



# News

of the Iowa Mission District  
of the North American Lutheran Church

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

January 2020

## *A Word from the Dean*

### **NO OTHER NAME**

*“...and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will  
save His people from their sins.”  
- Matthew 1:21*

What’s in a name? “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet,” as Shakespeare puts it. What matters is the person or thing to which the name refers. And in the case of the name “Jesus”, the name itself means exactly what it says. “Jesus” means “God saves.” Jesus is God and He is the One who saves.

He is given “the name which is above every name.” (Philippians 2:10)

He is exalted by the Father so that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.” (Philippians 2:11)

It is to Jesus that “all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.” (Acts 10:43)

Moreover, the Gospels are written “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31)

For it shall be “that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:21)

So that “to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

Knowing that “you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” (I Corinthians 6:11)

With the promise from Jesus that “whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:3)

And “where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)

What’s in a name? When it come to the name of Jesus, everything.

“For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”  
(Acts 4:12)

*Pastor Marshall Hahn, Dean, Iowa Mission District, NALC*



## Sola Fide—Faith Alone

*Pr. Ken Kimball*

*Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waterville, Iowa  
Old West Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waukon, Iowa*

Let's start with a key Bible verse, Ephesians 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can take the credit for themselves." The point of the Latin word "sola" ("alone" or "only") is to exclude and reject the prideful (and sinful) human attempt to add some human accomplishment to what God has done and does in Christ in the matter of our salvation, e.g. "I was/am a good person" or "I did/do my best to try to live a good life" or "I made up for my sins by doing good" or "I made a decision to accept Christ into my heart" or some other such sinful self-centered blather that makes what "I do" equal to or more important than what Jesus did and does. "Sola" excludes me as the chief doer in the matter of my salvation.

"Well don't we have to do something?" What do you want to do? What do you think you could add to what Christ Jesus has already done? God the eternal Son took created human flesh—body and soul—into Himself, so that on the cross He could take our sin and its consequences into Himself, suffering and dying under His own condemnation of sin and evil, enduring Hell in our place, and rescuing us from the powers of death and the devil by His death and resurrection?

"Well don't we have to believe?"

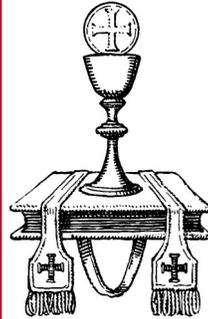
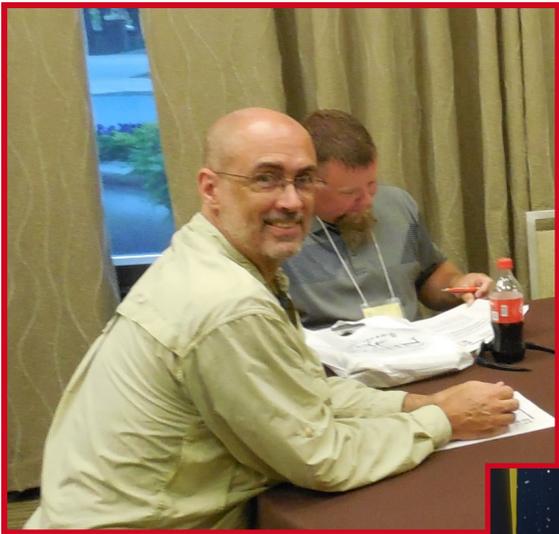
Don't we have to have faith?"

Absolutely, but what do you think faith is? Is it mere intellectual assent to the possibility of God's existence? What's the difference then between saying "I believe there's a God" and "I believe I'd like another cookie?" Is faith a feeling you have to work up or a state of mind that you have to produce in yourself? When sin and death and the devil and reality of judgment and Hell come snuffling and howling at the door or your deathbed, is your plan to double down on working up feelings or employing some psychological trick to achieve a state of mind? Good luck with that.

Faith is a gift—created and given by the Word of God coming from outside of ourselves, drawing us into the truth of Christ Jesus Whose trustworthiness makes us trust Him. It's not faith in faith. Faith is looking to Jesus, not to our hearts or minds. Someone once told me that faith is our having hold of Jesus. It's more than that. Faith is Jesus having hold of us. This may affect us in terms of feelings or state of mind, but they follow from and are not the cause of faith.

"Sola Fide" (Faith Alone) only makes sense when connected to Christ Jesus Who links the "solas" together: "Scripture Alone" reveals "Christ Alone" as the One Who saves us by "Grace Alone" through "Faith Alone" "to the glory of God alone"!

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



We have been blessed in the Iowa Mission District this year to have had Andrew Loomis as the pastoral intern at Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Jason Cooper served as his Internship Supervisor. Andrew has accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sumter, South Carolina, and will be leaving our mission district in January. His ordination will be at Zion Lutheran Church in Ruthven, Iowa, on January 19 at 2:00 p.m.—where Pastor Tim Summerfield serves as pastor. All are welcome to attend and help celebrate this important event with Andrew, his family and the congregations and pastors who have been significant in his journey toward ordination. Mission district pastors are invited to vest and process—the color for the day is red. If you have questions you may contact Andrew directly at [aloomis68@gmail.com](mailto:aloomis68@gmail.com), or 712-298-6587.



Members of Peace Lutheran Church in Northwood gathered at the home of Chuck Stock on the Friday before Christmas to assemble gift-wrapped boxes of cookies and other treats to share with members of the community. Recipients were chosen from among those who were alone, had experienced recent health issues or just needed a sign of compassion or encouragement. Those who provided the treats, and packed, wrapped, and delivered the boxes, also enjoyed a time of food and fellowship.



