



# News

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

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

September 2020

### *A Word from the Dean*

#### **CHARIOTS OF FIRE**

*“Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are  
more than those who are against us.”*

*- II Kings 6:16*

We live in unprecedented times. By the middle of September it will be 6 months since the Covid 19 pandemic forced us to curtail so many of our normal activities, including worship, Sunday School, and now our Iowa Mission District Convocation. As I look back on that time, I find that with each succeeding month I kept thinking that this must be coming to an end soon.

In April, I was still holding out hope that the pandemic would be short-lived. So I held off cancelling the Pastors & Lay Ministers' Retreat, postponing it instead for a later week in May. And I was hopeful that we would be able to celebrate the Sunday of the Resurrection by resurrecting our face-to-face worship services. But on Easter morning the only face I saw was my own looking back at me from my laptop as I sent out the worship service on Zoom.

In May, I was forced to cancel the retreat, but still had hopes that the pandemic may be past its peak and perhaps by the middle of the month things could begin to return to normal. But my predictions were no better than those of so many others.

As we approached June, several churches did begin to offer in person worship, albeit in a limited fashion, taking steps to safeguard worshippers from this silent, hidden, and unpredictable enemy.

Throughout the summer months, as we dealt with these challenges, we were confronted also with scenes of racial unrest, rioting, and violence in our cities sparked by the horrific video of a young man dying at the hands of the police in Minneapolis. Moreover, we found ourselves in the midst of one of the most divisive political seasons in memory, dividing communities, neighbors, even families into warring camps.

And as if that were not enough, we then witnessed the most destructive storm to ever hit Iowa as the derecho tore through farmland, towns, and cities of our neighbors just to the south of us.

It is enough to make you feel that we are surrounded on all sides by enemies determined to do us in. And, indeed, it is the desire of the Enemy to use these troubles and tragedies to shake our faith and make us despair of the future.

In II Kings there is a story about the prophet Elisha who is trapped in a city surrounded by an army sent there to capture him and bring him to his death. Elisha's servant, seeing this hopeless situation, cries out, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" But Elisha calmly prays that God would open the eyes of his servant so he can see the promise of God. And the servant looks and sees, "and, behold, the mountains are full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

The greatest challenge we face throughout these difficulties is a spiritual one – the challenge to see that the One who is for us is far greater than all the forces arrayed against us – even, and especially, those forces of sin, despair, and fear that rise up within us.

For me, Elisha's vision is a reminder that I am never alone. Even as I stood before that laptop, I was in union with a cloud of worshippers joining with me in praise. And all of us, in turn, were surrounded by the whole cloud of witnesses who have gone before us and the whole company of heaven praying with us. May we never lose sight of those "chariots of fire" surrounding us, so we may respond to all the challenges that confront us with faith in God, hope for the future, and unceasing love for our neighbor.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Marshall Hahn*  
*Dean, Iowa Mission District, NALC*



## Sola Fide—*If My People Called by My Name...*

Pr. Jean Rabary  
St. Matthew & Zion Lutheran Churches  
Readlyn, Iowa

A few weeks ago, on Monday August 17 to be exact, I read the following excerpt from Pr. Nicky Gumbel during my early morning Bible meditation:

*After Solomon had built the temple, the Lord appeared to him and said, '... **If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land**' (2 Chronicles 7:14).*

*This verse is justly famous, and it is often used as a template for worship and prayer. In it we see the conditions for integrity for worship. They are also the conditions necessary for [spiritual] revival. In the light of COVID-19, it is pertinent to note that the immediate context was the possibility of a pandemic in verse 13, "**When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people.**"*

*We see in this verse that we need to do four things: 1<sup>st</sup> humble ourselves, 2<sup>nd</sup> pray, 3<sup>rd</sup> seek God's face, and 4<sup>th</sup> turn from our wicked ways. Then God promises that He will do three things: 1<sup>st</sup> hear from heaven, 2<sup>nd</sup> forgive our sin, and 3<sup>rd</sup> heal the land. (The Bible in One Year).*

Most of us are familiar with the ten plagues God sent to Egypt to accomplish his divine purpose, that is, to set the Israelites free from the bondage of slavery. At other times, God sent a plague against his own people to judge their sin. Though God sent many

prophets to warn Judah, they did not turn from their sin. So, Jeremiah reports God's Word, "Though they fast, I will not hear their cry, and though they offer burnt offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence" (Jeremiah 14:12).

