



PROFESSIONAL WORKER'S PACKET

Iowa District East—LCMS

June/July 2025

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IOWA DISTRICT EAST

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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MARION IA 52302-3093

Phone: 319-373-2112



lcmsside.org

President's Piece for Peace

June/July 25

Recently the State of Washington passed a law that made clergy mandatory reporters, especially in cases of child-abuse. The actual outcome of the new law is that clergy are now no longer protected by the "seal of the confessional". The Northwest District President was asked by a news outlet how this would affect the ministers in Washington. [His answer is quite good and well worth reading online.](#)

His answer is right in line with the vows we all took at our ordinations and repeated at installations. "Do you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you?" The response is "yes, with the help of God." This is a vow taken before God in the presence of His Church. The seal is the seal. It must remain as such, or the penitent of our congregations will make no use of the Office of the Keys.

What about the cases where felonies are confessed? Here is where I want to give us something to think about. The catechism speaks of Confession/Absolution. These are always together and not separate from one another. Confession is made "for the purpose of receiving the Absolution." Confession is not made for the purpose of hiding one's sins from God. He already knows them full well. Confession is also not made in order to bind the lips of the pastor. Confession is made for the purpose of receiving the Absolution.

The seal is in Absolution. As Jesus said to His Apostles, "the sins you forgive on earth are forgiven in heaven." The word for forgiven in John 20:23 means "to let go" or "to release from." In Matthew 16:19 and 18:18 the word Jesus uses means "to set free from" or "to loosen the bindings."

When sins are forgiven, in the eyes of God, they exist no more. This is what the Office of the Keys does. It releases the penitent from the binding power of sin to hell and unbelief. Forgiveness not only proclaims a blessed Word of freedom from the eternal consequences of sin; it delivers freedom from sin, death and the Devil. Since in the eyes of God the consequences have been paid for on the cross, we have received release from the shackles that we ourselves cannot overcome on our own. The seal is the seal because there is nothing to tell.

**The seal is the seal
because there is
nothing to tell.**

Now for the thought provoker! How does this apply when confession reveals breaking the law of the state such as child abuse or any other felony and misdemeanor? Here is where the Holy Spirit's discernment is to be prayed for. It is incumbent upon the hearer of confession, when kingdom of the left law has been broken, to inquire as to why confession is being made. Remember, the seal is in Confession/Absolution, not just in confession.

If the penitent is confessing so that the crime will never be found out and debt to society can be avoided, this is a false confession. False confession does not receive Absolution (the binding Key). Should such a confession be made, counsel to the penitent is that they are also to confess their societal crime to the authorities God has established for addressing felonies and misdemeanors. When the broken and contrite heart of the sinner desires God's forgiveness, bestow the Absolution. When this includes crimes against one's neighbor, it leads the repentant to understand that the fruits of repentance include confessing to the governing authorities (Romans 13).

I am speaking generally here. There may be certain situations which will require counsel from brother clergy, such as "unjust laws" and "laws that command the Christian to sin against The Faith." There may be a goodly number of these situations that clergy could run into. It is impossible to cover all the "what ifs" in a short article. I start by addressing the doctrine of our ordination and installation vows. When you can bestow Absolution, the seal is the seal. Nothing is to break that, even at the risk of being held in contempt by doing so. "We shall obey God rather than men." Failure to do so will ultimately harm the sheep who go to their shepherd for the voice of Christ which points us to the merits of the cross granted in Absolution.

God be with you,

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Vacancy Updates

As of 5.29.25

June/July 25

Calling Congregations

DeWitt, Grace

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

Merle Warnsholz (Vacancy Pastor)

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: Eric Obermann, DeWitt

Daryn Bahn, Beatrice, NE

Immanuel - Lakefield, MN (MNS)

Trinity, Cedar Rapids (Associate)

Pending: Jesse Burns, Ventura

Joseph Schlie, Perryville, MO

Joseph Schlie, Perryville, MO

Michael Kolesar, Victor

Holy Cross - Dodge City, KS

Immanuel, Fairfield

St. John, Marengo

St. Peter's - LaGrange, MO

Declined: Paul Preus, Ellendale, ND

St. John, Marengo

Candidate Calls (O/I - Ordination/Installation)

