



# News

## of the Iowa Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church

[www.iowamissiondistrict.com](http://www.iowamissiondistrict.com)

July 2024



### *A Word from the Dean*

#### **"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."**

Temptation is a reality which effects all of us. We are bombarded by it every moment of our lives. Temptation comes from many sources: most notably from the Devil, from the world, and from our own sinful nature. In other words, temptation attacks from both outside and inside us. Martin Luther compared the temptations that attack us to birds that might fly around his head. About them he said, *"Though I may not be able to keep them flying around my head, I cannot allow them to build a nest in my hair."* Which is to say that even Christians can by no means avoid the reality of temptation, but as soon as we see evidence of its trying to take root in our life, we must work to uproot it as quickly as possible, and as often as is necessary.

You have, no doubt, seen depicted on television or in cartoons, a person trying to decide what to do, with a devilish figure speaking into one ear, and an angelic figure speaking into the other, which is not all that far from the truth. St. Paul talks about a similar battle in the 7th chapter of Romans. In a very revealing self-reflection, he confesses, *"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."* Knowing full well what he should be doing, the **right** thing, he sees that he yet does the thing he should not do, the **wrong** thing. Why? When he does the wrong thing, *"It is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me."* He goes on to describe the Christian life as one of a constant, internal, warfare: *"I see in myself another law [evil desires] at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells within me."*

St. Paul describes well, I think, the reality of all of us. Not all of us face the same temptations. What tempts me, may not tempt you. And what tempts you, may not be what tempts the next person. But all of us, because of our fallen human nature passed on from generation to generation, are tempted. And, in spite of our best intentions and even our best efforts, we give in—maybe not always but certainly sometimes—to that temptation. Then what? Are we lost? That depends on where we place our hope. If we look for hope within ourselves or within the world, we will be lost. St. Paul goes on to say, *"Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"* He recognizes that this is not an occasion where he can pull himself up by his bootstraps, and that all his struggles are so much thrashing around in quicksand, pulling him ever closer to death. His cry is to One who can deliver him from evil: from the evil around him, and from the evil within him. *"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"*

*Pastor Christopher Staley, Dean,  
Iowa Mission District, NALC*



## SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES IS A VILLAGE PASTOR

*Pastor Paul Breddin  
West Des Moines, Iowa*

I graduated from a Lutheran high school in Australia, where numerous students were boarders. Many of these were German “missionary kids” from New Guinea. Only later, after I was called to serve the Church in New Guinea, did I begin to realize why the German missionaries were there.

One has to turn back the clock to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Bavarian Lutheran Church in Germany, to the village of Neuendettelsau, and to Wilhelm Loehe, the village pastor for 35 years.

Often in the history of the Church, someone comes along to get it back on the right path. Loehe was such a person. He was pastor at a time when rationalism had made inroads into the German Church. Loehe believed in faithfulness to the Scriptures and to the Lutheran Confessions. Consequently, he often “bumped heads” with the Church authorities in Munich. However, he stood firmly on Romans 1:16-17 *“For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

People flocked from miles around to hear Loehe preach. His sermons addressed what was missing in the spiritual lives of those Lutheran Bavarians, who were hearing the Gospel again in its truth and purity.

Loehe was also concerned about the spiritual well-being of German immigrants and First Nations people in North America. In 1842 he began recruiting, training, and sending pastors to North America, especially to the German settlements in Michigan. Hence, the Neuendettelsau Mission Society was founded, although the mission work among the First Nations people wasn’t successful.

Why did Loehe do it? Think of John 3:16-17 *“For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”*

In the years after Loehe’s death, pastors continued to be sent to German immigrants in North America and Brazil. And in 1886, the Neuendettelsau Mission Society sent its first missionaries to New Guinea. Consider Christ’s Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.”*

Now there are more than 1,000,000 Lutherans in New Guinea.

God wants us to bloom where we planted, even if it is in some place in the “boonies”. As redeemed and forgiven children of God, we can’t all be like Loehe, but we can be faithful to Scripture and the Confessions, loving God and our neighbors, rejoicing in the spread of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, and supporting the work of the Church, even when the forces of evil are assailing it from within and without.

Truly, God works in mysterious ways, even from out-of-the-way little village congregations. Let us praise our God.



