



# Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



Information of Interest for Lutherans in the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod  
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April 2006

**“NEBRASKA FIELDS . . . NEBRASKA PARTNERS”** . . . Nebraska District members are invited to join convention delegates in celebrating the mission opportunities the Lord has given us in our Nebraska District and around the world. The 2006 District Convention, to be held at Concordia University, Seward, on June 1-3, will offer many opportunities for hearing about these mission fields, as well as a time to join in praising God for the great things He is doing among His people in Nebraska and around the world. LCMS President Rev. Gerald Kieschnick will preach at the opening worship service June 1, as well as present his report during Convention. Rev. Mike Ruhl and Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab will address the gathering and help focus the delegates on the mission fields in Nebraska and the opportunities to partner in mission fields abroad. Guest registration forms will be mailed to each church office in late April. Watch the District website, [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org), for updated Convention information.



**EQUIPPING TO SHARE** . . . Lutheran Hour Ministries presents a training experience to strengthen and encourage believers for today's evangelism challenges. This workshop will be held Saturday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Trinity Lutheran Church, 212 West 12th St., Grand Island. The cost is \$5.00 and includes lunch. To register, call Trinity church office at 308-382-0753 by Monday, April 17.

ordained and installed at Trinity, Lexington, on Sunday, February 5. He completed his seminary studies through the Hispanic Institute of Theology through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and was placed at Trinity to serve as missionary-at-large in ministry to the Hispanic population of central Nebraska. Pastor Hormachea is the first Hispanic pastor to be ordained in the Nebraska District and joins Rev. Jorge Santamaria of Cristo Cordero de Dios, Grand Island, as one of two Hispanic pastors in the District. Rev. Hormachea is pictured second from the right with others who helped celebrate this special day.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Easter Sign for Easter

**People.** “Come on, you know the book of the Bible named after the man who was swallowed by a big fish,” coaxed the teacher of her midweek class. The children stared blankly at her, trying to remember which book of the Bible is between Obadiah and Micah. Finally, a voice from the back of room piped up, “I know, I know! Pinocchio!” Recovering from shock and chuckling, the teacher reminded the students, “No, not Pinocchio! Jonah!”



Here's another question -- which Old Testament prophet did Jesus designate as the Easter sign? Pastor Stephen Starke of St. John Lutheran Church in Bay City, Michigan, wrote an Easter poem about this Easter Sign:

All the earth with joy is sounding/Christ has risen from the dead!  
He, the greater Jonah, bounding/From the grave, His three day bed,  
Wins the prize: Death's demise --/Songs of triumph fill the skies.  
*Hymnal Supplement 98, 829 "All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding"*

Jesus announced Jonah as the Easter sign. “*Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, ‘Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you.’ He answered, ‘A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.’*” (Matthew 12:38-41)

While the world around us hungers for sensational signs, Christians have the greatest sign to celebrate on Easter and every day. Jesus, who was dead in the grave for three days, having paid for our sins, is now arisen victorious. God picked an odd way to rescue Jonah from drowning: a big fish that swallowed him to expel him three days later. God chose an amazing way to rescue us from eternal death: Jesus swallowed by the grave and emerging alive three days later. This is our Easter sign and we are His Easter people.

-- Rev. Russ Sommerfeld

## HISPANIC MISSIONARY-AT-LARGE ORDAINED . . .

Rev. Joel Hormachea was



**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.**

**COMMON DISTRICT MINISTRY** . . . *"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"* (2 Corinthians 9:12-15)

Thanks be to God for the ongoing undesignated congregational support of the common mission of our 244 congregations of the Nebraska District – LCMS. God led the congregations of the Nebraska District to join together in undesignated mission and ministry giving to the District and Synod of \$2,834,656 for 2005. Of the 244 congregations of the District, 75 were able to increase their 2005 undesignated giving at least \$100 above their 2004 giving, 35 congregations maintained their partnership giving, 103 congregations reduced their District and Synod undesignated giving by at least \$100, and 32 congregations did not give undesignated offerings to the common District and Synod ministry. In 2004, 19 congregations did not give to the undesignated common ministry of District and Synod. Of those 19, two were able to provide gifts during 2005. While the undesignated congregational giving fell short of the \$3,050,000 budget plan for 2005, the Nebraska District was able to under spend the 2005 expense budget and cover the remaining deficit through the use of reserves.

**CALLED TO GLORY** . . . **Everett Watt**, husband of teacher emerita Lois Watt, departed this life on February 10, in Worms, Nebraska. Everett served as a Lutheran school teacher in Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and Nebraska, as well as serving in several international mission fields. Condolences may be written to Lois Watt, 198 P Road, Palmer, NE, 68864.



