

# The Spiritual Caregiver

A Newsletter of the Ecumenical Institute for Pastoral Care

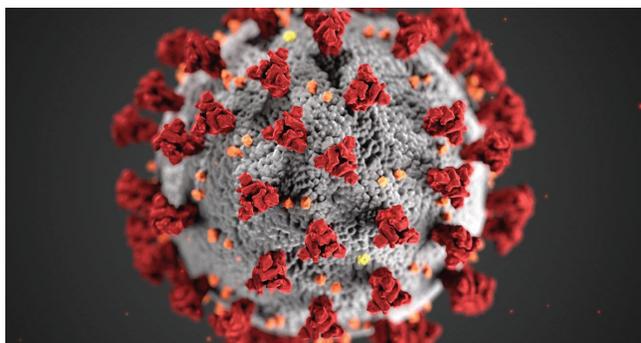
## Since the fall newsletter, a lot has changed...

# ACPE

*The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education*

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) awarded the Ecumenical Institute a 10-year accreditation to conduct programs of Level I and Level II CPE. This is a highly deserved accreditation especially when there are less and less certified CPE programs available throughout the United States.

**Now, the WORLD is experiencing the COVID-19 virus. Everyone is uncertain as to what the future may bring.**



At all times, we look to our faith for spiritual guidance as we proceed with our daily lives. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone who is experiencing grief, whether they have lost a loved one, stressed with the unknown, or worried about how they can support their family. Whether they will have a job that is still available when time to return to work and the emotional loneliness of social distancing. Mental health awareness reminds us to take care of ourselves as we know not all wounds are visible. Show compassion and give to those who are suffering.

Many years ago, Father Sitzmann and Rev. Alexander, started the Clinical Pastoral Education, because they saw the spiritual need for caregivers from all denominations to minister to people no matter what their need. Now, more than ever, we see that need as

the world adjusts to what some are calling our "new normal".

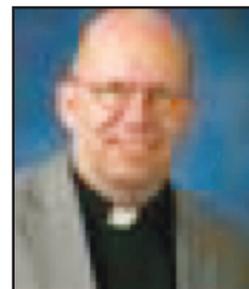
We are so grateful for Roger Cauthon, our Certified Educator, for his gentle persuasion a few years back to start online training for CPE students. Thank you for your foresight. IE will be able to carry on with social distancing online training, even if we are no longer able to meet in person.

**Two Board Members** retired since the last newsletter. Bob Baschke of Storm Lake and Mary Herbst of LeMars. We, fellow board members, wish them well and thank them for their time on the board and passionate interest in CPE.

We are excited to welcome four new board members: Pastor David Halaas, Rick Lampe, Dr. Mark Stelzer, and Ivan Wiersema.

### Rev. David Halaas

Rev. David Halaas serves as Pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church ELCA in Sioux City, Iowa (since 2013). Rev. Halaas is a graduate of Augsburg University in Minneapolis and Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio (1980).



He previously served congregations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. He has also served the ELCA at Augsburg Fortress Publishers (Minneapolis), and served as an Interim Executive Director for Lutheran Lakeside Camp (Spirit Lake,

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elaine Doorenbos

Amber Good

David Halaas

Joel Johnson

Rick Lampe

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Shelly Rock

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Ivan Wiersema

Marcia Young

Denise Green—CMHI Liaison

Roger Cauthon—CPE Educator

Fr. Gene Sitzmann, Founder &

Emeritus Supervisor

### EMERITUS BOARD MEMBER

† Robert C. Alexander (1993-2003)

## Leaving a Legacy for Your Community

**Times are  
definitely changing.**

**Our nation's future  
is unknown.**

**Our future  
with God is known.**

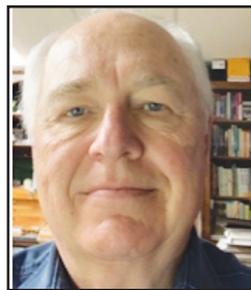
Is there something you can do for EI to continue our legacy of faith based training?

The value of some assets like farm land is high. What planning can you do this year to optimize your taxes and also help your favorite charities including EI?

Contact Denise for more information at 712-225-6945 or [dgreen@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:dgreen@dhs.state.ia.us)

IA) and the Council on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (Sioux City, IA). He is married to Bishop Lorna Halaas; they have four adult children and three grandsons.

### Rick Lampe



Rick Lampe grew up on a farm south of Albert City and has lived most of his life in the Storm Lake area. After completing his BS degree at Buena Vista College, Rick continued

his education at the University of Kansas (MS, 1971) and University of Minneapolis (Ph.D. 1976). Rick had a career at Buena Vista University as a Biology professor and administrator. He retired in 2017 and now enjoys hunting, fishing, fly tying, rod building and traveling. He is a board member of Buena Vista Regional Medical Center and a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church. Since the late 1970s, Rick has provided pulpit supply to churches throughout northwest Iowa. Rick and his wife, Maxine, have two grown children and five grandchildren.

### Dr. Mark Stelzer

I am a new member of the Ecumenical Institute Board of Directors, just beginning my term in April 2020. I retired in May of 2018 after 36 years practicing General Surgery in LeMars, Iowa. My wife Kathy and I have had a home in Spirit Lake, Iowa for many years, and we now live full time at the lake.



