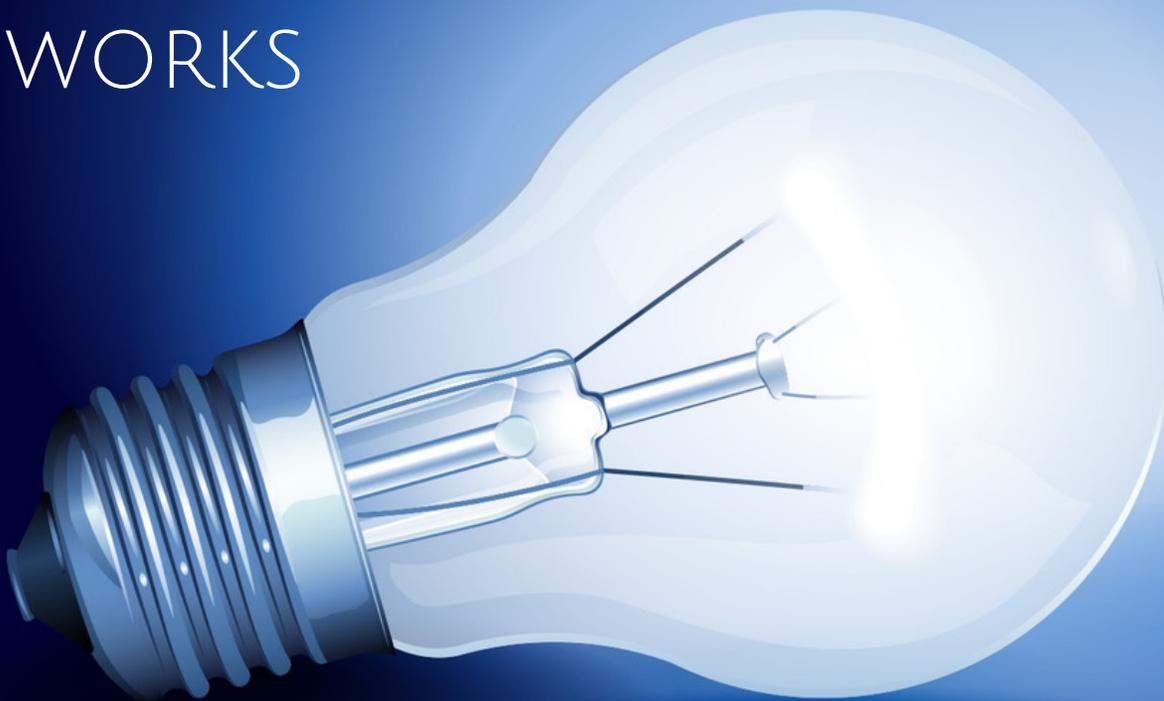




IN THE SAME WAY,  
LET YOUR LIGHT  
SHINE BEFORE  
OTHERS, SO THAT  
THEY MAY SEE  
YOUR GOOD  
WORKS



AND  
GIVE GLORY TO  
YOUR FATHER WHO  
IS IN HEAVEN.

# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS

## From the District President

*Let not your hearts be troubled. Trust (believe) in God.  
Trust (believe) also in me. John 14:1  
We must obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29*

Dear children of the Heavenly Father,

Fear seems to be a popular emotion. It can be a way of life. Look at the paper. Listen to the news. Anxiety is one of America's favorite pastimes. Political candidates and leaders in many walks of life like to employ it to their advantage. It is an emotion easily triggered.

Everybody has something to worry about, whether it's losing what you do have or fretting about what you don't. Families worry about the economy, gas prices, and food prices. The list goes on — anxiety over the future.

Congregations and church denominations are also wringing their hands as to what the future will bring. There is concern for the faithful witness of the church in the U.S. and around the world. There is fear of persecution. We often worry about our congregation, the work we want to do, and the financial ability to do it. It is a world of worry.

I'm not saying there isn't room for concern, but so often we seem to get lost in the concern and lose sight of the God who created and cares for all, who provides for all according to His gracious will. He has promised NEVER to leave you or forsake you. But the economy and our finances often creep into our worship lives and sit in the throne of our hearts. We fear love and trust another god, which really is no god, but has become one to us.

As Jesus prepared His disciples for the turmoil ahead of them in Jerusalem, He reminded them to put their trust (belief) in the promises of God. As we celebrate the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, we read of the boldness of His disciples in the face of fear.

The resurrected presence of Jesus changes us. It doesn't remove fearful situations, but it gives us strength in a God who is greater than all of our troubles. He takes on both your sin and your cares. He calls you to cast your cares on Him, for He cares for you. The church and its mission are held in His hands. You are held in His hands, which is better by far than wringing your own.

