



News

of the Iowa Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church

www.iowamissiondistrict.com

July 2020

A Word from the Dean

Let Freedom Ring

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore,
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*
Galatians 5:1

The Fourth of July is celebrated as our nation's Independence Day. It is a time to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this country—freedom of speech, freedom to assemble peacefully, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion, to name the most important. While our nation is not perfect—as no community of sinful human beings ever is—the genius of the system of governance we enjoy is the ability to make changes through a peaceful process of political change. The greatest challenge to that process resulted in the horrors of the Civil War when several states could not accept the results of the election of Abraham Lincoln, due to his strong anti-slavery views. As Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address, that was a test whether any nation “*conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal ... could long endure.*”

While freedom is a precious thing, it is always in danger of being lost. This is true, as well, for the Christian freedom that has been won for us by Christ Jesus. The real tragedy, as Paul points out to the people of Galatia, is that, too often, people give up that freedom willingly. Too often, people are led astray by slave masters who masquerade as freedom fighters—things like wealth or power or fame or pleasure—or even a mistaken view of “freedom” itself.

For some people, “freedom” means the freedom to do what I want, when I want, and however I want to do it. But this is really the worst kind of slavery—the slavery to the “I”. But the freedom we are given in Christ Jesus is the freedom to serve. In Christ, we are set free from our need to prove ourselves—set free from the shackle of guilt and shame—so we are freed to care for one another.

As we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy in this nation, may we celebrate even more the freedom Jesus has given us—the freedom to serve—the freedom to give—the freedom to love as He has loved us.

Pastor Marshall Hahn, Dean, Iowa Mission District, NALC

Nominations for Iowa Mission District Convocation September 19, 2020

The nominations form is on the seventh page of this newsletter. We will be electing people for the following positions: **Dean of the Iowa Mission District** (3 year term—clergy), **Clergy Council Member** (3 year term); **Lay Council member** (3 year term). Please prayerfully consider nominees for these positions. **Be sure to talk to nominees to be sure they are willing to serve.** Nomination form must be filled out by the nominee and returned to Secretary Craig Lease (his address is on the form). You may send the nominee's name to Craig directly, but he will also need to have the completed form from the nominee.



Sola Fide—Keep the Faith

*Pr. Paul Weeg
Northwood, Iowa*

Past the mid-way point in my ministry I had worn out my second Bible. Duct and scotch tape had done their best. I was in my "frugal phase" and decided to check out used Bibles online. I bought a favorite study Bible for 1/4 the cost of a new one, which was graded "excellent". When it arrived it was in great condition

Not long after receiving it, I was turning to Romans and to my surprise, Chapter 12 was heavily underlined in ink. Verses 9-21 in particular, which addresses Christian conduct. A couple verses before those, Paul encourages people to act with the "measure of faith that God has assigned". For this short piece, the full quote is too long to print . . . "Hold fast to what is good" . . . "rejoice . . . and weep with others" . . . "live peacefully" . . . "Leave vengeance to God" . . . "overcome evil with good".

Why did the original owner mark only those verses and why did they sell it? Questions to begin a Bible study with, for sure. I first think that they may have taken these words very seriously and, like Luther, concluded these directives from Paul were impossible to keep. They must have skipped over Chapter 3 and not gotten to Ephesians 2:8. Grace through the gift of faith is the thing . . . so then we are to live our faith out in response to the gift with the gifts of the spirit as measured out to us.

My father was a Lutheran minister. As a B-29 tail gunner in WWII he and one rear gunner were sole survivors in a crash. Like most veterans, he never talked about it, but I am sure that event revealed the measure of faith God had given him and what he was to do with it.

Athletics were a big part of his young life, being named to the Chicago High School basketball team and ranked 10th in the nation in college tennis. I ran across an interesting website, "Ministry Matters" which had an article entitled "4 Keys to Practicing your Faith". It makes an interesting point in comparing the athlete who improves and the Christian that continues the deepening of their faith life. Part of the definition of "practicing" is to do something repeatedly to acquire greater proficiency.

