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DISTRICT NEWS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DISTRICT AND SYNOD CONVENTIONS

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MINISTRY PARTNERS

Camp Okoboji
Lutheran Family Service



ALSO INCLUDED...

Concordia University-Nebraska
Darryl Jahn Scholarship-Iowa State University
Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO)-Annual Report
LCMS Life Conference-Bulletin Insert
Lutherans For Life 2021 Iowa Essay Contest
Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study

CALL ACCEPTED

Rev. Charles Horkey, EM, North Sioux City, SD, to Faith, Sioux City.

CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. Jonathan Conner, Zion, Manning, to St. Paul's, Bremen, IN.

Rev. Don Peterson, Emmanuel, Lake View, to St. Paul, West Point, NE.

Rev. Mark Peterson, Mt. Calvary/Immanuel, Eagle Grove/Rowan, to St. Luke/St. Peter, Chilton/Hilburt, WI.

Rev. Duncan McLellan, St. Paul, Ankeny, to Trinity, Waconia, MN.

Rev. Steve Benson, EM, Fort Dodge, to Associate Pastor, Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge.

Rev. Pedro Lopez, Iglesia Luterana Nueva Vida, Springfield, VA to Iowa District West, Fort Dodge.

TRANSFERRED IN

Rev. James Holowach, EM, from Southern District, 1-1-2021.

Rev. Charles Horkey, EM, from Nebraska District, 1-31-2021.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER—CALLED TO GLORY

Viola Ehlers, EM, Albert City, IA, 2-14-2021.

Calendar of Events

March 28...Palm Sunday

April 10...Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study, Our Savior, Denison 8-11:30am

Follow Iowa District West on these social media websites.



[www.facebook.com/
iowaDistrictWest](https://www.facebook.com/iowaDistrictWest)



[www.twitter.com/
iowaWest](https://www.twitter.com/iowaWest)



[www.youtube.com/user/
iowaDistrictWest](https://www.youtube.com/user/iowaDistrictWest)

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www.idwlcms.org

Please note: The inclusion of items from outside sources in *The Messenger* is for information purposes only. Inclusion of such items does not constitute District endorsement.



Iowa District West Convention Delayed For One Year to 2022 Camp Okoboji—June 26-28

The congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have voted to postpone the 2022 Synod Convention to 2023. I commend our District pastors and congregations for getting involved in the process. One hundred fourteen of our congregations cast a vote (68.26% of our congregations). Read more about the referendum results here:

<https://blogs.lcms.org/2021/congregations-vote-to-delay-synod-convention/>

This action will result in the rescheduling of the 2021 Iowa District West Convention. The Handbook of Iowa District West establishes the time and location of our District Conventions.

2.2 Time and Place of the District Conventions

- 2.2.1 The conventions of Iowa District West shall be held in the fourth week of June in the year preceding the general convention of the Synod.
- 2.2.2 The district conventions shall be held at Camp Okoboji, Milford, Iowa, or at another site to be selected by the board of directors in consultation with the president and the vice-presidents of the district.

The Board of Directors, in consultation with our president and the vice-presidents of the district, has set June 26-28, 2022 as the date for the 41st Convention of Iowa District West. We are currently planning to hold the Convention, as we have since 1942, at Camp Okoboji, Milford, Iowa.

Nominations and Overtures already submitted by congregations will remain valid unless a congregation chooses to recall them. It may be necessary for those already selected as delegates to review their ability to participate in the 2022 convention. Circuit Visitors, unless they choose otherwise, will serve an additional year.



Official Notice: LCMS Office of the Secretary

In a letter from December 7, 2020, under the provision of Article XI B 8 of the Synod Constitution, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison submitted the following question to a vote of the Synod's member congregations:

Shall the Synod add a year to the current 2019–2022 triennium, allowing districts to hold their conventions in either 2021 or 2022, and moving the upcoming national Synod convention from 2022 to 2023?

Vote: Yes or No.

The Office of the Secretary, assisted by the LCMS Department of Rosters, Statistics and Research Services and the LCMS Technology Application Group, facilitated an electronic vote on this question, opening January 1, 2021, and closing at the end of the day on February 15 (11:59 p.m. Central Time).

More than the required one-fourth (63.32%) of the Synod's member congregations registered a vote, and the majority (90.67%) of votes cast favored adoption. The stated extension of the 2019–2022 triennium by a year, allowing district conventions to take place in either 2021 or 2022 and deferring the national Synod convention from 2022 to 2023, is therefore adopted.

The President's letter (www.lcms.org/delay-vote-letter) and FAQ (www.lcms.org/delay-vote-faqs) explain the consequences of this deferral. The national Synod office is working urgently to make arrangements for the next regular convention of the Synod to convene in the summer of 2023 and will keep the Synod apprised as plans are finalized.

Congregations are advised to watch closely for communications from their districts regarding their plans to meet, either in 2021 or 2022, and to pay attention to preconvention schedules that may be in flux.

The member congregations of the Synod and all who facilitated their voting are to be thanked for their urgent and diligent attention to this question, on account of which it was able to be decided not only by a majority of the votes cast but by a majority of the member congregations. We pray that the additional year it allows will bear rich fruit in the churchly deliberative assemblies of the districts and the Synod.

John W. Sias
Secretary, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

lcms.org/convention

The following table shows the details of the vote.

District	Yes		No		% Voted / Mbr. Congs.	
Atlantic	57	(96.61%)	2	(3.39%)	60.20%	/ 98
California/Nevada/Hawaii	101	(100.00%)	0	(0.00%)	55.80%	/ 181
Central Illinois	99	(93.40%)	7	(6.60%)	70.20%	/ 151
Eastern	61	(92.42%)	5	(7.58%)	53.23%	/ 124
English	86	(93.48%)	6	(6.52%)	56.79%	/ 162
Florida-Georgia	127	(96.21%)	5	(3.79%)	71.35%	/ 185
Indiana	137	(91.95%)	12	(8.05%)	65.64%	/ 227
Iowa East	78	(96.30%)	3	(3.70%)	69.23%	/ 117
Iowa West	103	(90.35%)	11	(9.65%)	68.26%	/ 167
Kansas	103	(96.26%)	4	(3.74%)	66.88%	/ 160
Michigan	260	(98.48%)	4	(1.52%)	74.58%	/ 354
Mid-South	56	(75.68%)	18	(24.32%)	60.66%	/ 122
Minnesota North	134	(97.81%)	3	(2.19%)	69.90%	/ 196
Minnesota South	133	(81.10%)	31	(18.90%)	68.33%	/ 240
Missouri	156	(91.76%)	14	(8.24%)	58.62%	/ 290
Montana	44	(97.78%)	1	(2.22%)	66.18%	/ 68
Nebraska	149	(93.71%)	10	(6.29%)	66.81%	/ 238
New England	42	(97.67%)	1	(2.33%)	63.24%	/ 68
New Jersey	22	(91.67%)	2	(8.33%)	47.06%	/ 51
North Dakota	52	(86.67%)	8	(13.33%)	74.07%	/ 81
North Wisconsin	110	(79.14%)	29	(20.86%)	64.35%	/ 216
Northern Illinois	127	(94.78%)	7	(5.22%)	63.21%	/ 212
Northwest	178	(96.22%)	7	(3.78%)	72.27%	/ 256
Ohio	97	(95.10%)	5	(4.90%)	63.75%	/ 160
Oklahoma	57	(93.44%)	4	(6.56%)	77.22%	/ 79
Pacific Southwest	131	(97.04%)	4	(2.96%)	50.19%	/ 269
Rocky Mountain	84	(88.42%)	11	(11.58%)	54.91%	/ 173
SELC	34	(91.89%)	3	(8.11%)	71.15%	/ 52
South Dakota	42	(67.74%)	20	(32.26%)	58.49%	/ 106
South Wisconsin	71	(55.91%)	56	(44.09%)	62.25%	/ 204
Southeastern	139	(95.86%)	6	(4.14%)	67.76%	/ 214
Southern	80	(97.56%)	2	(2.44%)	54.30%	/ 151
Southern Illinois	59	(93.65%)	4	(6.35%)	67.74%	/ 93
Texas	128	(77.11%)	38	(22.89%)	47.84%	/ 347
Wyoming	34	(89.47%)	4	(10.53%)	63.33%	/ 60
SYNOD TOTAL	3371	(90.67%)	347	(9.33%)	63.32%	/ 5872



Partners in the Gospel

March 2021

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515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 www.idwlcms.org
Contact email: sue@iowadistrictwest.org

On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

Encourage One Another



"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV). Johann Wolfgang von Goethe is quoted, "Correction does much, but encouragement does more." Too often we look for reasons to criticize others instead of encourage them. St. Paul makes several references in his letters in the New Testament about the importance of encouraging one another.

These God inspired words are important for us to be reminded of regularly. Not only do we recognize we need encouragement but we also need to remember to encourage others. People respond to encouragement! Take some time to reflect on who you could encourage. Who could you encourage **today**? How can you make giving encouragement to others a regular part of your week? In these challenging days, we especially should encourage one another with God's Word – where strength and encouragement abounds. When our focus is on what's not going right in our life, church, community, or our nation, it's easy to become discouraged and critical. On the contrary, our attitudes change when we are thankful, look for what is going right, and speak about it.

We pray. Dear God, forgive me when I favor criticism over encouragement. I need Your discernment to see how and when I can encourage others in a way that helps them grow. In Christ I pray. Amen.

Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President
rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org

Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization

Thank you again to all who donated to ILSTO this past year as we received \$715,285. While this is most wonderful it does fall short of our goal as well as short of the total need of students in our Lutheran schools. Now is the time to talk to your tax advisor about the advantages of an ILSTO donation. You will feel much better about writing a check to support students than one to the Department of Revenue. This year the STO program has the opportunity to increase the 15 million in tax credits by 10% for 2022 due to a new tax law, but all STOs must reach 90% of goal in 2021. Please help us add another \$100,000 to available funds so that more students may benefit from our program. For additional information, call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991.

LCMS Life Conference

LCMS Life Ministry will host its first-ever virtual life conference March 19-20, under the theme "Making Disciples: Valuing Life." Registration is open now at www.lcms-life.org.

Join us!

- Be equipped to speak up for the sanctity of life within your community and our society
- Gain ideas on how to care for all human life
- Interact with fellow Lutherans on Life Ministry topics
- Be a part of the LCMS Life Ministry community

Dozens of experts in Life Ministry will present throughout the conference with multiple video presentations available for immediate on-demand viewing as soon as you login. Engage in live Question and Answer sessions with experts in Life Ministry.

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Free Spanish Resources for Sharing the Gospel

Great news! The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (a recognized service organization of the LCMS) has a variety of FREE new resources available in the Spanish language, including *Luther's Small Catechism*, *The Bible with Small Catechism* (combined volume), *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, and "Jesus Never Fails" devotional tract. These materials are available to any LCMS church, mission or individual who wants to share the Good News with their Spanish-speaking neighbors. To order, send an email to info@LHFmissions.org or call the LHF office at (800) 554-0723.

Calendar of Events

March 28...Palm Sunday
April 10...Prayer Breakfast & Bible Study



For more information on Iowa District West activities, view *The Messenger* at www.idwlcms.org/publications.php

Education Youth Family Life

Rhonda J. Mohr Assistant to the President 515-573-0010
rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org

DISTRICT EDUCATION CONFERENCES 2021

Iowa Early Childhood Conference – August 6

Theme: Masterpiece in the Making

New Location: Gloria Dei, Urbandale



Iowa Lutheran Teachers Conference – October 21-22

Theme: VISION 2020 Focus on the Ministry

Conference location: Sheraton, West Des Moines

YOUTH GATHERINGS 2021

Junior Youth Gathering – October 23-24

Location: Sheraton, West Des Moines

Focus: The Ten Commandments



Senior Youth Gathering – November 19-21

Theme: 2020 – Faith

Fix Our Eyes – Run the Race

Location: Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines

Resources from CPH

Chosen – Bible Study on Esther by Donna Snow



God's presence surrounds Esther throughout the entirety of her narrative. While God's name is never stated, you can easily tell how God is working and weaving His plan to fruition through Esther. His presence, even in His seeming absence, is clear.

The same is true for your life: God is always present with you, even when you feel He is absent. Just because God seems hidden does not mean He is absent, but rather, that He is working faithfully behind the scenes. He never abandons His creation, and He works diligently through you to propel His plan forward.

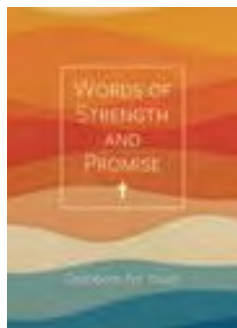
In this eight-week individual study, see that God's presence is ever-abundant in your life, and that God gives you the courage to live fearlessly as Esther did. Learn the historical context of the Book of Esther to enrich your understanding of God's Word. Questions are included in each chapter to allow for reflection on your readings as you work through the study by yourself or discuss your answers in a group women's Bible study.

<https://www.cph.org/p-34042-chosen-a-study-of-esther.aspx>

Words of Strength and Promise

This new resource would make a great gift for the high school seniors in your church.

Teens need devotions written for them, to them, about things they're going through. Sometimes it might be uncomfortable to go to a trusted adult or a pastor about certain topics.



That's where this devotional comes in. Give the youth in your life 70 different devotions on relevant topics for teens.

The fourteen authors in this book are at various stages of life, from young adults finishing college, to pastors who have seen people through all sorts of life issues. No matter the problem, and no matter the situation, this devotional is for all youth as a guidebook to how God wants them to live life.

Topics include:

Addiction - Anger - Anxiety - Singleness - Being Christian - Loss - Evolution - Friendships - Grief - Identity - Jealousy - Pain - Peer Pressure - Phones - Social Media - Sexuality - Rejection - Self-Worth - Tolerance - Vocation - Humanity - Parents - Siblings - Sin - and many more...

<https://www.cph.org/p-34154-words-of-strength-and-promise-devotions-for-youth.aspx>

MISSION POSSIBLE!

Who Moved the Fence?

Michael Yaconelli articulates this powerful story in his book, *Messy Spirituality—God’s Annoying Love for Imperfect People*. Chronicled during World War II, he recounts the actions of a group of soldiers and one old priest in the rural countryside of France.

“During an intense battle, one of the American soldiers was killed. His comrades did not want to leave his body on the battlefield and decided to give him a Christian burial. They remembered a church a few miles behind the front lines whose grounds included a small cemetery surrounded by a white fence. After receiving permission to take their friend’s body to the cemetery, they set out for the church arriving just before sunset.

“A priest, his bent-over back and frail body betraying his many years, responded to their knocking. His face, deeply wrinkled and tan, was the home to fierce eyes that flashed wisdom and passion. Our friend was killed in battle,’ they blurted out, ‘and we wanted to give him a church burial.’

“Apparently the priest understood what they were asking, although he spoke in very broken English. ‘I’m sorry,’ he said, ‘but we can only bury those of the same faith here.’ Weary after many months of war, the soldiers simply turned to walk away. ‘But,’ the old priest called after them, ‘you can bury him outside the fence.’

“Cynical and exhausted, the soldiers dug a grave and buried their friend just outside the white fence. They finished after nightfall. They next morning, the entire unit was ordered to move on, and the group raced back to the little church for one final good-bye to their friend. When they arrived, they couldn’t find the gravesite. Tired and confused, they knocked on the door of the church. They asked the old priest if he knew where they had buried their friend. ‘It was dark last night, and we were exhausted. We must have been disoriented.’

“A smile flashed across the old priest’s face. ‘After you left last night, I could not sleep, so I went outside early this morning and I *moved the fence*.’”

This illustrates the power of God’s grace through Christ’s death and resurrection. Jesus, through taking our sin upon Himself on Calvary’s cross, changed the rules of the game. It reminds us of our mission as the body of Christ. To connect with those outside the fence. We have a beautiful message of grace for a lost and dying world. Those who were at one time outside the fence are now included in God’s plan of salvation.

St. John says it so eloquently in one of the most famous verses in all the world, *“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). God showers on the world that would reject His love grace upon grace through His Son, Jesus Christ. Who moved the fence? Jesus did. Why did He move the fence? Because of His love for the world. How did Jesus move the fence? By taking on Himself the sins of the entire world. What does that mean for us? If we believe in Jesus, we will not perish but live life eternal reunited with the Creator. I am so glad He moved that fence and included me in His kingdom.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ The first-ever virtual **LCMS Life Conference** is scheduled for March 19-20, 2021. It will be held on an online platform that will allow participants to livestream sessions on demand and engage with conference speakers through question-and-answer opportunities. Participants can register individually, or as groups of 10 for a group registration discount. (Consider gathering a group at a local church to stream the conference together.)

The conference, under the theme “Making Disciples: Valuing Life,” will feature sessions from theologians and human care advocates, including LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison; Focus on the Family Vice President of External and Government Relations Timothy Goeglein; and Director of LCMS Life Ministry Deaconess Tiffany Manor. It will feature sessions for participants of all ages, as well as a Spanish-language track.

https://www.lcms-life.org/?r_done=1

- ❖ **Free Webinar: “New Insight and Hope for US Race Relations”**

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 | 1-2 pm Central Time

Hosted by LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission

Presenter: Rev. Gerard Bolling

How is the Gospel shared in the context of inequality, disaffection and even violence?

Bolling shares his urban ministry experience, having grown up in the Bronx and ministering in the city, including in the aftermath of the Michael Brown incident in St. Louis.

Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions during the Zoom webinar.

How to attend the webinar

- Before the start time, [attendee must register online](#)
- Login information will be emailed after registering.

Rev. B. Keith Haney

Assistant to the President for Missions, Human Care, and Stewardship

Blog: <http://alightbreaksthrough.org>

keith@iowadistrictwest.org

515-573-0053 (cell)



Five Questions ...

What Pastors Should be Asking Congregants Now to Prepare for Ministry Relaunch

1. How effectively did we minister to you / your family during the pandemic?

Except for the gospel itself, most everything about ministry was disrupted by COVID. Listen carefully to both what went well and what needs to improve.

2. In what areas--if any--do you need support at this time?

This can shed light on congregants' needs, whether those needs be spiritual, practical (needs your church family can address) or professional (requiring support or expertise from outside your ministry). Carefully weigh what your faith family can do and where it makes sense to refer people to other nonprofit or government agencies.

3. How satisfied are you with the relationships (connections) you have with others in our church family?

This will help you see if your church family operates as disconnected individuals who periodically assemble for public / digital worship OR if they are doing "life together" and are invested in each other's growth in Christ.

4. What did you learn about God during this COVID-19 season?

God shows up in amazing ways, bringing good from bad, and walking with His people in all circumstances. With permission, share what you learn with your entire church family.

