



# Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



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

**NEBRASKA FIELDS . . . NEBRASKA PARTNERS . . .** Convention workbooks and registration materials have been mailed to all rostered church workers in the Nebraska District, as well as to all voting lay delegates. Guest registration materials have also been mailed to each church office. Anyone in the District is welcome to register to attend any or all of the Convention. Guests are especially encouraged to join the delegates for the Opening Worship service at St. John, Seward, at 6:00 p.m. June 1, and to attend the Mission Festival Dinner on June 2. Contact your church office or visit the District website at [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org) for more information. The registration deadline is Friday, May 5.

**DID YOU KNOW . . .** kids sometimes, even frequently, hear Jesus' Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations more earnestly than adults do? One youngster was quite concerned about this and did his best to share Jesus with his unchurched friends, but he didn't seem to be having much success. Neither was he reaching throughout the whole world. Then he discovered something. He found out that whenever he gives his church offering, part of it goes to help missionaries throughout the world spread the Gospel of Jesus. This happens because his congregation sends a regular percentage of its offerings to the Nebraska District to be gathered for mission work throughout the District. The District also sends another percentage of the offerings it receives to the Synod. That's how he is helping to spread the Gospel throughout the whole world. What a joy for your congregation to faithfully send a generous percentage of its offerings on to the District and Synod for reaching out worldwide. By doing so, your congregation can provide opportunities for your young people, as well as the adults, to be faithful to their calling to support God's Nebraska and worldwide missions.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .** Many a Lutheran Christian young person across Nebraska has just been confirmed or will be confirmed this month. The loving actions of Jesus on the cross for these young Christians move them to answer the question: *Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and Sacraments, which are His means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?* with **"I do so intend by the grace of God!"**



What a promise! Only by God's grace is fulfilling it possible. Like Paul did for the Philippian Christians, so I keep on praying for God to work that promise among you, dear sisters and brothers in Christ. And He is! I see eager listeners to God's preached Word. Baptisms of adults, youth, and children are occurring. Children are gathered for Bible stories. Loving cards are sent from small groups in prayer for many, including me. Elderly people are sharing their hope in Jesus for eternal life with old and young alike. Farmers have driven truckloads of supplies to the hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast. Youth, college students, couples, teams, pastors, and teachers have gone to distribute the supplies. They have labored to restore damaged homes and churches. They speak of special times of Bible study and prayer with storm victims. Moms are sharing Jesus with other moms. Small churches offer after-school Bible story times in Nebraska villages. Congregations are partnering to offer Lutheran elementary and high schools. Our new Hispanic and African neighbors are becoming our partners in sharing Jesus.



God is at work in His Nebraska Mission Field. And God has much more to do. Paul's letter to the Philippians is a precious example of sound Christian teaching expressed with deep Christian compassion. This is my continual prayer for you, my dear brothers and sisters of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

*"I pray that your love will keep on growing and that you will fully know and understand how to make the right choices. Then you will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day, Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God."* Phil. 1:9-11

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld

**LCMS MOTHERS RECOGNIZED . . .** Jean Hennings, member of Christ, Lincoln, was honored as 2006 Mother of the Year and Suzanne Briggs, member of St. John, Seward, was honored as 2006 Young Mother of the Year by the Nebraska Mothers Association. Praise God for the blessing of all Christian mothers!



**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.**

## NOMINATIONS

Announcement is being made of the candidates for various elections at the District Convention to be held June 1-3, 2006, in Seward. (\* indicates an incumbent)

For president, vice president, and board of directors, those names underlined are currently scheduled to appear on the ballot. Ties in number of nominations have resulted in more than the required number on the ballot.

### FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT (Three-year term)

"Candidates for the office of District President shall be at least the five (5) ordained ministers who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve, if elected." (2003 District Bylaws, III.C.3.C.1.[b])

Rev. Russell Sommerfeld\*, Nebraska District LCMS, Seward (117); Rev. Clint Poppe, Good Shepherd, Lincoln (21); Rev. D. Georg Williams, Zion, Ainsworth (2), declined; Rev. Norman Friedmeyer, First, Plattsmouth (1), declined; Rev. Dirk Reek, Concordia University, Seward (1), declined.

