

# Camp Luther Director Hopes To Change Lives

BY TYLER ELLYSON  
 Columbus Telegram

SCHUYLER, Neb. — Bruce Wall was a teenager "living in darkness" when he attended a lock-in with the Lutheran congregation in his Idaho hometown.

The event, led by the staff of a local camp, changed his life.

Wall, a high school student at the time, left the lock-in with a newfound relationship with his Savior, which kick-started a life devoted to serving the Lord.

As the new executive director of Camp Luther of Nebraska, Wall hopes to ignite this same passion in youths here.

The *Columbus Telegram* reports he was hired May 1 to lead the Christian camp located between Columbus and Schuyler, about 5 1/2 miles north of U.S. Highway 30.

A graduate of Concordia University in Seward, where he met his wife Sarah, Wall will take the reins of the camp and its ministry this summer, when the Rausch family departs after a decade of service.

Although this is his first stint as a camp director, Wall knows Camp Luther is where God wants his family to be.

After he and his wife spent time as missionaries in Peru, Wall said he looked at opportunities within the Lutheran Church across the country.

"We prayed about it," he said. "One day it just became clear that this is where we want to

serve."

It didn't hurt that his wife, whose father is a Lutheran pastor in Goehner, spent four summers from 2000 to 2003 as a staff member at Camp Luther.

Sarah, a licensed teacher and present stay-at-home mother, and the couple's three young children will move to the camp from their Seward County residence in August.

Wall already is living on-site, preparing for a busy summer and mapping out his visions for a camp he sees so much potential in.

He said a top priority will be reaching out to and better serving the local Hispanic community, something he believes the Lutheran Church hasn't done a good job of in the past.

Camp Luther, he said, should be a venue Hispanics feel comfortable using.

Wall, who has a bachelor's degree in secondary education, also wants to provide more educational opportunities at the 46-year-old camp.

He said the programming already in place at Camp Luther can be used as a model for churches and nonprofit organizations as they adapt to changing demographics. His vision includes more interaction with rural congregations through activities such as Bible camps, as well as increasing the number of partnerships with nonprofits.

The Columbus Family YMCA currently holds day camps there each summer, but Wall believes other organizations could utilize the 160-acre camp.

Camp Luther, which is not exclusive to Lutherans, hosts retreats and camps year-round for youth and church groups, schools, businesses and other organizations.

Specialized camps focus on topics such as photography, space, cooking and sports and His Kids Camps held each June give people with mental and physical disabilities a chance to experience the outdoors while interacting one-on-one with a volunteer.

Wall is particularly excited about the His Kids Camps.

It's these campers and the hundreds of others who visit Camp Luther each year who will make it hard for Hank Rausch and his family to say goodbye.

"There will certainly be some tugs of the heart when it's time to leave," said Rausch.

But, he added, it's the right time for the family to make its exit.

Rausch, the former executive director, has had health issues the past couple of years and his son Josh, the program director, got married in November. His wife Christina, a youth specialist through AmeriCorps, will attend Concordia University, which required Josh to take a new job.

The family, including Rausch's wife Sue, who is the outdoor education and food service coordinator, will leave Camp Luther at the end of July.

"It will be tough, there's no doubt about it," said Rausch, "but it's what needs to be done."

## Walk, Picnic To Honor Man Who Drowned

SIoux FALLS (AP) — A memorial walk and picnic are being held this coming week at Falls Park in Sioux Falls to honor a man who drowned while trying to save a young boy.

The Native American Council of Tribes is hosting the walk and picnic on Friday for 28-year-old Lyle Eagle Tail.

Eagle Tail drowned in March after jumping into the Big Sioux River at Falls Park after 6-year-old Garrett Martin Wallace fell into the frothing water or became obscured by the gathering foam. The boy later emerged from the water and was not injured.

The walk and picnic will start at 10 a.m.

People can donate items for the picnic by calling Valerie Weddell at 605-214-9085.

## Landscape Grants Available For Neb. Schools

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Grant funds are available for Nebraska schools that would educate students about the environment while sprucing up the school landscapes.

