

Mission Fields Nebraska

July 2010

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Same Message—New Meeting Spaces

As the ministry needs of a congregation change, many times the meeting spaces also change to meet the new ministry focus.

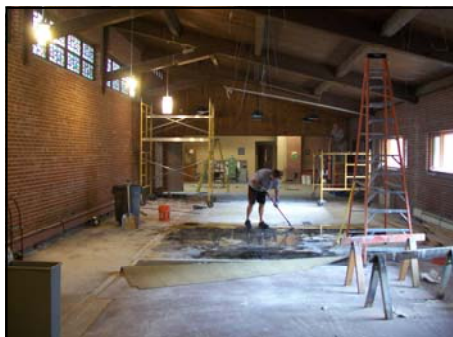
Several ministries in the Nebraska District are in the process of changing their space to allow them to continue preaching and teaching the Word of God in facilities that better fit their communities.

Swede Valley Lutheran Church in Ashby (Hyannis) is building a new church in Hyannis to better fit the needs of the congregation and to move its ministry closer to the community of which it is a part.

This structure is being built in large part by congregation members, community members, and volunteers from other Lutheran congregations.

Members of Our Redeemer, Elwood, and the Elwood community traveled to Hyannis to help lay the floor on the foundation in mid-June.

University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln is in the process of remodeling their current ministry space. At one time the ministry needed small rooms for groups to meet and study. Today, there is need for a much larger common area to meet the needs of the students.



The newly-opened up space at the University Lutheran Chapel

On April 24, twenty-five students and five volunteers from Messiah, Lincoln, removed the office walls that divided up the original sanctuary.

The original organ chamber, chancel, and pastor's office will no longer be storage spaces, but meeting rooms. The new open area will become a much more useful space for study and fellowship.

The Chapel is working hard to become a viable alternative to the nearby bar scene for students. The space will be useful for watching movies, holding mini-concerts, and many other fellowship opportunities.

This project is funded only through donations of alumni and others who feel that God can use this renovated space to His glory.

More information about the ministry at UNL is available on the Chapel website: www.lutheranchapel.org.



The Cup of Grace Christian coffee house is a ministry of Grace, Wayne, in partnership with the Nebraska District.

Campus Ministry at Wayne State College underwent a renovation project before school started last fall.

They remodeled their ministry center into a coffee house, **Cup of Grace**, where students can meet for conversation, to study, or just to unwind.

This relaxed atmosphere gives Christian students opportunities to engage non-believing students in conversations about their faith in Jesus Christ.

More information about **Cup of Grace** can be found at www.facebook.com/cupofgrace.

Changing space to better
speak the Gospel in the
community.

Same Faces—New Roles in Ministry

Missionaries serve in new roles across the District

Every spring new pastors are placed and vicars are assigned to congregations in the Nebraska District and throughout the LCMS.

The class of 2010 offered many new faces to the Nebraska District. Four men from around the world were placed or assigned to serve in mission congregations or ministries of the Nebraska District.

While some of these men are not new to the District, they are taking on new roles in mission.

We thank God for giving these men, and all those placed in Nebraska, hearts to serve Him and His people through these ministries.



James Riang

Rev. James Riang was ordained and installed as assistant pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Lincoln on Sunday, June 6. Rev. Riang served as a vicar at Christ during his time of study in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

James was born in Sudan, and he made his way to Iowa in 1993 after living nearly 13 years in refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. He became a U.S. citizen in 2000, and moved to Omaha four years later.

In Omaha, he served as an evangelist, starting a worship service in the Nuer language for other Sudanese immigrants in the area.

Next, James and his family moved to Lincoln and he began working with African immigrant ministries at Christ Lutheran Church.

Education followed through the Nebraska District Lay Leadership Program for two years, then through the EIIT program at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Now as pastor, he continues to serve the congregation in the area of African immigrant ministry.



Obdulio Felix

Vicar Obdulio Felix recently graduated from the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and will be ordained and installed as pastor at Jesus Es el Señor Lutheran Church in Omaha on August 1.

Vicar Felix and his family immigrated to the United States in January of 2007. Shortly after, Obdulio began his pastoral course work through the Center for Hispanic Studies at the Concordia Seminary.



As part of this course work, Obdulio was assigned as a vicar to Beautiful Savior, La Vista. Beautiful Savior and Cross, Omaha, partnered for Hispanic ministry, and during his vicarage, Obdulio worked with this ministry.

God used him to form relationships with members of the Hispanic community in Omaha, allowing him to gather groups for Bible study, a time of worship, vacation Bible school, and many other outreach activities.

The Hispanic mission start, Jesus Es el Señor, became a congregation and member of the LCMS in 2009, and now they have called Vicar Felix to continue to serve them as their pastor. We thank God for the blessings He has granted this ministry, and we pray for His continued guidance as they share the Good News of Jesus among the Hispanic community in Omaha.



Same Faces—New Roles in Ministry

Missionaries serve in new roles across the District

Juan Aguilar

Vicar Juan Aguilar was assigned as vicar to Cristo Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in Grand Island during the 2010 Spring Placement process.



Originally from Argentina, Vicar Aguilar immigrated from Chile to the United States with his wife and daughter. The family moved to Grand Island at the end of 2008, and they have been involved with the Cristo Cordero congregation since that time.

