

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
229 11TH AVE W  
GRINNELL IA 50112-8217

***April Newsletter***

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LC-MS**

**229 11TH AVENUE WEST**

**GRINNELL, IA 50112**

**OFFICE- 641-236-6691**

**OFFICE EMAIL- [lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com](mailto:lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com)**

**WEBSITE- [www.immanuelgrinnell.org](http://www.immanuelgrinnell.org)**

**REV. DR. JOEL G. KOEPP**

**EMAIL- [koeppj@hotmail.com](mailto:koeppj@hotmail.com)**

**ALL SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE  
SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR FACEBOOK**

**LET US KNOW...**

**If you have a change in address, phone or email, have a loved one who is or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if you would like a special prayer during the prayers of the church on Sunday, please contact Pastor Koeppe or the church office.**

**DO YOU...**

**have an announcement for the bulletin or newsletter?**

**Have a prayer request? Birth/Anniversary/Graduation announcements?**

**If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin or newsletter by the deadlines listed below to the church secretary at [lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com](mailto:lcms.immanuelgrinnell@gmail.com)**

**Deadline for submitting in the weekly bulletin is Thursdays by noon.**

**Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month.**

**For those of you without email access, please call or submit your written request to the church secretary.**



# Hello April

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# Pastor's Message

## “The Stone is Removed!”

Alleluia Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Even with all the unrest in the world and maybe in your own life, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! The women went to the tomb expecting to mourn and finish their burial customs. They went with heavy hearts, and expected to see a large stone blocking their entrance. They expected to go and find a heavy burden imposed on them. A burden that they would somehow have to bear.

As they go with great heaviness, what did they find? They found the stone had been rolled away for them. Their burden concerning death was gone. Their work of death was over and now in its place was a work of light and life! They were told to go and tell Jesus disciples' that Jesus will see them just as He had said. This caused them to flee from the tomb with trembling and astonishment.

This first Easter morning was so important and so life-giving that it was celebrated every week. The glorious news of life over death, the announcement of the defeat of Satan through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead is life changing. To live in remembrance of this day, we have a wonderful freedom in America to gather together and be reminded weekly of the proclamation of the reality of the Resurrection for us. We gather together and receive life-giving blood even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

This is not always easy, of course. Many dread to come to worship on Sundays. We fear the drive-up or the walk-up to this place, because we are still burdened by sin. All of us are burdened with sin. Death still stalks us and lurks around corners trying to get us to run away from God and His gifts. Satan is there to cast doubt. My sinful nature tries to convince me that I just don't feel like it.

We are just like the women in our Gospel reading on that first Easter. We approach the coming here with the thoughts of death and the work that will be expected of us when we get here. You know the kinds of death works that I am talking about. Many of us may think, "I have to smile and talk to people that I may not want to. I have to live and act and move and man is there energy that I am going to have to give. I might have to sing, and then stand for a long time until I can finally sit down, then if I am a teacher or on a board then more is expected of me. Oh, and if I have kids, I have to make sure that they sit down, and Pastor is going to try and teach me something that I'm pretty sure I already know. Not to mention the social pressure after the service of small-talk. There is just a lot of work to go to church."

Like the women, we come with expectations and our expectations are changed. We come thinking of the stone, expecting the stone, and the things that I am going to have to do before I can talk or even approach God. What do we find? The stone has been rolled away. I have heard that church is for the weak, and let me tell you, "That is exactly right!" Here the weak in sin, stalked by death and Satan and the darkness of the world and our sinful nature gather together where weekly the weak are given the light of Christ. Here we gather where the stone has been rolled away. We come weak to the One who has the strength. St. Paul was told by God, "***My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.***" (2 Corinthians 12:9) These words you may remember in a more familiar way as they were set to music, "They are weak but He is strong."

God's power is made perfect in weakness. His grace is sufficient. The power of God has rolled away the stone of death, and here we come where God has dressed a man in a white robe with the same message. You seek Jesus of Nazareth?

I know where to find Him. Here are His words. Here is God joined in water for you. Here His life given on the cross for you, eat and drink for your life. Here you see Him just as He told you with His own words that He spoke on the night of His betrayal.

