



Nebraska Lutheran Reporter



Information of Interest for Lutherans in the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod
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June 2011

GOING TO COLLEGE OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS? . . .



The Nebraska District LCMS would like to help college students, including incoming freshmen, get connected to Christian fellowship and fun at college. Church offices, parents, or students are asked to visit www.lcmscampusministry.org and click on "StudentConnect," where the name, address, phone, email address, and the college name can be entered. An LCMS pastor or campus ministry worker from the school's campus ministry, including our Nebraska District campus ministries, will contact the student personally to share information about their local Lutheran campus ministry and ways to get involved. For more information about Nebraska District LCMS ministries, visit our website at www.ndlcms.org.

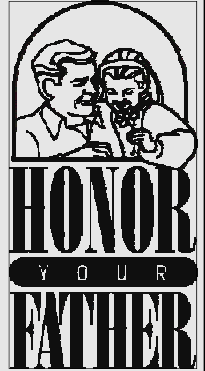
CALLED TO GLORY . . . Rev. Rudy Schaff, pastor emeritus, received his crown of life on April 14. He served the Nebraska congregations of Zion, Crookston, and Grace, Merriman, until his retirement in June of 2009. . . . **Louise Gehle**, widow of Rev. Rudolph Gehle, was called to glory on April 15. During his pastoral ministry, Rev. Gehle served the Nebraska congregations of Redeemer, Wauneta, and Trinity, Palisade. . . . **Rev. Elmer Smith**, Lincoln, was called home to heaven on April 16. He served the congregation of Immanuel, Sterling. . . . **Reinhold Marxhausen**, teacher emeritus, was called to his heavenly home on April 23. He was professor of art for nearly 40 years at Concordia College (now University) in Seward, as well as a locally and nationally-recognized artist. His work is found in many churches, businesses, galleries, and homes. . . . **Rev. Michael Rogers**, pastor emeritus, Bemidji, Minnesota, was called to glory April 25. During his pastoral ministry, Rev. Rogers served the Nebraska congregations of St. Paul, Arlington, and St. John, Ord.



FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Trinity Sunday and Father's Day

June 19 will be a special Sunday for two reasons. It is Father's Day, and more importantly, Trinity Sunday. It is thought that Father's Day began with a memorial service held for a large group of men, many of them fathers, who were killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia, in 1907. Americans are accustomed to Father's Day as an opportunity to honor fathers and grandfathers with cards, gifts and sentiments of appreciation.



Trinity Sunday

In 2011, June 19 is also Trinity Sunday for Christians. Trinity Sunday can be traced back to the fourth century. It is a day for rejoicing in the mystery that God is triune (three-in-one) -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The fact that the Lord is one God in three distinct persons is totally beyond human comprehension. It is only by the power of God the Holy Spirit that Christians accept this incomprehensible mystery as an essential article of faith in the True God.

This 2011 opportunity to observe Trinity Sunday and Father's Day on the same day is a marvelous opportunity to recognize that God is the Creator Father who is distinct from Jesus, His only Son, the Savior of humanity, and the Holy Spirit, who engenders faith while also being in union as One God. The True God cherishes relationship with people as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. June 19 will be a magnificent day to honor God the Father with prayer, praise and thanksgiving, while also appreciating our earthly fathers and grandfathers.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are due our greatest gratitude on Father's Day because of God's most precious work in our families. God our Father, who is perfect in every way, loves us so much that He provides mercy and forgiveness through His Son Jesus, so we may be led by the Holy Spirit to lavish love on one another in our imperfect families with forgiving gratitude for one another.



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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE . . . Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward, is hosting a conference for early childhood teachers and aides, child care providers, pastors, DCEs, and child ministry directors on Wednesday, June 15. The keynote speaker will be Judy



Harris Helm, with a special luncheon presentation by Barbara Schoenbeck. The day will also feature many sectionals led by those in the early childhood field. Find more information and registration materials on Concordia's website at <http://www.cune.edu/about/conferences-and-camps/early-childhood-conference/>.

NEW CIRCUIT COUNSELOR . . . Rev. Charles Schmidt, Fairbury, has been appointed circuit counselor of the Deshler Circuit upon the acceptance of a position out of the District by Rev. Rick Kelm. This term will end at the District Convention in June 2012.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY BESTOWS HONORS . . . As part of graduation weekend at Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward, the newly-completed Health, Human Performance and Athletic Center was renamed the **Walz Human Performance Complex** in honor of **Rev. Dr. Orville Walz**, president emeritus. A 1961 graduate of Concordia College in Seward, he became president in 1990 and served until 2004. Dr. Walz currently serves as fourth vice president of the Nebraska District.