It is not wise to presume to know God's intention through this global pandemic, yet, biblically speaking, God in his holiness may have a reason to judge humanity for its out of control immorality, rampant evil, and widespread lawlessness (See Isaiah 59:1-2; Habakkuk 1:13). St. Paul prophesied, "God has overlooked the times when people did not know Him, but now, He commands all people from everywhere to turn away from their evil ways. For He has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man He has appointed, and He proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

Now is the time to humble ourselves before God, seek his face in prayer, confess our wrongdoings in thoughts, words, and deeds. Now is the time for God's people to stand up and be counted before God crying out for his mercy in Jesus so that He may forgive our sins, give us a fresh start, and heal our land. Now is the time to talk the talk and walk the walk of faith by the way we live a virtuous and righteous life empowered by the Holy Spirit, a life that reflects the fear and love of God, a life that fully trusts the crucified and risen Lord Jesus who is in control of human history and our eternal destiny. ***If my people who are called by my name...***

# ***This and That*** ***From Around the Iowa Mission District***

Right: *A bright spot in the midst of COVID isolation and “social distancing”—an outdoor Baptism for our youngest sister-in-Christ at Peace Lutheran Church, Northwood. What a blessing it was to gather on this day to celebrate Christ’s victory over death as this little one was baptized into the death of Christ to rise with Him in the resurrection.*



## **NALC CONVOCATION**

The NALC Convocation was held online this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Fortunately we did not have any major decisions to be made as we did last year in electing a new bishop. But there were some notable actions taken.

\* Bishop Selbo introduced his “2020 Vision” for the NALC, which includes the following 10 items:

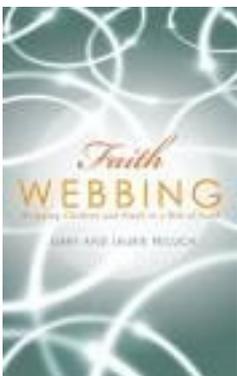
A church body committed to developing disciple-making congregations and cultures
A body of believers committed to increasing our mission outreach and congregational multiplication efforts
A denomination in which every congregation receives regular and consistent pastoral support
A continuing education emphasis that supports the ongoing development of all NALC pastors and lay leaders
A strategy for continental restructuring that is able to expand with denominational growth
A denomination with the strongest and most highly respected Lutheran seminary training system in North America
A church body that takes advantage of the latest advances in technology and communication to provide congregational support, and to serve the mission outreach, ministry development, and overall communication efforts within the NALC
A denomination whose international and ecumenical relationships strengthen our shared commitment to the Great Commission, the Great Commandments, and the Church catholic, and which enhance our partnership on the congregational level
A church body with the financial strength to support its God-given vision
A Strategic Planning Team (SPT) that continually prays for and works to develop the next steps for our God-given vision and future

\* The Convocation voted to begin holding a biennial Convocation rather than an annual one. If ratified by the congregations this change would begin following the 2021 Convocation, which is to take place in Corpus Christi, Texas.

\* We passed a balanced budget for the first time since the formation of the NALC.

\* The Convocation also voted to allow the Executive Committee to determine which congregations would be permitted to send an additional lay delegate to the Convocation in order to fulfill the requirement that the Convocation have 50% lay representation.

\* And during the presentation given by Gary & Laurie Pecuch on the Youth and Family Ministry of the NALC, the Norway and Marion Lutheran congregations of the St. Olaf Parish were mentioned. These congregations have been giving to the “Faith Webbing” ministry as their Youth Ministry mission for the past several years. The Pecuchs mentioned in their report that these gifts are being used to provide every congregation in the NALC a copy of their two books – Faith Webbing and What’s in Your Bag? It was certainly a surprise and great fun to hear two of our congregations lifted up before the whole church in this way. Here is an example of our mission dollars at work!