You who come with death, here is life. Christ has risen just as He said. Christ is risen and the new day is dawning. Christ is risen and we are privileged to once again celebrate the proclamation of His resurrection. This year will have enough struggles and pains and hurts of its own. Each week will have many failures, and in the face of these, each week again we get to gather together and hear the proclamation, **“Christ has risen just as He said!”** (Matthew 28:6) In the words of St. Paul, “Let us therefore celebrate the festival!” (1 Corinthians 5:8) In the face of death and Satan, and anxiety, sloth, indifference, temptation, isolation, and every other thing the world and my sinful nature has to throw at me; because of this day, we confess with Job, **“I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God.”** (Job 19:25-26) This is truth for all who believe.

Some of you have lost the bodies of faithful loved ones due to death and its effects, but death has lost its everlasting power. Death has been defeated and you will see them again. As Christ has been raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, you will walk in new life; both your body and soul. Your loved ones, their bodies and their souls, you will see again. They are at rest. They no longer struggle and work. Their souls enjoy the bliss of heaven as they wait for the Resurrection, when both their body and their soul will be glorified.

We do not become angels when we die, as many modern songs, books, and even recent movies, try to teach. We don't fall asleep on this earth, then get wings so that we can continue to work. Scripture is clear that our work is here, towards our neighbors. If you want to know what God says in these matters, don't neglect to read and study the words that He has given to you. If you believe that God's Word is God's Word, then let us trust what He has to say to us; there is great and more comfort given there.

Revelation 14 tells us, **“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors.”** (Revelation 14:13) Hebrews 4 says, **“Whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works.”** (Hebrews 4:10) Jesus declared the end by proclaiming, **“It is finished.”** (John 19:30) Isaiah 14 proclaims that God will give rest from the pain, turmoil, and hard service of this life. (Isaiah 14:3) Those who have fallen asleep now rest from their labors. Those loved ones, whom we miss dearly, we can be comforted that they are awaiting the Resurrection. It is no comfort that they are given wings and now have to work and watch over us! Jesus Himself does that. He has angels, created angels, that are charged with that very task. Our loved ones rest. They are free from work and toil.

What comfort and joy as we see our work, and the great works of God done for us on our behalf. He is arisen. He has broken the tomb. He has died to set us free from sins prison and so we have not works of death, but works of life. We wonderfully get to teach our children the works of God. We get to share the burden of raising them in the faith. Our works of life await in spreading the Gospel, in teaching our children, and in visiting those who need to be visited. To the sinners who are secure in their sins, we proclaim the reality of death, so that they will repent and know the life that is freely theirs. This work seems tedious; it seems to go on forever, and many of us feel like we have put in our time and now it is someone else’s turn. But we work while it is day, because night is coming when no one can work. And here is the truth: rest awaits us all! The Resurrection awaits us all.

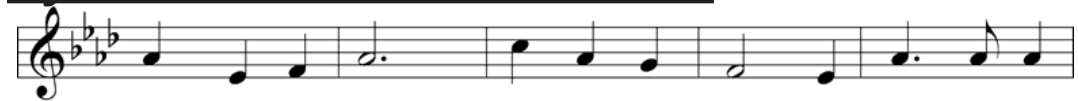
Easter truly is a festival that we celebrate all year long as we are weekly reminded of our rest, our Resurrection, our victory over sin, death, and Satan, and that all of it has been done for us on the cross; sealed with Jesus’ blood and victoriously proclaimed by His Resurrection. He has arisen and we know where to find Him. His word has told us, and He will continue to spread a table before us in the midst of our enemies.

“Jesus is risen and we shall arise:  
 Give God the glory! Alleluia!  
 Weeping, be gone;  
 Sorrow, be silent:  
 Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
 Cherubim sing:  
 “O grave, be open!”  
 Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.”


Alleluia Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

**Hymn ‘Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen’**

LSB 474



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the  
 3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -  
 sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us  
 Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the  
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: “O grave, be  
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 o - pen!” Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009  
 Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922–87  
 Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001879  
 Tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001879

## President's Piece for Peace

The theme selected for the 2026 LCMS National Convention is "Christ Is Risen Indeed" taken from I Corinthians chapter 15. "Christ is risen" is the core and the essence of the Holy Christian Church. It is so pivotal to the Faith that, apart from it, there is no Christian Church. Jesus Christ crucified and risen is the factor that separates Christianity from all other religions of the world.

Some religions talk about a dying god but none who have risen from the dead. This is true of all except Greek mythology who does speak of Dionysus being a dying and rising god of the vine. His dying and rising is in rhythm with the harvest season of grapes. He dies every year after the harvest and rises again in the springtime with the blooming of grape vines.