A collection of honorary degrees and awards were also bestowed during commencement. Those receiving the honors included **David Sommermeyer**, Fort Wayne, Ind., Doctor of Laws; **Dr. Sandra Hodges**, Omaha, Neb., Doctor of Letters; **Allen Loesel**, St. Charles, Mo., Master Educator; **A. William "Bill" and Leona Kernen**, Omaha, Neb., Crest of Christ Award; **Richard Buethe**, Lincoln, Neb., Crest of Christ Award; and **Roger Glawatz**, Seward, Neb., Distinguished Service Award.

BUILDING AND PLANNING WORKSHOP . . .



As congregational ministry needs change over time, so do the needs to expand or reconfigure ministry facilities. The Nebraska LCEF program invites your church's ministry boards to join them for the "Building and Planning Workshop" to be held on June 18, 2011, at Peace Lutheran Church in Grand Island.

Eight break-out sessions will guide attendees through the building or remodeling process from start to finish. Experts from around the district and the country will be available to share their expertise and answer questions. Registration forms may be found online at www.ndlcms.org. Spread the word! If you register a car-load of people from your church by June 10, you will receive a special gift from LCEF. Come, discover the right "tools" necessary to expand ministry in your community!

STAFF CHANGE . . . The Nebraska District staff is pleased to welcome **Candice Menze** as the new administrative assistant in education, youth, church worker health, and lay leadership. Candice may be contacted regarding any of these ministry areas at candim@ndlcms.org or 888-643-2961, ext. 1010.



Thank you for your support of
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska.
 Your gift is making a difference in the lives
 of children and families every day.

Lutheran Family Services
 of Nebraska, Inc. www.lfsneb.org

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." —Matthew 25:40

COMING EVENTS

National LWML Convention, Peoria, Ill.	June 23-26
Worship Conference, St. John, Seward	July 27-29
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
Circuit Counselors' and Vice Presidents' Conference, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler	October 10-11
Educators' Conference, Christ, Lincoln	October 20-21
District Regional Visit, Holy Cross, Kearney	October 22
District Regional Visit, Beautiful Savior, LaVista	October 23
Fall Pastors' Conference, Embassy Suites Convention Center, LaVista	October 24-26
District Regional Visit, Our Savior, Norfolk.....	November 6
District Regional Visit, Christ, Lincoln.....	November 12
District Youth Gathering, Embassy Suites Convention Center, LaVista	November 18-20

ANNIVERSARIES

- Trinity, Ogallala, 125th**, June 12, with Rev. David Buss as speaker at a 10:00 a.m. service. Dinner will follow, with 2:00 p.m. program and afternoon reception. Email trinity125th@hotmail.com for reservations.
- St. Peter, Wymore, 75th**, June 26, with a noon meal and special 2:00 p.m. service with former pastor Rev. Jim Carretto preaching. Call 402-645-8215 to make meal reservations by June 19.
- Zion, Omaha, 125th**, August 28, with President Russ Sommerfeld preaching at the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.
- Immanuel School, Polk, 125th**, September 4, with a 10:30 a.m. worship service and noon meal.

CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

ORDAINED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Wade Mattsfield (StL'99), candidate status to Immanuel, West Plains, Mo.

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Dan Deardoff (StL'84), Blessed Redeemer, Brandon, S.D., to Our Redeemer, Staplehurst.

STATUS CHANGE

Rev. Joel Hormachea (StL'05), associate, Trinity, Lexington, to candidate status effective May 2, 2010.

Rev. Elmer Smith (StL'09), Immanuel, Sterling, called to glory April 16.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Russel Troester (StL'08) as pastor, St. John, Ord, April 10.

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP

WORKSHOP . . . LCEF has two specific resources for teaching stewardship principles to children—the **K.I.D.S. Stamp program** and **K.I.D.S. Count Curriculum**. Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship resources are easy to use in your Sunday school or day school program. Join LCEF on Saturday, July 30, at the Nebraska District Office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a free workshop to learn more. RSVP to Jan Bruick by July 21 at janb@ndlcms.org or 1-888-643-2961, Ext. 1011.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

OTHER TRANSACTIONS

Reinhold Marxhausen (Valp'50), emeritus status, called to glory April 23.

PLACEMENT

Sarah Masters (S'11) as teacher, St. John, Battle Creek.
Michelle Myslinski (S'11) as teacher, Emmanuel-Faith, York.

