

Convention Workbook



The Fortieth Convention
of

Iowa District West

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Camp Okoboji
Milford, IA
June 24-26, 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Archivist's Report.....	67
Board of Directors.....	36
Candidates for President and Vice Presidents	69-76
Christian Education Committee.....	51-53
Christian Estate Planning Counselor's Report.....	68
Circuit Visitor Nominations.....	97
Circuit Visitors' Reports.....	37-44
Commission on Constitutions.....	50
Convention Committees.....	12
Convention Presenters and Assistants	13
Delegate Information	3-4
Devotion Schedule	8
Executive Assistants' Reports	
Education, Youth and Family Life.....	48-49
Missions, Human Care and Stewardship	45-47
Human Care Committee	60
IOWAY Director's Report.....	57-58
Lutheran Church Extension Fund Vice President's Report.....	61
Mission Development Counselor's Report.....	62-63
Missions Committee	59
Nominating Committee.....	77-96
Officers	14-15
Official Acts.....	21-32
Parliamentary Procedures	5-6
President's Report.....	33-34
Proposed Special Standing Rules.....	7
Roster	16-20
Schedule.....	9-11
Stewardship Committee.....	64
Student Financial Aid Committee.....	54
Treasurer's Report/Endowment and Legacy Committee.....	65-66
Vice Presidents' Reports.....	35
Youth Services Committee	55-56

DELEGATE INFORMATION

(Please read carefully.)

THE FORTIETH CONVENTION of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod takes place, God-willing, from Sunday to Tuesday, June 24-26, 2018, at Camp Okoboji. The Registration Committee will be on duty Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. All attending the Convention must mail their meals and lodging registration sheet (ivory) to CAMP OKOBOJI by June 4. The congregation's treasurer must mail their convention assessment to IOWA DISTRICT WEST by May 15. No delegate shall stand accredited and receive a voting badge unless the congregation has paid the assessment fee in advance.

THE OPENING SERVICE with Holy Communion will be held Sunday evening at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Spirit Lake, The Rev. Dave Simonson, pastor. (Immanuel is located about ½ mile south of the intersection of Highways 9 and 71, on the east side of Highway 71.) Announcement for Holy Communion is to be made on the space provided on your Registration Form. You must present this form when you register. The Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller is scheduled to deliver the sermon at our Convention. The Rev. Dr. Timothy Saleska will edify the Convention attendees as essayist.

THE *CONVENTION WORKBOOK* is posted on our district website at www.idwlcms.org/convention.php. Be certain to read it through carefully. The various reports provide helpful background for Convention decisions. **Please remember you must bring a copy with you to the convention.** If you do not have access to a printer please contact your pastor who will assist you. If you prefer you may download a copy to a small laptop or tablet computer. However, no extension cords are allowed on the floor of the convention.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BIBLE AND YOUR COPY OF THE *CONVENTION WORKBOOK* TO THE CONVENTION. If the alternate delegate attends in your stead, please turn your copy of the *Convention Workbook* over to him/her.

THE CONVENTION COMMITTEES are listed immediately following the Convention Schedule. You will do well to look these over. The pastor whose name is listed first is the chairman of the committee. He will convene the committee and provide for the selection of a secretary. Committee reports are to be prepared in five copies, the original for the District Secretary for his permanent files, the four copies for the Committee, the Convention Chairman, the Press Committee, and the Assistant Secretary.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Floor Committees will hold open meetings which delegates can attend in order to receive clarification of an issue or provide input into an overture that may be presented to the Convention. Times and locations for these meetings will be announced by the Chairman of the Convention. These open hearings will be held in designated classrooms of Immanuel Lutheran Church beginning 20 minutes after the close of the Opening Service on Sunday, June 24. (See Schedule page in the *Convention Workbook*.)

CONVENTION MATERIALS: No materials are to be distributed on the floor of the Convention or at the door without permission of the Chairman.

THE CREDENTIALS form for lay delegates must be signed by the pastor and two officers of the congregation where membership is held. Unless all three signatures appear, the seating of a delegate could be questioned. Please see that the above procedure is observed. Each parish is entitled to two votes, one by the pastor and one by the lay delegate. You must present this form when you register. A dual or triple parish arrangement constitutes a single parish.

EACH DELEGATE SHOULD bring needed toilet articles, towels, bed linens, and maybe an umbrella or raincoat.

THE 2018 PROCEEDINGS: A copy of the 2018 *PROCEEDINGS* will be emailed to each congregation, delegate, ordained and commissioned worker. It will also be posted on our district website at www.idwlcms.org/convention.php. If you cannot open the document please contact your pastor or the district office.

CONVENTION CHOIR: Once again there will be a Convention Choir. The first rehearsal will be Monday at 8:00 a.m. in the Convention Hall.

MAIL AND TELEPHONE SERVICE: Address all mail in care of Camp Okoboji, 1531 Edgewood Drive, Milford, Iowa 51351. Telephone 712-337-3325.

REGISTRATION FEE: Each congregation shall pay the registration fee and per communicant member assessment whether or not its voting delegates attend. **No delegate shall stand accredited unless the registration fee and assessment have been paid.**

SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR LAY DELEGATES

When you download your *Convention Workbook*, make it a point to read through the reports of all Boards and Committees and thus familiarize yourself with the work which has been carried out within our District, as well as that which is planned for the days ahead. Whenever you encounter something which raises a question in your mind, mark it at once. Then arrange for a meeting with your pastor so that together you can discuss the items which will be confronting the Convention. Some of the Floor Committees may hold open meetings which delegates can attend in order to receive clarification of an issue or input into an overture that may be presented to the Convention. Times and locations for these meetings will be announced by the Chairman of the Convention following the Opening Service on Sunday evening.

On the floor of the Convention itself the various floor committees in our District will make their reports. We are going to take for granted that everyone has studied the printed reports submitted by the District committees.

At any time during the Convention sessions, no matter what the issue under discussion, if something is not clearly presented so that you fully understand the issue, raise your hand and request clarification. Unless you clearly understand the issue you can hardly be expected to vote intelligently in the manner. The Lord's work requires the faithful exercise of our talents in the best interest of His Kingdom.

During the Convention you will also want to take notes on various presentations, as well as note specific action taken by the Convention, so that you will be able to provide an accurate report to the congregation you are representing. As you participate in the business of the Convention you will also realize that you have another responsibility besides that of reporting, namely, the responsibility between this Convention and the next of involving your congregation in the work of the Church. On the one hand this will mean reminding them of distinct actions taken by the Convention in which they were represented. On the other hand it will mean speaking about the very reasons for which the Church was established and encouraging them to be faithful to their God-given mission. It may mean reminding them to put first things first. God give you strength and courage for the task, and His blessing rest upon your witness.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask them at the Orientation Session after the service on Sunday evening. Remember to bring your Bible and your *Convention Workbook*. May the Lord bring you safely to the Convention.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

PURPOSE OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The purpose is to carry out the aims of the assembly in an orderly and fair manner, to expedite business, to insure justice and equality to all, particularly the minority, and to insure that the will of the majority shall prevail.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF ALL MEMBERS

The two basic rights of all members are to **speak** and to **vote**. These need to be exercised and used faithfully, wisely, and well. However, all members also have certain **basic privileges**, as a part of Parliamentary Procedure. These are important.

Any member has the right at **any** time, even interrupting a speaker, to:

1. Make a point of order – if the member feels that proper procedure has not been followed. The Chair either accepts the point and makes the correction or rules that the point is not well taken. (If a member abuses this privilege, the Chair need not recognize that person.)
2. Raise a question of privilege – if the member, for example, feels there is disorder, bad ventilation, etc., or feels a personal attack has been made, etc. (This, too, dare not be abused.)
3. Make a request for information – if something is not understood about a resolution, or the facts presented are not clear, etc.
4. Make a parliamentary inquiry – if the member does not understand the parliamentary situation, or wants to know what kind of motion to use, or what to say to accomplish his objectives, etc.

KINDS OF MOTIONS

1. Main Motions – A Main Motion is made to bring any particular subject before the assembly for its consideration. The Main Motion is the foundation upon which all procedure is built. Only one Main Motion may be pending at a time.
2. Subsidiary Motions – Subsidiary Motions are those which help or assist in disposing of the Main Motion in the most appropriate way. There are seven: postpone indefinitely, amend, commit or refer, postpone to a definite time, limit or extend debate, previous question, and table.
3. Privileged Motions – Privileged Motions have no connection with the Main Motion but are of such great importance that they take precedence over all other questions. If made when nothing is pending, they become Main Motions. They are: call for orders of the day, question or privilege, recess, adjourn, fix time to adjourn to.
4. Incidental Motions – Incidental Motions are such as arise out of another question which is pending, for example, close nominations, division of question, division of assembly, etc.

FREQUENTLY USED PROCEDURES AND POINTS

Following is information on a few of the most commonly used procedures and points in any assembly.

Amendments

- These are the most commonly used of the subsidiary motions. Forms of amendments are: inserting or adding, striking out, striking out and inserting or adding, substituting (a paragraph or whole resolution).
- Amendments must be germane to the motion, that is, they must relate to it, although they may not change an affirmative motion to negative.

- Amendments to the 2nd degree only are permitted, that is, an amendment to an amendment. And only one amendment of the 1st degree is permitted at a time, although any number may be offered in succession.

Substitute

- A subsidiary motion to substitute is actually an amendment, and is basically handled as such. (This amendment is often called “substitute motion,” although this is not the best form and is often confusing.)

- A motion to substitute is different from other forms of amendments in that it can do away entirely with the original resolution. It is also different because the original motion may be amended by secondary amendments while the substitute is pending.

- Since it is an amendment, **two** votes are always required. In other words, if the substitute has passed, all that has been decided is to substitute that paragraph or motion for the original one. The substitute has then become the main motion, is open for discussion, and must be voted on.

Previous Question

- The name of this motion is a little confusing, but it is simply a motion to stop debate and vote immediately on the pending question. It requires a 2/3 vote and is not debatable.

- Calling out “Question!” does not bind the Chair immediately to stop debate and call for the vote. Only the formal motion of the Previous Question and its adoption can do this.

- This motion may apply just to an amendment or any other subsidiary motion. If unqualified, it applies only to the immediately pending motion. If so stated, it may also apply to everything pending – back to the main motion.

Table (Lay on the Table)

- The motion to table may not be qualified in any way, for example, “I move to table the motion until tomorrow.” It is always indefinite. If qualified in any way, it is actually a motion to postpone to a certain time.

- The above distinction is important, because a motion to table is not debatable, but a motion to postpone it to a certain time is debatable. The motion to table requires only a majority vote.

Reconsider

- This motion must be made by someone who voted on the winning side when the vote was taken on the motion it is proposed to reconsider. (It may be seconded by anyone.)

- This motion is in order only on the day the original vote was taken or the next succeeding day. After that the motion to rescind must be used.

Division of the Assembly

- Any member, by demanding a “division,” can require a voice vote or a vote by show of hands to be retaken as a rising vote – but no individual member can compel it to be counted. If the Chair does not think it necessary and a member does, the members may move to have the vote counted.

PROPOSED SPECIAL STANDING RULES

1. The Chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Each member of the convention, when recognized by the Chair, **shall state his or her name and congregation.**
3. The 2-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor, and for the committee during debate.
4. If a substitute motion is offered, the convention shall first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called “Behnken rule” for dealing with substitute motions.)
5. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die.
6. The preface, preamble, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution or overture, and as such subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.
7. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.
8. Resolutions that will require funding not included in the regular budget of the District must include the source of the additional funding.
9. Electronic devices may be used on the floor of the convention. However they must be operated on battery power as no electricity will be provided. Use of the internet, checking and receiving emails during convention sessions is prohibited. Please report any abuse of this rule to the chair. Cell phones must be in “silent” or “vibrate only” mode. **Please use proper etiquette and show respect to your fellow delegates, speakers, and the business of the convention.**

DEVOTION SCHEDULE

“Bound Together in Christ’s Love”

MONDAY: Opening	The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner
MONDAY: Close of Session	The Rev. Roger Carlisle
MONDAY: Close of the Day	The Rev. Paul Egger
TUESDAY: Opening	The Rev. Leroy Riemer (Memorial Service) + Byron Bockelman, EM, Des Moines, March 12, 2016 + The Rev. Arno Melz, EM, Urbandale, December 29, 2016
TUESDAY: Closing	The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner
CONVENTION CHAPLAIN:	The Rev. David Lyons

SCHEDULE

“Bound Together in Christ’s Love”

SUNDAY

3:00-6:00 PM Registration at Camp Okoboji
5:00-6:00 Light Supper at Camp Okoboji
7:00 Opening Divine Service with Holy Communion
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake
Sermon: Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller
Celebrant: Rev. David Simonson

- Immediately after the Opening Service, President Turner will hold an orientation session for all interested delegates in the nave of Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Convention Floor Committees will hold open hearings beginning 20 minutes after the close of the Service. They will be held in designated classrooms of Immanuel Lutheran Church.
- Registration reopens at Camp Okoboji.

MONDAY MORNING

7:00 AM Morning Prayer at the Point – Rev. Dr. Joe Meyer
7:30 Breakfast
8:00 Convention Choir Rehearsal
8:30 Opening Devotion & President’s Address – President Steve Turner
9:00 **Committee #7 Registration and Credentials** Report – Rev. Nick Thackery (chair)
Opening of the 40th Convention of Iowa District West
Appointments
Adoption of Standing Rules – page 7, Convention Workbook
Report of the Commission on Constitutions – page 50, Convention Workbook
Committee #1 Missions – Rev. Todd Jenks (chair)
Official Reception of The Gate Lutheran Church, Ankeny Iowa
Election of District President
Election of District Vice-Presidents
Welcome from Camp Okoboji – Kirk Warnke, Camp Director

Recess

10:25 Report of the Handbook Review Committee – Rev. Roger Carlisle
11:25 **Committee #5 District Handbook Review** – Rev. Merle Mahnken (chair)

11:45 Presentation of the ballot
Committee #8 Nominating Committee – Rev. Bob Riggert (chair)
12:00 Announcements
Table Prayer – Rev. Dave Lyons, Convention Chaplain

MONDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:30 PM “Bound Together in Christ’s Love” Essayist: Rev. Dr. Timothy Saleska
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri
- 2:30 Election of District Officers
- 3:00 Education, Youth, and Family Life Reports – Rhonda Mohr
3:30 Recess & time for circuits to caucus
- 3:55 Reconvene
4:00 **Committee #3 Education, Youth and Family Life** – Rev. Chris Nitzel (chair)
- Gift Planning Counselor – Jim Schroeder
LCEF Vice-President – Carole White
Lutheran Family Service – Rev. Max Phillips
- 5:30 Evening Devotions – Rev. Roger Carlisle, 1st Vice-President
5:45 Announcements
Table Prayer – Rev. Dave Lyons, Convention Chaplain
Adjourn

MONDAY EVENING

- 6:00 PM Evening Meal
- 7:00 Report of the Synod’s President – Part One, Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller,
1st Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Report of the Synod President – Time for Questions and Answers
- 8:30 Close of the Day – Rev. Paul Egger, 2nd Vice-President
Ice Cream Social

TUESDAY MORNING

- 7:00 AM Point Devotions – Rev. Dr. Joe Meyer
7:30 Breakfast
8:00 Convention Choir Rehearsal
8:30 Memorial Service – Rev. Leroy Reimer
9:00 “Bound Together in Christ’s Love” Essayist: Rev. Dr. Timothy Saleska
10:05 Recess
- 10:25 Reconvene
10:30 Mission Central report – Rev. Dr. Brent Smith
- 10:45 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
Committee #1 Missions – Rev. Todd Jenks (chair)
- Noon Table Prayer – Rev. Dave Lyons, Convention Chaplain

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:25 PM Reconvene
HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE REPORT
Committee #2 Human Care – Rev. Dennis Martens (chair)
- 2:50 IOWAY and LERT – Ellie Menz
- 3:00 Recess
- 3:25 Reconvene
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT
Committee #4 Stewardship and Finances – Rev. Mark Hansen (chair)
Committee #1 Missions – Rev. Todd Jenks (chair)
- 4:45 Announcements
- 5:00 Table Prayer – Rev. Dave Lyons, Convention Chaplain

TUESDAY EVENING

- 6:00 PM Reconvene
Election of Circuit Visitors
Committee #4 Stewardship and Finances
Committee #3 Education, Youth and Family Life
Committee #2 Human Care
Committee #1 Missions
Committee #6 Convention Minutes Review – Rev. Ed Durand (chair)
Remaining Business
Final Report – Committee #7 Registration & Credentials
- Installation of Officers
- Closing Devotion – District President
- Official Close of Convention

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

#1 MISSIONS

Ordained: Todd Jenks (chair), Michael Boothby, Seth Kaiser, Todd Bunge
Commissioned: DeAnn McCue
Lay: Ralph von Qualen, Don Wunschel, Jason Toenges, Jeanie Hansen

#2 HUMAN CARE

Ordained: Dennis Martens (chair), Benjamin Dose, Paul Kaldahl, David Dahlke
Commissioned: Lori Gamble
Lay: Bob Riddle, Jennifer Olson, Karen Camp, Larry Hamer

#3 EDUCATION, YOUTH, AND FAMILY LIFE

Ordained: Chris Nitzel (chair), Russell Senstad, Joshua Keinath, Scott Kozisek
Commissioned: Tim Kightlinger
Lay: Scott Nielsen, Daniel Fox, Trish Freier, Gary Jensen

#4 STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCES

Ordained: Mark Hansen (chair), David Viggers, Alan Miller, Michael Petri
Commissioned: Jennifer Fuller
Lay: Don Staver, Roger Radke, Dennis Clausen, Paul Iverson

#5 DISTRICT HANDBOOK REVIEW

Ordained: Merle Mahnken (chair), Timothy Geitz, Thomas Schlund, William Weiss
Commissioned: Merrilee Sump
Lay: Shirlee Alt, Bob Riker, David Friedrich, Mark Greiner

#6 CONVENTION MINUTES REVIEW

Ordained: Edward Durand (chair), Brian Licht, Don Pobanz
Commissioned: Sue Barlow
Lay: Mike Lang, Brent Johnson

#7 REGISTRATION AND CREDENTIALS

Ordained: Nicholas Thackery (chair), Thomas Marth, Donald Peterson
Commissioned: Heidi Rains
Lay: Gregg Roepke, Dick Fairclough

#8 NOMINATING (elected at the 2015 Convention)

Ordained: Robert Riggert (chair), Roger Carlisle, Lindsay Watkins
Commissioned: Amy Schmidt
Lay: Warren Puck, Carole White, Wanda Pritzel

CONVENTION PRESENTERS AND ASSISTANTS

CONVENTION MANAGER: The Rev. Mark Gerken

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR CONVENTION: Rhonda Mohr

CONVENTION BUSINESS MANAGER: Roger Curtis

SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES: The Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, Jr., First Vice President LCMS
The Rev. Nabil S. Nour, Great Plains Regional Vice President

ESSAYIST: The Rev. Dr. Timothy Saleska, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

HOST CONGREGATION: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake

HOST PASTOR: The Rev. Dave Simonson

CONVENTION CHOIR DIRECTOR: The Rev. Timothy Frank

CONVENTION ORGANIST: Dr. C. Gordon Christensen

JUDGE OF ELECTIONS: The Rev. Dave Simonson

DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS: Roger Curtis and Douglas Kading

