



And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. ...Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:11-16, 32

One of the most challenging tasks and greatest joys in my work as District President is assisting congregations in their God-given task of calling a pastor to serve for and with them in the task of the Great Commission of making disciples. This summer I have been joyously busy installing pastors all around the Nebraska District.

Ephesians 4 is one of the best chapters to view the partnership of pastor and people working together, like a physical body, as the incarnate Body of Jesus Christ. Like a body, we take in nutrients in the gifts of God's Word and Sacraments and, like a body, those nutrients empower and motivate us to do the work God has given us to do. Both pastor and people need to be nourished by God's gifts. Both pastor and people have work to do.

God gifts His Church with shepherds to equip the saints, do works of ministry, and build the Body of Christ. Shepherds first need to receive God's love and forgiveness. Even as they work to build the Body of Christ, they need to be built and encouraged by the Body as well. God has given them truth to proclaim, grace to bestow, people to serve, and needs to be met as they reach out to care and comfort those broken by sin. God works through them to build the Body up and move the Body out.

The pastor has the unique call from God, through the church, to share God's gifts "publicly," which means on behalf of the church and to the church. He is not called to work *instead of* the church. People are called to come to receive, and then move out to share. He is called to strengthen the Body of Christ in the Word so that it is not tossed back & forth with every new teaching. He is called to lead the Body of Christ in service—each part working together to build itself in love.

As the Body of Christ, God has called you to soak in His grace and live out His love and compassion. In your personal lives you all have various vocations (callings) where you have truth to proclaim, grace to bestow, people to serve, and needs to be met as He reaches out through you to care for and comfort those broken by sin.

The whole Body works together, building itself up in love. If we take in nutrients without doing the works that God has prepared for us, the Church starts looking like an overweight couch potato: fat, lazy, and selfish. We are absolutely not saved by works, but we are all called for works of service. Earlier in Ephesians 2:10, the Holy Spirit proclaims that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance that we should walk in them.

I don't always fully understand how my own body works, much less the Body of Christ. But God does great things among us: a pastor to help you grow in the truth and grace of Christ; the people of God gifted to encourage pastor and cooperate in touching lives; the ascended Lord and Savior leading a host, pouring out his gifts so the Body is built up and His message moves out.

This is a great mystery and you have been called to join in it. Some of it you can understand—planting seeds of the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, loving and caring for others, serving our neighbor, and building relationships. Much of it is a mystery as the Spirit works through all of these to give and build faith. And through it all the Body of Christ receives the gifts and does its work.

In Christ,
Pastor Richard Snow, President, Nebraska District LCMS

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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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING INVITES 9TH GRADE "COVID CLASS" TO ATTEND



The Nebraska District hosts an annual gathering for 6th-8th grade students.

*This year only, we'd like to also invite those entering 9th grade as our COVID Class, giving them an extra year of eligibility.

Each event is one piece of a three-part journey for Middle Schoolers. Mark your calendars to join us as we *KNOW, GROW, and SHOW!*

Registration includes Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast, snacks, speakers, talent show and games! A block of rooms will be available at the hotel, but groups are responsible for their own lodging arrangements. (We require a minimum 7:1 youth to adult ratio.)

Every day we are called to GROW in the knowledge and truth of Jesus Christ as we learn how God PLANTS a seed of faith in us through baptism, PRUNES our lives for growth, and calls us to live by the Spirit to PRODUCE fruit for Him that lasts an eternity! 2 Peter 3:18

Registration materials will be available later this year at <http://www.ndlcms.org/msyg/>.

CONVENTION IS COMING NEXT YEAR

Congregations will receive mailings later this year with updated information about deadlines, nominations, and overtures. Up to date information will be available on our Convention website until the end of next summer. We look forward to gathering with the delegates in Convention for worship and work.

<http://convention.ndlcms.org/>

CONNECT YOUR COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Nebraska District LCMS would like to help college students, especially 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/ or the LCMS U Campus Link page at 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.

There are four opportunities in the Nebraska District for students to get connected and deepen their faith:

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 place to hang out in a Christian atmosphere. <https://holycrosskearney.org/ministry/campus/>

The 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. <https://www.lutheranchapel.org/>

The **Omaha** area campus ministry, Echo Campus Ministry is dedicated proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and helping college Christians engage with and grow in their faith. <https://echojc.com/>

Cup of Grace Lutheran Student Ministry is located just south of the Willow Bowl at **Wayne** State College. Cup of Grace is a Christian Coffee House that provides a place in Wayne to meet, study and share in the Word of God. Contact Rev. Erik Christensen at pastorerik@gracewayne.com or call 402-375-1905 for more information.

