



# Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



Information of Interest for Lutherans in the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod  
PO Box 407, 152 South Columbia, Seward NE 68434  
Phone: 1-888-643-2961 ♦ Fax 1-402-643-2990 ♦ Website: www.ndlcms.org

September 2005

## EQUIPPING TO SHARE WORKSHOPS

. . . Isn't it heartbreaking having a neighbor, friend or family member who doesn't know Jesus or who doesn't go to church? How do we reach out to them without being threatening or pushy? 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.

**Saturday, September 17**, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Centennial, Superior.

**Sunday, September 18**, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Zion, Grant.

**Saturday, October 8**, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Holy Savior, Lincoln.

**Sunday, October 9**, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Trinity, Arapahoe.

## LAY LEADERSHIP COURSE IN

**NORFOLK** . . . "Teaching the Faith" will be taught at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk on September 17 and 24 and October 15 and 22. The course will be led by Seth Kaiser, DCE at Our Savior, Norfolk. To register or for more information, contact Arlen Ahlers at [adahlers@ptcnet.net](mailto:adahlers@ptcnet.net) or 402-329-6574. Tuition is \$200 and scholarship information is available from Pastor Michael Awe at 402-368-5690.

## LAY LEADERSHIP COURSE IN SEWARD

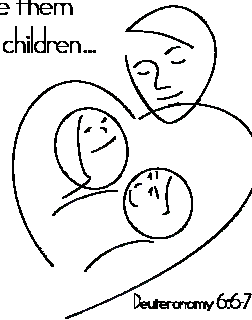
. . . The ninth of the ten-course curriculum of the Lay Leadership Program, "Teaching the



Faith," will be held at Concordia University, Seward, on September 10 and 24 and October 8 and 22. Teaching the course is Dr. Mark Blanke, director of DCE ministries at Concordia. For more information contact Kathy Melton at the District Office, [kathym@ndlcms.org](mailto:kathym@ndlcms.org) or 888-643-2961, or Marvin Bergman, [marv.bergman@cune.edu](mailto:marv.bergman@cune.edu). Tuition for the course is \$200.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Keep these words...  
in your heart:  
Decite them  
to your children...



. . . "The LORD our God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:4b-7)

September brings to mind Christian education in the Scriptures and Luther's *Small and Large Catechisms* for children and adults. In the Preface to the *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther

wrote, "But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher, . . . yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism, and every morning, and whenever I have time, I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, etc. And I must still read and study daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and am glad so to remain."

I once studied under a teacher who loved to commit God's Word, especially the Psalms, to memory. He would say with both glee and conviction, "A Psalm a day keeps the devil away." Committing God's Word to memory and reviewing the basics of the *Catechism* equip us with the revelation of God for the various joys and challenges of life. We also become great examples as life-long learners of God's precious Word for the children who are just beginning their journey in that same Word and the *Catechism*.

Again, Luther says it well as he introduces his *Large Catechism*, "Besides, it is an exceedingly effectual help against the devil, the world, and the flesh and all evil thoughts to be occupied with the Word of God, and to speak of it, and meditate upon it, so that the First Psalm declares those blessed who meditate upon the law of God day and night. Undoubtedly, you will not start a stronger incense or other fumigation against the devil than by being engaged upon God's commandments and words, and speaking, singing, or thinking of them."

President Russ Sommerfeld



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.

**DAUGHTER/CHURCH PLANTING SEMINAR . . .** A new church plant is one of the most effective means of reaching those who have become detached from the church or have never been attached to a church. This two-day seminar is designed to help existing congregations develop a plan to “birth” a daughter congregation. Topics covered include: “Why Plant a Church,” “Why Plant a Daughter Church?,” “Answers to Objections to Daughtering,” “The Six Point Strategy,” “How to Know When it is Time to Plant,” and “Dealing with Questions of the Mother and Daughter.” The Nebraska District, Iowa District West and LCMS World Missions will be sponsoring this seminar at St. Mark, Omaha, on October 7 and 8 for pastors and congregational leaders who may be considering planting a church. Registration information will be sent to each congregation. Contact Rev. Rich Boring in the District Office, [richb@ndlcms.org](mailto:richb@ndlcms.org) or 888-643-2961, for more information.



**THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE . . .** Nebraska District pastors, teachers, DCEs and laity will gather at the Howard Johnson in Grand Island from the evening of November 4 through the afternoon of November 5 for a time of theological dialogue about the role of church workers and laity in the life of congregations.

This conference will be modeled after the Synod’s Theological Conference on August 23-25 in Phoenix. Watch for details in the mail to each congregation and in various District publications.

## COMING EVENTS

<b>State Fair Worship Service</b> , The Nebraska Stage, State Fair Park, Lincoln .....	September 4
<b>Church Secretary/Office Administrators’ Workshop</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	September 13
<b>Nebraska Lutherans For Life Rally</b> , Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk .....	September 17
<b>Educational Seminar for Pastors</b> , Zion, Ainsworth .....	September 18-20
<b>New Worker Orientation</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	September 26-27
<b>Orphan Grain Train Convention</b> , Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk .....	Sept. 30 - Oct. 1
<b>LFS Healthy Families Walk</b> , Alegent Lakeside Wellness Center, Omaha .....	October 2
<b>Circuit Counselors’ Retreat</b> , St. Benedict Center, Schuyler .....	October 3-4
<b>Daughter/Church Planting Conference</b> , St. Mark, Omaha .....	October 7-8
<b>Congregational Treasurer/Business Managers’ Workshop</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	October 15
<b>Teachers’ Conference</b> , Trinity, Grand Island .....	October 20-21
<b>New Teacher Retreat</b> , District Office, Seward .....	October 28
<b>Nebraska Theological Conference</b> , Howard Johnson, Grand Island .....	November 4-5
<b>LFS Wicker &amp; Wine Boutique Basket Auction</b> , Omni Centre Atrium, Council Bluffs, Iowa .....	November 10
<b>Lutherans For Life Convention</b> , St. Louis, Mo. ....	November 11-13
<b>District Youth Gathering</b> , Midtown Holiday Inn, Omaha .....	November 18-20
<b>Nebraska District LLL Convention</b> , Holiday Inn, Beatrice .....	March 10-12, 2006
<b>Nebraska District Convention</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	June 1-3, 2006

## ANNIVERSARIES

- Immanuel, Polk**, 125<sup>th</sup>, September 11. Worship services at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. featuring former teacher Rev. Richard Bringewatt as guest speaker. A catered meal will be served at noon and a reception will follow the afternoon service. Please RSVP with dinner reservations to the church office at 402-765-7252 or [tlschulze@alltel.net](mailto:tlschulze@alltel.net).
- St. Paul, Bancroft**, 100<sup>th</sup>, September 11. This celebration will take place in conjunction with their mission festival, when President Russ Sommerfeld will be the guest speaker.
- Immanuel School, Hooper**, 125<sup>th</sup>, September 18. A special service of worship will begin at 10:00 a.m., followed by a celebration event and meal.
- Trinity, Elgin**, 100<sup>th</sup>, September 25. Guest preacher for the 10:30 a.m. service will be Rev. Charles Schmidt, son of the congregation.
- Trinity, Bloomfield**, 110<sup>th</sup>, October 9. Rev. David Zirpel, former vicar, will preach at the 10:00 a.m. worship service, followed by dinner.
- Zion, Hubbell**, 100<sup>th</sup>, 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**, 40<sup>th</sup>, October 16. Rev. Dennis Heiden will preach at the 10:00 a.m. festival service at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds.

News items and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. The deadline for submission for the October 2005 Reporter is **Thursday, September 1**. Please submit items to [Reporter@ndlcms.org](mailto:Reporter@ndlcms.org) or PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434.

# CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

## COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED:

**Karen Haake** (S'78), contract teacher to called teacher, St. Peter, Davenport.

**Rev. Thomas Obersat** (FtW'91), pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Westville, Ind., to teacher/administrator, Good Shepherd, Lincoln.

**Sheila Psenick** (S'96), contract teacher to called teacher, St. John, Seward.

**Pamela Simpson** (S'90), contract teacher, to called teacher, St. John, Seward.

**Clee Wolske** (S'73), teacher/principal, St. John, Madison, to teacher, Zion, Plainview.

### OTHER TRANSACTIONS:

**Christine Bowin** (S'01), candidate, Iowa District West, to candidate, Nebraska District.

**Craig Oldenburg** (RF'81), candidate, Northwest District, to candidate, Nebraska District.

**Anna Witt** (S'03), non-candidate, Northern Illinois District to non-candidate, Nebraska District.

### CORRECTIONS:

**Carol Dunklau** (S'88), non-candidate to candidate, effective May 31.

## LUTHERAN SCHOOLS IN THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT

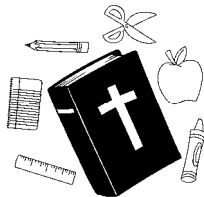
Early childhood centers: 42

Elementary schools: 42

High schools: 4

Rostered teachers: 460

Number of students: 6515



*Please keep these teachers, students, and staff in your prayers during this school year.*

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED:

**Rev. Charles Ramsey** (StL'88), candidate status, to Peace, Waco.

**Rev. Royce Rinehart** (SpG'73), interim, Shepherd of the Hills, Centennial, CO, to interim, Trinity, Grand Island.

### CALLS DECLINED:

**Rev. Luke Biggs** (StL'84), senior, Messiah, Lincoln, to senior, St. Paul, Glen Burnie, Md.

**Rev. Marcus Jauss** (StL'84), Immanuel, Higginsville, Mo., to Trinity, Arapahoe.

**Rev. Brent Smith** (StL'01), missionary, Board for Mission Services LCMS, Russia, to Calvary, Lincoln.

**Rev. Lee Weander** (StL'94), associate, Our Savior, Norfolk, to senior, Epiphany, Chandler, Ariz.

### STATUS CHANGE:

**Rev. Patrick Burt** (StL'91), Bethany, Omaha, to candidate status effective June 30.

**Rev. John Hellwege** (StL'99), Grace, Platte Center, and St. Peter, Humphrey, to candidate status effective May 12.

**Rev. George Naylor** (StL'97), candidate status, transferred to Wyoming District effective June 23.

### ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

**Rev. Matthew Conrad** (StL'05) as associate pastor, Good Shepherd, Gretna, July 31 (ordination also).

**Rev. Kevin Cook** (StL'05) as associate pastor, St. Paul, West Point, July 31 (ordination also).

**Rev. Duncan McLellan** (StL'05) as associate pastor, Faith, Lincoln, July 10 (ordination also).

**Rev. David Ohlman** (FtW'05) as pastor, St. John, Pilger, July 10 (ordination also).

**Rev. Timothy Prince** (StL'96) as pastor, St. Peter, Davenport, July 24.

**Rev. Charles Ramsey** (StL'88) as pastor, Peace, Waco, August 7.

**Rev. Rudolph Schaff, Jr.** (Cqy'05) as pastor, Zion, Crookston, July 10 (ordination also).

**Rev. Matthew Tooman** (StL'05) as associate pastor, Trinity, Lincoln, July 17.

**Rev. Neil Wheeler** (StL'05) as pastor, Peace, Waverly, August 7.

**LUTHERAN HOUR RALLY TIME CHANGE . . .** The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lutheran Hour Rally at St. John, Seward, will begin at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, October 9, instead of 3:00 p.m. as previously shared. Dr. Walter A. Maier II will be the guest speaker. Contact the St. John church office at 402-643-2983 for more information.

**LIVING FOR TOMORROW . . .** The Nebraska Lutheran Laymen's League, Lutheran Hour Ministries, and the Nebraska District are partnering together with 24 churches in the District to bring this outreach effort to the people of Nebraska. Through television, radio, print, and other media, Living for Tomorrow (LfT) will help connect people with Lutheran congregations in their communities. There is still time for congregations to join in this effort, which will take place in early November. Congregations interested in being involved are encouraged to contact Rev. Rich Boring at the District Office, [richb@ndlcms.org](mailto:richb@ndlcms.org) or 888-643-2961, as soon as possible.



**CALLED TO GLORY . . . Selma Malotky**, widow of Rev. Harold Malotky, was called to her eternal rest Sunday, August 7, at the age of 87. Pastor Malotky served parishes in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Nebraska during his ministry.

# OFFICIAL NOTICE

## 2006 CONVENTION CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Committee for Convention Nominations for the 2006 District Convention will need to supply candidates for the following offices, boards and committees:

- ♦ Secretary of the District
- ♦ Board of Regents (Seward)
- ♦ Nominations Committee
- ♦ Constitution and Handbook Committee

**The Committee invites suggestions for nominees from the circuit counselors, pastors, teachers, DCEs, lay members, circuit forums, and congregations of the District.**

By means of this announcement, the invitation is herewith extended to all in the Nebraska District LCMS who are interested in submitting names. Please use the form, "Recommendation for Nomination," which accompanies this notice. (The form may be duplicated.)

The Committee requests that names be forwarded to the District Office by **November 1, 2005**. Experience has shown that the Committee needs a major time segment to do its work properly.

### THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Roland Jank, Jr.      Rev. James Carretto      Rev. David Kuhfal  
Rev. Jerome Rossow      James Knoepfel      Gerald Homp  
Elroy Bartels

### INFORMATION ON POSITIONS DISTRICT SECRETARY

(One pastor to be elected. Completing his first term is Rev. Roland Jank, Jr.)

Records the proceedings of District Convention and District Board of Directors, serves as member and secretary of the Constitution and Handbook Committee, and corresponds with congregations concerning constitutional revisions.

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

(Three pastors, one commissioned minister, three lay members to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. Roland Jank, Jr., Rev. James Carretto, Rev. David Kuhfal, Rev. Jerome Rossow, James Knoepfel, Gerald Homp, and Elroy Bartels.)

Nominates at least two candidates for every position to be filled: Secretary, Nominations Committee, Constitution and Handbook Committee, Members of Board of Regents, and the District representative and alternate to Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations.

### CONSTITUTION AND HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

(Two pastors, one commissioned minister, and one lay member, preferably an attorney, to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. Glen Gutz, Rev. Terell Huber, Michelle Homp, and David Garwood.)

Is to advise the District, circuit forums, and individual congregations on constitutional matters. It reviews new and revised constitutions to make sure they are theologically sound, state laws are followed, and in agreement with the synodical *Handbook*. It also keeps the District *Handbook* up to date.

### BOARD OF REGENTS (Seward)

(One lay member, one pastor, and one commissioned minister to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. Gerald Roggow, Stan Wehling, and Larry Rathe. Not eligible for re-election to this position: Rev. Gerald Roggow and Larry Rathe.)

Serves on the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Seward.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR NOMINATION

(Please print or type)

My recommendation for \_\_\_\_\_  
(Office, Board, Committee)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Pastor
- Commissioned Minister
- Lay Member

### INFORMATION ON NOMINEE

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, Route, Box \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street or Box \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY (No later than November 1, 2005) TO:**

Committee for Nominations  
Nebraska District LCMS  
P.O. Box 407  
Seward, NE 68434-0407