

## NEBRASKA DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, dear fellow-workers,

It staggers our mind when we think of all the changes we have witnessed during our lifetime. My father, who departed this life in the mid 80's, never experienced the internet, cell phones, email and a host of other modern conveniences that today have become necessities in our lives. It would probably be impossible for us to go back a generation and try to live the way our parents lived. These changes are also being felt within the church. There are many people who feel that the church must out of necessity change its methods and message in order to suit our changing times.

It is certainly true that "change and decay in all around I see" but it is also true "O Thou, who changest not, abide with me." The Christian religion is a religion of an unchanging God. Christian religion is based on the truths of the Bible. God's Word and truth always remain the same. Two times two is still four. A straight line is still the shortest distance between two points. Fire is still hot and ice is still cold. Such simple truths remain unchanging. Why should the truth of our faith not stand? But since the trend of our times is to change, and since many churches in our world have also been affected by the spirit of our times and have changed not only their methods, but also their message, it is certainly proper as we begin our convention this morning that we urge one another to remain faithful and steadfast in what we know to be true. In so doing let us consider the Word of God as it is recorded in Hebrews 10:23-25 which reads "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." As we urge one another to continued faithfulness and steadfastness, let us focus our attention on the words "Let Us Hold Unswervingly to the Hope We Profess." In doing so we want to answer the following questions:

1. What is the hope we profess?
2. Why are we to hold fast to this hope?

What is the hope we profess? If we examine the preceding verses we find a wonderful summary of our Christian faith. We read verses 19-22: "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." In these verses the writer points out that we Christians have wonderful privileges. We have free access to God and boldness to enter into the very holiest of heaven. This right to come into the presence of God is not based on our own merit or on what we have accomplished, but it is possible only because of the blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior. He is the high priest of God's people, he is the way to God the Father, the only way, the living way. Access to heaven is by the crucified Christ. His death is our way to life. In our God-given faith we know that we are cleansed from the guilt of sin and now have a good conscience with God. Having been washed by the waters of baptism from all unrighteousness, we can come before God, stand in his presence and live with him for all eternity. "We have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the

whole world” 1 John 2:1-2. This is the summary of the Christian faith as presented in the epistle to the Hebrews. What a wonderful, satisfying, comforting profession of faith. This is the hope we profess. Never give it up!

There have been many changes in our churches over the years. When I first came to St. Paul’s in Plymouth a few years back, the majority of our offerings were given at the post office since the postmaster was our church treasurer. Today we have an envelope system and even automatic deposits for an orderly way of receiving offerings. The Lord’s Supper was offered about every six weeks at the discretion of the pastor. Today we celebrate communion twice each month on designated Sundays. Our services are broadcast on the local radio station and on the internet reaching a world-wide audience. We have updated our worship facility with a speaker system, air conditioning and extra space for fellowship. These changes and many more are also true for your local congregation. All are helpful for serving people in their spiritual needs. What is most important, however, is the message. Since we are bound by the Word of God, the comforting message of salvation by grace through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ must remain the same. This was the message of Martin Luther, the message of our forefathers and, by God’s grace, our message today. May you and I hold fast to this simple profession of faith: I am a sinner; Jesus is my Savior. I appeal to his mercy and believing in him I hope to stand before the heavenly throne. As we sing in the familiar hymn:

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to thee for dress,  
Helpless, look to thee for grace.  
Foul, I to the fountain fly -  
Wash me, Savior, or I die!

Why are we to hold fast to this hope without wavering? Our faith worked by the Holy Spirit is truly a wonderful faith. While the religion of works, the religion of the natural man leaves doubt, our God-given and God-worked faith gives us full assurance. With Paul we confess, “I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.” While the religion of self righteousness never can blot out the stain of sin, the religion of Christianity frees us from the guilt and consequences we deserve. With John we confess, “the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” While the religion of works places a big question mark beyond the grave, our faith in Christ shows us that death is the gateway to heaven. Our Savior promised, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

We are to remain steadfast in our faith because “he who promised is faithful.” The reference here is to Christ Jesus, the faithful Savior. In the book of Revelation we read, “Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever!” Earlier in the book of Hebrews the inspired writer tells us that it is impossible for God

to lie. The faithful Savior promises salvation to all who believe. Knowing by faith, as worked by the Holy Spirit, the fullness and absolute certainty of our salvation, we should be moved to be steadfast and true to the profession of our faith.

