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MINISTRY PARTNERS

Camp Okoboji
Lutheran Family Service
ILSTO

ALSO INCLUDED...

Around the District
Clergy Wives Retreat
Youth Gathering Dates
Life Advocates



CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. Jonathan Conner, Zion, Manning, to St. John, Fredonia, WI
Rev. Nicholas Thackery, Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge, to First English, Spencer

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. David Schultz, Our Savior, Swea City, to Calvary/Redeemer, Waterloo/Auburn, NY

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Ryan Roehrig, St. Paul, Carroll, to Mt. Olive, Watertown, SD
Rev. Scott Kozisek, St. Paul, Garner, to St. John/Immanuel, Wheaton, MN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 6...Iowa East/West Principals Conference, Gloria Dei, **Urbandale**
August 7...Iowa East/West Early Childhood Conference, Gloria Dei, **Urbandale**
August 21-23...Lutheran Singles Retreat, **Camp Okoboji**
August 28-29...Spiritual First Aid, Iowa District West Office, **Fort Dodge**



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 18-19...Engaged in Mission Conference, St. Paul Lutheran, **Carroll**
September 21-22...Fall Pastor's Conference, Gloria Dei Lutheran, **Urbandale**
September 29...Administrative Assistants Conference, St. Paul, **Fort Dodge**
October 2-4...Senior Youth Gathering, **Camp Okoboji**
October 9-11...Clergy Wives Retreat, **Camp Okoboji**
October 24-25...Junior Youth Gathering, Sheraton Hotel, **West Des Moines**
November 7...Education/Communication Workshop...District Office, **Fort Dodge**
November 7...Fall Treasurers Workshop, **Denison**
December 28-January 4...IOWAY Pedal Pushers Trip, **Pasadena, CA**



Follow Iowa District West on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/IowaDistrictWest



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

515.576.7666
emilie@iowadistrictwest.org
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.



On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

August 2026

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 www.idwlcms.org
Contact email: emilie@iowadistrictwest.org

Happy New School Year



Each new school year brings a familiar mix of sharpened pencils, fresh notebooks, new teachers, new classmates, and new routines. For students, families, teachers, and congregations, it is a season of beginnings. Some children will walk into a classroom for the very first time. Others will return ready for the next grade, the next challenge, and the next opportunity to grow. In all these new starts, God is already at work.

Across Iowa District West, Lutheran schools and early childhood centers are preparing to welcome children with the love of Jesus. These ministries are more than places of instruction. They are communities where the Word of God is heard, faith is nurtured, families are served, and children are reminded daily that they belong to Christ.

As the school year begins, please pray for our Lutheran schools and preschools in Iowa District West. Pray for teachers, administrators, pastors, classroom aides, cooks, custodians, and volunteers as they serve with patience, wisdom, and joy. Pray for students as they learn, make friends, ask questions, and grow in body, mind, and faith. Pray for parents and grandparents as they encourage children at home. Pray also for congregations that support these ministries with their gifts, time, and love. May He bless every new start, every classroom, and every child entrusted to our care.

Rhonda Mohr—Assistant to the President for Youth, Education and Family Life
Rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org

Engaged in Mission Workshop

Join clergy and laity for *Engaged in Mission*, a two-day workshop focused on evangelism, outreach, discipleship, and church planting Sept. 18-19 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Carroll. Led by Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe and Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff. This event will equip participants to share the Gospel and strengthen mission efforts within their congregations. Scan QR Code for more information and registration.



Conflict & Difficult Conversations Workshop

Join Rev. Dr. Todd Jenks for a practical and faith-centered workshop on navigating conflict and difficult conversations with wisdom, confidence, and Christ-centered communication on Saturday, November 7 at the IDW District Office in Fort Dodge. Participants will learn research-backed strategies and biblical principles for handling disagreements, reducing anxiety in challenging conversations, and fostering healthier relationships in families, workplaces, and congregations. This free event is open to all church workers and laity. Scan QR for more



Campus Ministry

Have a student moving to college? Connect your college students to a Lutheran campus ministry. Students are encouraged to register with www.lutheranstudentfellowship.org to connect with Lutheran peers and to stay connected to a faith family.



AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 6...IDE/IDW Principal's Conference, Gloria Dei, **Urbandale**
August 7...IDE/IDW Early Childhood Conference, Gloria Dei, **Urbandale**
August 21-23...Lutheran Singles Retreat, **Camp Okoboji**
August 28-29...Spiritual First Aid, IDW District Office, **Fort Dodge**

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 18-19...Engaged in Mission Conference, St. Paul, **Carroll**
September 21-22...Fall Pastor's Conference, Gloria Dei, **Urbandale**
September 29...Administrative Assistants Conference, **Fort Dodge**
October 2-4...Senior Youth Gathering, **Camp Okoboji**
October 9-11...Pastor's Wives Retreat, **Camp Okoboji**
October 24-25...Junior Youth Gathering, Sheraton Hotel, **West Des Moines**
November 7...Conflict & Difficult Conversations Workshop, **Fort Dodge**
November 7...Treasurers Workshop, **Denison**

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

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Rev. Paul Egger

Iowa District West, LCMS

paul@iowadistrictwest.org / 515-576-7666

The Parsonage



Foxes have dens for rest and protection. Birds have nests for sleep and raising their young.

But the King of kings has no castle. The Shepherd of God's sheep has no tent. The Creator during His public ministry has not even a tiny house to call His own.

Jesus travels to Capernaum. He releases the centurion's servant from paralysis and suffering. He cools Peter's mother-in-law's fever. He drives evil spirits out from people and heals all the sick. A teacher of the law declares he'll follow Jesus wherever Jesus goes. Good plan. Jesus replies, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests – but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head." Matthew 8:20; Luke 9:58.

Jesus teaches us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Martin Luther explains that "daily bread" includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, HOUSE, etc. Small Catechism.

And so even while Jesus during His three-year public ministry owned no house as he traveled from place to place – as God provides His congregations with pastors – His congregations care for these men and their families. YOU care for these men and their families by giving them a place to lay their heads. This may mean a salary allowing pastor to purchase a house. This may mean supplying a parsonage. Both are wonderful blessings from God stemming from the love of God's children.

Let's discuss the parsonage. God intends the parsonage to be a blessing to pastor and congregation. The devil intends for the parsonage to become a stumbling block and cause bitterness between pastor and congregation.

CONGREGATIONS, please consider: When you call a pastor, you pledge to care for him and his family. "Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, your pastor has been called to your congregation. I ask you now, in the presence of God: Will you receive him, show him that love, honor, and obedience in the Lord that you owe to the shepherd and teacher placed over you by your Lord Jesus Christ, and will you support him by your gifts (which certainly includes the parsonage) and by your fervent prayer? If so, then answer: We will, with the help of God. God approves your pledges! My counsel:

+ Chairman and/or head trustee, schedule an annual parsonage walk-through with pastor and pastor's wife. Include a woman from the congregation.

+ Elect/appoint trustees who worship faithfully. If committed to Jesus, trustees will be committed to Jesus' servant, the called pastor.

+ During vacancies, hire a reputable residential inspector who is not a congregational member to inspect the parsonage.