Matthew Baker, CTSFW

Our Redeemer, Cedar Falls

O/I 8.9.2025 @ 2PM

Zach Johnson, CTSFW

St. Mark, Garrison & Zion, Shellsburg

O/I 6.21.2025 @ 4PM

Noah Russell, CSL

King of Kings, Cedar Rapids (Associate)

O/I 7.13.2025 @ 3PM

Grant Tapken, CTSFW

St. John, Fairbank & Grace, Jesup

O/I 6.23.2025 @ 6PM

Vicarage Assignments

Hunter Kinnison, CTSFW

St. Paul, Eldora

Ethan Hartkemeyer, CTSFW

Trinity, Hampton

Andrew Vought, CSL

Our Redeemer, Iowa City

Vacancy Updates

As of 5.29.25

June/July 25

Deaconess Placement (C/I - Commissioning/Installation)

Ieva Russell

King of Kings, Cedar Rapids

C/I 7.13.2025

Commissioned Calls

Accepted: Aaron Huesmann, Indianapolis, IN

Central Lutheran School, Newhall - Music

Lynn Casselman, Gilbert, AZ

St. Paul, Eldora - Preschool Director

Karen Bahn, Beatrice, NE

Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids - Principal

Pending: Katherine Sievert, Concordia Chicago

Valley Lutheran School, Cedar Falls

Declined:

Filled Positions

Sarah Hansen

St. Paul Lutheran School, Latimer

PT Title I Teacher

Scott Fischer

Valley Lutheran School, Cedar Falls

Middle School Teacher

Lilyann Hunt

Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids

1st Grade Teacher

Commissioned Openings

Trinity Lutheran School, Cedar Rapids

6th Grade/Middle School

Trinity Lutheran School, Davenport

4th Grade Teacher, 5th Grade Teacher,
MS History, PT/Art

Valley Lutheran School, Cedar Falls

3rd Grade Teacher

Central Lutheran School, Newhall

4th Grade Teacher

Community Lutheran School, Readlyn

Kindergarten Teacher

Little Blessings Preschool, Davenport

Early Childhood Director

Directory Updates

June/July 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

June

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

7-9	Continuing Ed CTSFW	Trinity, Vinton
14-15	Continuing Ed CTSFW	Trinity, Davenport
18-19	LWML Summer Retreat	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
22-24	Continuing Ed CTSFW	Redeemer, Ventura
27	Hymn Festival	Redeemer, Marshalltown

August

18	Education Workshop	Zion, Hiawatha
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Breathe in. Breathe out. A Lifetime of Resilience.

June/July 25

2 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 2:1

Finally. After 180 days or 1084 hours, whichever your school chooses to comply with the state of attendance Iowa rule, your 2024-2025 school year came to an end. Now is the time to stop here and breathe a sigh of relief. The Trinity Lutheran School faculty in Cedar Rapids chose to do a book study this year as part of their professional development. We chose the book, Reclaiming the Joy of a Church Vocation by Darrell Zimmerman. Maybe you've read it or your faculty used it for book study, too. In the last chapter, "Therefore, Self-Care Must be Intentional" Zimmerman refers to 2 Timothy 2:2 which says, "2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." Zimmerman points out that Paul had the future generation of

church workers in mind when he wrote those divinely inspired words. He writes, "Did you notice the four generations of gospel proclamation, from Jesus to Paul, Paul to Timothy, then Timothy to others who will then pass it on to a fourth generation? Breathe in. 'Be strengthened in grace.' Then breathe out. It's a pattern God set when he first breathed life into Adam and it still serves as our pattern for living and serving in ministry today." (p.214) Dear co-workers in Christ in IDE – Breathe in. Breathe out.



Now is the time for refreshment and relaxation and renewal. That's not to say it wasn't great serving the Lord this school year by sharing Law and Gospel with your students. But, the end of the school year does bring relief.

How will you do the 3 R's listed above? Some ways to do that which comes to mind might be not setting the alarm on your clock or on your phone. Perhaps you are planning to do some traveling. Maybe you're going to sit by a lake or an ocean dangling your feet in the water while reading a book that has nothing to do with school curriculum. All these are ways the world relaxes and practices what is known as "self-care". You deserve it and need such as well.

There is, however, another type of self-care in which we all need to be involved.

