



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

September 2011

NEW CIRCUIT COUNSELOR . . . Rev.

Luke Schnake, Lincoln, has been appointed circuit counselor of the Lincoln North Circuit to replace Rev. Craig Whitson, who is serving in interim ministry. This term will end at the District Convention in June 2012.

CIRCUIT CONVOCATION ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY . . .

The congregations of the Deshler Circuit are hosting a Convocation on Marriage and the Family on Sunday, September 18, from 2:00-7:00 p.m. at Deshler Lutheran School. The event, beginning with an opening worship service and concluding with supper, is free and open to everyone. Childcare will be provided. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kevin Kohnke, Director of Family Life Ministry at Concordia University Nebraska, who will speak about "What Matters to Families?" Break-out sessions on various family ministry topics will also be offered.

AGE WAVE SEMINAR . . . The tri-circuits of Omaha are sponsoring an age wave (retiring boomers) seminar on Saturday, October 1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Pacific Hills, 1110 S. 90th St., Omaha. The seminar is intended to engage three or four members and a called church worker of a congregation in exploring ways of beginning an age wave ministry. Leading the seminar are Drs. Marvin and Shirley Bergman of the Nebraska District and Concordia University Nebraska. For more information, please email marv.bergman@cune.edu.

Midlifers



LAY LEADERSHIP COURSE IN OMAHA . . .

A study of the "Theology and History of the Old Testament" will be offered in Omaha by the Nebraska District. Classes will meet on September 10 and 24, October 1 and 8, at Beautiful Savior, 7706 S 96th St., LaVista. Leading the class will be Rev. Arnold Jurchen, adjunct professor at Concordia University Nebraska. For more information, contact Marvin Bergman at marv.bergman@cune.edu.

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . September is traditionally a time to emphasize Christian education in our Nebraska District LCMS congregations and schools. Christians of the congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod continue to teach, believe and confess that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7) and that God is our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. Back in 2006, I came across this story about Christian education that I believe is worth repeating.



"The telephone rang. Mrs. Waverly hurriedly picked it up. "Hello ... Yes ... Oh, you are Johnny's teacher," she said. "I have been meaning to call you! Johnny won't be coming to school this year. He is much too busy with Sunday school, youth group, church youth choir, confirmation class and attending church to come to school. We also have family devotions and many other Christian interests. There just isn't time left for math, English, geography, reading and spelling."

"Yes, I know school is important and you are a good teacher and doing a good job. But to tell you the truth, Johnny didn't much like school last year. There were too many assignments, music and sports activities and they interfered with his many church activities."

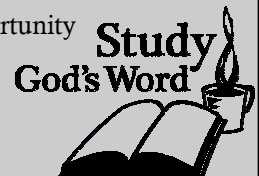
"Am I going to make him come to school? No! I want him to make his own decisions about his education. I don't want to force him into math or reading or social studies unless he really thinks they are important."

I know that this story is a stretch. But it does remind us that just as education to gain helpful knowledge for life in this world is important, Christian education in the Lord's Word and His merciful ways through Jesus is even more important for our daily life and into eternity.

As September Bible studies, Sunday school, midweek school, confirmation classes, family nights and Lutheran school classrooms are zooming into action, it is a great time to rededicate ourselves to participate in Christian education, to spend time in the Scriptures and to give our children and grandchildren regular experiences with Jesus in His Word.

What a joy to give children and grandchildren precious moments of Bible story telling and reading, growing in the Word in a Lutheran school and Sunday school classroom, and learning about the Lord God at the feet of a pastor who delights in the doctrines of God's Word and sharing the love of Jesus.

As adults, we would do well not to miss an opportunity to connect with a meaningful discussion in a Bible study setting where the Lord transforms lives with His Word and bonds Christians together.



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.

COMING EVENTS

LWML South Retreat, Emmanuel, York.....	September 9-11
Fall Administrators' Conference, Trinity, Grand Island	September 16
LWML North Retreat, Camp Luther, Schuyler	September 17
New Worker Orientation, Concordia University, Seward	September 25-26
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 Nebraska, Seward	June 8-9, 2012
Lutheran Hour Ministries' Reformation Rally, Concordia University Nebraska, Seward.....	November 4, 2012

ANNIVERSARIES

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 a catered noon meal and outdoor games and fun for everyone. Call 402-564-8311 to make meal reservations by September 12.

CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

ORDAINED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. David Dobbertien (FtW'96), interim pastor, St. Peter, Hampton, to interim executive director, Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, Nokomis, Ill.
Rev. Calvin L'Heureux (FtW'91), interim pastor, St. Peter, North Bend, to pastor, St. Peter, North Bend.

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Brad Beckman (StL'92), senior pastor, Faith, Lincoln, to Mt. Calvary, Omaha.
Rev. Michael Klatt (StL'82), senior pastor, Peace, Columbus, to senior pastor, First, Glencoe, Minn.
Rev. Michael Schempf (FtW'82), candidate status, South Wisconsin District, to Mt. Calvary, Omaha.
Rev. Joshua Willadsen (StL'04), Holy Spirit, Oakland, Tenn., to St. Paul/Bethany, Omaha.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

Rev. David Coe (StL'11) as associate pastor, Trinity, Fremont, July 31 (ordination also).
Rev. Elliott Lutz (StL'11) as pastor, 1C Mission Church of the LCMS, Columbus, July 10.
Rev. Jonathan Ripke (StL'11) as pastor, Immanuel, Hooper, July 17 (ordination also).
Rev. Matthew Tassej (FtW'11) as pastor, St. Paul, Malcolm, July 31 (ordination also).

PLACEMENTS

Peter Gatkuoth (StL-EIIT) as pastor, Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mission, Omaha, July 13.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

Chad Bryant (MQ'02), teacher, Child of God, St. Peters, Mo., to director of Helping Hands Childcare, Christ, Norfolk.
Matthew Buns (S'04), non-candidate, to teacher, Concordia University Nebraska.
Jeff Burkee (RF'81), principal/teacher, St. John, Battle Creek, to principal, Concordia, Hyattsville, Md.
Beth Dittmer (MQ'08), director of family ministry, Good Shepherd, Fremont, to deaconess, Our Savior, Raleigh, N.C.
Charles Gebhardt (S'91), Salt Lake Lutheran High School, Salt Lake City, Utah, to Concordia University Nebraska.
James Juergensen (S'93), director, secondary education, Concordia University Nebraska, to chair, secondary education, Concordia University Wisconsin.
Sarah Petersen (S'08), teacher, Immanuel, Columbus, to teacher, St. Paul's, Arlington.
Brent Royuk (S'88), teacher, Concordia University Nebraska, to dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Concordia University Nebraska.

OTHER TRANSACTIONS

Karen Buck (RF'65), candidate to non-candidate
Wende Carson (S'78), teacher, Zion St. John, Wisner, to non-candidate.
Rhoda Houge (S'71), mission support coordinator, LCMS World Mission (East Africa) to non-candidate.
Louisa Jerke (S'02) teacher, Calvary, San Lorenzo, California, to non-candidate, Nebraska District.
Kim Masters (S'07), teacher, St. Paul, Arlington, to non-candidate.
Elizabeth Obermueller (S'64), teacher, St. John, Seward, to non-candidate.

PLACEMENTS

Sarah Bundschuh (S'09) as teacher, Jesus Our Savior, Winnebago.
Katherine Deterding (S'10) as teacher, Immanuel, Columbus.
Michelle Myslinski (S'11) as teacher, Emmanuel-Faith, York.
Sarah Schultz (MQ'10) as teacher, Immanuel, Columbus.
Nicolette Smith (SCQ'11) as teacher, Faith, Lincoln.

News items and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. The deadline for submission for the October 2011 Reporter is Thursday, September 1. Please submit items to Reporter@ndlcms.org or PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434.

God has given FARMERS and RANCHERS in Nebraska many unique opportunities to use the grain and other products of their livelihood to support the mission of the Lord's church, in addition to providing income for themselves and their families. While many of us receive a regular paycheck and then write a check to our church and chosen missions, farmers and ranchers have a number of additional opportunities that allow them flexibility, and sometime advantages, in **SUPPORTING THEIR LOCAL CONGREGATIONS, AS WELL AS THE CHURCH-AT-LARGE.**

There have been some farmers and ranchers in Nebraska who have consulted their financial and tax advisors, then contacted a gift planner who was **KNOWLEDGEABLE IN MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**, both local and world-wide, to help them make such gifts.

An LCMS gift planner was able to assist them in using a variety of resources to provide gifts for the Lord's work, including gifts of **grain, land, and equipment**, while at the same time providing current and deferred **income** for them and their family in conformity with tax codes.

The Nebraska District LCMS is committed to **RESOURCING CONGREGATIONS, SCHOOLS AND MISSIONS IN THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT TO BE PASSIONATE WITH A GOSPEL-FOCUSED MISSION TO REACH ALL PEOPLE WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS!** Mission and ministry offerings from congregations, as well as gifts from generous donors, help make resources available to the churches, schools, workers, and congregational leaders as they need them. Concordia University Nebraska continues to play a very important role in **PREPARING TEACHERS, FUTURE PASTORS, DCES AND LAY LEADERS OF THE LCMS**, helping to sustain the ministry of the church here in Nebraska and throughout the world.

Please **PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER** if you are able to take advantage of supporting God's mission at your congregation, the Nebraska District and Concordia University Nebraska through gifts of grain or by other means, while at the same time being able to support your family. Now may be the right time for you to **SUPPORT GOD'S MISSION** in this world and make a difference in the ministry roles of your congregation, the Nebraska District LCMS and Concordia University Nebraska.

As a farmer or rancher, do you have assets you would like to use to the benefit of God's mission work, both here in Nebraska and throughout His church? More information about providing **GIFTS OF COMMODITIES** to support the work of your congregation, the Nebraska District LCMS and/or Concordia University Nebraska can be obtained by:

Phone: Call 1-888-643-2961, ext. 1002, to speak with Neal Koch, who will provide you with information and assistance.

Internet: Visit the following websites: www.ndlcms.org or www.cune.edu.



“The Lord's work needs to be done, and we want to be His helping hands. You showed us one way we could do that.”

“We were able to convert our farm equipment liquidation auction to a flow of retirement income and a gift to the church without paying more taxes than necessary. Thank you.”

“With St. Paul I, too, say ‘I thank God for you.’ It is reassuring to know that I am receiving help from one whose final goal matches my own.”

“The LCMS Foundation helped us complete a gift of grain. They were good to work with, they listened to us, gave us additional ideas and options, and made it all possible!”

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