



# 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)

Jan/Feb 2012

**NEW REPORTER SCHEDULE . . .** The *Nebraska Lutheran Reporter* will now be sent to church offices on a bi-monthly basis. To keep up-to-date on District news, anyone can subscribe to the weekly *Email Update* by emailing [info@ndlcms.org](mailto:info@ndlcms.org) or visit the District website anytime at [www.ndlcms.org](http://www.ndlcms.org).

**CONGREGATION STATISTICAL REPORTS . . .** Congregation statistical reports have been mailed to church offices and are to be returned by February 29. Please make two copies of the completed form, mail the original to St. Louis, mail a copy to the District Office, and keep a copy for your records. If you have not done so already, please complete and submit this form as soon as possible to keep District and Synod records up-to-date. Contact Kim Hofer at the District Office at 888-643-2961, ext. 1014, or [kimh@ndlcms.org](mailto:kimh@ndlcms.org) with questions.



**OLD TESTAMENT COURSE IN HOLDREGE . . .** The Lay Leadership Program of the Nebraska District is offering "Theology and History of the Old Testament" for the Holdrege area. Classes will meet at Mount Calvary, Holdrege, on January 21 and 28, February 11 and 25. The instructor is Rev. Dean Hanson of Faith/Grace, Hazard/Pleasanton. For more information, contact Rev. Marvin Bergman at 402-643-3724 or [marv.bergman@cune.edu](mailto:marv.bergman@cune.edu).

**STAFF CHANGES . . .** The Nebraska District staff is pleased to welcome **Megan Schmidt** to the office. Megan serves as administrative assistant to the treasurer and for Lutheran Church Extension Fund. She may be contacted at [megans@ndlcms.org](mailto:megans@ndlcms.org) or 888-643-2961, ext. 1011. Megan fills the position left vacant when Jan Bruick left for new opportunities.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Staying In and Going Out

January and February in Nebraska are usually good months for staying inside warm places. Winter's cold, snow and ice can make for days when it is nice to turn the pages of a good book or touch a screen to move them on a Christmas present e-reader, or watch the football play-offs in preparation for the February 5 Super Bowl.



## EPIPHANY

January 6 through February 21 is also a good time to get outside of warm and safe places. I'm not talking about sledding, ice skating, skiing or ice fishing. I am talking about the Christian season of Epiphany. Epiphany means, "to show or reveal." The Bible readings at worship services during the Epiphany season focus on four main events; God's leading of the Wise Men from the East by a star to adore the infant Jesus, Jesus' baptism, Jesus' visit to the temple as a 12-year-old boy, and His first miracle of turning water into wine for the marriage celebration at Cana in Galilee. All four events "show" Jesus Christ going out to engage people with why He came, namely, to rescue people from certain eternal death.

It has long been a tradition among Christians to see the Epiphany season as a time to show Jesus to people who are "out in the cold" so to speak, that is, without Him as their Savior and Lord. We Christians stay in the church to get fed with God's Word and His gifts of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, as well as to be blessed by bonds of fellowship. We also go out into the cold, slippery blizzard of sin in the world to engage people with the mercy, forgiveness and person of Jesus.



February 22 will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and Lent is that special time when Christians focus on the actions of Jesus' suffering and death to make possible the rescue of humanity from never-ending separation from God. What an opportunity the cold days of Epiphany give us to engage with a person precious to us and to extend an invitation to mid-week Lenten services to hear about Jesus' actions and see Him for who He is; their Savior!

Rev. Russ Sommerfeld

**LEARN ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY . . .** Help your congregation get to know more about the people in your community. Let LCEF's Demographic Services and their partnership with MissionInsite provide data such as family size and income, as well as valuable information for developing a ministry plan. Contact Paul Pettit at the District Office, [paulp@ndlcms.org](mailto:paulp@ndlcms.org), for more information.

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.

## FINANCIAL AID FOR NEBRASKA STUDENTS

Nebraska District financial support is available to anyone preparing for full-time service in the church. Applicants must be enrolled at a Concordia University System school or Concordia Seminary at Fort Wayne or St. Louis, demonstrate financial need, and have completed their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).



The Concordia University System consists of the 10 LCMS-operated universities located in Ann Arbor, Mich.; Austin, Texas; Bronxville, N.Y.; Irvine, Calif.; Mequon, Wis.; Portland, Ore.; River Forest, Ill.; St. Paul, Minn.; Selma, Ala.; and Seward, Neb.