We first need to recognize that all our care come from our heavenly Father. In Luther's explanation to the 1st Article are the words, "that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life." It is God alone, through Jesus Christ, who is the fount of the daily healing that we need to continue on in ministry. This isn't what the world defines as "self-care" though, is it?

The kind of self-care we Christians rely on is the renewal of our souls. This takes more than a visit to a lake or a good book or a week-end get-away. I think it's safe to say we all had some struggles and hard times at some point during our school year. The Evil One very capably brought challenge after challenge into our classrooms or offices. I, for one, wondered more times than not as to the significance of the theme of our school year – "ENDURE"! Yes, with prayer and the support of colleagues we made it through those challenges, but at what cost? Is your spiritual oxygen mask full of holes as you close out the 2024-2025 school year?

So, what is the remedy for becoming and staying a healthy church worker? Zimmerman suggests, "Resilient church workers are those that are sensitive to the unique hardships of this great calling, recognize when they have suffered spiritual, emotional, relational, or vocational harm, and then utilize the resources that God gives for a time of recovery before launching back into their life callings. We learn to breathe in so we can breathe out again." (p.218)

What does that look like? How might this be done? One simple and easy way is to intentionally expose yourself to worship where God's Word is read and explained, where sins are confessed and forgiven, and where you personally meet the Lord in, with, and under the common elements of bread and wine. These are the means of God's grace by Iowa District East - LCMS

Breathe in. Breathe out. A Lifetime of Resilience.

June/July 25

which His richness is poured out to us. These are the means for building up our faith and nourishing our souls. “These gifts of God are the only tools we have for ministry.” (p.214)

There is another intentional self-care plan for recovery for a healthy church worker that I would like to suggest. Be in the Word! This is the year of Luke which means the majority of our Sunday Gospel Lessons come from the Gospel of Luke. For the next 24 days, I encourage you to read a chapter of Luke each day. And while you’re at it, read through Romans 10 where we are reminded that faith comes through hearing (or reading) the Word.

What a great way to recover from this school and be resilient for the upcoming school year! Be intentional about worship and being in the Word! Breathe in. “Be strengthened in grace.” Breathe out. “Teach others.”

Jan Doellinger
Assistant to the President, Schools



We will not rest until abortion is no longer legal!

The Iowa March for Life is an opportunity to proclaim the value of all human life and advocate for the protection of life in our law.

Saturday, June 21, 2025
12:00-1:00pm Educational Booths & Music
Iowa State Capitol Rotunda
1pm Rally • 1:45pm March for Life

Governor Kim Reynolds & Attorney General Brenna Bird, Legislators, & Pro-Life Leaders have been invited. We will march around the Iowa State Capitol and Supreme Court Buildings.



Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.





33rd Annual Parish Nursing and Congregational Health Ministries Conference

LCMS Parish Nurse District Representatives; Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor,
LCMS Office of National Mission; and Pastor Joe Cottam, Pastoral Advisor.

May 13-15, 2025, Concordia University Wisconsin

LCMS Parish Nurse District Representatives from across the country met on May 13 on the beautiful, foggy campus to reconnect, network, and discuss district and synodical news.

The 33rd annual conference followed this meeting. The conference theme was “In Every Way, God’s Path”. Keynote speakers were Liz Deck, DNP, RN who spoke on “Diabetes and 4Ms: What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility”; Philip Zimmerman, MD presented on “Prevent and Heal Type 2 Diabetes with Thoughtful Fasting-Based Practices”; “LCMS Disabilities Ministry” was presented by Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor; and Dan Paavola presented on “Today is the Day For Wisdom: Proverbs 3: Directions for Peaceful Wisdom”.

Breakout sessions were held on the final day with a variety of topics presented.

A time of remembrance was held for our sister in Christ, Cynthia Rutan, 1941-2024.

Thank you to the Iowa District East for your support!

Ronda Anderson RN
IDE Parish Nurse District Representative

Volunteer Opportunity

SPAIN CHURCH CONFERENCE

**Support the
Spanish Lutheran
Church
October 6-13, 2025.
Spanish speakers
desired.**



LCMS International Mission
servenow.lcms.org



SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

915 - 27th Street, Marion, Iowa 52302

e-mail: office@stpaulsmarioniowa.org

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 26rd and Friday the 27th. 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 or please call the IDE District Office at 319-373-2112.