MISSION GRANTS AWARDED . . . LCEF is blessed with strong investors and faithful borrowers—and we are thankful for this blessing. This partnership with investors has allowed the Nebraska LCEF program to use fiscal year-end operating results to offer Outreach Ministry Grants in the amount of \$1,000 each to congregations, schools and related organizations. The LCEF Committee awarded the grants to applicants displaying a strong outreach ministry focus to impact their local community. The opportunities are numerous, and LCEF thanks God for the opportunity to share these grant dollars to further His Kingdom.

- Outreach projects to the Bhutanese, Sudanese and Hispanics will be carried out this summer through VBS and camp ministries.
- International and U.S. college students in Nebraska will benefit from outreach grant dollars for back-to-school events, servant events, and tangible needs.
- In several of our communities, Bibles will be placed into children's hands through outreach events held in our District's preschool, mid-week and summer school ministries.
- Additional outreach events will impact youth and adults to grow spiritually and to share their faith with others.



PLACEMENT REPORT

GRADUATES PLACED IN NEBRASKA:

Columbus, 1C Mission LCMS	Elliott M. Lutz, Pekin, Ill. (StL)
Crete, St. John (Kramer).....	Joshua J. Hayes, St. Louis, Mo. (StL)
Fremont, Trinity (associate).....	David L. Coe, Dothan, Ala. (StL)
Hooper, Immanuel	Jonathan M. Ripke, Aurora, Colo. (StL)
Malcolm, St. Paul.....	Matthew W. Tasse, Midwest City, Okla. (FtW)
Wayne, Grace (associate).....	Michael W. Feldmann, Shell Knob, Mo. (StL)

VICARS ASSIGNED TO NEBRASKA

Grand Island, Trinity.....	Bart P. Rall, Bloomington, Minn. (StL)
Gretna, Good Shepherd.....	Joshua T. Traxel, Seattle, Wash. (StL)
Imperial, Zion	Adam J. Welton, Bancroft, Neb. (FtW)
Lincoln, Good Shepherd.....	Benjamin R. Siebert, Midland, Mich. (FtW)
Neligh/Elgin, Grace/Trinity.....	Daniel P. Murray, Livonia, Mich. (FtW)

DEACONESS INTERNS ASSIGNED IN NEBRASKA

Arapahoe, Trinity.....	Elizabeth Froh, San Mateo, Calif. (FtW)
Grand Island, Cristo Cordero de Dios	Panchita Portillo, Grand Island, Neb. (StL)

NEBRASKA GRADUATES PLACED

Mark A. Anderson, Omaha	Bethel (assistant), Morton, Ill. (StL)
Seth P. Korte, Lincoln	Redeemer (assistant), Richmond, Va. (StL)
Aaron J. Kuehn, Lincoln.....	Grace (associate), Menomonee Falls, Wis. (StL)
Don F. Pobanz, Hastings	St. Paul, Sac City, Iowa (FtW)
Chet L. Scherbarth, Lincoln.....	St. John, Granite, Okla. (StL)
Heath A. Trampe, Kearney	St. Peter (associate), Ft. Wayne, Ind. (FtW)

NEBRASKANS ASSIGNED AS VICARS

Steve A. Dygert, Omaha.....	Christ, Cincinnati, Ohio (FtW)
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Church Worker Pre-Retirement Workshop

Concordia Plan Services and the Nebraska District will be hosting a pre-retirement workshop for professional church workers and their spouses.

Saturday, August 20

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Holy Savior Lutheran Church

4710 N 10th St., Lincoln, NE 68521

\$20 per person (includes materials, breaks, and lunch)

Workshop sessions include:

- Basic Finances and Budgeting
- Retirement Income
- Health Care and Costs
- Envisioning Retirement Life
- Taking Care of Your Loved Ones
- One-On-One Time for Personal Questions

To register for this workshop:

Complete a registration form at www.ndlcms.org and return to the Nebraska District Office with

\$20 registration fee per person

NO LATER THAN August 5

Email NicholeH@ndlcms.org with questions



- All benefit-eligible church workers and their spouses are invited and encouraged to attend.
- A great opportunity for everyone to make a plan, regardless of age!
- Once the registration is received, participants will receive preliminary worksheets to begin completing, as well as questions to help them examine their potential plans for retirement.
- Registrations are to be received in the District Office no later than August 5.
- Pastors, DCEs, principals, and teachers were emailed the information and a registration form.
- More information and registration forms are available on the District website, www.ndlcms.org.