

# 2010 Nebraska District Convention

Waco, NE

## Nebraska District Technology Committee Report

*1Co 9:22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that **by all possible means** I might save some. <sup>1Co 9:23</sup> I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

The Apostle Paul states that he “became all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some”. Certainly it is not by our work that men are saved but through that of the Holy Spirit; yet God has given us the gift of the internet to reach out to all the world. This has been a constant theme of the Nebraska District Technology Committee. During the 2004 NE District Convention the body passed a resolution to support the NE District streaming media server project. Then, the 2006 Floor Committee 2 accepted a report encouraging funding of the technology needs by asking for \$1.00 per communicant member per year in our district. As you can see, the NE District has been applying the great commission and reaching out to fellow believers around the world.

### Previous Activities:

In the two years since we met as a convention, the Technology Committee has taken a less active roll because the district web site and the streaming video server are up and running. The NE District Technology Committee wishes to extend their appreciation to all members of the district for their support of this important tool. We are pleased to report that we are currently broadcasting ‘live’ services from St. Mark, Lincoln, NE; St. Paul, Plymouth, NE; Christ Our Redeemer, Aurora, CO; and from outside our district, Tree of Life, Cary, NC; and Good Shepherd, The Woodlands, TX.

Additionally, the NE streaming video-server is an integral part of Nebraska Lutheran High School (NELHS) outreach at Waco, NE. During the past school year, the streaming media server has been used to broadcast video from the NELHS football and basketball games.

Last December, with weather conditions causing many churches in Eastern Nebraska to postpone or cancel Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day services out of concern for their members safety, St. Mark, Lincoln was able to prerecord services and broadcast them at their scheduled times.

The Spring LWMS Rally was broadcast this past April.

An original goal of the committee was to serve congregations with vacancies in our district with a live worship broadcasts. This past year, Christ Our Savior in Fremont, NE has been served by live broadcasts from St. Mark in Lincoln, NE.

Our live and archived worship video is serving viewers from all around the United States, but we have also identified viewers from the countries of Brazil, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Thailand, Belgium, and Serbia. The streaming media server

provides our district with a unique opportunity to answer the call of the great commission.

Our committee has approved a request from Mt. Olive, Overland Park, KS as they will begin to webcast their services later this year. A request for use of the video server from Calvary Lutheran, Dallas, TX was also recently approved. Even with this last approval we have not reached the server capacity for regular live worship broadcasts.

The next step would be to add another video server in our district if needed to expand the operation.

The NE Technology Committee also provided support and staffing to the NE District in other live and archived video projects. During a convention year the NE Technology Committee, in coordination with NELHS, setup the technical aspects of the convention from audio / video broadcast and recordings to networking support. Our committee stands ready and available to all congregations, schools, groups and organizations who wish to broadcast special events, meetings, or conferences. Those interested in these services should contact the committee for costs.

The NE District maintains an updated web page at <http://www.welsne.org> where you are directed to many of these links used during this convention. E-mail lists for the district are supported by the committee members via the mail server here at NELHS. The committee would welcome comments on needs that can be served through our web presence.

### **Nebraska District Technology Committee Financial Report as of June 1, 2010**

Total Expenses	\$24,801.35 (beginning 2004)
Total Income	\$23,029.77
Deficit	- (\$1,771.58)

#### 2010 Expenses not paid:

Internet Connection for server:	\$1,800.00
Real Network Support:	\$ 830.40
Accounts Receivable:	\$3,800.00
Profit / Loss:	\$1,169.60
Estimate Deficit:	- (\$ 601.98)

Pastor Joel Frank, treasurer

On a financial note, the committee imposed a fee in 2006 of \$50.00 per month or \$500.00 per year for WELS congregations or schools who wish to use the video server to webcast programming.

Technology Committee Recommendations for discussion:

For the past six years the total cost of the server, software, and internet connection fees have averaged slightly more than \$4,000.00 per year with all equipment, labor, and services donated. We anticipate these costs will increase to an estimated \$4,500.00 per year. While there may be a number of different ways of funding this project, we respectfully suggest that the convention consider an offering from all of our congregations with a suggested goal of approximately \$1.00 per communicant through special offerings. Perhaps the details of such an offering could be the responsibility of the district presidium.

Respectfully submitted:

NE District Technology Committee:

Mr. Greg Boggs, Chairman, Lincoln, NE

Mr. Don Niemann, Secretary, Lincoln, NE

Rev. Joel Frank, Treasurer, Plymouth, NE

Mr. Ken Mayer, Omaha, NE

Teacher Josh Johnson, Webmaster, Waco, NE

Teacher Eric Brucker, Boulder, CO

Teacher Jeff Sell, Salt Lake City, UT

Rev. Robert Smith, Hastings, NE