



Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



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

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May 2009

BOARD SUMMARY . . . The Nebraska District Board of Directors took the following action at its March 6, 2009, meeting:

- Ratified the Constitutions and Bylaws of Word of Life, Lincoln, and The Rock, Seward.
- Accepted LCEF actions regarding Good Shepherd, Milford; Holy Savior, Lincoln; Zion, Kearney; and St. Paul, Ogallala.
- Approved Word of Life, Lincoln, and The Rock, Seward, for membership in Synod.
- Appointed two task forces, one to study the District ministries and another to study the properties owned by the District.
- Approved an overture to District Convention regarding exploration of possible ministry partnerships with surrounding LCMS districts.
- Adjusted the 2010 Compensation and Benefit Guidelines base salary in line with the national Consumer Price Index.
- Reviewed the Board Designated Net Asset Accounts at January 31, 2009, and released specific funds for unrestricted activities.
- Approved an overture to District Convention regarding the re-establishment of the Board for Stewardship for LCMS and placement of the Director for Stewardship at an executive staff level.

MEDIA LIBRARY DISBURSEMENT . . .

The Media Library of the Nebraska District stopped lending materials May 31, 2005. Since that time, congregations, schools, and RSO's have had the opportunity to become permanent custodians of these materials through listings in the *Nebraska Lutheran Reporter*. All remaining titles at the District Office will be made available to delegates on June 4 at the District Convention on a first-come, first-take basis. Any materials remaining after the District Convention will be permanently removed from the District Office. Contact Carol Oetting at carolo@ndlcms.org or 888-643-2961 for more information.



SPECIAL PRE-CONVENTION ISSUE . . . A special pre-convention issue of the *Nebraska Lutheran Reporter* will be sent to church offices and available on the District website in early May. This issue will be for everyone and will contain important information on the business and ministry focus of the Convention, as well as registration details.

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Content in Christ!

*Money makes the world go around,
A mark, a yen, a buck, or a pound,
Is all that makes the world go around,
That clinking clanking sound,
Can make the world go round.*



Many of you will recognize this quotation from the musical *Cabaret* written in the 1960's starring Joel Gray and Liza Minnelli. *Cabaret* was a bitter and melancholy commentary on 1930's Berlin just before World War II. The obvious message of this song is that money is the sole reason the world keeps turning. Not love, not nobility, not even God...just money.

These are the days of economic downturns, job losses, foreclosures, retirement fund devaluations, diminishing investment returns, budget cuts, and stimulus packages. The roller coaster of the daily news might lead one to join in a chorus of "Money Makes the World Go Around."

Yet, in the midst of all of this, the Holy Spirit inspired the writer to the Hebrews to say:

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:5-6)

The source of contentment for the Christian, even in trying times, is Jesus Christ. He is God demonstrating the truth of "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." His resurrected nail-scarred hands continue to reach out to us through the Word and Sacraments with a commitment to us that is unmatched. The blood-bought salvation He earned and the promise of eternal life sealed with His resurrection are

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PSALM 46:1

ours by faith, yes, reliance on Him alone. Therefore, with confidence born of His faithfulness to us, we can boldly face all things as did the Psalm writer of long ago:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. (Psalm 46:1-2)

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT . . . Lutheran

Youth Representatives from Nebraska will teach fellow high school youth how to be better leaders in their church and community at an event to be held July 31 - August 1 at Peace, Grand Island. Church offices will receive more information soon.

CALLED TO GLORY . . . J. David McMahan, husband of Cassie McMahan, teacher at Faith, Lincoln, departed this life on March 9. David was very active in the congregational and school life at Faith.



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 4-6, 2009, 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 some of the ballots.

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 (102); Rev. Brent Kuhlman, Trinity, Murdock (12); Rev. Clint Poppe, Good Shepherd, Lincoln (7), declined; Rev. David Kuhfal, Grace, Neligh, and Trinity, Elgin (2), declined; Rev. Mark Middendorf, Zion, Scotia (2), declined; Rev. D. Georg Williams, Zion, Ainsworth (2), declined; Rev. Don Cooper, Immanuel, Lincoln (1); Rev. James DeLoach, Zion, Kearney (1); Rev. John Diener, St. John, Tecumseh (1).