With Deepest Sympathy

## PARISH NURSING/CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY NETWORK

**MEETING** . . . The next Parish Nursing/Congregational Health Ministry Networking Meeting will be Wednesday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the District Office in Seward. Gloria Lessman, Director of Faith Community Education and Services from Lutheran Family Services, will discuss how health ministry can support and preserve families. A light lunch will be provided. Contact Chris Blanke at 402-643-4278 to R.S.V.P. or with questions.



**CONCORDIA SUNDAY** . . . Concordia University, Nebraska invites all congregations to hold a "Concordia Sunday" this spring. April 30 is the date designated by Synod, but congregations may, of course, choose the date that is most appropriate for their circumstances. Concordia Sunday is an opportunity to share the ministries of Concordia, Nebraska with LCMS congregation members. For materials and information, please contact Concordia's alumni and university relations office at 402-643-7240. Worship bulletin inserts and other materials may also be found at [www.cune.edu/concordiasunday](http://www.cune.edu/concordiasunday).



**BEHOLD,  
CHRIST HAS RISEN!**

**BOARD SUMMARY** . . . The Nebraska District Board of Directors took the following action in a meeting via conference call on February 24:

- Appointed the following to serve on the Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska Board of Directors: Burnell Von Seggern of Orchard, Del Harnisch of Lincoln, Bill Cordes of Omaha, and Dech Machar of Lincoln.

The Nebraska District Board of Directors took the following actions at its meeting March 3:

- Heard a report from President Sommerfeld and Rev. Rich Boring on their mission trip to Sudan.
- Received a report from the District Treasurer on the giving trends of congregations and fiscal year-end numbers.
- Ratified LCEF loans to Zion, Omaha; Zion, Kearney; Lord of Life, Elkhorn; and Trinity, Blair.
- Sent to the 2006 Nebraska District Convention an overture proposing a District partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan and the Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society.
- Appointed a task force to secure, review, and present to the District Board of Directors the constitutions and bylaws of all Nebraska District congregations.
- Approved the sale of District-owned land in Lexington.
- Sent to the 2006 Nebraska District Convention an overture proposing a 2007-2010 mission offering opportunity in observance of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the District in 2007.
- Issued a Call to seminary candidate John Deang to serve the Nebraska District as a missionary-at-large to the African immigrants in Nebraska.
- Tabled for 30 days issuing a Call to fill the position for Assistant to the President for Church Worker Care.
- Ratified the constitution and bylaws of the following congregations: Holy Savior, Lincoln; St. John, Ord; and Christ, Lincoln.
- Approved standard corporate authorization resolutions for each depository account of the District and District ministries.



News items and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. The deadline for submission for the May 2006 Reporter is **Monday, April 3**. Please submit items to [Reporter@ndlcms.org](mailto:Reporter@ndlcms.org) or PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434.

# COMING EVENTS

<b>Principals' Conference</b> , The Leadership Center, Aurora .....	April 20-21
<b>Nebraska District LCMS Convention</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	June 1-3
<b>Rural Ministry Training</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	June 16-17
<b>LEA ECEnet Leadership Institute</b> , St. John, Seward .....	June 21-22
<b>Nebraska District LWML North Convention</b> , Midland College, Fremont.....	June 23-24
<b>Campus Ministry Institute</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	July 6-13
<b>Lutherans For Life National Convention</b> , Cedar Rapids, Iowa.....	July 14-16
<b>August Teachers' Retreat</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	August 8
<b>Nebraska District LWML South Convention</b> , Sandhills Convention Center, North Platte.....	September 22-23
<b>Lutheran Hour Ministries 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</b> , Lutheran High Northeast.....	September 24
<b>New Worker Orientation</b> .....	September 25-26
<b>Orphan Grain Train International Convention</b> , Lutheran High Northeast .....	September 29-30
<b>Fall Pastors' Conference</b> .....	October 16-17
<b>Teachers' Conference</b> , Faith, Lincoln.....	October 19-20

# ANNIVERSARIES

**Mt. Olive, Norfolk**, 75<sup>th</sup>, April 30, with guest preacher President Russ Sommerfeld at the 10:30 a.m. service.

**First Trinity (Altona), Wayne**, 125<sup>th</sup>, June 11, with guest preacher President Russ Sommerfeld and guest liturgist Rev. Paul Jackson at the 10:15 a.m. worship service, followed by a catered lunch. Reservations for lunch may be sent to Leah Buhrman, 2473 2<sup>nd</sup> Rd., Wisner, NE, 68791. A time of sharing and a brass concert will follow the luncheon.

**Trinity School, Madison**, 100<sup>th</sup>, July 2, with a 9:00 a.m. worship service, followed by an open house at the school. Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m. at the City Auditorium.