Celebrating the gift of His resurrected presence,

Rev. Richard Snow

**CAST ALL YOUR  
ANXIETY  
ON HIM,  
BECAUSE HE  
CARES FOR YOU.**

1 PETER 5:7, NRSV



## LCEF Picnic in the Park

Nebraska District Lutheran Church Extension Fund is grateful to their investors for partnering with them in ministry as they seek to support the church in its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

Please join LCEF to enjoy a Family Fun Day on Sunday, June 11, at the Eugene T. Mahoney State Park in Ashland.

- LCEF will cover the entrance fee and provide a cookout from noon – 2:00 p.m.
- Check in at the gate and sign the LCEF log.
- Join them for a cookout at the Wild Turkey Shelter.
- Enjoy the many activities that the park has to offer. (There may be a fee for some of the park's activities which would be your responsibility.)

RSVP by June 5 in one of three ways: respond online at [www.ndlcms.org/lcef/](http://www.ndlcms.org/lcef/); call Joyce at 888-643-2961, ext. 1011; or email her at [joyceb@ndlcms.org](mailto:joyceb@ndlcms.org).

Did you know that with **LCEF ConnectPlus**, new investors can connect with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) as an investment partner and receive 3% on a two-year term note? Experience the benefits of working with a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod-based financial institution. Your investments help the LCMS fulfill the Great Commission. For more information and an investment application, please contact 402-643-2961 ext. 1011, or visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org).

**We Engage** Engage Beyond Your Community  
Prayerfully consider how God might be leading your congregation to adopt a specialized, campus, Hispanic or immigrant and refugee ministry.

Visit [www.ndlcms.org/we-engage/](http://www.ndlcms.org/we-engage/) to learn more about how these ministries are at work in the Nebraska District and how you and your congregation can partner with them. The *We Engage* section of our website also has resources to help you get equipped to engage your community, encourage others through prayer and financial support, and connect with existing ministries through volunteering.



## Hearts for Jesus Project

Each year, the Nebraska District administrators choose a project to support with their prayers and offerings throughout the school year.

All contributions to Hearts for Jesus during the 2016-2017 school year will be used to help support LCMS Mission Schools in the Dominican Republic.

The LCMS has established several mission schools in the Dominican Republic. These include Concordia Lutheran School in Palmar Arriba; Good Shepherd Lutheran Home; and the Confessional Lutheran Church of the Americas. The Dominican Republic is an island shared with the country of Haiti. Palmar Arriba is a small town of about 3,700 people in the northern part of the Dominican Republic. It is a very poor, rural area.

The ministries in Palmar Arriba can benefit from many types of support from the Nebraska District:

- Sponsor a child's tuition to attend one of the schools.
- Furnish a classroom by providing funds to purchase a desk and a chair.
- Supply Spanish Versions of religion curriculum materials from CPH.
- Collect USB jump drives that are no longer used.
- Collect school supplies.

The District has challenged each classroom in our Lutheran schools to participate in two collections and donate at least \$75 in offerings to support this year's Hearts for Jesus project. Participating schools send their donations to the District Office and at the end of the school year, all collections will be sent directly to the LCMS Mission Schools in the Dominican Republic.

If you would like more information about the project, contact Candi Menze at [candim@ndlcms.org](mailto:candim@ndlcms.org) or visit <http://www.ndlcms.org/education/hearts-for-jesus-project/>. Please pray for the people of the Dominican Republic and encourage your local District schools to get involved.

**EVERYONE is invited to gather for this one-day workshop focused on encouraging and equipping lay leaders and church workers to build genuine, caring relationships within their various vocations of family, workplace, church, neighborhood, and recreational communities.**

**Prairie Fire:**  
Building Bridges



**Breakout Sessions will be offered in tracks focusing on building relationships with:**

- Inactive Members
- Young Adults/Millennials
- Neighbors, Friends, and Co-Workers
- Military Families
- Parents and Families in our Schools
- Fellow Congregation Members
- Our Muslim Neighbors
- Those in Conflicted Situations

**Saturday, August 5 ♦ 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ♦ Concordia University, Seward**

Registration materials will be sent to church offices and available online at [ndlcms.org/prairie\\_fire](http://ndlcms.org/prairie_fire)

**May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:5-7)**

## Placement Report

### Placed in Nebraska

Spring graduates placed in Nebraska congregations (if married, wife's name is in parentheses):

