



# 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](http://www.ndlcms.org)

November 2009

## NEW DISTRICT FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES . . .

The deadline for students to apply for Nebraska District financial aid for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year is December 1, 2009. The deadline for the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year will be May 1, 2010. Guidelines and applications are available on the District website at [www.ndlcms.org/education/education/aid.html](http://www.ndlcms.org/education/education/aid.html).

## WORSHIP COURSE IN OMAHA . . .

"Worship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" offered by the Nebraska District Lay Leadership Program will meet at Beautiful Savior, LaVista, on December 5 and 12, 2009, and January 9 and 23, 2010. Instructors are Dr. David Held, Concordia University, Seward; Pastor Keith Grimm, Beautiful Savior, LaVista; and Dr. Joseph Herl, Concordia University, Seward. For more information, please contact Marvin Bergman at 402-643-3724 or [marv.bergman@cune.edu](mailto:marv.bergman@cune.edu).

## THE LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE NOW AVAILABLE . . .

Concordia Publishing House announces the release of their new *Lutheran Study Bible*, the first study Bible in English to be developed from the ground up with notes that are "exclusively and distinctively Lutheran." It uses the English Standard Version translation and contains more than 26,500 study notes prepared by Lutheran theologians, scholars, and pastors. For more information, including how to order, visit [www.cph.org/lutheranbible](http://www.cph.org/lutheranbible).

## CU BOOKSTORE . . .

The bookstore at Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward is now a Concordia Publishing House bookstore. It offers everyone quality CPH products and the option to order materials without shipping charges. Find out more on the Concordia website, [www.cune.edu](http://www.cune.edu).



**FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .** "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ." (Philippians 3:8)

November is typically associated with Thanksgiving Day. However, for Lutheran Christians, November 10 has significance. On that date in 1483, in a house on Long Street in Eisleben, Germany, Martin Luther was born to a miner named Hans and his wife Margarethe. The next day, St. Martin's Day, this infant was baptized. No one but God knew the role He would give Martin Luther in reforming the Christian Church to clearly teach that people are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther spoke against people calling themselves "Lutherans." He said,

"I ask men to make no reference to my name and call themselves not Lutherans but Christians. What is Luther? After all, the doctrine is not mine, nor have I been crucified for anyone. St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 3 would not allow Christians to call themselves Pauline or Peterine, but Christian. How, then, should I, a poor evil-smelling maggot sack, have men give to the children of Christ my worthless name? Not so, dear friends. Let us cast aside our party names and be called Christians after Him whose doctrine we have."

Of course, as we know, the name "Lutheran" communicates salvation by grace through faith alone. Still, it is important to note Martin Luther's humility in this matter. His purpose was to focus people on Jesus Christ and never himself. Our greatest joys are faith in Christ and directing people to Jesus, the Savior of humanity. For, we know the freeing forgiveness, inner peace, and certain eternal future He brings into our daily lives that can be so battered by the sins and cares of this life. And we want the same presence of Jesus for those around us, be they family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors.

It is such a privilege to travel from congregation to congregation in the Nebraska District. I get to hear the Lord's people, their pastors, teachers, and other church workers tell me of the opportunities God is giving them to direct people to Jesus. I hear about conversations filled with grace in backyards, on driveways, in hospital rooms, at community functions, and in precious moments of great trial or joy.

Person after person tell me how surprised they were to see the seed of Christ planted, grown, and developed in another's life, sometimes after a significant period of time. Indeed, they are humbled by how the Lord has chosen to use them, even as Martin Luther was humbled by how God chose to use him.

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:5-6)

Rev. 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.

**BOARD SUMMARY** . . . The Nebraska District Board of Directors took the following actions at its meeting September 4:



- Re-elected Glenn Van Velson of North Platte as board chairman and Paul Leckband of Norfolk as board vice chairman.
- Ratified LCEF actions regarding Zion, Plainview, and Emmanuel, York.
- Reappointed Brashear LLP as legal counsel for the District for the next triennium.
- Appointed the LCMS Internal Audit Department as auditor for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2010.
- Approved the minutes from the 2009 District Convention session held on Saturday morning, June 6.
- Adopted a District Investment Policy by which District investments will be managed.
- Elected to continue participation in worker choice for District employees in regard to the Concordia Health Plan for 2010.
- Reappointed the existing Nebraska District Stewardship Committee members to another three-year term, while instructing the Presidium of the District to add three more members to the committee.
- Approved a district-wide mailing and appeal for gifts for Camp Luther's "Let the Children Come" special offering.
- Appointed Renee Tewes to serve a 2009-2011 term on the Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska Board of Directors.
- Instructed the Board chairman to appoint five members of the Board of Directors to participate in the 2010 Synod Structure and Governance Regional Gathering in Denver on December 4-5, 2009.
- Appointed Virginia Von Seggern to serve as the Nebraska District Board of Directors advisory delegate to the 2010 LCMS Convention, with Glenn Van Velson as alternate.