5. How will you participate in worship and discipleship AFTER COVID-19 vaccines are broadly distributed?

This can help identify ministries requiring further investment of time, energy and/or dollars. Perhaps it will lead to upgrading your digital ministries, your small groups / house church ministries, your faith formation resources for children and youth, or how you engage / re-engage the "spiritually distanced." Listen carefully, then ask God to lead you in what He desires you to do.

*Five Questions taken from Church Mirror's
Forward in Ministry Survey.*

About Church Mirror

Church Mirror, LLC, helps pastors and church leaders better "see" and "grow" their faith families. As a survey and insights organization, Church Mirror gathers, aggregates and analyzes member and attender feedback on issues critical to their Christian faith.



Dave Rustad
Church Mirror

These insights, in turn, help pastors more effectively minister **to** and **with** their faith families.

To go deeper or learn more, visit:

<https://ChurchMirror.com>

BUSINESS MANAGER NEWS
Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts



Month Ending January 2021	
Anticipated Amount	\$117,000
Actual Receipts	\$157,342
Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts	
Anticipated Amount	\$1,404,000
Actual Receipts	\$1,445,240
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$ 41,240
Use of Mission Receipts	
Remitted to Synod (45%)	\$650,358
Balance for District programs & ministries	\$ 794,882
Total Receipts	\$1,445,240
Mission Receipts Compared with Last Year	
Month ending January 2021	\$1,445,240
Month ending January 2020	\$1,422,738
Over (under) last year	\$22,502

Stewardship Corner - by Ron Chewning - www.StewardshipAdvisors.org – 248.644.6150

Jesus willingly made Himself nothing
and became obedient even to death.
Can we do anything else but leave the
ways of the world to follow Him?

**“Choose for yourselves this day whom
you will serve” (Joshua 24:15).**



Only Jesus, the Savior, on Whose suffering, death, and resurrection we focus during this time of Lent, can meet all our needs. His love for us and the salvation He has earned for us draw us away from the pull of the world, away from our own selfish desires, away from that which leads to sin and death. His love draws us to Himself, to service to others, to using our gifts as we have been blessed in the building up of the Church. *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”* (Ephesians 2:10).

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

Thank you to the many congregations and individuals that financially supported Iowa District West in our last fiscal period. God has truly blessed us with committed partners in ministry! From church planting (Ankeny) to IOWAY outreach, encouragement for Lutheran schools to disaster relief efforts, church worker care to deaf ministry... you've been a source of encouragement all along the way. Thank you for helping us achieve our goals.

This issue of The Messenger includes congregational unrestricted support from the fiscal period February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. We promise to be very good stewards of the funds you have entrusted to the District for mission and ministry work. The summary is also included in The Lutheran Witness and is online at www.idwlcms.org/administrative.php (click on IDW resources & Unrestricted Congregation Budget Receipts).

Quick Notes

If you haven't already completed the **LCMS Statistics Report** (as required by the Synod), please do so by March 31. Congregations received information from the Synod via email regarding the requirement to submit their annual data online. When completed, return the report to the LCMS Office of Rosters and Statistics.

The Lutheran Witness subscription renewals are due March 1; price remains at \$22.68. If you have questions, contact CPH at 800.325.3040 and select Option 2. The District LW insert is online at www.idwlcms.org/publications.php or read web-exclusive stories at www.lcms.org/witness.

Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2020 will be expiring soon! If you are a Thrivent member, you may be eligible to participate and direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to your favorite ministry. Go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) before March 31 and say, "Thrivent Choice." Reminder: \$250 Community Impact Gift Cards are also available (2 per member per year).

State of Iowa Non-profit Incorporation information was emailed in early January and is due April 1, 2021. Questions, contact the Secretary of State office at 515-281-5204 or email sos@sos.iowa.gov.

The **CARES Act PPP** second draw loans are available until March 31; also Employee Retention Tax Credits are available through June 30, 2021. Additional information about COVID legislation can be found on the Concordia Plan Services [COVID-19 resources site](#).

Thank You, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance and American Church Group!

Terry Townsend, American Church Group agency manager, recently presented \$22,500 to the District as part of the companies' Ministry Partnership Agreement. Over \$161,000 has been donated by the insurance company since 2015 which is used for special programs to support congregations including Synod Convention delegation support, PALS program, Pastors Conference, LERT expenses and trainings, Congregational Treasurer's Manuals and Workshops, Kapfer Preaching Symposium, Alliance Defending Freedom Church Alliance membership, and several other events. If you see a District pen, it was purchased with these dollars. Thank you Brotherhood Mutual!

Synod offers Technology Grants to Congregations

Is your church looking to upgrade your worship technology equipment? The Synod has announced a new grant opportunity to assist congregations in funding technology, software, equipment, and training that will help them fulfill their mission to proclaim the Gospel. Grants of up to \$1,500 each will be awarded to LCMS congregations seeking to advance their technological capacity. Applications will be accepted through April 5. For more information and grant eligibility requirements, [click here](#).

Religious Freedom Challenges Facing America

With the pandemic, changes in the culture, and the impact of a new administration, it isn't a matter if ministries will be sued for simply living out their faith – the question is when and where such lawsuits will arise. Ministries need to be legally prepared for the changes that are taking place in our culture.

Now, more than ever, your church needs to have religious liberty legal protections in place. A great place to start is this free legal guide from the Alliance for Defending Freedom: [10 ways to protect your church](#).

Congregation Mission Support – Unrestricted Budget Receipts

February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021

<u>CIRCUIT</u>	<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>COMM.</u>	<u>PLEDGE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PER COMM.</u>
ADAIR	HOLY CROSS	ANITA	132	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	ZION	ATLANTIC	538	\$20,400	\$20,400	\$37.92
	ST JOHN	CASEY	117	\$200	\$200	\$1.71
	ZION	DEXTER	187	\$200	\$200	\$1.07
	IMMANUEL	GREENFIELD	118	\$5,100	\$5,400	\$45.76
	IMMANUEL	GUTHRIE CENTER	204	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$24.51
	ST. THOMAS	PANORA	110	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	FIRST	WIOTA	102	\$1,500	\$2,752	\$26.98
	FAITH	WINTERSET	37	\$600	\$900	\$24.32
	TOTAL			\$33,000	\$34,852	
ALGONA	TRINITY	ALGONA	1056	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$58.71
	ZION	AYRSHIRE	29	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$172.41
	ST JOHN	BURT	234	\$4,500	\$4,876	\$20.84
	ST LUKE	CYLINDER	133	\$4,500	\$4,253	\$31.98
	ST PAUL	EMMETSBURG	261	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$22.99
	ST JOHN	FENTON	130	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$38.46
	ST JOHN	GARNER	186	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$33.33
	ST PAUL	GARNER	356	\$24,000	\$22,000	\$61.80
	IMMANUEL	LIVERMORE	75	\$3,000	\$4,145	\$55.27
	IMMANUEL	LONE ROCK	116	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$86.21
	ZION	LIVERNE	90	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$55.56
	TRINITY	MALLARD	160	\$28,800	\$28,400	\$177.50
	OUR SAVIOR	SWEA CITY	36	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$36.67
	PEACE	WEST BEND	134	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$44.78
	ST PAUL	WHITTEMORE	145	\$500	\$500	\$3.45
	TOTAL			\$171,620	\$170,493	
BOONE	MEMORIAL	AMES	653	\$50,000	\$50,175	\$57.54
	ST PAUL	AMES	375	\$32,000	\$35,170	\$68.02
	ST. PAUL	BOONE	163	\$5,000	\$9,109	\$32.05
	TRINITY	BOONE	573	\$5,000	\$5,800	\$7.50
	CHRIST	BOUTON	224	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$22.32
	TRINITY	DAYTON	21	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$35.71
	TRINITY	JEFFERSON	346	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$21.68
	ZION	OGDEN	297	\$11,000	\$13,952	\$18.26
	TRINITY	PERRY	80	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$12.50
	TOTAL			\$135,000	\$146,206	
CARROLL	ZION	ARCADIA	405	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$11.11
	ST. JOHN	AUDUBON	159	\$1,200	\$1,230	\$6.48
	ST PAUL	CARROLL	385	\$25,500	\$20,352	\$37.30
	TRINITY	COON RAPIDS	72	\$800	\$800	\$8.33
	PEACE	GLIDDEN	108	\$3,900	\$4,987	\$34.60
	IMMANUEL	LIDDERDALE	55	\$4,000	\$4,022	\$58.85
	TRINITY	MANILLA	135	\$500	\$500	\$3.70
	ZION	MANNING	538	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$10.71
	TOTAL			\$49,900	\$45,890	
CHEROKEE	ST. PAUL	AURELIA	293	\$30,000	\$22,980	\$44.51
	TRINITY	CHEROKEE	395	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$28.48
	PEACE	MARCUS	238	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$11.23
	TRINITY	MARCUS	114	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$52.63
	ST JOHN	PAULLINA	271	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3.69
	ZION	PAULLINA	525	\$3,000	\$1,795	\$3.30
	PILGRIM	QUIMBY	104	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$0.00
	BETHEL	SUTHERLAND	234	\$4,800	\$6,149	\$15.87
	TOTAL			\$79,500	\$61,924	
COUNCIL BLUFFS	FAITH	COUNCIL BLUFFS	207	\$0	\$66	\$0.24
	ST. PAUL	COUNCIL BLUFFS	582	\$17,000	\$16,966	\$21.86
	TIMOTHY	COUNCIL BLUFFS	371	\$21,604	\$18,555	\$37.68
	TRINITY	GLENWOOD	346	\$9,450	\$9,489	\$20.48
	PEACE	HARLAN	20	\$500	\$0	\$0.00