Become a financial supporter of campus ministry! Learn more about adopting this ministry at <http://www.ndlcms.org/district-ministries/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 30-October 1, 2021, Circuit Visitors'/Vice-Presidents' Conference, Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland

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

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

[Learn more about upcoming events by clicking here.](#)

CALL ACTIVITY IN THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT

ORDAINED

Calls Accepted

Rev. Michael Belinsky (FtW'09) Our Savior, Benzonia, MI, to St. John, Beemer, and Zion, Bancroft

Rev. John Doolittle (FtW'98-AR) St. John, Petaluma, CA, to Christ, St. Paul, and St. John, Palmer

Rev. David Goehmann (StL'04) associate, Christ, Norfolk, to St. John, Ludington, MI

Rev. Ken Hessel (StL'87) candidate, Nebraska District, to Our Redeemer, Springfield

Rev. Brent Smith (StL'01) candidate, Nebraska District, to Executive Development Officer, Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, MO

Rev. Eric Wenger (StL'97) River of Life, Omaha, to Lakes Area Christian Fellowship, Rome, WI

Calls Declined

Rev. Matthew Canion (StL'05) senior, Redeemer, Willmar, MN, to St. Paul, West Point

Rev. Bart Fouts (StL'08) senior, St. John, Battle Creek, to St. James, Quincy, IL

Rev. Dan Gifford (StL'96) Christ and St. Paul's, Falls City, to St. Paul, Henning, MN

Rev. Timmothy Heath (FtW'04) St. John, Aliceville, KS, to Bethlehem, Ravenna

Rev. Jason Hoerth (StL'03) senior, Zion, Cincinnati, OH, to St. Paul, West Point

Installations & Ordinations

Rev. Alexander Blanken (FtW'21) as pastor, St. Paul, Winside, and St. Paul, Carroll, June 19 (ordination also)

Rev. Michael Eckelkamp (StL'90) as senior pastor, Christ, Lincoln, June 14

Rev. Terence Groth (StL'79) as associate pastor, St. Paul, Utica, June 13

Rev. Michael Heckmann (StL'14) as pastor, Zion, Grant, July 10

Rev. Ken Hessel (StL'87) as pastor, Our Redeemer, Springfield, July 11

Rev. Martin Hill (FtW'21) as pastor, Trinity (Martinsburg), Ponca, July 18 (ordination also)

Rev. Ryan Maser (StL'21) as pastor, First, Plattsmouth, July 4 (ordination also)

Rev. Paul Rempfer (StL'21) as associate pastor, St. John, Columbus, July 18 (ordination also)

Rev. Paul Warneke (FtW'96) as pastor, Christ, Nebraska City, and St. Paul, Weeping Water, July 11

Status Changes

Rev. Gary Dunker (StL'13-SMP) associate, Faith, Lincoln, to emeritus, Nebraska District

Rev. John Stubenrouch (StL'98) St. Paul, Ogallala, to emeritus, Nebraska District

Rev. Michael Wolff (StL'89) Our Redeemer, Elwood, to emeritus, Nebraska District

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Rebekah Meyers (CH'19) teacher, Christ, Lincoln, to teacher, St. John, Plymouth, WI

Andrew Rathe (S'10) teacher, St. John, Bakersfield, CA, to principal, Trinity, Grand Island

Larry Wooster (S'82) principal, St. Paul's, Arlington, to principal, St. Peter's, St Peter, IL

Calls Declined

Brady Laib (S'17) DCE, First, Papillion, to DCE, Zion, Humboldt, IA

Kirsten Suhr (S'90) Director of Children and Family, St. Mark, Omaha, to assistant director, Peaceful Beginnings Early Childhood Center, Waverly

Other Transactions

Kayla Egger (S'16) candidate, Nebraska District, to candidate, Indiana District

Janniece Gray (S'76) teacher, Emmanuel-Faith, York, to emeritus

Deborah Jurchen (S'06) candidate, Nebraska District, to candidate, Missouri District

Remkea Ockander (S'00) teacher, Trinity, Fremont, to candidate

Elizabeth Schultz (S'84) director, Faith, Lincoln, to emeritus

Placements

Kaitlyn Bolin (S'19) teacher, Heartland Lutheran High School, Grand Island, June 6, 2021

Camille Hamer (S'21) DCE, Peace, Columbus, June 6, 2021

Chelsey Liess (S'07) principal, Heartland Lutheran High School, Grand Island, June 6, 2021



OFFICIAL NOTICE

2022 CONVENTION CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

June 24-25, 2022 • Younes Conference Center, Kearney

As announced on February 16, 2021, the LCMS National Convention has been delayed for one year to 2023. In response to Synod's delay, our Nebraska District Board of Directors approved a delay of the District Convention from 2021 to June 24-25, 2022.

