



Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



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

THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE . . .

Ordained, commissioned and lay members of the District will gather at the Howard Johnson Riverside Inn, Grand Island, on November 4-5 for the Nebraska District Theological Conference. All pastors are invited to attend, along with one commissioned minister from each District school, all DCEs and one lay member from each congregation.

This two-day conference, modeled after the synodical conference which took place in Phoenix in August, will give participants a time for dialog and discussion on the topic of roles in the congregation. Congregations and schools should have received registration information and should return completed registrations to the District Office by October 14. Contact Connie Borchers at the District Office with questions and for more information at connieb@ndlcms.org or 888-643-2961.

CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH . . .

October is Clergy Appreciation Month.

Don't forget to celebrate the pastors and their families in your church, both those who are serving and those who have retired.



For more information and ideas on honoring these servants of the Lord, visit www.clergyappreciation.org. The Nebraska District Board of Directors and staff would like to thank all the pastors in the Nebraska District for their dedication to their calling and the work they are doing among the mission fields of Nebraska.

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

*Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son
And bring to naught all he has done.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known
For you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy Church that we
May sing your praise triumphantly.*

*O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.*

Children first sang those words in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1541. Martin Luther penned both the words and the tune for a special prayer service. Luther said this hymn was to be sung against two arch-enemies of Christ and His Church. Those enemies are those who would teach that we are saved by our own good deeds rather than faith in Christ and those who want to kill Christians for their confession of faith in Christ.

Reformation Day on October 31 will once again give us the opportunity to thank the Lord for giving Martin Luther of 1483-1546 the privilege of reforming the church to again proclaim, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

What a joy it is to live each and every day unto eternity in that undeserved love of God in Christ. And what an honor it is to also know that, "we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10) Reformation Day beckons children, youth, adults and the elderly to pray, "Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word," to live in grace and serve the Lord. -- President Russ Sommerfeld



CHURCH SECRETARIES' WORKSHOP RESCHEDULED . . .

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) recognizes the vital role the church secretary plays in a congregation, and is pleased to sponsor a workshop for all church secretaries and office administrators in the Nebraska District on November 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Concordia University, Seward. Please note this is a date change. This day will be a wonderful opportunity for God's servants to enjoy a time together of learning, fellowship and idea sharing. Registration information will be sent to each church office.



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.

DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATE INFORMATION FORMS MAILED . . .

Congregations should have received a Convention Delegate Information Form in the mail in late September. This form must be completed, certified by at least two officers of the congregation and returned to the District Office by January 31 for the congregation's pastoral and lay delegates to District Convention to be eligible to participate and vote. Congregations are encouraged to address this matter at their fall voters' meeting and return the form as soon as possible. Dual congregations are considered one congregation and allowed one pastoral and one lay delegate combined. Contact Julie Roebke at the District Office, julier@ndlcms.org or 888-643-2961, with questions.

THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES . . . Registration materials have been sent to church offices for the 2005 Nebraska District Youth Gathering. Youth in grades 9-12 are invited and encouraged to come to the Holiday Inn Central in Omaha November 18-20 to gather and celebrate how they have been "Transformed" through the blood of Jesus Christ and their connection with Him through the waters of their baptism, based on Romans 12:1-2. In addition to keynote speaker Brad Alles and Gathering band Echelon, youth will have the opportunity to be involved in off-site servant events, a weekend-long scavenger hunt, small group sectionals, and large group gatherings. Early registration ends October 1, but registrations will continue to be accepted as long as there is room. Congregations are encouraged to register as soon as possible.



CHURCH HISTORY COURSE TO BE OFFERED IN SEWARD . . . "The History of the Church's Mission" is the tenth course of the Lay Leadership Program being offered in Seward. The focus of the course is the church's mission during its first 15 centuries. Leading the course is Dr. David Meyer, emeritus professor of theology, Concordia University. Tuition for the course is \$200. Dates of the course are November 5 and 12, December 3 and 17. For more information, contact Kathy Melton at the District Office, kathym@ndlcms.org or 888-643-2961.

CONVENTION NOMINATIONS . . . Just a reminder that the 2006 Convention calls for nominations are due **by November 1, 2005**. These would be the nominations for Secretary of the District, Nominations Committee, Constitution and Handbook Committee, and Concordia University--Seward Board of Regents. Nomination forms were included in the August and September 2005 issues of the *Reporter* and are to be returned to the District Office. Copies of the nomination forms may be printed from these past Reporter issues on the District website at www.ndlcms.org/news/communications/reporter.html. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Roland Jank, Jr., District Secretary, at 402-455-8700, or the District Office at 888-643-2961.