<u>CIRCUIT</u>	<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>COMM.</u>	<u>PLEDGE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PER COMM.</u>
	ST JOHN	HASTINGS	62	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$72.58
	ST. JOHN	HONEY CREEK	235	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$47.87
	IMMANUEL	LOGAN	112	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$40.18
	FIRST	MISSOURI VALLEY	115	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$89.91
	ST. PAUL	OAKLAND	61	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$14.75
	TRINITY	PERSIA	46	\$1,500	\$1,950	\$33.70
	OUR SAVIOR	WALNUT	44	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0.00
	TOTAL			\$91,884	\$86,726	
DENISON	FAITH	DELOIT	49	\$600	\$600	\$0.00
	AMIGOS EN CRISTO	DENISON	33	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$15.15
	OUR SAVIOR	DENISON	763	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$13.11
	ZION	DENISON	1409	\$0	\$1,350	\$0.75
	BETHLEHEM	DOW CITY	210	\$4,750	\$2,640	\$8.86
	ST JOHN	KIRON	95	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$52.63
	IMMANUEL	SCHLESWIG	497	\$17,625	\$17,625	\$26.60
	TOTAL			\$48,975	\$48,215	
DES MOINES EAST	CHRIST THE KING	ALTOONA	122	\$6,600	\$6,009	\$49.25
	ST PAUL	ANKENY	632	\$6,000	\$7,667	\$12.13
	THE GATE	ANKENY	51	\$1,000	\$2,004	\$39.29
	HOLY CROSS	CARLISLE	142	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$17.61
	CALVARY	DES MOINES	25	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$72.00
	HOPE	DES MOINES	433	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$23.09
	OUR SAVIOUR	DES MOINES	111	\$2,640	\$2,640	\$23.78
	PEACE	DES MOINES	321	\$6,500	\$6,710	\$20.90
	MT CALVARY	INDIANOLA	394	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$32.99
	TOTAL			\$50,040	\$52,329	
DES MOINES WEST	FAITH	ADEL	300	\$11,000	\$22,700	\$75.67
	LIVING FAITH	CLIVE	180	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	ASIAN	DES MOINES	10	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	MT OLIVE	DES MOINES	209	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$5.98
	SUDANESE	DES MOINES	25	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	TRINITY	DES MOINES	170	\$9,500	\$10,290	\$60.53
	MESSIAH	JOHNSTON	82	\$0	\$600	\$7.32
	BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR	POLK CITY	443	\$6,120	\$6,120	\$13.81
	GLORIA DEI	URBANDALE	2387	\$72,000	\$72,000	\$30.16
	TRINITY	VAN METER	148	\$7,500	\$8,603	\$58.13
	SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY	WDM	532	\$5,000	\$4,583	\$8.62
	TOTAL			\$112,620	\$126,146	
FORT DODGE	MT CALVARY	EAGLE GROVE	67	\$2,300	\$2,561	\$38.22
	HOLY TRINITY	FARNHAMVILLE	260	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$34.62
	GOOD SHEPHERD	FORT DODGE	577	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$34.66
	PRINCE OF PEACE	FORT DODGE	177	\$4,720	\$3,005	\$16.97
	ST PAUL	FORT DODGE	1111	\$13,200	\$13,200	\$11.88
	TRINITY	FORT DODGE	58	\$4,500	\$5,640	\$97.24
	ZION	HUMBOLDT	881	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$28.38
	TRINITY	KNIERIM	110	\$3,000	\$1,875	\$17.05
	IMMANUEL	POMEROY	68	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$88.24
	IMMANUEL	ROCKWELL CITY	202	\$5,000	\$4,917	\$24.34
	IMMANUEL	ROWAN	51	\$0	\$260	\$5.10
	ST PAUL	WEBSTER CITY	289	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$20.76
	TOTAL			\$98,720	\$97,456	
LEMARS	TRINITY	HAWARDEN	389	\$13,320	\$11,349	\$29.17
	TRINITY	HINTON	276	\$5,000	\$4,180	\$15.14
	ST JOHN	IRETON	24	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$291.67
	ST PAUL	IRETON	384	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$23.44
	FIRST	KINGSLEY	384	\$7,500	\$5,169	\$13.46
	GRACE	LEMARS	537	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$9.31
	FAITH	ORANGE CITY	302	\$20,500	\$20,542	\$68.02
	CHRIST	REMSSEN	175	\$4,500	\$5,759	\$32.91
	TOTAL			\$76,820	\$67,997	
MAPLETON	TRINITY	ANTHON	94	\$400	\$6	\$0.06
	ST JOHN	BATTLE CREEK	134	\$500	\$500	\$3.73
	ST PAUL	BATTLE CREEK	84	\$800	\$931	\$11.09
	IMMANUEL	CHARTER OAK	56	\$2,500	\$2,513	\$44.87

<u>CIRCUIT</u>	<u>CONGREGATION</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>COMM.</u>	<u>PLEDGE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PER COMM.</u>
	ST JOHN	CHARTER OAK	421	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$25.65
	ST PAUL	CHARTER OAK	89	\$6,000	\$6,468	\$72.68
	GRACE	CORRECTIONVILLE	55	\$500	\$400	\$7.27
	ST PAUL	IDA GROVE	782	\$14,000	\$16,010	\$20.47
	ST MATTHEW	MAPLETON	272	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$5.51
	ST PAUL	UTE	276	\$10,000	\$9,811	\$35.55
	TOTAL			\$47,500	\$48,939	
SAC CITY	ZION	AUBURN	50	\$1,200	\$1,410	\$28.20
	FAITH	EARLY	54	\$4,000	\$4,318	\$79.96
	FIRST	FONDA	21	\$400	\$300	\$14.29
	PILGRIM	LAKE CITY	236	\$6,300	\$6,250	\$26.48
	EMMANUEL	LAKE VIEW	357	\$15,000	\$13,750	\$38.52
	TRINITY	ODEBOLT	219	\$14,500	\$14,955	\$68.29
	ST PAUL	SAC CITY	436	\$12,000	\$16,200	\$37.16
	ST PETER	SAC CITY	35	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$57.14
	ST PAUL	SCHALLER	210	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$73.81
	PEACE	WALL LAKE	428	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$23.36
	TOTAL			\$77,900	\$84,683	
SIOUX CITY	ST JOHN	CLIMBING HILL	55	\$3,300	\$500	\$9.09
	BETHEL	LAWTON	144	\$8,000	\$8,100	\$56.25
	SHEPHERD OF PEACE	SGT BLUFF	124	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$9.68
	BETHANY	SIOUX CITY	67	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$17.91
	CALVARY	SIOUX CITY	616	\$25,000	\$25,632	\$41.61
	CONCORDIA	SIOUX CITY	75	\$600	\$1,350	\$18.00
	FAITH	SIOUX CITY	235	\$300	\$1,300	\$5.53
	REDEEMER	SIOUX CITY	1189	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$46.26
	ST PAUL	SIOUX CITY	706	\$18,000	\$27,927	\$39.56
	TOTAL			\$122,209	\$122,209	
SOUTHWEST	ST TIMOTHY	BEDFORD	10	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	IMMANUEL	CLARINDA	235	\$0	\$3,675	\$15.64
	ST JOHN	CLARINDA	518	\$7,500	\$7,523	\$14.52
	ST PAUL	CLARINDA	227	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$13.22
	REDEEMER	CORNING	123	\$2,000	\$2,950	\$23.98
	TRINITY	CRESTON	245	\$6,600	\$7,260	\$29.63
	OUR SAVIOR	LEON	53	\$500	\$600	\$11.32
	IMMANUEL	OSCEOLA	114	\$2,200	\$1,740	\$15.26
	TRINITY	SHENANDOAH	110	\$6,000	\$5,955	\$54.14
	MT CALVARY	VILLISCA	99	\$0	\$2,600	\$26.26
	TOTAL			\$28,800	\$35,302	
SPENCER	IMMANUEL	ESTHERVILLE	251	\$4,500	\$4,386	\$17.47
	ST PAUL	HARTLEY	338	\$29,800	\$29,820	\$88.22
	CONCORDIA	LAKE PARK	139	\$2,040	\$1,875	\$13.49
	ENGLISH	LARCHWOOD	40	\$5,520	\$5,100	\$127.50
	ST JOHN	MAY CITY	112	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$53.57
	ST PETER	OCHEYEDAN	134	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$44.78
	ZION	OCHEYEDAN	72	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$83.33
	PEACE	ROCK RAPIDS	251	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$19.92
	ST JOHN	SANBORN	188	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$45.21
	OUR SAVIOR	SHELDON	21	\$800	\$800	\$38.10
	CHRIST THE KING	SPENCER	120	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$8.33
	FIRST ENGLISH	SPENCER	650	\$35,000	\$35,409	\$54.47
	IMMANUEL	SPIRIT LAKE	743	\$35,750	\$36,631	\$49.30
	IMMANUEL	TERRIL	139	\$6,000	\$5,280	\$37.99
	TOTAL			\$151,910	\$151,800	
STORM LAKE	ST JOHN	ALTA	203	\$12,800	\$16,610	\$81.82
	ST PAUL	ALTA	259	\$4,050	\$4,319	\$16.68
	ST JOHN	GALVA	326	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$55.21
	ST PETER	NEWELL	117	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$42.74
	GRACE	STORM LAKE	337	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$29.67
	ST JOHN	STORM LAKE	376	\$5,000	\$4,780	\$12.71
	ZION	STORM LAKE	287	\$14,200	\$5,362	\$18.68
	TOTAL			\$69,050	\$64,071	
	Grand total				\$1,445,240	



YOUR CHURCH HAS A FUTURE

It has potential for growth and an opportunity to reach deep into your community with the Gospel. What better feeling to know that your ministry is playing a part in God's redemptive work—a dream you've always nurtured.

