



August 2011

A Word from the Superintendent



Thank you for the kind welcome I have received as I enter conference ministry. Many of you have expressed that you are praying for me and I want you to know that I am deeply appreciative. **It is my goal to lead our conference in a passionate pursuit of Christ and his priorities. It is a goal we can only accomplish together.** I am excited about the ways in which God is working in and through our churches; and yet, we all share the same longing to have an even greater impact – the desire to see existing churches strengthened and

new churches planted, to see communities impacted and more lives changed. This is what it means to know Christ and make him known. The good news is that we have everything we need to accomplish this goal. God has given us an abundance of resources – wise and experienced pastors and lay leaders, financial resources, people of prayer, people who love God and care about their neighbor, and missional partnership with the entire Evangelical Covenant Church family. Above all, we can count on the faithfulness of a God who has fully invested himself in us and will see his work to completion. I am sure you won't be surprised that there may be some changes coming; new ways that we can position ourselves most effectively for the work God has given us. These are exciting and challenging times. I invite your prayers for God's wisdom and creativity as we seek the path forward. There is a Scripture that I am savoring in the midst of this season of transition; a reminder of "how" we will get to the right place as we look to the future:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

We have a promise-keeping God who will direct our path as we trust in him. I thank you for your partnership in this great kingdom pursuit. I look forward to working with you!

Tammy Swanson-Drakeheim

Short-term Missionaries Commissioned

During the Covenant annual meeting held in June, short-term and project missionaries approved for commissioning included David and Debra Williams. David serves as pastor of Abyssinian Christian Church, a member of The Evangelical Covenant Church in Fort Collins, CO. Pastor David and Debra will serve for two years in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Debra and David Williams

Swedeburg Covenant Celebrates 135 Years



Located in Wahoo, NE, this congregation would be honored by your presence at their 135th anniversary celebration August 14. A 10 a.m. worship service will be followed by a time of live bands and a barbecue dinner. Come join them, praising God for all He has done through the ministries of this church and for what He will do in the future! Call 402-443-5443 for information.

Alaska Mission Trip 2011

Productive is the best way to describe the recent mission trip to Mountain Village, Alaska. The visiting team completed a "makeover" of the church/parsonage (one building, with the church on the first floor and the parsonage on the second) as the congregation prepares for a new pastor. Along with experiencing the conditions of "bush" Alaska, the main intent of this partnership is building long-term relationships with the people of the village. The Midwest Conference will continue to partner with Mountain Village Covenant Church and would ask each conference church to consider supporting this work by your prayers and financial support. We are grateful for the team that traveled to Alaska this past July and especially grateful for the coordination efforts of Team Coordinator Gary Carlson. May God continue to bless this partnership!

Congratulations to MWC pastors recently ordained at Covenant Annual Meeting:

- Dori Brown, OWS, Community Outreach Pastor, Hillcrest Covenant, Prairie Village KS
- Promise Y. Lee, Transfer of OWS, Senior Pastor, Relevant Word Ministries, Colorado Springs CO
- Christopher J. Nelson, OWS, Co-pastor, Oberlin Covenant, Oberlin KS
- Sharon L. Nelson, OWS, Co-pastor, Oberlin Covenant, Oberlin KS
- Tracy S. Nelson-Welker, OWS, Assoc. Pastor of Discipleship, Life House Covenant, Longmont CO
- Patricia E. Thompson, OSM, Associate Pastor, The Journey Church, Wichita KS

MWC Pastor/Staff changes

Ross Erickson, from Wakefield NE to Chaplain, Mercy Regional Medical Center, Mason City IA
Melissa Fager, Middle School Director, Salina KS
Brad Frost, Intern, Ceresco NE
Peggy Harrington, Children's Pastor, Prairie Village KS
Phil Stenberg, Interim Pastor, Mason City IA
Chris Ravn, Director of Youth & Family Ministry, Pomeroy IA (efc, Sept. 2011)

Covenant Village of Colorado Celebrations

Two anniversaries with special events August 21-27 will be celebrated at Covenant Village in Westminster CO. The campus will celebrate 15 years and Covenant Retirement Communities 125 years! Call 1-303-424-4828 for information.

Midwest Conference

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The Midwest Conference is a mission association of Covenant churches in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, western Missouri, Nebraska, Wyoming

We're Moving!

The Midwest Conference Omaha office will move to a new location, effective September 15. New address: 17310 Wright St #101, Omaha NE 68130