



August 2004
The Nebraska Lutheran
REPORTER

Information of interest for Lutherans in the Nebraska District of
The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod
PO Box 407 • 152 S Columbia • Seward, NE 68434
Telephone: 1-888-643-2961 • Fax: 1-402-643-2990
Website: www.ndlcms.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Hearts Ablaze! -- "They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He [Jesus] talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' They got up at once and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them saying, 'It is true! He has risen and appeared to Simon.'" (Luke 24:32-34) The Risen Jesus opened the Bible's message of salvation on the afternoon of His resurrection day and the hearts of men burned within them. Those hearts ignited by the Word of the Lord moved those men to go at once. Our Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in convention on July 12 was led by that same resurrection message to embrace a vision for igniting a worldwide Lutheran Christian mission movement to share the message of Jesus with 100 million people by 2017. This mission movement is expressed with the word *Ablaze!*

Ablaze! is not a program. It is a vision, and with God's blessing it will become a movement for the LCMS and her partner churches around the world. Fifty million of the 100 million who will hear the saving message of Jesus will be in the United States. Nebraska begins her participation in the *Ablaze!* movement with the Nebraska District "Prairie Fire" on August 14 at Concordia University. The Good News of Jesus can ignite hearts with the only burning faith, hope, and confidence there is for forgiveness and eternal life. Thanks be to Jesus for His movement among and through us.

. . . President Russ Sommerfeld

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS . . . This year marks the beginning of an exciting new LCMS campus ministry for college students headed to Omaha. Students attending UNO or other colleges in Omaha who would like to get involved in ministry, get to know other students, and grow through fun and fellowship should contact Stacey Swan. Please send Stacey your name, phone number, address, and email address at campusministry@pacifichills-lcms.org or call her at 1-402-578-4177.

OLD TESTAMENT COURSE OFFERED IN NORFOLK . . . The Lay Leadership Training Program is offering an Old Testament course, led by Concordia Chaplain Rev. Wes Baumeister, at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk. Class dates are September 4 and 18 and October 2 and 16. Tuition for the class is \$200. For more information, contact Sharon at Immanuel, Tilden, at 1-402-368-5690, or Arlen Ahlers at 1-402-329-6574.

LWML NORTH MEETS IN CONVENTION . . . The members of the Nebraska District North LWML met in convention in Columbus in June, during which time they approved a budget of \$61,500 for mission grants, including \$15,000 for scholarships. Officers elected at the convention included: **Katy Gifford**, Wausa, vice president of human care; **Yvonne Greene**, Valentine, vice president of Christian life; **Rhoda Sebade**, Wayne, vice president of communication; **Julie Groh**, North Bend, recording secretary; **Patti Mattes**, Allen, financial secretary; and **Rev. Frank "Chip" Winter**, Norfolk, pastoral counselor. Elected to the nominating committee were **Jacque Collison**, Pierce; **Lana Erickson**, Omaha; **Marilyn Flesner**, Pierce, **Barbara Sjuts**, Humphrey; and **Kathy Skinner**, Bellevue.

STATE FAIR WORSHIP SERVICES . . . The Nebraska District Lutheran Laymen's League will once again sponsor worship services at the State Fair this year. Preaching at the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, August 29, is Rev. Wes "Bo" Baumeister, Concordia University Chaplain. Leading the 9:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 5, is District President Russ Sommerfeld.

LAY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM COURSES FOR 2004-05 . . . The Lay Leadership Training Program is offering the following courses in Seward during the 2004-05 year: The Church's Ministry of Caring, September 11 and 25 and October 2 and 30; Mission Outreach in the New Century, November 6 and 20 and December 4 and 18; and Reformation and Hermeneutics: Interpreting Scripture, January 8 and 22 and February 5 and 19. Tuition for each course is \$200. For more information, contact Julie Roebke at the District Office, 1-888-643-2961 or julier@ndlcms.org, or Rev. Marvin Bergman, mbergman@cune.edu.

