



December 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 . . . CHRISTMAS ABLAZE!** "A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU -- HE IS CHRIST." (Luke 2:11b) So the angel announced to the shepherds on the hills near Bethlehem. From the dazzling light of the glory of the Lord the angel also proclaimed that they would find this Savior as a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger. And then came Christmas ablaze. **"When they had seen Him, they spread the word."** (Luke 2:17a) The shepherds saw and spoke. They spoke the words, "A Savior has been born to you -- He is Christ." **". . . and all who heard them were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."** (Luke 2:18) Those who heard of this Savior who is the Christ were brought into the awe of worship. **"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."** (Luke 2:19) Mary was caught up in quiet meditation and wonder over the Savior who is the Christ.

I pray that God the Holy Spirit will ignite "Christmas Reactions" in you. May you, like Mary, ponder the Christ Child deep in your heart and be warmed by his love! May you, like the crowds, know the awe of worshiping the Christ Child and be ablaze with praise! And may you, like the shepherds ablaze with the fire of the Spirit, spread the word, "A Savior has been born to you -- He is Christ!" . . . President Russ Sommerfeld

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS** . . . As we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ-child during this Advent season and look forward to the celebration of His birth at Christmas, the elected and appointed officers of the Nebraska District, as well as the staff at the District Office, extend to all members of the District their warmest wishes for a holiday season filled with the real joys of Christmas.

**LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE** . . . The Nebraska District is offering five listening posts with the theme, "Let it Shine, Let it Shine, Let it Shine: Mission Lights Across Nebraska." Lay members and church workers from each congregation are invited to spend the evening identifying the mission fields that surround their church and home, as well as exploring ways God can use them to "let His light shine." These meetings will also help shape the sessions offered at Prairie Fire '05 by identifying the tools needed to carry out this work. More information will be coming to church offices soon. Everyone is invited to attend any one or more of these sessions. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the evening will end at 8:30 p.m. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan now to attend at least one.

- January 11 at Heartland Lutheran High in Grand Island.
- January 12 at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk.
- January 13 at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Omaha.
- January 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington.
- January 25 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lincoln.

**EPIPHANY SERVICE . . .** The *Kantorei* from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind., will be at St. Paul, Beatrice, on Tuesday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m. for a service of Epiphany lessons and carols. More information is available by calling the church office at 1-402-228-1540 or visiting [www.stpaulbeatrice.org](http://www.stpaulbeatrice.org).

**THE NEBRASKA LUTHERAN REPORTER TO GET A NEW LOOK . . .** Next month, January 2005, the *Nebraska Lutheran Reporter* will contain the same information it always has, but will come to your congregation with a new look! After input from pastors, church office staff and members, as well as work by a communications task force, the *Reporter* will change to an 8.5x11" four-page layout with larger type and more graphics. This newsletter will continue to come to congregations free of charge and will arrive folded to bulletin size. Watch for the newly-designed Nebraska Lutheran *Reporter* in late December.

**CPH CONVENTION SPECIALIST . . .** Rev. Leon Zimmerman of Loup City has retired from his position as Concordia Publishing House Convention Specialist. Rev. Harold King, pastor at Zion, Juniata, and St. Paul, Holstein, has taken this position and will continue to offer quality CPH material to members of the Nebraska District at conferences and conventions. Pastor King may be contacted with questions at 1-402-756-5723.

**MEN'S WOODCUTTING RETREATS . . .** The annual Men's Woodcutting Retreats at Camp Luther will be January 7-9 and February 4-6. Men are invited to bring their chainsaws or other tools and work on projects at the camp. Both retreats will include a Bible study geared for men. At the end of the day on Saturday, the work day will finish with a traditional "steak and potato" meal. The cost for each retreat is \$60.00 for two overnights, five meals, snacks and materials. Bring your own chainsaw to get a discount. Send an e-mail with your name and address to [campluther@campluther.org](mailto:campluther@campluther.org) to register for this event.