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. Michael Gruhn*, Trinity, Lexington (16); Rev. Mark Middendorf, Zion, Scotia (7); Rev. Paul Warneke, St. John, Curtis (1); Rev. Shawn Kitzing, Immanuel, Loup City (1); Rev. Kenton Birtell, Mt. Calvary, Holdrege (1), declined; Rev. David Dobbertien, St. Paul, Ogallala (1), declined; Rev. Craig Niemeier, Zion (Worms), St. Libory (1), declined; Rev. Mike Reiners, Peace, Grand Island (1), declined.

Region B: Rev. Arnold Jurchen, Holy Cross, Goehner (9); Rev. Clint Poppe*, Good Shepherd, Lincoln (5), declined; Rev. Doug Irmer, St. Paul, Beatrice (5); Rev. Charles Schmidt, Grace, Fairbury (3); Rev. Loren Cooper, Zion, Hampton (3), declined; Rev. Paul Beyer, Immanuel, Daykin (1); Rev. Luke Schnake, Christ, Lincoln (1); Rev. Marvin Bergman, St. John, Seward (1), declined; Rev. Jonathan Rathjen, Trinity, Auburn (1), declined; Rev. J. Dirk Reek, Concordia University, Seward (1), declined; Rev. Art Schauer, Grace, Fairbury (1), declined.

Region C: Rev. Richard Snow*, St. John, Battle Creek (12); Rev. D. Georg Williams, Zion, Ainsworth (11); Rev. David Kuhfal, Grace, Neligh, and Trinity, Elgin (3); Rev. John Ryding, Christ, O'Neill (2); Rev. Michael Awe, Immanuel, Tilden (1).

Region D: Rev. Dr. Orville Walz*, Zion, Omaha (20); Rev. Roland Jank, Jr., Mt. Olive, Omaha (1), declined; Rev. Brent Kuhlman, Trinity, Murdock (1); Rev. Jon Sollberger, Immanuel, Louisville (1), declined.

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 I (Regions A and B): Stan Fehlhafer*, Messiah, Lincoln (10); Jane Bunnett, Emmanuel, York (5), declined; Rhonda Burk, Faith of Our Fathers, Roca (4); Andrew Rohwer, Holy Cross, Kearney (3), declined; Ann Anderson, Mt. Calvary, Holdrege (1), declined; David Beikmann, Deshler Lutheran, Deshler (1); Mervin Dehning, Trinity, Lincoln (1); Lonnie Duensing, St. Paul, Beatrice (1), declined; Daniel Harries, Trinity, Grand Island (1); Joseph Herl, Concordia University, Seward (1), declined; David Koopman, St. John, Seward (1); Eunice McCarty, Trinity, Grand Island (1); Dennis Rosenthal, Christ, Juniata (1); Brent Royuk, Concordia University, Seward (1), declined; Brian Staehr, Heartland Lutheran High, Grand Island (1), declined; Cynthia Uden, Christ, Juniata (1), declined; Allard Warneke, Zion, Hastings (1), declined; Lois Watt, Zion (Worms), St. Libory (1), declined; Stan Wehling, Bethlehem, Pleasant Dale (1); Charles Zehendner, Zion (Worms), St. Libory (1); Lyle Ziems, Lincoln Lutheran, Lincoln (1), 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: Glenn Van Velson*, Beautiful Savior, North Platte (6); Richard Kreutzer, Zion, Kearney (3); James Conner, St. Paul, Holstein (2); Frank Koch, Faith, Hastings (2); Diana Burkland, St. John, Brule (1); Raymond Burkland, St. John, Brule (1); Amy Dickmader, St. John, Brule (1); Gerald Helzer, Christ, St. Paul (1); Verle Henning, Mt. Calvary, Holdrege, (1); Arlan Jacobitz, St. Paul, Holstein (1); Wayne Lammel, Trinity, Arapahoe (1); Ron Reiser, Peace, Grand Island (1); Maynard Schriener, Holy Cross, Kearney (1); Ron Vonderohe, Peace, Grand Island (1).
Glenn Van Velson, Beautiful Savior, North Platte, is completing a term. Dr. Marvin Swan, Zion, Grant, has three years remaining on his term.