ALL PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS CONFERENCE . . . The All Professional Church Workers Conference for all church workers in the Nebraska District will be held October 18-20 at King of Kings, Omaha, under the theme Anchored in Christ in a Turbulent World, based on Hebrews 6:19a. Sub-themes include: "Anchored in Grace," "On an Even Keel," and "Safe Harbor/Setting Sail." All church workers will receive more information and registration materials in the weeks to come.

VOLUNTEERS FOR STORM CLEAN-UP STILL NEEDED . . . Nebraska Lutheran Disaster Relief is still in need of volunteers to help families affected by the storms this past May. If you or your family can donate time to help clean up from these devastating storms, or if you know someone affected by the storms and still in need of volunteer help, please contact Disaster Response Coordinator Mark Kirchoff at 1-402-660-2510.

MISSIONARIES FROM NEBRASKA . . . Several members of the Nebraska District are serving the Lord as English as a Second Language teachers in the coming year. For more information on missionary service opportunities available, contact Krista Wiesenauer at LCMS World Missions by calling 1-800-433-3954 or emailing mission.recruitment@lcms.org.

***Mrs. Maxine Fiala**, member of St. John, Seward, will serve in Taiwan.

***Mrs. Donna Meyer**, member of Zion, Hastings, will serve in Guinea.

***Mr. Andrew Schaff**, member of Zion, Crookston, will serve in Taiwan.

***Ms. Kimberly Schauer**, member of Faith, York, will serve in Vietnam.

***Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Schermbeck**, members of St. Peter, Elk Creek, will serve in Vietnam.

***Ms. Noel Sunderman**, member of Zion, Pierce, will serve in Taiwan.

Volunteer missionaries **Dr. Lee and Shirley Schluckebier**, members of St. John, Seward, are serving at the Highland Lutheran International School in Papua New Guinea on the teaching staff and as assistant to the school as needed.

NEW WORKER ORIENTATION . . . All pastors, vicars, and DCEs new to the Nebraska District since last September are urged to attend the New Worker Orientation coming up at Concordia, Seward, on September 27 and 28. Details will be mailed to all new workers, shared through the District Email Update, and available on the District website at www.ndlcms.org as the orientation draws near.

CHURCH MUSICIAN WORKSHOP . . . Zion, Imperial, is hosting a workshop for church musicians October 9 and a hymn sing the afternoon of October 10. Drs. Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkner will serve as clinicians for the workshop, as well as musicians for the hymn sing, along with the McCook Chamber Brass and an area choir. Registration materials will be sent to each church office. For more information, contact Rev. Robert Frank at Zion, Imperial, 1-308-882-5655 or revraf@chase3000.com; or J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO, POB 711, Imperial, 69033, 1-308-882-4977 or mrc@chase3000.com.

CONGREGATIONAL TREASURERS' WORKSHOP . . . Congregational treasurers, please mark October 9th on your calendars and plan to attend a day-long workshop in Columbus at the Immanuel Family Life Center. Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is sponsoring the workshop, which will feature sessions relevant to your job as congregational treasurer. Registration materials will be mailed to each treasurer in the future with more specific details.

AN AFTERNOON WITH GARRISON KEILLOR . . . Garrison Keillor, host of A Prairie Home Companion, will perform Sunday, October 24, to benefit Nebraska's Lutheran camps, including Camp Luther in Schuyler. A donation of \$25 per ticket will allow guests to spend an afternoon at the Omaha Civic Auditorium with Keillor. Doors open at noon and Keillor will begin his performance at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available from Camp Luther by calling 1-402-352-5655 or emailing campluther@campluther.org, or by visiting the event website at www.keillorerevent.com.

CELEBRATIONS OF MINISTRY . . . St. Paul, Wauneta, surprised **Rev. Keith Wellman** in celebration of his 30 years in the ministry on Saturday, June 26. The event included a picnic supper, a presentation of his life history, and gifts recognizing his years of service to the Lord and His church. . . . Christ, Lincoln, honored DCE **Bob Ewell** for 35 years in ministry and service at Christ on July 11. Ewell was recognized during the morning worship services and at a special evening event. Thanks be to God for the faithful service of these and all church workers.