Lincoln, Christ (assistant) — Santiago E. Keinbaum (Alejandra), Barcelona, Spain, *FtW*  
McCook, St. John's — Justin M. Hildebrand (Keely), Blackwell, OK, *FtW*  
Pleasant Dale, Bethlehem — Timothy Gall (Tara), Effingham, IL, *StL*  
Spencer/Lynch, Immanuel/Christ — Eric Luhman, St. Louis, MO, *StL*  
Wilcox, St. John — Nathan A. Abel (Mariah), Tomball, TX, *StL*  
Wymore/Jansen, St. Peter's/Zion — Matthew C. Koterba (Sulena), Auburn County, OH, *FtW*

### Vicars in Nebraska

Assigned as vicars in Nebraska for the coming year:

Davenport, St. Peter — Greg Schaffer (Staci), Meadow Grove, NE, *StL*  
Imperial, Zion — James M. Peterson (Michela), Carterville, IL, *FtW*  
Lincoln, Good Shepherd — Lawson K. Short, Pratt, KS, *FtW*  
Pierce, Zion — Jesse Baker, Lino Lakes, MN, *StL*

### Nebraskans Placed

Nebraskans completing seminary training this year were placed in April, including:

Joseph Beran, Lincoln — Bethlehem (associate), Santa Clarita, CA, *StL*  
Adam Woldt, Omaha — The Point, Knoxville, TN, *StL*

### Nebraskans Placed as Deaconess

The following Nebraskan was placed as a deaconess in April:

Kelly R. Jacob, Winnebago — Prince of Peace, Cincinnati, OH, *StL*

### Nebraskans Assigned as Vicars

The following Nebraskans have been assigned as a vicar for the coming year:

Paul R.G. Gaschler, Imperial — St. James, Montague, MI, *FtW*  
Matthias C. Wollberg, Kearney — Mount Olive, Billings, MT, *FtW*

## Called to Glory

**Burnell Von Seggern** departed this life on February 25, 2017. He served as the District President of the Nebraska Lutheran Laymen's League from 2007 to 2010, and was a 12-year member of the Nebraska District LCMS Board of Directors, serving from 1991-2003. His wife, Virginia, currently serves on the Board as Region C Lay Member.

**William Penn** departed this life on April 23, 2017. He served at Hope, Omaha for many years, becoming a licensed lay deacon in November 2009.

## Anniversaries

### St. Paul, Concord, 125th, July 16

10:30 service, followed by a catered noon meal. Please RSVP by calling Rose Mason at 402-584-2337, or email Rev. Bertrand at willie.bertrand@gmail.com.

### St. Paul, (Buffalo Creek) Tilden, 125th, August 6

Guest speakers are missionaries Pastor Wayne and Linda Braun, who serve Trinity Lutheran Church of Frankfurt, Germany.

## Upcoming Events

### >LCEF Picnic in the Park

June 11, Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Ashland, 12:00-2:00

### >Prairie Fire: Building Bridges

August 5, Concordia University, Seward

### >Circuit Visitors'/Vice-Presidents' Conference

October 5-6, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler

### >All Professional Church Workers' Conference

October 19-20, The Cornhusker, Lincoln

### >Nebraska District Middle School Gathering

November 11-12, Ramada, Columbus

### >Nebraska District Youth Gathering —Omaha

November 17-19, Embassy Suites, LaVista

For more information, visit our website:

[www.ndlcms.org/upcoming-events/](http://www.ndlcms.org/upcoming-events/)



Make plans now to join thousands of reformation enthusiasts for a special Lutheran worship service and German dinner.

This special event will be held on October 29, 2017, starting at 3:30 p.m. at the Walz Arena, Concordia University, Nebraska. For more information about this celebration and other reformation events at

Concordia University, Nebraska, visit [reformation.cune.edu](http://reformation.cune.edu).

**If your school, congregation, or circuit is holding special Reformation 500 events, and you would like to share that information with churches across the District, please send the details to [communications@ndlcms.org](mailto:communications@ndlcms.org) to have it included on our website and in our news. Thank you.**

To learn more about what is happening in the Nebraska District, subscribe to the Weekly Update email; receive a full-color District Reporter by email; hear from our District President, treasurer and board chairman; and find our index of ministry and mission stories on our website. Visit <http://www.ndlcms.org/nebraska-district-news/> to see all of your options for getting stories, news, and updates.