In Christ,

Rev. Alan Kornacki, Pastor



Together *In Faith*

**God's blessings to all attending the
LCMS Youth Gathering from the
Iowa East and West Districts this July!**

Lutheran Church Extension Fund is
a proud sponsor of the 2025 LCMS
Youth Gathering.



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LCMS church workers.

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INVESTMENTS



LOANS



MINISTRY
SOLUTIONS



REAL ESTATE
SOLUTIONS



LUTHERAN CHURCH
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LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.

IDE ARCHIVES

INFORMATION FOR CONGREGATION HISTORIANS

This is a plea from the IDE Archivist to the Professional Workers in our IDE congregations that the following information finds its way to your Congregation Historians.

Due to the faithfulness of IDE Archivist in years gone by, the news shared with congregations via the *Lutheran Witness* (District specific) *Editions* were either gathered and bound into book volumes, or filed in manila folders and stored in archival gray boxes. The documents are full of information about congregation events, district & circuit events, obituaries of church workers, and much more. However, since hardly anyone knows about these documents, no one has been rushing to the IDE Archives to search for information which might be added to a congregation's preparation for a congregation history celebration.

This is to inform you that what has been resting in storage has now come out of hiding. The pages of each *Lutheran Witness-IDE Edition*—from 1935 to 1988—have been scanned, converted to PDF files, and made so that a person can actually search for the location of a specific word. For the congregation historian, this means you can type in the name of your congregation, or a pastor who once served there, and command the search function to find that name anywhere from 1935-1988.

Now I am aware that many folks might be experts at surfing the internet. However, I am going to back up and give a detailed explanation as to how you can make use of these “searchable” documents.

01. Browse the internet by typing in [lcmside.org]
02. Top of LCMS IDE Home-page move mouse pointer over to [Resources]
03. Scroll down to and click on [IDE Library & Archives]
04. Next click on [History and Archives]
05. Next click on [Lutheran Witness – Iowa East Edition]
06. Now you can download all PDFs from 1935-1988, or just the years you are interested in]
07. **This ends your search on the internet**
08. Now find what you downloaded in the place where your internet downloads are sent.
09. Double click on the PDF you want to search and read.
10. Go to the place where your computer allows you to “find” words within the PDF and click it. For me, that is a symbol in the upper right that looks like a magnifying glass.
11. A box opens and might be blinking as to where you can type the word you want to have “searched”.
12. Click the “Next Result” (may look like this -v-) and wait for next place your selected word shows up in the document.

Rev. Allen E. Konrad
IDE Archivist

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



June/ July 2025

Summer Has Arrived! Register for Camp Today!

General Programming

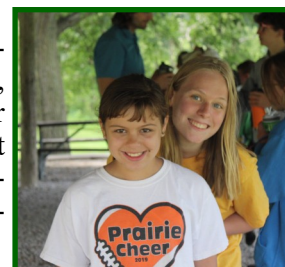
It's not too late to register! Most of our programs still have openings, and we have lots of program options to choose from. We offer standard on-site programming which includes our Explorer, Discovery, Pathfinder, Trailblazer, and Day Camps. We also offer specialty on-site programming through our Beginner, Horse, Projectile, and Higher Things Confirmation Camps. Last but not least are our specialty off-site programs which include Adventure, Wilderness, Sports, and Challenge Camps. Program offerings and availability vary by grade, so don't delay! More information about each program can be found by going to campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/. Additional information and the link to register for summer camp can be found by going to campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/registration/ or by scanning the QR Code!



[Summer Camp
Registration](http://campiodiseca.org/summer-camp-3/registration/)

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. Applications can also be found by scanning the QR Code above.



New Horse Programming!

Our summer horse program has been thriving over the past decade and even more so in recent years! We have increased our Horse Camp capacities and still have kids on the waitlists! This has led us to expand our horse programming to include riding lessons and weekend trail rides throughout the **fall of 2025!** This fall will be our trial run to continuing to offer these new programs in the spring and fall of 2026 and beyond! With your support, we hope to make this new programming a success! For more information, go to campiodiseca.org/new-horse-programming/, or scan the QR Code. **Registration for these programs will open in August!**



[New Horse
Programming](http://campiodiseca.org/new-horse-programming/)



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email office@iodiseca.org

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



June/ July 2025

July 26-Summerfest at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



[Summerfest
Info](#)

Camp Activity Quest
Bouncy House
Lunch Available for Sale
Quilts and Crafts Fundraiser Auction

Activities Open at 10AM
Auction at 1PM

More information available at campiodiseca.org/fundraiser-auction/



Important Dates

July 26

I Believe in Camp Fundraiser Auction

July 29- August 1

Higher Things Confirmation Camp

August

Registration Launch for Trail Rides & Horseback Riding Lessons

Week of September 8

Horseback Riding Lessons Begin!