LCMS CONVENTION NEWS

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod held its 62nd regular convention under the theme, "One Mission Ablaze! . . . To the Ends of the Earth" in St. Louis July 10-15. Congregations are encouraged to invite their circuit delegate to report on the convention. For more convention information, log on to the convention website at www.lcms.org/convention.

THE ELECTIONS

Rev. Gerald Kieschnick of St. Louis, Mo., was re-elected to his second three-year term as president.

Vice presidents elected were: Rev. William Diekelman, first vice president; Rev. Paul Maier, second vice president; Rev. Dean Nadasdy, third vice president; Rev. Robert King, fourth vice president; and Rev. David Buegler, fifth vice president. Dr. Raymond Hartwig was re-elected as secretary and Thomas Kuchta was re-elected as treasurer.

In other elections, Virginia Von Seggern of Orchard was elected to the Board for Mission Services; Dr. Shirley Bergman of Seward was elected to serve on the Commission on Theology and Church Relations; and Kermit Brashear of Omaha was elected to the LCEF Board of Directors.

OTHER ACTION

Throughout the convention, the delegates also:

- * Formally declared the LCMS in church fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK).
- * Endorsed a number of recommendations from the Mission 21st Century Task Force to address ways to reverse the Synod's declining membership.
- * Established separate governing boards for the Synod's ten colleges and universities and for its two seminaries.
- * Affirmed, "on the basis of Scripture, marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman," and urged members of the Synod "to give a public witness from Scripture against the social acceptance and legal recognition of homosexual `marriage.' "
- * Strongly encouraged LCMS congregations to fully provide its workers, their spouses and families "the highest level of coverage" offered by the Synod's Worker Benefit Plans.
- * Affirmed the role of lay people in "expanding the mission of the church" and recognizes the need to equip them for mission work. The resolution encourages the work of districts in developing lay education programs.
- * Voted to support a major effort to raise \$100 million over the next six years as part of Ablaze!, LCMS World Mission's 13-year initiative to share the Gospel with 100 million people worldwide.
- * Adopted changes to the Synod's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws that limit the "management authority and duties" of the Board of Directors and clarify the role of the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM). The resolution also overrules two Board resolutions that said eight CCM opinions that addressed Board authority are "of no effect."
- * Commended the Council of Presidents for their commitment to seeking peace in the Synod and requested materials to foster "peace, harmony, and trust" in the LCMS.
- * Approved the draft of the new hymnal presented by the LCMS Commission on Worship.
- * Permitted graduates of a Director of Family Life Ministry program to be placed on the official roster for commissioned ministers of religion.
- * Approved commemorating Black higher education with a special centennial celebration in 2006.
- * Encouraged higher-education institutions to include mission-focused courses and programs on topics such as evangelism, parish outreach strategies, contemporary U.S. culture, and urban ministry and cross-cultural ministries.
- * Acknowledged concerns expressed by the Synod's Praesidium regarding the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and encouraged "substantive conversations" with that church body.
- * Commended new guidelines from the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to aid church workers as they make decisions about participating in civic events.

COMING EVENTS

Teachers' Retreat , Concordia University, Seward	Aug. 3
Prairie Fire Event , Concordia University, Seward.....	Aug. 14
Orphan Grain Train Convention , Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk	Sept. 10-11
Circuit Counselors' Conference , St. Benedict Center, Schuyler	Sept. 13-14
Educational Seminar for Pastors , Zion, Ainsworth	Sept. 19-21
LWML South Convention , Adams County Fairgrounds, Hastings	Sept. 24-25
Treasurers' Workshop , Family Life Center, Immanuel, Columbus	Oct. 9
National Lutherans For Life Convention , Cincinnati, Ohio	Nov. 12-14

ANNIVERSARIES

Zion, Tobias, 125th, Aug. 1, with a 10:00 a.m. worship service followed by a catered meal at noon. Rev. James Fandrey will be the guest speaker at a special 2:00 p.m. service. Contact the church office at 1-402-243-2353 for more information.