The danger to fall away is always near. We need to contend constantly with false teachers who ask us to accept their own religious guesses in place of the eternal truths of God's Word. The danger to drop away from the steadfastness which our text urges is increased when we "give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing." Neglect of church attendance and reception of the Lord's body and blood in the sacrament is always a definite danger to faithfulness and steadfastness. What a strong message this gives to all of us in attendance here today whether we are lay people or called workers. We have a desperate need for the Word and Sacraments and the assurance they bring. Go to church! Go to worship! Receive the Lord's Supper regularly! Remember your baptism!

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds... let us encourage one another." Through the writer God reminds us that Christian encouragement and admonition is vital. God's Word spoken in love to a wavering brother or sister is essential to their spiritual well being. Paul urges pastors and leaders, "He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it." Gently, lovingly and with great patience show your concern for those who are straying. They are redeemed children of God.

There is one more reason for faithfulness, "and all the more as you see the Day approaching." We may all grow weary at times. We can easily take for granted the comfort, peace and strength of our faith. It is possible for us to be so engrossed with material things, with our professions and pleasures, that we do not realize that we are drifting farther and farther from our Christian faith. It is for that reason that the writer reminds us of the approaching judgment. The Day is coming, the day in which we must all stand before the judgment seat of God, the day which reveals what is in our hearts. As we think of that day it surely is our prayer that God in his rich grace and mercy in Christ Jesus would continue through his Word to grant us strength to remain steadfast in our profession of faith. May this be our prayer:

Let me be yours forever, My faithful God and Lord;  
 Let me forsake you never Nor wander from your Word.  
 Lord do not let me waver But give me steadfastness  
 And for such grace and favor Your holy name I'll bless. Amen.

Pastor Charles Westra, who serves at Christ Our Savior in Columbia, Tennessee, will favor us with his essay entitled, "Trusting the Means of Grace." We will begin that presentation later this afternoon. We thank Pastor Westra for taking time out of his busy schedule to lead us in this study. He also serves as WELS Home Mission Board Chairman.

We thank our hosts here at Nebraska Lutheran High School for again allowing us to use their facilities. We will be well cared for. The NELHS Boosters are providing the meal for us this evening. We thank the District Technology Committee for their assistance in our convention. They will be projecting the various reports and resolutions on the screens as we do our work. Once the floor committee reports are presented and approved, printed copies will be distributed. This year we have an Enabling Floor Committee who will coordinate the reports with the technology committee and the steering committee. They will also be responsible for the final approved printed copy which they will distribute. Thanks also to our District Worship Committee who prepared our worship services and the themes for our devotion leaders. Those materials can be found in your binder. We also extend our appreciation to those who led us in worship.

This year we will not be printing "Proceedings" of the convention as we have in the past. Instead the technology committee will include all materials presented to us on the district website which you will be able to access at any time at welsne. We thank them. Special thanks to Ken Mayer, a member of the committee, who spent many hours in formatting and organizing the materials in your binder.

Floor Committee #1 will present to us the new pastors and male teachers who were recently assigned to our district so they might officially be received into membership. Two congregations, Christ Lutheran in Denver and Grace Hmong in Kansas City will also be received into our district membership at their recommendation.

Pastor Phil Sievert, our district secretary, will meet with Floor Committee #10 to propose a slate of delegates that will represent our district at the next synod convention. We thank him for his work in preparing the rotation order.

The WELS Long Range Plan is included in your binder under section U. We have assigned that to Floor Committee #3 for their study and recommendations. The Board for Home Missions Task Force Report is also in your binder under section W. We will ask that Floor Committee #5 study the report and bring their reactions. Resource men would be our mission board chairmen, Pastors Jon Rockhoff and Wayne Uhlhorn and Mission Counselor Mark Birkholz as well as Pastor Westra.

We received one memorial from the Eastern Circuit of the Southern Conference for our consideration. It calls for printing biographies for those nominated for presidium offices prior to the election. Since it certainly has merit, we are already enacting their proposal at this convention. However, for future conventions I have asked that Floor Committee #10 study it and bring their recommendations to us.