He entered the Center for Hispanic Studies at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 2009, and is currently taking classes to prepare him to serve

as a pastor in the LCMS.

Juan was installed as vicar at Cristo Cordero de Dios in April of 2010, as part of his seminary training while he continues his studies.

He is faithfully serving the members of Cristo Cordero de Dios under the supervision of emeritus pastor Rev. James Witt.



I am amazed when I stop and look around and see all that God is doing in Nebraska through the congregations. Your hand prints are in each of these articles because of your prayer and financial support to the District.

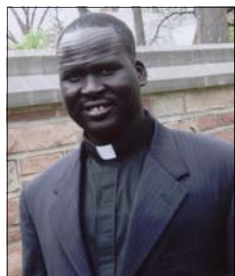
Rev. Richard Boring

Riek Marwang

Vicar Riek Marwang has completed his pastoral studies through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and will be ordained and installed as assistant pastor at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Omaha on August 8.

Riek was born in the Upper Nile region of Sudan. In 1992, he started work as an evangelist in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. Two years later, he went to Kenya to work with another evangelist team. In 1995, he moved to the United States, ending up in Omaha that fall.

Starting classes at the seminary in 2006, he served his vicarage at King of Kings in Omaha, where he has been called to continue his ministry.



Vicar Marwang leads the Sudanese children's language classes every Saturday, along with some small group classes. Riek is also involved in supporting the mission back home in Sudan and Ethiopia. He spends much time on the phone calling Africa to check on how the mission is going.

He keeps himself busy all week by helping Sudanese individuals in his congregation find jobs. Many need help filling out applications, finding addresses, and some need an interpreter at their job interview. Riek steps in to help out with all of this! On Sundays after church, he is busy doing hospital and home visits to those who are ill.



Same Bible Stories—New School

Jesus Our Savior Lutheran School and Outreach

Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool and Elementary School in Winnebago finished the first year of their elementary school and their 12th year of preschool this past spring. They held a worship and graduation service for eight preschool students on Wednesday, May 19, at the Blackhawk Community Center, with about 75 people in attendance.



A sixth grade student leads the preschoolers in professing their faith in the Apostle's Creed

The end of June marks this ministry's 17th year of sharing the Good News of Jesus with the youth of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and their families. We join with them in praise and thanks to God for all of the blessings that Mauna [Earth Maker] has

showered on them as they proclaim the love of Jesus our Savior and are empowered by His Spirit.

Students from Lutheran High Northeast of Norfolk led a three day mini-VBS in June, with about 22 children attending each

morning. In the afternoons they assisted with a basketball camp at the Winnebago Public School, while Pastor Jacob had an opening Bible study and prayer for each session.

Jesus Our Savior also hosted a weeklong Vacation Bible School in June, with an average of 75 children in attendance. Twenty servants from Peace Lutheran Church of Conway, Arkansas, assisted with the VBS, as well as some of the mission's members and the Jacob family.



The preschoolers at work in the new school building

This ministry shares the Word of God with students and their families through familiar Bible stories, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, and the Ten Commandments. Thanks to many generous donors and volunteers, a new school building was utilized for the first time this past school year.

Please Pray for Us

Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Outreach and School, Winnebago:

- Praise God for blessing the 17th annual VBS in Winnebago with an average of 75 children in attendance.
- Pray for God's blessings on the start of the new school year at Jesus Our Savior Lutheran School (K-2nd grade); 13th for preschool.
- Thank God for their faithful members and ask that their membership would increase in number.
- Ask God to send His Spirit and that His sacred Word would change lives and bless their community.

Jesus Es el Señor, Omaha:

- Pray for the assessment of the past year's ESL classes, that God would provide good ideas and ways to improve this important ministry for next fall's classes.
- Ask God to guide them as they plan for Bible story and devotional materials that will fit all English skill levels.
- Pray for creative ways to connect students with Jesus Es el Señor so that they may become a part of the worship community of the congregation.
- Ask for God's blessings on Jesus Es el Señor's Evangelism Week July 12-17, that this might be a time to connect with members of the community and help connect them to the church.
- Pray for talented and dedicated volunteers to fill openings in the staff for the fall, and for a solution to the lack of custodial volunteers.

Cristo Cordero de Dios, Grand Island:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to refresh the hearts of the members to live a life in Christ and to be more united in God.

University Lutheran Chapel, Lincoln:

- Pray for continued blessings on the new Bible study with students in the married housing on campus. Praise Him for the fruit already!
- Ask God to raise up volunteers to meet, build relationships, and study the Bible with the international students.
- Pray that God would bless the efforts of the staff to get to know the international students in the community.

Reverend Richard Boring works with the ministries of the Nebraska District. He is available to visit with you about existing or developing ministry opportunities across the District. He is also available to help coordinate a servant event between your congregation's group and a ministry in Nebraska. Reverend Boring is available via phone or email to answer any questions you may have. Reverend Boring may be reached at the Nebraska District Office at 888-643-2961 or richb@ndlcms.org.

The Mission of the Nebraska District is to resource congregations, leaders, and related organizations in their mission of discipling the saved and proclaiming Christ to a lost and changing world.