HIM - HEALTH IN MINISTRY . . . Church workers in the Nebraska District are invited to join in a grace-centered discussion of ministry topics and challenges on the third Tuesday of each month at Holy Cross, Kearney. The pastors and DCE of Holy Cross are inviting fellow church workers to join them for a few hours of healthy, grace-filled discussion of ministry topics related to growing the mission of Jesus Christ in local congregations and ministries. This time will give church workers the opportunity to discuss the challenges or blessings of ministry, offer recommendations of ministry resources to others and gather assistance and ideas in areas of ministry from others. Future topics and ideas will be decided by those in attendance and a schedule will be sent out via the District *Email Update*. Contact Rev. Rob Kuefner at rkuefner@hclk.org or 308-237-2944 with questions.

MISSION COURSE OFFERED IN NORFOLK . . . "Mission Outreach in Multicultural Contexts," one of ten courses of the Lay Leadership Program, will be taught in Norfolk at Lutheran High Northeast. Serving as instructors are Pastors Ray Wilke, Richard Snow, Christopher Hazzard, Michael Awe and Richard Boring, as well as Jerry Steger, a leader of the Lutheran Hour Ministries' "Equipping to Share" workshop. Tuition is \$200. Dates for the sessions are November 5 and 19, December 3 and 17. For more information, contact Arlen Ahlers at adahlers@ptcnet.net or 402-329-6574.

LUTHERAN COLLEGE FAIR . . . The Lutheran College Fair is coming to Omaha for high school students who are interested in attending a Lutheran college. The college fair will be from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, October 9, at the Omaha Marriott Hotel. Admissions representatives from Lutheran colleges and universities will be available to answer questions regarding admission, academic programs, student life, housing and financial aid. All families attending a Lutheran College Fair event will receive application fee waivers applicable for any participating Lutheran college/university. For details on the college fair, visit www.lutherancolleges.org/collegefairs/.

CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

ORDAINED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED:

Rev. John Cotton (StL'98), candidate, to Christ, Nebraska City and St. Paul, Weeping Water.

Rev. John Diener (FtW'94), St. Mark, Brunswick, Ohio, to St. John, Tecumseh.

Rev. Steven Heinsen (StL'96), associate, Christ, Norfolk, to Calvary, Lincoln.

CALLS DECLINED:

Rev. John Beck (FtW'79), Messiah, Sartell, Minn., to Trinity, Arapahoe.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

Rev. Thomas Obersat (FtW'91) as teacher/administrator, Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Lincoln, August 21.

Rev. Royce Rinehart (Spg'73) as interim pastor, Trinity, Grand Island, September 4.



CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE SALE . . .

Concordia Publishing House brings its Warehouse Sale to the Janzow Campus Center on the Concordia University, Seward, campus. The sale will be open Friday, September 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, October 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. During this time, excess inventory from CPH is offered at deep discounts. Sale items include books for children and adults, teaching resources, and more. For more information, call 402-643-7405.

JUNIOR HIGH RETREATS . . .

Camp Luther, Schuyler, will hold a Junior High Retreat October 14-15 for students in 7th and 8th grade. Registration information for this retreat is available on Camp Luther's website, www.campluther.org, and registrations are due October 5. Contact Camp Luther at 402-352-5655 or campluther@campluther.org with questions or for more information.



COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED:

Thomas Heigel (S'78), candidate, Indiana District, to teacher, Wider Omaha Lutheran School Association.

Susan Krieger (S'82), admissions counselor, Concordia University, Seward, to teacher, Christ, Phoenix, Ariz.

Cynthia Kuntz (S'87), teacher, Our Redeemer, St. Louis, Mo., to teacher, Wider Omaha Lutheran School Association.

Sarah Weber (S'00), teacher, St. Paul, Fort Dodge, Iowa, to teacher, Zion, St. Libory.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS:

Linda Heigel (S'78), teacher, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne, Ind., to candidate, Nebraska District.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT . . . Camp Luther is hosting a leadership training event on October 28-30 which will allow two or three youth from each congregation to attend and learn how to lead events in their local congregation's youth group program. All but \$10 is covered by a grant from Thrivent. Contact Camp Luther at 402-352-5655 or campluther@campluther.org with questions or for more information.