I would ask that each of our eight circuit pastors meet with the pastors, teachers and delegates from their circuit either today or tomorrow for an election. We would like to install our circuit pastors together with the members of the presidium in the closing service. The office of Circuit Pastor is extremely important. He serves as the right hand man for the district president. As such he is responsible for doctrine and practice. He schedules and conducts circuit meetings. A new circuit pastor handbook has been prepared and will be studied in a meeting in North Platte in late August. It calls for greater contact with pastors and congregations in the circuit. We have agreed that for the immediate future we will remain with our eight circuits. Our present circuit pastors are: Pastor Joel Spaude (Colorado North), Pastor Earle Treptow (Colorado South), Pastor Jon Micheel (Colorado West), Pastor Paul White (Rosebud), Pastor Tom Jeske (Three Rivers), Pastor Joel Schroeder (Mid-America), Pastor Steve Kahrs (Eastern) and Pastor Steve Neyhart (Platte).

Pastor Joel Voss, WELS Second Vice President, will be with us to share information regarding our synod. Kurt Austad, our district's representative on the WELS Synodical Council, will also make a presentation later today. This evening two presentations are

scheduled. Pastor Phil Spaude will lead a discussion of "Heart in Focus Finances." Extra copies of this material will be available. In addition, Pastor Jon Micheel, together with the other members of the worship committee will present "Easy Ways to Incorporate Variety in Worship." Both presentations will run from 7:00 to 8:00 with locations to be announced later.

Also, some time during the convention Pastor Steve Raddatz will present to us the latest information on the stewardship program entitled “Christ’s Love, Our Calling.”

Interest in and pursuit of continuing education for called workers has been in the works in the WELS for over 20 years. Earlier this year the Conference of Presidents appointed a new commission for Continuing Education for Called Workers chaired by WELS First Vice President James Huebner. This commission has developed a document entitled “Guiding Principles for Continuing Education for Called Workers in the WELS.” It will be reviewed by the COP and will serve as a basis for further plans and details. It is envisioned that the seminary will develop programs for pastors and that a partnership of Martin Luther College and the Commission on Lutheran Schools will develop programs for teachers and staff ministers. All plans and programs will be designed to revolve around gospel motivation and incorporate God’s First Article gifts, the varied ways in which adults (called workers) learn, and the support and encouragement we enjoy as members of the Body of Christ. Congregational support, both spiritually and financially, will be critically important for the plans of CECW to unfold in the years to come. A flexible program of continuing education with standards and minimum requirements for all called workers will be presented to the 2011 Synod Convention.

At present we do not have any vacancies in the district, at least none that are actively calling. I was unable to fill the requests from Peace, Shenandoah and King of Kings, Scottsbluff for alternate placement pastors. We will continue to work with both congregations in their future plans for pastoral service. At Martin Luther College we received eight teachers for service in our district. Eighteen graduates who can serve anywhere remain unassigned. At Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary we requested and received six vicars, all mission vicars. We also received three pastoral graduates. One of these three is Candidate Brett Krause who was assigned as the Pastoral Assistant to the next Nebraska District President. Four WLS graduates remain unassigned.

As you know at the end of this month I will retire from full-time ministry and continue to serve on a part-time basis at St. Paul’s of Plymouth. At this convention we will also be electing a new district president. I wish to thank all of you for your support and prayers. I owe a debt of gratitude to our presidium members: Pastor Phil Zarling, First Vice President, Pastor Mark Voss, Second Vice President and our District Secretary, Pastor Phil Sievert. Your advice and assistance have been invaluable. We all are also deeply indebted to Mrs. Debra Wells who divides her time as secretary for St. Paul’s in Plymouth and our district. She faithfully keeps us organized and on track and is a blessing to all of us. In addition she put in many extra hours in helping us prepare for this convention. Thanks also to Pastor John Bortulin who will end his service as Pastoral Assistant to the Nebraska District President in a few hours. He is a faithful servant of the Word and God has blessed us through him. His synod salary will continue until the end of this month and then he will be compensated by St. Paul’s. Candidate Krause could begin his service to the new district president as early as July 1.

Here is the plan: as soon as possible today we will have a nominating ballot for district president. The biographies of those nominated will be distributed and, hopefully, an election can be completed today. The man elected would officially begin serving in the office when he is installed in the closing service on Wednesday. Sometime in the next week or so I would ask him to come to Plymouth to pick up all the files, folders, etc. and spend a day in

orientation. There will need to be some adjustments in his life so we all will be patient and understanding. We commit him to the Lord's care.

