighters had to bulldoze through obstacles, pastors must get through difficult roadblocks. Sin, shame, and guilt are all obstacles between parishioners and Christ’s forgiveness.

Through confession/absolution and pastoral counseling pastors remove roadblocks to help parishioners reach safety in Christ.

## **Limited Water Supply**

Just like the firefighters who reached the blazes only to find empty fire hydrants and empty reservoirs, sometimes pastors can reach the limit of their compassion and can have burnout. Symptoms of burnout include: depression, work feels like drudgery instead of inspiring, reconsidering your career, taking out your frustrations on those around you, and addictions.

## **Dangerous Conditions**

During the fires in Los Angeles, natural gas, old buildings or poor construction, winds, drought, narrow canyons, and dry brush made the conditions the firefighters faced very dangerous. Apathy, pride, contention, shame, disunity, selfishness, and lack of support can cause dangerous conditions in the church. A small spark of disrespect for the pastor or his office can cause these problems to get much larger.



## Calling In Backup

So, what can aid a pastor in fighting the fires of his daily life and walking with his congregation? Just as the firefighters from all over the US, Canada, and Mexico helped with the conflagration, pastors can reach out for help from fellow pastors, a trusted advisor or friend, attend Doxology, or visit with a counselor from Lutheran Family Service. We are trained to recognize depression and burnout and have solutions for a valiant pastor fighting fires.

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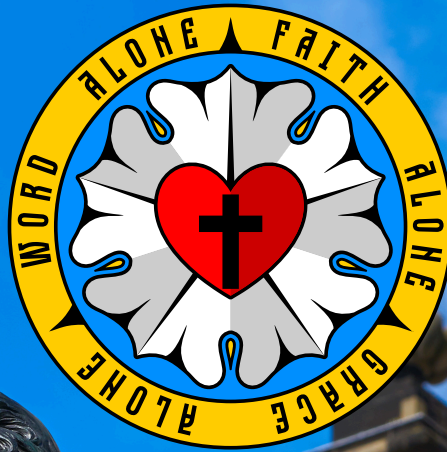
Lutheran Family Service counselor, Lindy Hinckley, tLMFT, serves individuals, couples, and families in person in Deadwood, South Dakota, and throughout the state via telehealth.

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.

- Lindy Hinckley, tLMFT
- Call: 605-271-1081
- Email: [info@lutheranfamilyservice.org](mailto:info@lutheranfamilyservice.org)
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### 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.

### 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.**

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

VENTURA, IOWA

JULY 22–24, 2025



## 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

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July 22–24, 2025

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Dr. David Petersen

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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 **May 24, 2025. The next professional packet will be for both June and July. The subsequent packet will be in August.**

Please email articles, photos and announcements to  
Daniel Sanchez, IDE Communications/Events/Technology Coordinator  
**[dsanchez@lcmside.org](mailto:dsanchez@lcmside.org)**



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