



News

of the Iowa Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church

www.iowamissiondistrict.com

November 2022

A Word from the Dean

THE NALC IS IN TROUBLE!!! (Part 2)

If you are someone who reads the monthly Iowa Mission District newsletter cover to cover each month, you will likely recall that my article in the September issue ran with a similar headline. That particular article was long on a description of the problem, but quite a bit shorter when it came to possible solutions.

But as it happens, one person who read the article responded with what would be an excellent opportunity for any of our congregations to consider. Her name is Kate Faas and she is the Director of the NEXUS Institute at Grandview University in Des Moines.

While some of you may already be aware of the NEXUS Institute, I want to bring it to the attention of everybody. The NEXUS Institute is a week-long theology program on Grand View University's campus for high school students. It is a life-changing experience of theological learning, Christian community, and vocational exploration that exists to raise up pastors and other church leaders of the future. The NALC is the Institute's main sponsor. And Kate and all the others at NEXUS would love all our support in promoting and sending youth to participate.

All applicants must be current high school students who want to grow in their faith and understanding. Applicants who are interested in or open to working in ministry someday are given preference. Applicants should want to follow God's leading in their

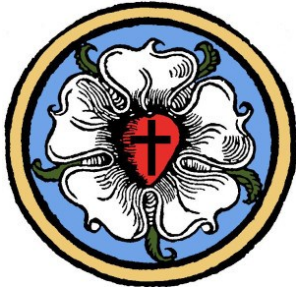
lives and have an interest in better understanding what a difference following Jesus makes in everyday life.

There is no fee to apply and the only cost for those who are selected to attend is a \$100 registration fee. Meals, lodging, and activities are covered through generous sponsors. More information, including brochures and bulletin inserts are available at their webpage: www.grandview.edu/NEXUS or you may contact the director at: kfaas@grandview.edu

And one last thing, just in case you are not a person who reads the Iowa Mission District newsletter cover to cover each month, I suggest that you adopt the habit. Pastor Barbara Wills does an excellent job assembling and writing its contents. Many of our pastors contribute articles and congregations are always encouraged to send Pastor Wills pictures and notes about things that are happening on the local level. All these can serve as valuable resources for all of us who are always on the watch for a new idea or information.

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





REAL LIFE is LIVING DAILY WITH JESUS, OUR TRUE HOPE

*Pr. Dan Hart
Sioux Falls, SD*

“I sure hope so!” We have all heard that short little phrase! There are many and various expressions and ways of describing the importance of hope. However, often what is called hope might more accurately be defined as wishful thinking. For example, we hear people say things like, “I sure hope it doesn’t rain tomorrow afternoon during our soccer game!” We can interchange things like “soccer games” with many other activities and “rain” with all kinds of unappreciated and uncontrollable events.

However, when it comes to Faith in the reality and power of the Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ being lived out in our daily lives - - - - THAT IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT HOPE! Faith-filled HOPE is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen!!

Perhaps you may have heard the story about the college professor who wanted to do a psychology experiment with two students. One was always very optimistic, and the other one was always the opposite - a pessimist! The first test was to put the optimist in a room full of band instruments for an hour and see what would happen. This student tried playing each instrument several times and had a great time making music. Then when that hour was done that participant was replaced by the pessimist who tried the drums for a little bit and decided that was enough. Eventually the hour ended for this sad participant. Several other experiments took place with similar results.

For the last experiment, the professor took the pessimist to a room full of every imaginable toy. An hour later the pessimist was sad because none of the toys were any fun. The

professor thought up the perfect opportunity to try to upset the optimist. The professor had discovered a horse barn filled with manure, so he left one manure fork inside and locked the optimist in for an hour. After just 15 minutes the professor returned to peek in through a crack in the door and saw manure flying through the air into one corner. The professor was amazed, opened the door, and asked what was going on. The optimist replied, “With all this manure in here, there must be a horse here somewhere!”

Saint Paul in his letter to the ROMANS 8:31-39, gives the true meaning and power of HOPE!

*“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”*

This and That From Around the Iowa Mission District



Bethany Lutheran Church Laurens, Iowa

Members of Bethany Lutheran gather in their fellowship hall with others from the Laurens community for coffee every morning from 9:00 to 10:30.



THE HOLY LAND

10 DAYS: NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 7, 2023

**VISITING: CAESAREA * HAIFA * NAZARETH * TIBERIAS
SEA OF GALILEE * BETHLEHEM * JERICO * JERUSALEM**



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DON'T MISS THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME!!