PRESS AND RADIO: The Rev. David Daumer

CONVENTION SECRETARY: The Rev. John Schonkaes

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: The Rev. Joshua Lowe

PARLIAMENTARIAN: The Rev. Dr. John Sias, Secretary of the LCMS

CHAPLAIN: The Rev. David Lyons

NURSE: Delaine Warnke

SECRETARIAL STAFF: Jill Davis and Sue Light

TECHNOLOGY: Jason Fuller

OFFICERS OF IOWA DISTRICT WEST

President: The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge 50501
First Vice-President: The Rev. Roger Carlisle, 405 Center Street, Box 189, Wall Lake 51466
Second Vice-President: The Rev. Paul Egger, 400 Monona Street, Galva 51020
Secretary: The Rev. John Schonkaes, 309 4th Street NW, Altoona 50009
Treasurer: Mr. Scott Ernst, 6420 Golfview Place, Sioux City 51106

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Voting Officers: The District President, Secretary, and Treasurer
Chairman of the Board: Mr. Stan Ullerich, 106 Marinda Drive, Council Bluffs 51503

Department Chairmen

Christian Education: The Rev. Richard Salcido, 1101 Park Lane, Ida Grove 51445
Missions: The Rev. Bruce Lesemann, 215 Cayuga Street, Storm Lake 50588
Human Care: Mrs. Darlene Rueter, 1602 Harriet Avenue, Carroll 51401
Stewardship: The Rev. Jonathan Conner, 519 12th Street, Manning 51455
Student Financial Aid: The Rev. Thomas Schlund 520 N Garfield Street, Algona 50511
Youth: The Rev. Jonathan Riggert, 725 N Roosevelt Avenue, Cherokee 51012
Ordained Minister
Member-at-Large: The Rev. Daniel Vogel, 32678 Aspen Avenue, Manning 51455
Commissioned Minister
Member-at-Large: Mr. Doug Kading, 1942 350th Street, Spencer 51301
Lay Members-at-Large: Mr. Tim Buelow, 2813 Walnut Street, West Des Moines 50265
Ms. Marilyn Schroeder, 1828 14th Street, Boone 50036
Advisory Members: The Vice-Presidents and the Executive Assistants to the President
Executive Assistants -
Education, Youth & Family Life: Ms. Rhonda Mohr, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge 50501
Missions, Human Care & Stewardship: The Rev. Mark Gerken, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge 50501

CIRCUIT VISITORS

Adair Circuit: The Rev. Steve Wichtendahl, 709 N 12th Street, Guthrie Center 50115
Algona Circuit: The Rev. Scott Kozisek, 860 State Street, Garner 50438
Boone Circuit: The Rev. Stephen Ude, 1239 Jasmine Place, Ogden 50212
Carroll Circuit: The Rev. Brian Licht, 719 W 17th Street, Carroll 51401
Cherokee Circuit: The Rev. Leroy Riemer, PO Box 40, Sutherland 51058
Council Bluffs Circuit: The Rev. Ray Smith, 723 North 9th Street, Missouri Valley 51555
Denison Circuit: The Rev. Merle Mahnken, PO Box 6, Schleswig 51461
Des Moines East Circuit: The Rev. Steve Hayden, 401 East 15th Place, Indianola 50125
Des Moines West Circuit: The Rev. Dave Dahlke, 6562 Center Street, West Des Moines 50266
Fort Dodge Circuit: The Rev. Nicholas Thackery, 1464 21st Ave N, Fort Dodge 50501
Humboldt Circuit: The Rev. Aaron Flatau, 7 River Oaks, Humboldt 50548
Le Mars Circuit: The Rev. Timothy Geitz, 1430 7th Ave SE, Le Mars 51031
Mapleton Circuit: The Rev. Richard Merrill, 253 First Street South, Charter Oak 51439
Northwest Circuit: The Rev. Mark Hansen, 910 South Carroll Street, Rock Rapids 51246
Sac City Circuit: The Rev. Chuck Bettin, 2553 310th Street, Lake View 51450
Sioux City Circuit: The Rev. Ralph Shorey, 14 W 37th Street Place, Sioux City 51104
Southwest Circuit: The Rev. John Rutz, 800b North Sumner Avenue, Creston 50801
Spencer Circuit: The Rev. David Simonson, 512 13th Street, Spirit Lake 51360
Storm Lake Circuit: The Rev. Leroy Riemer, PO Box 40, Sutherland 51058

APPOINTIVE OFFICES

Commission on Constitutions:	The Rev. John Schonkaes, Chairman The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner
Archivist-Historian:	The Rev. Albert Buelow, West Des Moines
<i>The Lutheran Witness</i> District Editor:	Mr. Jason Fuller
Student Financial Aid Committee:	The Rev. Tom Schlund, Algona, Chairman Miss Rhonda Mohr, District Executive Assistant Miss Jane Gronau, Kiron The Rev. Alan Miller, Glidden Mrs. Andrea Johnson, Denison
Communication Services:	The Rev. David Daumer, Orange City

OFFICERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

President:	The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
First Vice-President:	The Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.
Second Vice-President:	The Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray
Third Vice-President:	The Rev. Nabil S. Nour
Fourth Vice-President:	The Rev. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.
Fifth Vice-President:	The Rev. Daniel Preus
Sixth Vice-President:	The Rev. Christopher S. Esget
Secretary:	The Rev. Dr. John W. Sias
Chief Administrative Officer:	Frank Simek
Chief Financial Officer:	Jerald C. Wulf
Chief Mission Officer:	The Rev. Kevin D. Robson

ROSTER

CONGREGATION

Adair, Immanuel/St. John
 Adel, Faith
 Algona/Burt, Trinity/St. John
 Alta, St. John
 Alta, St. Paul
 Altoona, Christ the King
 Ames, Memorial
 Ames, St. Paul
 Anita, Holy Cross
 Ankeny, St. Paul
 Ankeny, The Gate
 Arcadia, Zion
 Atlantic, Zion
 Auburn/Early, Zion/Faith
 Audubon, St. John
 Aurelia, St. Paul
 Battle Creek, St. John
 Battle Creek/Anthon, St. Paul/Trinity
 Boone/Dayton, St. Paul/Trinity
 Boone, Trinity
 Bouton, Christ
 Carlisle, Holy Cross
 Carroll, St. Paul
 Casey/Dexter, St. John/Zion
 Charter Oak/Ricketts,
 Immanuel & St. Paul/St. Luke
 Charter Oak, St. John
 Cherokee, Trinity
 Clarinda/Shenandoah, Immanuel/Trinity
 Clarinda, St. John
 Clarinda/Bedford, St. Paul/St. Timothy
 Climbing Hill, St. John
 Clive, Living Faith
 Corning, Redeemer
 Correctionville, Grace
 Council Bluffs, Faith
 Council Bluffs, St. Paul's
 Council Bluffs, Timothy
 Creston/Mt. Ayr, Trinity
 Denison, Amigos en Cristo
 Denison/Dow City, Our Savior/Bethlehem
 Denison, Zion
 Des Moines, Asian
 Des Moines, Calvary (Deaf)
 Des Moines, Hope
 Des Moines, Mount Olive
 Des Moines, Our Saviour
 Des Moines, Peace

PASTOR

vacant
 Matthew Krause
 Thomas Schlund
 vacant
 Ryan Roehrig
 John Schonkaes
 Mark Heilman
 Todd Jenks
 Ted Weishaupt
 Duncan McLellan
 Aaron Hannemann
 Benjamin Dose
 Kenneth Davidson
 Chuck Bettin
 Gordon Buchholz
 Derek Evans
 Randall Cormeny
 Martin Davis
 Michael Standfest
 Lindsay Watkins
 Max Phillips
 Kevin Johnson
 Brian Licht
 Jeffrey Keuning

 vacant
 Richard Merrill
 Jon Riggert
 Wade Brandt
 vacant
 Nathan Dudley
 David Schoop
 Luke Timm
 Philip Ritter
 John Riebhoff
 Ron Rosenkaimer
 Tim Frank
 Michael Petri
 John Rutz
 Willie Grills
 David Loeschen
 Joshua Keinath
 vacant
 vacant
 Tim Braun
 Mark Kleckner
 Nathan Ragazinskas
 Peter Wegner

LAY DELEGATE

Timothy Newman
 Grant Krohn
 Shirlee Alt
 Dave Friedrich
 Roger Radke
 Daniel Fox
 Carolyn McCall

 Bette Jane Weishaupt

 Ben Hayden

 Jeanie Hansen
 Gerald Irwin
 Alvin Albertsen
 Don Staver
 Linda Cormeny
 Sheldon Hamann
 Larry Olofson
 Gerald Luedtke
 David Menz
 David Ullmann
 Ralph von Qualen

 Ted Mallory
 Gary Jensen
 Howard Killion
 Bob Riddle
 Loren Johnson

 Guy Brace
 Charles Milligan

 William Kruse

 Mike Lang
 Michael Segebart
 Chuck Downing
 Alex Smith

 Jeff Rains
 Scott Nielsen
 Charles Helmuth

ROSTER (continued)CONGREGATIONPASTORLAY DELEGATE

Des Moines, Sudanese	Simon Yiech	
Des Moines, Trinity	Bill Weiss	
Eagle Grove/Rowan, Mt. Calvary/Immanuel	Mark Peterson	
Emmetsburg/West Bend, St. Paul/Peace	John Koopman	Leon Wojahn
Estherville, Immanuel	Thomas Marth	Jim Creech
Farnhamville, Holy Trinity	vacant	Craig Fillman
Fenton, St. John	vacant	
Fort Dodge, Good Shepherd	Nicholas Thackery	Russ Mohr
Fort Dodge, Prince of Peace	Edward Durand	
Fort Dodge, St. Paul	Allen Henderson	Brent Johnson
Fort Dodge/Humboldt, Trinity/Zion	Kyle McBee	
Galva, St. John	Paul Egger	Virdene Otto
Garner, St. John	Carl Hedberg	Gene Toppin
Garner, St. Paul	Scott Kozisek	Ron Brattmiller
Glenwood, Trinity	Seth Kaiser	
Glidden/Coon Rapids, Peace/Trinity	Alan Miller	
Greenfield, Immanuel	Keith Schweitzer	
Guthrie Center/Panora, Immanuel/St. Thomas	Steven Wichtendahl	Todd Benedict
Hartley, St. Paul	Christopher Nitzel	Mark Schulz
Hawarden, Trinity	Joshua Lowe	Larry Bauder
Hinton, Trinity	Steven Stoll	Lanny Casper
Honey Creek, St. John	David Kuhnle	
Ida Grove, St. Paul	Richard Salcido	Dennis Clausen
Indianola, Mt. Calvary	Steven Hayden	Jennifer Olson
Ireton, St. Paul	Michael Boothby	
Jefferson, Trinity	Dennis Martens	Dick Fairclough
Johnston, Messiah	Jim Stogdill	Rochelle Kochheiser
Kingsley, First	vacant	Gregg Roepke
Kiron/Deloit, St. John/Faith	Mark Kluzek	
Lake City/Fonda, Pilgrim/First	Paul Ferderer	Paul Iverson
Lake Park, Concordia	vacant	Russell Meier
Lake View, Emmanuel	Donald Peterson	
Lawton, Bethel	Robert Zellmer	Terrance Johnson
Le Mars, Grace	Tim Geitz	Larry Hamer
Lidderdale, Immanuel	Robert Wagner	Ron Roe
Livermore/LuVerne, Immanuel/Zion	Steve Struecker	
Logan, Immanuel	Daniel Steeb	
Lone Rock/Cylinder, Immanuel/St. Luke	Duane Miesner	Duane Seegebarth
Mallard/Ayrshire, Trinity/Zion	Paul Schulz	
Manilla, Trinity	Andrew Johnson	Luke Jorgensen
Manning, Zion	Jonathan Conner	Janet Smith
Mapleton, St. Matthew	Christopher LaBoube	Mark Greiner
Marcus, Peace	L. Kevin Roop	Jason Toenges
Marcus/Quimby, Trinity/Pilgrim	vacant	Steve Olson
May City/Ocheyedan, St. John/St. Peter/Zion	Richard Milbrandt	Gerald Kogelmann
Missouri Valley, First	Ray Smith	Vicki Paper
Newell, St. Peter	Michael Sharp	Gary Morenz
Norwalk, Christ Our Savior	Bill Clark	
Oakland/Hastings, St. Paul/St. John	Bill Caughey	Bret Seipold
Odebolt, Trinity	David Viggers	Jerry Einspahr
Ogden, Zion	vacant	
Orange City/Ireton, Faith/St. John	David Daumer	Kevin Rueter

ROSTER (continued)CONGREGATIONPASTORLAY DELEGATE

Osceola/Leon, Immanuel/Our Savior	J. R. Wheeler	David Johannes
Paullina, St. John (Germantown)	Don Erickson	Paul Puhmann
Paullina, Zion	Daniel Wagner	Steven Heeren
Perry, Trinity	Ken Bose	
Polk City, Beautiful Savior	Todd Bunge	Bob Riker
Pomeroy, Immanuel	vacant	
Remsen, Christ	vacant	Joe Williams
Rock Rapids/Larchwood, Peace/English	Mark Hansen	Dennis Small
Rockwell City/Knierim, Immanuel/Trinity	Chad Dietrich	Marlin Geisler
Sac City, St. Paul's	Don Pobanz	Neil Neitzke
Sac City, St. Peter	Chuck Bettin	Roger Glasnapp
Sanborn, St. John	Joe Bangert	
Schaller, St. Paul	David Lyons	Raymond Franz
Schleswig, Immanuel	Merle Mahnken	Don Wunschel
Sergeant Bluff, Shepherd of Peace	Benjamin Perkins	
Sheldon, Our Savior	George Clausen	
Sioux City, Bethany	Gerald Bruhn	
Sioux City, Calvary	James Travis	Jim Anderson
Sioux City, Concordia	Henry Witte	Ruthie Witte
Sioux City, Faith	Ralph Shorey	
Sioux City, Redeemer	David Zirpel	Marty Delperdang
Sioux City, St. Paul	Kenny Hsu	
Spencer, Christ the King	David Zimmer	Kaylan Abel
Spencer, First English	Paul Kaldahl	
Spirit Lake, Immanuel	Dave Simonson	
Storm Lake, Grace	Bradley Ketcham	
Storm Lake, St. John	Bruce Lesemann	Vernon Winterhof
Storm Lake, Zion	Lucas Booher	Dennis Gutz
Sutherland, Bethel	Leroy Riemer	Donald Farquhar
Swea City, Our Savior	David Schultz	
Terril, Immanuel	David Doellinger	Dennis Dallman
Urbandale, Gloria Dei	Joseph Meyer	Scott Strachan
Ute, St. Paul	vacant	Bruce Mohr
Van Meter, Trinity	vacant	
Villisca, Mt. Calvary	Jerome Wagoner	
Wall Lake, Peace	Roger Carlisle	Trish Freier
Walnut/Harlan/Persia, Our Savior/Peace/Trinity	Merlene Ostebee	
Webster City, St. Paul	Mark Eichler	Karen Camp
West Des Moines, Shepherd of the Valley	David Dahlke	Daniel Sunne
Whittemore, St. Paul	Mark Resner	
Wiota, First	Michael Bodkins	Rex Berg

ADVISORY PASTORS

Bauer, Jeffery (EM)
Beagley, David (Associate Pastor)
Belz, Kenneth (EM)
Benson, Steven (Luther Park Services-RSO)
Boesch, Donald (EM)
Bohmer, Glenn (EM)
Brammeier, James (EM)
Buelow, Albert (EM)
Burger, John (Senior Pastor)
Cloeter, Carl (EM)
Cowell, Thomas (Associate Pastor)
Ericksen, David (EM)
Ewoldt, Virgil (EM)
Flatau, Aaron (Senior Pastor)
Foreman, Curtis (EM)
Friedrich, Henry (EM)
George, Gus (EM)
Gerken, Mark (Executive Assistant)
Guerra, Lincon (Associate Pastor)
Hansen, Lyle (EM)
Hanson, Carl (Foreign Missionary)
Hauan, Eric (Associate Pastor)
Hayen, Neil (EM)
Hodges, Leon (EM)
Jackson, Bruce (EM)
Jaeger, Jay (EM)
Jalas, Duane (EM)
Johnson, Benjamin (Associate Pastor)
Johnson, Paul (EM)
Jordan, Richard (EM)
Kaiser, Kurt (Associate)
King, Stephen (EM)
Kottlowski, David (EM)
Krueger, Eugene (Assistant Pastor)
Kuhn, Henry (EM)
Lamb, James (EM)
Lemke, Larry (EM)
Letzring, Theodore (EM)
Lohman, John (EM)
Maaske, Dennis (EM)
Mentink, Lee (EM)
Meyer, Don (EM)
Milbrath, Gerald (EM)
Oliver, Stephen (Foreign Missionary)
Osslund, Richard (EM)
Peitsch, Nathan (Associate Pastor)
Petersen, Reynold (EM)
Petraak, Daniel (SMP Pastor)
Phillips, Timothy (Associate Pastor)
Pillack, Roland (EM)
Raether, Jerry (EM)
Riggert, Robert (EM)
Salemink, Michael (Lutherans For Life-RSO)
Schauer, John (EM)
Schenck, John (EM)
Schillo, Eric (EM)
Schmidt, Leland (EM)
Senstad, Russell (Senior Pastor)
Sewing, David (EM)
Sherrill, Nathan (Senior Pastor)
Sieveking, Paul (EM)
Smith, Brent (Missionary)
Tews, James (EM)
Tompkins, Daryl (EM)
Turner, Steven (District President)
Ude, Steve (EM)
Van Nostrand, Bill (Candidate)
Vogel, Daniel (EM)
Vogler, Loren (EM)
Warnke, Matthew (EM)
Watt, Jonathan (Candidate)
Wehmas, Neil (Associate Pastor)
Wendzel, Linden (EM)
Winterrowd, Donald (EM)
Wolfram, Michael (EM)

EM=Emeritus Status
RSO=Recognized Service Organization

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Acers, Gina
Acers, Shane
Adams, Chelsea
Barlow, Susan
Baumann, Russell
Bohl, Noreen
Brammeier, Kathleen
Brown, Gail (EM)
Chellew, Deborah
Clement, Laveta
Davis, Christine (Candidate)
Deranleau, Sarah (Candidate)
Devereux, Susan (Candidate)
Doraska, Mackenzie
Doremus, Penelope (Candidate)
Dorn, Richard (EM)
Dreyer, Debra (EM)
Ehlers, Viola (EM)
Eichler, Rebecca (Candidate)
Eiden, Matthew (Candidate)
Emily, Cory
Espinosa, Lisa (Candidate)
Fitzsimons, Paige
Fuller, Jennifer
Funke, Caleb (Candidate)
Gamble, Lori
Geurink, Brenda (Candidate)
Gingerich, Kathleen (Candidate)
Gosa, David
Gosa, Keri
Gosch, Gretchen
Guerra, Noemi
Gunn, Sarah (Candidate)
Haake, Dale (EM)
Haake, Jean (EM)
Hadley, Linda (EM)
Hanusa, Lois (Candidate)
Heinicke, Rebecca (Candidate)
Hodges, Doreen
Hoffman, Cherryll (EM)
Hoffman, Heather N.
Hurst, Jane
Irvin, Julie (Candidate)
Jones, Marilyn (EM)
Kabrick, Bonnie
Kading, Douglas
Keuning, Lynette (Candidate)
Kightlinger, Tim
Kipp, Michael
Kleckner, Kimberly (Candidate)
Kraayenbrink, Sally (Candidate)
Kratz, Robyn
Kuhlmann, Bethany (Candidate)
Mann, Julie (Candidate)
Marquardt, Romaine (EM)
McBee, Cayleigh (Candidate)
McCue, DeAnn
Moeller, Janet
Mohr, Rhonda
Mosemann, Russell (EM)
Neumeyer, Rosalie (EM)
Niemeyer, Brad (Candidate)
Nitzel, Heather
Ommen, Sharon (Candidate)
Pedersen, Melissa
Pfothenhauer, Rachel
Pipho, Donald (EM)
Porter, Shannon
Pugh, Tia (Candidate)
Rains, Heidi
Rector, Abby (Candidate)
Rennegarbe, Rebekkah
Ronfeldt, Kayla (Candidate)
Rudlaff, Richard (EM)
Sanford, Julianne
Schauer, Angela
Schlueter, Michelle (Candidate)
Schmidt, Amy
Schroeder, Amy
Schulz, Janice (EM)
Schumann, Lois (EM)
Schutt, Kathleen
Seltz, Abigail (Candidate)
Shults, Marilyn
Smith, Kari (Lutheran Family Service – RSO)
Smith, Sarah (Candidate)
Speltz, Tona
Sprengeler, Cathy
Stelling, Dwight (EM)
Storm, Cindy (EM)
Strong Davis, Alyce
Stuhr, Lonnie (EM)
Sump, Merrilee
Termuende, Edwin (EM)
Thies, Everett (EM)
Tibben, Jessica
Venzke, Jeanette (EM)
Wagoner, Mary Lou (EM)
Wisneski, Jean (EM)
Yoakum, Marilyn (EM)
York, JoAnn (EM)

OFFICIAL ACTS

PASTORS ENTERING THE DISTRICT

CANDIDATE THOMAS SCHLUND, graduate of St. Louis, 2015, was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona on July 12, 2015, by Rev. Dr. Steve Turner.

