



November 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 . . . "This is the Feast"** sings the church as it gathers around God's Word and Sacraments. And the Lord Jesus serves as the host as well as the meal for His people. November brings to mind thoughts of food, football, and fellowship on Thanksgiving Day. "This is the Feast of Victory for our God" of the church brings to mind the never-ending heavenly feast our Lord and Savior will set before us into eternity. And what a foretaste of the feast to come are the regular gatherings we have at the altar of our Lord in worship! With the coming of Thanksgiving Day there will be stories from across the Nebraska District of congregations, youth groups, LWML societies, families, and individual church members serving Thanksgiving dinners to the shut-in, the lonely, and the needy.

What wonderful acts of Christian compassion! And they all grow out of the greatest act of compassion. For our Lord Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life . . . I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I give for the life of the world."* (John 6:48a, 51) Our Jesus regularly sets His feast before us at worship. So, *"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."* (Isaiah 55:1) This is the Feast! . . . President Russ Sommerfeld

**NEW TESTAMENT COURSE TO BE TAUGHT IN NORFOLK . . .** The Lay Leadership Program of the Nebraska District will offer "History and Literature of the New Testament" at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk. Dates for the course are: November 6 and 13 and December 4 and 18. The class will be taught by Chaplain Wes Baumeister of Concordia University, Seward. Tuition for the course is \$200. For more information, contact Arlen Ahlers at 1-402-329-6574.

**MISSION OUTREACH COURSE BEGINS IN NOVEMBER . . .** The course "Mission Outreach in Multicultural Contexts" will be offered by the Lay Leadership Program of the Nebraska District November 6 and 20 and December 4 and 18. This course will be held at Concordia University in Seward and will be taught by Nebraska District pastors, church workers, and District Office staff. This class is open to all who are interested and tuition for the course is \$200. For more information contact Julie Roebke at 1-888-643-2961 or [julier@ndlcms.org](mailto:julier@ndlcms.org), or Rev. Dr. Marvin Bergman at [mbergman@cune.edu](mailto:mbergman@cune.edu).

**NEW SUDANESE MISSION CONGREGATION FORMED IN OMAHA . . .** On Sunday, October 3, the Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mission became the newest ministry in the Nebraska District. Sudanese from four Omaha LCMS congregations -- Pacific Hills, St. Mark, St. John, and Zion+Peace -- joined together to form this congregation, which will worship at the Zion+Peace facilities located at 4001 Q St. in Omaha. Three Sudanese men were commissioned to serve the new ministry as deacons under the supervision of Pastor Tim Heupel of Beautiful Savior, Omaha. For more information on this ministry, visit the Nebraska District website at [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org) or contact Nebraska District Mission and Outreach Director Rev. Rich Boring at [richb@ndlcms.org](mailto:richb@ndlcms.org) or 1-888-643-2961.

**CALLED TO GLORY . . . Kathryn Pobanz**, commissioned minister, was called to the Lord's side September 13 following a lengthy illness. She served the Lord as a teacher in the Kansas District and at Emmanuel, York; St. John, Waco; and St. John, Madison. She served at Christ, Norfolk until she became ill. . . . **Rev. Norman Hannemann**, pastor emeritus, departed this life September 17. During his ministry he served St. John, Newcastle, and Immanuel, Ponca; was the founding pastor of Faith, York; and assisted at Christ, Norfolk, as well as serving parishes in Iowa and Wyoming. Letters of condolence may be written to Dorothy Hannemann, 605 Adare Road, Norfolk, NE, 68701.