PASTORS, please consider: When you accept a call, you pledge to “Keep a close watch on yourself... manage your own household well...be well thought of by outsiders. 1 Tim 3-4. The parsonage is a gift for you from God and from the congregation. A trust for you in which to live thankfully. A trust for you to treasure and maintain. Your commitment to care for the parsonage reflects your commitment to care for the congregation who gives you this house. God approves your pledge! My counsel:

- + Regularly clean the parsonage.
- + Before taking upon yourself any parsonage updates/changes (“Hey, let’s paint the kitchen bright pink!”), discuss with trustees.
- + Be reasonable with choices for pets.

The Son of Man had no place to lay His head during His earthly ministry. By God’s grace, you do. And Jesus reminds you that even as we care for our temporary daily-bread earthly houses, He’s preparing a permanent home for you in His Father’s house. John 14.

As Jesus lives,
Pastor Paul Egger
President, Iowa District West



Education Youth Family Life

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

New Policy for Youth Chaperones

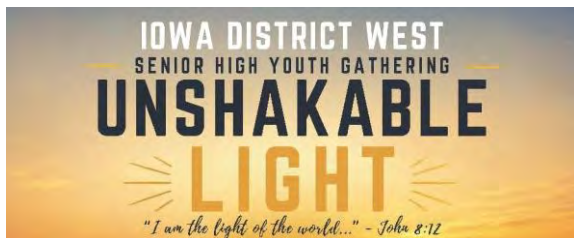
For some time, Iowa District West has encouraged background checks for all staff and volunteers who work with minors. Beginning this fall, all volunteers who attend our district youth gatherings must have a background check on file at their church that was completed within the last three years. Congregations that register for our district youth gatherings will receive a form to verify that the required background check has been completed and is on file at the church.

The district Youth Services and Education Committees have been champions of safety policies in our congregations and have encouraged every congregation to conduct background checks for anyone working with minors. This is all in the spirit of protecting God's precious children. Now, the district is requiring background checks for our district youth events, not just encouraging them. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me, Rhonda Mohr, at the district office. If you have questions about where to obtain background checks, we suggest using Protect My Ministry:

www.protectmyministry.com.

Iowa District West Youth Gatherings

Please note because the Senior Youth Gathering will be at Camp Okoboji the first weekend in October – registration deadline will come quickly. We encourage early conversations and sign-ups with the youth in your congregation. Senior and Junior Youth Gathering registration material will be sent no later than the first week of August. If your leaders or congregation did not receive



registration materials, please note it will also be available for download on our district website. www.idwlcms.org



JR Youth Gathering Registration Cost \$175 SR Youth Gathering Two nights \$120 and one night \$90

District Workshop: Conflict and Difficult Conversations

The District Education and Family Life Committee is sponsoring a workshop on Saturday, November 7. The details are provided for you in the flier that's included in the Messenger. It will be a very helpful event for both the church worker and laity. We encourage you to save the date on your calendar and register to attend. If you have any questions, contact Rhonda at the district office. Scan QR for more information.



IOWA DISTRICT WEST

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

UNSHAKABLE

LIGHT

"I am the light of the world..." - John 8:12



October 3-4, 2026

📍 **CAMP OKOBOJI**

OPTIONAL EARLY ARRIVAL: OCTOBER 2



MAIN SPEAKERS

Pastor Ryan Roehrig &
DCE Hailey Jo Miller



WHO

Senior High Youth
(Grades 9-12)



COST

\$90 (1 night)
\$120 (2 nights)



PAYMENT

One check per church
payable to
Iowa District West

Save the Date!

MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION COMING SOON!



**IOWA DISTRICT WEST
JUNIOR YOUTH
GATHERING**

**Sheraton Hotel
West Des Moines, IA
October 24-25, 2026**

What to Expect

SUPPORT

Licensed Counselor, Angela Kolbaum will be joining us and offering counseling sessions throughout the weekend.



RELAXATION

Quiet time optional but encouraged with safe spaces to do relaxing crafts/projects from home or safe spaces offered to have time alone to read or relax.

FELLOWSHIP

Fun fellowship optional but encouraged with Bunco (including giveaways and prizes) and other games and opportunities to chat with friends and catch up.



ACTIVITIES

Enjoy a creative and relaxing guided painting session

FOOD

All meals will be served in the Bethel Retreat Center with the exception of dinner on Saturday night. You can expect charcuterie boards with meats, cheeses, fruits, simple breakfast with pastries, coffee and other light fare, lunch with sandwiches and all snacks provided.



A weekend of restoration for your body and soul;

Your spiritual, emotional, and mental health



REGISTRATION

Scan the QR Code below or visit
<https://tinyurl.com/jy9c9s47>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
September 8th

Scan me



**Please make checks payable to
Iowa District West**

*If you have difficulty registering online
and need assistance, call the district
office and they will help you register.
515.576.7666*

PASTOR WIVES RETREAT



Iowa District West

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

Who and Whose are you?

How is God's workmanship evident in your life?

On what path is God leading you now and with whom?

As we consider these questions together in the context of our identity as children of God by his grace in our Lord Jesus, we may also discover a path to renewed health, healing, and hope as women and as ministry wives.

In the process we'll also have some fun, get to know one another better, and celebrate each other as God's precious creations.

Save the Date

October 9-11
Camp Okoboji

1531 Edgewood Dr, Milford, IA 51351

Cost: \$75.00



Guest Speaker

Diane Bahn

Diane is passionate about growing daily as a follower of Jesus. A native of St. Charles, Missouri, she now lives in Cypress, Texas. She is a graduate of Valparaiso University, holds a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Concordia University Chicago, and is a Certified Christian Leadership Coach.

Diane and her husband, David, have served congregations together in Utah, Colorado, Arkansas, and Texas. She is the mother of four sons and grandmother of ten. Her ministry experience includes serving as a church organist, choir director, Director of Worship and Music, and working with the Pastoral Leadership Institute on both national and international teaching teams.

Diane currently serves as a Coordinator and Coach with the Texas District Care and Coaching Team, where she enjoys encouraging and supporting others in their faith and leadership journeys.

Conflict & Difficult Conversations Workshop

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | Iowa District West Office | 409 Kenyon Rd, Suite B, Fort Dodge
A Free Event For All Church Workers & Laity

Session 1

Coping with Conflict Constructively & Productively: Communication Strategies & Christian Principles

How do you handle conflict in life? Are you a conflict dreader, a conflict spreader, or a conflict solver and resolver? Conflicts happen - in our families, in our workplaces, and in the church - but we are so often unprepared for how to handle conflict. Too often, conflict becomes destructive, rather than productive. Learn research-backed strategies from the field of Communication Studies, and God-given wisdom from Scripture, on how to make conflict less harmful and more helpful.

**Participants will head home equipped with wisdom on how to navigate conflict situations with God-serving communication. They will learn how to reflect on and improve their personal approach to conflict with new tools for their conflict management and with Biblical knowledge of Christ-centered conflict management.*

Session 2

Dealing with Difficult Conversations Calmly & Effectively

Certain conversations are, by their very nature, more difficult. It is not easy to talk with someone when there are high emotions, strongly different opinions, or a feeling of friction. In this session, a communication expert shares research-backed tips and beneficial Biblical insights to make uncomfortable conversations less uncomfortable and more successful, in a way that brings people together, rather than tears them apart.