But there's just one problem—your church is in desperate need of repair or upgrade.

Now may be the time
to explore a Church
Improvement Loan
through Lutheran
Church Extension Fund.

INTEREST RATES ARE AT AN ALL-TIME LOW.

Church improvement loans are limited to LCMS congregations and include:

- Maximum 10-year term
- Up to \$150,000
- 24 months at Cost of Funds (COF) adjusted annually
- LCEF COF plus up to 2.5% adjusted annually for remaining term
- Payments fully amortized over term

The Church Improvement Loan is designed to help churches fund critical church repairs and upgrades.



Visit lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.



For personalized service,
contact your Iowa
Districts Vice President
Carole White, MBA at
515-240-2229 or
Carole.White@lcef.org.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod (NMLS# 3444). Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee (MB.0006057). Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Law License (6037619). For more information on LCEF's lending license go to lcef.org/state-disclosures/. The National Office is located at: 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020. 1220L001

WHAT WOULD GOD HAVE ME DO?

As I write this, my thermometer registers -20 degrees as the actual temperature! Winter is in full force! I certainly do not like it, but I am warm and comfy in my home. However, I cannot help thinking about the homeless. How can they survive in these temperatures without a home? Truthfully, they cannot! Homeless shelters throughout the state must be stretched to the max both physically and financially as they offer assistance to those in need.



You cannot help everyone, but everyone can help someone! From the comfort of your warm home, there are many opportunities to help others. Three options in Iowa District West are:



Beacon of Hope Shelter for men at 1021 1st Avenue North, Fort Dodge www.beaconofhopeshelter.com They provide a Christ-centered shelter that specializes in mental health and addiction recovery, and in integrating men who were recently released from prison, but anyone is welcome. One way to help their 25 residents is to provide their evening meal at 5 PM. Meals can be very simple (maid rites, pizza, casseroles) or more involved, if you like. Coffeecake and baked goodies are welcome at any time. Meals can be dropped off at 5 PM, or anytime during the day. Contact Annette Howard at 515-302-4128 to discuss details. Current needs at the shelter include paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper cups and plates, coffee, hot chocolate and tea. Gift cards from Fareway, HyVee or Walmart are welcomed so the shelter can purchase needed items.

Lotus Community Project is a shelter for women at 2980 170th Street, Vincent, Iowa.



www.lotuscommunityproject.org Lotus is an emergency shelter and transitional housing outreach for women and children. They serve a six-county area. Last November, a thrift store was opened on Second Street in Webster City, Iowa to help raise funds to support the shelter. Consider donating items to this store to benefit the women and children at the shelter. Store hours are 11 AM-6 PM Monday through Friday, and 10 AM-4 PM on Saturday. Donations of furniture, home décor, men's clothes, bath towels, kitchen items and other housekeeping items are needed. Currently they have enough women's clothes. Please contact Ashley Vaala at 515-832-1026 with questions.



Hope Ministries in Des Moines

The following items are always needed to help Hope Ministries: toothpaste, high-efficiency laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, new washcloths, travel size shampoo, razors, deodorant, new underwear and socks for men. For additional information, please contact Terri Simmons at 515-265-7272 or www.hopeiowa.org

THANK YOU! Moulton Elementary School, Des Moines expressed their thanks for the 500+ beautiful quilts, pillows, hats, clothes, boots and over 500 new coats! I would love to share photos of the happy students, but it is best to not share on social media.

Moulton has 25 Classrooms, 6 Interventionists, 4 ELL Teachers, and 5 SPED Teachers. Currently, there is a need for the following school supplies at Moulton Elementary.

2500 notebooks single subject – wide ruled
2500 2-pocket folders – paper
2500 2-pocket folders – plastic
550 boxes of 24 Crayola crayons
550 boxes of Crayola markers
550 boxes of Crayola colored pencils
550 24 pack #2 pencils – Ticonderoga
550 packs glue sticks – Elmer's preferred
550 packs of pink erasers
550 pencil pouches
550 pencil boxes
550 Composition notebooks – wide ruled
550 1.5" binders



Teacher Supplies

60 packs 5 Expo Dry Erase board markers
120 bottles of Expo Dry Erase board cleaner
550 mini erasers (Amazon)
550 mini dry erase boards (Amazon)
125 boxes gallon size Ziploc bags
125 boxes quart size Ziploc bags

Easel paper
Clear sheet protectors
Index cards
Post It notes
Kleenex
Hand sanitizer

Other

Student Backpacks and pens

Amazon: 550 Rockpapa Comfort+ Adjustable over ear headphones earphones with microphone in-line \$13.99



Items can be delivered or sent to: Moulton Elementary School
Attention: Audri Lu-Uhlken
1548 8th Street
Des Moines, IA 50314

OR Iowa District West, LCMS
409 Kenyon Road, Suite B
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

For additional information or options, please contact:

Ellie Menz
IOWAY Director / Disaster Response Coordinator
807 W. South, Jefferson IA 50129
ellie@iowadistrictwest.org 515-370-1159



THE FOUR GOSPEL MESSENGERS SERVING THE LORD JESUS THROUGH MISSION CENTRAL

When Old Missionary Gary thinks about the Gospel Message of our Lord Jesus, I immediately think about MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN! Then I got to thinking about that...and we are working with our dear missionaries around the world who are also men called with those same names today! These missionaries have all been here to the Lord's Mission Central!



Yes, we have "MATTHEW" Wasmund and his family working in Seoul, Korea, where Matt and his family are telling many people in darkness about a God who loves them and gave His only Son to die for them. They are forming Bible study groups, and Matt's wife DeeDee is meeting with many ladies' Bible study groups for the very first time. What a blessing to have this Matthew and his family at work in Korea.

Yes, we have a wonderful "MARK" working at the Seminary in Addis Abba, Ethiopia. Pastor Mark Rabe teaches at the seminary...training pastors and evangelists to go out and start new congregations. Pastor Rabe is working with the Ethiopian Lutheran Church in East Africa which is the fastest growing Lutheran Church in the world. That church body has over 8,000 congregations and is averaging nearly 1,000 baptisms per day. There are approximately 10 million members in the Lutheran Church of Ethiopia which is almost 5 times the membership of the entire LCMS!



Yes, we have a "LUKE" also, but I had to do some searching! Working with Rev. Mark Rabe at the seminary in Ethiopia is Rev. Eric Stinnett and his family. The Stinnetts have a young son named Luke! Little Luke is a special young man who is telling many children about his Savior Jesus, so that the children of Ethiopia know our dear Jesus.



Yes, and finally, we have a real "JOHN" in the form of John Wolf and his family working in Kenya East Africa. John is a retired Air Force Officer who is doing excellent work... sharing Jesus in villages we have never before visited; helping with special projects; working with water well projects; and supervising projects in the villages to make certain they are being carried out in the best possible way.

This gives you a little background on some of our missionaries around the world. These "Gospel Missionaries" are doing excellent work for the Lord Jesus and are bringing Jesus to people in darkness who have NEVER heard HIS name! Old Missionary Gary has visited 75 countries and all missionaries ask for one thing...that we PRAY for them! Please pray for our Matthew, Mark, Luke and John!

MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Rev. David Preus & Family
Dominican Republic
Saturday, April 17, 2021
1 PM

Rev. Michael Paul & Family
Taiwan
Saturday, June 19, 2021
1 PM



Erin Mackenzie
Dominican Republic
Saturday, September 25, 2021
1 PM

Mission Central – LCMS World Mission

40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034
712-882-1029

Gary Thies (gary.thies@lcms.org)
Rev. Brent Smith (brent.smith@lcms.org)
www.missioncentral.us



!AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from **La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo**: Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church:
Vacancy Pastor Daniel Vogel, Denison, Iowa

Iowa District
West, LCMS

MARCH 2021



PRAY FOR PASTOR PEDRO LOPEZ CALLED TO SERVE AMIGOS & GRACE

Our Hispanic ministry in Denison and Storm Lake has been vacant for the past year. We have been blessed to partner together with Iowa District West. Last month, the IDW Board of Directors extended a Call to Pastor Pedro Lopez to serve as Hispanic pastor for western Iowa. The members of Amigos en Cristo in Denison and some Hispanic members of Grace in Storm Lake assisted in the call process. In December, they visited with Pastor Lopez and his wife Paquita in a conference call Zoom meeting. Following this meeting, it was decided to personally interview Pastor Lopez and he was invited to come to Iowa with his wife.

Pastor Lopez currently serves as pastor of "Nueva Vida" (New Life) Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Virginia. He is an experienced pastor having served for more than 25 years in Hispanic ministries in Texas, Wisconsin and the past 11 years in Virginia. His wife, Francesca (Paquita) works for the Southeast District of the LCMS as a secretary. They have 4 adult children and 6 grandchildren who all live in Wisconsin. Both are originally from Mexico and are fluent in both English and Spanish.



