



October 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 . . . Faith Sees in the Dark -- "So sharp are the eyes of faith. Faith can see in the dark, where nothing whatsoever is visible; it feels where nothing is to be felt." -- Martin Luther. On October 31, "Reformation Day," we Lutheran Christians will celebrate with confidence in Christ that "it is by grace we have been saved, through faith -- and this not from ourselves, it is a gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) Because of Christ Jesus we can live each day knowing that we are saved by faith alone. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1) Faith is from God. Faith is God's work. "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) Faith makes Christians people who can see in the dark. In the darkest moments of life we can see the object of our faith, who is Jesus Christ. In a bunker near Cologne during World War II, some hunted men had inscribed on the wall, "I believe in the sun even if it is not shining! I believe in God even if He is silent. I believe in His love even if it is hidden!" Faith from God grants us the grace to say: "I believe in the light, for Christ is light in the darkness; I believe in God, for He spoke in Christ and is not silent. I believe in love, for love appeared on the cross in Christ." . . .
President Russ Sommerfeld

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY MEETING . . . A congregational health ministry networking meeting will be held Wednesday, October 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Nebraska District Office in Seward. Judy Mullally will share how the American Red Cross can help congregations be prepared for emergencies and reach out to their communities with health and safety classes. The meeting will include time for spiritual nurturing, education, and ideas and resource sharing. Contact the District Office at 1-888-643-2961 or e-mail cblanke@cune.edu with questions or for directions.

LCEF INVESTMENT DOLLARS AT WORK IN THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT . . . Grace, Pleasanton, was featured on a postcard mailed to each LCEF Nebraska District investor last month. The postcard highlighted the mission of Grace and shared information on how LCMS members provided funding to help Grace build a 6,300 square-foot addition through their LCEF investments. The addition more than doubled the existing sanctuary space by adding a large kitchen, restrooms, two offices, a fellowship hall, and a Bible study room. For more information on how you can join hands with LCEF to help build Lutheran churches and schools, contact Paul Pettit or Connie Borchers at the District Office at 1-888-643-2961.

GO SHINE! . . . is the theme of the Junior High Retreat at Camp Luther, Schuyler, on October 22-23. Based on Matthew 5:14-16, this retreat will include activities centered on getting youth excited about showing the world what it is like to be a child of God. Dave Schmidt from Phoenix, Ariz., will serve as devotional leader and present a Christian concert. Contact Camp Luther at 1-888-639-5809 or campluther@campluther.org for more information or to register. Registration information is also available on the District website at www.ndlcms.org.

REFORMATION FESTIVAL . . . Pacific Hills, Omaha, and the Omaha North Circuit will co-host the annual Reformation Festival on Oct. 31 at Pacific Hills. The 2:30 p.m. service will feature former Concordia President Orville Walz as guest preacher. Concordia choirs, directed by Kurt von Kampen, will provide music for the service, along with the Pacific Hills Sanctuary Choir and Brass, and former Pacific Hills Minister of Music Charles Ore.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF INGATHERING . . . will be Nov. 8-12 in Beatrice, Columbus, Dakota City, Fairbury, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha and York from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Goods packed for LWR should be sorted and labeled according to kind, packed in strong cartons secured with packing tape, and addressed for Lutheran World Relief. Boxes should not exceed 40 pounds and should be marked with the name and address of the sending church. For locations and information on what to donate, check the District website at www.ndlcms.org, call John Roseland at 1-888-456-1092 or Wilma Steinman at 1-402-371-6635, or e-mail Wilma Steinman at ysteinmn@ncfcomm.com.

"SO WHAT NOW? FINDING NEW PATHS" . . . Paul Welter, author, radio personality, therapist, and long-time instructor at UNK will speak on "Carrying Out Your Mission of Serving Others" at the Engaging the Aging Conference on Thursday, October 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church in Omaha. All interested seniors are invited to come and find healing and new meaning in life for themselves and others by developing specific, God-given resources. For further information, contact Rev. Roger Kruger at rkruger@lfsneb.org or 1-402-978-5670.

CONCORDIA PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION . . . The Presidential Inauguration of Brian Friedrich as president of Concordia University at Seward will be held Oct. 7-10 in conjunction with homecoming, family weekend and alumni reunion activities. The inauguration ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 8, in the Concordia gymnasium. The public is invited to attend this and any other events planned during this weekend. For a full schedule of events, visit Concordia's website at www.cune.edu or contact the alumni office by calling 1-402-643-7240 or e-mailing alumni@cune.edu.

CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH . . . October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Don't forget to celebrate the pastors in your church, as well as their families. For more information and ideas on honoring these servants of the Lord, visit www.clergyappreciation.org. The staff and Board of the Nebraska District would like to thank all of the pastors of the Nebraska District for their dedicated service to the Lord's work.

HEARTS ON FIRE . . . Nearly 700 members of the Nebraska District gathered at Concordia University in Seward on August 14 for the Nebraska District Prairie Fire. This day-long workshop provided time for people with hearts for the Lord's mission to gather and learn from each other. Through time spent in fellowship, in worship to the Lord, and in workshops, these brothers and sisters in Christ were resourced to be missionaries in their congregations and to their communities. Prairie Fire was part of the Nebraska District's response to ABLAZE!, the vision by LCMS World Mission to reach 100 million unchurched people around the world by 2017. Due to the overwhelming response to this event, another Prairie Fire event is being planned for early August 2005. Watch upcoming *Reporters* for more information.