Twenty years ago when you asked me to serve in this office I was overwhelmed. I can vividly recall a sleepless night before my first Call Meeting. One thing I have learned among many lessons, our gracious God is totally in charge. You and I are mere tools in his hand and his will shall be done. When I attended my first meeting of the Conference of Presidents, Pastor Carl Mischke was WELS President. He welcomed me and indicated that he really didn't expect anything of significance from me in the COP discussions for several years. How right he was. In a private conversation he reminded me that the office of district president is a very special privilege granted to very few. It carries with it distinct and awesome responsibilities. You are the pastor to the pastors, to the teachers, to the congregations, to all the people of the district. You are expected to maintain the Word of God as it applies to all aspects of ministry and service. I stood in absolute awe of Pastor Gerald Free and Pastor Ron Kaiser, my predecessors. I went to both many times for direction and counsel for which I was deeply grateful. I thank the Lord for his direction in his Word. I thank all of you for your support and prayers. It has been just as President Mischke predicted – a distinct privilege to serve God's people in this special way.

Pastor Joel Frank

## **REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

I would respectfully ask that the following be ratified by the convention through floor committee #1. Where information is incomplete or if additions or corrections need to be made, please provide the necessary data to me or to Floor Committee #1.

### **STATISTICS FROM JUNE 12, 2008 – JUNE 13, 2010**

The following were received into membership at the 2009 convention of our Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod assembled at Michigan Lutheran Seminary on July 27-31, 2009.

#### **Those Received Into Synod Membership at the 2009 Synod Convention**

1. Teacher Candidate Joel Cordes, Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT from MLC.
2. Teacher Candidate Zachary Wiegman, Zion, Denver, CO from MLC.
3. Teacher Candidate Jeremiah Drews, St. Mark, Lincoln, NE from MLC.
4. Teacher Candidate Benjamin Wells, NELHS, Waco, NE from MLC.
5. Pastor Candidate Stephen Kruschel, Trinity, Grafton, NE from WLS.
6. Pastor Candidate John Stelter, Our Savior, Harrisonville, MO from WLS.
7. Pastor Candidate Nathaniel Winkel, Immanuel, Hadar, NE from WLS.
8. Pastor Candidate Nathaniel Biebert, NELHS, Waco, NE from WLS.

#### **New Applications for Membership**

1. Teacher Candidate Ben Leibl, Good Shepherd, Omaha, NE from MLC.
2. Teacher Candidate Ryan Loberger, Zion, Valentine, NE from MLC.
3. Pastor Candidate Brett Krause, DP Assistant, from WLS.
4. Pastor Brad Krause, Missionary to Mexico, Leon, Mexico, from WLS.

#### **Pastoral Ordinations and Installations**

1. Candidate Daniel Frey, Gethsemane, Lee's Summit, MO on July 13, 2008 by Rev. Joel Schroeder.
2. Candidate Douglas Lange, Light of the Valley, Layton, UT on July 20, 2008 by Rev. David Dolan.
3. Candidate Stephen Kruschel, Trinity, Grafton, NE on June 28, 2009 by Rev. Wayne Oblender.
4. Candidate John Stelter, Our Savior, Harrisonville, MO on July 12, 2009 by Rev. Joel Schroeder.
5. Candidate Nathaniel Winkel, Immanuel, Hadar, NE on July 19, 2009 by Rev. Tyler Peil.
6. Candidate Noah Bater Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT on August 16, 2009 by Rev. Jonathan Micheel.
7. Candidate Nathaniel Biebert, NELHS, Waco, NE on August 23, 2009 by Rev. James Plitzuweit.

#### **Pastoral Installations**

1. Rev. Stephen Helwig, Gethsemane, Omaha, NE on June 8, 2008 by Rev. Norman Schell.
2. Rev. William Cornelius, Battlement Mesa Mission, Battlement Mesa, CO on August 24, 2008 by Rev. Wayne Uhlhorn.