VISITING WITH THE DISTRICT STAFF

Pastor Lopez and Paquita met with staff at the Iowa District West office (above) on December 9, 2020.

We are so grateful for the mission support of District staff. In January, the Amigos en Cristo voters and the IDW Missions Committee recommended to the Board of Directors to Call Pastor Lopez to serve in this special ministry.

The final step in this process took place on February 16 when the Board of the Directors voted to Call Pastor Lopez to Iowa. Please pray for Pastor Pedro and Paquita as they deliberate the call to our District.

Rev. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President, has provided great leadership in the search process.





PASTOR LOPEZ AND PAQUITA AT AMIGOS EN CRISTO

We had a special visit with Pastor Lopez and Paquita at Zion, Denison where our Amigos en Cristo congregation meets. The picture above is a glimpse of some of those present to meet the Lopezes and to visit with them, both informally and through a questions and answer session. In addition to members present from Amigos, three pastors of the area participated: Pastor Joshua Keinath of Zion-Denison; Pastor Chad Trunkhill of Our Savior-Denison; and Pastor Merle Mahnken of Immanuel-Schleswig. All of them have taken an active role in the support of our ministry with their congregations and we so much appreciate their support.

THANKS from our churches in Denison and Storm Lake

We pray that we are entering a new phase of our ministry in 2021 with a new pastor. We are grateful for the churches and the individuals who have supported our ministry either with special donations or by Thrivent Choice dollars. If you have any questions on how you can support our Hispanic ministry, especially with Thrivent Choice dollars, please contact me or your local Thrivent Financial representative or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836. May God bless you all in 2021. We always invite all to visit either of our services on Sunday at 10:30AM at Grace Lutheran in Storm Lake or at 12:30PM at Zion Lutheran in Denison!



OUR VISIT WITH PASTOR LOPEZ

Pastor Lopez referred to our question and answer period as "being on the hot seat." But, it was clear that he was very comfortable in answering any and all questions and then translating them into both languages. He shared with us his many years of experience in the Church serving in a number of different settings. Currently, while he is a pastor, he also works on his own to support his ministry. His wife Paquita also spoke to the group about her work and her commitment to the ministry wherever God has placed them.



Rev. Daniel Vogel

32678 Aspen Ave.
Manning, Iowa 51455
Home: 712-653-2354
Cell: 712-309-1292

E-mail me at:
daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org



PLEASE PRAY: + For the CALL of Pastor Lopez and Paquita and our prayer that he will accept and serve our unique ministries. + For our Lenten services in both Denison and Storm Lake. + For the new year, 2021 that God would guide our Hispanic ministries past the COVID-19 struggles of the past year to a new vision together. + For our members who are traveling to Mexico and El Salvador during these months that God would bless their homecomings. + For the sick and struggling that they would recover and have no long term effects from their illnesses. + ***In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who support the Lord's Hispanic missions in Sioux City and Des Moines. +++***

SIOUXLAND HISPANIC MINISTRY



God's Word Making Changes

Prayers

- For **Carmen** who is fighting pneumonia.
- For **Yessenia's** continued growth in the Christian faith.
- Thanksgiving for the ongoing generosity of so many people who continue to support our Hispanic ministry!

For the Calendar

Coming Soon!

Our quarterly
Siouxland
Hispanic Ministry
will now be
meeting
**Tuesday, March
9 at 6:30 pm.**
Please join us!

**TACOS FOR
DINNER!**



had a very encouraging conversation a few days ago. I've been working with **Yessenia** (from Mexico) for over a year now. You may remember her from a previous newsletter. Her oldest daughter called me out of the blue to tell me that her mom has been changing lately.

"Pastor, you didn't know my mom before a year ago," she said, "but she is truly changing. She never wanted to talk about God. Actually, she would get very angry when I would bring up God or faith. Now, she wants to talk about the Bible and what she's learning with you every time I call. She's less angry. She's more forgiving and loving. She's just very ... different. Whatever you're doing with my mom, please keep doing it!"

Supporting Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

As we look forward to this new year of 2021, we continue seeking more financial stability. If financially supporting a specific ministry is something you or your congregation have been considering, please keep us in mind. Don't forget to add us to your daily prayer list!

Interested in Supporting?

If you'd like to support our Hispanic ministry here in Siouxland, please send aid to the address on the bottom of the page.

Make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church with "Hispanic Ministry" on the memo line.
Thank you!

To be honest, the news caught me off-guard. *"Wow, that's great to hear!"* I stuttered. *"Well, thank God for all that He's doing in your mom's life! We've just been studying the Bible together and learning about Jesus. I can certainly keep doing that!"*

Previous studies with Yessenia flashed through my mind. I remembered one in particular where the Gospel really seemed to click for the first time. *"So, Pastor, there's nothing I need to do so that God will forgive me and love me?"* she asked. I pointed to the small crucifix that hangs above her doorway. *"That's what was needed for God to forgive you. And it's all finished! All because He already loves you!"*

Just a week ago, Yessenia made an even deeper connection: *"It must be offensive to Jesus when we try to please God with our good works,"* she said. *"It's like telling Jesus that what he did wasn't good enough and we have to add more to it."* I couldn't have said it better!

Thanks be to God for all that He's doing in Yessenia's mind and heart—all through His powerful Word. What a joy to see **God's Word making changes!**

The Photos

1. On the first page, you see **Leighton, Fátima, Ángel**, and **Jasmine** fine-tuning their puppeteering skills during our Saturday *"Faith, Fun, and Food"* event.



2. The photo to the left shows example of an in-home altar with gifts offered to Saint Lazarus. Flowers, cake, oil, fruit, a pile of coins and bills, and of course, a little image of Lazarus in the center. Seeing this in one of the homes I visited gave me the chance to learn about this person's understanding of God and how He works. Asking questions from a place of genuine curiosity (and humility) keeps the conversation open. Some things I asked: *"This is really interesting. Tell me about this ... Why Saint Lazarus? Tell me about the connection you have with him ... What sort of blessings do you hope to get?"* After listening for a long time, this person was curious what my thoughts were as a pastor. I explained the biblical point of view

regarding the saints *starting with* what she said that was biblical—for example, we are sinners and can't access a holy God on our own. I had the chance to share the good news that she has full access to God the Father through Jesus and His offering on her behalf. Has the altar come down? No. But with patience, teaching, and the Spirit at work through His Word, we know that change happens. Little by little!



3. Meet **Jackeline** from Guatemala. We've been meeting twice a week for about 8 months. We are slowly working through the Bible stories and the Catechism. Studies like this with Yessenia, Jackeline, and others are the highlights of my week. It's a great joy to see people like Jackie learning, making connections, and applying God's Word to her daily life!

*That's it for now. May our Lord bless you and keep you and thank you for your continued prayers and financial support of our *Siouxland Hispanic Ministry*!*

—Pastor Paul Flo —

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scriptures and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Devotion:

"May I see your credentials, please?" "Here are my credentials, sir." We live in a society where more and more we are asked to produce our credentials, a certificate, a badge, or some other means by which we can authenticate the authority we have been given to make an arrest, search the premises, or serve notice of some official action that has been taken. On movies and TV shows, we see depictions of police officers showing a search warrant; we see FBI agents flashing their ID's in order to gain entrance to someone's business or home to either search or ask questions concerning a crime that has been committed. And, we see restraining orders given to individuals who have been making pests of themselves.

In the second chapter of St. John's Gospel account, we read of an action taken by our Lord Jesus when He went up to Jerusalem for the observance of the Passover. While in

the temple, He found "those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their table." And the people who had been sent packing wanted to know, essentially, "Who held an election and made you sheriff." "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Well, His credentials were pretty straightforward, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." John explains that Jesus was talking about the temple of His body. And that means it comes down to the sign of the cross, for it was on the cross that Jesus' temple was destroyed; destroyed for the sins of the world, the ultimate act of love, which are the credentials of God Almighty.

The sign of the cross is also the essential credential for all who follow and learn of Christ our Lord. Many Christians make it a practice to make the sign of the cross when in prayer or when embarking on a new venture. It is a sign that, like our Lord Jesus, we have the right and privilege of doing the right thing, of loving the Lord our God by loving our neighbor.

We pray: Heavenly Father, grant us grace to be about the cleansing of our own bodies, Your temples, where You have chosen to dwell upon this earth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

John 3:14-21

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only

Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

In the midst of our Lord’s message of forgiveness, life, and salvation, He also speaks a word that indicts each and every one of us. “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.” And lest we should think for one moment that Jesus is talking about “others,” let us consider that we begin our Worship Services on Sunday mornings with these words from I John 1:8: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” According to the Holy Scriptures, there is no doubt about it: fallen mankind loves the darkness.

As strange as it might seem, it is also true that our holy God loves those who love the darkness. He who is the very source of light and life loves those who are dead in their trespasses and lost in the darkness of sin. As Jesus explains it to Nicodemus: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:16-17).

I cannot explain why God loves us so much, even to the extent of sacrificing His only-begotten Son on the Cross to pay for the sins of the world. I guess that it’s just His nature to love His creation. Thanks be to God!

