



Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



Information of Interest for Lutherans in the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod
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September 2010

FORMER DISTRICT PRESIDENT CALLED TO GLORY . . .

Rev. Dr. Eldor Meyer, president emeritus of the Nebraska District, was called to glory June 16 at his home in Girard, Kansas. During his ministry in Nebraska he served as campus pastor at Kearney State College, Kearney (1966-1971); and as senior pastor/director of ministries at Trinity, Grand Island, (1971-1978). Meyer also served as second vice president of the Nebraska District LCMS from 1974-1976, first vice president from 1976-1978, and he was then elected as Nebraska District president in 1978 and served until 1991. He then returned to Kansas to serve until his retirement in 1998.



NEW CIRCUIT COUNSELOR . . .

Rev. Keith Dusheke, Omaha, has been appointed circuit counselor of the Omaha North Circuit due to the retirement of Rev. Richard Gudgel. This term will end at the District Convention in June of 2012.

MISSION PROJECTS FOR SCHOOLS AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS . . .

Looking for mission projects for students to support in the coming school year? Visit www.ndlcms.org to find opportunities to be involved in Hispanic, Sudanese, Native American, and campus ministries in Nebraska, as well as international projects.



CPH WAREHOUSE SALE . . . Concordia Publishing House will hold its warehouse sale — the largest sale of the year — on the campus of Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward. The sale will be open Friday, October 22, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, October 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Excess inventory will be offered at deep discounts, including books for children and adults, teaching resources, and more. The sale will be on the upper level of the Janzow Campus Center.



FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Prayer with a Purpose!

"For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56:7b

It is rally time for Christian education! The dictionary offers the following definitions for the word "rally":

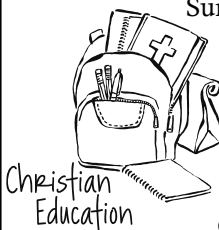
As a verb: 1. To call together for a common purpose; 2. To reassemble; 3. To rouse or revive from inactivity.

As a noun: 1. A gathering, especially one intended to inspire enthusiasm for a cause; 2. A sharp improvement in health, vigor, or spirits.



As a child, father, and pastor, I have many fond memories of Sunday school rally days that occurred in September. Children, teachers, and parents rallied around God's Word for a rally of fun to kick off a new season of Sunday school classes. This opportunity to rally around Christian education often included Bible lessons and songs mixed with carnival games, prizes, picnics, and crafts.

Today, some Lutheran congregations rally in September, not just for Sunday school, but for family nights of Christian education, midweek schools, and new Bible study groups. Others are rallying around the Christian education mission of their Lutheran school. Still, some churches wish for rallies of days gone by. But all congregations can be rallied by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 2010-2011 suggested theme of *"Prayer with a Purpose!"*



The theme Bible verse, Isaiah 56:7b, *"For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples,"* comes from a section of Scripture that talks about how the "foreigners" — members of certain nations who came to live among the Israelites and who had been excluded from worship — would be included in worship in God's house. As you plan your Christian education activities, keep in mind the two types of people who can participate . . . those who KNOW Jesus Christ and need faith strengthening, and those who NEED Jesus Christ to be introduced to them and who need to be surrounded by His arms of love.

2010-2011 is a time to PRAY! Ask God to show you specific ways you, your family, and your church can intentionally teach and engage in prayer this year as you rally around the Word of God in flesh — Jesus Christ! Pray for the children and families of your church. Pray for your neighborhoods. Pray for nearby communities. Pray for your teachers. Pray for your pastor. Pray that God will use you to invite someone into the Christian community through education opportunities that model living by faith in Jesus Christ. It is rally time!



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.

CONVENTION NEWS

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod held its 64th regular convention under the theme “*ONE People—Forgiven!*” in Houston on July 10-17. Congregations are encouraged to invite their circuit delegate to report on the convention. For all of the convention news and video highlights, visit the convention website at www.lcms.org/convention.