All current nominations submitted for 2021 will stand. Individuals on the ballot will be contacted to confirm willingness and eligibility to remain on the ballot. Nominations for both processes will reopen for new submissions. The first nominations process for the positions listed below will re-open in July, and all members of the District are encouraged to submit recommendations for nomination. Congregations will receive a mailing regarding the second process (District President/Vice Presidents/Board of Directors) later this year.

The Nominations Committee for the 2022 Nebraska District Convention is seeking nominations of candidates for the following offices, boards, and committees: Secretary of the District, Constitution Committee, Nominations Committee, Board of Regents (Seward), and Synod Committee for Convention Nominations. ***The Committee invites nominations from the circuit visitors, ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, lay members, circuit forums, and congregations of the District.***

By means of this announcement, the invitation to submit names is herewith extended to all in the Nebraska District LCMS who are interested. Please use the online form, "Recommendation for Nomination," which you can find at convention.ndlcms.org/nominate. The Committee requests that names be forwarded to the District Office **before October 18, 2021**. Experience has shown that the Committee needs a major time segment to do its work properly.

The current Nominations Committee is: Rev. Jeff Bloom, Rev. Scott Bruick, Rev. Rob Kuefner, Sandra Armstrong, Kim Cornett, Glenn Van Velson, and Kent Warneke. The District Secretary also serves on this committee as an advisory member.

All nominations should be submitted through the online form found at <http://convention.ndlcms.org/nominate/>

INFORMATION ON POSITIONS

DISTRICT SECRETARY: *(One ordained minister to be elected. Rev. B.J. Fouts is currently serving the interim until June 2022 and will be eligible for election.)* Records the proceedings of District Convention, serves as member and recording secretary of the District Board of Directors, serves as member and secretary of the Constitution Committee, and corresponds with congregations concerning constitutional revisions.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: *(Three ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, and three lay members to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. Jeff Bloom, Rev. Scott Bruick, Rev. Rob Kuefner, Sandra Armstrong [commissioned], Kim Cornett [lay], Glenn Van Velson [lay], and Kent Warneke [lay]. All are eligible for re-election. The District Secretary also serves on this committee as an advisory member.)* Prepares a slate of at least two candidates for every position to be filled: Secretary, Nominations Committee, Constitution Committee, Members of Board of Regents, and the District representative and alternate to Synod Committee for Convention Nominations in years determined by the Bylaws of the Synod.

***Please note:** According to bylaw 3.12.3, the Nominations Committee is considered an ad hoc committee, and the bylaw restriction (1.5.1.2) against holding multiple offices does not apply to those who sit on the Nominations Committee.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE: *(Two ordained ministers, one commissioned minister, and one lay member, preferably an attorney, to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. Jim Rasmussen, Rev. Robert Mayes, Scott Ernstmeyer [commissioned], and Kurth Brashear [lay]. All are eligible for re-election. The District Secretary also serves on this committee.)* 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 Synod *Handbook*. It also keeps the Nebraska District Bylaws up-to-date.

BOARD OF REGENTS (Concordia University, Nebraska): *(One ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and two lay members to be elected. Completing terms are Rev. Eugene Gierke, Krista Barnhouse, Ryan Burger, and Dick Helms. Rev. Eugene Gierke is completing his third term, and he is not eligible for re-election. Krista Barnhouse [commissioned] and Ryan Burger [lay] are completing their second terms, and they are eligible for re-election. Dick Helms [lay] is completing his first term, and he is eligible for re-election.)* Serves on the Board of Regents of Concordia University, Nebraska. **NOTE:** Nebraska State law no longer requires that one member elected to the Board of Regents be a Seward County resident.

SYNOD COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS: *(One lay member of a Nebraska District congregation and one alternate lay member to be elected.)* A lay member from a Nebraska congregation is to serve on this committee for the next triennial Convention of the Synod (held in 2023). The committee selects candidates for all elective offices, boards, and commissions for election at the triennial Synod convention, except for the positions of Synod president, first vice president, and vice president positions requiring regional nominations.



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Are you eligible? If you work for an LCMS church, school or organization in any capacity, the answer is yes.

VISIT LCEF.ORG/CWSA OR CALL 800-843-5233.

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