**BOARD SUMMARY . . .** The Nebraska District Board of Directors gathered for its September 10 meeting at Cristo Cordero de Dios, Grand Island, in an effort to visit District ministry sites to learn more about the ministry and bring encouragement to those who are serving within it. Board actions were as follows:

- \* Received a report from Cristo Cordero de Dios pastor Rev. Jorge Santamaria on this District mission and related mission and ministry opportunities among the Hispanic population of the Grand Island area.
- \* Received a report from the District Treasurer on the budget process according to biblical stewardship principles and decided to hold a budget workshop for board members in November.
- \* Voted to continue with "Option A" of the Worker Benefit Plans' Concordia Health Plan for Nebraska District staff for the 2005 year.
- \* Accepted a recommendation regarding the internal audit opinions for 2002 and 2003.
- \* Ratified LCEF loans to: Zion+Peace, Omaha; Zion, Plainview; St. John, Madison; Zion, Kearney; Faith, Lincoln; Mt. Calvary, Omaha; and Good Shepherd, Gretna.
- \* Commended the District Deaf Ministry Task Force for its recommendations and pledged its support with District resources according to good stewardship principles.
- \* Set the dates of June 1-3, 2006, for the next Nebraska District Convention to be held at Concordia University, Seward.
- \* Designated the first Sunday in June as a day to distribute information about Camp Luther to the congregations of the Nebraska District.
- \* Encouraged The Lutheran Home, Omaha, to share information with the congregations of the Nebraska District as to its mission and ministry.

**NEW CIRCUIT COUNSELOR . . . Rev. Kenton Birtell** of Mt. Calvary, Holdrege, has been appointed counselor of the Holdrege Circuit and will serve the remainder of the current term, which ends at the convention in June 2006. He fills a vacancy created by Rev. Carl Lilienkamp of Trinity, Arapahoe, who accepted a call out of the circuit.

**JOURNEY TO THE MANGER . . .** Experience the "Journey to the Manger," a journey back in time to that first Christmas when the promise of our Savior was fulfilled. Experience the difficult journey to Bethlehem, the bothersome Roman soldiers, the bustling market place, no vacancy at the inn, and finally the peace-filled manger. Renew your Christmas spirit Friday and Sunday, December 3 and 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The tours begin at Zion, Worms, 1655 Worms Rd., St. Libory. Call the church at 1-308-687-6314 or Theresa Watt at 1-308-894-8625 for more information.

**LWML SOUTH MEETS IN CONVENTION . . .** The members of the Nebraska District South LWML met in convention in Hastings in September, during which time they approved a budget of \$80,000 for mission grants, including \$36,500 for church worker scholarships. **Karen Christner** of Wauneta was elected as the president. Other newly elected officers include: **Gail Otten**, York, vice president of Gospel outreach and mission grants; **Denise Hummel**, Central City, vice president of servant resources; **Joy Harms**, Davenport, recording secretary; **Nancy Newman**, Kearney, treasurer; and **Rev. David Dobbertien**, Ogallala, pastoral counselor. Elected to the nominating committee were **Debra Baker**, Lincoln; **Marilyn Burgett**, Humboldt; and **Becky Kamprath**, Grand Island.

**ELECTION DAY AND CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP . . .** Christian citizens in the United States are blessed with opportunities for service.

**First as individual citizens--**

- **They share** in the responsibility (cf. Jeremiah 29:7) of government;
- **They seek** political office, pay taxes, and vote because government serves God;
- **They participate** in voluntary associations - service clubs, political parties, civic organizations in the exercise of political authority;

**Second as members of a church body--**

- **Christians engage** in public prayer for government;
  - **They contribute** to the strengthening of respect for the individual citizen and the limitation of political power by means of various checks and balances by:
    - \* **teaching** the specific content of the Moral Law;
    - \* **alerting** people to preserve justice and freedom on the basis of the moral principle;
    - \* **sharpening** consciences to respect law;
    - \* **encouraging** respect for persons in positions of authority;
    - \* **furthering** justice by serving as responsible critics of the social order;
    - \* **preserving** the distinction between things of government and those of God;
    - \* **reminding** leaders that they are under God and the Law;
    - \* **reminding** that governments will prevail only until the return of our Lord;
    - \* **exhibiting** concern for the welfare of one's neighbor (Philippians 2:4)
- (Adapted from: A Report of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations, May 26, 1968)

**LCMS POSITION ON GAMBLING . . .** With "Nevada Casino Amendment 3" and Initiatives 417, 418, 419, and 420 on the ballot, questions have been raised about the LCMS position on gambling. In February 1996 our Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations adopted a report titled "Gambling," based on six biblical principles as follows:

- \* Gambling encourages the sins of greed and covetousness.
- \* Gambling promotes mismanagement of possessions entrusted to us by God.
- \* Gambling undermines absolute reliance on God for His provision.
- \* Gambling works at cross purposes with a commitment to productive work.
- \* Gambling is a potentially addictive behavior.
- \* Gambling threatens the welfare of our neighbor and militates against the common good.