## Announcements

### Upcoming Events

**January 19, 2:00 pm**—Ordination of Andrew Loomis at Ruthven Lutheran Church. All are invited—Pastors my vest and process. Color for the day is red.

**April 20-21, 2020**—Pastors'/Lay Ministers' Retreat, Riverside Bible Camp, Story City

**July 20-27, 2020**—Youth Mission Trip to Nebraska

**August 3-7, 2020**—NALC Luther Week, Pittsburg, PA

**September 19, 2020**—Iowa Mission District Convocation, St. John's (Vilmar), rural Greene.

### 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).

*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).*



# Sharing the Faith Grace-fully

*You Shall Be My Witnesses*

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

What all Christians will likely agree on is that our Lord Jesus calls us to witness to our faith in Him. Not only in the passage above, where Jesus gives these final words of encouragement to the disciples, but throughout His ministry He told His followers such things: *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16) *“So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 10:32-33) What we may not agree on is how to define the word “witness” or how to go about this most important aspect of our faith.

As we ponder and pray about living out our faith in Christ, it will be helpful to put witnessing into the overall context of what it means to be a follower of Christ, and to look specifically at some of the things our Lord said about it. One of the interesting things about the modern way of thinking is that we too often tend to compartmentalize things. When Jesus called His first disciples, He didn’t separate out the various strands of faithful living. If anything, He drew it all together. Speaking of the Commandments, our Lord gathered all the commands about our relationship to God into one command—*You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul, strength and mind.* The specific commands in the second tablet of the Law were gathered into the command to *love your neighbor as yourself.* When modern people think of being a follower of Christ—a modern “disciple”—they tend to separate the responsibilities into categories: witnessing (evangelism), stewardship, service, worship, etc. I would argue strenuously against this tendency. All of these are simply different parts of our living faithfully as God’s people in Christ, and we can’t have one without the others. My observation has been that when these strands are separated people turn their particular focus into idolatry, and ignore the things they aren’t as interested in. What results is a distortion of our faith and witness.

When we look at our Lord Jesus’ specific words to the gathered disciples in the Acts passage above, we find that the first part of the passage is

often skipped over, and people focus on the word “witnesses”. We are only equipped to witness when we have been in conversation with the Holy Spirit. How many times do folks ignore their daily time of prayer and meditation on Holy Scripture—listening to the Holy Spirit’s instructions for the day—before heading out the door with some idea in mind about how they will “witness to the Lord” that day? I often ponder Paul’s intention to go to Asia to spread the Word. He could never get there—the Holy Spirit redirected him to Macedonia. (Acts 16) Ineffective witnessing too often is the result of being so intent on doing things our way instead of taking the time to patiently listen to the Lord.

My second observation about the Lord’s words in Acts 1:8 is that we too often read “You shall be my witnesses” as if this is a command rather than a statement of fact. When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples they would become Christ’s witnesses. The Greek verb is in the second person, plural, indicative mood, not the imperative mood. The imperative mood in grammar is the way one forms a command. The indicative mood is a statement of reality. (From the online “Grammar Handbook”:

*The **indicative** mood is used to make factual statements. The **imperative** mood makes a request or a command.*) Being a witness for Christ is not a choice—whether we are faithful witnesses or misleading witnesses, whatever we do will tell people about our relationship with the Lord. Our lights cannot be hidden, and what we do is as important as what we say. If we talk about loving and trusting the Lord, but our attitude and treatment of others belies what we say, then our witness will turn people away from the Lord rather than leading them to Him.

Finally, when we go out to share the love of Christ, we are “witnesses”. Witnesses tell what they know—what they’ve seen or heard. If we do not have a vital relationship with Christ, then we really have nothing to share with others. They are not interested in our words of judgment, but in what we know about living as a child of the heavenly Father redeemed by Christ. We are not prosecutors, trying to convict others of their sins. We stand together with those to whom we witness—under the judgment of God. Our witness is telling what we know about Christ’s love and forgiveness—it’s an invitation to join us on the journey.

*Pastor Barbara M. Wills*

## *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. Mark Lund  
Des Moines: **Unity Evangelical Lutheran**,  
Pr. Donna Joseph; Pr. Diane Joseph  
Dorchester: **Waterloo Ridge**, Call Process  
Eagle Grove: **Evangelical Lutheran**, Pr. Jason Cooper  
Eagle Grove: **Samuel Lutheran**, Pr. Rich Taylor  
Ellsworth: **Trinity**, Pastor Jon Rollefson  
Emmons, MN: **Emmons**, Pr. David Schafer, Interim  
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**, Pr. Thomas Summerfield  
St. Ansgar: **First**, Pr. Christopher Staley  
St. Olaf: **Norway**, Pr. Marshall Hahn  
Sheldon: **St. Paul**, Call process  
+Sibley: **Faith**, Pr. Tim Nappe  
Spencer: **Trinity**  
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

### **The following pastors are available for pulpit supply:**

Pastor James Glesne—563-380-8110  
Pastor Jack Miller—(507) 798-2408  
Pastor David Steffenson—253-302-9845 (Sundays)  
Pastor Paul Weeg- -641-381-0675



### **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 Mark Lund—  
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Pastor Christopher Martin—  
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Pastor Ronald Rasmussen—  
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Mission District Communicator  
(newsletter editor/web master):

Pastor Barbara Wills—  
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*The Iowa Mission District  
has 37 congregations.*



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)