



Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



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

TEACHERS' CONFERENCE . . . The teachers of the District will meet under the theme, *"Hope and a Future: Lutheran Schools ABLAZE!"*, based on Jeremiah 29:11, at their October Teachers' Conference. The conference will be held October 19-20 at Faith Lutheran School, Lincoln. Dr. Bill Hinz, Texas District LCMS education executive, will be the keynote speaker. All schools, preschools, and other commissioned teachers should have received registration information. Contact Kathy Melton at the District Office with questions and for more information at kathym@ndlcms.org or 888-643-2961.

THE MISSIONARY MESSAGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT . . . is the theme of the Fall Pastors' Conference to be held October 16-17 at Divots Conference Center in Norfolk. Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III will lead pastors through a study of God's Word as they examine God's missionary message in the Old Testament. Pastors should have received an email or paper copy of the registration materials. Information is also available on the District website, www.ndlcms.org. Contact Nichole Hetz at the District Office with questions.

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 in the mission fields of Nebraska.



FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Harvest Prayers!

Page 130 in the front of *Lutheran Worship* offers a **harvest prayer** for use by individuals, families, congregations, and schools: *Almighty God, You blessed the earth to make it fruitful, bringing forth in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives. Prosper, we implore You, the work of farmers, and grant us seasonable weather that we may gather in the fruits of the earth and proclaim Your goodness with thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

The Bible reports in Luke 10 that Jesus sent out seventy-two of His followers, two by two, ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go. He told them to pray a harvest prayer to the Lord of the harvest when He said, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Luke 10:2)

The Lord of the harvest is not only the owner but also the One who controls the entire management of the harvest. God the Father has placed into Jesus' hands the harvest of human beings into His Kingdom. Jesus is the Lord of the harvest. In fact, He is the Lord of the harvest who died and rose to bring in the harvest. Without Jesus there would be no harvest of human beings into God's heaven for eternity. Jesus continues to call upon us to pray to the Lord of the harvest for workers in His harvest fields because the harvest is bountiful.



On that same page in the front of the *Lutheran Worship* hymnal there is a second **harvest prayer** for use by individuals, families, congregations, and schools: *Almighty God, since You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself, grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Pray to the Lord of the harvest!*
Rev. Russ Sommerfeld

MISSION AND MINISTRY DVD . . . Each church office and congregational chairman will be receiving a copy of the new 2006 Nebraska District mission and ministry DVD. This short DVD helps tell the story of how congregations are partnering together to support mission work in Nebraska and around the world. Church councils, congregational mission organizations and auxiliaries, and voters assemblies are encouraged to view this presentation this fall and prayerfully consider how they can be part of the exciting work God is doing.



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.

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE SALE . . . Concordia

Publishing House will bring its Warehouse Sale to the Janzow Campus Center on the campus of Concordia University, Seward. The sale will be open Friday, October 27, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, October 28, 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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTORS MET . . . Thirty-nine early childhood directors and educators from four LCMS districts attended the Early Childhood Network Leadership Institute created by Lutheran Education Association and held in June at St. John, Seward, in partnership with the Nebraska District. During the two-day workshop, attendees experienced seven training modules covering a wide range of topics, as well as took part in activities and conversations that helped them understand better the ministry of the early childhood educator.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

INGATHERING . . . will be November 6-10 in Beatrice, Columbus, Dakota City, Fairbury, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, Omaha, 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, call John Roseland at 800-456-1092 or Betty Dasenbrock at 402-466-2465, or email Betty at dasenbrock@aol.com.

OPERATION HURRICANE RELIEF UPDATE

For information on these and other opportunities to be involved with hurricane relief, contact Larry Oetting at the District Office by calling 888-643-2961 or emailing larryo@ndlcms.org.

The first anniversary of Katrina this summer gave the area devastated in 2005 a chance to pause and thank God for His care. LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick participated in a commemorative service, preaching and holding forums in New Orleans on August 27. This month we join in thanking God for His care and the hope He gives. Following is a brief report on the four churches the Nebraska District is sponsoring.



- Most of the reconstruction work at **Zion, Bogalusa, Louisiana**, has been completed, reports Pastor Bob Belknap.
- Pastor Don Krull at **Hope, Winnie, Texas**, reports that lives are returning to normal and almost all of his members' homes have been repaired.
- Rev. Francis Schroeder and DCE Kristy Witek are at **Holy Cross, Nederland, Texas**, -- a church that worships about 300 people. The repair work on Pastor Schroeder's home was completed in mid-August. Holy Cross' education building was completed in August and opened with 145 preschool children in attendance after Labor Day. About ten of their families are still living in trailers. Their economy is growing and church attendance is up, with 16 enrolled in a new members class.
- Pastor James Ertl, **St. Paul's (Annette St.), New Orleans, Louisiana**, reports that about fifty percent of his members have returned. Work is continuing on their sanctuary, which they hope to have completed in 2006. Their fellowship and education buildings will hopefully be completed in 2007.