The document stops short of saying that every form of gambling is in and of itself contrary to the Word of God and therefore sinful. You may wish to access the full report at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).

**COMING EVENTS**

**National Lutherans For Life Convention**, Cincinnati, Ohio .....November 12-14  
**Nebraska District LLL Convention**, Hastings .....March 13-14  
**Spring Pastors' Conference**, North Platte .....April 4-5  
**Jr. High Retreat**, Camp Comeca, Cozad .....April 8-9  
**Principals' Conference**, The Leadership Center, Aurora .....April 14-15  
**Jr. High Retreat**, Camp Luther, Schuyler .....April 15-16  
**Prairie Fire '05**, Concordia University, Seward.....August 6

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**Trinity, Lexington**, 75<sup>th</sup>, June 12, 2005.

**Zion, Bancroft**, 125<sup>th</sup>, June 12, 2005.

*Call Information*

**ORDAINED MINISTERS**

**CALLS ACCEPTED**

**Rev. Carl Lilienkamp** (StL'77), Trinity, Arapahoe, to senior, Grace, Wayne.

**CALLS DECLINED**

**Rev. William Aufdenkamp** (StL'87), Bethlehem, Frazee, Minn., to St. Peter, Deshler.

**Rev. Wesley Baumeister** (StL'98), Concordia University, Seward, to associate, Campus Lutheran, Columbia, Mo.

**STATUS CHANGE**

**Rev. James Jaeger** (FtW'01), Immanuel, Sterling, to non-candidate status effective September 26.

**COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**

**OTHER TRANSACTIONS**

**Verleen Gentry** (S'63), teacher, Zion, Kearney, to resigned from roster.

**Sara Gunn** (S'02,) teacher, Messiah, Lincoln, to candidate status.

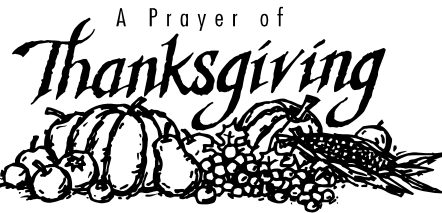
**Neil Sandfort** (RF'61), Administrative Assistant to the President in Education and Youth, Nebraska District, to emeritus.

**Rhoda Wahl** (S'76), candidate, Pacific Southwest District, to candidate, Nebraska District.

See next page . . .

*"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 1:2-3)*

**N**ovember is the time of year we stop to say a special thanks to God for the blessings He showers on us throughout the year. This year, the Nebraska District staff is giving the Lord **special thanks for each of you.**



We are thankful to the Lord for the **partnership** He has given us in the mission fields He has placed before us. Over the years, the Nebraska District has become more of a mission field as **immigrants** from other countries have moved into our communities. Different **generations, social and economic** conditions, and the **unchurched** also offer opportunities for witnessing.



The Lord has brought these people to our communities and neighborhoods and tells us **"the fields are ripe for harvest."** (John 4:35) He challenges each of us to reach out to those around us with the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for all.

**Nebraska** The Nebraska District gives thanks to God for the partnership we have in this mission field and we pray that He will continue to shower His blessings on these efforts in the year to come. If you or your congregation would like more information on the mission field in the Nebraska District or resources to help as you go into **"Mission Field . . . Nebraska,"** feel free to contact the District Office at 1-888-643-2961.

May you join us in giving thanks to God this Thanksgiving for the opportunities to witness He has placed before us in Nebraska. A blessed Thanksgiving to you and your family.

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