Professional Worker's Packet

Iowa District East—LCMS

November 2026

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IOWA DISTRICT EAST
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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President's Piece for Peace

The beauty of the liturgy is that it allows us to sing the truths of God's Word in the most appropriate places of Divine Service. Take Divine Service (DS) I Offertory for example, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you , O Jerusalem."

What shall we render to the Lord for all His benefits to us? What vows do we make to the Lord? What vows did the author of Psalm 116 make whereby the Holy Spirit used him to record this liturgical Psalm? Whether Psalm 116 was penned by a man who had escaped death, or a Psalm dedicated to Israel's release from Egyptian captivity, or more likely, Israel's post exilic song rejoicing in God's favor upon them to return home, it locates ones rendering to the Lord bound within vows made to God.

While the term vow is used 68 times in the bible, not in any of those uses does God require a vow from Israel. The vows Israel, or an individual Israelite, makes is in response to the benefits God gives so freely. A vow is a solemn promise or pledge dedicating oneself to an act, service, or way of life; a solemn promise of love and fidelity (as in a marriage).

A catechumen makes many vows at the time of their confirmation. One such vow reads this way, "Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?" Response: "I do, by the grace of God." This vow is taken after the catechumen has been instructed in at least the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism. The preparation has first brought the Gospel to the catechumen in Baptism, Absolution, the Gospel preached, etc. The power of the Gospel has come and made a child of God out of a lost sinner. The vows taken at confirmation are a promise and a pledge to remain partakers of the Gospel so that faith is nurtured and matured until the day of their soul's ascension to the Lord.

The offertory of DS I affords the worshipper to sing the song that reviews and remains firm to the vows that were taken at confirmation. What are the benefits of the Lord to His church? It is grace, pure and holy, good news that death does not win, sin does not define us in God's eyes and heaven is our home. These benefits have been procured by Jesus active and passive obedience, in our place, earning His Father's favor for our sake. His benefits to us flow from the blood shed on the cross, joining it to the Sacraments, and giving them to us as gift. The result? The forgiveness of sins, complete and perfect.

So that these gifts may be brought to our being, God has instituted the Sacraments. He earned forgiveness for us, and now He provides physical means that we present back to Him so that He may join His Word (Body and Blood to the bread and wine) for us to eat and drink. His benefits are forgiveness, life and salvation.

This is an excellent theme for your upcoming Thanksgiving services. I pray you administer the Lord's Supper at that service. Thanksgiving gets overrun with turkey, stuffing, and potatoes, with pumpkin pie for dessert. The greatest meal of all is the one the Lord provides for us that we may take unto ourselves His precious heavenly gifts. What shall we render Him? Fidelity and praise. He earned it.

God be with you and bless you with His Holy Word.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders
District President

Vice-President Perspective

Why The Sermon Is So Important

It is difficult to imagine a Christian worship service without a sermon, and for good reason. The proclamation of the Word is not simply a tradition. It is a foundational, indispensable element of the Church's life and mission. Specifically, the sermon delivers the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them that like and like it not. As St. Paul charges Timothy, the preacher must "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2).

To understand why the sermon is so important, one must examine what it does in the life of the hearer. The sermon operates as a tool of both Law and Gospel. First, it holds up the mirror of the Law, bringing the sinner to a knowledge of his own sin, for "by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20). Once the sinner is brought low, the sermon delivers the transformative Gospel, calling the broken to repentance and to saving faith in Christ. This aligns with Christ's own earthly ministry, where He proclaimed, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

For the Christian hearer, the sermon strengthens faith, encouraging the Christian to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). It provides exhortation to live the Christian life, urging believers to present their bodies as a living sacrifice and to be transformed by the renewal of their minds (Rom. 12:1-2). Furthermore, when life brings suffering, the sermon provides profound comfort in the midst of trial and tribulation, anchored in the truth that "whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). All of this is to the ultimate glory of God.

The sermon is also the time and place where God speaks to His people. In a sermon delivered on September 11, 1540, Martin Luther spoke of this reality: "Yes, I hear the sermon; but who is speaking? The minister? No indeed! You do not hear the minister. True, the voice is his; but my God is speaking the Word which he preaches or speaks. Therefore, I should honor the Word of God that I may become a good pupil of the Word."

Pastoral care is often viewed as a one-on-one ministry, but the evidence above shows that the sermon is pastoral care in the cooperate setting. The pastor takes the truth of Scripture and directly applies it to the needs of the hearers. As the corporate body listens, the Holy Spirit works within individual hearts, applying the message to each life.

Preaching as pastoral care is a part of our Lutheran tradition. In his Pastoral Theology, C.F.W. Walther cautions that a preacher can proclaim the Word in total purity and truth, yet still completely miss the mark if he fails to account for the specific struggles of his listeners. Public preaching is an intensely personal business; the text must be examined with the specific congregation's needs in mind. Similarly, Harry Emerson Fosdick argued that people enter the sanctuary carrying their deep sins, shames, vices, and anxieties, desperately searching for answers. Fosdick maintained that addressing these human struggles head-on is the "main business" of the sermon. Even though a message is delivered to a crowd, it remains the direct, intimate, personal care of the Savior to each listener.

Rev. W. Max Mons, S.T.M
1st Vice-President – Iowa District East
Pastor – St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center

Vacancy Updates

As of 10.30.2026

Calling Congregations

Belle Plaine, First	Josiah Schultz (Vacancy Pastor)
Luzerne, St. Paul	Jeff Schanbacher (Vacancy Pastor)
Clinton, Trinity	Stephen Gallo (Vacancy Pastor)
Davenport, Holy Cross	Terry Quick (Vacancy Pastor)
Davenport, Trinity	Calling Associate
Delaware, St. Paul	Isaiah Armbrecht (Vacancy Pastor)
Monticello, St. John	Harrison Goodman (Vacancy Pastor)
DeWitt, Grace	Merle Warnsholz (Vacancy Pastors)
Eldridge, Park View	Kristian Kincaid (Vacancy Pastor)
Guttenberg, Trinity McGregor, St. Paul	Mark Brase (Vacancy Pastor)
Iowa Falls, Immanuel	Aaron Hambleton (Vacancy Pastor)
Mt. Vernon, St. Paul	Harrison Goodman (Vacancy Pastor)
Riceville, St. Peter	James Rockhill (Vacancy Pastor)
Shell Rock, Peace	Jon Ellingworth (Vacancy Pastor)
St. Ansgar, Immanuel	Jesse Burns (Vacancy Pastor)
Waverly (Artesian) - St. Paul	George Volkert (Vacancy Pastor)

Pastor Calls

Accepted:	Mark Zieroth – Dubuque, IA	Trinity Lutheran Church, Vinton
Pending:	Keith Emshoff – Raymore, MO	Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Davenport
	Samuel Beltz – Oskaloosa, IA	St. Paul/Zion, Harve/Chinook, MT
	Aaron Hambleton – Eldora, IA	Immanuel Lutheran Church – Wahpeton, ND
	Paul Hammes – Wayne, NE	Park View Lutheran Church, Eldridge
	Jay Weideman – Oelwein/Independence, IA	Trinity Lutheran Church – Bridgeton, MO
Declined:	Adam Moline – Lincoln, NE	First Lutheran – Belle Plaine/St. Paul Lutheran – Luzerne
	Paul Hammes – Wayne, NE	Trinity Lutheran Church - Davenport

Resigned from Roster:	Sean Hansen – Mt. Vernon, IA	Effective 9.17.26

Commissioned Calls

Accepted:

Declined:

Directory Updates

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

NOVEMBER		
6-7	Pastors' Wives Retreat	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca
14	IDE Liturgy Workshop	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
26-27	Thanksgiving	IDE Office Closed
DECEMBER		
24-Jan4	Christmas	IDE Office Closed
JANUARY		
26	Board of Directors	IDE Office
29-30	IDE Middle School Retreat	Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

Lutheran Singles Meetings

Singles: Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha has a singles group for ages 18-100 that meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

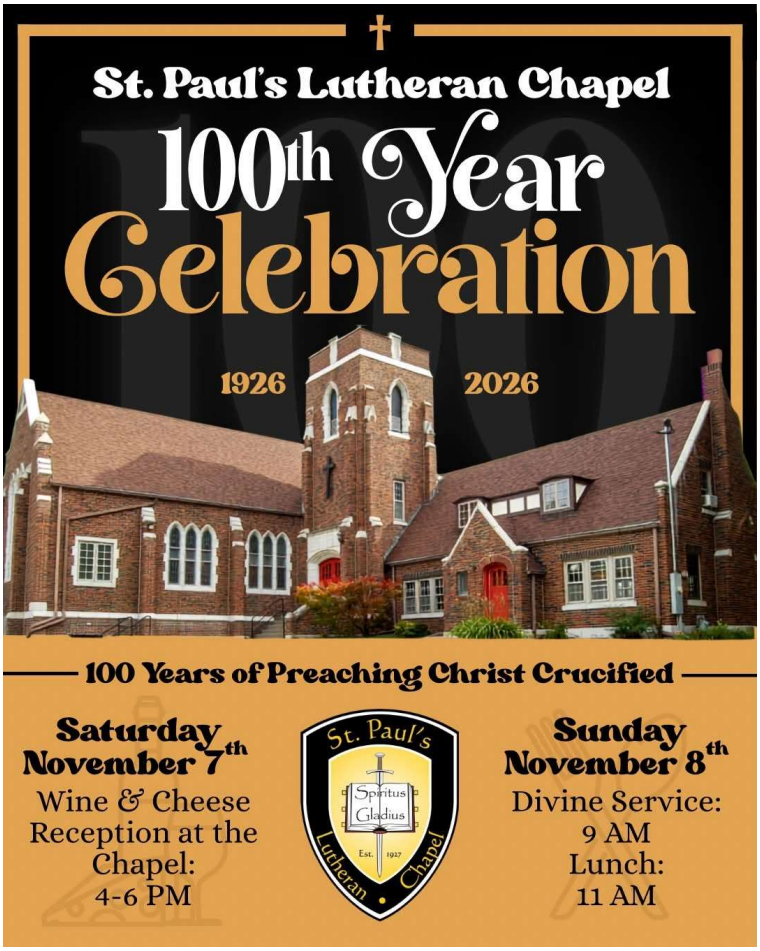
Sunday, November 8: Join fellow Lutherans for pizza and card/board games at **noon** at Zion Lutheran with the games starting at 12:30pm. Everyone will split the cost of the pizza. Bring your favorite game. Paper products and water will be provided. Please RSVP to either Zion at 319/393-2013 or Cindy Gewecke at 319/929-3077 (text accepted with your name) 24 hours in advance of the event so we can order enough pizza.

Sunday, November 22: Meet fellow Lutherans at a potluck at noon at Zion Lutheran. We will play card or board games at 12:30pm. Bring a dish to share and your favorite game. Pulled pork sandwiches, paper products and water will be provided. Please RSVP to either Zion at 319/393-2013 or Cindy Gewecke at 319/929-3077 (text accepted with your name) 24 hours in advance of the event.

St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel – Iowa City

100th Anniversary

Greetings,



It is my pleasure to invite you to the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel. We would be delighted to have you join us as we give thanks to God for a century of faithful ministry to students, members, and alumni at the 404 E. Jefferson Street property.

The anniversary celebration will take place on Saturday, November 7, and Sunday, November 8. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, November 7

4:00–6:00 PM — Wine and Cheese Reception
This will be an informal time for students, members, and alumni to gather, visit, and reminisce about their time at the Chapel.

Sunday, November 8

9:00 AM — Divine Service
The Rev. Peter Lange, First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will preach.

Following the Divine Service — Brief Chapel History Program

A short program highlighting the history of St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel will be presented before the luncheon

11:00 AM — Anniversary Luncheon

Please RSVP via this link –
https://us.list-manage.com/2DxSKFyqopQ?e=791ae03407&c2id=2ec151b2285b24fa3a334f03b0d03e86

It would be a great joy to have you with us for this important anniversary. I hope you will be able to attend.

God's blessings,

Rev. W. Max Mons, STM

IDE Schools

Make Every Day a Reformation Day

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

If you've read the title of this article and the Scripture passage, and you're still continuing to read on, I'm proud of you. Why? Because those words may not be what you want to hear right now. It's November and you've made it through Halloween or Fall parties – whatever you call it - and Parent/Teachers conferences. Next month is December and all that joyful preparation that comes with it. You're looking forward to some time off at the end of the month. And, here's Jan telling me to be thankful…always!!! I don't have time or the patience or the desire to consider that. She *HAS* been away from the classroom for too long, that's for sure.

I do get it. Please read on. I pray that these words will be worth your time and consideration.

As we enter November, our thoughts turn from Reformation celebrations to Thanksgiving. Yet Thanksgiving is more than a holiday that ushers in the Christmas season. It is an opportunity to pause amid our busy lives and remember the goodness of our gracious God. In the midst of lesson plans, classroom activities, parent conferences, and preparations for the holidays, we need to hear these words of Scripture for ourselves: *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Take a moment to clear your mind of the clutter that occupies your heart. Consider the blessings God has given you this year. Perhaps you have enjoyed good health, the companionship of family and friends, supportive colleagues, or the privilege of serving in a Lutheran school. Perhaps you have witnessed a student discover a new ability, a struggling child experience success, or a colleague offer encouragement when you needed it most. These are gifts worth celebrating and bringing before the Lord in thanksgiving.

But what about those who have experienced a difficult year? Some of your students and their families may be facing illness, financial uncertainty, broken relationships, grief, or loneliness. Perhaps you, too, have encountered disappointments, professional challenges, or moments when you wondered whether your efforts were making a difference. How do we give thanks when life does not unfold as we hoped?

Honestly, Paul's words can be difficult to hear: *"Give thanks in all circumstances."* It is easy to thank God when blessings are evident. It is much harder when circumstances leave us discouraged, exhausted, or uncertain. Does Paul expect us to pretend that everything is fine? Are we supposed to be thankful for suffering and disappointment?

No. Notice that Paul tells us to give thanks **in** all circumstances, not necessarily **for** all circumstances. We live in a sinful and broken world where suffering, loss, and disappointment are real. We mess up. God is not the author of evil, nor does He abandon us when hardship comes or when we ourselves have fallen short of getting everything right. Rather, He invites us to turn to Him as our refuge and strength, our very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).

Hear these words of comfort that St. Paul offer us in the rest of verse 18: *"For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* Our thanksgiving is not grounded in the belief that everything will go our way. It is grounded in the promises of God through Jesus Christ. The Lord who provides our daily bread is also the Savior who gave His life for us.

Through His death and resurrection, our sins are forgiven, our future is secure, and our hope rests in something far greater than our present circumstances.

Even in difficult seasons, God sustains us through His Word and Sacraments, strengthens our faith, and reminds us that we do not walk alone. We may not understand why certain hardships come our way, and we need not pretend to have all the answers or make the right choices. But we can trust the One who has promised never to leave or forsake us.

What does this mean for us as Lutheran school educators? Our vocation brings both joy and challenges. We celebrate student accomplishments, encourage families, support colleagues, and share the saving Gospel of Jesus. We also encounter difficult days, unmet expectations, and situations beyond our control. In every circumstance, we have the privilege of reflecting Christ's love through patience, kindness, forgiveness, and faithful service.

Our students learn about gratitude not only through Thanksgiving lessons but also by watching us. They see how we respond when plans change, how we treat those who struggle, and whether we extend grace when mistakes are made. When we acknowledge difficulties while continuing to trust God's promises, we model a faith that is honest, resilient, and rooted in Christ.

This November, take time to thank God for the blessings you can see, pray for those whose burdens you may not fully understand, and remember the grace that sustains you in your calling. You are not responsible for making every day perfect or solving every problem. You are called to serve faithfully, love your neighbors, and point your students to the Savior who holds them—and you—in His gracious hands.

Be thankful … always. Will we get it right every time? Will we always say the right words? Of course, not. But when we do mess up we ask for forgiveness, take the necessary steps to be reconciled, and be assured of the grace that has been given to us through God's Son, and move on. Not every circumstance is easy, but God's faithfulness does not change when circumstances do. May the Lord renew your joy, strengthen your faith, and remind you that even in the most challenging seasons of ministry, His grace is sufficient and His promises endure.

Jan Doellinger

Assistant to the President - Schools

Parish Nurse

Not All Germs Are Bad

Fewer germs weaken our defenses. As over-sanitizing has grown, vulnerability to viruses has risen, underscoring the microbiome's role. Trillions of microbes help digest food, make key vitamins, absorb nutrients, fight pathogens, balance gut pH, neutralize carcinogens and trigger antiviral responses.

You want to protect your gut ecosystem. Excess antibiotics, low-fiber diets and ultra-clean environments deplete beneficial bacteria. Prioritize a plant-rich, whole-food diet with complex carbs; use medications only when needed. A balanced microbiome strengthens immunity and overall health.

Medication impacts include:

- Antibiotics eliminate both harmful and helpful bacteria.
- Antacids lower stomach acid, raising infection risk.
- Cough suppressants reduce expulsion of pathogens.
- Fever reducers suppress fever which can increase vulnerability to infection.

Bottom line: A healthy gut equals better overall health but always consult your provider.

Source: "The Anti-Viral Gut" by Robyne Chutkan, M.D. Better Health, Winter 2026, Volume 42, Number 1

Submitted by Ronda Anderson RN, IDE Parish Nurse District Representative

LCMS Stewardship

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Originally published In November 2023

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

Life Coordinator

Friends in Jesus Christ our Lord,

God loves every human life from the moment of conception.



- There is a **Word of Hope** for the men and women who suffer from the guilt of abortion: https://word-of-hope.org
- There are resources at **LCMS Life Ministry**, including Life Sunday materials, and a Life Library if you or your members have questions on life issues: https://www.lcms.org/life-ministry/life-sunday-resources
- The national **March for Life** in Washington, D.C. will be on January 22, 2027: https://marchforlife.org
- Contact **Lutheran Family Service** for adoption services, counseling, advocacy, and more: https://lutheranfamilyservice.org
- Discover prayers, support, comfort, and information about miscarriage loss and healing through this webinar: Webinar: Love At The Beginning Of Life - Lutheran Family Service
- **Pray** for fathers, mothers, unborn babies, all children, and all families, single persons, the barren, the widows, and the orphans, in the Litany, and in your daily prayers.

Rev. Alex Post, Iowa District East Life Coordinator

Iowa Lutheran Student Tuition Organization

WE ARE SUPPORTING MORE STUDENTS AND MORE SCHOOLS THAN EVER BEFORE.



1,800
STUDENTS IN OUR IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

16
SCHOOLS IN OUR SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (2 NEW!)

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Make a charitable gift to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization and receive a 75% Iowa tax credit.

IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..."

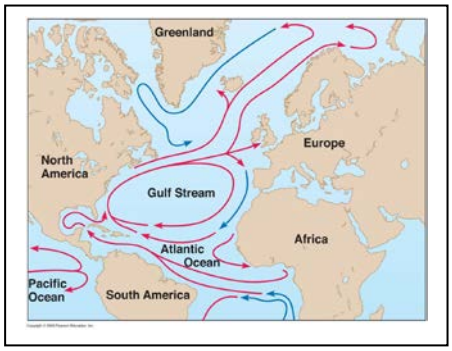
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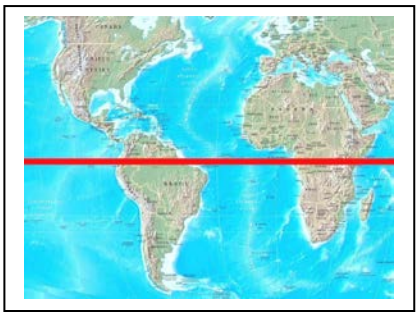
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IDE ARCHIVES

Part III – Kiesel Diary 1855

[Note: In our era, not many people get the opportunity to experience travel on the ocean. Our mode on international travel is to board an airplane and be at our destination in 15 hours or less. As Part III begins, Johann Kiesel and all other passengers have now been on the Windjammer SS Weser for 24 days. Dependent on good winds and ocean currents to move them toward their destination of Galveston, Texas, they have only been able to leave Germany, bob in the North Sea for a while, cut through the English Channel, and head southward along the African Coast. A map[1] of the North Atlantic Ocean currents from Europe to North America will give you an idea of how far this 3-Deck Windjammer, depending on the sails and current to move the ship, travelled over those 24 days. The diary will disclose how far south the ship had to travel before it could turn westward. It you live north of the equator, the magnetic compass needle will always point in a northerly direction. Moving southward across the equator, the magnetic compass needle swings in order to point to earth's south magnetic field.[2]





— Rev. Allen Konrad – IDE Archivist

28 October—Sunday

I was able to sleep well tonight, I am also healthy and arose well from my bed and found myself cheerful and comfortable all day long and that both inwardly and outwardly. Praise and thanks to the dear Savior. Amen. Brother Beck preached about Romans 2:1-11. The hymn from the Württemberg Hymnal was The World Once Comes Together. Brother Beck reprimanded the injustice of all kinds, which also (unclear) after the sharpness of the Word of God and especially the dance amusement on Sunday evening, which the captain did not like to be brought up in such a sermon and noted that it was not a sin when one dances and, moreover, it should not happen any more that one interferes with his orders. There were many who felt that the worship service should be discontinued altogether. O what long-suffering of God, when one considers the sins that are carried out and practiced on the ship in public and hidden from the eyes of men. O Lord have mercy. Who can grasp your long-suffering and fathom your patience and kindness, which you prove to your faithful people. There was dancing this evening.

29 October—Monday

Today, I was well all day for which I am grateful to the Lord. Lord increase faith and love in me, and make me smaller and more humble, and let me know my unrecognized sins and cleanse me of all sins. Blessed afternoon by contemplating useful scriptures. Concerning last night, I want to resolve an issue with Brother Mödinger and Sister Münzenmeier through their individual longer staying up, at which the world takes offense.

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[1] Map of Ocean Currents: [https://ocean-wildlife.blogspot.com/2023/07/north-atlantic-ocean-currents-map.html — accessed 2026-09-07]
[2] Map of Equator: [https://vignette.wikia.nocookie.net/astronomers/images/d/d7/Map-of-the-world-with-equator-from-yangding-4.jpeg — accessed 2026-09-09]

30 October—Tuesday
Today, I am completely exhausted and tired in all limbs due to the warm weather and completely incapable of working. His morning, I wanted to organize a small conference among us six Brothers, but Brother Beck and Mödinger could not understand each other, explaining to Brother Beck after I told him some of the divisions among us and of the great benefits and blessings of the conference, namely I was in a spiritual pride which with his expression and mind came out as no Jesus-like heart, but of a fine expression of unlovable and indomitable sense and self-will. With pain they are waiting for the time that they will leave us and be alone, which is the mind of no fraternal community of God, which holds so many blessings for our own salvation and for the promotion of the kingdom of God. United power makes strong against all enemies and bulwarks of darkness. O Lord, I set before you, Lord, all my concern, you who knows the innermost reason of my mind and makes a thorough examination, examine my poor heart, and set me free from all human anxiety and eccentricity, and teach me your will, give me focused attention and an undivided heart that looks only at you, what you have become to me and to all men on the cross at Golgotha. Amen. That prevents, humbles, and dispels arrogance.

31 October—Wednesday
When I got up this morning and came to the deck, I had to think a lot about my homeland, and especially my dear mother, who no doubt things often about me. O dearest Lord and Savior, bind and unite each of us more and more with you and your love, and let us always look to you and remember you, that our desire may become and remain a true longing and homesickness for you until we may, after a completed earthly pilgrimage, see, praise and worship you face to face in eternal glory and bliss. Amen. The weather is already very warm. Life on the ship is a true school in which one is led to one's evil and wrong heart, if one submits to the breeding of the Spirit of God and sighs incessantly in silence for redemption and liberation from all sins, which does not go away without repentance and bowing in submission. O what wholesome grace to be allowed to and be able to repent. Amen.

01 November—Thursday
Last night there was dancing in which the sailors took part in particular, because one passed yesterday the turning circle of the compass, so the sailors always have a feast day or rather in my experience "Filth and Devil's Day," dressing up in an ugly likeness and pretending that the god of the sea is to be seen and that Neptune comes out of the water. But this statement soon became clear by being made quite wet when people come to dance. At this occasion, the sailors ranted and raged absurdly. I soon went to rest, and by the grace of God, I was soon able to sleep, and I also rose up from my bed in good health. The weather is good. Gottlieb Dirr causes us a lot of heartache, he becomes so gloomy that he no longer responds to the words that Sister Sophie says to him and only speaks mockingly. How incomprehensible and inscrutable are the ways of the judgments of God. Amen.

02 November—Friday
Healthy and well in gratitude to my Savior, I make the comment which I receive in His grace and strength to this moment, and I ask you Lord to have mercy on me, and also receive me in it. Amen. The weather is very warm, the wind good. Gottlieb Dirr was expelled from our society by his extraordinarily indecent coarse and unmannerly behavior.

03 November—Saturday
Tonight, I was able to sleep quietly, and I got up healthy from my pilgrim bed. Today, I am particularly open to praise and thanks and adoration for the unfathomable love, grace and mercy of my God and Savior Jesus Christ, which have become part of me in many ways this week in a way that I have been able to understand unwittingly share. Lord, Lord also forgive me my many infidelities and sins which I

have allowed myself to become guilty of in the past week. O Lord, also forgive me my hidden mistakes, who can know how often we fail and let me find grace before your holy face. Amen.

04 November—Sunday
Tonight the sea was restless and as a result the ship was in great motion, so I could not sleep much and got dizzy and a headache again and after getting up I had to lay down again because the vomiting wanted to begin again. The weather is not very favorable. No worship service was held today, firstly, because of the weather, secondly, as far as I believe Brother Schäg was discouraged or not prepared enough, but this cannot please the Savior in the light that his message of joy and peace has not been proclaimed. I still have a headache this evening. Tonight, a miracle, there was no dancing amusement.

05 November—Monday
Tonight, I could not sleep much because of the swaying, I also have a headache all day long and many tendencies to vomit. The wind is not favorable for our journey, o wailing life in the valley of tears and misery of all kinds. O dear Savior, do work in me a true longing for that better world. Amen.

06 November—Tuesday
Today I am unwell all day, the water always runs out to my mouth and consequently it is not really in the stomach. Tonight was a short discussion among us 6 Brothers, where there was an opportunity to portray the folly of Brother Küpfer before their eyes, but of course our speech does not help much or nothing if the Spirit of God does not participate or brings a soul into discipline and improvement for true remorse and repentance. O Lord Jesus, only you alone, you triune merciful God can direct and guide all hearts like the streams of water according to your pleasure, do it also in my and in all hearts to honor your name and to the glorification and (unclear) of your kingdom. Amen. The weather is April-like weather all day.

07 November—Wednesday
Today I am also uncomfortable all day, have no appetite for food and am as if paralyzed all over my body. O miserable life. Lord help me to endure in patience the situation in which I have come by your grace. Amen. Brother Küpfer was repeatedly rebuked today for his improper secular behavior considering his profession and status, with the serious remark that he would be excluded from us and remain so when we come to Texas, everything would be done with the confirmation by Brother Wendt. No man of the King entwines himself in commerce of food. O what shame for the Savior and for us, what occasion the world takes in such a performance.

08 November—Thursday
This morning, the doctor gave me a substance that induced vomiting which had a good effect. It was a little powder that I had to take twice and because I had chamomiles myself, I drank the tea along with it. There was a lot of bile coming from me. Now that the substance had worked in the upper part, so it also worked in the lower. Abstinence from meat and heavy food is good and highly recommended on the ship. Also do not eat so much, preferably to suffer a little hunger than to eat too much or more after having had enough. I am not able to do any of my work. The weather is good but the wind is very light. Tonight was as usual dance amusement, also after it was over I slept on the top deck for the first time, but I did not feel comfortable in the morning because the sea air affected me very much.

09 November—Friday
I slept well tonight, but as I have already noticed, I absolutely need to be very careful for the night that I want to sleep on the top deck. My condition is pretty good, but I have a fatigued chest from the vomiting. This morning, a man declared that every man, by his faith, which he has and may be called as

he pleases, come blessed into heaven. I dealt with him about this error referred him to the Savior who is the only condition of the blessed faith as the only assurance, mediator and advocate. Have thanks dear Savior for giving me the grace to profess your holy name and bloodied merit. Amen. The weather is very warm. During the night, at 2:30 o'clock, a woman died in the middle deck from excessive fluid in the chest, but she had already come on the ship sick and was handed over to the sea at 7:30 o'clock this evening. The corpse was sewn into a cloth and tied to a piece of board, in order to quickly sink the corpse, a heavy stone was tied to the feet, which was sewn into a cloth, and so the corpse was sunk. Brother Schäg gave a very short devotion to the people at the request of the surviving husband and children, touching also on their ancestry and experiences. The family was from the Kingdom of Hanover and produced 9 children, 2 of whom were in Texas and some were on the ship. The words used by Brother Schäg are Gospel of John 5:25. Although it is basically the same whether one is eaten by the fish or worms, it is a horrible sight to hand over a corpse to the wild and raging waves, but also the more painful for the surviving husband and his children. Oh how raw, how blind, how blunt, how miserable it looks in the world, and especially on our ship. A life like Sodom and Gomorrah. The weather is as warm this evening as in the middle of the summer.

10 November—Saturday
Tonight I slept well in the cabin, but felt great pain all over my body when I wanted to turn around. Today I am very weak and my chest hurts very much. So I asked Brother Mödinger if he would be so good and give me a bottle of his wine and I would pay for it in Texas. He did me the favor for which I am most grateful. The dear Sisters also gave me a good drink of their wine today, which really refreshed me. Oh how often I have to look up to heaven after the true home, where my Savior has also prepared a place for me. Amen. This afternoon was an open air shooting toward an eagle. There was also a lottery game for a small children's ship, of which the value goes to the invalid sailors. Once again, a week is over by God's grace and unfathomable mercy. Eternal praise and thanks and praise and honor be to you, dearest Savior, for all the good you have done me. I also thank you for the sorrows. Amen. There was dancing this evening.

11 November—Sunday
I slept well last night and feel better this morning, although still very weak. Ah, how my soul longs in silence for God my Savior, where all distress and misery comes to an end; however, not my will but the Lord's will. Amen. Brother Mödinger held a worship service today concerning Romans 5:12. Song: One thing I want above all else. The dear Sisters gave me of their wine today, which really refreshed me and for which I am most grateful. Oh, what a revival of a little wine in the circumstances I am currently in.

The weather and the wind is good. There was no dancing this evening, but otherwise disorderly conduct until late into the night. Along with two Sisters, I also slept at the side of the deck in a (unclear), but had to flee to the cabin at 12:30 AM because of rain. The Sisters remained lying there until morning.

12 November—Monday
Today I am cheerful but got up from my pilgrim bed still very weak, the chest does not hurt so much anymore, but the stomach is not yet in order, because I find the food is lying in it so heavy. The soups of the evening meal serve me well. The doctor has forbidden me to eat meat, which is not a burden to me, because it is not so alluring to eat. This afternoon I had blessed hours in solitude contemplating a booklet that gave me much information about the hidden life with Christ in God. I am incapable of working. The wind and the weather is good. Brothers Schäg and Küpfer did not go to the devotion this evening, which saddened me greatly. They have experienced several push-to-shove incidences and have disavowed each other.

13 November—Tuesday
Today I am better again, my chest no longer hurts so much, for which I am quite grateful to the dear Savior. One really has to pay attention on the ship about his things, in that so much gets stolen, especially food provisions. The weather is very warm. Brother Küpfer showed up with a scarf. And today he had his travel shirt altered to a jacket, which, however, does not look good, especially in view of his rank and profession, but he was also laughed at by the people. The Sisters provide for us a lot of acts of kindness for which I am most grateful.

14 November—Wednesday
Tonight I was able to sleep well, although it was very warm. My health is better again; praise and thanks to the dear Savior. Up to now the Lord has helped, O Lord, help us and me further along. Amen. Today showed up calm, but it was so hot that I have never had to sweat as much on the journey so far as I do today.

15 November—Thursday
Although it was so warm this night, I did not sleep on the top deck, but in the cabin, as well as did Brother Schuhmacher. Today I find myself better in my health. Today the Sisters gave me to drink from their wine, which benefit I appreciate and understand more and more, and for this I am most grateful. Today I washed, I also washed my feet yesterday and today. The weather is almost calm, which leads to an extended journey. O God, my Savior, how I thank you for your gracious help to body and soul also this day. Oh let me know more and more what I am and what you are, you incomprehensible, eternal, infinite love on the trunk of the cross. Amen. This morning, a 4-year old child died in the middle deck. Also this evening, big fish could be seen. There was dancing this evening.

16 November—Friday
Tonight I was able to sleep well, which is quite beneficial to my health, I also find myself stronger in all my limbs, also I have a good appetite again, for which I am most grateful to the dear Savior. Tonight, the child was quietly sunk into the depths of the sea. This afternoon, the middle-deck passengers were turned away from the second deck of the second cabin because there were so many injustices were discovered among them. Two land birds were seen tonight, so land must be visible soon.

17 November—Saturday
This evening, the wind was still calm and even until before midnight, but soon there was a thunderstorm that stopped people from sleeping on the top deck. I still sleep well in the cabin and am willing never to sleep on the deck, because the sea air exerts a significant influence on me. This morning you could see the island of Domingo, which has very high mountains. There is no shortage of lice and vermin among the middle deck passengers, which turns out to be more and more apparent from day to day. One can hardly believe what is taking place on the ship, and as one thought before, so it is not. Once again, dear God and Savior, you have helped us for a week and blessed us abundantly with all kinds of blessings for soul and body, receive eternal praise and thanksgiving and glory and honor and adoration for all the good that you also burden us with, which is also very good and salutary for my eternal good. O Lord, Lord do not let me be afraid of suffering, but let me, by your grace, look more and more to you and follow you and follow in your footsteps, which movement leads only alone to you where you are in eternal joy and glory. Amen. Tonight, as the passengers camped on the deck, there were often very quick thunderstorms, which interrupted them, with comical running and rushing.

[to be continued]

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At Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), we align your investments with your faith, empowering LCMS ministries to grow and serve for the glory of His kingdom. With the All Access Account, you'll enjoy competitive rates and full access to your funds, designed for your daily needs.



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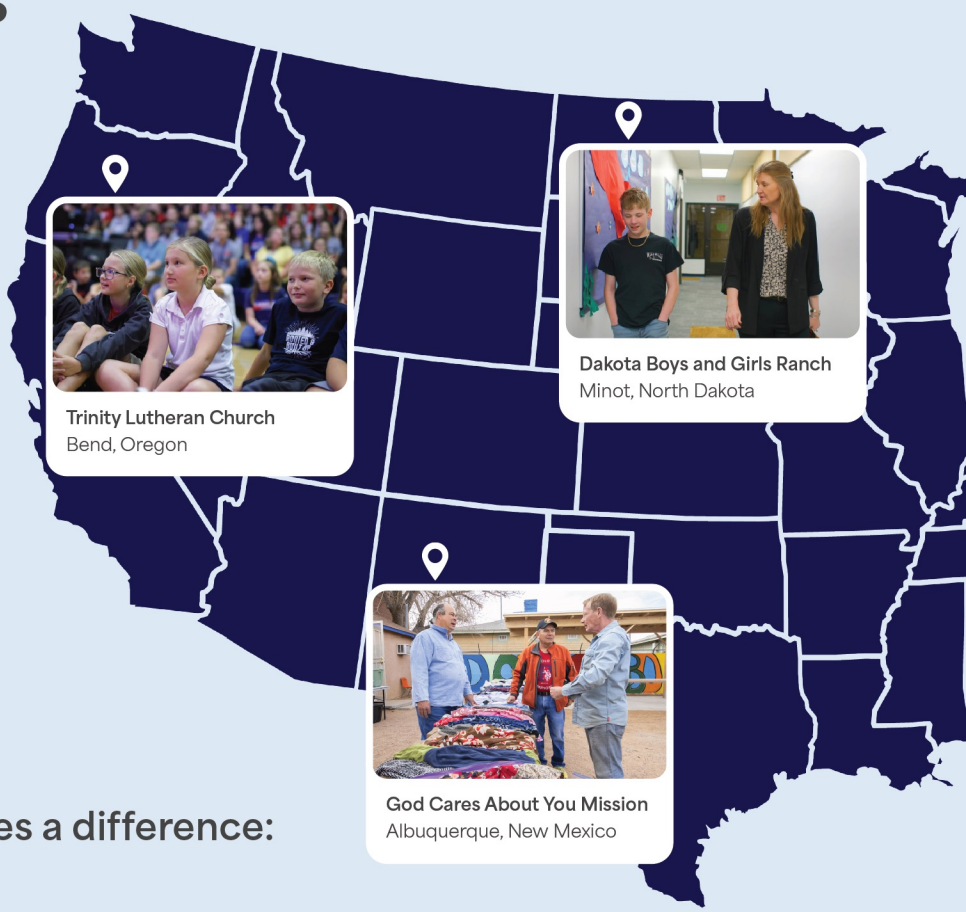
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LCMS churches, schools and organizations grow more each day, extending the news of Christ's love and mercy further into their communities. LCEF solutions drive ministry empowerment through investor support. Explore real partnership impact stories by visiting the LCEF Ministry Stories Map.