CANDIDATE AARON HANNEMANN, graduate of St. Louis, 2015, was ordained and installed as associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny on July 12, 2015, by the Rev. Dr. Paul Sieveking.

CANDIDATE PAUL FERDERER, graduate of Fort Wayne, 2015 was ordained and installed as sole pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Lake City on July 12, 2015, by First Vice-President Rev. Roger Carlisle.

PASTOR ROBERT WAGNER, of Copperas Cove, Texas, accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lidderdale. He was installed as sole pastor, July 26, 2015 by the Rev. Brian Licht.

PASTOR MARTIN DAVIS, of Cheyenne Wells, Colorado, accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Battle Creek and Trinity Lutheran Church, Anthon. He was installed as sole pastor, August 23, 2015 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR MICHAEL SALEMINK, of St. Lafayette, Indiana, accepted a call to Lutherans For Life, Nevada. He was installed as Executive Director, October 30, 2015 in Cincinnati, Ohio by Rev. Everette Greene.

CANDIDATE STEVEN STRUECKER, graduate of St. Louis, 2015 was ordained and installed as SMP pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Livermore and Zion Lutheran Church, Lu Verne on December 13, 2015, by President Steve Turner.

CANDIDATE WILLIAM CLARK, graduate of St. Louis, 2015 was ordained and installed as SMP pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale on January 10, 2016, by Rev. Dr. Joseph Meyer.

CANDIDATE DANIEL PETRAK, graduate of St. Louis, 2015 was ordained and installed as SMP pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale on January 10, 2016, by Rev. Dr. Joseph Meyer.

PASTOR JAY JAEGER, non-candidate, transferred from the Iowa East District, January 28, 2016.

PASTOR MICHAEL BOOTHBY, of Cole Camp, Missouri, accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ireton. He was installed as sole pastor, February 7, 2016 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR MARK KLUZEK, of Grants, New Mexico, accepted a call to St. John Lutheran Church, Kiron and Faith Lutheran Church, Deloit. He was installed as sole pastor, February 7, 2016 by Second Vice-President Rev. Paul Egger.

CANDIDATE LUCAS BOOHER, graduate of Fort Wayne, 2016, was ordained and installed as sole pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Storm Lake on June 19, 2016, by President Steve Turner.

CANDIDATE DAVID VIGGERS, graduate of St. Louis, 2016, was ordained and installed as sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Odebolt on June 26, 2016, by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR LINDEN WENDZEL, emeritus, transferred from the Minnesota North District, June 23, 2016.

CANDIDATE JOSEPH BANGERT, graduate of Fort Wayne, 2016, was ordained at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hartland, Michigan on June 26, 2016. He was installed as sole pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Sanborn on July 3, 2016 by Second Vice-President Rev. Paul Egger.

CANDIDATE ERIC HAUAN, graduate of St. Louis, 2016, was ordained at St. John Lutheran Church, Orchard Park, New York on June 26, 2016 by Rev. Nathan Hartke. He was installed as associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona on July 3, 2016, by President Steve Turner.

CANDIDATE RYAN ROEHRIG, graduate of St. Louis, 2016, was ordained and installed as sole pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alta on July 17, 2016 by First Vice-President Rev. Roger Carlisle.

CANDIDATE DANIEL STEEB, graduate of Fort Wayne, 2016, was ordained and installed as sole pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Logan on July 17, 2016 by Rev. Ray Smith.

CANDIDATE JOHN KOOPMAN, graduate of Fort Wayne, 2016, was ordained and installed as sole pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Emmetsburg and Peace Lutheran Church, West Bend on July 31, 2016 by Rev. Scott Kozisek.

PASTOR DUNCAN MCLELLAN, of Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny. He was installed as senior pastor, October 2, 2016 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR BENJAMIN JOHNSON, of Fremont, California, accepted a call to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale. He was installed as associate pastor, October 30, 2016 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER LABOUBE, of Ghana, West Africa accepted a call to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mapleton. He was installed as sole pastor, November 20, 2016 by First Vice-President Rev. Roger Carlisle.

PASTOR JOSHUA KEINATH, of Yuma, Arizona, accepted a call to Zion Lutheran Church, Denison. He was installed as senior pastor, December 18, 2016 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR JOSHUA LOWE, of Blue Hill, Nebraska, accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Hawarden. He was installed as sole pastor, March 26, 2017 by Second Vice-President Rev. Paul Egger.

PASTOR WILLIAM COY, emeritus pastor from Crestview, Florida, accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Hastings and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oakland. He was installed as sole pastor, May 28, 2017 by Rev. Ray Smith.

CANDIDATE KYLE MCBEE, graduate of Fort Wayne, 2017, was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Humboldt on June 18, 2017 by President Steve Turner.

CANDIDATE THOMAS COWELL, graduate of Fort Wayne, 2017, was ordained and installed as sole pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Burt and associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona on June 25, 2017 by Second Vice-President Rev. Paul Egger.

CANDIDATE ANDREW JOHNSON, graduate of St. Louis, 2017, was ordained and installed as sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Manilla on July 8, 2017 by President Steve Turner.

CANDIDATE PAUL SCHULZ, graduate of St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, 2017, was ordained at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Terre Haute, Indiana on June 24, 2017 by Rev. Jacob Sutton. He was installed as sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mallard on July 9, 2017 by President Steve Turner.

CANDIDATE WILLIE GRILLS, graduate of Fort Wayne, 2017, was ordained and installed as sole pastor of Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church, Denison on July 13, 2017 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR RICHARD MILBRANDT, of Plankinton, South Dakota accepted a call to St. Peter and Zion Lutheran Churches, Ocheyedon and St. John Lutheran Church, May City. He was installed as sole pastor, November 5, 2017 by Second Vice-President Rev. Paul Egger.

PASTOR DEREK EVANS, of Woodburn, Indiana accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran, Aurelia. He was installed as sole pastor, January 7, 2018 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR BENJAMIN PERKINS, of Mountain Lake, Minnesota accepted a call to Shepherd of Peace, Sergeant Bluff. He was installed as sole pastor, January 21, 2018 by Rev. Ralph Shorey.

PASTOR JAMES TEWS, emeritus, transferred in from the Indiana District, March 6, 2018.

PASTOR MARK KLECKNER, of Bedford, Massachusetts accepted a call to Mt. Olive, Des Moines. He was installed as sole pastor, April 15, 2018 by President Steve Turner.

PASTORS LEAVING THE DISTRICT

PASTOR MARK SCHWALENBERG, sole pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Polk City, transferred to the North Wisconsin District, June 29, 2015.

PASTOR JAMES FERNANDEZ, associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny, transferred to the Rocky Mountain District, July 16, 2015.

PASTOR ANDREW CARLSON, sole pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ireton, transferred to the Northwest District, July 23, 2015.

PASTOR PHILIP ROBARGE, associate pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, transferred to the Northern Illinois District, August 1, 2015.

PASTOR SCOTT JENSEN, sole pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Spencer, transferred to the North Wisconsin District, August 1, 2015.

ERIC MOELLER, associate pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Storm Lake, transferred to the Texas District, August 2, 2015.

PASTOR JESSE BURNS, sole pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Sanborn transferred to the Iowa East District, September 8, 2015.

PASTOR KENDALL MEYER, sole pastor of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Des Moines, transferred to the Central Illinois District, November 12, 2015.

PASTOR DENNIS KONKEL, sole pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, transferred to the Southeastern District, January 2, 2016.

PASTOR STEVEN KLAWONN, non-candidate, Evansdale, transferred membership to The American Association of Lutheran Churches (TALLC), March 2, 2016.

PASTOR ROSS FRITZ, sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Manilla, transferred to the Minnesota North District, April 18, 2016.

PASTOR JASON PETERSON, sole pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Burt, transferred to the Michigan District, May 2, 2016.

PASTOR TIMOTHY OETTING, non-candidate, Sheldon, transferred to the Missouri District, July 18, 2016.

PASTOR TERRY JOBST, emeritus, Perkasio, Pa., transferred to the New England District, September 4, 2016.

PASTOR ROBERT LINDAU, emeritus, Council Bluffs, transferred to the Nebraska District, October 4, 2016.

PASTOR PHILL ANDREASEN, emeritus, New Ulm, Minn., transferred to the Minnesota South District, December 15, 2016.

PASTOR JUSTIN WHITMORE, Immanuel and Trinity Lutheran churches, Clarinda and Shenandoah, transferred to the Indiana District, December 28, 2016.

PASTOR RICHARD LALLY, candidate, Des Moines, transferred to the Kansas District, January 1, 2017.

PASTOR TIMOTHY SCHILLER, sole pastor of Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church, Sergeant Bluff, transferred to the Minnesota North District, January 7, 2017.

PASTOR TIMOTHY JONES, sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson, transferred to the North Wisconsin District, April 24, 2017.

PASTOR TIMOTHY FITZNER, sole pastor of Immanuel and St. John Lutheran Churches, Adair, transferred to the Central Illinois District, June 5, 2017.

PASTOR MARK BALDWIN, intentional interim pastor of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Norwalk, transferred to the North Wisconsin District, June 21, 2017.

PASTOR KENNETH SCHMIDT, emeritus, Van Meter, transferred to the South Dakota District, July 8, 2017.

PASTOR DAVID BERGQUIST, emeritus, Lone Rock, transferred to the Texas District, September 12, 2017.

PASTOR MARCUS MANLEY, sole pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ute, transferred to the Central Illinois District, November 27, 2017.

PASTOR JOHN SCHMIDT, emeritus, Alta, transferred to the Nebraska District, November 30, 2017.

PASTOR ROBERT EGGERS, emeritus, Fort Dodge, transferred to the Missouri District, December 27, 2017.

PASTOR JERALD FIRBY, emeritus, Logan, transferred to the Central Illinois District, January 3, 2018.

CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

PASTOR CRAIG CUMMINS, sole pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alta, to candidate status, March 30, 2015.

PASTOR STEVEN TURNER, senior pastor of Trinity, Algona, to District President of Iowa District West, Fort Dodge. Installed June 22, 2015 by the Rev. Nabil Nour of Amour, S.D.

PASTOR ERIC MOELLER, associate pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Storm Lake, to candidate status, August 1, 2015.

PASTOR MARK HANSEN, Rock Rapids, appointed circuit visitor of the Northwest Circuit, August 24, 2015.

PASTOR PAUL SIEVEKING, President of Iowa District West, Fort Dodge, to emeritus status, September, 1, 2015.

PASTOR STEPHEN KING, candidate, Perry, to non-candidate status, October 1, 2015.

PASTOR JOHN RUTZ, Hastings, appointed circuit visitor of the Southwest Circuit, October 16, 2015.

PASTOR MARK BALDWIN, senior pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny, to associate pastor, November 24, 2015.

PASTOR THOMAS SCHLUND, associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona, to senior pastor, November 29, 2015.

PASTOR SCOTT KOZISEK, Garner, appointed circuit visitor of the Algona Circuit, January 29, 2016.

PASTOR NICHOLAS THACKERY, sole pastor of St. Paul and Peace Lutheran Churches, Emmetsburg and West Bend, to sole pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge. Installed on February 14, 2016 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR DAVID DAHLKE, West Des Moines, appointed circuit visitor of the Des Moines West Circuit, February 17, 2016.

PASTOR JONATHAN WATT, sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Creston and Mt. Ayr, to non-candidate status, February 27, 2016.

PASTOR STEVEN KLAWONN, sole pastor of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Norwalk, to non-candidate status, February 28, 2016.

PASTOR MARK BALDWIN, associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny to intentional interim pastor, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Norwalk. Installed May 15, 2016 by the Rev. David Dahlke.

PASTOR RICHARD LALLY, associate pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, Des Moines, to candidate status, May 16, 2016.

PASTOR TIMOTHY BRAUN, senior pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, Des Moines, to sole pastor, May 17, 2016.

PASTOR DAVID SIMONSON, Spirt Lake, appointed circuit visitor of the Spencer Circuit, May 18, 2016.

PASTOR TIMOTHY FRANK, sole pastor of Immanuel, St. Paul and St. Luke Lutheran Churches, Charter Oak and Ricketts, to associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs. Installed June 29, 2016 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR TODD BUNGE, sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hawarden, to sole pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Polk City. Installed July 31, 2016 by First Vice-President Rev. Roger Carlisle.

PASTOR AARON FLATAU, associate pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Humboldt, to senior pastor, July 17, 2016.

PASTOR JOHN RUTZ, sole pastor of St. John and St. Paul Lutheran Churches, Hastings and Oakland, to sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Creston and Mt. Ayr. Installed on September 11, 2016 by Second Vice-President Rev. Paul Egger.

PASTOR GERALD BRUHN, Lutheran Family Service, Sioux City to sole pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Installed September 11, 2016 by the Rev. Ralph Shorey.

PASTOR GEORGE CLAUSEN, non-candidate, Hull, to sole pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Sheldon. Installed October 23, 2016 by the Rev. Mark Hansen.

PASTOR STEPHEN UDE, Ogden, appointed circuit visitor of the Boone Circuit, January 17, 2017.

PASTOR NEIL WEHMAS, sole pastor of Zion, St. Peter and St. John Lutheran Churches, Ocheyedan and May City, to associate pastor of St. Paul, Ida Grove. Installed February 26, 2017 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR STEVEN HAYDEN, Indianola, appointed circuit visitor of the Des Moines East Circuit, May 24, 2017.

PASTOR CARL VAN NOSTRAND, sole pastor of St. John and St. Peter Lutheran Churches, Vincent and Woolstock, to candidate status, August 7, 2017.

PASTOR MICHAEL SHARP, emeritus, to sole pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Newell. Installed August 20, 2017 by Second Vice-President Rev. Paul Egger.

PASTOR WADE BRANDT, sole pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Ogden, to sole pastor of Immanuel and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Clarinda and Shenandoah. Installed September 24, 2017 by the Rev. John Rutz.

PASTOR AARON HANNEMANN, associate pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny to sole pastor of The Gate Lutheran Church, Ankeny. Installed December 31, 2017 by Rev. Mark Gerken.

PASTOR DENNIS MARTENS, sole pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Remsen, to sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson. Installed October 1, 2017 by First Vice-President Rev. Roger Carlisle.

PASTOR WILLIAM CLARK, SMP pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, to SMP pastor of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Norwalk. Installed on January 14, 2018 by the Rev. Mark Gerken.

PASTOR ROBERT ZELLMER, sole pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Farnhamville, to sole pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Lawton. Installed January 28, 2018 by the Rev. Ralph Shorey.

PASTOR MICHAEL BODKINS, associate pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Altoona, to sole pastor of First Lutheran Church, Wiota. Installed February 25, 2018 by President Steve Turner.

PASTOR JOHN SCHONKAES, senior pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Altoona, to sole pastor, February 25, 2018.

PASTOR TIMOTHY GEITZ, Le Mars, appointed circuit visitor of the Le Mars circuit, March 15, 2018.

PASTOR NICHOLAS THACKERY, Fort Dodge, appointed circuit visitor of the Fort Dodge circuit, April 30, 2018.

PASTORS – RETIRED, RESIGNED, REMOVED

PASTOR ONE CHANH KEOOUTHAI, sole pastor of Asian Lutheran Mission Church, Des Moines, to emeritus, August 3, 2015.

PASTOR LYLE HANSEN, sole pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, to emeritus, October 16, 2015.

PASTOR DAVID ANTHONY, sole pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Storm Lake, resigned from the roster, November 20, 2015.

PASTOR JAMES LAMB, Lutherans For Life, Nevada, to emeritus, January 1, 2016.

PASTOR CRAIG CUMMINS, sole pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Alta, resigned from the roster January 15, 2016.

PASTOR ONE CHANH KEOOUTHAI, emeritus, Des Moines, resigned from the roster, February 1, 2016.

PASTOR NEIL HAYEN, sole pastor of Trinity and Zion Lutheran Churches, Mallard and Ayrshire, to emeritus, April 13, 2016.

PASTOR ROBERT LINDAU, associate pastor of St. Paul's, Council Bluffs, to emeritus, June 1, 2016.

PASTOR STEPHEN KING, non-candidate, Perry, to emeritus status, August 10, 2016.

PASTOR JONATHAN SMITH, Yokosuka, Japan, resigned from the roster, August 26, 2016.

PASTOR JERRY RAETHER, senior pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Humboldt, to emeritus, September 1, 2016.

PASTOR JEFFREY BAUER, candidate, Lake Park, to emeritus, September 27, 2016.

PASTOR JERALD FIRBY, sole pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Logan, to emeritus, November 1, 2016.

PASTOR DAVID SEWING, candidate, Lincoln, Ill., to emeritus, December 16, 2016.

PASTOR BRUCE JACKSON, sole pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Lawton, to emeritus, February 17, 2017.

PASTOR LARRY LEMKE, sole pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aurelia, to emeritus, June 2, 2017.

PASTOR KENNETH SCHMIDT, sole pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Van Meter, to emeritus, July 1, 2017.

PASTOR DANIEL VOGEL, sole pastor of Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church, Denison, to emeritus, July 1, 2017.

PASTOR DARYL TOMPKINS, sole pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Clarinda, to emeritus, August 2, 2017.

PASTOR DAVID BERGQUIST, sole pastor of Immanuel and St. Luke Lutheran Churches, Lone Rock and Cylinder, to emeritus, September 1, 2017.

PASTOR DONALD MEYER, sole pastor of Trinity and Pilgrim Lutheran Churches, Marcus and Quimby, to emeritus, September 16, 2017.

PASTOR JOHN SCHMIDT, sole pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Alta, to emeritus, October 1, 2017.

PASTOR JAY JAEGER, candidate, Ames, to emeritus, March 22, 2018.

PASTORS – CALLED TO GLORY

PASTOR ARNO MELZ, emeritus, Urbandale, December 29, 2016

CONGREGATIONS ESTABLISHED/DISSOLVED

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Rapids, disbanded October 25, 2015.

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Rapids and Bethel Lutheran Church, Sutherland, dissolved multi-point parish, October 26, 2015.

The Gate Lutheran Church, Ankeny, new church start, November 9, 2017.

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Woolstock, disbanded December 31, 2017.

St. John Lutheran Church, Vincent, disbanded December 31, 2017.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS ENTERING THE DISTRICT

MELISSA PEDERSEN, formerly of Overland, MO, to St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Dodge. She was installed August 23, 2015 by Rev. Nathan Peitsch.