# Announcements

## Upcoming Events

**August 2-6, 2021**—NALC Luther Week, Corpus Christi, TX

## Please Pray for:

**Amy Cooper** (wife of Pastor Jason Cooper) who has recently completed her cancer treatments.

**Pastor David Steffenson** who is undergoing treatments for pancreatic cancer.

**Bishop Emeritus John Bradosky** who was seriously injured in a steep fall in July and had surgery on his neck and spine. August 20th.

**Kelly Staley** (wife of Pastor Christopher Staley) who had back surgery August 18th.

**All who are at risk** for getting COVID-19, those who suffer from it, all who are caring for the sick, researching treatments and preventive measures and trying to make wise decisions for the public good.

Please keep **all the people who have been affected by the Derecho** (in the Cedar Rapids area) in your prayers. Especially with the extent of the damage and the sheer volume of the debris, the safety of those who are cleaning up and repairing power lines, buildings and property continues as a prime concern.

## Disaster Relief

Some opportunities to help with domestic disaster relief can be found on the NALC website:

<https://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/>

Check “Stuff the Truck” page in this newsletter if you have kits to be donated—the truck will be available in our mission district later this month.

For more information contact Betty Burkhalter, Disaster Response Coordinator  
[bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com](mailto:bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com); 815.323.9999

## 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 Mr. Craig Lease, Mission District Secretary, should be sent to **405 7th St. N., Northwood, IA 50459**

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).



## ***Sharing the Faith Grace-fully*** ***Shall We Gather at the River? Paul and Lydia***

*Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia, and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days; and on the sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul. And when she was baptized, with her household, she besought us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. (Acts 16:11-16)*

This brief glimpse into Paul's ministry and methods, and the response of a wealthy woman who likely had some considerable influence in her community, has always captured my imagination. As we've noticed in a few stories of other biblical women, there is no mention of Lydia's marital status. In addition, she is a businesswoman (unusual in that time and place). Now, after her conversion, it seems that she began a "house church" in her home. The only other mention of Lydia is in verse 40—after Paul and Silas are released from prison for casting a demon out of a young girl, they stop to visit Lydia and "exhort the brethren"—presumably the congregation that met in her home. I have dozens of questions begging for answers that are now hidden in the mists of time and likely will never be answered—at least not in this earthly life! Nevertheless, there is much here to instruct us in the sharing of our faith.

Unlike the modern method of going door-to-door in residential neighborhoods, Paul and his colleagues went to a public place at a specific time—in this instance, to the river on the Sabbath day. There were other times when they would go to a synagogue—where devout Jews were worshiping and they might find people willing to listen to their message of Jesus' death and resurrection. But in this case, when they hoped to share that news with Gentiles, they went to a place where Gentiles might be gathered for prayer.

When Paul and his companions arrived at the riverbank, they found a group of women gathered. The text says Lydia was a "worshiper of God", that is, a non-Jew who believed in the Lord God and observed

certain Jewish laws and rituals. It's likely the other women there also believed in the God of the Old Testament, and knew something of the Jewish Scriptures. We might wonder why only women had come to this place of prayer. It might have something to do with the fact that they were the ones who typically went to the river to get the water needed for their households. However, we know that Lydia wasn't a servant, and being a woman of wealth (as indicated by her profession of dealing in very expensive "purple goods") it would be unlikely that she was there to draw water. A more likely reason would be that since this was the Sabbath, the women gathered regularly in this place for weekly worship and prayer. Since men and women worshiped in separate places in the Jewish temple, and these women worshiped the God of the Jews, it's possible that the men in their families either worshiped elsewhere or were not worshipers of God.

As we consider the scenario before us, one of the things that stands out as being particularly unusual, is that Paul, and the men with him, sat down and spoke to these women in a public place. Jewish men did not typically speak to foreign women in public, and if they did, they certainly would not have been speaking with them as equals. Yet that seems to be the case here. And Lydia was one of the women who came to believe that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. She and her household were baptized, and she convinced Paul and his companions to accept the hospitality of her home. We don't know how long they stayed, or how the church was organized while they were there, but since Paul and Silas were out and about preaching and healing, and ended up in prison, it's likely they were there for some time. After being released from prison they returned to Lydia's home for a short time before resuming their travels.