***This and That From Around
the Iowa Mission District, continued***

Iowa Mission District Council Meeting “Wrap-Up”

The Iowa Mission District Council met Saturday, October 8th. Reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Communicator, and Dean were approved.

Discussion was held concerning this past year’s Pastors’ Retreat and the Mission District Convocation, with ideas to incorporate into upcoming events. Pastor Ryan Henkel also reported on the Mission District Youth Mission Trip.

Dean Staley provided information regarding the upcoming Mission District Pastors’ Retreat which will be held on June 12th & 13th at the Best Western in Waterloo. A speaker for the event is being sought. The cost of the retreat will be covered by Education and Ministry line of the Mission District budget.

The 2023 Mission District Convocation is set for September 16th at Faith Lutheran in Monona. Pastor Amy Little, NALC General Secretary, will be the keynote speaker.

It is expected that a Mission District Youth Mission Trip will again be held the end of July. Other possible events for youth were also discussed. A retreat at Riverside Bible Camp is being planned for April. A canoe trip for youth and families on the Root River is being planned for early August, sponsored by Trinity, St. Charles. It’s also been announced that a NALC National Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 1-4, 2024, in Boerne, TX.

A discussion was held concerning what congregations should consider as appropriate compensation for supply pastors. It has been found that there is quite a disparity among congregations of the Mission District. Given the time that a pastor needs to prepare and deliver a sermon for a worship service, the Council voted to recommend that congregations of the Mission District pay a supply pastor \$200 for a worship service plus current IRS mileage reimbursement.

The next meeting of the IMD Council will be 9AM on Saturday, April 11th, at the Cabin Coffee in Mason City.

*Pastor Christopher Staley
Dean, Iowa Mission District*

NALC Disaster Response Update

Hurricane Ian left a wide path of destruction. Mary Bates states “No matter how many times I see the aftermath of natural disasters, it is always gut-wrenching to witness family homes reduced to rubble”.

NALC Disaster Response has now sent six box trucks of flood buckets, health kits, school kits, quilts, Bibles, shovels/rakes, and baby care items/diapers to Florida in response to Hurricane Ian’s aftermath. That is over 3,000 flood buckets and 6000 quilts! This has emptied the national warehouse and the regional warehouses.

As you can see, your gifts to Disaster Response are greatly needed and appreciated.

We now need your help to start re-stocking the warehouses. Let me know if you need my assistance in getting your donations to the Iowa Mission Districts warehouse in Chatfield/ Rochester Mn.

Betty Burkhalter
818.323.9999

Bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com



Hailey Olson (Evangelical in Eagle Grove and D Youth Mission Trip 2022 member) took the initiative to raise money for flood buckets by having a lemonade stand on her front porch. Her friend, Brooke Demuth (Samuel Lutheran, Eagle Grove), was a support.



Here I Stand Confession and Conviction: *Give Us This Day*

For those of us living in rural America, these past weeks have offered us a changing landscape. Not only have the changing leaves offered us delightful colors to brighten yards, boulevards, and forests, but heavy machinery in fields have been gleaning tall stands of corn and acres of mature soybeans and other crops. Vegetables have disappeared from backyard gardens—preserved in freezers and canning jars to provide culinary delights throughout the coming winter. Apple orchards are doing a booming business as people stop to purchase a few apples to eat fresh or perhaps a few bushels for pie fillings and applesauce to preserve for the coming months. Family gatherings are being planned for Thanksgiving, and perhaps visions of turkey and pumpkin pie are dancing in people's heads in anticipation of the feasting most American families look forward to on our day of national thanksgiving.

As we think of all this bounty and anticipate food-laden tables, it's time to hit the "pause" button. How often we who live in a nation of plenty take our daily food for granted! Statistics tell us that we are in the minority, and that most of the people in the world not only lack the variety and abundance of choices in food that we take for granted, but many are literally starving. At a time when the global economy is greatly stressed, people in war-torn countries face empty shelves in stores and natural disasters have destroyed crops in many places, there are even more people who will be facing a long winter without enough to eat—and many may die of starvation before food can be provided to sustain their lives.

Our Lord Jesus lived in a time and place where famines occurred on a regular basis and those who could not work to provide for themselves were often hungry. He knew the reality of hunger and taught us not only to pray for our own bread, but to share our bounty with others. And even today, through food banks, organizations such as "Feed My Starving Children" and other organizations that can gain access to places where people are in need, we continue to do what we can to share food with those who are hungry. But our Lord not only encouraged sharing, He also taught His disciples to pray, "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" This short petition from our Lord's Prayer is very familiar to us, and may be so familiar that it slips quickly from our tongues—and perhaps just as quickly from our thoughts. What is our "daily bread", and *what does it mean* to ask for this gift from the Lord?