Region B: David Knorr*, Faith, Humboldt (5); John Huff, Good Shepherd, Lincoln (3); Harold Renken, Faith, York (2); Darrell Sayer, Immanuel, Lincoln (2); Jack Clark, Centennial, Superior (1); Brian Loseke, Trinity, Lincoln (1); Gerhard Onnen, Grace, Fairbury (1); Larry Rathe, Immanuel, Sterling (1); Ron Rathe, St. John, Tecumseh (1); Fred Schmidt, Trinity, Hebron (1); Warren Smith, Centennial, Superior (1); John Surman, Immanuel, Eagle (1); Don Witte, Faith, York (1).
David Knorr, Faith, Humboldt, is completing a term. Glennis Holtmeier, Zion, Tobias, has three years remaining on his term.

Region C: Rod Repenning, First Trinity, Bloomfield (4); Virginia Von Seggern, St. Paul (Venus), Orchard (3); Kevin Fry*, Concordia, Clearwater (2), declined; Boyd Beune, Zion St. John, Wisner (2), declined; Gordon Adams, Our Savior, Norfolk (1); Carlene Bodlak, Grace, Wayne (1); John Dinkel, Grace, Norfolk (1); John Fehrs, Mt. Olive, Norfolk (1); Wilber Medbery, Grace, Neligh (1); Rod Porath, St. John, Battle Creek (1); Bud Stolzenburg, Our Savior, Valentine (1); Burnell Von Seggern, St. Paul (Venus), Orchard (1); Dennis Wacker, Zion, Plainview (1).

Kevin Fry, Concordia, Clearwater, is completing a term. Kent Warneke, Christ, Norfolk, has three years remaining on his term.

Region D: Harlan Metschke, First, Papillion (5); Christopher Martin*, Lamb of God, Omaha (3), declined; Bill Seim, Divine Shepherd, Omaha (3), declined; Ray Aerni, Immanuel, Columbus (1); Lowell Bloemker, Trinity, Fremont (1); Keith Crandall, Beautiful Savior, LaVista (1); Kennard Pohlman, King of Kings, Omaha (1); Louis Riva, Lamb of God, Omaha (1). *Christopher Martin, Lamb of God, Omaha, is completing a term. Kathy Brashear, Pacific Hills, Omaha, has three years remaining on her 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. Roland Jank, Jr.*, Mt. Olive, Omaha; Rev. David Kuhfal, Grace, Neligh, and Trinity, Elgin; Rev. David List, St. John, Beemer.

Nominations Committee – Ordained Minister (three to be elected): Rev. Don Becker, St. Paul, Minden; Rev. David Dobbertien*, St. Paul, Ogallala; Rev. Charles Gierke*, Lord of Life, Elkhorn; Rev. Robert Kuefner, Holy Cross, Kearney; Rev. Michael Neidow, Emmanuel, York; Rev. Michael Reiners, Peace, Grand Island.

Nominations Committee – Commissioned Minister (one to be elected): Linda Ahrens*, Good Shepherd, Lincoln; Dean Plummer, Christ, Columbus.

Nominations Committee – Lay Members (three to be elected): Steve Althouse*, Peace, Waverly; ElRoy Bartels*, Zion, Tobias; Lorna Hollman, St. Paul, Wisner; Burnell Von Seggern, St. Paul (Venus), Orchard; Ron Vonderohe, Peace, Grand Island.

Constitution Committee – Ordained Minister (two to be elected): Rev. James Carretto, St. Paul, Wisner; Rev. Terell Huber*, Christ, Creighton, and Bethlehem, Verdigre; Rev. Tim Prince, St. Peter, Davenport; Rev. James Rasmussen*, Concordia Lutheran Schools, Omaha.

Constitution Committee – Commissioned Minister (one to be elected): Jo Lambrecht, Christ, Lincoln; Wil Tewes*, Messiah, Lincoln.