### FOR REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS (Three-year term)

"Candidates for regional Vice-President shall be at least the four (4) ordained ministers in each region who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve, if elected." (2003 District Bylaws, III.C.3.C.2.[b])

**Region A:** Rev. North Sherrill\*, Zion, Kearney (15); Rev. Tom Mroch, Holy Cross, Kearney (8); Rev. Dean Hanson, Grace, Pleasanton, and Faith, Hazard (3); Rev. Kenton Birtell, Mt. Calvary, Holdrege (1); Rev. Don Becker, St. Paul, Minden (1); Rev. Dan Bremer, Grace, Grand Island (1); Rev. Michael Gruhn, Trinity, Lexington (1). No one declined.

**Region B:** Rev. Clint Poppe\*, Good Shepherd, Lincoln (16); Rev. Dirk Reek, Concordia University, Seward (5), declined; Rev. Paul Beyer, Immanuel, Daykin (3); Rev. Brad Boyer, St. John, Chester, and Zion, Hubbell (1); Rev. Merlin Holtzen, Trinity, Walton (1); Rev. Scott Porath, Immanuel, Eagle (1); Rev. John Kunze, Messiah, Lincoln (1), declined; Rev. James Moll, St. Peter, Deshler (1), declined; Rev. Art Schauer, Faith, York (1), declined; Rev. Luke Schnake, Christ, Lincoln (1), declined; Rev. Kurt Van Fossan, St. Peter, Deshler (1), declined.

**Region C:** Rev. D. Georg Williams, Zion, Ainsworth (10); Rev. David Kuhfal, Grace, Neligh, and Trinity, Elgin (9), declined; Rev. Richard Snow, St. John, Battle Creek (6); Rev. Roger Schepmann\*, Immanuel, Beemer, and Zion St. John, Wisner (5), declined; Rev. Michael Awe, Immanuel, Tilden (4); Rev. Jeff Warner, Zion, Bancroft (2).

**Region D:** Rev. Karl Ziegler, First, Papillion (6); Rev. Dr. Orville Walz, Zion (West), Omaha (5); Rev. Norman Friedmeyer\*, First, Plattsmouth (4), declined; Rev. James DeLoach, Immanuel, Louisville (3); Rev. Richard Gudgel, Mt. Calvary, Omaha (2), declined; Rev. Tim Heupel, Beautiful Savior, Omaha (2).

### FOR COMMISSIONED MINISTERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Six-year term)

"Candidates for commissioned minister on the Board of Directors shall be at least the three (3) commissioned ministers in the electing area who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve, if elected." (2003 District Bylaws, III.C.3.C.3.[b])

**Area II (Regions C and D):** Paul Leckband\*, Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk (14); Kristin Leckband, Trinity, Foster (5); Dean Raabe, Bread of Life, Omaha (5). No one declined.

### FOR LAY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Six-year term)

"Candidates for the lay members on the Board of Directors shall be at least the two (2) lay members in the electing area who receive the greatest number of nominations and agree to serve, if elected." (2003 District Bylaws, III.C.3.C.4.[b])

**Region A:** Steve Henry\*, Trinity, Arapahoe (3), declined; Gary Smith, Zion (Worms), St. Libory (1); Robert Hiegel, Zion (Worms), St. Libory (1), declined; Don Schepler, Mt. Calvary, Holdrege (1); Marvin Swan, Zion, Grant (1); Paul Wice, Holy Cross, Kearney (1); Ron Vonderohe, Peace, Grand Island (1); Paul Schmidt, Faith, Hastings (1), declined.

Steve Henry, Trinity, Arapahoe, is completing a term. Glenn Van Velson, Beautiful Savior, North Platte, has three years remaining on his term.

**Region B:** Glennis Holtmeier, Zion, Tobias (2); Darrell Sayer, Immanuel, Lincoln (2); John Surman, Immanuel, Eagle (2). No one declined.

Ron Rathe, St. John, Tecumseh, is completing a second term and is not eligible for re-election. Robert Onnen, Faith, Hebron, has three years remaining on his term.

**Region C:** Gordon Adams, Our Savior, Norfolk (5); Kent Warneke, Christ, Norfolk (4); Dennis Wacker\*, Zion, Plainview (4); Boyd Beune, Zion St. John, Wisner (2). No one declined.

Dennis Wacker, Zion, Plainview, is completing a term. Kevin Fry, Concordia, Clearwater, has three years remaining on his term.

**Region D:** Kathy Brashear, Pacific Hills, Omaha (11); Dorothy Harmony\*, Trinity, Murdock (5); Victor Olson, Zion, Leigh (2). No one declined.

Dorothy Harmony, Trinity, Murdock, is completing a term. Christopher Martin, Lamb of God, Papillion, has three years remaining on his term.