**Participants will head home equipped to face difficult conversations more calmly and less anxiously, with insights on how to make these conversations unfold more smoothly. Participants will receive specific strategies to communicate more comfortably when engaging in uncomfortable conversations, as well as Biblical knowledge of Christ-centered principles for dealing with difficult conversations.*

Schedule

10:00-10:15 a.m. Arrival / Coffee, Juice & Light Snacks
10:15-10:30 a.m. Welcome & Opening Devotion
10:30-11:30 a.m. Session 1
11:30-12:00 p.m. Discussion Time (Conflict)
12:00-12:45 p.m. Lunch
12:45-1:45 p.m. Session 2
1:45-2:15 p.m. Discussion Time (Difficult Conversations)
2:15-2:30 p.m. Closing Devotion & Sending

Copy Link or Scan QR to Register

Online - Fill out form



About the Speaker



Rev. Dr. Todd Jenks is Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ames and Teaching Professor Emeritus of Communication Studies and Psychology at Iowa State University. With 30+ years as a pastor and communication professor, his areas of focus include conflict management, leadership communication, and intercultural communication. Todd earned his PhD in Communication at Bowling Green State University.

*"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."
— Romans 12:18*

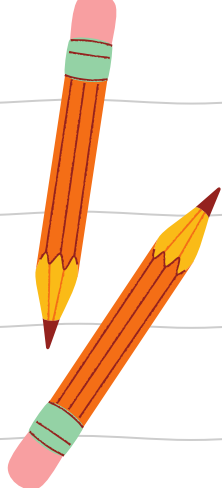
Hosted by IDW Christian Education Committee





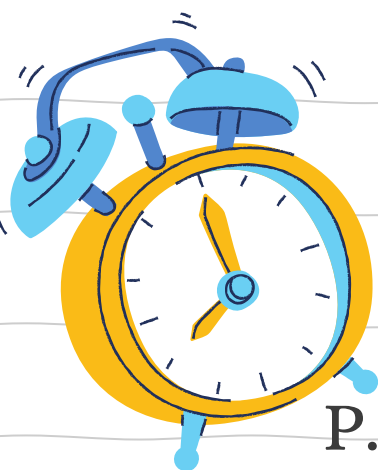
IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL
TUITION ORGANIZATION

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..."



We're already planning for 2027-2028 students

Help us have proper
funding to support
Iowa Lutheran school
families!



GIVE TODAY



P.S. Don't forget the 75% tax credit!!

Iowalutheransto.com

MISSION POSSIBLE!

Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney

Beyond the Benediction:

How to Leverage Social Media to Disciple Your Church All Week

For many pastors and church leaders, Sunday morning feels like the finish line. We spend hours studying, praying, and crafting a message, only to watch the congregation file out the doors at noon. By Monday afternoon, the distractions of daily life have often crowded out the truths preached just 24 hours prior.

But what if Sunday morning wasn't the end? What if it was simply the launchpad?

Discipleship isn't a one-day-a-week event—it's a daily walk. By strategically leveraging social media, you can transform your Sunday sermon from a standalone presentation into an ongoing, interactive discipleship journey that meets your members exactly where they are during the week.

Here is a practical framework to turn your weekend message into a weekday discipleship engine.

1. Shift Your Mindset: From "Promotion" to "Pastoring"

Most churches use social media exclusively as a digital bulletin board to announce upcoming events or post graphics that say, "Join us this Sunday!" While administration is necessary, it rarely discipless people.

To leverage social media effectively, you must treat your platforms as an extension of your pastoral ministry. Your feeds shouldn't just look like an advertisement for a building; they should look like a resource for the soul.

2. Micro-Chunk Your Message (The "Cut Up" Strategy)

A 30-minute sermon is packed with deep theological truths, memorable illustrations, and practical applications. Don't let those gems live and die in a single audio file. Break your sermon down into bite-sized, highly shareable pieces of "micro-content":

- **The 60-Second Reel:** Pull 1–2 high-impact video clips from your sermon footage. Look for moments where you stated a core truth clearly or shared a powerful illustration. Post these as vertical videos (Reels, Shorts, or TikToks) on Monday and Wednesday.
- **The Quote Graphic:** Identify the "sticky statements" from your message—those concise, memorable phrases that sum up a major point. Turn these into clean, text-based graphics for Instagram and Facebook.
- **The Deep-Dive Carousel:** Use Instagram's carousel feature to swipe through the 3 main points of your sermon, adding a one-sentence practical application to each slide.

3. Move from Monologue to Dialogue

Preaching is naturally a monologue, but discipleship thrives on dialogue. Social media provides a unique feedback loop where your congregation can process the message in real-time.

- **Ask Reflection Questions:** On Tuesday morning, post a question related to Sunday's application. For example: *"On Sunday, we talked about forgiveness. Who is one person you need to actively pray for this week?"*

- **Utilize Interactive Stories:** Use Instagram/Facebook Story features like polls, Q&A boxes, and sliders. Ask questions like, *"Which point from Sunday's message challenged you the most?"* or *"What questions do you still have about this text?"*
- **Host a Mid-Week Live Q&A:** Go live for 15 minutes on a Wednesday lunchtime. Call it "Sermon B-Sides" or "The Rest of the Story." Use this time to share a point or context that you had to cut from your sermon for time, and answer questions submitted by your congregation.

4. Equip Your Members to Be the Messengers

True discipleship means equipping the saints for the work of ministry. When you post valuable, sermon-based content, you aren't just ministering to your members—you are giving them tools to minister to their own circles.

Encourage your congregation to share the video clips or quote graphics on their personal feeds. A short, powerful video clip from their pastor is an incredibly low-friction way for a church member to share their faith, encourage a struggling friend, or start a spiritual conversation with a neighbor.

The Weekly Rhythm: A Sample Framework

To keep from burning out, establish a predictable content calendar based entirely on the sermon you've already preached:

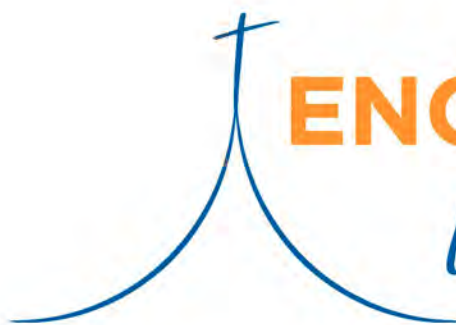
Day	Content Type	Purpose
Monday	High-energy video Reel / Short	Re-engage the mind and set the spiritual tone for the work week.
Tuesday	Reflection Question / Text Graphic	Push toward personal application and prompt comment section discussion.
Wednesday	Mid-Week Live or "Behind the Scenes" text	Address lingering questions; provide a mid-week spiritual course correction.
Thursday	Actionable Challenge Carousel	Give a specific, practical way to live out the sermon before the weekends.
Friday/Saturday	Preview / Teaser	Shift focus forward and invite them into the next movement of the community.

Conclusion: Building the Digital Bridge

Social media is often criticized as a place of distraction and division—and it certainly can be. But as leaders, we have the opportunity to redeem these spaces, transforming them into digital highway systems that carry the truth of God's Word straight into the daily rhythms of our people.

By turning your Sunday sermon into a week-long conversation, you ensure that the seed planted on Sunday has the time, space, and community watering it needs to take deep root and bear lasting fruit.

What is one step you can take this week to extend your message beyond Sunday?



ENGAGED IN MISSION:

Congregation and Community

SEPTEMBER 18TH - 19TH

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1844 Highland Dr. - Carroll, IA 51401

Speakers:

REV. DR. QUINTIN CUNDIFF
LCMS Director of Church Planting

REV. DR. HEATH TRAMPE
LCMS Director of Discipleship

An opportunity for both pastors and laity to learn about, discuss, and consider how to be effectively engaged in God's mission where they are. Mission is not far away because there are people in our communities who need to hear the Gospel and God has given us the opportunity to engage with them.