In the Small Catechism, Luther asks this question, and goes on to answer it in this way: "*God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all people, though sinful, but we ask in this prayer that he will help us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanks.*" All things come from the Lord, who created plants and provided animals to be used to meet our nutritional needs. Those who lack these good things do so most often because of unjust systems of government or human greed that deprives them of what the Lord intended for all people. Those who claim that they have earned their own daily bread by the "sweat of their brow" forget, or fail to acknowledge, God's gifts—the provision of food, the strength and ability to work, and life itself. **Everything comes from God** as a gift to human beings. And the appropriate response to these gifts is heartfelt gratitude to the Lord for loving us and providing all that we have—whether it seems that we have much or little by the world's standards.

The second thing Luther says about daily bread is this: *Daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food and clothing, home and property, work and income,* **Everything**—including family, community, reputation, etc. Daily bread also includes our faith in Christ—a gift from the Holy Spirit. Our Lord's grace and mercy provide us with spiritual "food" through Word and Sacraments, Holy Scripture, and the mutual upbuilding of the Body of Christ within the community of faith. Our Lord Jesus came into the world to take our sins upon Himself, die to destroy sin, death, and the devil, and then rose again in His resurrection to give us eternal life. When we pray for daily bread, we are not only praying that the Lord would give us what we need to live in the world, but also to live with Him in the world to come.

It is a blessing from God to be able to give thanks—not just once a year on Thanksgiving Day—but day by day. It is a gracious gift from the Lord to be able to gather with family and friends to share the love and bounty our God provides for us—not just one day of the year, but every day. It is an extension of our thanks to the Lord to share our bounty with others through our gifts of food and money for those who are caught in a wilderness of hunger and difficult circumstances. And it is a joy and blessing to embrace the love of God in Christ, who gave His all that we might be nourished for eternity in His eternal kingdom at the feast that has no end.

Pastor Barbara M. Wills

Announcements

Upcoming Events

June 12-13, 2023—Pastors'/Lay Ministers' Retreat - Best Western, Waterloo, Iowa

July 16-22, 2023—NEXUS Institute - Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa (for high school aged young people)

August 7-11, 2023—NALC Luther Week (convocation) - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

September 16, 2023 Iowa Mission District Convocation—Faith Lutheran Church, Monona, Iowa

Please Pray for:

Pastor James Puotyal who is awaiting a kidney transplant.

Pastor James Glesne who is undergoing treatments for Multiple Myeloma.

Amy Cooper and her family as she continues to deal with cancer.

Pastor Andrew Loomis who has been diagnosed with an autoimmune system illness. Please pray that he will be healed from his chronic pain.

Craig Lease who is recovering from a stroke.

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

NALC Office
2655 Innsbruck Drive, Suite A
New Brighton, MN 55112-9304

Please send **donations** to this address:

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

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.

Pastors available for pulpit supply:

Pastor Natacha Kemp—(507) 358-7741
Pastor James Glesne—563-380-8110
Pastor Andrew Loomis—712-298-6587
Pastor Jack Miller—507-798-2408
Pastor Paul Weeg- -641-381-0675
Pastor Mike Wikstrom—480-203-1556 (LCMC)
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



Mission District Pulpit-Supply Guidelines

Suggested guidelines for supply pastors in the Iowa Mission District is \$200 plus IRS recommended mileage reimbursement.



Congregations of the Iowa Mission District

Ackley: **Our Saviour's**, Pastor David Craig
Avoca: **Trinity**, Pastor Matthew Bahnfleth
Badger: **Badger Lutheran**, Pr. Scott Meier
Boyden: **St. John**, Call Process
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**, Call Process
Ellsworth: **Trinity**, Pastor Jon Rollefson
Emmons, MN: **Emmons**, Pastor Ryan Henkel
Gilmore City: **First**, Tracy Nerem, Lay Minister
Grafton: **Emmanuel**, Call Process
Greene: **St. John (Vilmar)**, Call Process
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**, Pr. Tony D. Ede
+Monona, **Faith**: Pr. Mel Harris
Northwood: **Peace**, Pr. Barbara Wills
Palmer: **St. John's Lizard Township**,
Marlene Nimke, Lay Minister
Plainfield: **St. John**, 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. Dan Baker
Spencer: **Trinity**, Pr. Renae Behrends
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

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*The Iowa Mission District
has 38 congregations.*

The Iowa Mission District website may be found at: 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.