



FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

He is not here, for He has risen, as he said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell... Matthew 28:6-7

Our refrain echoes again: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In my last news article, I shared about going to see my father as he struggled with illness and disease. Since then, God granted eternal healing as He gathered Dad into rest in His eternal kingdom. As we gathered at the church and cemetery, the refrain echoed again. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

There is still grief and times for tears, but the victory is ours in Christ.

You and I serve an incredible King. He is a King who serves us. He is a King who responds with grace and mercy. Think how He responds to people, even in their failures and rebellion:

- Betrayed by Judas (and you), He responds by calling you friend.
- Denied by Peter (and you), He restores you to His family and calls you to lead others.
- Condemned by Pilate (and your sin), He silently takes on your guilt.
- Mocked by soldiers (and you), He absorbs the cruelty of sin.
- Crucified for you, He is given the title of King and gives you the title of Royal Priesthood.
- Forsaken by the Father and rejected by men, He pays the price for your sin and restores you so that the Father never turns away.

Any other self-respecting king in history would have flown off in fury and crushed the rebels. But Jesus came to die—to receive in His body the full force of our sin and rebellion—to pay the price. In victory, He does not gloat or seek revenge but pours out His power over sin, death, and the devil.

You and I have an incredible king and have been grafted into an amazing Kingdom—one of:

- Grace, forgiveness, and love
- Generosity and service
- Fraternity and unity
- Perseverance and joy

There are other kings that people choose to serve, but all of them demand a price: work, money, success, power, play, trips, sports, alcohol, drugs, family. Some are good by nature, others evil. But all of them will want our servitude. As sinner/saints we struggle to serve only the true King.

Christ delivers you from tyrant kings that enslave you. He is a Servant King who gave His life. He is a King who is alive. He is a King who gives life. He is the King who goes before you. Wherever you go, He is already there. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Rev. Richard Snow
President, Nebraska District LCMS

Find resources for "**Here I Stand Sunday**," a special 500th-anniversary observance endorsed by delegates to the 2019 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Resources include bulletin inserts, worship materials, and a Bible study. Visit <https://www.lcms.org/here-i-stand-sunday> to learn more.

ABOUT US

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or info@ndlcms.org

News items, congregational anniversaries, and ministry stories for the *Reporter* are always welcome. Please submit items to Kim Myers at reporter@ndlcms.org or by mail. Visit our website at <http://www.ndlcms.org> for more information or to subscribe to the *Reporter* by email.

CHURCH WORKERS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS GRANTS

LCMS Soldiers of the Cross and LCEF have teamed up to offer special grants to church workers in this COVID pandemic. These grants are for a situation in which the short-term financial help requested will demonstrably help to alleviate the immediate crisis. Funds provide only short-term assistance, usually to cover a period of 30–90 days. Those eligible include LCMS-rostered ordained or commissioned ministers; surviving spouses of retired LCMS-rostered ordained or commissioned ministers; non-rostered (lay) LCMS district, church, school, or RSO employees; and church workers from partner churches who are residing in the U.S. For more information on these grants, visit <http://www.ndlcms.org/covid-19/>.

ROSTERED CHURCH WORKER DEBT RELIEF FUND AND APPLICATION WINDOW

Student loan repayment grants will once again be available for church workers in the spring. If you are a rostered Nebraska District church worker with at least one year of service and have an outstanding student debt from undergraduate or seminary studies, visit <http://www.ndlcms.org/rostered-church-worker-debt-relief/> for more information and the application forms.

Applications are due by May 1 of each year.

To make a donation to this fund in support of church worker debt relief, you can send a check with a note that it is for the “Church Worker Debt Retirement Fund” to:

Nebraska District LCMS
PO Box 407
Seward, NE 68434

Or you can donate online through our secure payment portal by clicking the "Donate and Pay" button at <http://www.ndlcms.org/>. Choose the option “restricted gifts” and fill in the amount of your gift and “Church Worker Debt Retirement Fund” in the space next to that.

FREE BROCHURE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL

Visit our website's *We Engage* page to access "Why I Belong to Jesus" (which is also available in Spanish). This is a little brochure that simply explains sin and grace in a way that can make sense to someone who has never heard the Gospel message. It's a wonderful tool to share with first-time visitors to your congregation, to include in targeted mailings to community households, or to hand out at church or school activities like Easter egg hunts or Trunk-or-Treat nights. It is also an effective witnessing tool for one-on-one conversations, providing a simple explanation of the Christian faith and justification through Jesus Christ.