**HEARTS FOR JESUS** . . . The Lutheran schools of the Nebraska District will be supporting Jesus Our Savior Lutheran School Association of Winnebago as their 2009-2010 Hearts for Jesus project. This newly formed



association supports a new Lutheran grade school on the Winnebago Reservation, as well as the preschool that has ministered to the children and families of Winnebago in past years. For more information on Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Outreach and School Association, visit the District website at [www.ndlcms.org/ministries/district/winnebago/winnebago.html](http://www.ndlcms.org/ministries/district/winnebago/winnebago.html).

**K.I.D.S. COUNT** . . . as members of God's Kingdom! K.I.D.S. Count is a stewardship resource for students in programs of Christian education from kindergarten through grade 8. This new program has been developed by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to be used in conjunction with its Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship (K.I.D.S.) program. K.I.D.S. Count helps children explore what it means to live for Jesus as a disciple and a steward. It includes lessons in discipleship to involve children in the ministry of the church and teach them about stewardship. To learn more about using K.I.D.S. Count in your congregation, contact Rev. Gene Gierke, LCEF Nebraska District Program Director, at 402-641-1485 or [geneg@ndlcms.org](mailto:geneg@ndlcms.org).



## 247 CONGREGATIONS JOIN IN MISSION WORK IN OMAHA

The 247 congregations of the Nebraska District join together in mission work across Nebraska. While the members of some congregations go and work hands-on at ministries, many more congregations support this mission work with their mission and ministry gifts sent to the District Office.

*Iglesia Luterana Jesus es el Senor* Hispanic ministry impacts the Omaha community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing the love of Jesus for all people with the Hispanic population in South Omaha. Through Sunday worship services, a vacation Bible school that attracts 70 children, a strong small group Bible study program, and various other community outreach efforts, people in South Omaha are learning about their loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

One successful outreach program held at the Tree of Life Center, a District-owned property in Omaha, has been the



English as a Second Language program. More than 50 adults and their children took part in the classes in 2008. Since starting in fall of 2009, there are 140 regularly attending students, with another 16 students in computer skills classes, and six in citizenship classes, in addition to children in childcare during the classes. Relationships between church members and those in the community are created and fostered through these classes, leading to conversations about the Savior.

While sponsored by Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church of LaVista, this ministry is also supported by a portion the gifts sent to the District Office from the 247 congregations of the Nebraska District. The generosity of other congregations allows this mission work to take place in Omaha, ensuring people hear Jesus' words, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned." (John 5:24a)

News items and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. The deadline for submission for the December 2009 Reporter is **Monday, November 2**. Please submit items to [Reporter@ndlcms.org](mailto:Reporter@ndlcms.org) or PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434.

# COMING EVENTS

<b>Church/School Secretary Workshop</b> , Concordia University, Seward .....	November 3
<b>LLL Men's Network Retreat</b> , Camp Luther .....	November 20-21
<b>Synod Structure and Governance Regional Gathering</b> , Grand Hyatt, Denver .....	December 4-5
<b>Nebraska LLL Convention</b> , Heartland Lutheran High School, Grand Island .....	April 9-11, 2010
<b>School Administrators' Conference/DCE Retreat</b> , The Leadership Center, Aurora .....	April 22-23, 2010
<b>LWML North District Convention</b> , King of Kings, Omaha .....	June 4-5, 2010
<b>Synodical Convention</b> , George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas .....	July 10-17, 2010
<b>International Lutheran Laymen's League Convention</b> , Qwest Center, Omaha .....	July 21-25, 2010

# ANNIVERSARIES

**St. Peter, Humphrey**, 125<sup>th</sup>, November 1. President Russ Sommerfeld will be the guest preacher at a special 2:00 p.m. anniversary service.

**Zion Lutheran Church (Worms), St. Libory**, 135<sup>th</sup>, and **Zion Lutheran School**, 125<sup>th</sup>, November 1. Rev. Larry Lauthaeuser will be the guest preacher at a special 10:15 a.m. communion service, followed by a potluck dinner, fellowship, songfest, and horse-drawn wagon rides.

# CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED

**Rev. Calvin L'Heureux** (FtW'91), candidate, to interim pastor, St. Peter, North Bend.

### CALLS DECLINED

**Rev. Cory Burma** (StL'04), St. Paul, Janesville, Wis., to associate pastor, Peace, Columbus.

**Rev. William Steinbauer** (StL'91), University Lutheran Chapel, Lincoln, to Faith, Pennfield, N.Y.

**Rev. Matthew Tooman** (StL'05), associate pastor, Trinity, Lincoln, to Bethany, Leesburg, Fla.

**Rev. Lee Weander** (StL'94), senior pastor, Our Savior, Norfolk, to Promise, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

### ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

**Rev. Brian Earl** (StL'09) as pastor, Centennial, Superior, August 30 (ordination also).

**Rev. Calvin L'Heureux** (FtW'91) as interim pastor, St. Peter, North Bend, September 27.

### **ONGOING AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST ANNIVERSARY . . .**

Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (O AFC) will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June 2010 with its annual summer training and an alumni reunion. A recognized service organization of the LCMS, O AFC has touched the lives of more than 36,000 youth and adults who have learned to share Jesus in a simple way during its 40-year history. Now O AFC is looking to reconnect with alumni. O AFC alumni are encouraged to register on the alumni page at [www.oafc.org/alumni.html](http://www.oafc.org/alumni.html). Alumni interested in helping to plan the 2010 reunion may contact O AFC at [alumni@oafc.org](mailto:alumni@oafc.org).

## COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED

**Mark Anschutz** (S'77), teacher/professor, Concordia University, Nebraska, to director of liturgical arts, Concordia University, Nebraska.

**Harlan Anson** (S'05), teacher, Our Redeemer, Staplehurst, to principal/teacher, Our Redeemer, Staplehurst.

**Lisa Ashby** (S'87), teacher, Concordia University, Nebraska, to interim associate provost, Concordia University, Nebraska.

**Kurt Bergdolt** (S'92), teacher, Concordia University, Nebraska, to assistant professor of art, Concordia University, Portland, Ore.

**Kaitlyn Charlton** (S'08), teacher, St. Paul, Arlington, to teacher, Immanuel, Murphysboro, Ill.

**Stacy Leimbach** (S'96), non-candidate, to teacher, Trinity, Lincoln.

**D. Dean Plummer** (S'75), principal/teacher, Christ, Columbus, to principal/teacher, Trinity, Madison.

**Judith Ripke** (S'77), professor, Concordia University, Nebraska, to teacher, Faith, Lincoln.

**David Werner** (S'73), non-candidate, to coordinator of instructional technology, Concordia University, Nebraska.

**Emily White** (S'98), teacher, Christ, Columbus, to teacher, Trinity, Madison.

### OTHER TRANSACTIONS

**Erica Boleen** (SCQ'06), DCE, Peace, McCook, to candidate.

**Lauren Hannemann** (S'08), teacher, St. Paul, Omaha, to non-candidate, transferred to Missouri District.

**Linda Hiegel** (S'78), candidate to removed from roster.

**Jason Leimbach** (S'96), candidate to removed from roster.

**Roger Mailand** (S'63), emeritus, Missouri District, to emeritus, Nebraska District.

**Lisa Moreno** (S'89), candidate to non-candidate.

**Jessica Olsen** (S'02), teacher, Immanuel, Hooper, to non-candidate status.

**Jennifer Swenson** (S'06), admission counselor, Concordia University, Nebraska, to non-candidate.

**Sarah Weber** (S'00), candidate, Nebraska District, to candidate, Indiana District.

# RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.*

2 Corinthians 5:17-19a

Our relationship with God has been reconciled (restored) through the blood of Christ. This means that God, through Christ, has chosen not to use our sins against us (Jeremiah 31:31). It also means that through Christ we can be reconciled (restored) to one another. Broken relationships between friends, siblings, neighbors, co-workers, and married couples can be healed through biblical reconciliation.

Therefore, it is the goal of the Nebraska District LCMS to train reconcilers and establish reconciliation ministries in all 247 congregations. Those trained as reconcilers would enhance ministry by promoting lifestyles of reconciliation in their church and community.

Primarily they would serve in three ways:

## Teaching

They would teach biblical peacemaking throughout their church and community, equipping others to live out lives of reconciliation that give glory to God.

## Coaching

They would give guidance to individuals who are struggling with their own personal conflict, providing them with Godly peacemaking resources.

## Mediation

They would be the mediator between parties in conflict, assisting them through a process of reconciliation.

The first congregational ministry of reconciliation in the Nebraska District has been started at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lincoln, with Brian and Carla Meyer as the first trained reconcilers.

They were commissioned into this new ministry on August 30, 2009.

Brian and Carla attended a seven-day training event sponsored by the Nebraska District and held in 2008.

They completed courses in:

- personal peacemaking,
- coaching people through conflict,
- mediating people in conflict, and
- introductory training for arbitration.

## Qualifications for Potential Reconcilers

- Spiritually mature person.
- Regularly in the Word of God.
- Others go to this person for advice because they trust him or her.
- This person has great listening skills and does not talk too much.
- This person demonstrates peacemaking skills in his or her own life, such as admitting his or her own wrongs and forgiving others.
- This person is not intimidated or scared by emotions and outbursts if they occur, and he or she controls his/her own emotions in highly charged situations.
- This person is not perceived to be highly opinionated or rigid, and he or she can be persuaded to change his/her mind.

Reference: Ambassadors of Reconciliation (AoR)

They will now assist those in their congregation and community to live lives of reconciliation in Christ.



Rev. John Kunze,  
Carla and Brian Meyer,  
Rev. Mark Rockenbach, and  
Rev. Calvin L'Heureux

In order to encourage lifestyles of reconciliation, the District will be offering Saturday seminars throughout Nebraska in 2010. The seminars will explain conflict from a scriptural viewpoint and provide biblical resources about confession and forgiveness. Watch for more information in upcoming *Reporters* and on the website.

Another seven-day training event is also being planned in 2010 for those interested in becoming formal reconcilers.

For more information about these upcoming events or ministries of reconciliation, check the District website at [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org) or contact Rev. Mark Rockenbach at the District Office at 888-643-2961 or [markr@ndlcms.org](mailto:markr@ndlcms.org).