Registration and Hotel information:
<https://tinyurl.com/EngagedinMission>





ENGAGED IN MISSION:

Congregation and Community

Schedule

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

2:00 P.M. Plenary Session

Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe:
Evangelism and Outreach

3:00 P.M. Break

3:30 P.M. Sectional 1

Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe: "Outreach at
the Congregational Level" - Clergy

Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff: "Priesthood of
All Believers and Evangelism" - Laity

4:30 P.M. Break

5:00 P.M. Sectional 2

Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe: "Outreach at
the Congregational Level" - Clergy

Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff: "Priesthood of
All Believers and Evangelism" - Laity

6:15 P.M. Dinner

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

8:30 A.M. Plenary Session

Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff
"The Church and Mission"

9:30 A.M. Break

10:00 A.M. Sectional 3

Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe:
"Discipleship Ministry" - Clergy

Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff: "LCMS Church
Planting Process Introduction" - Laity

11:00 A.M. Break

11:30 A.M. Sectional 4

Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe:
"Discipleship Ministry" - Clergy

Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff: "LCMS Church
Planting Process Introduction" - Laity

12:30 P.M. Prayer Service

Accommodations

- Carrollton Hotel & Event Center 1730 US Highway 71 N, Carroll IA 51401
- Call the hotel directly at 712-792-5600 and request the Iowa District West Room Block
- Special Room Rates: Single/King - \$125.00+tax/night or Double/Queen - \$105+tax/night

**Mail \$30.00 registration fee - payable to Iowa District West- To:
Emilie Jenson
Iowa District West LCMS
409 Kenyon Road, Suite B
Fort Dodge IA, 50501*



**GOD'S
MISSION
Here**



Eugenics in America Goes Viral

Eugenics is the practice or advocacy of controlled, selective breeding of human populations. Sadly, a modern-day case of eugenics was on full display on the internet in early June.

On June 3, an X post by YouTube influencer Jesse "McJuggerNuggets" Ridgway sparked a debate about the silent genocide of unborn children. For months, the Ridgways had been producing and posting news of their pregnancy for a massive online audience of more than 4.34 million subscribers. This series of videos and posts included a gender reveal, ultrasounds, and, finally, a personal video of the grief-stricken couple learning that their baby likely had Down syndrome.

On June 3, the Ridgways announced that they had decided to abort their baby at twenty-one weeks gestation. You may remember that two years ago, a premature baby born at twenty-one weeks in our state of Iowa survived and is healthy today. Lord willing, that child will turn two in the first part of July.

The X post announcing the abortion of the Ridgways' child has been viewed more than 24 million times and has garnered nearly 20,000 comments. Some of these comments were supportive of the Ridgways and affirmed the couple's decision to abort. Other comments were dark and threatening, and sadly, some were even death threats. Yet the majority of the comments responded to the justification Jesse used for the abortion. Jesse wrote that life "with Down syndrome isn't a blessing." He cited a number of health issues associated with Down syndrome as reasons for the abortion.

In response to Ridgway's openly eugenic justification for the destruction of his unborn son, hundreds of people posted stories, photos, and videos of their loved ones with Down syndrome, expressing gratitude for their lives, love, and contributions. The beautiful blessings of children and adults with Down syndrome filled social media news feeds.

Down syndrome, also known as Trisomy 21, is a genetic disorder that occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21. This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome.

Tragically, babies diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted at a much higher rate than babies who develop typically. The Ridgways' action reflects what many parents choose to do when they receive this prenatal diagnosis. In the United States, according to reports from the National Institutes of Health, approximately 67% to 85% of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted. In Denmark and Iceland, this number approaches 100%. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

There is a grim silver lining to this story of viral eugenics. It is encouraging that the destruction of a child with Down syndrome provoked such a broadly negative reaction. It indicates that our public immune system regarding eugenics is not yet dead. Let this tragic viral story move you to speak boldly for the voiceless and to insist that all life, regardless of a prenatal diagnosis or a terminal diagnosis later in life, is valued and precious in the sight of God.

Pray for parents who receive this kind of news during their pregnancy journey, that they would choose life for their child and recognize the gift that child is. Walk alongside and support those who are preparing to welcome new children into their homes, regardless of the anticipated challenges.

For more information about Down syndrome, visit the National Down Syndrome Society website. World Down Syndrome Day is observed annually on March 21.

If you or someone you know has received a difficult prenatal diagnosis, know that help is available. Consider the organization Navigating Fetal Concerns or visit prenataldiagnosis.org.

Search YouTube for the videos *Dear Future Mom* or *50 Mums / 50 Kids / 1 Extra Chromosome*. These videos highlight the blessings of children with Down syndrome.

Our own Lutheran Family Service has a Down Syndrome Adoption Program that seeks to connect loving families who are ready to adopt children with Down syndrome with mothers who have received this difficult diagnosis and are open to making an adoption plan. Learn more at:

<https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/pregnancy-support/down-syndrome-adoption/>

Rev. Cory Kroonblawd
Iowa District West Life Coordinator

BUSINESS MANAGER NEWS
Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts



Month Ending June 2026	
Anticipated Amount	\$110,000
Actual Receipts	\$128,765
Year-to-Date Receipts	
Anticipated Amount	\$550,000
Actual Receipts	\$589,537
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$39,537
Use of Mission Receipts	
Remitted to Synod (45%)	\$220,000
Balance for District programs & ministries	\$369,537
Total Receipts	\$589,537
Mission Receipts Compared with Last Year	
Month ending June 2026	\$589,537
Month ending June 2025	\$582,963
Over (under) last year	\$ 6,574

Partners in the Gospel - Monthly Mission Moment

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in a variety of missions, programs, projects, and activities?

The Human Care Committee serves as the heart of Iowa District West, driving initiatives that improve quality of life, support church worker well-being, and cultivate a ministry culture where every individual can thrive.

The 2026 budget includes \$50,150 for human care ministry, which supports Lutheran Family Service, hospital chaplains, church worker wellness, and life advocate activities.

To view the District human care news page, go to www.idwlcms.org/human-care.php. For questions, reach out to Rev. Dr. Keith Haney or Human Care chairman Rev. Tom Vanderbilt.

Stewardship Spark - by Ron Chewning, President of Stewardship Advisors, which provides year-round stewardship education [resources](#) for LCMS churches (248.644.6150 - stewardshipadv@aol.com)

**SINCE JULY 4TH, 1776, THE
UNITED STATES HAS BEEN
THE LAND OF THE FREE.**

Father, thank You for the freedoms
we enjoy in our country. But thank
You more for the freedoms Jesus
Christ won for us all. Amen.



Attention parents - financial support for kids!

Families with young children may be eligible for \$1,000 in free federal funds through a new savings program called Trump Accounts. This program is designed to give children a financial head start and promote financial literacy.

Children are eligible for the \$1,000 federal contribution if they were born between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028. The federal government will deposit the funds into an account established in the child's name. This contribution is not automatic—a parent or guardian must elect to receive it by completing [IRS](#) Form 4547, either on paper or directly through the Trump Accounts app.