The grants will come from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum in partnership with the Nebraska Forest Service.

Beginning this school coming school year, the Sustainable Schoolyards Partnership program will select six to 10 schools each year, with a total of 20 schools participating during the three-year initiative.

The deadline to apply for 2013-2014 funds is June 21.

For more information or to apply for a grant, see outdoorlearning.unl.edu or contact Rachel Anderson at randerson28@unl.edu or 402-472-0220.

## OBITUARIES

### Kathleen 'Kay' Bruna

SCOTLAND — Kathleen ("Kay") Frances Bruna, 69, of Scotland passed away early Friday May 31, 2013 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD.

A Memorial Mass of Christian burial will be 10:30 am Wednesday June 5, 2013 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Lester-ville, SD with Rev. Leonard Kayser. Burial of the cremated remains will be in the parish cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the services at the church.

The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton is



Bruna

Star School. She had love for cats, with a favorite one named Snowball. Kay was a member of the GSS Ladies Auxillary and Senior Citizens. She enjoyed attending church events such as soup kitchens and loved playing Bingo, reading books, liked to dance, cooking and baking. She attended mass at St. George's

in charge of arrangements.

Kay was born October 29, 1943 to Vit and Lillian (Post) Kocer. She was married to Joseph Bruna, Jr. November 5, 1965. Kay attended North

Catholic Church in Scotland until suffering a stroke three years ago then becoming a resident at the Good Samaritan Society Home in Scotland. There she enjoyed being a servant to others and often had a smile on her face and cheerfully said hello to others. She had a good sense of humor as she enjoyed all activities while able. She greatly loved visits by her family and friends.

She is survived by two sisters, Margie Scherschligt, Yankton (formerly of Lester-ville) and Patty (Jim) Boydston, Renton, WA; Nieces: Laura Ware (Olympia, WA); Jacqui Boydston (Auburn, WA); Rita Bierle (Utica, SD); Peggy Griffin (Sioux Falls);

Anne Baker (Maple Valley, WA); Nephews: Paul Scherschligt (Lesterville); Steve Scherschligt (Tea); Mark Kocer (Apple Valley, MN); Don Boydston (Renton, WA); also many great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Franklin Kocer, God Mother, Katherine Petrik, and brother-in-law, Johnny Scherschligt.

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 June 3, 2013



Online condolences at:  
 www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

### Lynne Cain

WHITE LAKE — Lynne Cain, 59, White Lake, died Thursday, May 30, 2013 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 5 at St. Peter's Catholic Church in White Lake. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be from 6-8:00 p.m. Tuesday with a scripture service at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Arrangements are with the Bit-tner Funeral Chapel.

She was born December 3, 1953 in San Antonio, TX to Donald and Dorothy (Jira) Gillen. She grew up at White Lake where she attended school and graduated from White Lake High School. She attended Presentation College, receiving an associates degree in social work and her BA Degree in sociology from Yankton College. In January 1976 she married Lamont C. Cain, Sr. and instantly became the mother of a three year old daughter and a nine year old son. From 1974 to 2006 she worked as an activities director, teacher, tutor, gerontologist and civil rights and patient's rights advocate. She loved gardening, reading, sewing, collecting dolls and being in the company of her family. She loved theater, both on stage or behind the scenes and had been involved with the Custer Community Theatre, the Black Hills Playhouse, the Yankton community theatre and the Harmony Notes in Yankton.

She is survived by her husband, Lamont, daughter, Robin (James) Garness, Springfield; five granddaughters: Shani (Kevin) Iron Shield, Denver, CO; Alexandria Garness, Yankton; Christine Garness, Elizabeth Garness and Jesselyn Garness all of Springfield; two sisters: Jacki (Merlin) Konechne,



Cain

White Lake; Jody (Kale) Zahniser, Bend, OR; six brothers: Ron (Carol Ann) Gillen, Curt (Louise) Gillen, David (Carol) Gillen all of White Lake; Darin (Becky) Gillen, Mitchell; Dane (Brenda) Gillen, Bridgewater and Mike (Marie) Gillen, Lebanon, MO.