What might we glean from this incident about sharing our faith in Christ? Each of us could probably come up with a unique insight, but some things to consider: 1) Sometimes the Lord opens unexpected doors of opportunity with folks with whom we might never have considered having a faith conversation. 2) We might find this story challenging our pre-set ideas about how and where to share our faith. 3) It's often helpful to meet people where they are in their faith journey, and then walk with them into new areas of faith.

***Pastor Barbara M. Wills***

## 2019 - 2020 Iowa Mission District Report of the Dean

*“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,  
always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,  
thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”  
- Philippians 1:3-5*

This is my last report to the Iowa Mission District as Dean. In some ways it seems like a very short while ago that I was elected to this position. Yet when I look back, quite a bit has taken place over these last 6 years. At our NALC Convocation Bishop Selbo recounted how much has changed in the 10 years since the North American Lutheran Church was established. We have grown from the original 50 or so congregations that formed the NALC to over 440 congregations today with a membership of over 150,000. Similarly, our own Iowa Mission District has grown from the initial handful who were at the Constituting Convention of the NALC to the 37 congregations in our district today. I am very grateful for the work that Pastor Ken Kimball did as our first Dean and all the travels he undertook and the meetings and presentations he gave as the NALC and the Iowa Mission District were coming into existence. As I said at the time I was elected as Dean, he left me with some very large shoes to fill, to be sure.

Yet, if those first few years were a time of meeting and gathering and bringing the Iowa Mission District into existence, the last 6 years have been a time of growing in our fellowship and encouraging one another in the common ministry we share. We have sought to do this through our Pastor & Lay Minister Retreats, by organizing our Youth Mission Trips, connections with our mission congregations, encouraging local text studies between pastors, our annual convocations in Iowa and with the NALC, and in other informal ways. An important part of all of those efforts has been setting up the Iowa Mission District website and the monthly newsletter. We owe a big debt of thanks to Pastor Barb Wills who has been the editor of our newsletter from its conception and has overseen the development of the website. She has put in countless hours over the years keeping on top of things in our Mission District, reminding contributors (ahem!) to get their articles in, begging for pictures of activities from our congregations – and doing it all in a very gracious, good-humored way. Thank you, Barb!

There are also many others I want to thank for their dedication and commitment over these last several years. Not least of all are the members of the Iowa Mission District Council. I have been blessed to have a wonderful group of people to work with throughout these years. I want to thank, especially, our current council of Craig Lease, Pastor Gary Burkhalter, Kathy Scharnhorst, Chris Schlee, Pastor Christopher Martin, and Pastor Ronald Rasmussen for their support and dedication to the work of the Mission District. But it is no surprise that we would have such a fine council, since there are so many good and faithful servants of God to choose from in our Mission District.

From the very beginning I have been impressed and encouraged by the spirit of cooperation, faithfulness, and dedication to Christ and His Church exhibited by the pastors and lay leaders in our Mission District and throughout the NALC. It has been a privilege to get to know many people from the congregations in our Mission District. Each time I visit one of those congregations I am more and more encouraged about what God is doing among us. I have looked forward each year to the times we can gather at our Iowa Mission District Convocation and at the NALC Convocation. I have heard people say, after walking by the room at the NALC Convocation where we met as a Mission District, “You folks from Iowa just have too much fun!” (And Minnesota!) And we do! It is just a joy to join together with one another!

This year, of course we were not able to gather for the NALC Convocation, or even for our own Convocation. These are just a couple of the changes that this pandemic has brought about this year. It has certainly been a challenging time. And there is a fair amount of uncertainty about what lies in store for the future, as well. Yet, congregations and pastors are finding creative ways to continue to do ministry in the midst of these challenges. Congregations have been able to go forward with the call process through online, email, Zoom, and other means. In fact, with the three Installations that have already taken place, and the 2 that are pending, we will have more Pastoral Installations in our Mission District this year than any of the last 5 years – and all taking place during this pandemic! Praise the Lord!