Progress has definitely been made. Yet the spiritual and emotional lives, as well as the landscape, still show the effects of Katrina and Rita. The present threat of hurricanes raises the anxiety level. Pastors wonder if they will have the strength to continue if they are hit again. All four pastors and staffs have bravely led their flocks with little personal time to attend to their households. Please keep Pastors Belknap, Ertl, Krull, Schroeder and DCE Kristy Witek and their congregations in your prayers.

Family to Family

The Family-to-Family ministry is helping the members of St. Paul's, New Orleans, recover from the effects of the hurricane. There are still families available to sponsor through this unique prayer ministry. Please prayerfully consider whether your congregation, Bible study group, or mission organization can be connected through prayer with one of these families.



Action Teams Requested

The Southern District LCMS, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Hour Ministries, and Thrivent have need for Action Teams to work in the hurricane recovery area this fall. Contact Larry Oetting at the District Office for information on how to get involved.



News items and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. The deadline for submission for the November 2006 Reporter is **Monday, October 2**. Please submit items to Reporter@ndlcms.org or PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434.

COMING EVENTS

Church Musicians' Workshop and Hymn Sing , Zion, Imperial.....	October 7-8
Fall Pastors' Conference , Divots Conference Center, Norfolk.....	October 16-17
New Teacher Workshop , District Office, Seward.....	October 18
Teachers' Conference , Faith, Lincoln.....	October 19-20
Spring Pastors' Conference	April 16-17, 2007
Principals' Conference , The Leadership Center, Aurora.....	April 19-20, 2007
Prairie Fire '07 , Concordia University, Seward.....	August 4, 2007

ANNIVERSARIES

St. Paul, Falls City, 125th, October 14-15. Saturday will include a Wissmann Family concert and fellowship time. There will be a morning worship service on Sunday with President Russ Sommerfeld and LCMS First Vice President Dr. William Diekelman speaking, followed by a noon dinner and an afternoon celebration.

Immanuel, Columbus, 75th anniversary of church building, October 29. President Russ Sommerfeld will preach in the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services, followed by a noon banquet with program at Immanuel's Family Life Center. Call the church office for banquet tickets or with questions, 402-564-0502.

CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

ORDAINED MINISTERS

CALLS DECLINED:

Rev. Kevin Tiaden (StL'98), associate, Timothy, Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Atonement, Omaha.

Rev. Patrick Riley (StL'83), military chaplain, to St. John, Brule.

STATUS CHANGE:

Rev. Jose Flores (FtW'96), Zion+Peace, Omaha, to candidate status, effective August 27.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS:

Rev. Terence Groth (StL'79) as assistant professor of theology, Concordia University, Seward, August 20.

Rev. Adrian Hanft II (StL'96) as associate pastor, Our Savior, Norfolk, August 20.

Rev. Craig Niemeier (StL'98) as pastor, Zion (Worms), St. Libory, August 27.

ZION+PEACE REMEMBERS BLESSINGS

... Zion+Peace Lutheran Church and School in Omaha recounted the blessings the Lord showered on the congregation and school and those in the community throughout its years of ministry at its final worship service on Sunday, August 27. While this congregation will no longer serve the people of Omaha, the seeds that were planted during its ministry will continue to bear fruit.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED:

Larry Biel (S'75), DCE, Pacific Hills, Omaha, to DCE, Anchorage Lutheran Church, Anchorage, Ala.

Sherry Moentmann (S'93), director of school music, Trinity, Davenport, Iowa, to teacher, Concordia Jr/Sr High (WOLSA), Omaha.

Beckie Rathke (S'89), candidate, to teacher, Bethany, Overland Park, Kan.

Anthony Splittgerber (S'00), teacher, Trinity, Greeley, Colo., to head teacher, Zion, Kearney.

Jody Timm (S'79), principal, Holy Cross, Kansas City, Mo., to principal, Immanuel, Columbus.

CALLS DECLINED:

Carl Eliason (S'95), DCE, St. John, Elk River, Minn., to DCE, Faith, York.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS:

Matthew Buns (S'04), teacher, Abundant Life/Bread of Life (WOLSA), Omaha, to non-candidate status.