Parents manage the account until the child turns 18 and may contribute up to \$5,000 per year. Children who do not meet the birth-year eligibility window may still open a Trump Account; they simply will not receive the \$1,000 federal seed contribution.

More information is available at the Concordia Plans investment partner, [Fidelity](#) or at www.TrumpAccounts.gov.

Church & Clergy Finance/Treasurer's Workshop



Mark your calendar to attend the fall workshop on **Saturday, November 7**, from 9 am to 1 pm at Our Saviour, Denison. Pastors and any individuals within the church having financial responsibilities should attend. The guest speaker will be Bob Joy, a CPA who has been presenting for nearly 30 years and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Questions, contact Roger Curtis 515.576.7666 or Roger@IowaDistrictWest.org.

Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference

The District Administrative Assistants Conference Committee has an excellent program planned for Tuesday, **September 29**, at St Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge. The registration fee is only \$45 if pre-registered and paid before September 8.

The Planning Committee is also excited to announce the keynote speaker for the day will be Shannon Zetterlund who will share some uplifting, encouraging, and educational sessions.

The Conference brochure is on the [District News page](#) and has been mailed. Any questions, contact Roger Curtis or Michelle Hammersland.



Get Ahead on Fall Church Communications (message from Concordia Technologies)

Summer is your calmest season, which makes it the perfect time to prep for the fall rush before rally day, Sunday school registration, stewardship season, and Advent planning take over.

Spend one quiet morning now to save yourself a dozen headaches later:

- **Make one master list** of every fall event from Labor Day to Advent—Sunday school kickoff, Bible studies, stewardship appeal, Reformation, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Advent midweeks, and more. Seeing everything at once is half the work.
- **Give each event three touches:** *save-the-date*, *week-of reminder*, and *thank-you/recap*. It's enough to keep people informed without overwhelming them.
- **Write each announcement once.** Create reusable templates with blanks for date, time, and details. Next year you just fill in the specifics instead of starting over.
- **Use one channel per audience.** Not every message needs to go to email, bulletin, website, and text. Match the message to where that group actually pays attention.

CTS offers free, editable [Communication Templates for Every Church Event](#) to make drafting easier. And if managing announcements across multiple lists and platforms is the real pain point, [Church360° Members](#) keeps every member's information consistent everywhere. LCMS congregations referred by their district can get a free

demo and [\\$100 off their first invoice](#), plus CTS provides a free [Church Office Technology Assessment](#) for congregations wanting expert guidance.

Mid-year IRS mileage rate increase

The 2026 IRS business mileage rate increased to 76 cents per mile for eligible travel beginning July 1, 2026. The rate increased by 3.5 cents from the 72.5-cent rate that applied during the first half of the year. Organizations should retain both rates in their expense systems so that reimbursements are calculated according to when the business mileage occurred. The IRS also increased the rates for medical and certain qualified moving purposes to 23.5 cents per mile, while the charitable mileage rate remains unchanged.

You're Invited: Alliance Defending Freedom Livestream on Church Security

Churches across the country are thinking hard about safety and security right now. Please join our partner, ADF Church & Ministry Alliance, for a livestream: Developing a Church Safety & Security Plan on Wednesday, July 22 at 12 noon. During this 45-minute session, security expert Tim Miller, President & Founder of LionHeart International Services Group, and ADF attorney Patrick Piccolo will walk through important topics and considerations for churches as they discern the right plan for their ministry communities. It will be a practical, encouraging conversation designed to help you prepare your church with confidence. Register [online](#) today!

Concordia Plan Services (CPS) Summer Education Events

Health care continues to evolve, and it can be challenging to stay informed about the complexities of today's health care options. Each ministry has important decisions to make—including selecting the best health care option for the upcoming year. Now is an ideal time to review the changes to the health plan options for 2027.

Anyone interested in learning more about Concordia Health Plan options, special coverages, and what's new for 2027 is encouraged to attend a workshop this summer. Please plan to join one of our virtual education sessions:

Thursday, July 30 at 4 pm
Wednesday, August 5 at 11 am



Register online for the summer presentations:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CPShelp>

Mark your calendar for [Employer Benefits Elections](#). The health plan enrollment timeline for 2027 health care option offerings is September 7–18. Employee/member open enrollment will be November 2–13.

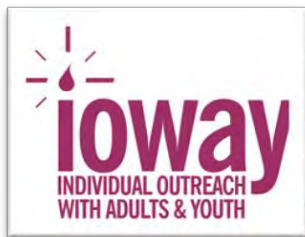
Employer renewal packets with rates were sent electronically via email in early July. As you plan your 2027 budget, please note the Concordia Plans rate adjustments:

- The estimated health plan rate increase is 8%.
- The **Concordia Retirement Plan** (CRP) contribution rates will increase by 1% of compensation next year to 11.7% in 2027. This rate must be paid for anyone working over 20 hours a week AND more than 5 consecutive months. If your ministry experiences a lot of non-rostered worker turnover, Concordia Plan Services has an option called the Account Option. Please contact your Concordia Plans Representative listed below to get more information.
- The **Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan** (CDSP) rates will not change: with dependents **1.75%**; without dependents **1.2%**. The rates are a percentage of the worker's total reported annual compensation (must be paid for anyone working over 20 hours a week AND more than 5 consecutive months).

You can explore a wealth of information anytime at www.concordiaplans.org. Additionally, the *Congregational Treasurer's Manual*, Chapter 4, provides extensive information at www.lcms.org/ctm.

If you have any benefit related questions, contact Roger Curtis or your Concordia Plans account manager:

Employers with 4 or less workers: Erica Villmer	314.885.6874	Erica.Villmer@concordiaplans.org
Employers with more than 4 workers: Greg Lewis	314.885.6735	Greg.Lewis@concordiaplans.org



Julie Mann, IOWAY Coordinator

julie@iowadistrictwest.org

515-408-9696

We are a church of people reaching out when need is known. Follow below on the adventure a group from Redeemer Sioux City took last month. Thank you to the youth and adults that put in hands-on time as well as all of you who helped support this response financially. ~ Julie

Thank you for your support!

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Sioux City, Iowa, recently took a group of 15 people on a mission trip to Sulphur, Oklahoma. Your support made this possible, whether through financial contributions, prayers, or lending a helping hand. We are truly grateful.

While in Sulphur, we were joined by four students from Hope Lutheran Church. They jumped right in and quickly became part of our group, helping with the work we were doing throughout the week. It was a blessing to have them serve alongside us.

We were also blessed with two special ladies who served as our kitchen crew. They prepared most of our meals, keeping us well fed and ready for each day's work. They also jumped in to help with our projects on several occasions. During their downtime, they took on a special project of their own by sorting and cleaning 1,000 American flags needed for the American Legion's Fourth of July celebration marking America's 250th year.

We departed on Sunday, June 21, 2026. The drive went mostly smoothly, though we encountered a detour that added about an hour and a half to our trip. Upon arrival, Charlie welcomed us to camp with some of the best fried and barbecued chicken we had ever eaten. We got settled into the air-conditioned cabins at Goddard Youth Camp and enjoyed a restful first night.



Monday morning, we headed to the Expo Center, generously provided by Debbie and the OSU Extension Service, where we shared most of our meals. After breakfast, rain set in and continued throughout the day. Despite the weather, Debbie found us a project: cleaning out an attic. We formed an assembly line and completed the job efficiently.