Since we are not able to meet in person, our Council decided to conduct the necessary business of the Convocation via email. What we need to do is to:

Approve the proposed 2020 – 2021 Budget (copy of which is included in this newsletter);

Elect persons to the positions of:

Dean of the Iowa Mission District

Lay Member of the Iowa Mission District Council

Clergy Member of the Iowa Mission District Council

A ballot is included in this newsletter for these elections, a copy of which I am also sending out to each Pastor and Congregation of the Mission District. Pastors should have their delegates vote on these items and send the results to Secretary Craig Lease at [pdlease@gmail.com](mailto:pdlease@gmail.com) by September 14.

(Unfortunately, we do not have any candidates for the Lay Member position at this point – nominees for this position will be accepted up to September 5 – at which time if candidates are nominated, an addendum to the ballot will be sent out.)

It is a huge disappointment to me that we are not able to meet in person and I am not able to personally thank everyone for your support and encouragement – and forgiveness! – over these last 6 years. I do indeed thank God for our partnership in ministry and look forward to continuing that partnership with all of you in the years to come. May our Lord continue to bless us as His people and guide us in our lives of service to Him, to one another, and to the world!

Yours in Christ,

Marshall E. Hahn

Dean, Iowa Mission District, NALC

#### Statistics for 2019 - 2020

3 Installations (2 pending)

5 Pastor Interviews for Reception into the NALC

3 Congregational Workshops

7 Congregations Visited

19 Visits to Pastors

2 Iowa Mission District Council Meetings (1 in person and 1 on Zoom)

1 Dean's Meeting – Columbus, Ohio

1 NALC Convocation (online)

4,151 Ministry Miles

**North American Lutheran Church  
Iowa Mission District  
Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Treasurer's Report**

Grace and peace to all in the name of Christ Jesus.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the IMD treasurer this past year, and I look forward to working with you in our next fiscal year.

There are a few items that bear some special attention on the report of the past year's activity and the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

- We are proposing a balanced budget for FY 20-21 which has not been the case in previous years.
- The offering normally received at each convocation and disbursed in its entirety as a benevolence is now included on the budget.
- The revenue category of "Other Income" consists of donations from individuals, specified gifts, and interest.
- The proposed increase in contributions from the congregations translates to an average annual contribution of \$637.
  - o The average contribution from congregations in the 2019-2020 fiscal year was \$601.44.
  - o Contributions from congregations ranged from zero to just under \$4500 for FY 19-20.
- We were significantly under budget this fiscal year primarily due to events canceled due to Covid, and not having hosted an intern in our district. While we have budgeted for youth and district events in the coming year, there are no prospective interns for our district, so no monies were budgeted. We retained the support for seminarians in the hopes that God would raise up students from within our district during this coming year.
- The awkward and unprecedented nature of the end of this fiscal year resulted in this report being generated a few day before the actual end of the year. Consequently, the savings and checking account ending balances shown on the report do not include the final month of interest (usually about \$.04 per month), nor any contributions that might be received after Thursday, August 27th . Any adjustments necessary will be made at the beginning of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about any of the financial matters of the district, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will do my best to answer any questions and address any concerns you may have.

In Christ,

Pr. Gary Burkhalter, Treasurer  
Mission in Christ Lutheran Church  
312 E. Mission St.  
Strawberry Point, IA 52076