3. Rev. Matthew Kiecker, Shepherd of Peace, Norfolk, NE on November 16, 2008 by Rev. Rodney Rixe.
4. Rev. Shiloh Monday, St. Mark, Salina, KS on February 1, 2009 by Rev. Philip Hirsch
5. Rev. Joshua Hillmann, Christ, Beatrice, NE on May 3, 2009 by Rev. John Bortulin.
6. Rev. Roger Quandt, St. Paul, Broken Bow, NE on June 21, 2009 by Rev. Robert Strawn.
7. Rev. Stephen Kruschel, Grace, Geneva, NE on June 28, 2009 by Rev. Robert Smith.
8. Rev. Gary Schult, Valley Lutheran, Sheridan, WY on December 19, 2009 by Rev. Philip Spaude.
9. Rev. James Tauscher, Rock of Ages, Kansas City, MO on April 25, 2010 by Rev. Philip Zarling.

#### **Male Teacher Commissionings and Installations**

1. Candidate Scott Brown, St. Paul, Norfolk, NE on June 29, 2008 by Rev. Randy Bader.
2. Candidate Joel Cordes, Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT on August 17, 2008 by Rev. Jonathan Micheel.
3. Candidate Zachary Wiegman, Zion, Denver, CO on August 17, 2008 by Rev. Earle Treptow.
4. Candidate Ian Watson, Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School, Waco, NE on August 24, 2008 by Rev. James Plitzuweit.
5. Candidate Jeremiah Drews, St. Mark, Lincoln, NE on January 4, 2009 by Rev. Stephen Raddatz.
6. Candidate Benjamin Wells, NELHS, Waco, NE on August 23, 2009 by Rev. James Plitzuweit.

#### **Male Teacher Installations**

1. Mr. Jeffrey Loberger, Good Shepherd, Omaha, NE on July 27, 2008 by Rev. Michael Ewart.
2. Mr. Cory Olson, Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School, Waco, NE on August 24, 2008 by Rev. James Plitzuweit.
3. Mr. Kip Wilson, Zion, Denver, CO on August 16, 2009 by Rev. Earle Treptow.
4. Mr. Jeff Sell, Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT on August 9, 2009 by Rev. Jonathan Micheel.

#### **Lady Teacher Installations (as were reported to us)**

1. Miss Connie Brandt, Hope Lutheran Early Learning Center, Manhattan, KS on July 6, 2008 by Rev. Philip Hirsch.
2. Miss Melissa Harris, Mt. Olive, Overland Park, KS (emergency Call) on July 20, 2008 by Rev. Philip Zarling.
3. Miss Sarah Lindke, St. Paul, Norfolk, NE on August 10, 2008 by Rev. Randy Bader.
4. Miss Katherine Spaude, Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT (emergency Call) on August 17, 2008 by Rev. John Micheel.
5. Mrs. Marcel Vossler as director of St. Paul's Childcare, Plymouth, NE on August 17, 2008 by Rev. John Bortulin.
6. Mrs. Lori Kahrs as primary care provider of St. Paul's Childcare, Plymouth, NE on August 17, 2008 by Rev. John Bortulin.
7. Miss Corinn Pyscher, Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, CO on August 17, 2008 by Rev. Philip Kieselhorst.

8. Mrs. Amber Holmes, Loving Arms Child Care Center, Messiah, Wichita, KS on April 26, 2009 by Rev. Jonathan Rockhoff.
9. Miss Lauren Moll, Hope Lutheran Early Learning Center, Manhattan, KS on July 12, 2009 by Rev. Philip Hirsch.
10. Miss Katie Bare, Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, CO on July 26, 2009 by Rev. Philip Kieselhorst.
11. Miss Amanda Dunn, Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Overland Park, KS on August 2, 2009.
12. Miss Cindy Lemke, Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT on August 9, 2009 by Rev. Jon Micheel.
13. Miss Beckie Gilbert, St. Paul, Plymouth, NE on August 16, 2009 by Rev. John Bortulin.
14. Mrs. Sara Doyle, Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, CO on August 23, 2009 by Rev. Philip Kieselhorst.
15. Miss Rachel Taasaas, St. Mark Preschool, Lincoln, NE on February 14, 2010 by Rev. Stephen Raddatz.

#### **Other Installations**

1. Mr. Adam Lambrecht as staff minister at the new mission in Battlement Mesa, CO on December 14, 2008 by Rev. William Cornelius.