REBEKAH PFEIL, graduate of Concordia, Seward, NE, to St. Paul Lutheran School, Sioux City. She was commissioned and installed August 16, 2015 by Rev. Kenneth Hsu.

BETHANY KUHLMANN, graduate of Concordia, Seward, NE, to St. John Lutheran Church, Honey Creek. She was commissioned and installed August 23, 2015 by Rev. David Kuhnle.

EVERETT THIES, Emeritus, transferred from Minnesota South District, August 25, 2015.

CHRISTINE DAVIS, Non-Candidate, transferred from Rocky Mountain District, September 1, 2015.

PAIGE FITZSIMONS, graduate of Concordia, Chicago, IL, to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Garner. She was commissioned and installed September 13, 2015 by Rev. Scott Kozisek.

EMILY GRABOW, graduate of Concordia, Mequon, WI, to Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School, Spencer. She was commissioned and installed September 20, 2015 by Rev. Paul Kaldahl.

LISA ESPINOSA, reinstated to Candidate, to Clarinda Lutheran School, Clarinda. She was installed October 18, 2015 by Rev. Nathan Dudley.

STEPHAN GONZALES, formerly of Columbia, MO, to Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School, Spencer. He was installed July 10, 2016 by Rev. Paul Kaldahl.

KAYLA RONFELDT, graduate of Concordia, Seward, NE, to Zion Lutheran School, Denison. She was commissioned and installed August 14, 2016 by Rev. Kurt Kaiser.

HEATHER N. HOFFMAN, graduate of Concordia, Seward, NE, to Zion Lutheran School, Denison. She was commissioned and installed August 14, 2016 by Rev. Kurt Kaiser.

RUSSELL BAUMANN, graduate of Concordia, Mequon, WI, to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll. He was commissioned and installed August 21, 2016 by Rev. Brian Licht.

MACKENZIE DORASKA, graduate of Concordia, St. Paul, MN, to Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Des Moines. She was commissioned and installed August 21, 2016 by Rev. James Brammeier.

REBEKKAH RENNIGARBE, formerly of Pueblo, CO, to Clarinda Lutheran School, Clarinda. She was installed August 28, 2016 by Rev. Nathan Dudley.

KERI GOSA, Non-Candidate, to Clarinda Lutheran School, Clarinda. She was installed August 28, 2016 by Rev. Nathan Dudley.

DAVID GOSA, formerly of Pueblo, CO, to Clarinda Lutheran School, Clarinda. He was installed August 28, 2016 by Rev. Nathan Dudley.

HEATHER NITZEL, colloquy graduate of Concordia, Chicago, IL, to Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran

School, Spencer. She was commissioned and installed August 28, 2016 by Rev. Paul Kaldahl.

SHANE ACERS, formerly of Rosemount, MN, to Hope Lutheran Church, Des Moines. He was installed October 9, 2016 by Rev. Timothy Braun.

RHONDA MOHR, formerly of Cypress, TX, to District Staff, Iowa District West, LCMS, Fort Dodge. She was installed November 13, 2016 by President Steve Turner.

CALEB FUNKE, Candidate, transferred from Indiana District, March 22, 2017.

GINA ACERS, formerly of Rosemount, MN, to Hope Lutheran Church, Des Moines. She was installed April 30, 2017 by Rev. Timothy Braun.

RUSSELL MOSEMANN, Emeritus, transferred from Nebraska District, July 1, 2017.

CAYLEIGH MCBEE, Candidate, transferred from Indiana District, July 1, 2017.

RACHEL PFOTENHAUER, formerly of Ellisville, MO, to Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School, Spencer. She was installed July 23, 2017 by Rev. Paul Kaldahl.

KARI SMITH, Candidate, to Lutheran Family Service, Fort Dodge. She was installed August 20, 2017 by Rev. Max Phillips.

SHANNON PORTER, graduate of Concordia, Portland, OR, to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sioux City. She was commissioned and installed January 14, 2018 by Rev. Kenny Hsu.

REBECCA EICHLER, Candidate, transferred from Wyoming District, February 26, 2018.

REBECCA HEINICKE, Candidate, transferred from Missouri District, February 27, 2018.

KIMBERLY KLECKNER, Candidate, transferred from New England District, April 15, 2018.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS - CHANGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

REBEKAH JANKE, formerly of Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Des Moines, to Non-Candidate, May 31, 2015.

KRISTEN LEIDING, formerly of Zion Lutheran School, Denison, to Candidate, June 1, 2015.

CINDY STORM, formerly of Calvary Lutheran Church, Sioux City, to Emeritus, July 1, 2015.

SARAH DERANLEAU, Candidate, to Non-Candidate, July 5, 2015.

BRENDA GEURINK, formerly of Mt. Olive Lutheran School, to Non-Candidate, August 15, 2015.

MICHELLE SCHLUETER, Waukee, Non-Candidate status extended, August 15, 2015.

ELIZABETH WATSON, formerly of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll, to Candidate, August 28, 2015.

GAIL BROWN, formerly of St. Paul Lutheran School, Sioux City, to Emeritus, September 1, 2015

MICHAEL KIPP, formerly of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City, to Calvary Lutheran Church, Sioux City. He was installed September 6, 2015 by Rev. James Travis.

ELI KUPHAL, formerly of St Paul Lutheran School, Fort Dodge, to Non-Candidate, December 22, 2015.
LOIS HANUSA, Council Bluffs, Non-Candidate status extended, January 22, 2016.

CHRISTINE DAVIS, Battle Creek, Non-Candidate status extended, February 9, 2016.

MARK TANNEY, formerly of Zion Lutheran School, Denison, to Candidate, July 31, 2016.

JULIE CAMP, formerly of Messiah Lutheran Church/Loving Arms Children's Center, Johnston, to Candidate, August 15, 2016.

SARAH SUNDERMAN, formerly of Clarinda Lutheran School, Clarinda, to Candidate, August 1, 2016.

LINDA HADLEY, Candidate, to Emeritus, December 8, 2016.

BETHANY KUHLMANN, formerly of St. John Lutheran Church, Honey Creek, to Candidate, June 1, 2017.

KAYLA RONFEDLT, formerly of Zion Lutheran School, Denison, to Candidate, July 31, 2017.

JENNIFER GRUNDMEIER, formerly of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City, to Messiah Lutheran Church/Loving Arms Children's Center, Johnston. She was installed July 9, 2017 by Rev. James Stogdill.

GENELLE KOENEN, formerly of Trinity Lutheran School, Boone, to Emeritus, July 1, 2017.

JULIE MANN, formerly of St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Dodge, to Candidate, August 16, 2017.

MERRILEE SUMP, formerly of Clarinda Lutheran School, Clarinda, to Zion Lutheran School, Denison. She was installed August 27, 2017 by Rev. Joshua Keinath.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS - LEAVING THE DISTRICT

KRISTEN LEIDING, Candidate, transferred to Minnesota South District, June 1, 2015.

REBEKAH JANKE, Non-Candidate, transferred to North Dakota District, October 27, 2015.

ELIZABETH HERALD, Candidate, transferred to Missouri District, January 26, 2016.

RACHEL MILLER, Candidate, transferred to Rocky Mountain District, February 4, 2016.

ELI KUPHAL, Non-Candidate, transferred to Minnesota South District, May 3, 2016.

MEGAN TANNEY, formerly of Zion Lutheran School, Denison, transferred to South Wisconsin District, August 1, 2016.

REBEKAH PFEIL, formerly of St. Paul's Lutheran School, Sioux City, transferred to Northern Illinois District, August 9, 2016.

JUANITA KRUEGER, Non-Candidate, transferred to Minnesota South District, September 7, 2016.

MARK TANNEY, Candidate, transferred to South Wisconsin District, September 21, 2016.

ANNA FOLEY, Candidate, transferred to California-Nevada-Hawaii District, December 28, 2016.

JENNIFER WHITMORE, Candidate, transferred to Indiana District, January 1, 2017.

DEBRA ERICKSON, Candidate, transferred to Nebraska District, January 25, 2017.

EMILY GRABOW, formerly of Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School, Spencer, transferred to North Wisconsin District, June 19, 2017.

JUSTIN HOFFMAN, formerly of Zion Lutheran School, Denison, transferred to Kansas District, June 30, 2017.

TAMMY LANGFIELD, formerly of Zion Lutheran School, Denison, transferred to Minnesota South District, July 14, 2017.

GENELLE KOENEN, Candidate, transferred to Missouri District, July 21, 2017.

STEPHAN GONZALES, formerly of Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School, Spencer, transferred to South Wisconsin District, August 15, 2017.

KAITLYN GLASSLEY, Candidate, transferred to Southern District, January 22, 2018.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS – REMOVED FROM ROSTER

KIMBERLY WEIDT, January 5, 2016

MEGAN SCHUTT, March 8, 2016

JENNIFER SCHULTEIS, March 9, 2016

CHERYL HILD, March 23, 2016

MEGAN KOZIEL, August 16, 2016

SUSAN HEEREN, March 3, 2018

CALLED TO GLORY

BYRON BOCKELMAN, March 12, 2016

SCHOOLS CLOSED

Fort Dodge, Prince of Peace Lutheran Preschool, July 18, 2017

Indianola, Calvary's Kids Preschool (Mt. Calvary), May 10, 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bound Together in Christ's Love

The theme for the Fortieth Convention of Iowa District West is *Bound Together in Christ's Love*. It is based on Colossians 3:12-17.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (ESV)

Paul begins with good news. You are Chosen! We are chosen by God to be His people. In the book of Ephesians it says, *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him* (Ephesians 1:4 ESV). Paul reminds us that from the very beginning of time, from the foundation of the world, God has chosen us to be His people. God sent Jesus for us! *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16 ESV). Whoever believes in Him has eternal life. Christ Jesus lived, died and is risen for us! This is the good news of God's Grace. In Christ Jesus, God chose you to be one of His own sons and daughters. Our identity as the people of God is that we have been chosen by Him to be His people and to share in His glory forever.

This identity as people of God is lived out over and over in the congregations of Iowa District West (IDW). Pastors are present with their people as they faithfully visit the sick and shut-ins of their congregations. Teachers, Deaconesses, Directors of Christian Education and other church professionals are forming and informing the next generation of Christians. Church members are volunteering to serve in their congregations and communities. Hundreds of quilts are prayerfully constructed and other projects of mercy are offered by willing servants to the Glory of God. These are acts of compassion and kindness.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies us and in doing so He gives us hearts of mercy. This is God's work in us as He calls us to put on compassion and kindness. The Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism calls us to be the Holy people of God, to live in perfect harmony with one another. This is our identity as God's chosen people. Jesus says it like this, *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35 ESV).

Trends Across the District

We are witnessing a dramatic change in the demographics in Iowa. It is not a surprise to anyone living in the rural areas of Iowa District West that in the past 20 years there has been a major shift in the population of Iowa. Our small towns are becoming smaller and the Des Moines metro is growing significantly. I have witnessed the pain people feel as they consider closing a congregation and the growing pains of people as they consider how they will serve a growing population. To be sure, both the increase and the decrease in population can cause a burden to our churches. There are areas of District that are growing at an astonishing rate. LCMS 1st Vice President Herb Mueller will share more of the demographics behind the changes during his report to the convention on Monday evening.

On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

This is the mission statement of the Board of Directors. Our mission as a District is, *“to assist the congregations and their members in conserving and promoting the unity of faith and in carrying out their mission...more effectively and efficiently together with other congregations”* (LCMS Handbook 1.3.3).

IDW continues to be a leading district in the support of our national and international mission work. In 2017 we passed on to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 50% of the funds received from congregational support. At the same time, we encourage our congregations to directly support our LCMS missionaries over and above our district commitment to the Synod through Mission Central.

The District has identified five strategic mission partners. Our Mission Partners are intentionally seeking to reach the un-churched in their communities. These Mission Partners are engaged in unique types of ministry. The goal of our strategic partnerships is to provide sufficient financial support and organizational resources so our missionaries can carry out their work of sharing the love of Christ.

Since our last convention the District has welcomed Rhonda Mohr as our Executive Assistant for Education, Youth and Family Life. She assists our Lutheran schools with workshops and conferences for school boards, principals, and teachers. We are blessed to have over 40 Lutheran preschools in Iowa District West. Our Family Life Ministry provides Christian education resources to assist our congregations and families with Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, confirmation instruction, and adult education programs. The District assists congregations and workers in the faith formation of our young people for Christian life in this rapidly changing world. The District continues to host annual youth gatherings, facilitate national youth gatherings, coordinate servant events and mission trips, and work with Camp Okoboji in summer camp programs.

The congregations in Iowa West have a long history of caring for one another and sharing our burdens with one another. We have a close relationship with Lutheran Family Service. We were very involved in disaster relief efforts in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. I thank God for congregations that are ready and willing to work with one another in this common confession and common mission. I praise God for pastors who are willing to take on the extra work of vacancies and congregations that will release them for service. I believe we need to be pioneering in how we continue, *bearing with one another*, in our ministry together.

Endowment and legacy gifts have allowed us to provide increasing amounts of financial aid to students preparing for church work careers, students attending Concordia University System schools, and for our workers seeking continuing education. We have also addressed some of the issues of church workers' indebtedness through the Ministry Excellence Fund.

The District continues a partnership with the Lutheran Church Foundation to provide a Christian Estate Planning Counselor who assists congregations and laity wishing to fund ministries through endowment and legacy gifts. IDW also partners with The Lutheran Church Extension Fund to provide an LCEF Vice-President to serve our congregations, workers, and laity with investment opportunities, loans, and an arch of church extension services.

I count it a joy and a blessing to be a pastor in IDW. But times are changing. Rural Iowa is changing; but so are our urban and suburban communities. We rejoice in the timeless blessings of Christ and the changeless message of the Gospel. This Good News brings peace and confidence in "changing times." I believe congregations throughout Iowa District West are sensing that they could fulfill their God-given mission better together than separately. Because we are "Bound Together in Christ's Love," I encourage the leaders throughout Iowa District West to explore new ways to join forces with neighbor congregations to bring the changeless message of God's love for the world to your communities.

Always in Grace,
President Steve Turner

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a great privilege for me to serve IDW as we are "Bound Together in Christ's Love." During the past three years as First Vice President of the district, I have served on the Board of Directors, the Missions Committee, the Human Care Committee, the IDW Endowment and Legacy Committee, and the District Pastors Conference Planning Committee. Also, I have chaired the IDW *Handbook* Review Committee (with great thanks to the Rev. Al Buelow, the Rev. Bob Riggert, the Rev. Ralph Shorey, and Mr. Stan Ullerich for the work we have done together on this committee) which is proposing significant revisions to the District *Handbook* for convention adoption. "Bound Together in Christ's Love," I have been a part of six installation services of my pastor peers and the congregations they now serve. Last, but not least, it has been my privilege to work with President Turner and lead the applause and ovations of praise whenever possible for the leadership he is providing in binding us together as a district.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Roger Carlisle, First Vice President

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bound Together in Christ's Love. *"And whatever you do..."* (Colossians 3:17). Our district president informed me that the #1 duty of the second vice president is to lead the applause for the president. Confession...I didn't ever actually lead the applause for our president, although I have come to thank God for President Turner's faithful care and living out God's compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Colossians 3:12).

Bound Together in Christ's Love. *"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly"* (Colossians 3:16). God gave me opportunity to install eight pastors who are richly bringing the message of Christ to God's dear children in their care: Rev. Mark Kluzek (Deloit/Kiron); Rev. David Viggers (Odebolt); Rev. Joseph Bangert (Sanborn); Rev. John Rutz (Creston); Rev. Joshua Lowe (Hawarden); Rev. Thomas Cowell (Burt); Rev. Michael Sharp (Newell); and Rev. Richard Milbrant (Ocheyeden).

Bound Together in Christ's Love. *"Perfect unity"* (Colossians 3:14). I have served this past triennium on our district's Youth Committee, Education Committee, and Pastors Conference Planning Committee.

Bound Together in Christ's Love. Christ's Body and Blood love. Christ's Word love.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Paul Egger, Second Vice President

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The first meeting of the Board of Directors following the 2015 District Convention was held on August 15, 2015, at the District Office, 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Since then, the Board of Directors has held meetings on the following dates at the following locations:

October 7, 2015, at the Board of Directors Retreat at Camp Okoboji;
February 16, 2016, at the District Office, 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge;
May 19, 2016, at the District Office at 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge;
August 18, 2016, at the District Office at 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge;
October 12, 2016, at the Board of Directors Retreat at Camp Okoboji;
February 16, 2017, at the District Office at 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge;
May 18, 2017, at the District Office at 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge;
August 17, 2017, at the District Office at 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge;
November 9, 2017, at the District Office at 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge;
February 15, 2018, at the District Office at 409 Kenyon Road, Fort Dodge;
May 17, 2018, at Mission Central in Mapleton
(this meeting not having taken place as of the date of this report).

The Board of Directors had a total of twelve regular meetings since the 2015 District Convention. At each of its meetings, the Board of Directors received reports from the District President and from the various committees of the Board, the District Executive Assistants, the District Treasurer, the Christian Estate Planning Counselor, the Mission Development Counselor, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund - Missouri Synod Vice President for the Iowa District West Program, and the IOWAY Director, and took action on these reports as necessary.

Changes in the Board of Directors since the 2015 District Convention were as follows:

(1) At the May 18, 2017, meeting, it was announced that the Rev. Peter Wegner had resigned as District Secretary. The Board of Directors appointed the Rev. John Schonkaes to serve as District Secretary for the remainder of the term of office.

(2) At the November 9, 2017, meeting, the Rev. David Loeschen had resigned his position as Director of Student Financial Aid Committee & the Ministry Excellence Fund. The Board of Directors approved the appointment of the Rev. Thomas Schlund as the new Director of Student Financial Aid Committee & the Ministry Excellence Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. John Schonkaes, District Secretary

CIRCUIT VISITORS' REPORTS

ADAIR CIRCUIT: Pastor Steve Wichtendahl, Visitor

Since the 2015 District Convention, our circuit rejoices in the Joy of Salvation as Word and Sacrament ministry and faithful proclamation of the Holy Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions, continues in Immanuel & St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Adair, Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Anita and First Lutheran Church, southeast of Wiota, Zion Lutheran in Atlantic, St. John's Lutheran in Casey, Zion Lutheran in Dexter, Immanuel Lutheran in Greenfield, Faith Lutheran in Winterset, Immanuel Lutheran in Guthrie Center and St. Thomas Lutheran in Panora as well as ministry to the homebound and hospitalized. Together we have witnessed the miracle of God's grace as Jesus comes to us in His Sacred Word, the waters of Holy Baptism, and the bread and wine of His Holy Supper. We continue to patiently instruct our youth, equip the Saints for service in His Kingdom, and when the time comes, gently walk our brothers and sisters safely home to dwell in the eternal house of our Lord forever.