Application forms may be obtained from the District Office; by printing the application form from the District website, [www.ndlcms.org/education/education/aid.html](http://www.ndlcms.org/education/education/aid.html); or from the universities and seminaries. The deadline for completing the application process is **May 1** for the first semester and **December 1** for the second semester. **Only one application is needed per academic year. Please complete an application form and send to your university of choice as soon as possible.**

**OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS . . .** The LWML North provides scholarships for students preparing for careers in full-time church work on the basis of residence in the LWML North region, financial need, and full-time enrollment in the Concordia System. The Nebraska District Student Aid Committee administers these grants. Therefore, the application is the same as the District Aid Application Form which may be obtained from the District Office, online at [www.ndlcms.org/education/education/aid.html](http://www.ndlcms.org/education/education/aid.html), or from the financial aid offices of the universities and seminaries, with May 1 and December 1 deadlines. For more information, contact the scholarship chairperson, Joyce Lase, 1963 R Rd, Bancroft, NE 68004, [sparkle@gpcom.net](mailto:sparkle@gpcom.net), 402-648-7482.

The LWML South offers assistance to students from the LWML South region who are going into full-time church work. Applications may be obtained from the website at [www.lwmlnesouth.org](http://www.lwmlnesouth.org) or the student's local LWML society. Applications are to be mailed to Elaine Royuk at 334 N 1<sup>st</sup> St., Seward, NE 68434, postmarked by **June 1, 2012**.

The **Gil and Blondie Vogt Scholarship Fund** is designed to assist Nebraska students preparing for LCMS church vocations at any LCMS university or seminary. Requests for information or applications should be sent to Pat Hofer at [hofpat2012@gmail.com](mailto:hofpat2012@gmail.com) or 402-981-4716. The application deadline is **April 15**.

The Nebraska District Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) provides scholarships for students studying for full-time church work. These would include pastor, DCE, DCM, deaconess, liturgical arts, and education. Applications for the 2012-2013 school year are now available. To request an application contact: Dr. Marvin Swan, PO Box 863, Grant, NE 69140, 308-352-6504, or [mmswan@gpcom.net](mailto:mmswan@gpcom.net). Application deadline is **May 22, 2012**.

Scholarships are available for students who are descendants of alumni or faculty members of **St. John's College, Winfield, Kan.** Scholarship guidelines and application forms for the 2012-2013 academic year are available on the St. John's College Alumni Association's webpage, [www.stjohnsalumni.org](http://www.stjohnsalumni.org). This financial aid is available to all students who are or will be attending one of the colleges, universities, or seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2012. Students who are currently enrolled in college must re-apply each year.

**Beta Sigma Psi**, national Lutheran fraternity, is offering a scholarship for Lutheran men planning to attend the University of Nebraska in 2012. For details or to receive an application, email [d.gremel@gmail.com](mailto:d.gremel@gmail.com).

**NEW CIRCUIT COUNSELOR . . .** Rev. William Moorhead, Omaha, has been appointed circuit counselor of the Omaha North Circuit to replace Rev. Keith Dusheke, who resigned the position of circuit counselor. This term will end at the District convention in June.

**WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS . . .** is an award-winning traditional Lutheran worship service being aired on Time Warner Cable channel 13 on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. in the Lincoln, Crete and Seward areas. It is also available on Direct TV channel 377 on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The program originates from the Wolf Chapel on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



**LOOKING FOR HELP WITH VBS? . . .** If your congregation would like to host a vacation Bible school this summer and is looking for volunteers to help, let Camp Luther's staff lend a hand. Camp Luther can send a group of three trained volunteers to your church to provide leadership, a craft, lessons and games. To learn more, contact Camp Luther's VBS director at [vbs@campluther.org](mailto:vbs@campluther.org) or 402-649-2846.



News items and ministry stories for the Reporter are always welcome. The deadline for submission for the March/April 2012 Reporter is **Thursday, March 1**. Please submit items to [Reporter@ndlcms.org](mailto:Reporter@ndlcms.org) or PO Box 407, Seward, NE 68434.