After lunch, we split into two groups. My brother, Joseph, led one team to clear trees and branches from a chain-link fence for a local resident. I led the other group to what we came to call the "Deck Project." What began as a simple resurfacing quickly turned into a full demolition and rebuild. By the end of the day, we



had completed the demolition. Before supper, we visited Flower Park, where the group experienced the natural Sulphur springs and cooled off in the stream. That evening, my parents traveled down from northwestern Oklahoma and prepared Indian tacos for us.

Tuesday brought intense heat, with only a slight chance of rain. We spent the morning working on the deck, digging post holes while Charlie gathered the necessary materials and tools. After lunch, storms began to build, and we were forced to return to camp. It rained seven inches in just five hours. While waiting out the storm, we improvised a game of "Spoons" using flashlights instead. That evening, a member of our host church treated us to dinner at Mazzio's Pizza.

Wednesday morning, everything was soaked. We needed a dry project, so we delivered 12 boxes of donated quilts to a local nursing home. Later, we assessed the storm damage and resumed work. Half the group finished the brush-clearing project, while the rest of us re-dug post holes and continued building the deck. By the end of the day, we had set the posts, added cross-bracing, and installed the beams. Due to the heat, we wrapped up early and cooled off at the lake while enjoying hamburgers and hot dogs.



On Thursday, we returned to our projects. The brush crew transitioned into a painting crew, scraping and preparing Caroline's house for painting. The deck crew completed the framework and began laying deck boards. That evening, Debbie's church, Central Church, blessed us with a meal featuring classic

Oklahoma dishes, including chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cornbread, fried okra, squash, and pecan pie.

Friday was our final workday. The painting crew completed Caroline's house while the deck crew finished the handrails, stairs, and spindles. Charlie brought a paint sprayer, and the painting crew ultimately finished first! With temperatures soaring, we wrapped up and headed to Chickasaw National Recreation Area, where we visited the Nature Center and swam in Little Niagara, a refreshing 64-degree natural waterfall.

Saturday was our recreation day. Although flooding prevented us from visiting Turner Falls up close, we

viewed the 77-foot waterfall from an overlook. Six brave members of our group even rode the zipline! We later met Charlie in Davis for one final barbecue meal consisting of brisket, pulled pork, ribs, and all the fixings.

On Sunday, June 28, we worshiped at Hope Lutheran Church in Sulphur, our host congregation, before beginning our journey home. We arrived back in Sioux City at 7:45 p.m.

Thank you again to everyone who supported this mission trip. It is only through your generosity, prayers, and the grace of God that we were able to serve the people of Sulphur.

Blessings,

DCE Jonathon Bailey



Trauma is complex.
*Helping doesn't
have to be.*



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Our world is stressed and hurting. People around you need spiritual and emotional care. Join LCC and the Iowa West District to learn how you can become an effective spiritual first responder, right where God has placed you. Jesus taught us to love and serve our neighbors. Discover how you can be the empathetic, helping presence He has called you to be.

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- ✓ **Gain practical helping skills through applied activities and role-playing**
- ✓ **Understand research-backed tactics, trauma care practices, and field-tested tools**

Friday, Aug 28 & Saturday, Aug 29

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.* 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Iowa West District Offices

409 Kenyon #B, Fort Dodge IA 50501

* Light dinner provided on Friday.

** Lunch and snacks provided on Saturday.

\$25 per
registration
(\$129 value)



REGISTER



To be certified in Spiritual First Aid™, you must attend both days of the training.

Aug 29 & 30: LCC President Rev. Chris Singer will preach at St. Paul Lutheran Fort Dodge, 1217 4th Ave S.

Planting Seeds Of Faith



AGES
0-18



SUPPORT LCMS
MINISTRIES



INTEREST COMPOUNDED
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NO MONTHLY
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MISSION CENTRAL

LCMS Mission Advancement

40718 County Highway E-16

Mapleton, Iowa 51034

www.missioncentral.us



Missionary Gary Thies, *Director and Mission Counselor*
Rev. Steve Schulz, *Mission Advocate and Pastoral Advisor*
Mr. Jim Schroeder, *Gift and Estate Planning Counselor*

Gary.Thies@lcms.org (712) 251-1264
Steve.Schulz@lcms.org (712) 882-1029
Jim.Schroeder@lcms.org (515) 490-7371

August 2026



On June 3, 2026, we welcomed some very special visitors from Peace Lutheran Church in Hastings, Nebraska. They enjoyed a delicious noon meal and received a complete tour of our campus. They were delighted to hear that we are all missionaries who can share the good news of Jesus with others. It was a day they will always remember.



We were blessed to

welcome **our newest LCMS missionaries** on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, for mission orientation and a full tour of our campus. These new missionaries will be deployed to their fields of service later this year. They will serve in Germany, Peru, Puerto Rico, Tanzania, Belize, Romania, and the Dominican Republic. We thank and praise God for their servant hearts and ask that you remember them in your daily prayers.





Hannah Potantus – Tanzania



Christopher Amen – Dominican Republic



Tim and Lisa Sandeno - Germany



Beatrice Suggs – Romania



Sergio Maita – Puerto Rico



Nora Betts – Dominican Republic



Kate Phillips – Dominican Republic



Cadence Fulfs – Belize



Evreda Cepeda - Peru



What a blessing to have a new coating and sealer for the entire parking lot at Mission Central! This special treatment was applied in order to take care of cracks and weathering on our asphalt parking area. Looks pretty spiffy, doesn't it? Come visit us and see for yourself!

!AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!

News from *Las Iglesias Evangélicas Luteranas*
Amigos en Cristo in Denison and Gracia in Storm Lake
Pastor Pedro Lopez

August 2026



Rev. Pedro Lopez

Assistant to the President
Missionary at Large

pedro@iowadistrictwest.org
571-606-7600 (cell)

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! On this Pentecost season, I pray that you are encouraged and strengthened in your walk of faith. We give thanks to the Lord for the many ways He continues to bless our ministry.

Here are a few recent updates from the communities where we are serving and building relationships.

We are excited to share that we will partner with St. Paul Lutheran Church and sister churches in Council Bluffs to reach out to the Hispanic community. St. Paul has opened its Learning Center for us to use for Hispanic ministry. In early May, we met with the pastors and a group of future volunteers, and we began inviting people by volunteering with their Swaddling Clothes program. We are very excited about this new outreach and will keep you updated with dates.

At St. Paul Carroll, our ESL classes ended on June 9. We are thankful for our dedicated teacher volunteers and the hard work they put into serving our students. One teacher had the wonderful idea of teaching while volunteering with students to do yard work at the church. We welcomed two new students, Angelo and Clemencia, who faithfully attended class. We also advertised basic guitar lessons, though no one has joined yet. Our Carroll members and friends, along with Julie from the district office, served a taco meal that became a very nice gathering. The funds raised will help cover the cost of our participation in the National Hispanic Convention. Our Saturday evenings of praise, prayer, and Bible study continue to be a meaningful time together, and we also enjoy our monthly fellowship gatherings.

At St. John in Storm Lake, we continue supporting the Swaddling Clothes program on the second Saturday of each month. Through this service, we have opportunities to meet families and invite them to our Sunday worship service at Grace.

Home Bible studies with families also continue, and it is a blessing to spend time together in God's Word.

We also continue working with a family we met during our ESL class in Deloit. I was honored to take part in their daughter's Quinceañera, where I shared the Word of God with her, her family, and friends—about 100 people in all.