## FOR DISTRICT OFFICER AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Selected by the Nominations Committee after reviewing nominations submitted by individuals and congregations throughout the District were:

**District Secretary** – Rev. Terell Huber, Bethlehem, Verdigre, and Christ, Creighton; Rev. Roland Jank, Jr.\*, Mt. Olive, Omaha.

**Nominations Committee – Ordained Minister** (three to be elected): Rev. James Carretto\*, St. Paul, Wisner; Rev. Robert Mayes, Mt. Calvary, Fullerton; Rev. Brian Ketelsen, Faith, St. Edward, and St. John, Cedar Rapids; Rev. David Dobbertien, St. Paul, Ogallala; Rev. Thomas Obersat, Good Shepherd, Lincoln.

**Nominations Committee – Commissioned Minister** (one to be elected): David Mueller, Wider Omaha Lutheran School Association, Omaha; Linda Ahrens, Good Shepherd, Lincoln.

**Nominations Committee – Lay Members** (three to be elected): ElRoy Bartels\*, Zion, Tobias; Gerald Homp\*, St. John, Seward; Jami Johansen, Mt. Olive, Norfolk; Steve Althouse, Peace, Waverly; Iddo Heinicke, St. John, Seward; Larry Rathe, Immanuel, Sterling; Kent Warneke, Christ, Norfolk; Melvin Warneke, Zion, Pierce; Ron Vonderohe, Peace, Grand Island.

**Constitution and Handbook Committee – Ordained Minister** (two to be elected): Rev. Terell Huber\*, Christ, Creighton, and Bethlehem, Verdigre; Rev. Tim Wagner, St. Paul, Beatrice; Rev. Jerome Leckband, Trinity, Foster; Rev. James Rasmussen, St. John, Omaha.

**Constitution and Handbook Committee – Commissioned Minister** (one to be elected): Larry Matthews, Our Redeemer, Staplehurst; Wil Tewes, Messiah, Lincoln.

**Constitution and Handbook Committee – Lay Member** (one to be elected): David Garwood\*, Zion, Red Cloud; Brent Stehlik, Good Shepherd, Lincoln; Rita Foxhoven, Mt. Olive, Norfolk; Tim Moll, St. John, Seward.

**Board of Regents, Seward – Ordained Minister** (one to be elected): Rev. Dan Bremer, Grace, Grand Island; Rev. Rod Armon, St. Paul, Doniphan; Rev. Thomas Obersat, Good Shepherd, Lincoln; Rev. Karl Ziegler, First, Papillion.

**Board of Regents, Seward – Commissioned Minister** (one to be elected): Darla Rosendahl, Concordia Jr/Sr High School, Omaha; Kristin Leckband, Trinity, Foster; Michelle Mattsfield, St. John (Kramer), Crete; James Knoepfel, Trinity, Fremont; Stan Wehling\*, Bethlehem, Pleasant Dale.

**Board of Regents, Seward – Lay Member** (one to be elected): Paul Burger, Zion, Kearney; Matt List, Zion (West), Omaha; Mel Bolte, St. John, Seward; Rita Foxhoven, Mt. Olive, Norfolk; Robert Friehe, Faith, Hebron; Lyle Middendorf, Trinity, Lincoln; Darrell Sayer, Immanuel, Lincoln.

## FOR CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

Nominations from congregations for circuit counselor positions have been tallied and show majority nominations for the following circuits:

<b>Beatrice</b>	Rev. Paul Beyer (Immanuel, Daykin)
<b>Deshler</b>	Rev. Kurt Van Fossan (St. Peter, Deshler)
<b>Falls City</b>	Rev. Robert Schermbeck (St. Peter, Elk Creek)
<b>Grand Island</b>	Rev. Glen Keylon (Christ, Cairo)
<b>Hastings</b>	Rev. Ron Kuehner (Zion, Red Cloud, and Grace, Franklin)
<b>Holdrege</b>	Rev. Jeff Ernstmeyer (Our Redeemer, Elwood)
<b>Kearney</b>	Rev. Dean Hanson (Grace, Pleasanton, and Faith, Hazard)
<b>Lincoln</b>	Rev. Craig Whitson (St. Paul, Malcolm)
<b>McCook</b>	Rev. Paul Warneke (St. John, Curtis)
<b>Norfolk</b>	Rev. Gordon Bruce (Zion, Pierce)
<b>Omaha North</b>	Rev. Richard Gudgel (Mount Calvary, Omaha)
<b>Omaha South</b>	Rev. Karl Ziegler (First, Papillion)
<b>Omaha West</b>	Rev. Gary Werling (Good Shepherd, Gretna)
<b>Plainview</b>	Rev. David Kuhfal (Grace, Neligh, and Trinity, Elgin)
<b>Seward</b>	Rev. Arnold Jurchen (St. John, Cordova, and Holy Cross, Goehner)
<b>Wayne</b>	Rev. William Engebretsen (Immanuel, Laurel)
<b>West Point</b>	Rev. Timothy Booth (Faith, Stanton)
<b>Western Sandhills</b>	Rev. Robert Pierce (St. John, Ogallala)
<b>York</b>	Rev. Loren Cooper (Zion, Hampton)