# COMING EVENTS

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|--|-----------------|
| <b>Missional Leadership Retreat</b> , Holiday Inn Express, Columbus .....                        | February 6-7    |
| <b>Regional DCE Conference</b> , Beautiful Savior, LaVista.....                                  | March 22-24     |
| <b>Spring Pastors' Conference</b> , Younes Convention Centre, Kearney .....                      | April 16-17     |
| <b>Nebraska District LCMS Convention</b> , Concordia University Nebraska, Seward.....            | June 8-9        |
| <b>LWML Nebraska District North Convention</b> , Lutheran High Northeast, Norfolk.....           | June 29-30      |
| <b>LWML Nebraska District South Convention</b> , Sandhills Convention Center, North Platte ..... | September 14-15 |
| <b>Lutheran Hour Ministries' Reformation Rally</b> , Concordia University Nebraska, Seward ..... | November 4      |

# ANNIVERSARIES

- Faith, Stanton**, 50<sup>th</sup>, April 22, with Rev. John Fale preaching at the 10:00 a.m. communion service and President Russ Sommerfeld preaching at the 2:30 p.m. service. A meal and short program will follow the morning service.
- Immanuel, Tilden**, 125<sup>th</sup>, July 15, with Rev. Ken Klaus, Lutheran Hour Speaker Emeritus, preaching at the 10:30 a.m. service.
- St. John's, Cordova**, 125<sup>th</sup>, September 23, with Rev. Peter Jurchen, son of the congregation and son of Rev. Arnold and Tamra Jurchen of Holy Cross, Goehner, preaching at the 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. services.

# CALLS IN THE DISTRICT

## COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED

- Amy Royuk** (S'01), non-candidate, to teacher, Concordia University Nebraska.
- Michael Kipp** (S'08), candidate, to DCE, Faith, Chippewa Falls, Wis.
- Kathryn Wiest** (S'78), non-candidate, to teacher, Our Redeemer, North Platte.

### OTHER TRANSACTIONS

- Vicki Heard** (S'96), teacher, St. Peter, Wymore, to candidate.
- Marsha Horkey** (SP'78) teacher, Minnesota North District, to non-candidate, Nebraska District.
- Bethany Huff** (S'05), candidate to non-candidate.
- Emily Kennell** (SP'06), DCE, Our Redeemer, Kansas City, Mo., to non-candidate, Nebraska District.
- Debra Lubker** (S'88), teacher, Little Lambs Preschool, Omaha, to non-candidate.
- Megan Schmidt** (S'07), teacher, St. Paul, Harlingen, Texas, to candidate, Nebraska District.

**CALLED TO GLORY . . . George Bluma**, commissioned minister — teacher emeritus of Fremont, was called to glory on December 28 at the age of 95. Throughout his career he served as teacher at St. Matthew, Wisner; Cross, Omaha; and as teacher/principal at St. Paul's, Arlington, until his retirement in 1981.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

### CALLS ACCEPTED

- Rev. David List** (StL'01), St. John, Beemer, to Bethany and St. Paul, Omaha.
- Rev. Richard Maddox** (StL'81), Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., to vice president of institutional advancement, Concordia University, Seward. Installed Dec. 6.
- Rev. Luke Russert** (FtW'84), non-candidate, to assistant pastor, Good Shepherd, Lincoln. Installed Dec. 11.
- Rev. Timothy Wagner** (FtW'95), candidate, to First Trinity, Beatrice. Installed Nov. 27.

### ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

- Rev. James Irwin** (StL'97) as senior pastor, Holy Savior, Lincoln, Nov. 6.

### PLACEMENTS or ASSIGNMENTS

- Justin Hannemann** (StL) as vicar, Divine Shepherd, Omaha, Nov. 2.

### CALLS DECLINED

- Rev. Wesley Baumeister** (StL'98), Trinity, Ironwood, Mich., to Our Redeemer, Elwood.
- Rev. Kurt Ebert** (StL'07), associate, Immanuel, Columbus, to Trinity, Peoria, Ill.
- Rev. Steven Hayden** (StL'86), Mount Calvary, Indianola, Iowa, to Our Redeemer, Elwood.
- Rev. Kenneth Johnson** (StL'93), Zion, Avon, S.D., to Mount Calvary, Fullerton.
- Rev. John Kunze** (StL'96), associate, Messiah, Lincoln, to senior, Our Father, Centennial, Colo.