Constitution Committee – Lay Member (one to be elected): Mark Fahleson*, Christ, Lincoln; Richard Kreutzer, Zion, Kearney.

Board of Regents, Seward – Ordained Minister (one to be elected): Rev. Alan Harre, Our Redeemer, Staplehurst; Rev. Karl Ziegler*, First, Papillion.

Board of Regents, Seward – Commissioned Minister (one to be elected): James Knoepfel, Trinity, Fremont; Darla Rosendahl*, Zion, Omaha; Paula Wehling, Bethlehem, Pleasant Dale.

Board of Regents, Seward – Lay Member (one to be elected): Paul Burger*, Grace, Grand Island; Mike Klintworth, Christ, Lincoln; Ned Meier, Trinity, Grand Island; Lyle Middendorf, Trinity, Lincoln; Ron Vonderohe, Peace, Grand Island.

Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations (one ordained member and one alternate to be elected): Rev. Dr. Mark Hannemann, Divine Shepherd, Omaha; Rev. Clint Poppe, Good Shepherd, Lincoln; Rev. Dr. Orville Walz, Zion, Omaha; Rev. D. Georg Williams, Zion, Ainsworth; Rev. Frank Winter III, Christ, Norfolk; Rev. Mark Zehnder, King of Kings, Omaha.

FOR CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

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

Ainsworth	John Ryding (Christ, O'Neill)
Beatrice	Paul Beyer (Immanuel, Daykin)
Columbus	Terry Timm (Zion, Leigh)
Deshler	Richard Kelm (Faith, Hebron)
Falls City	Robert Schermbeck (St. Peter, Elk Creek)
Fremont	Bruce Schut (St. Peter, Scribner)
Grand Island	Glen Keylon (Christ, Cairo)
Hastings	Paul Dunbar (Faith, Hastings)
Holdrege	Jeff Ernstmeyer (Our Redeemer, Elwood)
Kearney	Dean Hanson (Grace, Pleasanton, and Faith, Hazard)
Lincoln	Craig Whitson (St. Paul, Malcolm)
McCook	Paul Warneke (St. John, Curtis)
Norfolk	Frank "Chip" Winter III (Christ, Norfolk)
Omaha North	Richard Gudgel (Mount Calvary, Omaha)
Omaha South	Karl Ziegler (First, Papillion)
Omaha West	Gary Werling (Good Shepherd, Gretna)
Plainview	David Kuhfal (Grace, Neligh, and Trinity, Elgin)
Wayne	William Engebretsen (Immanuel, Laurel)
West Point	James Carretto (St. Paul, Wisner)
Western Sandhills	Robert Pierce (St. John, Ogallala)
York	Kurt Letcher (Immanuel, Polk)

The **Seward Circuit** did not have a majority selection, and delegates from congregations in this circuit will vote again at the convention. Circuit counselor nominations are ratified by the convention.

**COMING
EVENTS**

Nebraska District LCMS Convention , Concordia University, Seward	June 4-6
Midwest National Lutheran Funding Academy , Concordia Jr/Sr High School, Omaha	June 8-10
Lutherans For Life National Conference , St. Louis, Missouri	July 24-25
New Worker Orientation , Concordia University, Seward	September 14-15
Orphan Grain Train Convention , Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk	September 18-19
Circuit Counselors' Conference , St. Benedict Center, Schuyler	October 5-6
Junior High Retreat , Camp Luther, Schuyler	October 16-17
Teachers' Conference , Christ, Norfolk	October 22-23
Pastors' Conference , (TBA)	October 26-27