**PRAIRIE FIRE '05 . . .** All congregation members and church workers are invited to attend Prairie Fire '05 on the campus of Concordia University, Seward, on August 6, 2005. First Vice President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Rev. William Diekelman, will be the guest speaker that day. Please put this date on your calendar and invite others to join you for a Spirit-filled day of resourcing and fellowship.

**EPIPHANY LECTURE SERIES . . .** Reverend Peter Bender and Headmaster Kimberly Hughes from Peace Lutheran Church and Academy, Sussex, Wis., will conduct a workshop on Catechesis at St. Paul, Beatrice, on Friday, February 4, and Saturday, February 5, as a part of the Epiphany Lecture Series. This workshop will include special emphasis and sessions for Lutheran school teachers and principals, as well as pastors and laity. Visit [www.stpaulbeatrice.org](http://www.stpaulbeatrice.org) for further developments or call the church office 1-402-228-1540.

**DISTRICT TEACHER APPOINTED TO LEA BOARD . . .** David Mueller, executive director of Wider Omaha Lutheran School Association, has been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for Lutheran Education Association (LEA). Lutheran Education Association is an international, professional organization that links, equips and affirms educators in Lutheran ministries.

**COMING EVENTS**

<b>Nebraska District LLL Convention, Hastings</b> .....	March 13-14
<b>Spring Pastors' Conference, North Platte</b> .....	April 4-5
<b>Jr. High Retreat, Camp Comeca, Cozad</b> .....	April 8-9
<b>Wives of Pastors Retreat, Lincoln</b> .....	April 29-30
<b>Principals' Conference, The Leadership Center, Aurora</b> .....	April 14-15
<b>Jr. High Retreat, Camp Luther, Schuyler</b> .....	April 15-16
<b>Prairie Fire '05, Concordia University, Seward</b> .....	August 6

**ANNIVERSARIES**

<b>Trinity, Lexington, 75<sup>th</sup></b> .....	June 12, 2005
<b>Zion Lutheran School, Bancroft, 125<sup>th</sup></b> .....	June 12, 2005

*Call Information*

**ORDAINED MINISTERS**

**CALLS ACCEPTED**

**Rev. Jon Sollberger** (FtW'02), Trinity, Morrill, Neb., to St. Peter, Orchard.  
**Rev. Jerome Troester** (StL'83), associate, Faith, Lincoln, to senior, Zion, Mitchell, S.D.

**CALLS DECLINED**

**Rev. Dean Hanson** (StL'92), Grace, Pleasanton, and Faith, Hazard, to St. Paul, Ireton, Iowa.  
**Rev. Mark Middendorf** (StL'97), Zion, Scotia, to St. John, Pilger.  
**Rev. John Nelson** (StL'92), Christ, Columbus, to Zion, Atlantic, Iowa.  
**Rev. David Palomaki** (StL'87), Redeemer, David City, and Immanuel, Rising City, to St. Peter, Deshler.  
**Rev. Jeff Scheich** (StL'85), associate, Christ, Lincoln, to senior, Emmanuel, York.

**ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**

Rev. Carl Lilienkamp (StL'77) as senior pastor, Grace, Wayne, October 31.

See next page . . .



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**LCEF**

# *Christmas Blessings*



**Working  
Together,  
One  
Mission—  
Ablaze!**

**T**hanks to the support of LCMS members, LCEF approved a record high of 907 loans this past year! These low-cost loans were used to build new schools, expand worship facilities, fund new mission starts, and help professional church workers—all in support of the Great Commission.

A unique ministry, LCEF partners investors with borrowers. Your investments at LCEF earn interest, but they also provide loan funds for churches, schools, and church workers. Working together, we are focused on One Mission—Ablaze! Helping others come to know the saving grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Thank you for your prayers and support of  
the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.**



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
Paul Pettit, Nebraska District LCEF Vice President  
152 S. Columbia • Seward, NE 68434  
(402) 643-2861 • 1-800-843-5233 • [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org)

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