ALGONA CIRCUIT: Pastor Scott Kozisek, Visitor

The churches of the circuit are as follows: Trinity-Algona, Zion-Ayrshire, St. John-Burt, St. Paul-Emmetsburg, St. Luke-Fairville, St. John-Fenton, St. John-Garner, St. Paul-Garner, Immanuel-Lone Rock, Trinity-Mallard, Our Savior-Swea City, Peace-West Bend, St. Paul-Whittemore and, Lord willing, after this convention we will welcome Zion-Lu Verne and Immanuel-Livermore led by our very own Rev. Steve Struecker. We are also very blessed to have Rev. Henry Friedrich who is retired many times over to impart us with his sage wisdom, knowledge and brotherly love. The pastors of the circuit continue to meet monthly from October to April. We have been studying the Confessions for the last few years as well as in-depth and very profound sermon studies. We also continue to cultivate our unity and love by getting together a few times a year with the brothers and their families. We have had quite a turnover in the last three years. Rev. Neil Hayen retired from Mallard and Ayrshire and moved to Washington State, Rev. David Bergquist retired and moved to Texas. Then who can forget the years of mentoring and cultivating a spirit of District service in the heart of Rev. Steve Turner who was elected as our most highly esteemed District President! This action left quite a void in our circuit of which our gracious Lord filled with many wonderful servants of the Word. The pastors who took calls were Rev. Jason Peterson who went to Michigan, and Rev. Nick Thackery who went to Fort Dodge (Good Shepherd). We were blessed with many new candidates from St. Louis, Fort Wayne and the odd duck from St. Catherine. They include: St. Louis candidate Rev. Tom Schlund to Trinity-Algona in July of 2015; St. Louis candidate Rev. Eric Hauan to Trinity-Algona in July of 2016; Fort Wayne candidate Rev. John Koopman to St. Paul-Emmetsburg and Peace-West Bend in July of 2016; Fort Wayne candidate Rev. Thomas Cowell to St. John-Burt and 25% at Trinity-Algona in June of 2017. The odd duck, St. Catherine candidate Rev. Paul Schulz to Zion-Ayrshire and Trinity-Mallard in July 2017; and, last but not least, Rev. Duane Miesner accepted the call to Immanuel-Lone Rock and Zion-Ayrshire and will be installed after the crops are planted. Rev. Miesner previously served First Lutheran in Kingsley, Iowa. This is but a taste of what has been going on in the circuit. If you want an in-depth history on the rest of the acts of the Algona Circuit, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Algona Circuit?

BOONE CIRCUIT: Pastor Stephen Ude, Visitor

The Boone Circuit continues to see the spread of God's Word through the nine congregations in the Circuit. There are also three preschools that reach out to their communities in Ames, Ogden, and Perry. This past triennium also saw the establishment of a new Day Care (Acorns and Oaks Christian Day Care) which is operating in the basement of the Perry Lutheran Home, Perry – both residents and day care children are enjoying the interaction. Trinity, Boone continues to train young children in their Parochial School.

Christ Lutheran Church, Bouton celebrated their 125th Anniversary in September 2017; and St. Paul, Boone will celebrate their 150th Anniversary during the summer of 2018.

There have been a couple changes in pastors. Trinity, Jefferson gave a farewell to Rev. Tim Jones and welcomed Rev. Dennis Martens as their new pastor. Zion, Ogden said farewell to Rev. Wade Brandt and are currently examining various options for continued ministry in Ogden. Pastor Ken Bose at Trinity, Perry will be retiring after Easter 2018, but will continue serving on a part-time basis at Trinity.

After his heart attack, Rev. Lindsay Watkins resigned as Circuit Visitor, with Rev. Stephen Ude being appointed to fill the remainder of his term.

Our circuit continues to enjoy a closeness of brotherly support as we meet monthly to share what the Lord is doing in our ministries and in our personal lives.

CARROLL CIRCUIT: Pastor Brian Licht, Visitor

The Carroll Circuit gathers monthly for Circuit Conferences (August-May) on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (excluding months in which a district pastoral conference is held). Rev. Robert Wagner was installed as the pastor of Immanuel, Lidderdale on July 25, 2015. Rev. Wagner came to our circuit from Texas, where he served Immanuel Lutheran, Copperas Cove. We bid farewell to Deaconess Elizabeth Herald (Watson), who resigned from her position as the Director of Family Life at St. Paul, Carroll, on August 21, 2015. Deaconess Herald subsequently moved to Appleton City, Missouri to be with her new husband, Rev. David Herald. We welcomed Mr. Russell Baumann to the circuit when he was installed on August 21, 2016 as the Director of Family Life at St. Paul, Carroll. Mr. Baumann came to our circuit from Adell, Wisconsin. This is Mr. Baumann's first placement as a Commissioned Minister of Religion, having received a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and certification as a Lay Minister from Concordia University Wisconsin. A vacancy in the Denison Circuit at Trinity, Manilla had been served by Rev. Jonathan Connor of Zion, Manning. During that vacancy a partnership was formed between the two congregations that has enabled the congregation of Trinity to call Rev. Andrew Johnson to serve as their pastor. Rev. Johnson was installed on July 8, 2017 and the partnership between the congregations continues. The congregations of the Carroll Circuit are being served as follows: Zion, Arcadia—Rev. Benjamin Dose; St. John, Audubon—Rev. Gordon Buchholz; St. Paul, Carroll—Rev. Brian Licht and Mr. Russell Baumann (Director of Family Life); Peace, Glidden and Trinity, Coon Rapids—Rev. Alan Miller; Immanuel, Lidderdale—Rev. Robert Wagner; Zion, Manning—Rev. Jonathan Connor, Rev. Robert Riggert (Assistant to the Pastor), and Rev. Andrew Johnson (per the partnership with Trinity, Manilla).

CHEROKEE CIRCUIT: Pastor Leroy Riemer, Visitor

The pastors of the Cherokee Circuit (St. Paul/Aurelia, Trinity/Cherokee, Pilgrim/Quimby, Trinity/Marcus, Peace/Marcus, St. John/Germantown, Zion/Paullina, and Bethel/Sutherland) regularly met on the first Tuesday of every month, September through May, during these past three years. The September and January Winkels were held jointly with the Storm Lake Circuit pastors. Pastor Larry Lemke retired in June of 2017 after serving St. Paul Lutheran Church of Aurelia for 17 years. Pastor Derek Evans was installed this past January at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Aurelia. We thank the Lord for his presence and ministry among us. Pastor Jonathan Riggert of Trinity Lutheran Church of Cherokee, served the vacancy at St. Paul, Aurelia. Pastor Donald Meyer of Pilgrim/Quimby and Trinity/Marcus retired in January of 2018. The vacancy at Pilgrim Lutheran Church of Quimby is being filled by Pastor John Riebhoff who also serves Grace Lutheran Church of Correctionville. Pastor Kevin Roop is filling the vacancy at Trinity Lutheran Church of Marcus, at this time, as he continues to be a blessing at Peace Lutheran Church of Marcus. Pastor Donald Erickson serves St. John Lutheran Church of Germantown and Pastor Daniel Wagner serves Zion Lutheran Church, Paullina. We rejoice at the Zion/St. John Lutheran School and Preschool that continue at Paullina. Area pastors are offered the opportunity to lead the regular Wednesday morning chapel devotions at the school. We also celebrate the Lutheran Christian Preschool that is offered by Trinity Lutheran Church of Cherokee. We rejoice in being "Bound Together In Christ's Love" (Colossians 3:12-17).

COUNCIL BLUFFS CIRCUIT: Pastor Ray Smith, Visitor

The congregations of the Council Bluffs Circuit of Iowa District West are “BOUND TOGETHER IN CHRIST’S LOVE” to exercise God pleasing ways to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our respective communities, southwest Iowa, and the world. Walking together in this triennium we continued to celebrate circuit-wide events for The Ascension of our Lord and for Reformation observances. We are disappointed to report that the Continuing Education Class that we offer on an annual basis had to be canceled in 2017 due to a death in the family of the visiting professor; however, we did offer classes in 2015 and 2016, and it is our collective intention to continue to do so in the future. Funds are raised each year to secure scholarships for our pastors to attend these classes. Our two Lutheran preschools, St. Paul Early Childhood Center in Council Bluffs and One Way Preschool in Missouri Valley, continue to set high standards for early childhood education in our circuit. Individually, the congregations of the Council Bluffs Circuit continue to provide biblical Word and Sacrament ministry to our members and throughout southwest Iowa. We welcomed Rev. William Caughey to the circuit to provide “retired in service” pastoral ministry to St. Paul, Oakland and St. John, Hastings. Trinity, Glenwood (Rev. Seth Kaiser) continues to expand its youth activities and outreach through VBS and Sunday School. In Council Bluffs, the members of St. Paul (Rev. Nathan Sherrill and Rev. Timothy Frank) have introduced the St. Paul Music Conservatory and published their first Christmas CD. Timothy congregation (Rev. Michael Petri) hosted our 500th Anniversary of the Reformation worship service that included outstanding musical selections. The members of Faith (Rev. Ronald Rosenkaimer II) host an active Operation Barnabas chapter as part of their outreach ministry and offer a combined VBS with St. Paul. St. John, Honey Creek (Rev. David Kuhnle) has continued its missions emphasis, including sponsoring members for two mission trips to Africa where they assisted in Vacation Bible Schools for locals. The tri-parish (Rev. Merlene Ostebee) of Peace, Harlan, Trinity, Persia and Our Savior, Walnut have worked together to maintain solid Word and Sacrament ministry in their respective communities with Peace, Harlan boasting as many as six new members this triennium. Members of Immanuel, Logan saw the retirement of their long serving and beloved pastor, Rev. Gerald Firby, and have celebrated their new pastor serving his first call out of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Rev. Daniel Steeb by expanding outreach through community meals, Tractor Days, Movie nights and reinvigorating their Youth and Sunday School programs. Finally, the members of First, Missouri Valley (Rev. Ray Smith) have extended a call for a 2018 seminary candidate to replace their pastor who will retire after this convention to the Oklahoma District.

DENISON CIRCUIT: Pastor Merle Mahnken, Visitor

Zion in Denison installed Pastor Joshua Keinath as Senior/Administrative Pastor on Sunday, December 18, 2016. Pastor Kurt Kaiser now serves Zion as an Associate Pastor. Pastor Willie Grills was ordained and installed at *La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo: Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Pastor Dan Vogel, who had served *Amigos* for many years, first as a missionary and then as their first pastor, had retired and his farewell was celebrated on June 25, 2017. Pastor Vogel continues to serve both Hispanic and Anglo congregations in his retirement. The pastors of the Denison Circuit meet regularly with their brothers of the Mapleton Circuit, and together give an offering at each of our Winkels. Currently, our support is directed toward Pastor James Sharp and his family serving in Uruguay. The pastors and congregations of the Denison and Mapleton Circuits again joined annually for an Ascension Service at Mission Central; preachers for this special service throughout the past three years included Dr. Dale Meyer, President Turner, and the Reverend Gregory Seltz. All offerings go to support LCMS missionaries. The congregations of our two circuits also joined for a Reformation 500th Anniversary Service in October 2017, a service wonderfully hosted by St. John, Charter Oak. The pastors of the Denison Circuit have joined with their Mapleton Circuit brothers and their families for each of the past twelve summers in the annual Pastors’ Bash (a time of food, cheer, and games). Zion Lutheran School in Denison continues in mission and service to our Savior. Circuit congregations maintaining preschools include Immanuel, Schleswig; Our Savior, Denison; and Zion, Denison. We thank God for His faithfulness to our pastors, congregations, and schools and pray that He will continue to guide and equip us for further service to spread the Good News of our Savior.

DES MOINES EAST CIRCUIT: Pastor Steven Hayden, Visitor

The congregations of Des Moines East continue to live and serve **Bound Together in Christ's Love**. Since the last District Convention, the Des Moines East Circuit grew by one congregation as we, along with the District, welcomed The Gate Lutheran Church in Ankeny. Our congregations continue to work individually and collectively reaching out with the saving Gospel of our Lord. Newly called church workers this triennium include Pastor Aaron Hannemann at The Gate, Ankeny; Pastor Duncan McLellan at St Paul, Ankeny; and DCO Shane Acers, Director of Youth, Education and Family Ministry at Hope Lutheran, Des Moines. Mt. Calvary, Indianola has been served by DCE interns during this triennium and has extended a call for a fulltime DCE. Our Circuit meets regularly with our co-workers from the Des Moines West Circuit in order to encourage and support one another in the work our gracious God has given to each of us and our congregations. May the Lord of the Church continue to bless us all as we seek to do His work, always focusing on making disciples of Jesus Christ!

DES MOINES WEST CIRCUIT: Pastor David Dahlke, Appointed Circuit Visitor

The Des Moines West Circuit is "Bound Together in Christ's Love." During the past triennium, each of our twelve congregations and one church plant, are striving to grow in Christ Jesus, building disciples, and going out into the community with a grace-filled Gospel.

We are seeing a greater emphasis on discipleship and multiplication. Following the lead of the LCMS priorities, we are seeking to plant and revitalize churches. With a strong partnership with IDW, the Gospel is reaching many nooks and crannies of our communities. I see church leadership preparing people to see their everyday patterns of life as an opportunity to disciple others both in and outside of the church.

Another circuit theme is family ministry. Following the priorities of IDW family ministry, we are seeking to partner, encourage, equip, and resource families that they may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God that by believing they may have life in His name.

The most recent theme in our circuit is the movement toward reaching the millennialist population (ages 18-34). Today there are over 83 million members (24% of the total population) of this generation living in the United States. Iowa's millennial population is 21% (633,598). Who are these people in your church and community? How can we intentionally reach them with God's grace and love? God has called us into a ripe mission field.

FORT DODGE CIRCUIT: Pastor Ed Durand, Visitor

No report

HUMBOLDT CIRCUIT: Pastor Aaron Flatau, Visitor

No report

LE MARS CIRCUIT: Pastor Duane C. Miesner, Visitor

The Lord of the Church has brought several changes to the Le Mars Circuit during this last triennium. In 2014, Pastor Andy Carlson accepted the Lord's call to his home state of Alaska. The people of St. Paul, Ireton, were then blessed to receive Pastor Michael Boothby and his family into their midst. In 2016, Pastor Todd Bunge left Trinity, Hawarden, in order to serve God's people at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Polk City. To fill this vacancy, the Lord has led Pastor Josh Lowe, along with his family, to the "western most parish of Iowa District West." Last October, the people of Christ Lutheran, Remsen, also said a sad farewell to Pastor Dennis Martens who accepted a call to Trinity, Jefferson. The people of

Christ Lutheran have voted to request a candidate or delayed vicar from the seminary, and are patiently waiting for the one the Lord has already chosen to be their next pastor.

Along with our regular joint winks with the Sioux City Circuit, the pastors of our circuit have enjoyed getting together for an annual picnic hosted by Pastor Steve and Paula Stoll at their home in rural Hinton. We also marked the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with a circuit-wide worship service held at First Lutheran Church, Kingsley. The Reverend Doctor Klaus Raab of Martinsburg, Nebraska, was our guest preacher, followed by a time of food and fellowship. The Le Mars Circuit has been blessed by being “Bound Together in Christ’s Love,” and we look forward to this next triennium under the Lord’s guidance and care.

MAPLETON CIRCUIT: Pastor Richard Merrill, Visitor

The pastors of the Mapleton Circuit meet together with the Denison Circuit pastors on a monthly basis for worship and the study of God’s Word. In August, our pastors and their families usually get together for a picnic supper. The two circuits also sponsor an annual Ascension Day service at Mission Central. This year’s speaker is the Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. In 2017 the circuits celebrated a joint Reformation service at St. John, Charter Oak.

Several changes have taken place in the circuit over the past triennium. In August of 2015, the Rev. Marty Davis was installed as pastor of Trinity, Anthon and St. Paul, Battle Creek. In June of 2016, Rev. Timothy Frank, pastor of St. Paul, Charter Oak; Immanuel, Charter Oak; and St. Luke, Ricketts, accepted a call to St. Paul, Council Bluffs. The Rev. Richard Merrill of St. John, Charter Oak, is filling the vacancy. In November of 2016, the Rev. Christopher LaBoube was installed as pastor of St. Matthew, Mapleton. He is now serving the vacancy at St. Paul, Ute, as the Rev. Marcus Manley accepted a call to Altamont, Illinois, in November of 2017. In February of 2017, the Rev. Neil Wehmas was installed as associate pastor at St. Paul, Ida Grove.

Congregations of the circuit are: Trinity, Anthon/St. Paul, Battle Creek (dual parish); St. John, Battle Creek; St. John, Charter Oak; Immanuel, Charter Oak/St. Paul, Charter Oak/St. Luke, Ricketts (triple parish); Grace, Correctionville; St. Paul, Ida Grove; St. Matthew, Mapleton; and St. Paul, Ute.

NORTHWEST CIRCUIT: Pastor Mark Hansen, Visitor

We have – together with the Spencer Circuit – continued to observe a joint Reformation service. Our two circuits also maintain a LERT trailer and tools within. Some effort has been made for congregations to “tag team” together to combine manpower to travel to places in response to disasters. But most of that type work has happened when one congregation sends its own team. New pastors in the Northwest Circuit are Rev Joseph Bangert at St. John, Sanborn, and Rev Richard Milbrandt at the triple-parish of St. Peter, Ocheyedan, Zion, Ocheyedan, and St John, May City. Rev George Clausen accepted the call to Our Savior, Sheldon, where he had been serving as a vacancy pastor. Pastors continue to discuss ways to do ministry in our changing culture and “market” where God has called us.

SAC CITY CIRCUIT: Pastor Charles Bettin, Visitor

The congregations that compose the Sac City Circuit are Zion, Auburn, Faith, Early and St. Peter, Sac City being served by Rev. Charles Bettin; Pilgrim, Lake City served by Rev. Paul Ferderer; Emmanuel, Lake View served by Rev. Don Peterson; Trinity, Odebolt served by Rev. David Viggers; St. Paul, Sac City served by Rev. Don Pobanz; St. Paul, Schaller served by Rev. David Lyons; and Peace, Wall Lake served by Rev. Roger Carlisle.

We meet together for monthly Circuit Conferences (September-May) on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our monthly meetings consist of a fellowship time, worship, a Bible study, doctrinal topic, casuistry, and a business meeting.

Our pastors and their families try to gather annually for a summer picnic and always enjoy a Christmas gathering together.

In June 2015, the Rev. Herman Kramer was called to his Eternal Home leaving St. Peter, Sac City vacant. Rev. Charles Bettin is currently filling that vacancy.

The Rev. Craig Zandi accepted a call which left two circuit congregations vacant, Pilgrim, Lake City and Zion, Auburn. Because of the uncertainty of future viability, Zion, Auburn chose to dissolve the dual Parish with Pilgrim, Lake City. On July 12, 2015 the Rev. Paul Ferderer was installed as pastor of Pilgrim, Lake City. Rev. Charles Bettin is currently serving Zion, Auburn.

Rev. Glenn Hansen left Iowa West leaving Trinity, Odebolt vacant. On June 26, 2016 Rev. David Viggers was installed at Trinity, Odebolt.

The LERT (**L**utheran **E**arly **R**esponse **T**eam) trailer is a working reality and stands willing and ready to provide tools and support to all areas in the District and beyond as needed. There are currently over 500 trained volunteers throughout Iowa District West. The LERT trailer was entered as a “float” in several circuit town parades.

In observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the Sac City Circuit held a Worship Service at Emmanuel, Lake View on October 29, 2017.

A Circuit Forum was held at St. Paul, Sac City on January 23, 2018. The only item of business being the selection of Rev. Don Pobanz as Circuit Visitor.

SIoux CITY CIRCUIT: Pastor Ralph Shorey, Visitor

This year’s theme of “Bound Together in Christ’s Love” has found expression in a variety of ways in the Sioux City Circuit. During the past triennium, the Circuit saw many changes. It experienced two vacancies. Rev. Bruce Jackson retired from ministry at Bethel, Lawton. Rev. Timothy Schiller from Shepherd of Peace, Sergeant Bluff accepted a call to Good Shepherd Lutheran, Alexandria, Minnesota. DCE Jenn (Grundmeier) Fuller from Redeemer, Sioux City accepted a call to Loving Arms Children’s Center/Messiah Lutheran Church in Johnston, Iowa. DCE Cindy Storm retired from ministry at Calvary in Sioux City. At the same time, we welcomed Rev. Robert Zellmer from Holy Trinity, Farnhamville, Iowa to Bethel, Lawton; Rev. Benjamin Perkins from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran in Mountain Lake, Minnesota to Shepherd of Peace, Sergeant Bluff; DCE Michael Kipp to Calvary, Sioux City; and DCE Shannon Porter to St. Paul, Sioux City.