**Trinity, Lincoln**, 125<sup>th</sup>, August 13, with President Russ Sommerfeld preaching at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

# CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

## COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED:

**Bernard Tonjes** (S'74), teacher, Lutheran High School of St. Charles County, St. Peters, Missouri, to assistant professor of education, Concordia, Seward, effective July 2006.

### OTHER TRANSACTIONS:

**Lillian Brandt** (S'61), emeritus, Nebraska District, to emeritus, Kansas District.

**Deborah Gebhardt** (S'93), non-candidate, Nebraska District, to non-candidate, Rocky Mountain District.

**Michelle Homp** (S'91), non-candidate to resigned from roster.

**Sheri Wentz** (S'92), candidate to preschool teacher, Faith, Lincoln.

**Jami Winter** (AU'85), non-candidate to candidate status.



## ORDAINED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED:

**Rev. Tim Brisbois** (FtW'90), Trinity, Jansen, and Zion, Harbine, to Zion, Harbine.

**Rev. Steven Schlund** (StL'83), Bethlehem, Ravenna, and Zion, Shelton, to Peace and Christ (Deaf), Great Falls, Mont.

### CALLS DECLINED:

**Rev. Jeffrey Geske** (StL'99), Trinity, McFarland, Kan., to St. Matthew, Cedar Bluffs.

**Rev. Keith Grimm** (StL'91), senior, Beautiful Savior, Omaha, to senior, Holy Savior, Lincoln.

**Rev. Scott Porath** (FtW'91), Immanuel, Eagle, to Zion, Storm Lake, Iowa.

### STATUS CHANGES:

**Rev. Dan Molyneux** (StLCq'03), Zion (Worms), St. Libory, to candidate status effective March 1.

**Rev. Luke Russert** (FtW'84), candidate status to non-candidate status effective February 9.

**Rev. David Spaeth** (FtW'85), Trinity, Howells, and St. Peter, Snyder, to emeritus status effective July 31.

### ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

**Rev. Tim Brisbois** (FtW'90) as pastor, Zion, Harbine, February 12.

**Rev. Michael Meyer** (StL'06) as associate pastor, Trinity, Fremont, February 12 (ordination also).

# FINANCIAL AID FOR NEBRASKA STUDENTS

**STUDENT AID . . . Nebraska District financial support** is available to anyone preparing at a Concordia University System school or Concordia Seminary at Fort Wayne or St. Louis for full-time service in the church. Applicants must demonstrate financial need and have completed their FAFSA (federal student aid documentation).



The Concordia University System consists of the 10 LCMS-operated universities located in Ann Arbor, Austin, Bronxville, Irvine, Mequon, Portland, River Forest, St. Paul, Selma, and Seward.

Application forms may be obtained from the District Office, from the universities and seminaries, or by printing the application form from the District website, <http://www.ndlcms.org/education/education/aid.html>. The deadline for completing the application process is **June 1**.

**OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS . . .** The **LWML North** provides scholarships for students preparing for church ministry careers. The Nebraska District Student Aid Committee administers the grants on the basis of residence in the North region, financial need, and full-time enrollment. Application is made by completing the District financial aid application process by **June 1**.

The **LWML South** offers assistance to students from the South region who are going into full-time church work. Applications may be obtained from student's local LWML society or from Helen Glinsmann, Box 644, Gibbon, NE 68840 or (308) 468-5368. Completed applications are due **June 3**.

**LLL** is offering scholarships to members of the Nebraska District LCMS who are going into full-time church work (i.e. teacher, pastor) and will be attending one of the LCMS schools. Send request for applications/inquiries to Ron Hilgenkamp, 23325 Co Rd 26, Arlington, NE 68002 or (402) 478-4682. The deadline is **May 1**.

The **Gil and Blondie Vogt Scholarship Fund** is designed to assist Nebraska students preparing for LCMS church vocations at any LCMS university or seminary. Requests for information or applications should be sent to King of Kings Lutheran Church, c/o Harold Schroeder, 955 S 119th Court, Omaha, NE 68154. Application deadline is **April 15**.



*The Lutheran Old People's Home - 1931*



*The Lutheran Home - 2006*



## *Diamond Jubilee ♦ 1931-2006*

Everyone is invited for a service of celebration and thanksgiving to God for 75 years of ministry

**April 9, 2:00 p.m.**  
at The Lutheran Home

**Rev. James Wilkens**, former chaplain of  
The Lutheran Home, guest speaker

An open house with refreshments will  
follow the service.

### *The Lutheran Home*

*A Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS*

530 S 26th St. ♦ Omaha NE 68105

Phone: 402-346-3344 ♦ Fax: 402-346-1967

Website: [www.thelutheranhome.net](http://www.thelutheranhome.net)