Let us pray: Almighty God, Merciful Father, we thank and praise You for Your great mercy and everlasting love and pray that You would continually be our eternal Light; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Charles Horkey
Faith Lutheran Church – Sioux City, Iowa

THE LAMPLIGHTER



Themes:

“The Sign of the Cross”

“A Love of Lovers of Darkness”

March 2021

*A Publication of The Lutheran Service Auxiliary
Sioux City, Iowa*

The Good Shepherd Hour airs every Sunday
morning on the following radio stations:

KSCJ – 1360 AM & 94.9 FM	Sioux City at 8 a.m.
KLEM – 1410 AM & 96.9 FM	Le Mars at 8 a.m.
KAYL – 101.7 FM	Storm Lake at 8:30 a.m.
KVFD – 1400 AM	Fort Dodge at 8 a.m.
Main Street Living TV: KCAU 9 Sioux City at 10 a.m.	

Camp Okoboji



Spring & Summer Events

Discipleship Programs

June 4-6.....Kids' Kamp
June 10-13.....JOY Camp #1
June 13-19.....Cub Week #1
July 8-11.....JOY Camp #2
July 11-17.....Junior High Week
July 18-24.....Cub Week #2
July 25-31.....Youth Week
August 1-6.....Family Retreat #1
August 8-13...Family Retreat #2

Other Events

April 10.....Annual Meeting
April 16-17.....Higher Things Retreat
April 30-May 2.....Volunteer Work Weekend
June 13-19.....Girls' Sports Camp
June 19.....Annual Quilt Auction
June 20-26.....Camp Minneboji
May 30-Sept. 5.....Sunday Morning Worship
1st Sundays Of The Month...Omelet Brunches!



For more information
and to register, visit
campokoboji.org



Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Administrative Office

409 Kenyon Road Suite C Fort Dodge, IA 50501

phone: 515-573-3138/fax: 515-573-3130

info@LutheranFamilyService.org

www.LutheranFamilyService.org

Advocating, Working, Praying for Life in Iowa

In spite of the many challenges associated with everyday life during a pandemic, Lutheran Family Service continues to work for and with LCMS members in Iowa to provide a powerful witness of the value of all human life and the need to protect it. We are present and actively involved to impact all legislation defending life.

As the 2021 legislative session continues, several bills related to life are being introduced and considered. Our voices—both individually and corporately—continue to be important in the conversation. If you're not already, please join us!

Sign up to receive "Legislative Action Updates" by email as LFS' Kim Laube and Rev. Dr. Jim Lamb share critical and timely information from the capital. Request these emails through the LFS web site's CONTACT section, or just send an email to info@LutheranFamilyService.org to let us know you want to receive life advocacy updates by email.

Bills related to protecting life being considered this year which we are following include:

SJR2 & HJR5 - The Protect Life Amendment

A 2018 judgement by the Iowa Supreme Court tied legislators' hands, rendering it virtually impossible—in the absence of this constitutional amendment—to legislatively impose *any* reasonable restriction on abortion in Iowa.

HF383 Informed Consent Regarding Reversal of Chemical Abortions

Women who choose to have a medically induced abortion using RU-486 should be informed about all their options, including the option now available to reverse the procedure should they choose to change their minds and save the life of their baby.

SF212 & HF475 Our Care, Our Options Act

Physician Assisted Suicide - This act, which consistently gets filed every year, would allow a doctor to prescribe poison to kill their patient under certain circumstances.

Join With Lutheran Family Service in Prayer for These Servants

Father, be the constant source of inspiration, wisdom, guidance, peace and strength for these, our LCMS brothers and sisters who serve in the Iowa legislature. Direct and guide their thoughts, words, conversations, deliberations, and decisions, that you would be honored in all of their work. Amen.



Senator
Roby Smith
Trinity, Davenport



Senator
Annette Sweeney
St Paul, Buckeye



Senator
Tim Kraayenbrink
St. Paul, Fort Dodge



Representative
Thomas Gerhold
St. Stephens, Atkins



Senator
Jason Schultz
Immanuel, Schleswig



Senator
Julian Garrett
Mt. Calvary, Indianola

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...

Proverbs 31:8a



Concordia Nebraska, A University with Values

Since 1894, Concordia University, located in Seward, Nebraska, has carried out its mission as an excellent academic and Christ-centered community equipping men and women for lives of learning, service and leadership in the church and world. It does this by delivering its *Promises of a Lutheran Education* – Community, Inquiry, Purpose, Wisdom – to every student, whether on the residential undergraduate campus, in graduate programs online, or in a dual credit course at Lutheran high schools throughout the nation and world.

What are these distinctly Lutheran *Promises*?

Community – An environment of grace freely given and received and guidance from Christ-centered mentors

Inquiry – An exploration of Biblical perspectives to bring meaning and understanding to the varied perspectives of the world, its inhabitants, and cultures

Purpose – A calling to fully develop God-given gifts and talents and gratefully utilize those talents in service to others

Wisdom – The capacity to apply skills and knowledge in harmony with faith and character and to navigate the intersection of faith and culture

With nearly 100 academic programs, Concordia is a highly regarded, comprehensive Midwest university that compares favorably to other public and private institutions. Long known for its education program, Concordia's largest majors today include that signature major as well as business administration, biology, and psychology. Its undergraduates are equipped to succeed, with 98% employed or enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation. Its cost is competitive with public universities in the Midwest, with an average annual difference of less than \$2,250.

But it is the differences, starting with the *Promises*, that set Concordia apart. It is a campus of involvement, with nearly 90 percent of students participating in music ensembles, speech and drama, intercollegiate athletics, and student service organizations. It annually provides more full-time workers to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod than any other institution. It is one of a handful of Christian institutions in the nation that offers a bachelor's degree in agriculture. Firmly committed to its Christ-centered mission, 100% of faculty and staff are Christian and 90% of full-time faculty are Lutheran.

We believe these differences matter – to our students, to your family, to our congregations, to the world. We invite you to learn more at www.cune.edu.



DARRYL JAHN SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR ANY MAN ATTENDING IOWA STATE IN THE FALL OF 2021



DARRYL JAHN

SCHOLARSHIP

- Easy 15 Min Online Application
- Three \$2000 Scholarships Awarded

DUE DATES

- Jan 5, 2021 -Eligible for all awards
- March 20, 2021 -Eligible for two awards
- July 1, 2021 -Eligible for one award

WHERE TO APPLY: WWW.EPSILON.BETASIGMAPSI.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP
or scan the QR code above!

CONTACT US

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OR

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ABOUT US

Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity was founded upon spiritual, social, and scholastic values. We consistently rank in the top 3 of all fraternities for GPA and Beta Sigma Psi was awarded as the top fraternity at ISU in the Spring of 2020



Scan me

Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization is the Student Tuition Organization (STO) created by Iowa District East and Iowa District West in 2007 as part of the Educational Opportunities Act passed by Iowa Legislature. Fourteen Lutheran schools are located in Iowa providing a faith-based education to nearly 1,400 students each year. ILSTO awards tuition grants to eligible families while providing donors with an Iowa income tax credit certificate worth 65% of their gift.

\$715,235

Total amount raised in 2020 which was \$235,000 short of our goal.
Please consider a gift today so families can attend a Lutheran School.

In 2020, ILSTO awarded \$467,318 in tuition assistance

These funds were awarded to families for 2020-2021

School	Number of Recipients	Dollars	School	Number of Recipients	Dollars
IDW			IDE		
Boone	30	\$14,313	Cedar Falls	115	\$95,884
Clarinda	46	\$32,248	Cedar Rapids	82	\$58,155
Denison	55	\$22,913	Davenport	134	\$72,070
Fort Dodge	59	\$42,614	Latimer	24	\$12,047
Paullina	19	\$11,017	Newhall	62	\$34,641
Sioux City	12	\$9,697	Readlyn	12	\$2,779
Spencer	44	\$37,857	Williamsburg	53	\$21,083

Total Distributed \$467,318



850
Number of
applicants for
ILSTO



747
Number of
applicants
receiving ILSTO
funds



625
Average dollars
awarded with
ILSTO funds



\$1,000,000
Total demonstrated
need throughout Iowa
Lutheran Schools

2020-2021 Enrollment in Lutheran Schools in Iowa

Trinity Lutheran School <i>Boone, IA</i>	67
Valley Lutheran School <i>Cedar Falls, IA</i>	145
Trinity Lutheran School <i>Cedar Rapids, IA</i>	183
Clarinda Lutheran School <i>Clarinda, IA</i>	81
Trinity Lutheran School <i>Davenport, IA</i>	273
Zion Lutheran School <i>Denison, IA</i>	68
St Paul Lutheran School <i>Fort Dodge, IA</i>	80
St. Paul Lutheran School <i>Latimer, IA</i>	29
Central Lutheran School <i>Newhall, IA</i>	143
Zion St John Lutheran School <i>Paullina, IA</i>	42
Community Lutheran School <i>Readlyn, IA</i>	24
St. Paul Lutheran School <i>Sioux City, IA</i>	25
Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School <i>Spencer, IA</i>	84
Lutheran Interparish School <i>Williamsburg, IA</i>	83
TOTAL NUMBER OF IOWA LUTHERAN STUDENTS	1,327



**Now Accepting
Contributions for 2021**

Other Ways to Give

IRA Distribution

- For those 70 ½ or older or 72 depending on birthdate.
- Satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year.
- Make sure to consult your tax professional before you make your distribution.

Stock

- Donor or broker notifies the ILSTO program manager of their intent to donate stock.
- Donor or broker initiates transfer of the stock after obtaining ILSTO account information for transfer.
- ILSTO assumes ownership of the stock and sells it for market value.
- The donor receives an Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of the average value of the stock on the date of donation.
- Generally, the donor does not recognize the gain from the sale of the stock for federal or state income tax purposes.
- Donor receives appreciated stock value for the 35% federal itemized deduction and the 65% Iowa tax credit.

Grain

- A donor gifts bushels of grain by completing a "Transfer of Ownership" form available from the ILSTO.
- Program Manager will open an account with the elevator in anticipation of the grain donation.
- The farmer must deliver grain to the elevator or currently hold grain in their name to provide proof of production.
- Contracted grain sales will not be accepted as a grain donation.
- The farmer must transfer ownership title of the commodity to ILSTO.
- The ILSTO staff must make the final decision to sell the grain.
- The donor receives an Iowa tax credit equal to 65% of the value of the grain on the date of donation.
- The donor does not recognize the income from the sale of the grain while also receiving Iowa tax credit from this program
- Donors are encouraged to contact their tax accountant for further clarification.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

- ILSTO can now accept Choice Dollars from Thrivent Members
- No tax consequences

Donor Advised Fund

- ILSTO cannot accept contributions from donor advised funds.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF
DONORS IN 2020**

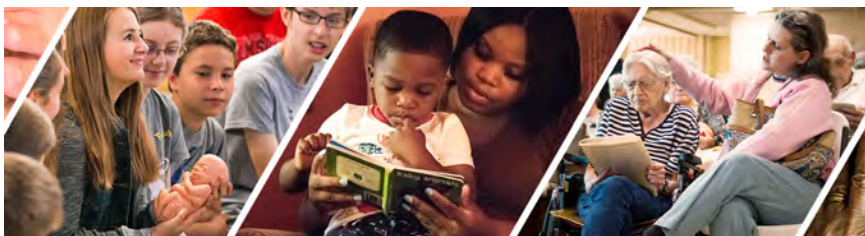
195

Largest Gift: \$100,000

Smallest Gift: \$25

How much did donors donate in 2020?

\$20,001+ = 6
 \$10,001 - \$20,000 = 5
 \$5,001 - \$10,000 = 14
 \$1,001 - \$5,000 = 69
 \$501 - \$1,000 = 64
 \$500 and below = 37



Making Disciples > VALUING LIFE

Virtual LCMS Life Conference
March 19–20, 2021

ATTEND THE LCMS LIFE CONFERENCE — FROM ANYWHERE!

Though gathering is difficult these days, LCMS Life Ministry believes that proclaiming the truth of life's value from conception to natural death is as important as ever.

The first-ever virtual LCMS Life Conference will be held March 19–20.

This virtual conference will enable anyone to join in — students, missionaries, church workers and congregation members from across the country and the world. It will feature livestreamed and on-demand videos, as well as interactive question-and-answer opportunities.

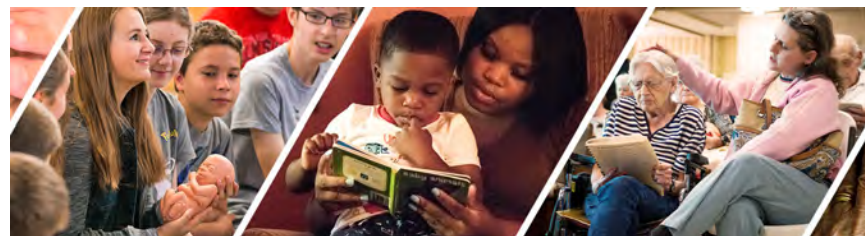
Learn about a distinctly Lutheran understanding of the sanctity of life from speakers, including:

- > **Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison**, LCMS president;
- > **Timothy Goeglein**, Focus on the Family vice president of External and Government Relations; and
- > **Deaconess Tiffany Manor**, director of LCMS Life Ministry.



Registration is open NOW!

To register or learn more, visit lcms-life.org.



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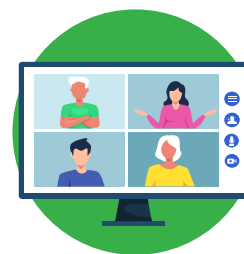
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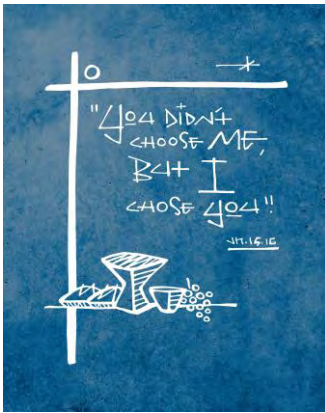
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Registration is open NOW!

To register or learn more, visit lcms-life.org.



Lutherans For Life

2021 Iowa

Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

For students in Grades 6 through 12

Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation e.g. confirmation class, youth group when validated by a pastor or teacher.

Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: **God Chose You** with the Bible verse: ***“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit”*** (John 15:16).

1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but not limited to: abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student's name, grade (Identify school or church) and email address. All entries submitted by a teacher or pastor, should include their name and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to revjustinkane@gracewaterloo.org by April 1, 2021.

5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email revjustinkane@gracewaterloo.org with any questions.
6. Grand Prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to a 2021 Regional Conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.
7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.
8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see: lutheransforlife.org



Rubric for Assessment of the Life Essay

(maximum of 21 points for each essay)

	3	2	1	0
ORGANIZATION Structure Transitions	Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis. Transitions are mature and graceful. The essay has a nice smooth flow between ideas.	Logical progression of ideas. Transitions are present equally throughout essay. The essay has a flow of ideas.	Organization is clear. Transitions are present in some places but may be missing in others. In places flow is interrupted or doesn't exist.	No discernable organization. Transitions are not present. Connections between ideas seem confusing or incomplete.
INTRODUCTION Background/History Thesis Statement CONCLUSION	Well-developed introduction engages the reader-creates interest. Contains detailed background information. Thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position or belief. Conclusion effectively wraps up & goes beyond restating the thesis.	Introduction creates interest. Sufficient background information is provided. Thesis clearly states the position or belief. Conclusion effectively summarizes topics.	Introduction adequately explains the background, but may lack detail. Thesis states the position or belief. Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends.	Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Thesis is vague or unclear. Conclusion does not summarize main points.
MAIN POINTS Body Paragraphs, Bibliography	The main idea or thesis statement is clearly defined. There may be more than one key point. Appropriate relevant information and details are shared from a variety of sources including personal experiences, observations, feelings and prior knowledge. Supporting details are accurate, relevant, and helpful in clarifying the main idea(s). Statistics or research are used effectively. A simple bibliography gives the references for the resources used.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares relevant information, facts and experiences. There is a clear distinction between general observations and specifics. Supporting details are relevant and explain the main idea. Research is evident and statistics are used. Missing information in bibliography.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares some information, facts and experiences, but may express feelings without much to substantiate it. There may be problems going from general observations to specifics. Stronger support and greater attention to details would strengthen this paper. Statistics and research do little to help support the main idea. Incomplete bibliography.	More than one of the following problems may be evident: The main idea is not identifiable. The writer shares some information, but it is limited or unclear. Details are missing or repetitious. Statistics are missing. No bibliography.
FOCUS LFL Mission, Conference theme verse	The paper is in complete agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper is in agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and somewhat focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper doesn't completely agree with the mission of Lutherans For Life and touches on the conference theme verse.	Little or no effort has been made to address the mission of Lutherans For Life and doesn't focus on the conference theme verse.
BIBLICAL ACCURACY	Several Biblical references give strong support for the main idea and are a natural part of the essay. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	Biblical references are used to support the main idea. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	There are places where a Biblical reference would have helped support the main idea. There are some problems with interpretation of the verses used. Citations are accurate.	Little effort is given to use Biblical references to support the main idea. Problems exist in the interpretation of the verses and their citations.
STYLE Writer's Voice, Audience Awareness	The paper is honest and enthusiastic. The language is natural yet thought-provoking. It brings the topic to life. The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words. Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure.	Writer's voice is consistent and strong. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed and remains engaged. Sentences have varied structure.	Writer's voice may emerge strongly on occasion, then retreat behind general, vague, tentative, or abstract language. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed, but must work at remaining engaged. Sentence structure shows some variety.	Writing is confusing, hard to follow. Language is vague. No audience awareness. No variety in sentence structure.
MECHANICS Spelling, punctuation, capitalization	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are correct. No errors.	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are generally correct, with few errors. (1-2)	A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (3-4)	Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization

	POINTS
ORGANIZATION	
INTRODUCTION/CONCLUSION	
MAIN POINTS	
FOCUS	
BIBLICAL ACCURACY	
STYLE	
MECHANICS	
TOTAL POINTS	

Students Name _____

Church/School _____ Grade _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Teacher/Pastor _____ Email _____

PRAYER BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

Iowa District West LLL/LHM

When: Saturday, April 10, 2021
8 am Registration & Breakfast; 11:30 Closing

Where: Our Savior Lutheran Church,
500 North 24th Street, Denison, Iowa

Speaker: Rev. David Loeschen

Topic: Chaplain to Law Enforcement

Cost: \$15

Spread the word among the grandpas and grandmas,
the fathers and mothers, and the sons and daughters of your
family and your church!

For more information,
contact John Tews
(valleyinsjt@gmail.com or
641-740-0126 cell).



Watch for future events and other Lutheran Hour Ministries news in The Lutheran Witness and on our new Facebook “group” page, “Lutheran Laymen League of Western Iowa.”