### STATUS CHANGE

- Rev. David Brinkmeyer** (StL'04), non-candidate to candidate.
- Rev. Morgan Hamilton** (StL'04), candidate, Texas District, to candidate, Nebraska District.
- Rev. Charles Horkey** (StL'84), emeritus, Minnesota North District, to emeritus, Nebraska District.
- Rev. Karl Koch** (StL'59), Holy Savior, Lincoln, to candidate.
- Rev. Richard Pingel** (StL'71), St. John, Pender, to emeritus.
- Rev. Michael Stockmeyer** (StL'08) removed from roster.

**LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE** . . . Have you heard the buzz? The Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI), made possible through support from the United Nations Foundation, is a partnership of the LCMS and Lutheran World Relief to mobilize U.S. Lutherans in the global effort to eliminate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. The mission in Africa is straightforward: to teach people to recognize the symptoms of malaria, promote prevention, and provide treatment and prevention resources. Malaria kills one child every 45 seconds, and 90% of those killed by malaria are children under the age of five. Congregations and individuals can get involved by visiting [www.lutheranmalaria.org](http://www.lutheranmalaria.org) or contacting Peggy Beyer, Nebraska District LMI champion, at 402-446-7357 or [peggybeyer@diodecom.net](mailto:peggybeyer@diodecom.net).



**HEARTS FOR JESUS** . . . Each year the Nebraska District schools are invited to take part in the “Hearts for Jesus” project. This project alternates between a District ministry and a mission project outside of the District. The 2011-2012 project is Camp Luther near Schuyler. Camp Luther offers traditional summer camps, as well as His Kids special needs camps, outdoor education opportunities, confirmation retreats, and adult retreats. Information on all



Camp Luther has to offer can be found on its website, [www.campluther.org](http://www.campluther.org). If your school hasn’t started collecting its “Hearts for Jesus” offering, February is a great time to begin!

**BOARD SUMMARY** . . . The Nebraska District Board of Directors took the following action at its December 2, 2011, meeting:

- Approved the constitution and bylaw revisions for Trinity, Howells; Christ, St. Paul; and St. Peter, Scribner.
- Affirmed the housing allowance resolution for Minister of the Gospel employees of the Nebraska District, while approving a variance to the policy as requested by a part-time employee.
- Reviewed and discussed investment baseline allocations with no action taken.
- Ratified the 2012 District participation plan for Concordia Health Plans worker choice options.
- Approved a 2012 capital budget of \$218,000.
- Approved a cash-neutral 2012 mission and ministry operating expense budget of \$3,745,347.
- Allotted \$25,000 of the mission and ministry budget for the development and implementation of a process for ongoing alumni support for the ministries of the UNL Lutheran Chapel.
- Issued a Divine Call to commissioned minister Megan Schmidt, who serves as administrative assistant to the treasurer and in LCEF.
- Ratified permission previously granted via email to President Russ Sommerfeld to travel to Germany in December, and appointed First Vice President Richard Snow as acting district president.
- Re-appointed Brad Holtorf to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska.

## THE GOOD LIFE

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Galatians 6:9-10

The 2012 Nebraska District Convention will be held June 8-9 on the campus of Concordia University Nebraska in Seward. Delegates and guests are welcome to come and hear about the ministry taking place in the Nebraska District — how God is empowering us to live “The Good Life” in our congregations and out into our communities.

**Nominations** – Nomination packets for District President, Vice Presidents, and Board of Director members were mailed to each church office in October. Completed forms must be returned to the Secretary of the District, Rev. Roland Jank, Jr., 7301 North 28<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha, NE 68112, by **February 1** to be valid. For more information, contact your pastor, congregational chairman or the District Office.

**Voting Delegate Information** – Delegate Information Forms were mailed to each church office in September. This form must be completed, certified by at least two officers of the congregation, and returned to the District Office by **January 31** for the congregation’s pastoral and lay delegates to be eligible to participate and vote at District Convention. Due to changes in the election process for synodical president, these delegates will also be involved in that process in 2013, and completed and returned forms are necessary for eligibility.

**Overtures** – Overtures, or calls for action, for the convention assembly to consider may be submitted by congregations, circuits, church worker conferences, committees, and the Board of Directors of the Nebraska District. These overtures must be received in the District Office no later than **January 16**.

Contact the District Office at 888-643-2961, ext. 1003, or [info@ndlcms.org](mailto:info@ndlcms.org) with questions.