Congregations are encouraged to download, print, and distribute this brochure as often as they'd like. There is no copyright and no cost to use it. A text box on the last page allows for personalization and gives room for congregation name, address, service times, and contact info. Visit <http://www.ndlcms.org/we-engage/> for this and other free resources.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24-27, 2021, National LWML Convention, Lexington, Kentucky

October 21-22, 2021, All Professional Church Workers' Conference, Younes Center, Kearney

November 13-14, 2021, Middle School Youth Gathering, Embassy Suites, LaVista

—2022—

March 14-15, 2022, Spring Pastors' Conference, Kearney

June 24-25, 2022, Nebraska District Convention, Younes Center, Kearney

July 9-13, 2022, LCMS Youth Gathering, Houston, Texas

<http://www.ndlcms.org/upcoming-events/>

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND TAKE HEART SCHOLARSHIP

The Take Heart Scholarship was developed for Y.I. Club members who are high school seniors and will soon advance to the next level of higher education. During these times of excitement, anxiousness, and uncertainty, "take heart!" As Christians, we cannot anticipate that life will be perfect or familiar, but when we feel that the world has become difficult, we can take comfort in knowing that our God has overcome it all!

The Take Heart Scholarship includes up to three awards of \$3,000, \$1,000 and \$500. **Applications close April 19, 2021.** Winners will be announced on May 7, 2021. Click here for further information: <https://lcef.org/scholarship/>

CONNECTING THE PIECES IT STARTS WITH YOU.

Your investment with Lutheran Church Extension Fund connects loans and ministry support services to the church. Supporting the bigger purpose, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

YOUR PIECE TO A BIGGER PURPOSE.

Investments play an important role in your overall financial plan—but what if they could do more?

When you invest with LCEF, you not only earn a competitive interest rate—but you also bless other LCMS workers and ministries, helping give them an opportunity to grow and connect more people in their communities to Jesus. This way your investment, which earns interest, works twice.

#CONNECTEDBYCHRIST



HIRAM AND KAREN GRIMM
LCEF INVESTORS

VISIT [LCEF.ORG/CONNECTED](https://lcef.org/connected)
TO GET STARTED TODAY!



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. The State of Washington has adopted a regulatory position that currently prohibits residents of Washington State from opening a new investment unless they are already an LCEF investor and 18 years or older.

CALL ACTIVITY IN THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT

ORDAINED

Calls Accepted

Rev. Paul Albers (StL'16) Concordia, Vermillion, SD, to Mount Olive, Omaha

Rev. Philip Houser (LNW'92) Lamb of God, Papillion, to Trinity, Lake George, MN

Rev. John Benito Morejon (StLAR'17) associate, San Pablo, El Paso, TX, to associate, Trinity, Grand Island

Rev. Andrew Schermbeck (StL'09) associate, St. John, Seward, to Faith, Merritt Island, FL

Rev. Zachary Zehnder (StL'10) theCross, Mt. Dora, FL, to associate, King of Kings, Omaha

Calls Declined

Rev. Tim Brisbois (FtW'90) candidate, Nebraska District, to Immanuel, Trenton, MO

Rev. Jerome Leckband (FtW'00) Trinity, Foster, and Golgotha, Wausa, to Grace and St. Paul's, Strasburg, IL

Status Changes

Rev. Herbert Biermann (Spg'62) emeritus, Nebraska District, to emeritus, Southern Illinois District

Rev. Robert Dierks (Cqy-SMP'19) emeritus, Northwest District, to emeritus, Nebraska District

Rev. Bryan Gies (StL'08) candidate, Nebraska District, removed from roster

Rev. Richard Gudgel (StL-Cqy'90) associate, St. Paul, Utica, to emeritus, Nebraska District

Rev. Earl Pierce (StL'87) emeritus, Pacific Southwest District, to emeritus, Nebraska District

Rev. Brent Smith (StL'01) Mission Development Counselor, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, St. Louis, to candidate, Nebraska District

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Jessica Feldmann (CH'02) deaconess, Good Shepherd, Fremont, to preschool director, Salem Lutheran, Salem, IL

Jaymes Hayes (CH'10) DCE, St. Paul's, Munster, IN, to DCE, Holy Cross, Kearney

Jeri Morrison (RF'02) candidate, English District, to deaconess, St. John, Seward

Mariel Olp (S'09) DCE, Christ, Lincoln, to teacher, Immanuel, Brookfield, WI

Calls Declined

Kristi Schkade (S'98) teacher, Immanuel, Jefferson City, MO, to teacher, Emmanuel-Faith, York

Other Transactions

Melisa Clark (S'12) teacher, Christ, Lincoln, removed from the roster

Vicki Fisher (S'91) emeritus, Nebraska District, to emeritus, Missouri District

Heidi Goehmann (CH'02) candidate, Missouri District, to candidate, Nebraska District

Priscilla Lawin (S'63) emeritus, called to glory, February 24, 2021

Roger Mailand (S'63) emeritus, called to glory, March 12, 2021



YOUR GIFT PLANNING *Starts Here*

How will you share your assets and other God-given gifts after you're called home to heaven? Gift Planning Counselor Craig Stirtz will work with you, at no charge, to create a thoughtful plan.

No matter your age or income, we can help you assure that your gifts will leave a positive, lasting impact upon the people and ministries you care about most.



Set up a phone call or virtual meeting with Craig Stirtz today.

402-616-0312 or craig.stirtz@lfnd.org