ANNIVERSARIES

- St. Peter, Orchard**, 100th, May 3. Rev. Alan Eppen, former pastor, will be the guest preacher at the 9:30 a.m. service, followed by a catered noon meal and a 2:00 p.m. program with guest speaker Rev. Lynn Riege, son of the congregation.
- Bethany, Omaha**, 70th, June 7, 14, 21, and 28. Special guest preachers during the June worship services include: Rev. Kenneth Holdorf on June 7, Rev. Martin Greunke on June 14, Rev. Wallace Vinovskis on June 21, and Rev. J. Brad Urbach on June 28.
- St. John, Hooper**, 140th, June 14. Rev. Jeff Ernstmeyer will be the guest preacher at the 10:00 a.m. worship service with noon lunch to follow at the Hooper Auditorium.
- Zion St. John, Wisner**, 40th, June 14. Rev. James Wright, former pastor, will be the guest speaker at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Noon meal and afternoon program to follow.
- St. John School, Seward**, 125th, July 5. Dr. David Peter will be the guest preacher at the 9:00 a.m. worship service in the Concordia University Arena. Alumni activities are planned throughout the weekend.
- Immanuel, Lincoln**, 100th, July 12. Gary Thies will speak during the education hour at 9:15 a.m., and a noon potluck will follow. On October 18, Dr. Wallace Schulz will be the guest preacher, with a catered dinner to follow. Dinner reservations may be made by calling 402-261-5211 or emailing lindabeth66@yahoo.com.
- Zion, Scotia**, 125th, August 2. A special 9:30 a.m. outdoor service with guest preacher Rev. Russ Sommerfeld will be held at the farmstead where the congregation first met. On August 9, Rev. Jeff Ernstmeyer will be the guest preacher at the 10:30 a.m. service, followed by a catered dinner and program.
- St. Peter, Scribner**, 125th, September 6. Rev. Warren Woerth, son of the congregation, will speak at the 10:00 a.m. worship, followed by dinner and an afternoon program.
- St. Peter, Gresham**, 100th, September 13. Rev. Timothy Jenks, former pastor, will be the guest preacher at the 10:30 a.m. service, followed by a catered noon meal and a 2:30 p.m. service with Rev. Timothy Prince, former pastor, as the guest preacher.
- St. John (Ash Creek), McCook**, 125th, September 20.

CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Grant Carey** (I'02), DCE, Christ's Greenfield, Gilbert, Ariz., to associate director of student edge ministries, King of Kings, Omaha.
- Martin Hein** (S'84), teacher/assistant principal, to director of middle school youth ministries, Messiah, Lincoln.

CALLS DECLINED

- Jonathan Baumgartel** (S'96), teacher, Zion-St. John, Paulina, Iowa, to principal/teacher, Christ, Juniata.
- Douglas Eisele** (S'93), teacher, Peace, Bremerton, Wash., to principal, Christ, Norfolk.
- John Weber** (S'01), principal, Heartland, Grand Island, to St. Matthew, Holt, Mich.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS

- David Borcharding** (S'90), reinstated to the roster as a candidate.
- Rhonda Burk** (S'88), candidate, to teacher, Good Shepherd, Lincoln.
- Lana Erickson** (S'94), reinstated to the roster as a candidate.
- Paul Herring** (S'93), candidate, Nebraska District, to candidate, Indiana District.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Rev. Mark Dahn** (StL'01), associate, St. John, Battle Creek, to associate, Trinity, Tyler, Texas.
- Rev. Lonnie Jacobsen** (StL'00), Christ, Arlington, Tenn., to senior, Calvary, Lincoln.

CALLS DECLINED

- Rev. Jack Gillam** (StL'99), senior, St. John, Stuttgart, Ark., to senior, Our Redeemer, North Platte.
- Rev. Tim Heupel** (FtW'78), associate, Beautiful Savior, LaVista, to senior, Peace, Grand Island.
- Rev. Nathaniel Schwartz** (StL'89), Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, Mo., to senior, Immanuel, Columbus.
- Rev. Kevin Wyssmann** (StL'82), Christ's Greenfield, Gilbert, Ariz., to senior, Messiah, Lincoln.

STATUS CHANGE

- Rev. Robert Hedtke** (Spg'73), missionary, LCMS World Mission, to emeritus, effective March 17.
- Rev. Daniel Moriarity** (StL'74), Emeritus, Pacific Southwest District, to emeritus, Nebraska District, effective February 5.
- Rev. Nolan Obermueller** (StL'45), Emeritus, Wyoming District, to emeritus, Nebraska District, effective January 1.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. James Wonnacott** (StL'82), candidate to chaplain, Faith Regional Health Services, Norfolk, March 29.