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LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

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Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



November 2026

Fall Projects

This fall, Camp is fundraising for a couple different projects that we will be working to complete in 2027. Our pool, which is over 60 years old, needs resurfacing and new underwater lights. Everyone that has ever been at Camp knows that activities get 50% more fun after the sun goes down! In order for us to continue swimming safely, especially at night, we need $30,000 to resurface the bottom of the pool, and another $15,000 to safely replace the underwater lights. Our tack shed project continues to need support! We have already completed well over $40,000 in upgrades, but we still have about $10,000 to go before this project is complete and ready for use! Speaking of horses, we are embarking on a mission to build permanent housing for our third full-time staff member, Jonathan Temme! To make a donation towards any of these projects, you may go to *https://campiodiseca.org/believe/* or mail a check and let us know which project you'd like your donation to go toward. Your support with these projects is greatly appreciated and will greatly improve our guest experience!







Program Director Update



At the end of this summer, our Program Director Alec Deppe stepped down after 4 years of service at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. We thank him for his dedication to the role over the last 4 years and wish him and his family nothing but the best in their next adventure! Applications for the Program Director position are now open. If this is a calling that you are interested in pursuing, please email your resume, cover letter, and 3 references to director@iodiseca.org to be considered.

Coming Soon:
SUMMER 2027
Theme Announcement
Registration will open at 1:00pm on January 18th!

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? Camp Director Dylan Lampe and Horse Barn Manager Jonathan Temme 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

Now through November 15
Horseback Trail Riding!

November 6-7
IDE Pastors Wives' Retreat

January 18, 2027
Summer 2027 Registration Launch!

January 29-30, 2027
IDE Middle School Retreat

March 5-6, 2027
Pastors' Wives Winter Social

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca @campiodiseca

THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2025, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received over $12,000 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!

THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

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.**

Summer Staff Update

Thanks be to God for the wonderful staff who came out to serve at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca this summer! They put in countless hours to ensure Camp has a summer program and that our ministry may continue. We are extremely grateful for their service this summer, sharing God's Word and His love with all who came to camp!

If you or someone you know would like the opportunity to serve camp in this way next summer, now is the time to start thinking about that! Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca is one of dozens of Lutheran camps across the country looking for college-aged young adults to make a difference in the lives of children. The opportunity to serve at a camp awaits! To start a summer of service, go to www.nloma.org. **The application process is currently open!**

Please contact Jonathan Temme by emailing programdirector@iodiseca.org for more information on how you can work, learn, grow, and have an experience of a lifetime by serving on Camp's summer staff.



3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333

Phone: 319.848.4187 Web: www.campiodiseca.org Email: office@iodiseca.org

Y4LIFE & YA FOR LIFE

in Washington, D.C.

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE

January 21-23, 2027

Join us for the FREE Y4Life and YA For Life Conference and March for Life this year in Washington, D.C. Meet other life leaders from across the nation at this mountaintop event! Not only will participants learn more about life issues and take part in the March, but by registering through Lutherans For Life, leaders also receive a discount on hotel rooms and guided opportunities at the March.

Questions? Email Cori Meier at cori@y4life.org.

Register for the conference at y4life.org/events, yaforlife.org/events or by scanning the QR code below. Registration is open Sept. 1, 2026 – Dec. 1, 2026. Space is limited!

Double queen rooms cost $139 per night, single king rooms cost $124 per night. Reserve rooms through Y4Life.

IDE Pastors' Wives Retreat



Strengthening the Two Estates of Church and Home
Rev. Dr. Harold Ristau
November 6-7 @ Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca

REGISTRATION (Go to www.lcmside.org for online registration.)

Name _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

Name of Congregation _____

Lap Baby ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Willing to share a room with a mother and baby ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Roommate Requests: _____

Dietary Restrictions:_____

PAYMENT

The cost for this retreat is **$65.** If attending Saturday only the fee is $45. This includes 3 meals, a night's lodging, supplies, and good Christian fun and fellowship. Please mail this form along with a check for payment to the IDE office. Make checks payable to Iowa District East - LCMS.

IOWA DISTRICT EAST- LCMS
1100 BLAIRS FERRY RD
MARION IA 52302-3093

For questions or help with registration visit our website at lcmside.org or call the district office at 319-373-2112.

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YOU'RE INVITED TO
IDE PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT
AT CAMP IODISECA
NOVEMBER 6-7TH, 2026
REVEREND DOCTOR HAROLD RISTAU
Presenting: Strengthening Pastors' Wives in the Two Estates of Church and Home
Please bring a snack to share.
Lap babies are welcome!
RSVP by October 24th


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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Cedar Falls, IA

Iowa District East - LCMS Liturgy Workshop

A Workshop on Lutheran Liturgy for the northern area of Iowa District East - LCMS



November 14 9AM - 2PM

Presenters - Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders
Rev. Jon Ellingworth & Rev. Matthew Baker

www.lcmside.org/liturgy-worskshop

Submissions

Submissions for the next edition of the Professional Workers' Packet are due

November 23, 2026.

Please email articles and announcements to

Daniel Sanchez, District Services Coordinator at

dsanchez@lcmside.org