September 13-14

First Weekend of Trail Rides!

October 6-7

Fall Pastors' Conference

October 10-11

IDE Confirmation Retreat

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!

THANK YOU!!!!

Needs List

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

3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

phone 319.848.4187

web www.campiodiseca.org

email 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





Lutheran
Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

lutheranfamilyservice.org

409 Kenyon Road, Suite C

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

515-573-3138

info@lutheranfamilyservice.org

facebook.com/LutheranFamilyService

The Adoption Journey: 11 Myths & Realities

by Sue Shields, LMHC, LIMHP, LPC



Adoption is a lifelong journey filled with joy, complexity, growth, and faith. As families consider adoption, it's important to separate fact from fiction. Our culture, media, and even well-meaning friends often contribute to adoption myths or misunderstandings that can make the adoption journey more challenging. At Lutheran Family Service, we walk alongside families to offer truth, support, and a Christ-centered perspective every step of the way.

Here, we explore some of the most common adoption myths and the truths that reflect the real experiences of adoptive families.

Adoption Myth #1:

We have to be the perfect parents to adopt

There's no such thing as a perfect parent. Adoption agencies and birthparents aren't looking for a flawless family. What matters most is a heart willing to love and a home that's safe, stable, and faith-filled. Families who feel called to adopt and desire to raise a child in a loving Christian home are already on the right path.

Adoption Myth #2:
We will fall instantly in love with our adopted child

While some parents do feel an immediate bond, love often grows through time, shared experiences, and consistency. That's true for both adoptive and biological families. Attachment takes patience, grace, and a daily choice to show up and care.

Adoption Myth #3:
Adoption is “second-best”

Adoption is not a backup plan or second-best option—it's a beautiful way God builds families. Just as we are adopted into God's family, earthly adoption is a powerful expression of love and calling. Many adoptive parents look back with gratitude for the journey that led them to adoption. Whether through biology, foster care, or adoption—every path to parenthood is uniquely blessed.

Adoption Myth #4:
Our adoption is everyone's business

Especially in cases of transracial or international adoption, people may feel entitled to ask questions or make assumptions. The truth is, families adopt for many reasons—and those reasons belong to them. What you choose to share is your decision. Children deserve dignity and privacy, and should be empowered to share their story in their own way and time.

At the same time, it's healthy to build a trusted circle of support. Whether you share a little or a lot, do what's best for your family and your child.

Adoption Myth #5:
Real women do hard labor

Motherhood isn't defined by giving birth—it's defined by love. The myth that “real women do hard labor” dismisses the heart of parenting, which is daily sacrifice, nurturing, and showing up no matter what. Adoptive moms don't have anything to prove. Their love is just as real, deep, and committed.

It's normal to wrestle with feelings of inadequacy. But real parenting is about walking alongside your child through every joy and challenge, not about biology.

Adoption Myth #6:
Adoptive parents feel only grateful

Adoption is full of gratitude—but it's also full of complexity. Waiting parents may wrestle with the pressure to feel grateful before they even become parents. Even after adoption, emotions like grief, disappointment, and resentment can surface—and that's okay.

You may grieve the loss of a dream or the experience of childbirth. You might feel overprotective or overwhelmed by your child's emotional needs. That doesn't make you a bad parent—it makes you human.

This duality of gratitude and grief affects birth parents and adoptees too. Parenting isn't about being appreciated—it's about giving love freely and walking in grace.

Adoption Myth #7:

Adoptive parents should fear their children will want to search for birth parents

Children are naturally curious about their story. In open adoptions, many questions are answered early, reducing confusion and anxiety. In closed adoptions, questions may linger longer, especially if the truth is withheld.

Honest, age-appropriate conversations build trust. Children can handle truth when it's shared with love and safety. It's okay if your child is curious—that doesn't mean they love you less.