Since Chaplain Steven Benson’s acceptance to Luther Care Services in Des Moines prior to this past triennium, nursing home services and hospital visits have been conducted by local area pastors and are flourishing by God’s grace. Rev. Charles Horkey from Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota continues the work of the Sunday morning radio broadcast, the Good Shepherd Hour. Rev. Steve Stoll from Trinity, Hinton is overseeing the Lamplighters ministry.

Hispanic outreach ministry continues to be led by Rev. Henry Witte through ESL classes and worship services in both Sioux City, Iowa and South Sioux City, Nebraska.

As we continue working together, the Circuit has been meeting the challenging demands towards older adult ministry and Bible study with local area pastors both retired and active in assisting the resident pastors at Calvary and St. Paul. Our school at St. Paul, Sioux City was recently given recognition with National Lutheran School Accreditation. The Circuit continues to engage in missions and human care

projects such as Mercy Meals at Faith; Bibi's Hope and missionary John Wolf at Redeemer; and missionary/nurse Molly Christensen at St. John in Climbing Hill. Fellowship is greatly enjoyed at many levels, most especially the Circuit Easter Sunrise Service and our now annual Hymn-sing held either at Reformation or Advent.

Like most circuits in IDW, we continue to work on challenges of encouraging regular church attendance among all generations as opposed to a more personalized morality and theology that is pulling many away from God's Word and Sacraments. However, these challenges have led individual congregations as well as circuit organizations such as Siouxland Lutherans in Missions and Ministry (SLIMM) to explore various avenues of possible partnerships and joint ministries among our congregations so that when all is said and done, "Bound Together in Christ's Love," Christ's love might "be all" and "in all" we do.

SOUTHWEST CIRCUIT: Pastor John Rutz, Visitor

"Bound Together in Christ's Love," the congregations of the Southwest Circuit of Iowa District West are active in sharing God's gifts of Word and Sacrament to those in our congregations, as well as supporting missions to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our respective communities in southwest Iowa and supporting missions and missionaries all over the world. We came together as a circuit to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation at St. Paul, Clarinda in October of 2017.

Highlights during the last triennium include Pastor John Rutz being installed at Trinity Lutheran Church of Creston/Mount Ayr. Trinity continues to have an active membership who faithfully come together to receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament and partake of opportunities for all ages to study God's Word, support local missions like Life Clinic Pregnancy Center, as well as support several missionaries around the world. Mount Ayr has added Sunday school, Confirmation, and Bible classes. Trinity Lutheran Preschool continues to build on their solid tradition of over 30 years. A 2 ½ year old class has been added and they are in the process of seeking accreditation from National Lutheran School Accreditation.

St. John-Hastings has transitioned from Pastor Rutz accepting the call to serve at Trinity in September 2016 to extending a call to William Caughey in the summer of 2017 as they continue to operate as a dual parish with St. Paul-Oakland and will transition to the Council Bluffs Circuit starting this year.

The dual parish of Immanuel-Clarinda/Trinity-Shenandoah recently installed Pastor Wade Brandt in the summer of 2017 as Pastor Justin Whitmore transferred to a congregation in Indiana. Pastor Daryl Tompkins retired as pastor of St. John-Clarinda. St. John is still in the call process as of this report. St. Paul-Clarinda (Yorktown) as well as St. Timothy-Bedford are served by Rev. Nathan Dudley, continuing to faithfully receive God's gifts of Word and Sacrament, faithfully continuing a strong relationship with the youth of the Clarinda area, faithfully taking a group to Higher Things Conferences each summer. All congregations in the Clarinda area support the mission of Clarinda Lutheran School to proclaim the Gospel to area students through 6th grade.

Pastor Jay Wheeler reports that Word and Sacrament continue to be proclaimed and given at Immanuel-Osceola and Our Savior-Leon. Immanuel Preschool continues to provide a Christ-centered education to the community.

Pastors Phil Ritter (Redeemer-Corning) and Jerry Wagoner (Mt. Calvary-Villisca) continue to lead their congregations and communities in the faithful proclamation of Word and Sacrament.

These are just a few highlights of what the Lord Jesus Christ is accomplishing in Southwest Iowa according to His good and gracious will. To God be the Glory!

SPENCER CIRCUIT: Pastor David Simonson, Visitor

The Spencer Circuit is meeting with the brothers of the Northwest Circuit.

Over the last triennium, the congregations of Spencer have been served by the same men. However, there is a change in status at **Immanuel**, Spirit Lake. Pastor David Simonson is now Senior Pastor. Immanuel, Spirit Lake had a 500th Reformation Celebration that would have made Luther smile. Immanuel has begun the process of calling an Associate Pastor to focus on outreach.

First English in Spencer celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and its 125th Anniversary as a congregation. Their preschool celebrated its 35th Anniversary. Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School built and moved into a new building on the First English campus. Pastor Paul Kaldahl continues to serve as pastor.

Immanuel, Terril has been served by Pastor David Doellinger. Immanuel celebrated its 125th Anniversary as a congregation.

Immanuel, Estherville celebrated its 125th Anniversary as a congregation. Rev. Tom Marth is pastor in Estherville.

Christ the King in Spencer continues to be served by Pastor David Zimmer. One highlight for this triennium is that Christ the King has paid off their debt.

STORM LAKE CIRCUIT: Pastor Leroy Riemer, Visitor

“Bound Together in Christ’s Love,” the pastors of the Storm Lake Circuit (St. Paul, Alta-Pastor Ryan Roehrig; St. John, Galva-Pastor Paul Egger; St. John [Hanover], Alta-vacancy Pastor Ryan Roehrig; St. Peter, Newell-Pastor Michael Sharp; Grace, Storm Lake-Pastor Bradley Ketcham; St. John, Storm Lake-Pastor Bruce Lesemann; Zion, Storm Lake-Pastor Lucas Booher) meet regularly the second Tuesday of every month, September through May, and have a summer family picnic. The September and January Winkels are held jointly with the Cherokee Circuit. October 25, 2017, was the final worship service conducted at Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux Rapids. IDW President Steven Turner preached for this service and presided over the rite “The Closing of a Congregation.” Pastor Michael Harmon, who was serving St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newell, accepted a call to the Minnesota South District; and Pastor John Schmidt retired from serving St. John (Hanover), Alta and moved to the Nebraska District. We were blessed with two candidates coming into our circuit in 2017: Pastor Ryan Roehrig and Pastor Lucas Booher. In February of 2016 and again in 2017, the pastors and congregations of the Storm Lake Circuit hosted a Circuit Bible Institute where circuit and area pastors presented five to seven topic or Bible studies and the attendees were invited to attend two or three of the study groups. We were very thankful for those who presented and the 60 plus who attended. A group from the host congregation offered an evening lunch for a nominal charge. The pastors with their families enjoy an annual summer picnic.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT – MISSIONS, HUMAN CARE AND STEWARDSHIP

Iowa District West (IDW) is *on a mission to support Christ's mission* (IDW's mission statement). What an awesome privilege, responsibility and joy it is to join our Savior in bringing the Gospel message to all people, beginning right where He has us in our various vocations and stations in life! How much better it is when we recognize the reality that we are *Bound Together in Christ's Love*, the theme of this District convention, and how much more effective when we demonstrate that reality by serving together in Christ's mission.

The need for us to come together is becoming more apparent as we find ourselves in a culture in which the church is increasingly irrelevant to a growing number of people. We face an uncertain future which leads us to wonder just how far away society will move from our Christian values and beliefs. We wonder what the future state of the church will be as we consider the reality that one-third of the congregations in IDW worship less than 50 on an average weekend and the number of professional church workers is decreasing. We wonder and then we stand in wonder at Christ's love for us. We see the wisdom and power in being *Bound Together in Christ's Love*, part of Christ's Church, against which the gates of hell shall not prevail (Matthew 16:18)!

Together as God's people, let us unite in joining Jesus on His mission that the number of disciples of Jesus Christ might be multiplied exponentially, beginning in our homes and communities!

The first step we took during this past triennium was to our knees in prayer. Recognizing the futility of relying on our own wisdom or power, the District staff is regularly in prayer. In addition, we continued to expand the IDW team of mission prayer partners, numbering now over 350. These volunteers receive weekly prayer requests regarding local mission efforts that have been shared with us by the leaders within our congregations, schools and mission partners (such as LWML, LCEF, LFS, etc). If you haven't already signed up to be an IDW mission prayer partner, I invite you to do so at the IDW mission display. In addition, we have begun to share these prayer requests weekly with all the congregations of IDW to utilize in their corporate prayers.

One of the efforts for which we have been praying is the transition in implementing the mission vision approved at the 2012 convention. In essence, the plan challenged congregations, who know best their local mission field, to take the lead in bringing the Gospel to those around them and enables lessons learned and best practices to be shared across the District and beyond. The District becomes a supporting partner in these efforts, doing all we can to support, equip and help network local congregations with others who've attempted similar mission outreach.

For example, one manner of doing so is through our mission grant program. In the past triennium we have partnered in this way with 40 congregations and ministries. These grants, made possible by the mission gifts of the people of IDW, have supported a variety of efforts to bring Christ to their community—from establishing a Christian daycare, supporting ministry to the deaf, to addressing a social ministry need and everything in between. More important than the dollars are the stories of growing relationships with unchurched individuals, new friends in worship and improved images of congregations within their communities. I encourage you to go to www.iowamissions.org and peruse the summaries of previous grants, organized in part according to our five targets: unbelievers, men, technology, vocation, and unchurched former LCMS. May they encourage you in your own congregational outreach efforts!

Sometimes congregations are presented opportunities that go beyond the scope of the mission grant program. To address these opportunities and to continue to stress the partnership we have as members of Iowa District West, this past triennium saw the establishment of missionary partners. Quite simply, these are congregations within IDW that are committed to Christ's mission given to all Christians to *make disciples of all nations* (Matt. 28:19) and are attempting something that requires a partnership beyond themselves.

For example, St. Paul, Ankeny is situated in one of the fastest growing areas in the United States. Desiring to reach the many unchurched moving into the area, St. Paul desired to plant a daughter congregation. Adopted as a missionary partner, they were able to call Rev. Aaron Hannemann, a graduate

of the church planting program of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. God has blessed this partnership to the extent that one of the highlights of the convention will be the recognition of the newest congregation in IDW: The Gate Lutheran Church, Ankeny! Likewise, Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines called church planter Rev. Lincon Guerra to establish Iglesia Luterana El Pastor del Valle. Now Rev. Guerra is working with Hope, Des Moines to strive toward the establishment of a Hispanic congregation on the east side of Des Moines as well!

Additional missionary partnerships exist with Rev. Henry Witte as he leads the outreach to the Hispanic community in the Siouxland area and with St. Paul, Council Bluffs as they reach into their community through their Music Conservatory and Early Childhood Center, both of which have presented opportunities to address community needs and build relationships for the sake of the Gospel, possibly leading to new congregations. Finally, Christ Our Savior, Norwalk is a unique missionary partner. This congregation is only 25 years old and at one time worshiped around 200 people, but through a series of unfortunate incidents, the congregation was down to a couple dozen. Now the area of Norwalk is growing rapidly, a renewed mission spirit and vision is present, and they are passionately, intentionally and faithfully reaching out into the community, led by their pastor, Bill Clark. Your mission dollars are making all these partnerships possible!

While the laity of our congregations are crucial for God's mission—a mighty army waiting to be mobilized—it is vital that our leaders, beginning with the professional church workers, be equipped and encouraged for the bold steps they will need to take in leading God's people into the realm of Satan. Through partnership with Transforming Churches Network (TCN), we have provided training for a number of leaders in the art of coaching and made this resource available to all our professional church workers. Likewise, scholarships have been provided for our leaders to attend conferences, enroll in programs, and take other steps designed to help them grow in their leadership skills.

These steps are taken to help our congregations become mission outposts, equipping their members to go outside the walls of their congregation as missionaries to live and share their faith in their everyday vocations. I've worked with a number of congregations either formally or informally in strategic planning or mini-workshops to help them transform to being focused outward to the mission field in which God has placed them. A valuable resource to encourage individuals in living on mission is the book, *Joining Jesus On His Mission* and the follow-up, *Joining Jesus Show Me How*. The author, Rev. Greg Finke, has presented across IDW and 15 congregations have partnered with him in implementing a missional lifestyle among their members. Whether you are living in a rapidly growing area or a declining area, you are surrounded by people who do not believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Let us come alongside them, love them, and witness as we have opportunity that they might join us in being *Bound Together in Christ's Love!*

In this post-church culture, it is ever more important to follow our Savior's command, *Love one another as I have loved you* (John 15:12). The area of missions and human care are intricately connected in the lives of God's people, as reflected in our Synodwide emphasis "Mercy-Witness-Life Together." Mission grants have allowed various acts of human care to be extended across the District, including through the support of Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) trailers and Operation Barnabas, a Synod ministry designed to show God's love to military members and their families.

I encourage each of you to sit down with your congregational leaders and members, walk through your communities, visit with its citizens and ask yourself, "Where are the opportunities to show God's love corporately as a congregation and as individuals?" In addition to the above mentioned LERT trailers, we've been working with other ministry partners to provide resources and guidance in the area of caring for the elderly and their caregivers, again a growing field of opportunity in IDW.

Closely connected is the area of chaplaincy. We were blessed to have had Rev. Jim Brammeier serve as a part-time chaplain in the Des Moines area this past triennium. Rev. Brammeier, when contacted by pastors in outlying areas, would visit their members hospitalized in Des Moines, thus supplementing the pastor's ministry. Rev. Brammeier retired as of October 1, 2017. I thank God for his faithful service and Gospel message he brought to many! We are currently exploring contracting with pastors in the Des Moines, Sioux City, and possibly Council Bluffs areas to continue to provide this service.

There is much to be done to carry out Christ's mission. It calls for the involvement of each of us, using the resources with which God has blessed us including our abilities, time and finances. This is Christian stewardship, defined by the LCMS as "the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing life and all of life's resources for God's purposes." I began serving last year in this area of Stewardship. As with each of my other areas of responsibility, I am blessed with a faithful group of committee members.

Our primary focus in stewardship has been getting resources into the hands of the church workers and people of IDW to help them teach and lead God's people in this "free and joyous activity." Just think, knowing who and whose we are because of Christ's love we are free to offer all we are and have in Christ's service. May this result not just in growing joy among us, but in a growing number of people who are *Bound Together in Christ's Love!*

A number of resolutions are being brought before the convention addressing the work we do together in missions, human care, and stewardship. I urge you to give them fervent prayer, thoughtful reflection, and open and godly discussion that they might help to call us to action in the next triennium and beyond in taking the Gospel into our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Mark Gerken
Executive Assistant for Missions, Human Care and Stewardship

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT – EDUCATION, YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE

Serving as the Assistant to the President in the areas of education, youth and family life since November of 2016 is an honor and gives me great joy. We are “Bound Together in Christ’s Love” as we partner in education, youth and family life. As a district we seek to nurture, grow, and serve these three areas and are keenly aware that we are much stronger working together than working separately.

Education - Day School and Preschool Ministry

Our district supports 8 Lutheran day schools and 44 preschools. Our District Lutheran day schools and early childhood centers are part of a network of nearly 2,300 LCMS preschools, elementary schools, and high schools across the country with the opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God’s work among us. Part of my role is to support day schools and preschools which has been my joy through the following ways:

- Quarterly meetings with the principals and joint Iowa District West and East Lutheran principals meeting in August.
- School Board Trainings where best practices are presented.
- Assist schools in gathering names of candidates for open positions.
- Visit day schools and preschools.
- Serve on planning teams for Early Childhood Conferences and Iowa Lutheran Teachers Conferences.
- Connect people with resources needed to help carry out their ministry.
- Recruited a cabinet of 4 directors to help serve as advisors to me regarding preschool ministry as well as make visits and serve as a resource for other directors.

Youth

The youth gatherings in our district are a great example of how we are “bound together in Christ’s love.” Youth across our district and from neighboring districts gather with peers, hear the message of the Gospel, have a great experience through hearing relevant topics, and are encouraged in their faith. I am thankful for our gathering teams made up of pastors and commissioned workers who seek to plan an Experiential Participatory Image-driven Connecting event for our young people.

Our Youth Services Committee seeks additional ways for our district to partner together in youth ministry as we encourage congregations and circuits to join together in youth ministry activities. We also lift up Camp Okoboji as an excellent opportunity to grow in faith and connect with others at Junior High Week, Youth Week, and the winter gathering C.H.A.O.S.

Family Life

Parents are recognized as the primary faith developers. The question we ask in the church and in the district, “How can we support them and contribute to helping develop the faith of their child?” as well as, “How can we help to strengthen their family?” We are “*bound together in Christ’s love*” and so we join hands with the parents to equip and support them in the faith development of their children.

During this last year and a half we were able to provide two VBS Best Practices events where congregations were invited to come and hear tips/practices/ideas from some of our passionate, successful VBS congregations. Thanks for the leadership and involvement of many volunteers and VBS leaders from congregations. We now have a VBS Iowa District West Facebook page where VBS leaders can connect and share ideas as they seek to have outstanding VBS programs to nurture the children of their congregation as well as share the Gospel in their communities.

In an effort to strengthen the family through strengthening marriages, the Christian Education Committee partnered with Lutheran Family Service using their marriage counselors to offer two locations for a Saturday workshop “Strengthening Your Marriage.” These workshops were well received. In the future, additional workshops will be offered at new locations throughout the district.

I welcome the opportunity to support congregations in their ministry to families. I had the privilege of leading a special workshop on family devotions where moms and dads with their children were able to build a family altar together.

I look forward to the days ahead with joy and anticipation because we are “*bound together in Christ’s love*” and HE desires for us to work together.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda J. Mohr
Executive Assistant for Education, Youth, and Family Life

COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONS

In accord with Synod Bylaw 2.3 the following new congregation has submitted its constitution and application for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. On November 9, 2017 the Board of Directors accepted the constitution and approved the membership of

The Gate Lutheran Church, Ankeny, Iowa

The following congregations have submitted Constitution and/or Bylaw revisions in accord with Synod Bylaw 2.4. They have been reviewed by the District Commission on Constitutions and are recommended for ratification by the Board of Directors of Iowa District West.

Peace, Marcus – Constitution & Bylaws

Bethel, Sutherland – Constitution & Bylaws

Trinity, Des Moines – Constitution & Bylaws

Grace, Le Mars – Constitution & Bylaws

Trinity, Hinton – Constitution & Bylaws

Zion/Immanuel, Lu Verne/Livermore – Dual Parish Agreement

St. Paul, Ankeny – Constitution & Bylaws

Trinity, Odebolt – Bylaws

Faith, Adel – Bylaws

St. Paul, Boone - Constitution

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. John Schonkaes, Chairman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

After the 2015 Convention, it was discovered that the Education Committee was virtually non-functioning. The Chairman position had been vacant for almost one and one-half years, and upon the death of the Part-time Executive Assistant for Early Childhood in the spring of 2015 the remaining Part-time Executives were responsible for maintaining all of the Committee's responsibilities.



The 2015 IDW Convention resulted in the election of not only a new President, but also all new Board of Directors members, with the exception of two incumbents. The new committees not only had to learn the policies and procedures of their committees but also had to begin to establish goals, objectives and priorities.