I was a member of the LeMars Public Schools Board of Education for 20 years (1995-2015), and I served several years on the Plains Area Mental Health Board of Directors. We were members of St. John Lutheran Church ELCA in LeMars and currently are members of First Lutheran Church ELCA in Milford, Iowa. Kathy and I have five grown children and six grandchildren who combine to provide us many reasons for travel and adventure. I look forward to learning more about Ecumenical Institute and being part of its mission.

### Ivan Wiersema

Ivan Wiersema is a familiar face on our board. I was born on March 13, 1948. I lived on three different farms



in the Orange City and Sioux Center, Iowa area. I was baptized at Free Grace Reformed church in Middleburg, Iowa. I attended Orange City

Christian School and upon completing 8th grade, I attended Maurice Orange City High School graduating in 1966.

After high school, I became a student at Northwestern college in Orange City graduating in 1970 with a B.A. degree in business administration and sociology. In 1969 I married Darlene Jurgens. After graduation from college I accepted a position with Cherokee State Bank and worked there for over 46 years, retiring in August 2016. While working at the bank I became the senior vice president in charge of chairing the loan committee, in charge of the bank's compliance, plus loan work, human resources and payroll. Over the years, I served on many boards including fair board for

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# The Ecumenical Institute's Influence Expands

The influence and ministry of the Ecumenical Institute continues to expand. From northwest Iowa the focus is on training local pastors, chaplains, clergy, and lay people to enhance their pastoral skills. Across the nation as videoconferencing offers the same ministry given to people outside northwest Iowa. Students have participated from all parts of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

The Ecumenical Institute's ability to offer learning both in person and in the conference room/office at Cherokee Mental Health Institute and online for students not living close to an ACPE Center has made Ecumenical Institute noted for CPE offerings.

All of this is possible because of

## Continued from Page 2

six years, 4H & youth committee, Ag Extension Council, Jaycees, Kiwanis Club, Council Against Domestic Abuse for nine years, and Ecumenical Institute involved in training people in caregiving, also for nine years. I also served on the Synod of the Heartland Administrative Team for six years serving as vice present and president. I am currently on the finance team for the Synod of the Heartland. My wife of 47 years died in September 2016. We have three married children and nine lovely grandchildren. My oldest son, Jeremy, is a pastor at the Reformed Church in Steen, MN. I became a member of American Reformed Church in 1970. I served a few terms as a deacon and several terms as an elder. I have chaired four search committees. I currently teach Sunday school, lead monthly Bible Study and sing in one of our Praise Teams. I truly enjoy serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

your support and believing in CPE and in Father Sitzmann's vision for it for northwest Iowa. We continue to offer fully accredited ACPE programs for a remarkably affordable price. We also continue to tailor the program to the needs of students who are following the call of God in their lives, no matter what age or occupation that marks them.

The next units will be offered beginning in September 2020 and continuing until March 2021. The two groups are filling rapidly, and more students will be added to a wait list. Please refer anyone you know who is interested in CPE to the Ecumenical Institute website. You may also have them contact Roger Cauthon, ACPE Certified Educator, directly for information. This contact information is noted below.

The future is bright for the Ecumenical Institute. Last August saw the ACPE Accreditation Site Visit

and a full affirmation of the program was given. One of the site visitors who is an ACPE Certified Educator said that this was the type of program she wanted to be able to offer as the cutting-edge method of doing CPE. Shortly afterward, she began a new center in Illinois and is offering online CPE. Ecumenical Institute has been able to support that program by referring students who would be on our growing wait list to the possibility of the new center.

All of this is to say, your support of the Ecumenical Institute is having a deep influence on better and more effective pastoral care in northwest Iowa and in other parts of the country. Thank you so very much.

Roger Cauthon, MDiv.  
ACPE Certified Educator  
720-245-4862

Two emails:  
roger.cauthon@stlukescollege.edu  
rogercauthon@comcast.net

## Donating

None of this work is possible without the generous support of donors. Since the inception of the Pastoral Education Center in the late 1960's, the number of students participating has now grown well past a thousand. Imagine the countless lives these students have touched with the skills they've learned. With your assistance the number of students will continue to grow.

Please consider supporting the work of the Ecumenical Institute for Clinical Pastoral Education.

- New Gift for Ecumenical Institute
- Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- Please send information about a stock transfer.
- Memorial Gift in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

Please note personal prayer concern below.

## Thank You Recent Donors of Ecumenical Institute

Jim Adamson  
Joan Ballantyne  
Bob Baschke  
Sue Behrens - Scholarship Fund  
Karen Borchers  
Roger Cauthon  
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Father Gene Sitzmann  
Rev. Mark J. Stoll  
Richard & Kristine Weber  
Mary Lou Wiemold  
Ivan Wiersma  
Larry & Linda Winkelbauer  
William & Marcia Young

## Help Wanted!!

### INTERESTED IN A PART-TIME POSITION?

EI is looking for a part-time Director,  
if interested please call  
Denise (712-225-6945) or Elaine Doorenbos (712-541-2289).

## Legacy Honor Roll

Mark & Karen Borchers	Tony & Carol Reuter
Fr. John Cain	Fr. Gene Sitzmann
Dr. Daryl & Elaine Doorenbos	Larry & Linda Winkelbauer
Helen Mendt	† Ralph Harwig
Earl Pickens Family Trust	† David Patterson
	† Adrian Rupp

Thanks to those who have helped plan for the longevity of Ecumenical Institute. These fine individuals have given; and their gift will continue after they are gone. If your name was inadvertently missed or you would like to be added, please contact Denise Green.

## Training Faith Based Caregivers



## Thank You

Special thanks to the Erlandson Foundation for their continued support.