For Christians, the skills include: prayer, Bible study, worship, fasting and communion. The more we practice, the more effective we become. To paraphrase, you have to practice with the team. Christianity is lived out in the church (team). Practice both offense and defense. That is, there are times you must speak up and share the Gospel. Take the initiative. There are times when you must respond to what is being said or done that is destructive with the Gospel.

Get a good mentor. Seek out those "further down the road" than you are. Listen and grow.

My father's favorite verse was Romans 8:28. "All things work together for good. . . ." ALL THINGS. At the age of 57 1/2 he was told by his good friend and doctor that he had terminal cancer. His immediate family has a bit of a different recollection of his first words from his hospital bed. But they were basically "Well, now we have to practice what we preach." - - Or, practice my faith. Both would be true.

On the 4th of July 2 years later Dad and the family could hear firecrackers set off by neighborhood kids outside. Part of his approach to life was to find humor in it. (I like Proverbs 17:22 - - "being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time"). - - You can google last words of famous people like Groucho Marx - - "This is no way to live." You won't find my Dad's last words anywhere - - "What a way to go." Some might say "Not very dignified by a pastor". I say it was. It was him - - who, in God, redeemed in Christ Jesus, was given a way to live out his calling with family and friends and parishioners.

Dad missed his share of "jumpers" and hit his share of "serves" wide. We all do. But when that's coming to an end, we know the "way we go" is to rest in the Lord awaiting the wondrous day of the resurrection.

Paul tells Timothy "...I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. . . ."

Lord, help us keep the measure of faith you have given us. Amen.

This and That From Around the Iowa Mission District

Greetings from Strawberry Point Iowa!

I have agreed to be the Iowa Mission District Contact/Coordinator for the NALC Disaster Response. Included with this month's Newsletter you will find two flyers. One outlines the items needed and the other announces a pick up of items scheduled for September 19 at the Iowa Mission District Convocation being held at St. John Lutheran Church – Vilmar.

If your congregation will have a representative at the Convocation, please have that person(s) bring your donations with them. If you will not have a representative at the Convocation, Mission In Christ in Strawberry Point will also be gathering donations as an additional pick up site.

Please contact me to make arrangements for dropping off your items in Strawberry Point.

Betty Burkhalter
bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com; 815.323.9999



A few weeks ago we welcomed Pastor Ryan Henkel and his wife, Natalie, to the Iowa Mission District. Now we joyfully welcome their son, Jonah Timothy Henkel, who was born June 20th. Jonah weighed 5 pounds 3 ounces at birth and was 19 inches long. His dad, Ryan, is Pastor at Emmons Lutheran Church.



Resources

There are numerous resources for pastors, congregations and families on the NALC website: thenalc.org. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to listen to Bishop Dan's sermons for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, you will find them there as well. SOLA Publishing also has some resources to help families and congregations. During this time.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

August 7 & 8, 2020—NALC convocation online. Friday, August 7, 6-9 p.m. ET; Saturday, August 8, 2-6 p.m. ET. Cost: \$25 (voting delegates), \$0 (visitors) For more information, and to register, go to <https://lutheranweek.com/>.

September 19, 2020—Iowa Mission District Convocation, St. John's (Vilmar), rural Greene. (Decision will be made soon whether we will be meeting in person or if another format will be used.)

Upcoming Pastoral Installations

We are pleased to officially welcome several new pastors into the Iowa Mission District! Even with the Covid 19 pandemic congregations have found creative ways to proceed with the call process – conducting interviews on ZOOM and through other means, holding votes online due to the extraordinary circumstances, and finding ways to communicate to the membership and keep everyone involved. Three of our congregations have completed their call process in this way and are planning installation services in the next two months. May God bless these new partnerships in ministry! The installation services for the following pastors are:

July 12 at 10:00 a.m. - Revs. William & Diane Odermann to be installed as co-pastors at Waterloo Ridge Lutheran Church, Dorchester, Iowa.