ARE YOU MISSING OUT? . . . Do you like the type of information you receive each month in the Nebraska District Reporter? Do you wish you could get more information on items you read each month? Did you know you can? Each week, an Email Update is sent to subscribers across the Nebraska District and throughout the LCMS. This free e-newsletter shares information that doesn't fit in the monthly Reporter and gives more detail on the items that are included. This email newsletter is for anyone interested in the ministry taking place across the Nebraska District. To subscribe or to see past issues of the Email Update, e-mail communications@ndlcms.org with your e-mail address or visit the District website at www.ndlcms.org/news/communications/update.html.

ME, A PASTOR? ME, A DEACONESS? . . . If you have found yourself asking this question or have ever considered studying for these professions, now is the time to do something about it! Rev. Mike Scudder of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind., is going to be in the Nebraska District October 24-28. Men of all ages are invited, as are their wives, children, or fiancées. Women interested in the deaconess program are also invited, along with their families. Conferences are individual and informal. Reservations are not needed, however a specific time may be scheduled if desired. A list of sites and times is available on the District website at www.ndlcms.org.

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS . . . Rev. Dr. Orville Walz, former president of Concordia University, Seward, has been reappointed to a three-year term on the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of our Synod. Dr. Kurt von Kampen, Associate Professor of Music at Concordia University, Seward, has been appointed to his first three-year term on the Synod's Commission on Worship. Stan Witt of Beatrice is a new appointee to the Board of Managers-Worker Benefit Plans. Peggy Bayer of Daykin is a new appointee to the Board for Human Care Ministries. Kim Marxhausen, Lincoln, who serves the Nebraska District as Early Childhood Coordinator, was appointed to the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support.

DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE "EQUIPPED TO SERVE" . . . The registration deadline is October 1 for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund's Congregational Treasurer/Business Manager Workshop at Immanuel Family Life Center in Columbus on October 9. Contact LCEF Promotions Coordinator Connie Borchers at connieb@ndlcms.org or 1-888-643-2961 for more information or with questions.

COMING EVENTS

Church Musicians' Workshop and Hymn Sing, Zion, ImperialOct. 9-10
All Professional Church Workers' Conference, King of Kings, OmahaOct. 18-20
National Lutherans For Life Convention, Cincinnati, OhioNov. 12-14

ANNIVERSARIES

St. Peter, Scribner, 120th, October 10. Anniversary celebration and mission festival at 10:00 a.m. with Rev. Robert Backhus, son of the congregation, preaching. A potluck dinner will follow.
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. Robert Frank (FtW'86), Zion, Imperial, to Zion, Little Falls, Minn.

Rev. Dennis Maaske (StL'68), candidate, to interim, Trinity, Glenwood, Iowa.

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Ron Benson (FtW'01), associate, Trinity, Grand Island, to associate, Trinity, Lincoln.

Rev. Dennis Maaske (StL'68), candidate, to interim, Emanuel, Milbank, S.D.

Rev. Daniel Myers (StL'90), associate, Holy Cross, Wichita, Kan., to St. Peter, Deshler.

Rev. Adrian Sherrill (FtW'01), associate, Trinity, Denver, Colo., to St. Peter, Orchard.

Rev. Steve Sirek (FtWCoq'97), Concordia University, Seward, to Peace, Waverly.

Rev. S T Williams, Jr. (FtW'93), associate, Christ, Lincoln, to Our Savior, Indianapolis, Ind.

STATUS CHANGE

Rev. Thomas Finch (FtW'04), Christ, Nebraska City and St. Paul, Weeping Water, to candidate status effective August 1.

Rev. A. Paul Vasconcellos (StL'64), Concordia University, Seward, to emeritus status effective June 30.

Rev. Orville Walz (StL'82), Concordia University, Seward, to emeritus status effective July 11.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Brian Friedrich (StL'86) as president, Concordia University, Seward, August 22.

Rev. Tyler Hauptmeier (StL'04) as pastor, St. Peter, Wymore and First, Summerfield, Kan., September 5 (ordination Sept. 4 at Trinity, Lexington).

Rev. Dirk Reek (Spg'74) as Assistant Professor of Theology, Concordia University, Seward, August 22.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

Katherine Bergdolt (S'92), contract teacher to called teacher, Faith, Lincoln.

Allison Fridley (S'02), teacher, Faith Lutheran Jr-Sr High School, Las Vegas, Nev., to admissions counselor, Concordia University, Seward.

Peter Kenow (S'88), director of admissions, Concordia University, Seward, to vice president for institutional advancement, Concordia University, Seward.

Kevin Kromminga (S'89), assistant principal, Lutheran High, Orange, Calif., to assistant professor of education and director of field experiences, Concordia University, Seward.

Rebecca Kromminga (S'90), teacher, Lutheran High, Orange, Calif., to graduate assistant, Concordia University, Seward.

CALLS DECLINED

Liz Peters (SP'99) DCE, St John's, Yankton, S.D., to DCE, Christ, Norfolk.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS

Gretchen Gebhardt (S'75), candidate, Iowa District West to candidate, Nebraska District.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund



Our Mission: *The mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.*

LCEF is more than a “lender” when it comes to providing low-cost loans to churches and schools of the LCMS. LCEF also provides facility planning services that allow ministry to occur, grow, and flourish.

For more information on the ministry and services of LCEF, contact Paul Pettit at the Nebraska District Office

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