Prayer Requests

- our Hispanic ministries and the communities we serve. Your faithful support is a great encouragement, and we give thanks to the Lord for each of you.
- for our new work in Council Bluffs: For the new contacts we are meeting, and for the Lord to draw them into a closer relationship with Him.
- My wife and me, that the Lord would graciously guide, strengthen, and equip us for the work He has entrusted to us.

Bendiciones,
Pastor Lopez





Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 12-18: Cub Week 2
July 19-25: Youth Week
July 26-31: Family Retreat 1
Aug. 2: Omelet Brunch - 9:30 am-1 pm
Aug. 2-7: Family Retreat 2

Thank You!

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- We are so grateful for the many volunteers for our monthly Omelet Brunches! Thank you to everyone who helps and volunteers to make them so successful. In July we served almost 370 people!
- A big shout-out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Milbrandt, who not only helps communicate and round up volunteers, she also dedicates MANY hours helping around Camp, especially in the Kitchen.
- Many thanks to the volunteers that helped us serve the Iowa West District LWML Convention and Camp Minneboji! Those are some of our biggest events, and we can't do it without the many volunteers that step up to help us! Thank you!

In June, Camp Okoboji was blessed to host the biennial Iowa West District LWML Convention with more than 230 guests. We enjoy hosting the group and give thanks for their years of partnership with Camp Okoboji!

Summer Chaplain Schedule

Join us for worship - 9 am

July 12 - Rev. David Beagley – Ames
July 19 - Rev. David Matthews – Paullina/Sutherland
July 26 - Rev. Mark Lund - Garner
August 2 - Rev. James Travis – Sioux City
August 9 - Rev. Dr. Kristopher Morris - Seward, NE
August 16 - Rev. Dr. Joshua Lowe – Hawarden
August 23 - Rev. Chris Nitzel - Hartley
August 30 - Rev. Benjamin Dose – Algona
September 6 - Rev. Robert Zellmer – Lawton

A big “Kudos” to our Summer Staff this year. We are severely understaffed, and the staff we have are working so hard. Please continue to speak with high school and college youth in your communities and congregations about serving at Camp in the future. We need it to be a constant message amongst our congregations to ensure we have the staff in the future to properly support our mission and ministry!



Who's pushing the wheelbarrow of your life?

There was a man who walked across Niagara Falls on a tight rope. After crossing, he turns to the crowds and asks, "Do you believe that I can walk across these falls on a tight rope?". The crowds, of course, answers "Yes" because they had just seen him do it. The man then takes a wheelbarrow and pushes it in front of him as he walks back across the Falls on the tight rope. When he gets across to the other side, he asks the crowd, "Do you believe that I can walk across the Falls pushing a wheelbarrow?". Once again, the crowd answers "Yes", because again, they had just watched him do it. Finally, one of the man's friends climbs into the wheelbarrow, and the man pushes the wheelbarrow with the man in it across the tight rope to the other side. As before, the walker asks the crowd, "Do you believe I can walk across the Falls pushing a wheelbarrow with a man inside?". And again, the crowd answers "Yes" as they just watched him do it. Then the tight rope walker asks the crowd, "Who wants to go next?".

Would you go? Or better yet, would you let your child go? There may be a few daredevils out there that would take that risk, but I'd be willing to bet that they would have second thoughts about letting their child get in that wheelbarrow. Why is that? If you just watched this man walk across that rope successfully, without any problems, and you saw that he was confident, why wouldn't you let your child go? Would it make a difference if he went back and forth 5 times with his friend in the wheelbarrow? How about 10 times? I'll tell you, for me, I don't care if he went across successfully 100 times, I would not let my child into that wheelbarrow. Why? Because it only takes one

thing to go wrong. An unexpected breeze could come up and knock them off. The child could get scared, and, in a panic, get up and want to get out of the wheelbarrow. A bird could fly by and either hit the walker or scare him and knock him off. There are a lot of unknown variables that could cause a fall that would result in sure death for your child. That's a risk that I'm not willing to take. And I'd bet that the majority of you would feel the same. When it comes to our child's physical safety, we are pretty strict about the things that may put our kid into harm's way.

So why are we so nonchalant about the things that are harmful to our kids' spiritual lives? We'll let them wear clothes that are immodest and say, "Oh that's just the style today". We don't monitor the kind of music that they are listening to. We don't know who their friends are. We'll let them watch movies (this is one that I am guilty of) with us that we shouldn't even be watching ourselves, saying it's just entertainment. We'll let them go out on dates alone with another boy or girl when they are 14, 15, 16, & 17 years old. Why do we allow these things to happen? Are we afraid of being too strict? Are we afraid our kids are not going to like us? Are we afraid that other parents are going to think we are being ridiculous. I've heard it. I've heard, "You're just being ridiculous", or "I did those things as a kid, and I turned out okay". I've said some of those things myself. The point isn't that if we allow our kids to do these things that they are guaranteed to have problems. The point is, if we allow our kids to do these things, we are putting them at risk for damaging problems and possible spiritual death. Jesus says, **"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able**

to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28 NIV). So we shouldn't be worried about what others are going to think of us, or even what our kids are going to think of us. We should worry about what God thinks of us.

Sometimes we have backwards thinking about our lives. We think that we should just live our lives the way we want to and then when we get in trouble, we turn to God to bail us out, instead of living the lives that God wants us to live. We tell ourselves that because everyone else is doing it, it's okay. Let's say that a friend you know let their kid get in the wheelbarrow, and they made it across without problems, would you let your child get in now? My guess is, probably not.

If we were to put our child in harm's way physically, we would have Child Protection Services beating down our door so fast our head would swim. But where is the concern when we see someone who has put their child in harm's way spiritually? We should show that same concern, not only for our child, but for others as well.

Immodesty, teen dating, secular television and movies, radio, friends, and activities are pushing that wheelbarrow across the chasm of destruction. Are we willing to risk letting our child get into the wheelbarrow?

Rev. David Zirpel

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City, IA

THE LAMPLIGHTER



Theme: "What a Celebration!"