The newly constituted Education Committee met for the first time on November 14, 2015. The members at that time were:

Chairman - Rev. Richard Salcido
Part-time Executive Asst. Day Schools - Sally Kraayenbrink
Part-time Executive Asst. Family Ministry - DeAnn McCue
Part-time Executive Asst. Early Childhood - Rev. Bob Riggert (Interim)
BOD 2nd Vice President - Rev. Paul Egger
BOD Lay Member-At-Large - Tim Buelow
Early Childhood Cabinet Representative - Rev. Ray Smith
Commissioned Minister Representative - Cathy Sprengeler
Lay Representative - Kristi Gilbert
Director of Student Financial Aid Committee & the Ministry Excellence Fund - Rev. David Loeschen

The highest priorities for the Education Committee were:

1. Begin discussion and process to find a full time Executive Assistant for Early Childhood, education and Family Life.
2. Develop budget for next fiscal year.

Following the resignation of Sally Kraayenbrink in 2016, Merrilee Sump was appointed as Part-time Executive Assistant for Day Schools. She was responsible for meeting with the principals, assisting in the calling process for teachers, and assisting schools in the accreditation process.

The principals meet on a regular basis. They had a one day joint meeting with the principals of IDE in August. Four IDW schools participated in the LEA Convocation in Grand Rapids, Michigan in October.

DeAnn McCue worked with the Early Childhood Cabinet to plan the annual fall Early Childhood Conference. The Conference, conducted in August 2016, welcomed 180 participants and 20 vendors, as well as keynote speaker and presenters.

DeAnn also developed a Family Ministry website which features resources for congregations as they seek to provide quality family ministry opportunities.

Planning for a VBS Best Practices Workshop got underway. Plans were to conduct two workshops in different locations in January and/or February 2017.

2016-2017 A Time of Orientation

Early in 2016 a committee was formed by President Turner comprised of representatives of the Education and Youth Committees, chaired by Rev. Merle Mahnken, for the purpose of developing a job description

for a fulltime Executive Assistant for Education, Youth, and Family Ministry. Once a job description was developed, applications were solicited and candidates were interviewed. The Board of Directors issued a Call to Rhonda Mohr to be the Executive Assistant for Education, Youth and Family Ministry. After prayerful consideration, she accepted the Call and was installed on November 13, 2016 at Zion Lutheran Church, Manning. The part-time Executive Assistants were excused with profound thanks.

With a full time Executive Assistant on board, a sense of stability and direction began to emerge. Almost immediately Rhonda began visiting the schools and early childhood centers. She would meet not only the staff but also with the pastors and lay people responsible for the ministry. As important as it is to see a particular ministry in action, it is also vitally import to know the people responsible for the ministry. It is important to discover their hopes and dreams as well as their struggles. With this information in hand, the Executive Assistant can inform the Education Committee of the strengths and needs these ministries deal with and thereby help the Education Committee discover what areas the Committee should focus on in order to assist and support these ministries.

While she continues to meet with principals and early childhood directors to provide support and assistance on a professional level, Rhonda also meets with congregation education boards and committees to assist them in best practices.

At present, all IDW Day Schools are accredited or are going through the process.

The first VBS Best Practices Workshop was conducted at St. Paul, Ankeny in February 2017. The idea of a Confirmation Retreat was discussed to give congregations with small Confirmation classes the opportunity to grow in the faith with students from other congregations.

The Committee continued to discuss the need for Sunday school teacher training and how IDW can assist pastors and congregations to equip parents to be the primary persons responsible for their own child's faith development.

2017 – 2018 Moving Forward

The annual fall Early Childhood Conference took place in August 2017 with 33 of our 44 preschools represented. The planning committee met after the conference to review feedback and evaluations. The next conference is hoped to be conducted in August 2018.

An Early Childhood Cabinet consisting of early childhood directors is being assembled by Rhonda Mohr. The purpose of this cabinet is visit with the IDW early childhood centers and preschools to encourage and assist these ministries and provide feedback to Rhonda for follow-up and/or input for the Education Committee.

At the beginning of the school year, three of our Lutheran day schools were without principals. Rhonda is working with those schools to make sure there is a principal of record for the state and also assisting them as they seek to fill those vacancies.

Rhonda is also in the process of training the day school boards. As of the fall of 2017, five have been completed and the remaining three hope to be scheduled soon.

The Fall Teachers Conference with the IDE teachers was conducted at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, in October 2017.

In an effort to provide pastors and congregations of IDW an opportunity to minister to families, the Education Committee decided to partner with Lutheran Family Service to offer regional workshops. The first workshops, Strengthening Your Marriage, were offered in February 2018 at Zion Lutheran Church, Manning and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City. The hope is to continue various workshops in various locations throughout the district from the resources that Lutheran Family Service has available.

Upon the resignation of Rev. David Loeschen, President Turner appointed the Rev. Thomas Schlund as the new Director of the Student Financial Aid Committee and the Ministry Excellence Fund in November of 2017. Rev. Schlund will now be a part of the Education Committee.

The Christian Education Committee strongly recommends that the next "Joy in Ministry" event should not only be an event that recognizes scholarship recipients but also an event to encourage youth to consider entering into church work careers which has proven difficult to accomplish.

The Education Committee submitted two overtures to the 2018 IDW Convention. One deals with encouraging Lutheran day school boards/committees of IDW to utilize our District's Education Executive Assistant's expertise in helping them examine their strengths and develop improvement strategies. The second overture encourages congregations to seek out and encourage young people to pursue ministry as full-time church workers.

As we approach the 2018 IDW Convention the Education Committee members are:

Chairman - Rev. Richard Salcido

Executive Assistant Education, Youth, and Family Life - Rhonda Mohr

BOD 2nd Vice President - Rev. Paul Egger

BOD Lay Member-At-Large - Tim Buelow

Early Childhood Cabinet Representative - Rev. Ray Smith

Commissioned Minister Representative - Cathy Sprengeler

Lay Representative - Kristi Gilbert

Director of Student Financial Aid Committee & the Ministry Excellence Fund - Rev. Thomas Schlund

These past three years have indeed been challenging and exciting. Our District sincerely thanks all the members of this Committee who have served over these past three years. Our goal has been to develop a strong Education Committee with a sure foundation that seeks to provide excellent resources and people to assist congregations as they seek to provide quality, Christian, education ministries for their members and their communities.

Our hope is that we have succeeded. We pray that in the next three years the Education Committee will continue to create and launch new initiatives from the foundation we have built. As we are Bound Together in Christ's Love may we continue to encourage one another to grow in the faith with quality, excellent, biblically-grounded, and Christ-centered resources.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Richard Salcido, Chairman

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

During the past three years, the Student Financial Aid Committee has been able to offer financial assistance to an average of 30 students each year attending one of our Concordias. Some are planning to enter into fulltime church work, while others are pursuing other degrees.

Members of the Committee are Rhonda Mohr - IDW staff; Andrea Johnson - Lay Member; Jane Gronau - Lay Member; Rev. Alan Miller – Pastor member; DCE Vacant - Commissioned Minister member; Rev. David Loeschen - Chairman. The new chairman of the Student Financial Aid Committee is Rev. Thomas Schlund from Trinity Lutheran, Algona.

Applications for assistance were received throughout the years with most coming in during the late spring. The Committee met in early July to consider the requests. Funds were provided through the budget of Iowa District West, a generous gift from the LWML, a couple of large bequests, and other individual gifts and bequests from various sources. In 2015, we distributed \$151,251. In 2016, \$174,419 was granted. In 2017 we were blessed to grant \$193,000. In addition, funds were budgeted for colloquy students, student recruitment, and SMP. Over 50 students preparing for full-time church work have received aid from the District in the last triennium, in addition to students who were attending a Concordia but not preparing for full-time church work. They attended and are attending: Concordia University Chicago, Concordia University Irvine, Concordia University Nebraska, Concordia University St. Paul, Concordia University Texas, Concordia University Wisconsin, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne and Concordia Seminary St. Louis.

The students are always grateful for the support from their home district. We receive numerous thank you cards and letters indicating that your support of their efforts are greatly appreciated. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

The Student Financial Aid Committee in partnership with the Christian Education Committee, the Youth Services Committee, and our Concordia Universities seek ways to encourage fulltime church work as a career. We also encourage attending a Concordia as an option for preparation for whatever vocation into which God leads them. We are working on ways to help students financially and spiritually as they prepare to enter into the harvest fields.

It has been a joy and a personal blessing to have been able to serve in this capacity for so many years. I thank you for the opportunity. I also thank those who have served with me on the Student Financial Aid Committee and Roger Curtis for all his time and effort working with SFA. We continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest fields.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor David Loeschen, Director

YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

In the realm of present-day youth ministry in a changing culture, it's hard at times to not look at the past and also tempting to use it to negatively frame the present. Though many IDW congregations rightfully rejoice with healthy activity in the life of faith for a younger generation, there are many others who are confronted with realities of things not being like they used to be when they look to the past:

"Confirmation used to be a lot bigger." "We used to have a lot more junior/senior high kids involved." "We can't find anyone to help lead like we used to." Many more could be shared. Through it all though, amid the joys that come and frustrations which may be had, we are *always called to look to the past*—though not in terms of a singular church history. We of all ages look all the way to the past to the long-standing promise fulfilled in our Savior on the cross of Calvary and from the empty tomb of victory of sin, eternal death, and the devil, knowing that we have been joined with His death and resurrection through our baptisms (Romans 6:3). We have been "Bound Together in Christ's Love," and by focusing on *that* past, it frames our present and we are enabled to look to the future with joy and optimism!

During the past three years, IDW and the Youth Services Committee have striven to look to the future to best continue in partnering with and being a resource for congregations, leaders, and youth within our district. In doing that, one of the greater blessings has been Rhonda Mohr serving as IDW Youth and Education Executive and bringing her wealth of experience to that leadership role. Thanks are given for Pastor Steve Hayden who previously and faithfully served that youth role in a part-time capacity.

In June of 2017, congregations and leaders were given the opportunity to gather in various parts of IDW to share present joys and struggles of youth ministry, and also to learn as Rev. Mark Kiessling (Director of LCMS Youth Ministry) discussed current youth trends and opportunities. At three sites (Camp Okoboji, Manning, Fort Dodge) over three days, a good district representation for learning and networking. The roundtable discussions continue to shape the present and future work of IDW Youth Services as we strive to identify and best meet the needs of those within our district. Many congregations and leaders face the same challenges ministering to youth (competition for time, general cultural attitudes, lack of resources, and more). Some of the major items identified, in which we will continue to work towards, are more regional youth opportunities in IDW, encouragements for congregational partnering together and within circuits, promoting and partnering in Synod youth opportunities, and continued formats for volunteer youth leaders to be equipped and informed in their roles within a congregation.

Some traditions of the past in IDW continue to be a positive impact for the present and future of our district's youth. The Junior and Senior High Gatherings remain a blessing to many as hundreds of our youth from IDW (and surrounding districts) come together annually for a weekend of fellowship, fun, and, most importantly, development of faith and learning through keynote speakers and sectionals relevant to their ages and life experiences. Many thanks go out to the very capable gathering teams led by Pastor Robert Zellmer (Jr. High) and Pastor Chris Nitzel (Sr. High).

At a recent symposium attended regarding a lot of surveys and research headed up by LCMS Youth Ministry, it was greatly affirmed that programs aren't at the heart of youth ministry and retention in faith and Christ's church, rather it's the relationships that are built and maintained. As we work toward the future, may those relationships stem from the greatest relationship established freely for us that has saved us by grace, loving as we have first been loved in and through Christ alone as He comes to us still today in His Word and means of grace. It's for all people, yet especially the ever-important and forming ages of those youth in our churches, neighborhoods, and families. We pray we continue to go about our work together as His people faithfully bringing and affirming that message of life and truth for all.

As Iowa District West continues to be “On a Mission to Support Christ’s Mission,” so the Youth Services Committee continues to strive to best partner with the congregations, leaders, and youth within our district in that same mission from and in our Lord. And in doing so, we rejoice in the past, consider the present, and anticipate the future in our work together for the sake of His Kingdom with the faith that has been given through His Spirit. Even as many things around us change in our world and culture (and often not for the better), we have the hope and assurance of what never changes which is what has been accomplished for us by our Savior Jesus Christ in His perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection. It’s through that past that defines our present and enables us to look to a future in our partnership together, and to a greater future that’s been assured since we have been, are, and will be “Bound Together in Christ’s Love.”

Many thanks to those who have faithfully served on the Youth Services Committee the past three years: Rhonda Mohr, Pastor Paul Egger, Jessica Tibben, Doug Kading, Ellie Menz, and Bethany Kuhlmann (partial term).

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Jonathan Riggert, Chairperson

REPORT OF THE IOWAY DIRECTOR

Bound Together in Christ's Love

One of the largest advancements for IOWAY in the past three years was the formation of the IOWAY COORDINATORS. I am proud to introduce twelve coordinators located throughout Iowa District West. They are amazing people who have a heart for missions and who are the eyes and ears in their church, community and nationally to identify and help with many mission outreaches. They are an extension of IOWAY. God is working through us as we work together, phone conference, share and plan ways to reach out to help His people.

- Larry and Cheryl Olofson, Boone
- Sandy Bubke, Mapleton
- Joni Carstens, Bagley
- Lisa Zeller, Bode
- Nancy and Dale Bruns, Jolley
- Nancy Goddard, Council Bluffs
- Nancy Johnson, Hartley
- Darwyn and Sharri Hansen, Schaller
- Colleen Petzenhauser, Lake City
- Patti Anderson, Gowrie
- Kathryn Sprecher, Des Moines
- Jane Morris, Clarinda

Yearly Omaha Mission Trips

The team worked at, collected and distributed numerous vanloads of clothes, food, quilts, sleeping mats, Bibles, hygiene items, etc. for the following outreaches:

- Assure-Pro Life Center
- MOHM'S Place
- Takin' It To The Streets
- Open Door Mission
- Heartland Hope Mission

Haiti and Puerto Rico: Helped organize three mission trips to Haiti and one to Puerto Rico.

Annual Petal Pushers mission trip to Pasadena, California

- 89 Iowans volunteered approximately 1,800 man/woman hours constructing the Lutheran Hour float, the only Christian float in the Rose Parade, and other floats in the past three years.
- Outreach at Union Rescue Mission on Skid Row in Los Angeles, California – Donated and distributed over 2,000 filled health kits, food, Bibles and clothing while sharing the love of Jesus with the homeless.

Outreach to Moulton Elementary School in Des Moines (27 languages spoken at the school)

- Organized three sports/crafts/music camps for the 500+ immigrant and refugee students.
- Organized collection of hundreds of quilts, pillows, bed pillows/sleeping cushions.
- Organized donors and collection of toys, first aid kits, underwear, sweatpants, shoes, socks and hygiene items for the students.

Oversaw the continuation of ETCH (Education To Change Haiti)

- 120 children in Haiti are now attending school because of the generosity of Iowa District West churches and individuals. \$250 per year allows a child to attend school, purchase school supplies and a uniform.

Disaster Responses as District Disaster Response Coordinator

- **Lake City:** LERT team of 35 helped clean up after the damage caused by a storm.
- **Baton Rouge:** Worked with Pastor Dave Buss and Pastor Greg Moyer from Trinity, Baton Rouge on "We Care Tubs" outreach. Ordered **104 tubs**, each containing \$200 of kitchen items.
- **Fort Dodge:** Organized a "work day" to clean up tree damage after a windstorm.

Through the loving donations from IDW churches and individuals, \$105,000+ was donated for hurricane relief in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico!

- **Houston, Texas:** Worked with Gregg Pinnick of Lutheran South Academy. Coordinated with three trucking firms to transport two semi loads of sheetrock, sheetrock supplies, and kitchen appliances. Connected IDW churches with individual families in Houston to help after Hurricane Harvey.

- **LINC Houston:** Connected individuals and IDW churches to provide toys and food for 111 children at Comunidad de Garcia Lutheran Church for their Christmas Eve event.
- **Puerto Rico:** Organized the collection of \$25,000 given to help the Lutheran Churches in Mayaguez and in Ponce to reach out to the people affected by Hurricane Maria.
- **Florida:** Worked with DCE Tim Richter of Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Myers, Florida. Connected donors with individual families who needed funding for new roofs. Sent food, diapers, formula, etc.

Conducted LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) training at the following churches since the last convention. (A total of over 700 have now taken the LERT training.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • St. John, Clarinda | • Faith, Adel |
| • Two trainings at Trinity, Algona | • Shepherd of the Valley/Hispanic, West Des Moines |
| • Our Savior, Denison | • Immanuel, Schleswig |
| • Holy Trinity, Farnhamville | • St. Paul, Hartley |
| • St. Paul, Ankeny | |
| • Trinity, Shenandoah | |

Organized two chainsaw certification seminars and workshops

- Trinity, Jefferson with 24 in attendance
- Camp Okoboji, Milford with 35 in attendance

Parades and/or community outreaches:

- Worked with eight IDW churches providing a LERT trailer, materials, coloring books and Jesus witness bracelets.

Collection and shipment/delivery of items for following ministries:

- Pastor Tim Norton, Navajo Indian Reservation: vanload of quilts, backpacks and school supplies were delivered
- New Salvation Ministries, Skid Row in Los Angeles, California: underwear and school supplies
- Melissa Salomon with Lutheran Hour Ministries (Mexico): pillowcase dresses and hats
- Beacon of Hope, Fort Dodge: clothing, quilts, hygiene items and food
- Three Lutheran churches in Los Angeles, California: Christmas toys
- 13,000+ witness bracelets, health kits, Bibles and underwear as needs arose
- Sent 3,500 handmade knit hats to various ministries
- Haiti: hundreds of pillowcase dresses, shorts and diapers
- Nigeria: 4,500 used hymnals and Bibles
- Vietnam veterans: hundreds of quilts made and distributed
- Veterans in Iowa: hundreds of quilts made and distributed
- “Kimberley’s Kids” in Compton and Los Angeles: over 100 quilts made and sent
- Thousands of bandages made from used bedsheets
- “Jesus Coloring Books”: **11,950** printed, assembled and distributed
- Individuals and groups made over 8,000 witness bracelets that were distributed at the Iowa State Fair and Clay County Fair through LLL booths
- Backpacks and school supplies to Lewisburg, West Virginia

I want to express my thanks to the many people in Iowa District West who have donated time, money and labor to make the IOWAY outreaches a success. There is truly joy in serving when so many wonderful, loving people work together to share God’s love.

Ellie Menz
 IOWAY Director and Disaster Response Coordinator
ellie@iowadistrictwest.org

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

In the three years since our 2015 district convention, the IDW Missions Committee has continued to strive to share the message of Jesus and to support others to do the same through these key areas: Mission Grants, Operation Barnabas, IOWAY, LWML, LCEF and the new “core partners” of our district.

Much remains the same for the first five key areas. But new to the district are some “core partners,” consisting of five different yet essential ministries in IDW. These are to be held up as IDW mission partners who, without the financial support of the district, would not be able to continue. The Missions Committee has recommended and the Board of Directors has approved to commit to financially support the following ministries of IDW that they may continue their work:

- The Gate in Ankeny with Pastor Aaron Hannemann
- St. Paul’s Music Conservatory and Early Childhood Center in Council Bluffs
- Christ Our Savior in Norwalk with Pastor Bill Clark
- Hispanic ministry in Siouxland with Rev. Henry Witte
- Hispanic ministry at Shepherd of the Valley in West Des Moines with Pastor Lincon Guerra and Deaconess Noemi Guerra

It is important for them to know we stand by them supporting them prayerfully and financially with a long term commitment.

Our Mission Grant program has also been updated since the last convention. We have updated the application form and moved the Mission Banquet from the spring to the fall to better fit the planning process for our congregations and District. Your mission gifts enable us to support many congregations with smaller, more focused mission efforts for the extension of God’s Kingdom.

