



# Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



Information of Interest for Lutherans in the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod  
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November 2005



## TEACHERS MEET FOR CONFERENCE . . .

*Teachers Meeting* . . . Teachers from Lutheran schools across the Nebraska District met October 20-21 at Trinity, Grand Island, for their annual conference. Keynote speaker and workshop presenter Dr. William Duey, professor at Concordia, River Forest, spoke on the conference theme, "Becoming a Splendid Cedar," based on Ezekiel 17:23. The conference opened with a worship service and also included workshop sessions to resource the teachers, as well as times for fellowship.

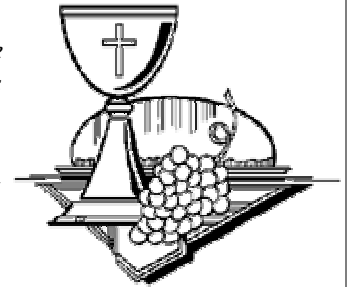
## CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY NETWORKING MEETING . . . A



congregational health ministry networking meeting will be held Tuesday, November 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Nebraska District Office in Seward. The meeting includes time for sharing of resources, ideas, and education. November is National Caregiving Month. Come hear speakers and learn of helpful resources that will equip you to be more effective in reaching out to caregivers in your congregation and community. Refreshments will be provided. Bring ideas and resources from your area that support caregivers. To RSVP or for more information, contact Chris Blanke at [cblanke@cune.edu](mailto:cblanke@cune.edu) or 402-643-7224.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

*"I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."* (Philippians 3:8-9)



The story is told of a meat packer who was asked, "What is your business?" Without hesitating he answered, "I am a Christian." Puzzled and perplexed over this answer, the inquirer continued, "Sir, you evidently did not understand me. I mean, what is your daily business in life?" Again the answer was quick and to the point, "My daily business is to be a Christian. I pack meat to pay the expenses."

Mention of the word "stewardship" and the starting letter of "s" quickly changes to "\$" in our minds. Stewardship is not just money. Stewardship is life. God gave us the gift of life, which we turned into death with sin. So God gives us new and eternal life through the death of His Son Jesus Christ. And we get lives that are transformed by undeserved love and unconditional forgiveness. All that we are, all that we have, and all that we do are from God. We get to live in worship, yes, in awe of God's grace, love, and mercy. The manner in which we care for our health, care for our families, do our jobs, live in our communities, treat our neighbors, use God's Word, serve Him, support His church and mission with our treasures, and present Him to all who meet us is STEWARDSHIP. We get to be Christians because God made us into Christians.

*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* 2 Corinthians 5:21.

**LWML MISSION GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED . . .** Application forms for mission grants for the 2006 conventions of the Nebraska District LWML South and North are now available from local LWML society presidents. The Vice President of Gospel Outreach for each District may also be contacted. For LWML South, contact Gail Otten at 1518 Clearview Blvd., York, NE, 68467; 402-362-3928; or [aotten@neb.rr.com](mailto:aotten@neb.rr.com). For LWML North, contact Janyce Warneke at PO Box 223, Plainview, NE, 68769; 402-582-3728; or [leejan@plvwtelco.net](mailto:leejan@plvwtelco.net). The deadline for submitting grant applications for LWML South is December 31, 2005, and for LWML North is January 1, 2006. An individual member, society, zone, district board, or synodical board may submit grant proposals.

**The mission of the Nebraska District is to resource congregations, leaders, and related organizations in their mission of discipling the saved and proclaiming Christ to a lost and changing world.**

# BOARD SUMMARY

**BOARD SUMMARY** . . . The Nebraska District Board of Directors, at its meeting on September 9, took the following actions:

- Ratified LCEF loans awarded to St. John (Kramer), Crete; Messiah, Lincoln; Peace, Waverly; Faith, Lincoln; and Zion+Peace, Omaha.
- Accepted the 2004 fiscal year audit report of the Nebraska District.
- Offered commendations for the ministry on the Winnebago Reservation and support for the ongoing research into a Lutheran elementary school on the reservation.
- Discussed a New Mission Support Committee and plans to appoint members at the next Board meeting.
- Approved a District-wide special Thanksgiving Offering for the common mission of the District.
- Affirmed returning the partial refund of assessment from Synod convention to the District Convention and Conference Assessment account.
- Designated the 2006 District Convention Thankoffering to be divided equally for the District's mission start process, support for the Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan through LCMS World Missions, and the LCMS joint seminary fund.
- Voted to go with "Option B" of the Concordia Plan Services Health Plan for the employees of the Nebraska District.
- Elected to be a participating employer in "The Church's Plan" as offered by Concordia Plan Services.
- Elected to provide a match of 50% of the next 4% of worker contributions to the Concordia Retirement Savings Program.
- Clarified the Convention and Conference Assessment policy.
- Appointed Rev. David Block to the Board of Directors of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska.
- Granted permission for President Russ Sommerfeld to participate in a week-long LCMS World Mission trip to Sudan, Africa, in December.

## CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

#### CALLS ACCEPTED:

**Rev. Glen Gutz** (StL'98), associate, Mt. Olive, Norfolk, to Immanuel, Salisbury, Mo.

**Rev. Christopher Boehnke** (StL'00), Atonement, Omaha, to Risen Savior, Tea, S.D.

#### CALLS DECLINED:

**Rev. Duane Voorman** (FtW'83), Senior, Trinity, Lincoln, to associate, Bethany, Parma, OH.

#### STATUS CHANGE:

**Rev. William Ryden** (StL'98), Good Shepherd, Milford, to candidate status effective October 9.

#### ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

**Rev. Thomas Clark** (FtW'05) as pastor, Christ, St. Paul, September 18 (ordination also).

### COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

#### OTHER TRANSACTIONS:

**Roxane Humphrey** (SP'92), Non-Candidate Status to Candidate Status effective September, 2005.

**Barbara Huebner** (S'70), Candidate Status, Nebraska District to Candidate Status, Minnesota South District.

**Tamra Jurchen** (SP'69), teacher, Our Redeemer, Staplehurst, to Candidate Status.



**CALLED TO GLORY . . . Rev. August Mommens**, pastor emeritus, of St. Libory was called to glory September 20. During his ministry, Rev. Mommens served parishes in Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Florida, and Oregon, as well as Chaplain at Nebraska Veterans Home in Grand Island. . . **Rev. Herbert Schutte**, pastor emeritus, of North Platte received his crown of life September 20. Rev. Schutte served parishes in Oregon, California, Ontario, Canada, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, and at Grace, Grand Island during his ministry.

**LUTHERAN WORSHIP ON TV** . . . LCMS World Mission and "Point of Truth," the LCMS half-hour television worship program, are teaming up to produce eight special *Ablaze!*-themed episodes with messages on how Christians can share their faith. These worship programs are scheduled to air every Sunday October 30 - December 18. Watch the LCMS worship service on DIRECTV, Channel 371: 2 p.m. CST; or on the Web at [www.churchchannel.org](http://www.churchchannel.org). For more information, visit [www.pointoftruth.com](http://www.pointoftruth.com).



News items and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. The deadline for submission for the December 2005 Reporter is **Monday, October 31**. Please submit items to [Reporter@ndlcms.org](mailto:Reporter@ndlcms.org) or PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434.

# HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (and their aftermath) have caused devastation unlike any we've ever seen in the U. S. The Southern District of our Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has had 59 of its 169 congregations badly damaged or affected by Katrina, and more will become known, along with congregations in the Texas District, because of Rita's additional fury. At this date many church workers and members remain displaced, damage assessments are being made, massive clean-up is beginning, and much assistance for physical, emotional, spiritual and community recovery as well as rebuilding is needed.

The Nebraska District has developed a coordinated plan that fits with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod's overall relief response. The Nebraska District and the English District have been partnered to meet the needs of two congregations: **St. Paul Lutheran Church, Annette Street, New Orleans, Louisiana;** and **Zion Lutheran Church, Bogalusa, Louisiana.**

Our District will also assist retired pastors:

- **Rev. Marvin Otto**  
Currently in Tennessee
- **Rev. Louis Nelsen**  
Covington, La
- **Rev. Sidney Ponseti**  
Currently in Baton Rouge, La
- **Rev. L.E. Delgehausen**  
Baton Rouge, La



Please watch for releases with further details via the District website [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org), and via email updates as soon as possible.

