



June 2004  
The Nebraska Lutheran  
**REPORTER**

Information of interest for Lutherans in the Nebraska District of  
The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod  
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**FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .** Upon teaching that God is Three Persons in One Godhead, a wise old pastor asked his confirmation class: "Do you understand how God can be three distinct Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - in the One Eternal Godhead?" Each child sheepishly admitted that he or she didn't understand. The pastor proudly announced, "Good! If any of you had said you could understand it, I would have failed to teach it properly." The fact that God is Three Persons in One Godhead is simply a Divine mystery. On June 6, many Christians will again focus their worship time on this great mystery as Holy Trinity Sunday is observed. Christians often talk of how this mystery of the True God who is Three in One sets Christians apart from non-Christians. Muslims, Hindus, or Jews do not know the True Triune God. But the truth of God being Triune is much more than a mark of absolute difference between Christians who trust in the True God and other religions that do not. The truth that God is Three Persons in One Godhead is a gift of great comfort and strength. Martin Luther said it well at the end of his *Large Catechism*, "We could never attain to a knowledge of (God) the Father's favor and grace except through the Lord Christ, who is a mirror of His Father's heart. Outside Christ we see in God nothing but a wrathful and terrible Judge. But about Christ we could know nothing if the Holy Spirit had not revealed it to us." In the Perfect Three in One Godhead is all that humanity needs. The loving sacrifice of Jesus and His victorious resurrection show us God the Father our Creator's undeserved love for us by the revealing work of God the Holy Spirit. . . . President Russ Sommerfeld

**JOIN THE PRAIRIE FIRE! . . .** A prairie fire can move very swiftly across the plains of Nebraska, changing everything it touches. Likewise, Christians united in the Gospel can spread the Good News of Jesus across Nebraska by sharing their faith with those around them. Come, be resourced, refreshed and rekindled by the Word of God at the Nebraska District Prairie Fire Event at Concordia University on Saturday, Aug. 14. Registration information was mailed to each congregation in early June. Packets include a full list of resource sessions being offered, an informational DVD, registration forms, and more. Contact your church office or congregational chairman for more information or registration forms. More information and online registration is also available for this event at [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org). The cost for three break-out sessions and lunch is \$15 per person.

**LAY LEADERSHIP CLASSES . . .** The Lay Leadership Program of the Nebraska District will offer an Old Testament and a New Testament course at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk. Dates for the Old Testament course are: Sept. 4 and 18 and Oct. 2 and 16. The New Testament course will be taught on Nov. 6 and 13 and Dec. 4 and 18. Both courses will be taught by Chaplain Wes Baumeister of Concordia University, Seward. Tuition for each course is \$200. For more information, contact Pastor Michael Awe at [the1rev@cablone.net](mailto:the1rev@cablone.net), Pastor Marvin Bergman at [mbergman@cune.edu](mailto:mbergman@cune.edu), or Julie Roebke at the District Office, 1-888-643-2961.

**ULC ALUMNI WANTED . . .** The University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln is looking for addresses of alumni. The chapel is forming an alumni organization and is asking former chapel

members to register on the chapel web page, [www.lutheranchapel.org](http://www.lutheranchapel.org). Please click on the alumni button.

**CHURCH SECRETARY WORKSHOP . . .** Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) recognizes the vital role the church secretary plays in her congregation and is pleased to sponsor the second annual workshop for all church secretaries in the Nebraska District on June 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Concordia University, Seward. This will be a wonderful opportunity for God's servants to enjoy a time together of learning, fellowship and idea sharing. Registration information has been sent to each church secretary and is available at [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org). Contact Connie Borchers at the District Office at [connieb@ndlcms.org](mailto:connieb@ndlcms.org) or 1-888-643-2961 with questions.

**STARTING A CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY . . .** A one-day workshop entitled, "Congregational Health Ministry - Getting Started" will be held July 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in room 011 of the Thom Leadership Education Center at Concordia University. The cost for the day is \$10 and includes refreshments, lunch and materials. For more details and registration information, contact Christine Blanke at 1-402-643-4278 or [cblanke@cune.edu](mailto:cblanke@cune.edu).