*The first confirmation class at First Grace was confirmed on June 16, 2024. Here they are pictured with Pastor Staley, Julie Anhorn and Amber Hanson .*

*Pastors and Lay Ministers from around the Iowa Mission District gathered at the Best Western Holiday Lodge in Clear Lake June 10-11 for their annual retreat. This “time away” gives church leaders the opportunity to worship, study, minister to one another, and connect with friends and colleagues—old and new. Mission District Dean, Pastor Christopher Staley, officiated at the opening service of Holy Communion. Midwestern Area Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jess Abbott, presented educational sessions on Family Systems and some of the ways they might influence ministry in our congregational life as we live and work together in the family of God. There were times for fellowship and conversation, and opportunities to rest and relax.*



There are numerous resources for pastors, congregations and families on the NALC website: [thenalc.org](http://thenalc.org). SOLA Publishing also has some resources of interest to families and congregations.





## Pondering the Parables: Of Sheep and Shepherds

*When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)*

He said, “*See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.* (Matthew 18:10-14)

Our Lord often spoke of the relationship between sheep and shepherds as He taught about God’s love and care for His people. The Old Testament records that the people of Israel were shepherds, and their greatest king, David, had been a shepherd before the Lord called him to reign over the kingdom of Israel. They understood that sheep are by nature helpless—unable to protect themselves and prone to blindly wandering off or following whatever catches their attention. They knew that a good shepherd is one who is attentive to the needs of the sheep and will risk his or her own life to protect their sheep. And like all who truly care about the animals in their lives, shepherds don’t just do this out of a sense of responsibility but love their clueless creatures and take their suffering to heart.

When we know a little about the nature of sheep, we may come to realize that it is not necessarily a compliment to be called a sheep. Those of us who have not had close contact with actual sheep often tend to think of them as cuddly, soft, and sweet, like the fluffy stuffed animals we give our children to soothe them into sleep. But the reality is far different, as we come to realize when listening to those who have dealt with these often-docile creatures. An eye-opening moment for me was on a motorcycle ride when I encountered a group of sheep that had wandered onto a two-lane highway ahead of me. I slowed down, expecting them to scatter as I approached. But I finally had to stop. They didn’t move, but all turned to look at this strange two-wheeled creature that approached them. I suppose

that if I’d been a wolf I’d have had an easy meal. As it was, I had to thread my way between them before I could continue on my way.

To think of God’s love for us as that of a shepherd is both humbling and reassuring. We all love the twenty-third Psalm—the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want; You (Lord) prepare a table before me in the presence of even my enemies; though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me.... In the parable of the lost sheep, our Shepherd singles out the stupidest sheep and leaves to hunt it down and rescue it. That’s what He does for each of us in our most clueless stumbles. And not only that, He *rejoices* over us when He finds us and brings us back into the fold! Throughout His ministry, Jesus tirelessly traveled from place to place, calling people to repent and return. Come home. Come back into the safety of God’s love and forgiveness. He showed this great love through the miracles of healing folks, a sign of His Lordship over the evils of the world and of His compassion and care. He reached out to those who had little or no status in His society—the blind, the lame, small children, foreign women, prostitutes, tax collectors—no one was beyond the love of Christ. All were sheep who had lost their way, lambs in need of His nurture and care.

And then Jesus said to His disciples—rescued sheep who were called to shepherd other sheep: “*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves....Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*” (Matthew 7:5; 10:16) Understanding that we are all sheep loved and forgiven by our great and merciful Shepherd, we are to reach out in love to other sheep. Rescued from our own missteps, we are to help lead others back into the fold of God’s love. Forgiven of our own wanderings, we are to forgive. Led out of our own dark and frightening valleys, we are to walk beside those who are trapped in the fear and confusion of their griefs and uncertainties. We are not the great Shepherd who can save them, but we are the saved sheep who can point them in His direction and walk with them in His pathway.

*Pastor Barbara M. Wills*



# Announcements

## Upcoming Events

**July 21-27, 2024—NEXUS Institute**—at Grand View University, Des Moines. The week is being sponsored by the NALC. For more information: <http://www.grandview.edu/NEXUS>

**August 9, 2024—NALC online Convocation**—all-day meeting online

**September 21, 2024—Iowa Mission District Convocation**—St. John, Western Douglas

**September 28, 2024—Iowa Mission District Council Meeting**—Cabin Coffee, Mason City

## Please Pray for:

**Pastor James Puotyal** who is awaiting a kidney donor.

When sending **correspondence** to the NALC please use the following address:

NALC Office  
P.O. Box 130455  
St. Paul, MN 55113

Please send **donations** to this address:

North American Lutheran Church  
PO Box 860565  
Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

***Donations to NALS, Disaster Relief, Great Commission Society, etc. are to be made out to the NALC with the specific fund written on the memo line of your check.***

## Donations and Correspondence

Checks sent to the Mission District for support should be made out to the ***Iowa Mission District, NALC***, and mailed to Pastor Gary Burkhalter at **312 E. Mission St., Strawberry Point, IA 52076.**

Correspondence for Pastor Solveig Zamzow, Mission District Secretary, should be sent to **619 Elm Avenue, #309, Story City, IA 50248**

Items for the Mission District newsletter (pictures, news, etc.) are best sent via e-mail to Pastor Barbara Wills at [barbaramwills@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramwills@gmail.com).