This god of the vine was celebrated every year in the city of Cana. It was there that Jesus attended a wedding where they ran out of wine for the festivities. Right in the midst of the town where Dionysus was worshipped, amid wine country, Jesus shows He doesn't need grapes to make wine. The water jars for ceremonial washing were filled once again with water. When the servers drew out the water, it was the finest of wines. Jesus demonstrated His power and authority over any other religion that bespoke of a dying and rising god.

**Jesus Christ crucified and risen is the factor that separates Christianity from all other religions of the world.**

Later, in the town of Nain, only six miles from Cana, Jesus met up with a funeral procession. Jesus walked up to the cot carrying the dead son of a widow. He touched the coffin and said, "Young man, I say to you, get up." The boy rose from the dead. Jesus demonstrates His power and authority over death. He is the Lord of Life and death must give way to Him.

That is why the Christian Faith proudly proclaims Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It is the core, the essence, and the foundation upon which faith stands. Without it, as Paul says, we have no hope. In I Corinthians 15 Paul states three different times, "He was raised on the third day...it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead...Christ has indeed been raised from the dead." Why the emphasis? Because that is what happened. Paul even references it having come from the Scriptures as truthful testimony. The eyewitnesses were used by the Holy Spirit to record this miracle as the foundation of all preaching.

"Christ is Risen" is what all pastors have the privilege and honor to preach. It is what teachers teach their students. "Christ is Risen" is to be read from the lectern, sung in the hymns, prayed in the liturgy, proclaimed from the pulpit, taught from the classroom podium, and spoken neighbor to neighbor. "Christ is Risen" is true and nothing, not philosophy, not human reason, nor whimsical feelings can change the truth.

That is why "Christ is Risen Indeed" is the theme of the 2026 convention. There is nothing more important we can stand for, nothing more important we can believe and speak. Celebrate this wonderful, one-time death and resurrection of the only true God there is, Jesus Christ, who has gone to such depths to save us. Because He lives, we too shall live.

God grant you His peace.

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders, District President

# Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca



April 2026

## Summer is On its Way! We still need counselors!

Summer camp registrations have continued to pour in! While we hope this continues, we still need more counselors to ensure that all those registered get to experience the best camp has to offer this summer! We need both male and female counselors to serve in these roles. Becoming a counselor at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca provides a great opportunity to serve others, share the Christian faith, and be a role-model for all the kids who attend camp! It is also a great way to develop professional skills such as working and communicating with people of all ages, being able to adapt, and making quick and sound decisions in a variety of situations. We anticipate needing up to 7 more counselors to accommodate the amount of campers getting registered! PLEASE HELP!!!! We're primarily looking for LC-MS college-aged young adults over the age of 18 to serve as counselors in overnight and day camp settings. If you're wondering if you or someone you know is camp staff material, don't! We'll train you in all you need to know for leading campers in a rewarding work environment. Just look at what some of our evaluations have said about our camp staff.

*"The staff did a great job and made my son feel welcome for his first camp experience."*

*"The positive and passionate staff made a great impression on me."*

Young people today need Christian role models in their lives, and year after year, our summer staff provide our campers with a summer camp experience filled with safety, fun, friendship, adventure, and Christian learning. For more information or to begin your application process, please go to [www.nloma.org](http://www.nloma.org) or contact Alec Deppe at 319-848-4187 or [programdirector@iodiseca.org](mailto:programdirector@iodiseca.org). We look forward to assembling a great team for 2026!



Begin your  
summer  
employment  
application  
process  
today!

## Spring Cleanup: Volunteers Needed

**Saturday, May 2; 9:00am - 3:00pm**



On May 2nd, join us here at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca as we get things ready to go for a busy summer camp season. We have a number of projects to complete before summer begins, and we could use your help! Our current list of projects includes landscaping around the lodges as well as washing windows and hemming curtains. Additional projects may be added ahead of time or completed on the day-of, depending on what time allows. We'll have tasks for people of all ages, so you can bring the whole family. Remember, lunch is included! Email [director@iodiseca.org](mailto:director@iodiseca.org) to let us know that you are coming. We appreciate your help in making Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca beautiful for the upcoming year!

[3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333](https://www.google.com/maps/place/3271+Sandy+Beach+Road+NE,+Solon,+IA+52333)

## Camp Presentations

Would you like to know more about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca? Camp Director Dylan Lampe and Program Director Alec Deppe are available to speak to congregations and groups about Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca's mission, facilities, and programs. Call 319-848-4187 to schedule a speaker!



## THRIVENT CHOICE

In 2025, Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca received over \$12,000 in Thrivent Choice contributions! Thank you donors for making this program a success for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Will you help make 2026 an even better year in Thrivent Choice giving?

Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/> or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice" to designate your choice dollars for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca today. **Thank you for making Thrivent Choice a valuable stream of revenue for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca!**



THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®

## Needs List

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

## Important Dates

April 11

*Lutheran Hour Ministries Convention*

May 1

*Registration Discount Deadline #2*

May 2

*Spring Cleanup*

May 21-22

*Iowa Lutheran  
Theological Symposium*

June 10

*1st Day of Summer Camp*

July 25

*Summerfest & Fundraiser Auction*

## Junior Counselors

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca also needs **Junior Counselors (JC's)** to assist with the summer program. Applicants should be at least **15 years old**. JCs spend the week with a cabin group, enjoying the many camp activities and serving as a positive role model and motivator for younger campers while helping the cabin counselors supervise younger campers. It's a great experience for only \$100 per week.

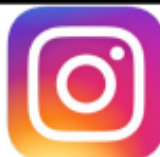
Please contact Program Director Alec Deppe by emailing [programdirector@iodiseca.org](mailto:programdirector@iodiseca.org) for more information or to receive an application.



Junior Counselor  
Application



[Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca](https://www.facebook.com/Camp-Io-Dis-E-Ca)



[@campiodiseca](https://www.instagram.com/campiodiseca)

[3271 Sandy Beach Road NE, Solon, IA 52333](https://www.campiodiseca.org)

phone 319.848.4187

web [www.campiodiseca.org](http://www.campiodiseca.org)

email [office@iodiseca.org](mailto:office@iodiseca.org)

# IDE GOLF OUTING

## TARA HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

### VAN HORNE, IA

Monday, June 15, 2026

Arrive by 8:30am; Tee-Off at 9:00am



All IDE Professional Church Workers, Pastors, Teachers, Staff and spouses are invited to join us for a day of golf at Tara Hills Country Club.

Prizes awarded and Lunch provided.

In case of inclement weather, call Tara Hills—319-228-8771 or Daniel Sanchez—319-389-0120



- Who:** All Professional Church Workers, Pastors, Staff, and Spouses
- What:** Annual Two-Person Best Shot Golf Tournament  
9 Holes—Bring your own partner, or we will pair you up
- When:** Monday, June 15, 2026  
Arrive by 8:30am; Tee-off at 9:00am
- Where:** Tara Hills Country Club  
1846 70th Street  
Van Horne, IA 52346
- Cost:** \$50.00 Green Fees & Cart Rental  
(register/pay at IDE Website)

Registration is open. You can register online through our website [Lcmside.org/golf](http://Lcmside.org/golf). Please contact the District Office at 319-373-2112 with any questions.



**IOWA  
LUTHERAN  
THEOLOGICAL  
SYMPOSIUM:**

Repentance: The Role of the  
Passions in Christian Theology  
*and*

Active Greek: Koine Greek as  
a Living Language

**May 21-22, 2026**

**Registration Information**  
(Lay People Welcome)

**With Lodging:**

Symposium with 1 Night of Lodging &  
Meals \$65

**Without Lodging:**

Symposium with Meals (stay off site) \$35

**REGISTER HERE**

or by scanning this QR code



**Location:**

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca  
3271 Sandy Beach Rd NE  
Solon, IA 52333

**Questions? Contact**

Alec Deppe  
programdirector@iodiseca.org  
319-848-4187

Rev. John Dolde: 260-579-6604

# Hope

"Be joyful in HOPE, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12

**LWML Marshalltown Zone  
Spring Rally  
April 11, 2025**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
Rural Lacona/Germantown  
2002 20th Place  
Lacona, IA 50139**

**Please RSVP by March 29,  
to  
jlroe23@yahoo.com  
or call Bonnie Roe  
at 515-971-1983**

## **Ignite Hope!**

Cancer is strong. Hope is stronger.

**Guest Speaker: Judy Earnshaw  
Phil's Friends**

*The LORD upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down. Psalm 145: 14*

Their Mission: To provide Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer through Care Packages, cards of hope, encouragement, and prayer.

Their Vision: They believe in a world where no one faces cancer alone. Where every individual impacted by cancer receives Christ-centered hope, comfort and support.

## Schedule

9:00AM Registration (\$5), Coffee & donuts  
*Love offering to Phil's Friends*  
9:30 Welcome by St. Paul  
Response by State Center  
Opening Prayer/Devotion  
*Offering for Marshalltown Zone treasury*  
9:45 Bible Study  
10:30 Phil's Friends and Card Making,  
11:30 Business Meeting  
12:15 Lunch Prayer

## Lunch Menu

Chicken Noodle Soup  
Vegetable Soup  
Chicken Salad Croissants  
Ham Sliders  
Vegetable Tray  
Desserts



## ANNOUNCING!

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual LWML Iowa East District Servant Event Showcase

Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church

2202 Forest Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

Deli sandwiches will be available for lunch. You are  
welcome to bring something to share, if you wish.

What do all these pictures have in common?  
They are possible LWML Servant Events!

Are you looking for something new?  
What is YOUR favorite Servant Event?

We - Lutheran Women in Mission - have been getting  
together to make quilts and various kits for as long as we  
all can remember. These items are sent all over the world  
by Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train and  
distributed to agencies all across Iowa East and beyond.

All who love to use their time, talents and hands to help  
and serve others are invited.  
Let's bring some of the supplies we have on hand to show,  
teach, share and inspire each other.

The pictures offer a few ideas; like repurposing sweaters  
into mittens, cotton t-shirts into shorts or diapers,  
plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats.  
Directions for these will be available.

Think of the possibilities!



# IOWA DISTRICT EAST LLL CONVENTION

***We are God's Fellow Workers***

*... Because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now ...*  
Philippians 1:5



## SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca  
3271 Sandy Beach Rd NE  
Solon, IA 52333

9:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
10:00 a.m.	Convention Begins
4:00 p.m.	Convention Concludes

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



**GUEST SPEAKER**  
Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise  
*Executive Director,  
Lutheran Heritage Foundation*



*Households of Faith  
Presentation*



*Iowa District East  
LWML Update*

**Mail completed form and payment to:**  
Richard Hoelz, IDE LLL District President  
3519 Heatheridge Dr. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

**For more information, please contact:**  
Richard Hoelz, IDE LLL District President  
rahoelz@imonmail.com • (319) 363-1214

## REGISTRATION FORM 2026 IDE LLL DISTRICT CONVENTION

Registration deadline **April 6**  
Make check payable to  
IDE LLL District

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$20 per person (includes lunch)      Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**TRINITY  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
DES MOINES**

# **2026 IOWA MARCH FOR LIFE LCMS RALLY**

**9 AM - MATINS PRAYER SERVICE**

**10 AM - SPEAKER**

**11 AM - LUNCH**

**12 PM - RALLY AND MARCH AT STATE CAPITOL**



**3223 UNIVERSITY AVE  
DES MOINES, IA 50311**

**GUEST SPEAKER  
MR.  
MARTIN  
CANNON**



We show up.  
We confess Christ.  
We are Lutheran.

**RSVP VIA QR CODE OR EMAIL  
PASTORCKROONBLAWD@GMAIL.COM**





# April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Maundy Thursday  St. Paul, Delaware	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday  St. John, Denver
5 Easter  Christ is Risen! He's Risen, Indeed! ALLELUIA!	6 Easter Monday  Lucas Cranach Albrecht Durer	7 Easter Tuesday  Grace, DeWitt	8 Easter Wednesday	9	10  St. Paul, Dubuque	11  Zone Spring Events Cedar Rapids Westgate St. Ansgar
12 2nd Sunday of Easter	13  Our Redeemer, Dubuque	14	15	16  St. Paul, Eldora	17	18 Zone Spring Events Dubuque Mt. Pleasant  Grief Workshop at ST. Peter, Westgate
19 3rd Sunday of Easter  Park View, Eldridge  Io-Dis-E-Ca Auxiliary Board. 3pm St. Paul, Mt. Vernon	20  Johannes Bugenhagen	21  Anselm of Canterbury	22  St. Peter, Elma	23	24  Johann Walter	25 IED Servant Event Showcase  St. Mark
26 4th Sunday of Easter St. Paul, Evansdale  LCMS Birthday Founded 1847	27	28  St. John, Fairbank	29	30  Immanuel, Fairfield	IED Servant Event Showcase Bethany Lutheran Church 2202 Forest Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids 9:00 - 3:00 Lunch Provided	Event Showcase - Deli Sandwiches