July 19 at 9:00 a.m. - Rev. Dan Baker to be installed at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheldon, Iowa.

August 2 at 10:00 a.m. - Rev. Ryan Henkel to be installed at Emmons Lutheran Church, Emmons, Iowa.

We also pray for God's blessings for Rev. Nathaniel Hedin-Schmidt who has just accepted a call to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMC) in Dallastown, Pennsylvania

Please Pray for:

Amy Cooper (wife of Pastor Jason Cooper) who continues to battle cancer and is continuing treatments.

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

Pastor James Puotyual who has recovered from COVID-19, but is suffering some kidney problems.

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.

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.



Sharing the Faith Grace-fully ***Showing Our Love for Christ: Mary and Martha***

Now as they went on their way, [Jesus] entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:38-42)

Some of the things we learn as we read the Holy Scriptures is that the Lord meets each of us where we are, that His Holy Spirit gives each of us unique gifts to use for the building up of the Body of Christ, and that "one size" does not "fit all". We have read a number of accounts over the past few months of how people witness and how they come to faith. We have seen the unique ways in which our Lord Jesus interacts with different people. In the passage above from Luke, we have another such account. These two women friends of Jesus were sisters to Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead. They lived in Bethany with their brother—perhaps they were widowed or for one reason or another had never married. Apparently, their marital status was not considered important enough to the Evangelists to comment on—unusual in that day and time as most women's husbands' names were mentioned or at least their marital status was indicated in some way. But even more startling—probably shocking to those who witnessed this interaction between Jesus and Martha—is the outcome of this vignette in the life and ministry of our Lord.

In the Jewish culture at that time, men and women had more rigid roles. They worshiped in separate areas at the temple, women usually did the serving in the home, and men were the ones who had attended synagogue schools and learned to read the Torah. Although there were women prophets throughout the history of the nation—Moses' sister Miriam being one example—and a well-known woman judge (Deborah) during the time of the judges (before there were Jewish kings)—these instances were rare and rarely commented on. As we see when reading the New Testament Scriptures, Jesus was unusual in His acceptance of women as followers, although none were named among His twelve disciples. Nevertheless, both men and women had

their respective responsibilities and it was probably rare for either to question a system that had been in place for generations. Therefore, on this particular day, with Jesus and His entourage in her home, Martha (no doubt the elder sister and "mistress" of the house), was very busy seeing that food was properly prepared, servants were doing their work, and all her guests were properly cared for. As she scurried about making sure everything was done in accordance with her high standards, Martha noticed that her sister and co-hostess was not at her "post". Where was she? In the dining room with Jesus and His other disciples, sitting at His feet as the other disciples did, and listening raptly to His teachings! Martha was outraged, and fully expected Jesus' support when she brought her complaint to Him: "*Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.*"

Jesus' answer to Martha probably shocked her into silence—and perhaps even appalled the male guests who were with Jesus: *Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.*" In this brief sentence Jesus changed the status of women in regard to the faith forever, even though we still struggle with such issues in the church and society. However, that is not the point of this article. Rather, what is at issue is how do we faithfully live out our faith as followers of Christ? Some people see Jesus' words as a reprimand to Martha who was so busy running around "doing things" that she didn't take the time to listen to her Lord. Whereas Mary may be seen as "doing nothing useful" as she sat at Jesus' feet. As I said above, Jesus meets each of us where we are in our faith. Our understanding of God's grace in Christ tells us that we cannot be saved by anything we do, but also that whatever we do must come out of our relationship with the Lord. James pretty much nailed it when he said, "*Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.*" (James 2:18b) But first things first—we must nurture our faith by sitting at the Lord's feet and listening to Him. Only then are we prepared to go where He leads us—to tell about the faith that is in us, and to share His love and mercy, as the Holy Spirit guides us, through service to others.