815-394-9309  
pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com

**IOWA MISSION DISTRICT  
FY 2019 – 2020 Report and  
Proposed FY 2020 – 2021 Budget**

**Summary:**

**Savings Account:**

9/1/2019 Beginning Balance \$ 4,434.12  
8/27/2020 Ending Balance \$ 4,435.02

**Checking Account:**

9/1/2019 Beginning Balance \$ 11,379.42  
8/27/2020 Ending Balance \$ 13,247.61

**Activity by Account and Proposed Budget for FY 2020 – 2021**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Proposed 2020 – 2021</b>	
<b>9/1/2019 combined Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$ 15,813.54</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>				
From Congregations	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,368.13	\$ 24,200.00	
From Other Income	\$ 200.00	\$ 885.90	\$ 300.00	
From Convocation Offering	\$ -	\$ 1,154.00	\$ 1,000.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 18,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,408.03</b>	<b>\$ 25,500.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Dean's/Asst. Expenses	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,777.41	\$ 7,000.00	
To NALC (incl. Seminary Support)	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	Seminarian Scholarships
- \$ 3,000.00				
Education and Ministry	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
Seminary Debt Relief	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Communications	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 184.53	\$ 500.00	
Internship Support	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Youth Ministries	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	
Contingency Fund	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 923.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Convocation Offering Dispersal	\$ -	\$ 1,154.00	\$ 1,000.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 29,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,538.94</b>	<b>\$ 25,500.00</b>	
<b>8/31/2020 combined Ending Balance:</b>			<b>\$ 17,682.63</b>	

### Biographical Information of Nominee

Name: Christopher B Staley Date: July 30, 2020

Position for which you are being nominated: Iowa Mission District Dean

Congregational Member at: First Lutheran

City: St. Ansgar

Occupation: Pastor

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

I am a life-long Iowan, having grown up in the small town of Atalissa in the West Liberty school district. My family was actively involved in the little Presbyterian church next door, but from the time I was a young boy, the congregation was served by the local Lutheran (ALC) pastor. Our church closed when I was a teenager, at which time I joined the Lutheran congregation (Zion). I was an active lay person, and was shepherded by my pastor to consider attending seminary as a second career. My wife, Kelly, and I moved to Dubuque for seminary at Wartburg, and have since had three children, the last of which is flying the nest this year. I have served three Iowa congregations since my ordination in 1996, St. John (Luana), Trinity (Ellsworth), and First (St. Ansgar). My wife and I love to travel, exploring people and places, and spending time with friends and family. I also have a deep love of music.

#### How do you understand your faith?

As St. Paul says, my faith is a gift from God. I am truly grateful for having been raised in a family where the church and its ongoing life was the thing around which our lives and calendar were built. As a young adult, I dabbled in inactivity, but was drawn back to the church through the love of our hometown pastor. My faith has also been strongly influenced by a series of deaths which occurred within our families during our time at seminary. This experience has enhanced my ability to minister to others who undergo similar loss.

#### How have you been active in the church?

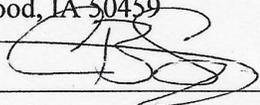
As a lay person, I served as organist, assisting minister, Sunday School and VBS teacher, Sunday School superintendent, served on various boards, and church council, and as church treasurer. As a pastor, I served for many years on the advisory board of the Good Samaritan Center in Postville, served on the Small Town Ministry Task Force of the Northeast Iowa Synod, and for six years as the Treasurer of the Iowa Mission District.

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

Matthew 9:36 "When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." This verse has become hugely important to me as a pastor. Each year we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas in which we speak of the coming of Emmanuel, "God with us." In this scene, when Jesus (Emmanuel) sees the crowd, we see precisely into the heart of God, that He looks upon all of us with great compassion, seeing how harassed and helpless we are in the face of what we experience day by day. That this same Emmanuel is now at the right hand of God interceding for us gives me great peace, and also empowers me to have compassion for all to whom I minister.

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

Mr. Craig Lease, Secretary  
Iowa Mission District, NALC  
405 7th Street N.  
Northwood, IA 50459

  
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## *Congregations of the Iowa Mission District*