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)**

## **A Better Way**

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

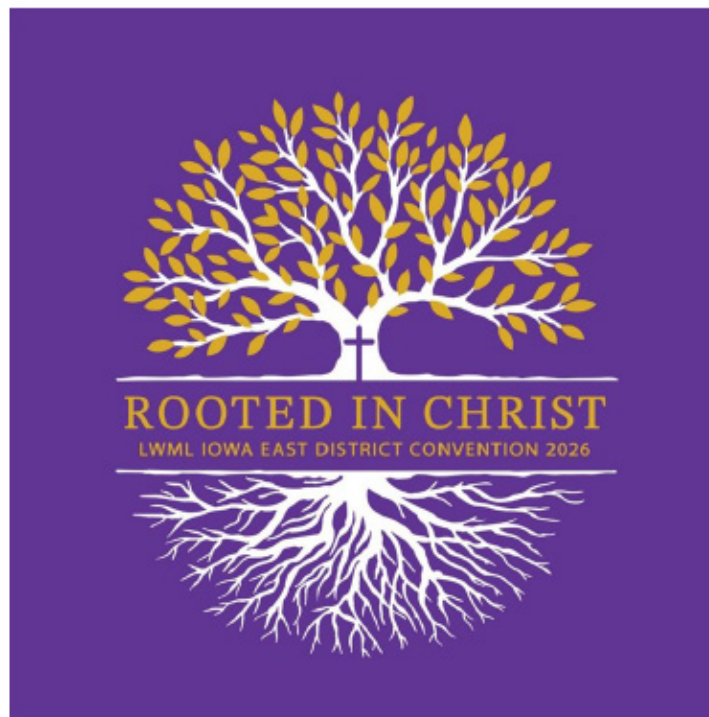


# VOTERS' MEETING

## **Sunday, April 19, 2026 After the Divine Service**

If you are not a member and desire to become one:

- 4.3.1 *Definition: Voting members are communicants who have reached the age of 18 years and who have been received by the Voters' Assembly.*
- 4.3.2 *Reception: Applicants for voting membership shall have received a copy of the constitution and be given time to review it. They shall be received as voting members by presenting themselves at a meeting of the Voters' Assembly and signing the constitution.*



## **ROOTED IN CHRIST**

Join us in June for the 2026 LWML Iowa East District Convention, June 12 – 13 at The Graduate Hotel in Iowa City, 210 South Dubuque St.

The theme for the event is “Rooted in Christ. “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7.

Keynote speaker will be The Most Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor, Bishop and President of LCMS Atlantic District and Pastor at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, New York.

Mark your calendars for this important and inspirational event.

Registration is March 1 through May 1.

For more details and to register on-line only, visit the convention page at <https://lwml-ied.org/2026-iowa-east-district-convention>.



**Mother's Day to Father's Day (May 10 — June 21):**

On these holidays, we honor our mother and father. To celebrate the blessing of being a mother and father, we will be collecting ONESIES for infants (newborn-12 months) to be donated to The Village Closet.

Please clothespin your ONESIES (new or gently used) to the tree in the entryway. Any other baby items for The Village Closet should be placed in the box below the information table.

Thank you for bringing joy to a mother, father, and baby!

*For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.  
(Psalm 139:13-14)*

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.  
(Psalm 127:3)*





609 4th Avenue  
Grinnell, IA

Monday: 10:00am- 4:00pm  
Tuesday: 10:00am-4:00pm  
Wednesday/Thursday: CLOSED  
Friday: 10:00am-4:00pm

Food Pantry Donations for Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) can be left in the container under the information table in the entryway. To find out more about MICA and what type of donations they need, go to their website at [www.micaonline.org](http://www.micaonline.org). The last Sunday of the month is designated for the Food Pantry, but you are welcome to leave donations anytime.

*(Please make sure items you bring are not outdated.)*

### **PANTRY ITEMS**

Peanut Butter (*always requested*)

Jelly

Skillet Meals

Soup (all kinds)

Ramen Noodles (*most requested*)

Pancake Mix/Syrup

Oatmeal

Cereal

Canned Goods

Mac and Cheese boxes

### **HYGIENE ITEMS**

Toilet Paper

Laundry Soap (*always requested*)

Dish Soap

Shower Gel

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Bath Soap Bars