## NATIONAL BIOETHICS CONFERENCE . . .

A nationwide bioethics conference for pastors, health professionals, and laypersons on making Christian ethical decisions is set for Nov. 11 in St. Louis, preceding the Lutherans For Life National Conference. Topics include "Arguing About Embryos," "The Sanctity of Life in the Biotech Industry," and "Bioethics: Creating a Caste of Disposable People." The registration fee for this one-day bioethics conference is \$50. Contact Lutherans For Life at 888-364-5433 or visit [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) for more information or to register.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF INGATHERING . . .

will be November 7-10 in Beatrice, Columbus, Fairbury, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Omaha, Dakota City, 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, visit the District website at [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org), call John Roseland at 800-456-1092 or Wilma Steinman at 402-371-6635, or email Wilma at [vsteinmn@ncfcomm.com](mailto:vsteinmn@ncfcomm.com).

## COMING EVENTS

Nebraska Theological Conference, Howard Johnson, Grand Island.....	November 4-5
Church Secretary/Office Administrators' Workshop, Concordia University, Seward.....	November 8
LFS Wicker & Wine Boutique Basket Auction, Omni Centre Atrium, Council Bluffs, Iowa.....	November 10
Lutherans For Life Convention, St. Louis, Mo.....	November 11-13
District Youth Gathering, Holiday Inn Central, Omaha .....	November 18-20
Nebraska District LLL Convention, Holiday Inn, Beatrice .....	March 10-12, 2006
Nebraska District Convention, Concordia University, Seward.....	June 1-3, 2006

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Our Savior, Valentine**, 40th, October 30, 2005. Worship services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., with noon potluck.

Hymn sing before the 2:00 p.m. service, with Rev. Georg Williams as guest preacher.

**Grace, Grand Island**, 50<sup>th</sup>, January 8, 2006. Rev. Randall Golter, president of the Rocky Mountain District, will be the guest preacher.

**St. Paul, Doniphan**, 90<sup>th</sup>, January 15, 2006, with Rev. Russ Sommerfeld preaching at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.

*"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted." Isaiah 12:4*

# "Would You Tell My Friend About Jesus?"

**O**NE OF THE GRADUATES from Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool and her friend stopped by to visit the preschool in Winnebago. The teacher had not seen her in two years. The little girl gave the teacher a hug and talked a bit, and then she said, "Would you tell my friend about Jesus? Get out those eggs that tell about Jesus."

The teacher got out the set of plastic eggs, each containing something to signify an event during Holy Week. This little graduate remembered every item in the eggs and what each meant. She actually told the story; the teacher just opened the eggs!

Then the student said, "Get out that big book that tells what all Jesus made." The teacher read the little visitors that book, and another, and another! The little girls were there for about an hour and a half.

The best part was that this little six-year-old girl got herself ready and walked to Sunday School



and church all by herself that next Sunday morning. It is thanks to the gifts of the people and congregations of the Nebraska District that this preschool and outreach can continue to operate. Praise God that many of the seeds that are planted across the

District are falling on good soil, and that God is faithful to His promise that His Word will not return void.

Please prayerfully consider a Thanksgiving offering to the Lord for our common mission together as congregations and members of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Just like the budgeted offerings that come from congregations each and every month, this special offering will be used to provide gifts for our common ministry in the mission fields of Nebraska and around the world. Every congregation has received special envelopes for this offering, or your special gift can be sent directly to the Nebraska District Office.

A portion of your Thanksgiving offering will go to our entire Synod to support its services and missions around the world.

Another portion will support services to our Nebraska congregations and schools, including the calling and caring for workers, supervision of schools, and other various resourcing conferences and workshops.

The final portion of your gift will go to mission outreach and awareness, established missions, church worker scholarships and new mission starts.



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May the thankfulness in your heart for what the Lord has done move you to help support the ministry of the Nebraska District as together we "make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted."

**Yes!** I want to help support services to our Nebraska congregations and schools. Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25     \$50     \$100  
 \$500     \$\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_