The following circuits did not have a majority selection, and congregations in these circuits will vote again at the Convention: **Ainsworth, Columbus, and Fremont.** Circuit counselor nominations are ratified by the Convention.

**RURAL MINISTRY TRAINING EVENT** . . . The Nebraska District is offering a Rural Ministry Training event on June 16-17 at Concordia University, Seward. This two-day workshop will equip pastors and laity to train their members in the ministry module, **“We Can,”** developed to empower congregational leaders to look beyond survival. Through Bible study and practical ministry activities, this module helps put a Great Commission heart back into rural/small town congregations. Registration materials have been sent to church offices and may be found on the District website, [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org).

## COMING EVENTS

National Day of Prayer .....	May 4
Congregational Health Ministry Networking Meeting, District Office, Seward .....	May 17
Nebraska District LCMS Convention, Concordia University, Seward .....	June 1-3
LEA ECEnet Leadership Institute, St. John, Seward .....	June 21-22
Nebraska District LWML North Convention, Midland Lutheran College, Fremont .....	June 23-24
Campus Ministry Institute, Concordia University, Seward.....	July 6-13
Lutherans For Life National Convention, Cedar Rapids, Iowa .....	July 14-16
August Teachers’ Retreat, Concordia University, Seward .....	August 8
Nebraska District LWML South Convention, Sandhills Convention Center, North Platte .....	September 22-23
Lutheran Hour Ministries 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Lutheran High Northeast .....	September 24
New Worker Orientation .....	September 25-26
Orphan Grain Train International Convention, Lutheran High Northeast.....	September 29-30
Church Musicians’ Workshop and Hymn Sing, Zion, Imperial .....	October 7-8
Fall Pastors’ Conference .....	October 16-17
Teachers’ Conference, Faith, Lincoln .....	October 19-20

## ANNIVERSARIES

**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.

**St. Paul, Chambers, 100<sup>th</sup>,** August 20, with President Russ Sommerfeld preaching at the 10:00 a.m. service.

**St. Paul, Falls City, 125<sup>th</sup>,** October 15-16. Saturday will include a Wissmann Family concert and fellowship time. There will be a morning worship service on Sunday with District President Russ Sommerfeld and LCMS First Vice President Dr. William Diekelman speaking, followed by a noon dinner and an afternoon celebration.

## CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

#### CALLS ACCEPTED

**Rev. Dan Ritter** (StL’85), senior, Pilgrim, Bellevue, to Mount Hope, Bloomington, Minn.

**Rev. Ryan Wendt** (FtW’04), associate, Zion, Kearney, to Christ the King, Billings, Mont.

**Rev. S T Williams** (FtW’93), candidate, to St. Paul, Los Angeles, Calif.

#### CALLS DECLINED

**Rev. Tim Mueller** (StL’87), St. John, New Minden, and St. Luke, Covington, Ill., to Trinity, Hebron, and Zion, Shickley.

**Rev. Clint Poppe** (StL’98), senior, Good Shepherd, Lincoln, to Emmaus, St. Paul, Minn.

### COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

#### CALLS ACCEPTED

**Mervin Dehning** (S’80), principal, St. Paul, McAllen, Texas, to principal, Trinity, Lincoln.

**William Roundey, Jr.** (S’83), candidate, to Lutheran High School of St. Charles County, Mo.

#### OTHER TRANSACTIONS

**Darla Acton** (S’85), reinstated to the roster as a candidate, effective March 17, 2006.

**Fred Aufdembrink** (S’87), reinstated to the roster as a candidate, effective March 17, 2006.

**Nancy Christensen** (S’74), reinstated to the roster as a candidate, effective March 17, 2006.

**Robert Rabe** (SCQ’00), teacher, Lincoln Lutheran, Lincoln, resigned from roster effective November 11, 2005.

**Sandra Royuk** (S’88), reinstated to the roster as a candidate, effective March 17, 2006.