Diane Cattau (S'79), teacher, Christ, Columbus, to non-candidate status.

Laura Deardoff (WN'85), teacher, Zion+Peace, Omaha, to candidate status.

Julie Meseck (S'68), head teacher, Zion+Peace, Omaha, to non-candidate status.

Chris Olsen (S'01), director of music, Concordia Jr/Sr High (WOLSA), Omaha, to non-candidate status.

Lavonne Peterson (S'69), teacher, Zion, Kearney, to emeritus status, effective June 30.

Ronald Royuk (S'63), principal, Lutheran High School, Metairie, La., to emeritus status, Nebraska District.

“I WILL SING OF THE LORD’S GREAT LOVE FOREVER”

During the last days of July and early August of 2006, several District congregations had opportunities to be a part of Hispanic ministry in the form of music. Mariachi San Pablo came from Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas, to spend some time in Nebraska.

Mariachi San Pablo is a music ministry that is involved in outreach activities for the youth of El Paso, and its sister city, Juarez, Mexico. They are involving youth in the church through music lessons and invitations to rehearsals, so that ultimately young people themselves are able to serve the community with worship and public performances.

Mariachi San Pablo was on tour for over three weeks, with stops that included music ministry events in Lincoln and Central Nebraska. While staying in Grand Island for a week, they provided worship music at La Trinidad in Lexington, Zion in Hastings, and Trinity, Peace, and Cristo Cordero de Dios congregations in Grand Island. A highlight for the group was playing for Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk. Orphan Grain Train has been a constant supplier of donated food, clothing, and more for the communities in both El Paso and Juarez that are served by Ysleta Lutheran Mission and San Pablo Lutheran Church.

The band also offered music ministry for a “packed house” at Swift and Company, a beef packing plant in Grand Island. Music was provided during two different employee shifts for the lunch and dinner hours in the company cafeteria. There the group was greeted by the biggest and most enthusiastic crowds of any of their events while in Grand Island. It was an opportunity to witness to the employees, many of whom were not members of any church. Those in attendance described the outreach event as truly exciting, with joyful and inspiring music carrying the message of Christ’s love performed by talented young adults.

For a week the members of Mariachi San Pablo served many in Nebraska through their music and verbal witnessing during worship, public concerts, and personal one-on-one time. Nebraskans also have the opportunity to serve and to worship the Heavenly Father who created us all, Anglo and Hispanic. He has charged us to “*therefore go and make disciples of all nations,*” through His own Son’s assurance that “*I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Individuals who are interested in volunteering or prayerfully supporting Hispanic ministry in Nebraska are encouraged to contact Rev. Rich Boring at the District Office at 888-643-2961, Gary Thies at Mission Central at 712-882-1029, or to visit the District website at www.ndlcms.org for more information. More information about the Ysleta Mission is available at www.ylm.org.

“After the concert (in the park) a boy came up to me with a big smile wanting to say ‘Hi.’ He mentioned that his aunt had heard us at Swift & Co. and had wanted her family to come and hear the group even though she couldn't since she was working the night of the concert. It confirmed to me that people do listen to what we have to say and God's Word spreads through what we do.”



“When we performed at the Swift and Company packing plant, it was wonderful to see and hear the enthusiasm the

people had for our music and our message. It was also wonderful to have Pastor Santamaria there with us providing a local face to Hispanic ministry and offering an invitation for the people to visit Cristo Cordero Lutheran Church.”

“We are so thankful to have been welcomed as brothers (and sisters) in Christ and partners in ministry to share the Good News of salvation through Christ in all the world.”

“As people came in . . . you would just see huge smiles explode across their faces. When we were there I said, ‘I wish everywhere we played the people were THIS excited to hear us!’”



“I feel the Lord used us during our time in Nebraska to bring the Gospel into Hispanic communities in a unique and joyful way. We were able to open people's minds to what it is to be a Hispanic Lutheran. . . . As we visited the various churches we were able to be a part of the celebration of Christ that goes beyond cultural differences.”



The above quotes were provided by Stephen Heimer, director of Adelante Music Ministry; Miguel Munoz, director of Mariachi San Pablo; and Ann Hernandez, volunteer music ministry teacher.

Cristo Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church

512 E. 2nd St. and Vine, Grand Island
308-389-4611 ♦ Rev. Jorge Santamaria

La Trinidad (Trinity Lutheran Church)

PO Box L, Lexington
308-324-4341 ♦ Rev. Joel Hormachea