As chairman I give thanks to God for those who have so faithfully served as members of the Missions Committee during the past triennium. Those members include: Rev. Roger Carlisle, Rev. Nicholas Thackery, Rev. Dan Vogel, Jane Morris (representing LWML), Carole White (representing Lutheran Church Extension Fund), President Steve Turner, and advisory members Gary Thies, Ellie Menz (IOWAY), and Executive Assistant Rev. Mark Gerken. It has been a privilege to serve all of you as chairman of our District Missions Committee. May God continue to bless our work together so that many more hear the Word and come to believe.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Bruce H. Lesemann, Chairman

HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE

In the beginning of the past triennium, the Human Care Committee looked at the IDW Mission Statement, “On a Mission to Support Christ’s Mission.” From that Mission Statement, we identified four areas on which to focus—Encouraging Acts of Mercy, Older Adult Ministry, Church Worker Wellness, and Sanctity of Life Issues.

In regard to encouraging acts of mercy, we sent a simple four question survey to the congregations of IDW to discern what was currently being done. Twenty-four congregations responded. The Committee is working on categorizing these submissions so that we might share this information in congregational mailings, through circuit reps, on the District website and in other ways that it might encourage or give ideas to others. Utilizing various individuals within the district, we oversaw the compiling of a six-lesson Bible study for use within congregations or circuits entitled “Human Care and the Mission of God.” Again, our prayer is that it will encourage and stimulate ideas as to how congregations and circuits can incorporate acts of mercy into their ministry plan. The lessons have been well-received and are currently available on the District website. In regard to Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT), there are four trailers and 500+ people trained through the district under the direction of Ellie Menz.

In the focus area of older adult ministry, “Powerful Tools for Caregivers” has been promoted within the district through Lutheran Family Service with the training of program coordinators. This six-week class is for those caring for family with dementia or other health issues. Teams of two are located in Spirit Lake, Spencer, Fort Dodge, Sioux City, Council Bluffs, and Des Moines. The utilization of “Remembering Hope” on Alzheimer’s disease/dementia as promoted by Perry Lutheran Home and Lutheran Family Service has been presented throughout the district. This workshop was also presented at the Parish Nurse Convocation in April 2017 which was funded through the \$2,000 LCMS, “In-faith Community Foundation Grant.” With the remaining grant funds, a second Parish Nurse follow-up convocation was held in September 2017 with a presentation on identifying individuals who may need mental counseling and utilizing Lutheran Family Service resources. Wanda Pritzel was the presenter.

In regard to church worker wellness, the goal was to activate the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support. Pastor Jason Peterson was appointed to chair this Committee. Upon his acceptance of a call into another district, Pastor Brian Licht, St. Paul, Carroll, was appointed by the IDW Board of Directors to serve in this capacity. Pastor Licht is working with Pastor Mark Gerken and Pastor David Lyons to review the proposed Committee description and direction as well as to see what resources are available through Iowa District West and the Synod. Recruitment of Committee members is ongoing.

The goal in the focus area of sanctity of life issues was to appoint an IDW Life Advocate. Pastor Nathan Sherrill, St. Paul’s, Council Bluffs was appointed by the Board of Directors. He is partnering with Lutheran Family Service in legislative actions on life issues within the state. Nine organizations have signed a Pro-Life Coalition document. Pastor Sherrill is identifying associate life advocates to work with him within the District. He is actively working with a media specialist to promote dissemination of information within the District.

Chaplaincy and institutional services is another area which the Human Care Committee oversees. We were blessed to have been served by a number of chaplains over the years, the latest of which was Pastor Jim Brammeier, Des Moines. Pastor Brammeier retired in October of 2017. We thank him for his many years of faithful service in bringing Christ and the Gospel to individuals and families dealing with hospitalizations. We are currently exploring the recruitment of individual pastors to serve on a part-time basis in the Des Moines, Sioux City, and possibly Council Bluffs area. They would be available to make hospital calls on members from out of the area as requested by their pastor. Pastor Glenn Bohmer was appointed as the District contact person for the Synod in regard to prison ministry.

A number of resolutions will come before you in regard to Human Care Ministry. I urge you to give them prayerful consideration that they might serve us well and bless us in our endeavors as we continue to “support Christ’s Mission.”

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Rueter, RN, Chairperson

REPORT OF THE LCEF VICE PRESIDENT

I have been privileged to serve the congregations and families of Iowa through LCEF for over 19 years in a variety of ways. I meet with individual and organizational investors of Church Extension to answer their questions and help them choose the investment(s) and services that best suit their needs. In the past triennium, I have enjoyed sharing demographic information and outreach ideas with many congregations and schools. Capital Funding Services help congregations with capital campaigns for significant building projects or debt reduction. Laborers For Christ is a valuable service which not only helps congregations save money on building projects, but also unifies and excites members around their common cause. The Architectural Advisory Committee remains available for facility questions or challenges. Consecrated Stewards is a Gospel-based, stewardship education program that many of our Iowa congregations have used to grow in their understanding of biblical financial stewardship. Another blessing of LCEF is the help available for rostered church workers in the form housing and home equity loans. As always, loans to finance church and school operations, expansion, improvements, new mission starts, and many other ministry purposes are available through our church's financial organization, the LCEF, and I consider it a joy to meet with committees and congregations interested in furthering the Lord's work in their communities. In Iowa District West for the last triennium, LCEF has made 17 new loans totaling over \$5,088,000 thanks to faithful investors and borrowers partnering together to make a difference in things eternal. Over the last 3 years, Iowa District West received \$135,343 in operating results from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). This earnings distribution is made available to districts and the Synod each year that LCEF is profitable. The amount given back to each district is based upon a 5-way average consisting of the following components: loans to congregations compared to total congregations, operating income, income producing assets, investors as a percentage of confirmed members and capital-to-asset ratio. LCEF was blessed to provide Iowa District West with these extra funds for new mission starts, supporting congregations and church workers, missionaries in our district, and many other outreach initiatives.



Respectfully submitted,
Carole L. White, LCEF Vice President
Iowa District West & Iowa District East



REPORT OF THE MISSION DEVELOPMENT COUNSELORS



Missionaries Gary Thies & Rev. Brent Smith
Mission Development Counselors

MISSION CENTRAL

Gary & Maxine Thies Mission Foundation
*Serving the Lord Jesus and representing the
office of National & International Mission
of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*

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Dear NOT NORMAL Co-workers for the Lord Jesus:

What a blessing to have this privilege of reporting to you on The Lord's MISSION CENTRAL and thanking you for what God has done through you for the mission of the Lord Jesus!



Triennium Quick Facts (July 2015-December 2017)

626 Divine appointments with individuals
342 Group Mission Events on the road
250 Mission Events at Mission Central
115 Meals for Groups

87 Missionary Families Housed Overnight
98 Volunteers
12,500 Visitors for Mission Events
5 per week pray in the Wayside Chapel



This triennium a **Creation Theater** was dedicated for service in the Lord's mission to tell the story of Creation, especially to the school children who visit Mission Central. A wonderful family donated over 25 life-like animals from Africa, North America, and Canada. Mission Events start in the Creation Theater with stadium seating and then move into the Barn with artifacts from missionaries all over the world that remind us why it is so urgent and important to send missionaries to tell all people everywhere about Jesus!

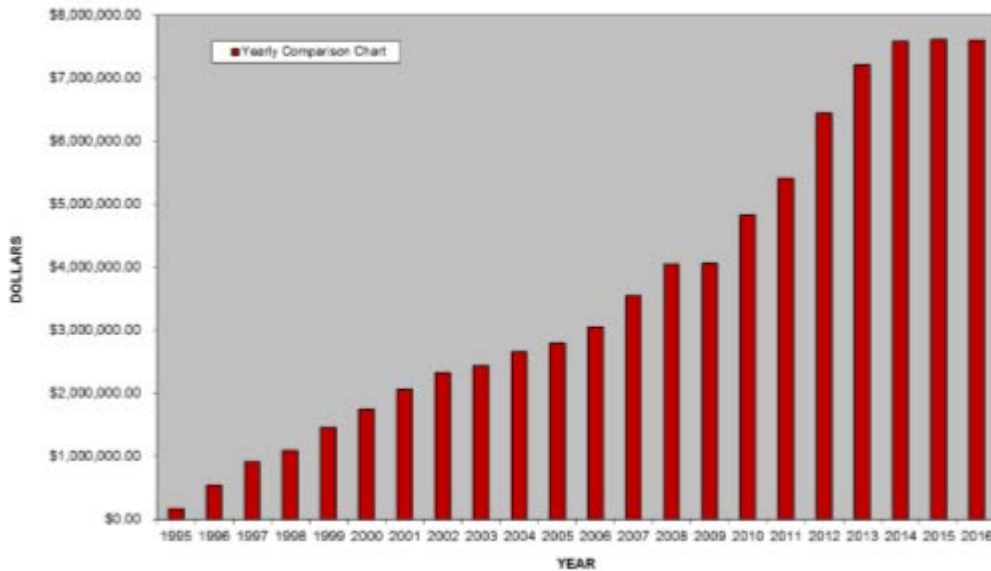


Visit the New Website: www.missioncentral.us

- Schedule of events and visiting missionaries
- Downloadable content for each missionary
- Prayer Calendar
- Make Online Donations and much more!

On August 28, 2017, Old Missionary Gary turned 75 years old, but has no plans to retire, and hopes to continue as long as he can "crawl across the road." On November 1, 2016 the Lord provided another helper. After 16 years of international missionary service and three years of mission work on the East Coast near Washington D.C., Brent Smith returned to work with Mission Central. Like Gary, Brent hosts mission events at Mission Central and spends most of his time on the road raising mission awareness at the invitation of the many people and congregations who are "not normal."

Yearly Comparison Chart



We praise God for the thousands of individuals and congregations that provide the majority of support for over 100 missionaries. Through people like you we received the largest amount ever of donations in December 2017 at Mission Central. 100% of every gift continues to go to the missionaries' accounts. This is God at work and comes at the perfect time because the number of missionaries has almost doubled over this triennium to 137 plus spouses and children and, as you know, we are called to help them raise ALL of their support. Thank you for your faithful partnership with Mission Central.

Respectfully submitted,
 Gary W. Thies & Rev. Brent Smith
 Mission Development Counselors for
 Iowa District West & Nebraska District

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

READ THIS!



You were going to skip this report, weren't you? Admit it, you saw the word *stewardship* and you thought it was going to be boring, didn't you?

Man, were you wrong! Repent! And read on. Do you realize what stewardship is? We're asset managers for God! *FOR GOD* – the One who said, “and the stars” and the heavens instantly proclaimed His fame seemingly infinite shimmering flashbulbs, the One who paints His glory into every sunrise, shouts His glory in every thunderclap, crams His glory into every molecule, and weaves His glory into every gossamer web. Every panting, pulsing, flashing, trilling inch of this universe is His. And He chooses *us*, calls *us* in these fantastic things called *vocations* to manage it for Him! Talk about responsibility!

Our beloved Synod dresses stewardship up a bit: “Christian Stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing life and all of life's resources for God's purposes.” Either way, stewardship is NOT BORING! Stewardship is the Christian life and the Christian life is stewardship (and the Christian life is a lot of things; boring is not one of them). And the Stewardship Committee of Iowa District West (IDW) gets to support you in that life.

Now, if you had foolishly skipped this report, you wouldn't know about the plethora of fantastic resources IDW provides FOR FREE on its website for you in your congregation. Here are a few:

- **Financial Peace University Preview and Review**

This is your user guide for offering FPU in your congregation. What's in the program? How does it live in Christian vocation? What theological concerns exist? Go to www.idwlcms.org/stewardship.php to find out!

- **Mini-Stewardship resource on tithing**

How do you bring it up? What does it mean to give generously? What does the Bible say? Go to the website and find out!

- **Stewardship Bible study**

Eight sessions covering topics like “Stewardship of the Gospel,” “Stewardship of Creation,” “Stewardship in Time,” and more. Free on the District's webpage!

- **Discipleship Helps**

Here you'll find stewardship preaching suggestions for the three year pericopal system – the entire three years! Free on the District's webpage.

- **Links**

Tap into The Center for Stewardship, StewardCast, Stewardship Advisors, and more! And, discover what the new Concordia Plan Services Compensation Tool is! Free on the District's webpage.

Get the idea? It's all here: www.idwlcms.org/stewardship.php. And it's free!

Over the last triennium, the Stewardship Committee has hosted Philippians Workshops and Stewardship Advisors Workshops throughout our District. Did you miss them? They're coming back for 2018. Don't miss them this go around. These are outstanding opportunities to get equipped to lead and live the stewardship life.

The Stewardship Committee also has the privilege of formulating the District's budget and proposing compensation guidelines for District workers. You're welcome.

Finally, if you're a Circuit Visitor, do you realize you have a circuit cabinet representative for stewardship? It's his responsibility to share all these outstanding opportunities and resources with your circuit. Encourage him to do it well.

Thanks for allowing us to serve you!

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Jonathan Conner, Chairman

**TREASURER'S REPORT &
ENDOWMENT & LEGACY COMMITTEE REPORT**

As of January 31, 2018

Cash Basis Accounting

The statement of activities is presented on a cash basis rather than accrual basis. The major difference in the two methods is that accrual accounting requires the recognition of estimated uncollected contributions. The District Board of Directors has chosen to use cash basis for managing the District's finances because of the desire to manage its business affairs on contributions received.

Fund Accounting

The District maintains three funds. The General fund accounts budget activities. The Endowment and Legacy fund accounts for activities that are a result of contributions with special contractual and legal restrictions. The Fund is not part of the budgeting process. The Restricted Fund accounts for activities that are funded through project fees and are also not part of the budgeting process.

General fund

During the last three years, the Fund has been very consistent in the income received and it's expense spending.

It should be noted on average 33% of expenditures went to Synod (49% of congregational support) and 27% to District mission activities.

Endowment and Legacy

Endowment funds are limited to distributing income only. Preservation of principal is a requirement. Legacy funds intend that principal be spent and typically the life of each fund is between 3 to 10 years. Individuals and congregations are encouraged to support three main areas of gifts:

- Joy in Salvation (mission donations)
- Joy in Ministry (Scholarship donations)
- Joy in Service (Undesignated)

Each year the entire District financials have been audited by an independent CPA and each year we have received an unqualified opinion which means the financials/statements are presented fairly in all material respects.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott D. Ernst, Treasurer

IOWA DISTRICT WEST LCMS
Statement of Activities
February 2015 through January 2018

	Feb 2015 - Jan 2016	Feb 2016 - Jan 2017	Feb 2017 - Jan 2018
General Fund			
General Fund Income			
Support From Congregations	1,562,428	1,525,798	1,524,379
Mission Support - Direct	57,650	35,464	39,494
Endowment and Legacy Income	459,429	559,406	588,762
Investment Income & Other Revenue	182,031	159,764	178,314
Total General Fund Income	2,261,538	2,280,431	2,330,948
General Fund Expense			
Synod Missions	768,000	747,641	761,522
District Missions	568,731	644,829	643,124
Human Care	32,233	27,018	24,487
Preparing Church Workers	154,271	177,143	217,149
Education	27,197	68,703	115,519
Youth Services	15,487	10,597	2,332
Stewardship	54,194	56,627	43,399
Support Services	61,816	43,536	49,070
Administration	479,942	474,642	486,740
Total General Fund Expense	2,161,872	2,250,735	2,343,343
Net General Fund Income\Expense	99,667	29,696	-12,395
Endowment and Legacy			
Endowment and Legacy Contributions	0	0	0
Endowment and Legacy Income	832,027	967,497	1,002,687
Endowment and Legacy Distributions	1,114,888	832,873	1,188,036
Net Endowment and Legacy Income\Expense	-282,861	134,624	-185,349
Restricted Fund			
Restricted Income	477,583	544,719	426,115
Restricted Expense	380,705	532,151	430,013
Net Restricted Fund Income\Expense	96,878	12,568	-3,898
Net Change in Assets	-86,317	176,889	-201,641

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The Iowa District West Archives are tucked away in the east end of the basement of the District Office Building in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The district archives are established to receive, process, and preserve books, printed materials, documents, and artifacts that relate geographically and chronologically to Iowa District West and its congregations.

The district archives are only as useful to the congregations of the District and others as the congregations, schools, ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, and others deposit in the archives such things as anniversary books, special service folders and bulletins (e.g., church dedications, anniversaries, ordinations and installations of pastors and teachers), congregational histories, biographies, and other materials pertinent to the history of individuals and congregations of the District. It would be helpful if each congregation had an individual or individuals who would help keep the histories of the congregation, school, etc. and supply the District Archives with the materials mentioned above.

Congregations permanently disbanding and not merging with another congregation are urged to transfer all their records, such as registers of official acts, minutes, and other historical materials to the archives of Iowa District West or to the Concordia Historical Institute of the Synod. The congregations permanently disbanding and not merging with another congregation are urged to inform the archivist-historian if their records are being transferred to the Concordia Historical Institute of the Synod instead of to the district archives so that the archivist-historian of the district has a record of the location in which the records are housed.

Recently, the District Archives received the church records and other helpful historical material from the congregations of St. John Lutheran Church, Vincent, and St. Peter Lutheran Church, Woolstock, which recently closed. Also, just recently the District Archivist was able to answer the questions of an individual who wanted information about Trinity Lutheran Church, Royal, which had closed in 2002 because that congregation had deposited its church records in the District Archives.

The tasks of a District Archivist never end. Recently, we have gone through the copies of *The Lutheran Witness* that are housed in the archives and made a separate file for copies of *The Lutheran Witness* itself and a separate file for the District editions of *The Lutheran Witness*.

Of special interest, the District Archives recently received the copper container from the cornerstone of the former Lutheran Building at 1317 Tower Drive, Fort Dodge. The Lutheran Building had earlier been purchased by Iowa Central Community College and demolished. There is the copper container itself, as well as photos of the cornerstone laying, copies of the order of service for the cornerstone laying, the District *Handbook* from that year (4th edition), various copies of the *Fort Dodge Messenger* from the period to give an indication of the history of that period (1961-1962). There is also a handwritten note indicating the individuals who donated the copper container.

Unfortunately, work in the District Archives has been curtailed to a certain extent these past three years because of certain medical issues experienced by the District Archivist and because he, along with a specially appointed committee, was busy revising the District's Articles of Incorporation and the District *Handbook*, and getting those documents approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters. After that task is completed, the records of the work of this committee will also become part of the District Archives.

The Rev. Albert H. Buelow
Pastor Emeritus and Archivist

REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING COUNSELOR

In 1988, delegates to the Iowa District West convention passed a resolution to enter a partnership with the LCMS Foundation and Iowa District East LCMS. I was called to serve as the Christian Estate Planning Counselor. In 1994 the delegates to the Iowa District West convention passed a resolution to change the partnership with the LCMS Foundation and have me serve exclusively in Iowa District West.

This convention in 2018 marks the 30th year of this partnership. Through my work in Iowa District West for the LCMS Foundation the following services are offered to individuals and congregations:

1. Individual help in developing a Christian Estate Plan.
2. Endowment planning for congregations
3. Investments for endowment fund
4. Gift planning for assets of land, securities, IRA distributions, etc.
5. Legal assistance and document preparation for charitable trusts, personal endowment, and gift annuities
6. Trust management services

The Lord has blessed our partnership and thousands of families have developed a Christian Estate plan that includes:

1. A written statement of faith.
2. An up to date will or trust to provide for their family.
3. A tax-wise gift from their estate to their favorite ministries.

Iowa District West, congregations in Iowa District West, Lutheran Family Service, Camp Okoboji, LCMS World Missions, and many other LCMS ministries have benefited from gifts from the estate planning of the members of congregations in Iowa District West.

Thanks be to God for blessing our work together in the past and on into the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Schroeder
Christian Estate Planning Counselor
LCMS Foundation