July, 2026

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

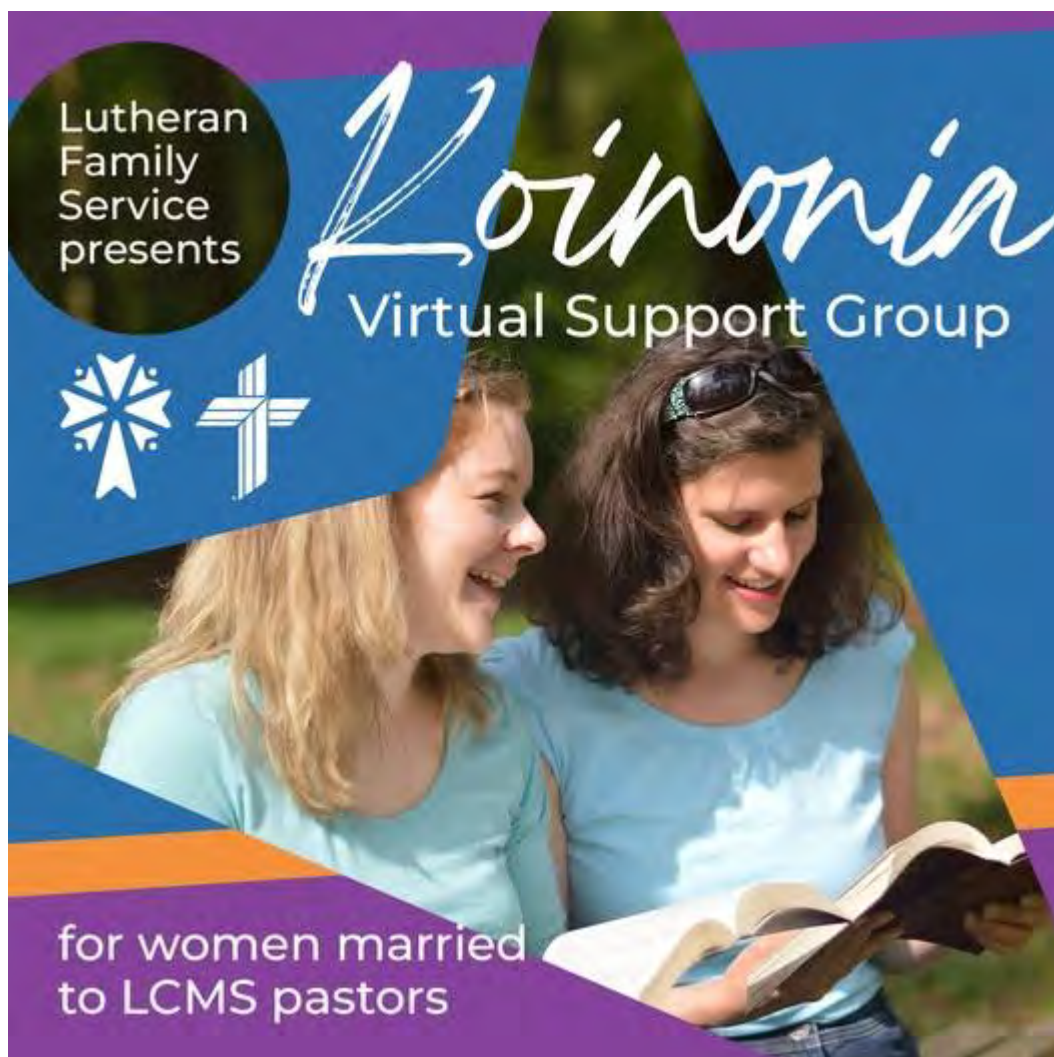
The Good Shepherd Hour airs every Sunday
morning on the following radio stations:

KSCJ – 1360 AM & 94.9 FM	Sioux City at 8 a.m.
KLEM – 1410 AM & 96.9 FM	LeMars 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 airs Sunday mornings on KCAU
Channel 9 at 10:30 AM & Programming at 10 AM.

Pastors' Wives: Find support. Build connections. Strengthen your journey. Koinonia Groups are back and better than ever! Join a supportive online community led by licensed counselors who understand the unique joys and challenges of life in ministry. Multiple group times are available beginning in July and August.

The more the merrier — whether you're new to Koinonia or returning, we'd love to have you join us! Sign up today: <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/koinonia/>



JUBILATE DEO

Lutheran Music Workshop

Grades 2 -12

Thursday, August 13
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
239 Frank St.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503



Choral and Keyboard Masterclasses

Dr. Kurt Von Kampen & Dr. Elizabeth Grimpo
(Concordia University Nebraska)



Piano & Organ Design Presentations

Local Experts



Free.
Lunch provided.
Space is limited.
Register today!
www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org
712-322-4729

Evening Family Events

4:30 p.m.	Conservatory Open House David's Harp Presentation
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Recital by Dr. Elizabeth Grimpo

Thank You to Iowa District West LCMS for its support.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Iowa District West

August 2026

The following events are hosted by District congregations/circuits.
Contact information is provided.
To include your church's event, send information to emilie@iowadistrictwest.org.

Join us in thanksgiving for a
SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE and
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION



for PASTOR MARK HEILMAN
1984-2026
Memorial Lutheran Church & Student Center

JULY | 26 | 2026

8:30 a.m. Special Music Service
11:00 a.m. Regular Service

LUNCHEON & PROGRAM
following the 11 AM service
Please RSVP to help us plan for meal.

WE INVITE YOU TO SEND A CARD OR
DIGITAL NOTE:

Memorial Lutheran Church & Student Center
2228 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014
or

[Digital Note link](#)



Church Closing Special Worship

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 500 4th Ave. SW,
Spencer, will officially close in August 2026.

You are invited to Join the congregation for its Closing
Worship Service on Sunday, August 2 at 2:00 p.m.
They would be honored to have you attend this special
time of worship, remembrance, and fellowship. Re-
freshments will follow the service.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Iowa District West

August 2026

The following events are hosted by District congregations/circuits.
Contact information is provided.
To include your church's event, send information to emilie@iowadistrictwest.org.



Stop by the Redeemer Food Co-Op Booth at the Woodbury County Fair!

While enjoying all the fun and excitement of the Woodbury County Fair, be sure to visit the **Redeemer Food Co-Op Booth** in the **Bleu Building**.

From **August 5-9**, fairgoers can enjoy delicious homemade **food, pies, jellies, and jams** served daily from **9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Every purchase helps support meaningful ministries and organizations throughout the Siouxland area, including **Mission: Siouxland, LWML, Siouxland Youth Connect, Billy's Hope Orphanage, Boy Scouts, and St. Paul's Lutheran School.**



The congregation of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newell is proud to celebrate 120 years of God's grace! Founded in 1905, the church will mark this special milestone with a celebration on August 30, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the church, located at 314 S. Clark St., Newell.

Everyone is welcome to attend! A light lunch will be served following the service, and several former pastors will be sharing remarks. Pictures of the old church will also be on display.

Please join us as we celebrate this wonderful occasion. Pastor Lesemann is currently serving the congregation during its vacancy.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Iowa District West

August 2026

The following events are hosted by District congregations/circuits.
Contact information is provided.
To include your church's event, send information to emilie@iowadistrictwest.org.

St. Pauls Lutheran School, Sioux City, Annual Golf Outing; All are welcome!

Get your team registered! Sponsor a Hole, and get your steak dinner tickets! It is time for our Annual Golf Outing and Steak Dinner! You can sign up your team of 4, sponsor a hole, or get tickets to the steak dinner at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sioux City. Call the office at 712-258-6325

- **Tee time is 1:00 p.m.** at Sun Valley Golf Course (2101 Military Rd. Sioux City, IA 51103). Golf Cost \$90/ person & includes 18 holes, cart, prizes and steak dinner. (teams of 4)
- **Steak Dinner** cost \$20/Adults & \$10/Children under 12. Dinner begins at 4:30 p.m. at the St. Paul's Gym (612 Jennings St. Sioux City, IA 51101)
- **Hole Sponsorships** wanted: Gold—\$1,000, Silver—\$500, Bronze—\$200 and General Hole—\$100. Sponsors will be showcased at the first hole with their name or business name under their sponsorship level.



ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

St. Paul's LUTHERAN SCHOOL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

TEE TIME AT 1:00 P.M.

FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE

2101 MILITARY ROAD, SIOUX CITY, IOWA

REGISTRATION \$90 PER PLAYER CALL 712-258-6325 TO REGISTER

The poster features a central image of a golf ball on a tee, with two golf clubs (a driver and a wedge) crossed behind it. The background is a lush green golf course. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the event title at the top, the school name in the center, the date below that, and the registration details at the bottom. The poster is framed by a dark red border with decorative gold-colored patterns in the corners.