She was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents and several uncles and aunts.

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### Virginia Dolman

April 19, 1923-May 23, 2013  
 Virginia was born in Avon,

South Dakota to Dr. and Mrs.

George Johnson.

She passed shortly after her 90th birthday. She was the fourth of six children who were born close together and remained so. They were raised in Yankton, S.D. and enjoyed summers in the Black Hills. They even got to watch the creation of Mt. Rushmore.

Virginia met Mahlon Dolman while they both were attending college in Denver, Colorado and were married on September 1, 1942. They moved to Portland in late 1944 shortly before their daughter was born. Survivors are daughter Barbara Panek, granddaughter Alesia Panek (Ed Jil-son), great grandson Mitchell Jil-son. She is also survived by her sister, Charlotte Hagen of Ocean-side, CA and a large extended family of nieces and nephews who adored her. Mahlon predeceased Virginia in 2002 after 60 years of marriage.

At Virginia's request, there will be no service. If you wish to make a remembrance, she cared for Shriners Hospital and the Oregon Humane Society or the organization of your choice.

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Dolman

### Roberta Bensen

VERMILLION — Roberta Jean Bensen, 84, of Vermillion, SD passed away Saturday, June 1, 2013 at the Morningside Care Center in Alcester, SD.

Roberta Hood was born September 5, 1928 in Wakonda, SD to John and Elmira (Nelson) Hood. She graduated from the Vermillion High School in 1946 and married Donald Bensen on February 20, 1948 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton, SD. They moved to Vermillion in 1949 where she worked as the secretary for the Vermillion Trinity Lutheran Church and then as a Program Assistant for the US Department of Agriculture, ASCS for 24 years, retiring in 1990.

She was baptized in the Lutheran faith at the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, and was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Women and the Senior Citizens in Vermillion.

She was preceded in death by her husband Don, two sons; David and Scott, three sisters; Gail, Shelby, Mary "Katie" Stewart and Marjorie Moore.

She is survived by her two daughters; Susan (Alan) Ruedebusch of Port Orchard, WA, Carol Bensen of Tacoma, WA and a daughter in law Anne Bensen of Sioux Falls, SD. She is also survived by her grandchildren; Jason Bensen, Vanessa Ruedebusch, Jessica Ruedebusch and a great grandson Bryson Allen Bensen, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 5, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion.



Bensen

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 4 at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion.

Visit hansenfuneralhome.com.

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### Chester Sorensen

MARION — Chester "Chet" Sorensen, 87, of Freeman died Sunday, June 2, 2013, at the Tieszen Memorial Home, Marion.

Funeral Services are pending with the Walter Funeral Home, Freeman.

### Olive Callahan

ELK POINT — Olive G. Callahan, 89, of Elk Point died Thursday, May 30, 2013, at Prairie Estates Care Center, Elk Point.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elk Point with Rev. Bob Lacey officiating.

Family visitation will take place at the church from 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, followed by a scriptural wake service at 7 p.m. Burial will take place immediately following the service at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Elk Point.

Services have been entrusted to Kober Funeral Home, Elk Point.



Myers said he joined to take a break from college.

His team member Emma Martz said she first considered the Peace Corps., but Americorps was a faster application process.

"It is a great experience so far," she said. "I didn't think I would ever come out to the Midwest and visit as many states as I have."

**HONORING THEIR MEMORY!**  
*Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them*

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

**Phillis J. Krempges**  
*who passed away on*  
**June 3, 2012**

**Rob Roy Williams**  
*who passed away on*  
**June 3, 2012**

**Joan I. Pavel**  
*who passed away on*  
**June 6, 2012**

**Evelyn Zimmerman**  
*who passed away on*  
**June 7, 2012**

**Willis J. Hauger**  
*who passed away on*  
**June 7, 2012**

**Mary Jean Kleinschmit**  
*who passed away on*  
**June 3, 1988**

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.

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