EQUIPPING TO SHARE . . . Feeling tongue-tied or unprepared when it comes to sharing your faith? Imagine having tools to help you for the next time God sends an unbeliever in your direction! Discover how God equips His people to be gentle and effective witnesses at the **Equipping to Share Workshops** being held across the District this fall. These interactive training sessions from Lutheran Hour Ministries help believers with the privilege of sharing the truth and love of Christ in everyday situations. Contact the host congregation listed for more information and to register at least one week before the workshop.



Sunday, October 2, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Timothy, Council Bluffs, 712-323-0693.

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Holy Savior, Lincoln, 402-434-3325.

Sunday, October 9, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Trinity, Arapahoe, 308-962-7666.

Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Pilgrim, Bellevue, 402-291-2848.

Tuesday, October 25 and Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Redeemer, Lincoln, 402-477-1710.

Saturday, October 29, 8:00 a.m. - noon, at Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk, hosted by Grace, Norfolk, 402-371-1044.

Saturday, October 29, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at Good Shepherd, Fremont, co-hosted by Good Shepherd and Trinity, Fremont, and St. Paul, Arlington, 402-721-8412.

HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS

The love of Jesus is moving the hearts of Lutheran Christians of Nebraska District congregations, schools, ministries and missions to compassion for relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

HOUSING FOR STORM VICTIMS - The Nebraska District will work with LCMS World Relief and Human Care in any way we can. If you or your congregation are able to offer a home to people displaced by Hurricane Katrina, you may email lcms.housing@lcms.org. Include your name, phone number, the type of housing you can provide (apartment, mobile home, house, etc.), maximum occupancy, the dates this will be available and your mailing address. After needs have been assessed, LCMS World Relief will begin matching refugees with volunteers. It will take time to process this information, so please be patient and, above all, keep the victims of this disaster in your prayers.

VOLUNTEERING TO HELP - Individuals and congregations willing to assist with future recovery efforts are urged to contact the ministry at lcms.volunteer@lcms.org. Include your name, address, phone number, length of time you are available, and, if applicable, any special skills you can provide - pastoral care, medical, counseling, child care, etc.

HOW YOU CAN HELP - Congregations, church offices, schools, and members are encouraged to use the Nebraska District website, www.ndlcms.org, as a central point of information to find links to the most current news. For congregations wishing to provide monetary donations, gifts may be directed to:

LCMS World Relief/Human Care

P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-9810
Checks should be designated "2005 Hurricanes"
Gifts may also be made over the credit card gift line, 1-888-930-4438

Orphan Grain Train

PO Box 1466
Norfolk, NE 68702-1466
(402) 371-7393

Online contributions are accepted from their website at www.ogt.org/contributions.cfm.



COMING EVENTS

- Orphan Grain Train Convention**, Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk Sept. 30 - Oct. 1
- LFS Healthy Families Walk**, Alegent Lakeside Wellness Center, Omaha October 2
- Circuit Counselors' Retreat**, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler October 3-4
- Daughter Church Planting Conference**, St. Mark, Omaha October 7-8
- Congregational Treasurer/Business Managers' Workshop**, Concordia University, Seward October 15
- Teachers' Conference**, Trinity, Grand Island October 20-21
- New Teacher Retreat**, District Office, Seward October 28
- Nebraska Theological Conference**, Howard Johnson, Grand Island November 4-5
- Scrapbooking Retreat**, Camp Luther, Schuyler November 4-6
- Church Secretary/Office Administrators' Workshop**, Concordia University, Seward November 8
- Congregational Health Ministry Networking Meeting**, District Office, 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**, Midtown Holiday Inn, 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

- First Trinity, Bloomfield**, 110th, October 9. Rev. David Zirpel, former vicar, will preach at the 10:00 a.m. worship service, followed by dinner.
- Zion, Hubbell**, 100th, October 16. Rev. John Freitag will be the guest speaker at a special 10:00 a.m. worship service, followed by a special noon meal and informal anniversary service.
- Holy Cross, Kearney**, 40th, October 16. Rev. Dennis Heiden will preach at the 10:00 a.m. festival service at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds.
- Grace, Grand Island**, 50th, January 8, 2006. Rev. Randall Golter, president of the Rocky Mountain District, will be the guest preacher.
- St. Paul, Doniphan**, 90th, January 15, 2006, with Rev. Russ Sommerfeld preaching at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.