ELECTIONS

Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, was elected to his first term as president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and Rev. Herbert Mueller Jr. will serve as first vice president. Other vice presidents elected were Dr. John Wohlrabe Jr. as second vice president; Dr. Paul Maier as third vice president; Rev. Daniel Preus as fourth vice president; and Dr. Scott Murray as fifth vice president. Dr. Raymond Hartwig was re-elected as secretary. Due to structure changes adopted by the convention, the vice president-finance/treasurer became an appointed position and will be appointed by the new board in September.

Elected to the Concordia University, Nebraska Board of Regents for three-year terms were Rev. Keith Grimm of Omaha, Robert Cooksey of Kirkwood, Mo., Timothy Moll of Seward, and Jill Wild of Seward.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

This convention began earlier than usual to offer the delegates more time to hear reports and take part in question and answer sessions prior to addressing the structural changes proposed in a report from the *Blue Ribbon Task Force for Synod Structure and Governance*. Actions taken on these proposed resolutions include:

- Created two ministry boards to oversee the work of the LCMS — Board for National Mission and Board for International Mission.
- Eliminated existing program boards and some staffed commissions at the Synod level; made all staff, except the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, accountable to an officer of the Synod; and assigned most functions to the two ministry boards or others, such as the Synod president, the Board of Directors, districts, or other LCMS agencies.
- Beginning in 2013, LCMS congregations will elect the president of the Synod before the start of the national convention through votes cast by their delegates to the prior district convention.
- Changed the process for electing the first vice president to a process that allows the elected synodical president to offer the names of the five men the delegates will vote for, with at least two names coming from the top five nominees from the congregations.
- Gave approval to electing the five vice presidents and members of the Board of Directors from each of five geographic regions determined by the LCMS Board of Directors and the Council of Presidents.
- Directed a study into future district function and configuration to be presented at the next national convention.
- Failed to gain the two-thirds vote needed to pass an amendment to the constitution establishing a four-year cycle for district and national conventions, despite a majority vote in favor of the proposal.

LCEF: YOUR PARTNER IN SCHOOL MINISTRY . . . LCEF can be of assistance to a Lutheran education program. The resources offered include:

- **“In Our Community” Demographic Study** — A comprehensive look at your surrounding area and potential for new students.
- **“Neighbor to Neighbor” Mailing List Service** — Targeted mailing lists to reach the most receptive audiences.
- **School Marketing Resources** — Help schools through marketing and communications materials (www.lcefmarketing.com).
- **K.I.D.S. Count and K.I.D.S. Stamp Program** — Teach godly stewardship to students in school or Sunday school (www.lcefkids.org).
- **Joyful Response®** — Allows for easy electronic tuition payments and donations at no cost to your school or church.

OTHER ACTIONS

- Commended to the Synod for “study and reference” a statement prepared by a task force appointed by President Gerald Kieschnick entitled “Theological Implications of the 2009 ELCA Decisions” and the International Lutheran Council’s (ILC) statement “Same-Gender Relationships and the Church,” both of which underscore the LCMS understanding of scripture in regards to human sexuality.
- Called for a “stewardship renaissance,” which encourages congregations to search the Scriptures for stewardship examples and to study “biblically based and Gospel-centered principles.”
- Encouraged the Task Force on Synod Harmony to continue its work of developing specific strategies to move the LCMS toward greater harmony and encouraged the Synod to continue efforts to be in harmony with one another.
- Voted to denounce any legislation or action that supports or funds abortion; to work with local crisis pregnancy centers; to support LCMS members currently involved in elective and legislative processes; and encourage more LCMS members to become involved in the governmental process to support life.
- Encouraged the Synod through its agencies, congregations, schools, universities, and seminaries to support the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI).

More information on these and other actions taken by the convention may be found under “Convention News” on the convention webpage, www.lcms.org/convention.