#### **WELS Certification**

1. Mr. Geron Brown, Christ Our Redeemer, Aurora, – CO August 2008.
2. Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons, St. Paul, Norfolk, NE – November 2009.
3. Mrs. Lori Seiltz, Salem, Colorado Springs, CO – November 2009.

#### **Transfers to Our District**

1. Rev. Matthew Kiecker from the Michigan District.
2. Rev. Shiloh Monday from the Minnesota District.
3. Mr. Kip Wilson from the Northern Wisconsin District.
4. Rev. Roger Quandt from the Northern Wisconsin District.
5. Rev. Jared Oldenburg from the Pacific Northwest District.
6. Rev. Jesse Stern from the Minnesota District.

#### **Transfers to Other Districts**

1. Rev. Peter Unnasch to the Southeastern Wisconsin District.
2. Rev. Roger Rockhoff to the South Atlantic District.
3. Rev. Roger Riedel to the Northern Wisconsin District.
4. Rev. Matthew Zimplemann to the Pacific Northwest District.
5. Mr. Joel Cordes to the Michigan District.
6. Mr. Ian Watson to the Northern Wisconsin District.
7. Rev. Matthew Ewart to the Arizona-California District.
8. Rev. Jeffrey Enderle to the Arizona-California District.
9. Mr. Matthew Kanzenbach to the Western Wisconsin District.

#### **Retirements**

1. Rev. John Kurth, – June 30, 2009.
2. Rev. Loren Fritz – June 30, 2009.
3. Rev. Gary Schult, – October 7, 2009.

### **Releases from the Ministry**

1. Rev. Chad Wright, Immanuel, Hadar, NE - July 15, 2008.
2. Mr. John Barenz, RMLHS, Northglenn, CO - June 1, 2009.
3. Mrs. Sharreen Nelson as director of St. Paul's Childcare, Plymouth, NE, effective June 13, 2008.
4. Rev. James Tauscher, Missionary Call to Russia – September 30, 2009.
5. Mrs. Sarah Forte as teacher at Good Shepherd, Omaha, NE – end of the 2008-09 school year.
6. Rev. James Plitzuweit, Rock of Ages, Kansas City, MO – September 30, 2009.
7. Miss Liz Raasch, St. Mark's Lincoln, NE (Daycare Director) – December 15, 2009.
8. Mrs. Roberta Blome, Little Lambs ECE, Zion, Valentine, NE (Preschool Director/Teacher) – May 31, 2010.
9. Mrs. Cindy (Lemke) Zarling, Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT – end of the 2009-10 school year.
10. Mrs. Leslie Brauer, Gethsemane, Omaha, NE – end of the 2009-10 school year.
11. Mrs. Joanna (Lescher) Hafner, Good Shepherd, Omaha, NE – June 30, 2010.

### **Resignations**

1. Rev. Randy Bader as chairman and member of the Constitution and Legislation Committee.
2. Rev. Peter Unnasch as a member of the Adult Discipleship Commission.
3. Rev. Peter Unnasch as a member of the Board of Appeals.
4. Rev. William Cornelius as a member of the Youth Discipleship Commission.
5. Rev. William Cornelius as a member of the Special Ministries Commission.
6. Rev. Roger Riedel as a member of the Nominating Committee for the Southern Conference.
7. Rev. Matthew Zimplemann as a member of the Nebraska District Mission Board.
8. Rev. Matthew Zimplemann as the vice-chairman of the Ministry of Christian Giving.
9. Rev. James Plitzuweit as a member of the Evangelism Commission.
10. Rev. James Plitzuweit as a circuit pastor for the Mid-America Circuit of the Southern Conference.

### **Position Eliminated**

1. Rev. James Tauscher, Peace, Boulder, CO - March 15, 2009.
2. Staff Minister Jace Holden, St. Mark, Salina, KS – June 15, 2009.
3. Mrs. Marcel Vossler, St. Paul's Childcare, Plymouth, NE - December 4, 2009.
4. Mrs. Lori Kahrs, St. Paul's Childcare, Plymouth, NE - December 4, 2009.
5. Mr. Kevin Hahm, NELHS, Waco, NE – June 30, 2010.

### **School Closings**

1. St. John, Stanton, NE – end of the 2008-09 school year.
2. Shepherd of the Hills, Greeley, CO – end of the 2008-09 school year.