Good Shepherd, Gretna, 25th, September 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.

Our Redeemer, Wahoo, 40th, September 26, with a special worship service at 10:00 a.m. with former pastors Rev. Ralph Sackschewsky and Rev. Rick Pettey, followed by a catered meal. Contact the church office at 1-402-443-4450 for more information.

Immanuel, Lincoln, 95th, October 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.

Zion, Grant, 80th, October 31, with District President Russ Sommerfeld preaching at the 10:00 a.m. mission service and the 2:00 p.m. Reformation service, with a noon meal served between services.

Call Information

ORDAINED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Richard Kothe (Spg'76), candidate status, to Immanuel, Atkinson.

Rev. Dirk Reek (Spg'74), interim, St. John, Seward, to assistant professor of theology, Concordia, Seward.

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Mike Neidow (StL'84), associate, Messiah, Lincoln, to associate, Our Redeemer, North Platte.

Rev. Bernard Worrall (StL'86), associate, Immanuel, Fargo, N.D., to associate, Trinity, Lincoln.

Rev. David Palomaki (StL'87), Redeemer, David City and Immanuel, Rising City, to senior, Grace, Wayne.

STATUS CHANGE

Rev. H. John Cotton (StL'98), St. Peter, Davenport, to candidate status effective May 23.

Rev. Michael Chaffee (StL'83), senior, Holy Savior, Lincoln, to removed from LCMS clergy roster effective July 2.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Terry Buethe (StL'04) as pastor, St. John, Wakefield, July 11 (ordination June 27 at Faith, Lincoln).

Rev. Gregory Grenyo (FtW'04) as pastor, Zion, Pawnee City, June 27.

Rev. Brian Ketelsen (FtW'04) as pastor, Faith, St. Edward and St. John, Cedar Rapids, June 27 (ordination also).

Rev. Jason Taylor (StL'04) as associate pastor, Holy Savior, Lincoln, July 11.

Rev. Ryan Wendt (FtW'04) as associate pastor/headmaster, Zion, Kearney, June 20.

Rev. Richard Kothe (Spg'76) as pastor, Immanuel, Atkinson, June 27.

Rev. Herbert Mueller III (StL'04) as pastor, Trinity, Amherst, July 18 (ordination also).

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

David Koopman (S'70), principal, St. Paul, Des Peres, Mo., to principal, St. John, Seward.

Donna Forke (S'75), teacher, St. John, Seward, to teacher, Christ, Murray, Utah.

Thomas Krenzke (S CQ'75), librarian, Concordia, Mequon, to information services librarian, Concordia, Seward.

Bill Meyer (S'80), principal, Trinity, St. Joseph, Mich., to principal, Christ, Norfolk.

Sean Martens (S'91), acting principal, St. John, Seward, to principal, Trinity (Lone Oak), Eagan, Minn.

Richard Smith (S'78), teacher, Immanuel, Columbus, to teacher, Salem, Springdale, Ark.

Candace Jurchen (S'01), teacher, Zion, Rapid City, S.D., to teacher, Trinity, Lincoln.

Thomas Guilford (S'92), teacher, Lincoln Lutheran Jr/Sr High, to St. John, Mayville, Wis.

Karen Sohn (MQ'02), teacher, Lutheran High, Salt Lake City, Utah, to Lincoln Lutheran Jr/Sr High School.

CALLS DECLINED

Lyle Ziems (S'89), teacher, Lincoln Lutheran Jr/Sr High School, to Concordia High School, Omaha.

Larry Biel (S'75), DCE, Pacific Hills, Omaha, to DCE, Christ, Norfolk.

James Dulas (RF'91), band director, Lutheran High School, Mayer, Minn., to band director, Lincoln Lutheran Jr/Sr High School.

PLACEMENTS

Tetsuya Sugita (I CQ'04), director of music ministry, Peace, Grand Island.

Sarah Bretschneider (S'04), teacher, St. John, Battle Creek.