In addition to elections and resolutions, delegates witnessed 36 LCMS district and national executives sharing personal stories of forgiveness in “Red Chair Videos.” Each minute-and-a-half video featured one man, sitting in a red leather chair, relating an experience, ending with the phrase “I am one man, forgiven.” These video vignettes are now available to be viewed online at www.lcms.org/redchair or www.youtube.com/thelcms.

LCEF K.I.D.S. INFORMATIONAL

MEETING . . . Join LCEF Nebraska to learn more about the *K.I.D.S. Stamp* program and *K.I.D.S. Count* curriculum at a free workshop on Saturday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the District Office in Seward. Learn how to start a program in your church, see what’s new for your existing program, and share ideas with others. RSVP to Jan Bruick at 888-643-2961 or janb@ndlcms.org by September 24.

News items and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. The deadline for submission for the October 2010 Reporter is **Wednesday, September 1**. Please submit items to Reporter@ndlcms.org or PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434.

COMING EVENTS

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| Confirmation Academy , Concordia University, Seward..... | September 13 |
| Orphan Grain Train Convention , Lutheran High Northeast | September 17-18 |
| Stewardship Awareness Workshop , Holy Cross, Kearney | September 18 |
| Nebraska District New Worker Orientation , Concordia University, Seward..... | September 20-21 |
| LWML South District Convention , Ramada Inn, Kearney | September 24-25 |
| LCEF K.I.D.S. Coordinator Meeting , District Office, Seward | October 2 |
| Circuit Counselors and Vice Presidents Conference , St. Benedict Center, Schuyler..... | October 4-5 |
| Educators Conference , Christ Lutheran School and Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk | October 21-22 |
| Pastors Conference , Midtown Holiday Inn, Grand Island | October 25-26 |
| Reconciler Training , The Leadership Center, Aurora..... | November 7-13 |
| Disaster Volunteer Certification Training , Lied Senior Center, Seward..... | December 4 |

ANNIVERSARIES

- St. Peter, Hampton**, 100th, September 5, with a 10:00 a.m. worship service.
Mt. Calvary, Fullerton, 75th, September 19, with a 2:00 p.m. special anniversary service.
St. John/Zion Ladies Aid, Chester, 100th, Oct. 3. A special celebration worship service will be held at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Tim Beckendorf from Lutheran Bible Translators as speaker.
First Trinity, Beatrice, 135th, Nov. 7, with a 9:15 a.m. worship service with President Russ Sommerfeld preaching.

CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

ORDAINED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Rev. Jon Dunbar** (StL'05), associate, Trinity, Algona, Iowa, to senior, St. Paul, Utica.
Rev. John Hellwege (StL'99), non-candidate status to Emmaus, St. Louis, Mo.

CALLS DECLINED

- Rev. Matt Berndt** (StL'01), St. John, Burwell, and Peace, Sargent, to Mesquite, Mesquite, Nev.
Rev. Shawn Kitzing (StL'00), Immanuel, Loup City, to Our Redeemer, Staplehurst.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. Joshua Davis** (StL'10) as associate pastor, Faith, Hastings, August 1.
Rev. Obdulio Felix (StL'10) as pastor, Iglesia Luterana Jesus es el Senor, Omaha, August 1 (ordination also).
Rev. George McCall (StL'10) as associate pastor, Emmanuel, York, July 25.

INTERNATIONAL LLL CONVENTION BRINGS 1,250 TO OMAHA . . .

The Qwest Center in Omaha hosted more than 1,000 LLL Convention-goers and 250 **Prairie Fire** attendees for a "Spirit Driven" weekend. As part of convention business, Nebraskan **Michael "Mick" Onnen** was re-elected as International Lutheran

Laymen's League president. Lutheran Hour Ministries and the Nebraska District LCMS teamed up on July 24 to offer a special day of outreach training and motivational workshops to the attendees and one-day registrants to **Prairie Fire**. The morning began with an inspirational message from the event's keynote speaker, LCMS First Vice President Dr. William Diekelman. Attendees then took part in their choice of three of the 36 breakout sessions led by top-rate, nationally known speakers who talked about ministry and mission work. **Prairie Fire** wrapped up with the Lutheran Hour Ministries Celebration worship service in which Pastor Ken Klaus (pictured at right), Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**, mightily proclaimed God's Word.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS DECLINED

- Brenda Kreutz** (S'02), teacher, Zion, New Palestine, Ind., to teacher, Our Redeemer, Staplehurst.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS

- Joy Barefoot** (S'89), teacher, St. Mark, Omaha, to non-candidate.
Judy Bartels (S'71), teacher, Zion, Tobias, to non-candidate.
Dana Chrisman (S'05), teacher, St. Paul, Utica, to non-candidate.
Carrie Epp (S'06), teacher, Emmanuel-Faith, York, to non-candidate.
Sharon Groothuis (SCQ'07), teacher, Messiah, Lincoln, to non-candidate.
Kevin Janssen (S'04), teacher, Trinity, Fremont, to non-candidate.
Crystal Mosel-Brummels (S'04), candidate, Kansas District, to candidate, Nebraska District.
Michelle Prince (S'92), teacher, St. Peter, Davenport, to non-candidate.
Angela Reisdorph (S'01), non-candidate, resigned from roster.
Amy Royuk (S'01), teacher, Lincoln Lutheran Middle & High School, to non-candidate status.
Sandra Schenck (S'71), teacher, Trinity, Grand Island, to emeritus.
Kay Storck (S'99), non-candidate, Missouri District, to non-candidate, Nebraska District.

PLACEMENT

- Beth Dittmer** (FW'10) as deaconess, Good Shepherd, Fremont. (correction from August 2010 *Reporter*)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: ETERNAL BUSINESS

DON WEBER, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT IN EDUCATION AND YOUTH

One thing our precious children are born without is the knowledge of Jesus Christ. God has given parents the responsibility of bringing them to Jesus by faithfully teaching them the truth found in God's Holy Word. The Holy Spirit works through that Word to initiate the faith that saves and brings those children to the knowledge of the Savior. When Christian parents are in heaven, their children will be also if they trust in Jesus for their salvation. This is eternal business of the highest priority.

September is **Christian Education Month**. Because of the eternal ramifications, educating children in the way they should go is perhaps the most important task of parents. It is a mighty task for which God gives direction. Proverbs 22:6 says *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* Families and congregations work together to bring about this training in a consistent and meaningful way. We know that children benefit when they hear a **consistent message from home, church, and school**.

A consistent message among these three places can be accomplished when **parents take their teaching role seriously** in home devotions and applications of God's Word in daily situations. The congregation can be the best friend a parent can have when it provides a **solid program of Christ-centered parish education** for all ages. What blessings are Lutheran schools which provide that third place for **consistent teaching about Jesus**. Those congregations not blessed to have a Lutheran school can work hard to provide a



solid **midweek or other parish-based program** to reinforce that consistent message of Jesus.

If we don't teach our children, someone else will. Our children are our responsibility, not someone else's. The task is mighty and worthy of prayer. The scripture clearly calls us to pray. Philippians 4:6 tells us *"Do not be*



anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

September is a great month to focus prayer on the education of people of all ages. It is very appropriate to **pray for**

all students, teachers, and educational processes.

Jesus died to pay for the sins of all people, rose from the grave to **conquer death for all people,** and ascended to heaven to **prepare a place for us** and to send us His **Holy Spirit to teach us and assure us of God's love and forgiveness.** Thanks be to God that He has provided us with such a great message to teach to the people we love — and to those we have yet to meet.

The Nebraska District Office has many resources to assist congregations and schools in their educational ministry, including:

- Day school and high school education
- Bible studies for all ages
- Preschool
- Sunday school
- Midweek
- Youth
- Confirmation
- Family life
- Age wave/ older adult



Contact Don Weber, Assistant to the President in Education and Youth, for more information at 888-643-2961 or donw@ndlcms.org.