### **Church Closings**

1. Garden of Gethsemane, Omaha, NE – September 27, 2009.

### **Appointments**

1. Rev. Timothy Kemnitz as chairman of the District Constitution and Legislation Committee.
2. Rev. David Wietzke as a member of the District Constitution and Legislation Committee.
3. Rev. David Olson as a member of the District Evangelism Commission.
4. Rev. Mark Hayes as a member of the Adult Discipleship Commission.
5. Teacher Timothy Hemling as a School Counselor.
6. Rev. Steven Kahrs as a member of the District Board of Appeals.
7. Rev. Thomas Jeske as a member of the District Board of Appeals.
8. Rev. Thomas Glende as a member of the District Board of Appeals.
9. Teacher Philip Stern as a member of the District Board of Appeals.
10. Mr. Dean Thaut as a member of the District Board of Appeals.
11. Rev. Stephen Raddatz as a member of the Nominating Committee for the Southern Conference.
12. Teacher Jeffrey Sell as a School Counselor.
13. Rev. Justin Gosch as a member of the District Evangelism Committee.
14. Rev. Justin Gosch as a member of the Adult Discipleship Commission representing the Rosebud Conference.
15. Rev. Tyler Peil as a member of the Nebraska District Mission Board.
16. Rev. Joel Spaude as Circuit Pastor for the Northern Colorado Conference.
17. Rev. Mark Hayes as coordinator of the Adult Discipleship Commission.
18. Rev. John Stelter as a member of the District Evangelism Commission.
19. Rev. Steven Raddatz as chairman of Ministry of Christian Giving.

### **Anniversaries**

1. Zion, Clatonia, NE - 125th anniversary of the congregation on June 22, 2008.
2. Rev. Joel Frank, St. Paul's, Plymouth, NE - 40 years in the public ministry on August 3, 2008.
3. Christ Lutheran School, Grand Island, NE - 50th anniversary on August 17, 2008.
4. Teacher Dean Johnson, Christ Our Redeemer, Aurora, CO - 25 years in the public ministry on August 24, 2008.
5. Salem, Colorado Springs, CO - 35th anniversary of the church on September 7, 2008.
6. Lord of Life, Thornton, CO - 25th anniversary of church on October 19, 2008.
7. Rev. William Goehring, NELHS, Waco, NE - 40 years in the public ministry on March 29, 2009.
8. Bethel, York, NE - 30th anniversary of congregation on April 26, 2009.
9. St. John, Platteville, CO - 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation on July 12, 2009.
10. Zion, Valentine, NE - 75th anniversary of congregation on July 18, 2009.
11. Rev. Mark Voss, Christ Our Redeemer, Aurora, CO - 25 years in the public ministry on September 5, 2009.
12. Our Savior's, Longmont, CO - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of congregation on September 13, 2009.
13. St. Mark, Sutton, NE - 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation on November 8, 2009.
14. Teacher Michael Schaefer, RMLHS, Northglenn, CO - 27 years in the public ministry on March 7, 2010.

### **Groundbreaking**

1. St. Paul's, Plymouth, NE - new educational facility on March 8, 2009.

### **Dedications**

1. Crown of Life, Pueblo West, CO - dedication of new worship facility on October 5, 2008.
2. Gethsemane, Omaha, NE - dedication of new church entry on January 25, 2009.
3. Bethel, York, NE - dedication of worship facility on April 26, 2009.
4. Zion, Clatonia, NE - dedication of new church addition on August 30, 2009.
5. St. Paul's, Plymouth, NE - dedication of new educational facility on September 20, 2009.
6. Laramie Church Building, Laramie, WY - dedication of new church building on March 28, 2010.

### **In Memory**

1. Rev. William Allwardt died February 15, 2009. The funeral service was conducted at St. Martin's Ev. Lutheran Church in Watertown, SD on February 18, 2009.
2. Mr. David Karnitz died April 27, 2009. The funeral service was conducted at Faith Ev. Lutheran Church in Prior Lake, MN on May 2, 2009. He had served at Trinity Lutheran School in Hoskins.
3. Rev. David Worgull died on April 27, 2009. He had served at St. Paul's, Naper, NE.
4. Rev. William Wietzke died September 6, 2009. The funeral service was conducted at Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church in York, NE on September 10, 2009.

Please contact the Floor Committee #1 if you have information concerning incomplete dates for any of the above information.