***THE SEMINARIES' SPRING PLACEMENT REPORT***

**GRADUATES PLACED IN NEBRASKA** (if married, wife's name is in parentheses)

Trinity, Amherst	Herbert Mueller, III (Kristen)	Waterloo, Ill. (StL)
Holy Savior, Lincoln (assoc)	Jason Taylor (Jennifer)	Caldwell, Idaho (StL)
St. John, Omaha	James Rasmussen (Nanette)	Papillion, Neb. (StL)
Our Redeemer, Staplehurst	Robert Wiest (Kathy)	Lexington, Neb. (StL)
St. John, Wakefield	Terry Buethe (Joyce)	Tecumseh, Neb. (StL)
St. Peter, Wymore, & First, Summerfield, Kan.	Tyler Hauptmeier	Overton, Neb. (StL)
St. John, Cedar Rapids, & Faith, St. Edward	Brian Ketelsen (Renata)	Charter Oak, Iowa (FtW)
Zion, Kearney (assoc)	Ryan Wendt (Sara)	Gladstone, Mo. (FtW)
Christ, Nebraska City, & St. Paul, Weeping Water	Thomas Finch (Remedios)	Phoenix, Ariz. (FtW)
Zion, Pawnee City	Gregory Grenyo (Kristine)	Milwaukee, Wis. (FtW)

**VICARS ASSIGNED TO NEBRASKA**

Mount Calvary, Holdrege	Christopher Crume (Megan)	Hillsboro, Ore. (StL)
Good Shepherd, Lincoln	Mark Femmel (Marlina)	San Antonio, Texas (StL)
Christ, Lincoln	John Deang	Lincoln, Neb. (FtW)
Centennial, Superior	Randall Russell	Kewanee, Ill. (FtW)
St. Paul, West Point	Daniel North (Amy)	Westminster, Calif. (StC)
Christ, Lincoln	Thomas Saddler	Lincoln, Neb. (EIT)

**NEBRASKA GRADUATES PLACED**

Jason Boetcher, Lincoln (StL)	Grace, Merritt Island, Fla.
David Brinkmeyer, York (StL)	Messiah, Murdo, and St. Paul, Draper, SD
William Voelker, Grand Island (StL)	Christ the King, Danville, Va.
Joel Wallschlaeger, Omaha (StL)	Our Savior, Lynchburg, Va.

Robert Rupprecht, Grand Island (StL)

St. John, New Germany, Minn.

### **NEBRASKANS ASSIGNED AS VICARS**

Christopher Ahlman, Lincoln (StL)

Our Savior, Raleigh, N.C.

Troy Neujahr, Omaha (StL)

Bethany, Salisbury, Md.

Ryan Oakes, Fremont (StL)

St. Paul, New Hartford, Conn.

Paul Roggow, Ord (StL)

Immanuel, Freeport, Ill.

**NEW CIRCUIT COUNSELOR . . . Rev. Glenn Keylon** of Cairo has been appointed counselor of the Grand Island Circuit and will serve the remainder of the current term, which ends at the convention in June 2006. He fills a vacancy created by the retirement of Rev. Gerald Roggow of Ord.

**EAST AFRICAN MISSIONARIES TO SPEAK IN OMAHA . . .** Missionaries Jerry and Carol Loewe from Pilger will share stories of their mission work in East Africa at the mission festival at Pacific Hills, Omaha, on Sunday, June 27. The Loewes will be present for worship services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., as well as speaking between the services at 9:30 a.m. A noon luncheon will be served, with a question and answer session. Call the church office at 1-402-391-9625 for more information.

**RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE . . .** Emmanuel in York invites everyone to a retirement open house for Pastor Art Brinkmeyer on Sunday, June 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Contact the church office at 1-402-362-3655 for more information.

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

**Trinity, Jansen**, 75th, June 6, with services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. with guest preacher, Rev. Russ Sommerfeld, Nebraska District President.

**St. John, Columbus**, 125th, July 11, with former pastor Rev. Thomas Wink as guest preacher at a 10:00 a.m. worship service.

**Good Shepherd, Fremont**, 50th, July 17-18, with a 10:00 a.m. service, noon celebration meal and special worship service at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Dale A. Meyer preaching, as well as other activities. Contact the church office at 1-402-721-8412 or [goodshep@tvsonline.net](mailto:goodshep@tvsonline.net) for more information.

**St. Paul, Kenesaw**, 100th, July 25, with guest speakers Dr. Dale A. Meyer and Rev. John Diener and a noon meal. Call 1-402-752-3240 to register for the meal.

**Zion, Tobias**, 125th, Aug. 1, with special worship services and celebration meal.

**Good Shepherd, Gretna**, 25th, Sept. 19. All are invited to join them for an open house and guest speaker, Rev. Wes "Bo" Baumeister at the 10:30 a.m. service, followed by a luncheon at 12:30. Contact the church office at 1-402-332-3345 for more information.

**Immanuel, Lincoln**, 95th, Oct. 17, former vicar Rev. Randy McHone will preach at the 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. services. A potluck dinner will follow the second service.