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. 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**, Pr. Thomas Summerfield
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
Craig Lease, Secretary—
pdlease@gmail.com
Pastor Burkhalter, Treasurer—
pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com

Mission District Council Members:

Pastor Christopher Martin—
pastorcwmartin@gmail.com
Pastor Ronald Rasmussen—
bigras73@fmctc.com
Chris Schlee—
schleemasonry@hotmail.com
Kathy Scharnhorst—
gaf@butler-bremer.com

Mission District Communicator
(newsletter editor/web master):

Pastor Barbara Wills—
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

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.

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.*)

How do you understand your faith?

How have you been active in the church?

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

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*

Signature

Iowa Mission District Convocation Registration

Saturday, September 19, 2020
at St. John Lutheran Church (Vilmar), Greene, IA

The 2020 annual Convocation of the Iowa Mission District will take place at St. John Lutheran Church (Vilmar), rural Greene, Iowa, on Saturday, September 19. Our theme is “Sola Fide” and we are pleased to have the Reverend Jonathan Swenson 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 District. As you prepare for the convocation please be thinking of nominations for Dean of the Mission District and the following Council positions: Lay member (3 year) and Clergy (3 year). A nomination form will be included in the Iowa Mission District News.

According to Article 4.01 of the IA- MD Constitution **all clergy persons within the territory of the District and two lay delegates of each congregation are eligible to vote at the Convocation.** In addition, we strongly encourage congregational participation beyond the delegates and clergy—visitors welcome! There is no cost to the event other than a free-will offering for lunch. A worship offering will also be taken and designated to a worthy domestic or international cause. 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 3:00 pm.

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 return it via the postal service **no later than Wednesday, September 16**, and mail to **Pastor Barbara Wills, PO Box 202, Northwood, IA 50459**. You may also send the registration by e-mail (barbaramwills@gmail.com), **but please be sure to include all the information on the form.**

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone/email: _____ / _____

Congregation & Town: _____

Clergy _____ Lay Delegate _____ Visitor _____

NALC CONGREGATIONS

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED.

This past year many places in our nation has been devastated by natural disasters. The NALC Disaster Response has been actively providing assistance to these areas, which has left our warehouse in Ohio depleted of many of our stored items.

These items are:



Quilts

ANY size quilt or blanket
Including fabric printed with
religious & military symbols!



Flood buckets

Five gallon buckets/lids, bleach
1 gal bleach, 3-black trash bags
Cleaning liquid (Pine-Sol, Murphy's, etc)
Scrub brush, dust masks, gloves,
rags/sponges



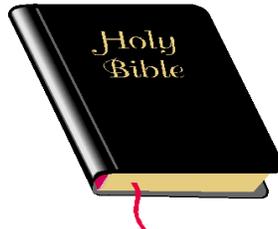
Gift Cards

Home Depot
Lowe's
Walmart
Target



Health Kits

One bath towel
One wash cloth
Two bars of soap, in original wrapping
One toothbrush
One pack of dental floss
One tube of toothpaste (2 if sample size)
Deodorant
Calculators for high school age
12 sheets of assorted construction paper
4 Notebooks of wide – or college-ruled paper, **no loose-leaf paper**



Bibles

New or gently used



School kits

One cloth bag or backpack
One blunt scissors
One ruler
One box of 16 or 24 crayons
One pencil sharpener
Six new pencils
One eraser

Please send these items to NALC Disaster Warehouse, 810 Main St., Caldwell, Ohio 43724. When shipping your donations to the warehouse, please add a note indicating from whom and where the support is coming. The families who receive your help really appreciate knowing you! Contact Mary Bates at 740-509-1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org for more information. Want to save on postage? These items can be purchased online and shipped directly to the warehouse. Thank you for your continued support and may the Lord continue to bless you as you serve those in need.

NALC Disaster Task Force

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

Suggested Donations:

Bibles	Baby Kits
Quilts & Blankets	Gift Cards
Flood Buckets	Building Supplies
School 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 "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