Ackley: **Our Saviour's**, Call Process  
Avoca: **Trinity**, Pr. Eric Meissner  
Badger: **Badger Lutheran**, Pr. Scott Meier  
Boyden: **St. John**, Pr. Dan Hart  
Des Moines: **Unity Evangelical Lutheran**,  
Pr. Donna Joseph; Pr. Diane Joseph  
Dorchester: **Waterloo Ridge**,  
Prs. Bill and Diane Odermann  
Eagle Grove: **Evangelical Lutheran**, Pr. Jason Cooper  
Eagle Grove: **Samuel Lutheran**, Call Process  
Ellsworth: **Trinity**, Pastor Jon Rollefson  
Emmons, MN: **Emmons**, Pastor Ryan Henkel  
Gilmore City: **First**, Tracy Nerem, Lay Minister  
Grafton: **Emmanuel**, Pr. Solveig Zamzow  
Greene: **St. John (Vilmar)**, Pr. Christopher Martin  
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  
Manchester: **First**, Pr. Tony D. Ede  
+Monona, **Faith**: Pr. Mel Harris  
Northwood: **Peace**, Pr. Barbara Wills  
Palmer: **St. John's**  
Plainfield: **St. John**, Pr. Kim Thacker  
Readlyn: **St. Matthew**, Pr. Jean Rabary  
Readlyn: **Zion**, Pr. Jean Rabary  
Robins: **Servants of Christ**, Pr. Ron Voss  
+Rochester, MN: **Emmanuel**, Pr. David Steffenson  
Ruthven: **Zion**, Call process  
St. Ansgar: **First**, Pr. Christopher Staley  
St. Olaf: **Norway**, Pr. Marshall Hahn  
Sheldon: **St. Paul**, Pr. Dan Baker  
+Sibley: **Faith**, Pr. Tim Nappe  
Spencer: **Trinity**, Call Process  
Strawberry Pt.: **Mission in Christ**, Pr. Gary Burkhalter  
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 Marshall Hahn, Dean—  
[stolafparish@netel.net](mailto:stolafparish@netel.net)  
Craig Lease, Secretary—  
[pdlease@gmail.com](mailto:pdlease@gmail.com)  
Pastor Burkhalter, Treasurer—  
[pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com](mailto:pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com)

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

Pastor Christopher Martin—  
[pastorcwmartin@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcwmartin@gmail.com)  
Pastor Ronald Rasmussen—  
[bigras73@fmctc.com](mailto:bigras73@fmctc.com)  
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Kathy Scharnhorst—  
[gaf@butler-bremer.com](mailto:gaf@butler-bremer.com)

Disaster Response Coordinator: Betty Burkhalter  
[bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com](mailto:bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com)

Mission District Communicator  
(newsletter editor/web master):

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

*The Iowa Mission District  
has 37 congregations.*



### **Pastors available for pulpit supply:**

Pastor Paul Breddin—515--528-2284  
Pastor James Glesne—563-380-8110  
Pastor Jack Miller—(507) 798-2408  
Pastor Paul Weeg- -641-381-0675



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)

*The Iowa Mission District website may be found at: [www.iowamissiondistrict.com](http://www.iowamissiondistrict.com). If your congregation has a web site, and you would like to have the web address linked to your church name on the Mission District web site, please send the web address to me, Pastor Barbara Wills, at [barbaramwills@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramwills@gmail.com).*

# Stuff the TRUCK!



NALC Disaster Response is able to send a truck to your next scheduled event/meeting to pick up donations from Mission Districts.

**Please bring your donated items to St. John's (Vilmar) at 16073 Keystone Avenue, Greene, Iowa, for pickup on September 19, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

## Suggested Donations:

Bibles

Quilts & Blankets

Flood Buckets

School Supplies

Baby Kits

Gift Cards

Building Supplies

Healthcare Kits

**Please see Needs List on previous page for items in Kits**

Or Deliver to:

NALC Disaster Warehouse

810 Main Street

Caldwell, OH 43724

## **Floods and Tornadoes**

NALC Disaster Response is collecting flood buckets, health kits, school kits, layettes, Bibles, and Lowes/Home Depot gift cards for the flooded areas in Michigan. If your congregation has any flood buckets or health kits available, please contact Mary Bates at **740-509-1132** or by email at [disasterresponse@thenalc.org](mailto:disasterresponse@thenalc.org) "Stuff the Truck" at the Iowa Mission District Convocation.

We will continue to support impacted congregations throughout the spring. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Mary Bates, Director

NALC Disaster Response

810 Main Street

Caldwell, OH 43724