Adoption Myth #8:

Children should be told they're adopted when they're older

Children should grow up always knowing their adoption story. When they do, adoption becomes a natural, celebrated part of their identity. There's no "right age" to start—it begins with simple, loving conversations even in infancy.

Books, family traditions, and open dialogue help kids feel confident in their story and secure in your love.

Adoption Myth #9:

Adoptive parents aren't the child's "real" parents

Being a parent isn't about DNA—it's about the daily work of loving, guiding, and nurturing a child. A "real" parent is the one who stays up at night, celebrates the milestones, and comforts the tears. Use terms like "birth parents" instead of "real parents" to honor all parts of your child's story.

Adoption Myth #10:

Children who are adopted won't fit in with the family

All families face doubts and challenges, whether formed biologically or through adoption. It's normal to wonder, "Will this child feel like mine?" or "Will we bond?"

With time, shared memories, and unconditional love, families grow strong. Adoptive parents bond with their children just as deeply as biological parents.

Adoption Myth #11: Adoption is a one-time event

Adoption is a lifelong journey. As your child grows, they'll revisit their story in new ways. Their questions may evolve. Their emotions might shift. And that's all part of the journey.

What matters most is your willingness to walk with them, listen without judgment, and offer consistent reassurance that they are loved, wanted, and chosen.

Final Thoughts on the Adoption Journey amidst Adoption Myths

Adoption is full of beauty, complexity, and grace. It isn't always easy—but it's always worth it. Whether you're an adoptive parent, a birth parent, or an adoptee, your story matters. And you are never alone.

At Lutheran Family Service, we're here to support you through the questions, the joys, and everything in between. Adoption isn't just a choice—it's a calling, a relationship, and a powerful reflection of God's love for us.

"He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will." – Ephesians 1:5

If you're considering adoption or navigating your own journey, reach out. We would be honored to walk beside you in prayer, support, and hope. Learn more about Christian adoption through Lutheran Family Service here:

- <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/adoption-services/>
- Call: 515-251-4900
- 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

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE PRESENTATIONS

Hosted by St. John Lutheran Church
2370 Merino Ave | Oskaloosa, IA
641-673-6546



**Lutheran
Family Service**

All presentations will be held from 9 am to 12 pm (with a break and time for questions), with registration and breakfast from 8:30 to 9 am, and lunch to follow at 12 pm.

JULY 19 | ON BECOMING SCREEN WISE

"The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom..." (Proverbs 15:33). Through the practice of fearing the Lord (i.e., honoring the Lord as Creator, meditating on His Word, and appreciating our status as His creatures), Lutheran Family Service seeks to bring instruction in wisdom into Christians' lives both as a means by which to promote human flourishing and so as to equip them to be positive witnesses for Christ. In this series Pastor Jonathan Conner brings wisdom to bear on the question of individualized screens (especially internet connected screens), emphasizing our created purpose beyond the pixel. After grounding participants in God's three-dimensioned grace given in Christ's Church, Pastor Conner exposes the tactics tech developers use to monopolize and monetize our attention (and influence our imaginations), the way screens are affecting our beliefs about life, our relationships, and our religion, and how we can chart a wise way forward that moves us beyond the pixel into the joys and purpose-filled three-dimensions of life in the Lord's creation. In brief, Pastor Conner communicates Biblical wisdom for life in today's technology driven world.

SEPT 6 | END OF LIFE CARE AND CONSIDERATIONS

How can we prepare to depart this life in peace and meet our Lord Jesus? Advanced directives and funeral service planning are good ways to prepare. Faith and trust in Jesus and His Word with beautiful hymns and prayer are even better. Come join Rev. Alex Post, and the saints at St. John's in Oskaloosa as we discuss the infinite God-given value of every human life especially at its end before our joyful resurrection.

NOV 8 | MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM: CREATION & IDENTITY

Lutheran Family Service walks with the hurting, confused, discouraged, and broken. Through their counseling, teaching, caring, and advocacy, LFS teachers and caregivers confess Christ as they bring Scripture to bear in all things. In this series – Male and Female He Created Them: Creation and Identity – Pastor Jonathan Conner and Mrs. Cassie Beltz (LMHC) address the issue of identity from a Lutheran perspective (incorporating the simple and profound truths confessed in the catechism), giving special attention to the question of gender identity (its provenance, prevalence, and promulgation), as they equip hearers to respond to its false claims and then to appreciate and celebrate God's gift of identity in creation.