# Call Activity in the Nebraska District

## Ordained

### CALLS ACCEPTED

**Rev. Justin Bell** (StL'11) associate, Divine Shepherd, Omaha, to GraceHill, Omaha  
**Rev. Aaron Hutton** (StL'09) Alleluia, Greenleaf, WI, to associate, Christ, Lincoln  
**Rev. Andrew Kennell** (StL'02) Our Redeemer, Staplehurst, to St. John's Monett, MO  
**Rev. Dirk Reek** (Spg'74) Concordia University, Seward, to intentional interim, St. Paul, Beatrice  
**Rev. Maynard Toensing** (StL'92) St. John, Beecher, IL, to St. John (Kramer), Crete  
**Rev. Daniel Weber** (StL'08) associate, King of Kings, Omaha, to senior, St. Luke's, Federal Way, WA

### CALLS DECLINED

**Rev. Kyle Fittje** (StL'11) associate, Immanuel, Lockwood, MO, to Trinity, Madison  
**Rev. Russ Gipson** (StL'08) Holy Cross, Mobile, AL, to associate, Divine Shepherd, Omaha  
**Rev. Shawn Kitzing** (StL'00) Immanuel, Loup City, to Zion, Plainview  
**Rev. Martin Mably** (StL'07) Lord of Glory, Elk River, MN, to Immanuel, Tilden, and Good Shepherd, Fremont  
**Rev. Matthew Tassey** (FtW'11) St. Paul, Malcolm, to Mt. Calvary, Galesburg, IL  
**Rev. Jason Wolter** (StL'02) St. John, Tecumseh, and Immanuel, Sterling, to Good Shepherd, Milford

### INSTALLATIONS & ORDINATIONS

**Rev. Justin Bell** (StL'11) as pastor, GraceHill, Omaha, January 22  
**Rev. Dirk Reek** (Spg'74) as intentional interim pastor, St. Paul, Beatrice, April 9

## Commissioned

### CALLS ACCEPTED

**Jonathan Danek** (S'04) candidate, to teacher, Christ, Juniata  
**Jennifer Furr** (S'97) candidate, to Director of Alumni and University Relations, Concordia University, Seward  
**Matthew Mueller** (S'13) candidate, to teacher, Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha  
**Ken Sankey** (S'80) candidate, to program director, Concordia University, Seward

### CALLS DECLINED

**Daniel Gibson** (S'13) teacher, Hope, Shawnee, KS, to teacher, Emmanuel-Faith, York  
**Alyssa Kirby** (S'14) teacher, Zion, St. Charles, Missouri, to teacher, St. John, Battle Creek  
**Keith Vieregge** (S'81) principal/teacher, St. Luke, Clinton Township, Michigan, to principal/teacher, Good Shepherd, Lincoln

### OTHER TRANSACTIONS

**Karen Buck** (RF'65) candidate, to emeritus  
**Connie Eckert** (SP'79) candidate, Nebraska District, to candidate, North Wisconsin District  
**Paul Leckband** (S'75) candidate, to emeritus  
**Jessica Luebbe** (S'03) candidate, resigned from the roster  
**Dean Plummer** (S'75) candidate, to emeritus  
**Deborah Ritsch** (S'85) candidate, resigned from the roster  
**Warren Viehl** (SCQ'00) candidate, to emeritus

## Going to College or Know Someone Who Is? Get to Know Campus Ministry!

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 Lutheran Campus Ministry's StudentConnect webpage at [golcma.org/resources/studentconnect/](http://golcma.org/resources/studentconnect/) or the LCMS U Campus Link page at [lcms.org/lcmsu/campuslink](http://lcms.org/lcmsu/campuslink) and submit the convenient online form. 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.

The Nebraska District has four opportunities for students to get connected. **Holy Cross Campus Ministry**, a ministry of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, serves the students of the University of Nebraska at Kearney through fellowship, Bible study, and a near-campus place to hang out in a Christian atmosphere. The **University Lutheran Chapel** is located close to the city campus of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and shares the love of Christ in many ways, especially through building relationships. The Omaha area campus ministry, "**Living H2O**" **Lutheran Campus Ministry**, is dedicated to helping students in the metro area grow in their personal relationship with Christ. Their growing organization is very active among several campuses in the Omaha area. **Cup of Grace** is located just south of the Willow Bowl at Wayne State College. Cup of Grace is a Christian Coffee House that provides a place to meet, study and share in the Word of God.

For more information about Nebraska District LCMS ministries, visit our website at [www.ndlcms.org/we-engage/](http://www.ndlcms.org/we-engage/). Students can also follow Lutheran Campus Mission Association or LCMSU on Facebook and Twitter.

The Nebraska District Board of Directors is in conversation about needed renovations at the University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln. It has been more than four decades since any significant work has been done to the structure and it is beginning to show its age. Watch for updates on the status of the renovation in the months ahead.