### **COMING EVENTS**

**Synodical Convention Delegate Caucus**, Concordia University, Seward .....June 5

**LFS Partners in Caring Church Worker Day**, North Platte .....June 14

**LWML North Convention**, New World Inn, Columbus .....June 18-19

<b>Grace Place Retreat</b> , Aspen, Colo. ....	June 21-26
<b>LCMS Synodical Convention</b> , St. Louis, Mo. ....	July 10-15
<b>National Youth Gathering</b> , Orlando, Fla. ....	July 24-28
<b>Teachers' Retreat</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	Aug. 3
<b>Orphan Grain Train Convention</b> , Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk .....	Sept. 10-11
<b>Circuit Counselors' Conference</b> , St. Benedict Center, Schuyler .....	Sept. 13-14
<b>Educational Seminar for Pastors</b> , Zion, Ainsworth .....	Sept. 19-21
<b>LWML South Convention</b> , Adams County Fairgrounds, Hastings .....	Sept. 24-25
<b>New Workers' Orientation</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	Sept. 27-28
<b>Treasurers' Workshop</b> , Family Life Center, Immanuel, Columbus .....	Oct. 9
<b>Church Musicians Workshop and Hymn Sing</b> , Zion, Imperial .....	Oct. 9-10
<b>All Professional Churchworkers' Conference</b> , King of Kings, Omaha .....	Oct. 18-20
<b>National Lutherans For Life Convention</b> , Cincinnati, Ohio .....	Nov. 12-14

### *Call Information*

#### **ORDAINED MINISTERS**

##### CALLS ACCEPTED

**Rev. Brian Friedrich** (StL'84), Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Concordia University, Seward, to President, Concordia University, Seward.

##### CALLS DECLINED

**Rev. Luke Biggs** (StL'84), senior, Messiah, Lincoln, to senior, Trinity, Utica, Mich.  
**Rev. John Sproul** (StC'88), associate, King of Kings, Omaha, to Faith, Geneva, Ill.  
**Rev. Phillip Vance** (FtW'93), senior, Trinity, Fremont, to senior, Immanuel, Colorado Springs, Colo.

#### ORDINATIONS/INSTALLATIONS

**Rev. Jeffrey Bloom** as pastor, Immanuel, Lincoln, May 2.  
**Rev. Thomas Mroch** as senior pastor, Holy Cross, Kearney, May 2.

#### **COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**

##### CALLS ACCEPTED

**David Bliss** (S'79), principal, Trinity, Waco, Texas, to principal, Immanuel, Hooper.  
**Jonathan Held** (RF'00), teacher, Lincoln Lutheran High School, to teacher, Lutheran High School, Metairie, La.  
**Robert Krall** (S'02), teacher, Peace With Christ, Aurora, Colo., to teacher, Trinity, Grand Island.  
**Paul Schoepp** (SP'85), assistant director DCE Program, Concordia, Seward, to director of Church Work Programs, Concordia College, Alberta, Edmonton.  
**Martha Wallschlager** (S'83), teacher, Trinity, Lincoln, to teacher, Immanuel, Albuquerque, N.M.  
**Don Weber** (S'69), principal, Christ, Norfolk, to Executive Assistant to the District President for Education and Youth Ministries.

##### CALLS DECLINED

**Martha Wallschlager** (S'83), teacher, Trinity, Lincoln, to teacher, Christ, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
**Stan Wehling** (S'64), principal, St. Paul's, Ogallala, to principal/teacher, Trinity, Frohna, Mo.

**Lyle Ziems** (S'89), teacher, Lincoln Lutheran High School, to Concordia High School, Omaha (WOLSA).

#### OTHER TRANSACTIONS

**Diane Beikmann** (S'01), candidate, Iowa West District to contract teacher, St. Peter's, Davenport.  
**Jessica Westerhold** (S'02), Trinity, Fremont, to candidate.

#### PLACEMENTS

**Travis Barta** (S'04), DCE intern to called DCE, First, Papillion.  
**Kevin Janssen** (S'04), teacher, Trinity, Fremont.



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*Your support enabled LFS counselors to help nearly 26,500 people with issues ranging from marriage counseling, addictions recovery, abuse, grief, mental illness, or family concerns.*

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With 31 service locations from Omaha to Scottsbluff, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska is the only faith-based, multi-service, human care agency that spans the state from east to west. And we are proud to call ourselves Lutheran.

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Making a Difference in Human Care Ministry

 **Lutheran Family Services**  
of Nebraska, Inc. [www.lfsneb.org](http://www.lfsneb.org)