LCMS Heartland *Singles Retreat* June 13-15

Camp Omega in Waterville, Minnesota

Join us for a weekend of indoor and outdoor recreation, Bible studies, and worship. Form friendships with other Midwestern singles, build each other up in the faith, and potentially meet a spouse. Open to ages 21-41. \$100 per person for two nights of lodging and four meals.

Pastor Keith Schweitzer: Main Bible Study

Pastor LeRoy LaPlant: Breakout Session for Men

Miss Christina Harman: Breakout Session for Women

Pastor David Mumme: Worship at Trinity, Waterville

Schedule and Registration:

lcmsheartlandsingles.com

LCMSHEARTLANDSINGLES.COM



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.

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

DAVENPORT, IOWA

JULY 14–15, 2025



Dr. Adam Koontz

The Rev. Dr. Adam C. Koontz is the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Oakmont, Pennsylvania. He has served at congregations in Pennsylvania and Colorado and on the faculty of CTSFW. He and his wife, Jen, live in Plum, Pennsylvania, with their nine children.

Identity and Creation: Twenty-First-Century Problems, First-Century Solutions

How do we know who we are? Much of the confusion we experience today is not new. People in the ancient world asked themselves the same questions about marriage, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. The New Testament provides solutions to these ancient/modern problems through the life we now have in Christ.

Schedule

Monday

8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Tuesday

8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Location

Trinity Lutheran Church
1122 W. Central Park Ave.
Davenport, IA 52804

Coordinator

Rev. Randall Golter
Phone: (303) 618-4564
Email: randall.golter@trinitydavenport.org

Forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.



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

Davenport, Iowa

July 14–15, 2025

Identity and Creation: Twenty-First-Century Problems, First-Century Solutions

Dr. Adam Koontz

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Day Phone _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Email _____

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

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Register by phone with credit card:

Contact LeeAnna Rondot at (260) 452-2204.

Register online:

Go to ctsfw.edu/CE/Davenport-Iowa.

Additional information about this class (including accommodations):

Rev. Randall Golter
Phone: (303) 618-4564
Email: randall.golter@trinitydavenport.org

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

Te Deum

Hymn Festival

**July 27th,
2025**

3:00 PM

**Join us for an afternoon of hymnody
and fellowship**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
1600 South Center St.
Marshalltown IA 50158
(641-753-9565)**



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

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 _____

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Day Phone _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Email _____

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CTSFW students/CTSFW vicars (Contact LeeAnna Rondot at CE@ctsfw.edu or by phone to register.)	\$0 x	_____	= _____
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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

IDE EDUCATORS WORKSHOP DR. BEV YAHNKE - DOXOLOGY AUGUST 18, 2025

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL
201 First Ave, Hiawatha IA 52233-1601



Presentation Topics

- Putting the Best Construction on Everything:
God's People Working Together
- Helping the Anxious Soul
- Children and Trauma

Tentative Agenda

- 8:15 - 8:45 Arrival
- 8:45 - 9:15 Opening and devotion
- 9:15 - 10:15 First Session
- 10:15 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 11:45 Second Session
- 11:45 - 12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 - 1:30 Third Session
- 1:30 - 1:45 Closing

Registration: Send the total number of teachers attending from your school by August 1. Email Pam at pam@lcmside.org.

Breakfast items and Lunch provided by **Catering by JJ:**

Breakfast items available when you arrive. Lunch will be a sandwich buffet.

Special food alerts: include them when registering.

Catering by JJ: MENU

Breakfast includes: Muffins, Yogurt, fruit, muffins.

Lunch includes: sandwich buffet chicken salad croissant, deli meat tray, veggie tray, Hummus (locally made), fruit tray, homemade cookies.

Beverages: Water, iced tea, coffee, homemade lemonade.

A BIG Thank you to Dr. Bev Yahnke and Doxology for covering the cost for catering today.



IOWA DISTRICT EAST SCHOOLS
1100 Blairs Ferry Rd, Marion IA 52302
319-373-2112 | pam@lcmside.org |

Submissions for the next edition of the Professional Workers' Packet are due
July 25, 2025. The subsequent packet will be in August.

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.