## Mission District Pulpit-Supply Guidelines

In October of 2022, the Mission District Council voted to recommend that congregations pay a visiting pastor \$200 for a worship service in addition to the current IRS mileage rate. At a subsequent meeting, we also decided to recommend that congregations do the same for a visiting pastor who performs a wedding or a funeral. Any honorarium that the family might want to give to the pastor would not be deducted from this, as the pastor is providing a service to the congregation. We also recommend that a congregation which has more than one worship service in a day, pay an additional \$50 to the pastor for each additional service. (The current IRS rate is \$0.67 per mile, but changes nearly every year.)

## Pastors available for pulpit supply:

Pastor Natacha Kemp—507-785-0412  
Pastor Jack Miller—507-798-2408  
Pastor Mike Wikstrom—480-203-1556  
Pastor Solveig Zamzow—641-903-9416



Pastor Tim Nappe is also available for pulpit supply. His primary focus is his ministry with “Reaching the Unreached”, and he will share information about this mission work whenever he does pulpit supply for a congregation. Contact information: 712-331-4245. Or email at [pastortim.milford@gmail.com](mailto:pastortim.milford@gmail.com)



## *Congregations of the Iowa Mission District*

Ackley: **Our Saviour's**, Dan Buhs, Lay Minister  
Avoca: **Trinity**, Pastor Matthew Bahnfleth  
Badger: **Badger Lutheran**, Pr. Scott Meier  
Boyden: **St. John**, Pr. Jeremy Winter  
Des Moines: **Unity Evangelical Lutheran**,  
Pr. Donna Joseph; Pr. Diane Joseph  
Dorchester: **Waterloo Ridge**, Pr. James Glesne  
Eagle Grove: **Evangelical Lutheran**, Pr. Jason Cooper  
Eagle Grove: **Samuel Lutheran**, Call Process  
Ellsworth: **Trinity**, Pastor Jon Rollefson  
Emmons, MN: **Emmons**, Call Process  
Gilmore City: **First**, Tracy Nerem, Lay Minister  
Grafton: **Emmanuel**, Call Process  
Greene: **St. John, Vilmar**, Pr. Tamara Keen  
Gunder: **Marion**, Pr. Marshall Hahn  
Harlan: **Bethlehem**, Pr. Ronald Rasmussen  
+Huxley: **Shepherd of the Prairie**,  
Scott Licht, Lay Minister  
Irwin: **St. Paul**, Pr. Ronald Rasmussen  
Laurens: **Bethany**, Pr. David Klappenbach  
LeMars: **St. John**, Pr. Chris Meier  
Manchester: **First**, Call Process  
Monona, **Faith**: Pr. Mel Harris  
Northwood: **Peace**, Pr. Barbara Wills  
+ Osage: **First Grace Lutheran Church**  
Palmer: **St. John's Lizard Township**,  
Marlene Nimke, Lay Minister  
Plainfield: **St. John, Western Douglas**, Call Process  
Readlyn: **St. Matthew**, Pr. Jean Rabary  
Readlyn: **Zion**, Pr. Jean Rabary  
Robins: **Servants of Christ**, Pr. Ronald Voss  
+Rochester, MN: **Emmanuel**—Call Process  
Ruthven: **Zion**, Eric Patten, Lay Minister  
St. Ansgar: **First**, Pr. Christopher Staley  
+ St. Charles, MN: **Trinity**, Pr. Douglas Hedman  
St. Olaf: **Norway**, Pr. Marshall Hahn  
Sheldon: **St. Paul**, Pr. John Jensen, Interim  
Spencer: **Trinity**, Pr. Renae Behrends  
Strawberry Pt.: **Mission in Christ**, Call Process  
Thor: **Ullensvang**, Pr. Darryl Landsverk  
Waterville: **Old East Paint Creek**, Pr. Ken Kimball  
Waukon: **Old West Paint Creek**, Pr. Ken Kimball

