



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

August 2011

ROOTED AND GROWING IN CHRIST . . .

Educators from Nebraska District schools are invited to join together at this year's Educators' Conference on October 20 and 21 at Christ Lutheran Church and School in Lincoln.

The theme of the gathering will be **Rooted and Growing in Christ**, based on Colossians 2:6-7. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Mark Rockenbach, M.Div., MAC, LMHP and Nebraska District LCMS Church Worker Health Executive. He will help the group focus on being members of the body of Christ "Rooted and Growing in the Reconciliation of Christ." There will also be break-out sessions on a number of current educational topics.



Registration materials will be sent to principals in early September and will be available online at www.ndlcms.org.

WORSHIP AT THE STATE FAIR . . .

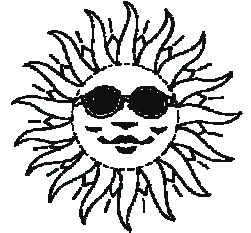
Are you headed to the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island? Plan to join the Nebraska Lutheran Laymen's League on both Sundays at 9:00 a.m. as it sponsors worship services at the Bristol Stage. Rev. Terry Brandenburg, senior pastor of Peace, Grand Island, will be preaching and leading the service on August 28.

Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, president of Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward, will be preaching on September 4. If you are at the fair, don't miss this special time of worship with the LLL.



FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . The Dog Days of Summer!

We have arrived at the dog days of summer, the hottest, most sultry days of the season. My childhood town had August sidewalk sales called "Dog Days." As a boy, my friends and I liked to chase down the sizzling sidewalks, blasting away at each other with newly-purchased squirt guns. I grew up thinking the dog days of summer were so named because I could get a sidewalk bargain squirt gun and it was so hot that all dogs wanted to do was sleep in the shade. I now know that the dog days of summer are named after the "Dog Star" Sirius because it is the largest star in the Canis Major (Large Dog) constellation. Ancient people thought that this star caused the heat of late summer.



The dog days of summer also remind me of Isaiah 56:10, where the Spirit-inspired prophet announced "*Israel's watchmen are blind, they all lack knowledge; they are all mute dogs, they cannot bark; they lie around and dream, they love to sleep.*"

It is no secret that knowledge of the Bible, regular time in God's Word, and gatherings of Christians for worship and fellowship have been and are on a downward trend. Just like the lull of the lazy and hazy dog days of summer, so too our attitudes and actions can be linked in regard to the precious gifts God gives us in His Word and through His Church. As our nation's attitudes, morals and behaviors have become less and less influenced by Christian biblical faith and teaching, we need to be awakened by the Holy Spirit.

God gives us the opportunities to be His salt and light. Jesus said, "*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.*" (Matt. 5:13-14) What a blessing we can be in the lives of family, friends, communities and even our nation as we demonstrate the need to admit sin and the confidence we have for forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ. We can also be witnesses of the commitment and strength God gives us to live by His grace and mercy, seeking to obey His clear commands.

In these dog days of summer, and everyday, "*Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*" (Hebrews 10: 23-25)

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.

FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR CALL . . . Church work can be tough, and church workers need to be firmly rooted at their churches where they can soak up the nourishment of grace, and where their roots reach deep and wide to connect with one another. DCEs from across Synod are invited to the regional DCE Conference being hosted by Beautiful Savior, LaVista, on March 22-24, 2012. Under the theme "The Call," this conference is designed to help DCEs reach deeper and wider as they ground themselves in the Word that brings them back to what first led them into the ministry. Registration materials and more information will be available online in the months ahead at www.fallinlovewithyourcall.com.



DISCOVER LCEF . . . What would your congregation do if it had an LCMS partner to turn to for expert advice, caring assistance and a kindred mission to serve the Lord and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Consider the possibilities with Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Discover more at www.lcef.org/discover.

CALLED TO GLORY . . . Marie Einspahr, commissioned minister-teacher emeritus of Seward, passed away on June 14. Throughout her teaching ministry she served in North Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, Washington, California, and in the Nebraska schools of Our Redeemer, North Platte, and Immanuel, Hooper. . . . **Rev. Harold Stelzer**, pastor emeritus, Lincoln, was called to glory on July 5. During his ministry, he served as a teacher in Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and at Emmanuel, York. After ordination, he served as a pastor in Wisconsin, as well as at St. Peter, Elk Creek, and Christ, Lincoln. . . . **L. Wayne Myers**, pastor emeritus, Bellevue, received his crown of life on July 4. He served as a pastor at parishes in Illinois and Florida, as well as at Immanuel/Christ, Spencer/Lynch, and Mt. Olive, Omaha.



NEW CIRCUIT COUNSELOR . . . **Rev. Patrick Sparling**, Columbus, has been appointed circuit counselor of the Columbus Circuit upon the passing away of Rev. Terry Timm. His term will end at the District Convention in June 2012.

PROJECT SCRUB BUCKET . . . In response to the current and projected flooding across several states in the Midwest, Orphan Grain Train announces **Project Scrub Bucket**, five-gallon buckets filled with cleaning supplies to be given to those who are affected by the flooding.

Those wishing to participate may donate five-gallon buckets and any of the following items to fill them:

- Comet™ or other cleansing powder
- Lysol™ or other liquid cleaner
- Bleach (gallon-sized)
- Windex™ or other glass cleaner
- Scrub brushes
- Rubber gloves
- Sponges
- Rolls of paper towels
- Brooms and/or mops



Project Scrub Bucket items are being collected at the Orphan Grain Train warehouse, 606 W. Phillip, Norfolk, Nebraska 68701, and at participating branch offices across the country. Please visit www.ogt.org for more information.

Nebraska/Iowa West/South Dakota
High School Gathering 2011

JOURNEY

Nov. 18-20, 2011

Embassy Suites, La Vista, NE

Registration \$115/person

Rooms \$115/4-persons

<http://www.NEYOUTH.org>

Registration packets will be in church offices in August

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT "JOURNEY"? . . . Parents and teachers know that teens today live fast-paced lives full of content. The demands and options are many, the data plentiful but confusing, and often choices and decisions aren't the best. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus warns of this – the pathway to destruction is wide and beckoning; many are on that path. But that same Jesus is the One who brings us a hope and a promise – there is another way, a way that is narrow but welcoming, warm and promising...it leads to life eternal! How does one find that narrow pathway? HE is the doorway! Anyone who enters by Him is taking a journey on that path!

As youth gather for a weekend together for the "Journey," they'll unpack the promises of God found in Romans 8:38-39 – *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* They'll be reminded that by God's gift of a Savior, Jesus, they're guaranteed a successful journey by faith. Adults, pastors, and youth leaders are urged to encourage the youth in their congregations to register and attend this fun and inspirational gathering. And so the Journey begins . . .

COMING EVENTS

Pre-Retirement Workshop , Holy Savior, Lincoln	August 20
LWML South Retreat , Emmanuel, York.....	September 9-11
New Worker Orientation , Concordia University, Seward	September 12-13
LWML North Retreat , Camp Luther, Schuyler	September 17
Circuit Counselors' and Vice Presidents' Conference , St. Benedict Center, Schuyler	September 29-30
Educators' Conference , Christ, Lincoln	October 20-21
District Regional Gathering , Holy Cross, Kearney	October 22
District Regional Gathering , Beautiful Savior, LaVista	October 23
Fall Pastors' Conference , Embassy Suites Convention Center, LaVista	October 24-26
District Regional Gathering , Our Savior, Norfolk.....	November 6
District Regional Gathering , Christ, Lincoln	November 12
High School Youth Gathering , Embassy Suites Convention Center, LaVista.....	November 18-20
Regional DCE Conference , Beautiful Savior, LaVista.....	March 22-24, 2012
Spring Pastors' Conference , Younes Convention Centre, Kearney	April 16-17, 2012
Nebraska District LCMS Convention , Concordia University, Seward	June 8-9, 2012
Lutheran Hour Ministries' Reformation Rally , Concordia University, Seward.....	November 4, 2012

ANNIVERSARIES

- Zion, Omaha**, 125th, August 28, with President Russ Sommerfeld preaching at the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.
- St. John's, Ogallala**, 125th, August 28, with Rev. Ronald Holling as guest preacher at the 10:30 a.m. worship service, followed by lunch and a 2:00 p.m. program.
- Immanuel School, Polk**, 125th, September 4, with a 10:30 a.m. worship service and noon meal.
- Zion, Garland**, 125th, September 18, with former pastor Rev. Marvin Kuhlman preaching at the 9:30 a.m. worship service, followed by a catered noon meal. Call 402-588-2229 to make meal reservations by August 29.
- Peace, Columbus**, 50th, September 25, with former pastor Rev. Ernie Smith preaching at special celebration services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner and a program.

CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

ORDAINED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Rev. John Diener** (FtW'94), St. John, Tecumseh, to Grace, Wyoming, Mich.
- Rev. Andrew Kennell** (StL'02), associate, St. Matthew, Lee's Summit, Mo., to Our Redeemer, Staplehurst.

STATUS CHANGE

- Rev. David Brinkmeyer** (StL'04), First Trinity, Beatrice, to non-candidate status.
- Rev. Lon Landsmann** (FtW'94), emeritus, English District, to emeritus, Nebraska District.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. Michael Feldmann** (StL'11) as associate pastor, Grace, Wayne, June 26 (ordination also).
- Rev. Joshua Hayes** (StL'11) as pastor, St. John (Kramer), Crete, June 12.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

- William Masters** (S'79), non-candidate, to teacher/principal, Trinity, Madison.
- Kari Samuels** (S'03), teacher, Immanuel, Polk, to teacher, St. John, Seward.
- Susan Warneke** (SP'81), interim director of music, Christ, Norfolk, to director of music, Christ, Norfolk.

CALLS DECLINED

- Mildred Lewis** (IVCQ'95), teacher, Christ's Greenfield, Gilbert, Ariz., to Immanuel, Polk.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS

- Andrea Beversdorf** (S'70), teacher, Emmanuel/Faith, York, to emeritus.
- Julie Bose** (S'02), teacher, Lutheran High Northeast, to non-candidate.
- Bethany Foutz** (S'02), St. Paul, Omaha, to removed from roster.
- Katherine Gifford** (SP'94), non-candidate to resigned from the roster.
- Dawn Koenig** (SP'92), teacher, Immanuel, Hooper, to candidate.
- Dean Plummer** (S'75), principal/teacher, Trinity, Madison, to candidate.
- Megan Schmidt** (S'07), candidate, Texas District, to candidate, Nebraska District.

- Jannese Steider** (S'93), St. Paul, Omaha, to removed from roster.

PLACEMENTS

- Lindsey Schmitz** (S'11), director of discipleship, St. John, Battle Creek.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

2012 CONVENTION CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Committee for Nominations for the 2012 District Convention will need to supply candidates for the following offices, boards, and committees:

- Secretary of the District
- Nominations Committee
- Constitution and Handbook Committee
- Board of Regents (Seward)

The Committee invites suggestions for nominees from the circuit counselors, pastors, teachers, lay members, circuit forums, and congregations of the District.

By means of this announcement, the invitation is herewith extended to all in the Nebraska District LCMS who are interested in submitting names. Please use the form, "Recommendation for Nomination," which accompanies this notice. (The form may be duplicated.)

The Committee requests that names be forwarded to the District Office by **October 15, 2011**. Experience has shown that the Committee needs a major time segment to do its work properly.

THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Loren Cooper	Rev. Paul Beyer	Rev. Charles Gierke
Linda Ahrens	Steve Althouse	
ElRoy Bartels	Burnell Von Seggern	

INFORMATION ON POSITIONS

DISTRICT SECRETARY

(One ordained minister to be elected. Completing his third term is Rev. Roland Jank, Jr., who is eligible for re-election.)

Records the proceedings of District Convention and District Board of Directors, serves as member and secretary of the Constitution and Handbook Committee, and corresponds with congregations concerning constitutional revisions.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

(Three ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, three lay members to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. Loren Cooper, Rev. Paul Beyer, Rev. Charles Gierke, Linda Ahrens, Steve Althouse, ElRoy Bartels, and Burnell Von Seggern. All are eligible for re-election.)

Prepares a slate of at least two candidates for every position to be filled: Secretary, Nominations Committee, Constitution and Handbook Committee, Members of Board of Regents, and the District representative and alternate to Synodical Committee for Convention Nominations as needed.

CONSTITUTION AND HANDBOOK COMMITTEE

(Two ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, and one lay member, preferably an attorney, to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. James Rasmussen, Rev. Timothy Prince, Wilbur Tewes, and Richard Kreutzer. All are eligible for re-election.)

Advises the District, circuit forums, and individual congregations on constitutional matters. It reviews new and revised constitutions to make sure they are theologically sound, state laws are followed, and in agreement with the synodical Handbook. It also keeps the Nebraska District Bylaws up-to-date.

BOARD OF REGENTS (Seward)

(Two lay members, one ordained minister, and one commissioned minister to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. Karl Ziegler, James Knoepfel, Lyle Middendorf and Mike Klintworth. All are eligible for re-election.)

Serves on the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Seward.

RECOMMENDATION FOR NOMINATION

(Please print or type)

My recommendation for _____
(Office, Board, Committee)

Name _____

Ordained Minister

Commissioned Minister

Lay Member

INFORMATION ON NOMINEE

Address _____
Street or Box # _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Congregation _____

Pastor's Name _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

Qualifications _____

Your Signature _____

Print Your Name _____

Street or Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

PLEASE RETURN PROMPTLY (No later than October 15, 2011) TO:

Committee for Nominations
Nebraska District LCMS
P.O. Box 407
Seward, NE 68434-0407