+ indicates mission congregation

## **Iowa Mission District Leadership**

Pastor Christopher Staley, Dean  
[cbstaley@netins.net](mailto:cbstaley@netins.net)  
Pastor Solveig Zamzow, Secretary  
[solveigzamzow@gmail.com](mailto:solveigzamzow@gmail.com)  
Pastor Burkhalter, Treasurer  
[pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com](mailto:pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com)

### **Mission District Council Members:**

Pastor David Klappenbach  
[klappenbach98@rpt.coop](mailto:klappenbach98@rpt.coop)  
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### **Mission District Registrar**

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[kscharnhorst51@gmail.com](mailto:kscharnhorst51@gmail.com)

### **Mission District Website Administrator**

Pastor Gary Burkhalter  
[pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com](mailto:pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com)

### **Mission District Youth Trip Coordinator**

Alana DeMoss  
[fivekids crazy@outlook.com](mailto:fivekids crazy@outlook.com)

### **Mission District Communicator/Newsletter Editor**

Pastor Barbara Wills  
[barbaramwills@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramwills@gmail.com)

*The Iowa Mission District  
has 39 congregations.*

*The Iowa Mission District website may be found  
at: [www.iowamissiondistrict.com](http://www.iowamissiondistrict.com).*

# Iowa Mission District Convocation Registration

**Saturday, September 21, 2024**

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Western Douglas,  
1760 130<sup>th</sup> Street, Plainfield Iowa 50666**

The 2024 annual Convocation of the Iowa Mission District will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church, Western Douglas, Plainfield, Iowa, on Saturday, September 21, 2024. Our theme is "Love" from 1 Corinthians 13:13 *"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* We are pleased to have the Reverend David Keehner, the North American Lutheran Church Director of Renewal & Discipleship, as our keynote speaker. The Convocation is our opportunity to gather as brothers and sisters in Christ for the purpose of fellowship, worship, learning and sharing of ideas and to hear up-dates on the work and mission of the NALC. We also will have a business session to conduct the necessary business of the Mission District. As you prepare for the convocation, please be thinking of nominations for *Iowa Mission District Treasurer*, one *Lay Representative* and one *Clergy Representative* to the Mission District Council. Each is for a three-year term. Also needed is a *Clergy Representative* to serve one year, the final year of a three-year term that is vacant since Pastor Ryan Henkel has accepted a call to another Mission District. A nomination form is included in this month's Iowa Mission District News. Please get permission from the nominees before submitting their names. The nominees will need to complete the nomination form and mail it to Mission District Secretary, Pastor Solveig Zamzow (619 Elm Avenue, #309, Story City, IA 50248).

**Please Note:** According to Article 4.01 of the IA- MD Constitution: *"Delegates with voting privileges at a Convocation shall be the ordained ministers of the NALC within the territory of this Mission District and [two] lay delegates from the member congregations"*. In addition, we strongly encourage congregational participation beyond the delegates—visitors are welcome! There is no cost for the event other than a free-will offering for lunch. A worship offering will also be taken and designated to the NALC Disaster Relief. The day will begin at 8:00 am with registration and a time for fellowship with coffee and refreshments. A service of Holy Communion will begin at 9:00, and the closing of the convocation will be at 3:45 pm.

Junior High and High School youth are also encouraged to attend the convocation. It is hoped that we can have youth attendees on a regular basis to promote their interest and involvement in the Church beyond their home congregations.

To help with planning, and so that we may have appropriate name tags for **delegates and visitors**, we ask that you fill out the registration form below and mail to **Kathy Scharnhorst, Registrar, at 1594 Garden Avenue, Waverly, IA 50677**. It is most helpful in keeping track of registrations if each person being registered is listed on a separate sheet. If you wish to submit your registrations via email, please fill out the form and send the information as an attachment to **kscharnhorst51@gmail.com**.

*(Please fill out a separate form for each person.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or email: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation & Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Clergy \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_\_

## Biographical Information of Nominee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position for which you are being nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Member at: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us something about yourself (*family, hobbies, etc.*)

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How do you understand your faith?

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How have you been active in the church?

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Please list one of your favorite Bible verses and tell why it has meaning for you.

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Please sign below to indicate you are willing to serve if elected and mail this completed form to:

*Pr. Solveig Zamzow, Secretary Iowa Mission District, NALC  
619 Elm Avenue, #309  
Story City, IA 50248*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature