



# News

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

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

May 2025



### *A Word from the Dean*

### *Remember*

It only just occurred to me that this word is significant both at the beginning and ending of our Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday, we hear the words, “*Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*” And then, on that fateful first day of the week at the tomb we heard in Luke’s account what the two men said to the women, “*Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.*”

It is true for me anyway, that I need reminders sometimes, at least for some things. When I was a much younger person, like most young people, the thought of my own mortality was way below the horizon. I behaved often as though I was immortal, engaging in activities that could have gone badly wrong, even in a fatal way. But now that I’ve gotten grayer and have seen a lot more, I really don’t need a reminder of my mortality, or of the frailty of life, or of the sinfulness that surrounds me and that is within me. These things are impossible to ignore and won’t let me forget them.

What I do need a reminder of, on the other hand, is the truth of Easter morning. Jesus rose, just like he had said he would. “*He was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification*” (Romans 25 RSV). And now that he has ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us. But most importantly, I need to be reminded that Jesus didn’t just do this for us. I need to be reminded that he did this for me.

Several years ago, one of our sons went with a youth group to a different church’s worship service that was more contemporary. When he returned, I asked him what he thought about it. As most teenage boys are, he was difficult to impress. He sort-of liked the music and the people seemed nice and there were many more young people there. He also mentioned that they had communion. At this, I responded with “Oh, really?” He said, “Yeah, but it was different. It was just set up on a table in the room and people could go to it if they wanted, but they didn’t have to. I went and had it, but there was no one there to give it to me and to say to me, ‘for you’. It didn’t seem like communion at all.”

In Luther’s Small Catechism in the section on the Lord’s Supper is the question, “*When is a person worthy to receive the Sacrament?*” To this comes the answer: “*Fasting and other outward disciplines are indeed good preparation, but people are truly worthy and well prepared who believe these words, ‘Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.’ But those who do not believe these words or who doubt them are unworthy and unprepared, for the words ‘for you’ require truly believing hearts.*”

Remember, “for you” is the message of Good Friday. Remember, “for you” is the message of Easter. May God help you always to remember this.

*Pastor Christopher Staley  
Dean, Iowa Mission District*

## Update from the Dean

When we met for our Convocation at Emmons Lutheran in 2021, a discussion happened around the question of whether the Mission District should be split, so as to decrease the ministry responsibilities on the Dean. The sense of those in attendance was that this was not the step to take. Instead, it was suggested that I be more proactive in seeking the help of others in various circumstances. I have done this, particularly leaning on our two former Deans and a few others of our pastors.

But as our Mission District is continuing to grow in numbers of congregations, it is becoming unworkable for an individual pastor, who has a full-time call, to serve also as the Dean. It is simply a matter of my being unable to do as much as I should be doing as Dean while at the same time being unable to keep myself as healthy as I should.

When the Mission District Council met on Saturday, April 26th, this was a topic of discussion during which many possibilities were discussed. In the end, it was the consensus was that we not divide the Mission District, but that we add a second Dean, so that we would both be “Co-Deans”. A Co-Dean will be elected at our Convocation for a 3-year term. Because our congregations are nearly evenly divided between those east of I-35 and those west and, as I serve a congregation east of I-35, the newly elected Co-Dean will need to be a pastor serving or living west of I-35. Nominations for this position may be made by anyone in the Mission District, and will be elected by all the delegates at the Mission District Convocation on September 20th at St John in LeMars.

Following the election, each Co-Dean will have primary responsibility for the congregations and pastors in his or her respective ‘sides’. At the same time, however, each Co-Dean will be available to assist the other as opportunities would necessitate.

A hoped-for benefit of this new arrangement is that each ‘side’ would have an annual (at least) event to become better acquainted with and supportive of one another. Of particular interest is that neighboring congregations would work together to build up men’s, women’s, and youth ministries.

We will continue, however, to meet together for our annual Convocation. And as information, the date for the 2026 Convocation is August 29th.

*Pastor Christopher Staley  
Dean, Iowa Mission District*



## Running with Endurance

Pastor Bill Odermann  
Austin, MN

***“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”*** (Hebrews 12:1).

In every age, true followers of Jesus Christ have always faced challenges in their faith journey. Like it or not, trials and tribulations were taught and understood as *normative* for the Christian life (see John 16:33; Acts 14:22). After the new birth, it's not long before we realize that the world, the flesh, and devil resist the purposes of God, especially in our lives. Such resistance usually comes in the form of trials and tribulations. Trials and tribulations come to those in pursuit of matters concerning the kingdom of God.

There was a time when I dreaded trials and sufferings. They seemed like a “narrow gate” into the Kingdom. After enduring them, that gate suddenly seemed “wider” after the trial was over. When reflecting upon this, I wondered why I had ‘whined’ so much about such ordeals when the fruit of it was so powerful! I also learned that God was much more interested in my transformation than he was my comfort zone. I once heard a preacher say that “God afflicts the comforted and comforts the afflicted.” When I heard that I wasn't very impressed but I had to admit that there was a grain of truth in it.

Proverbs 4:18 states, *“But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.”* In Christ, our path towards eternity is meant to grow ever brighter with each passing day and year. For me that ‘brighter’ part is the

character formation and development that results from running a race with endurance.

The apostle James adds to our theme of endurance when he writes: *“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing ... Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him”* (James 1:2-4, 12).

For some, when going through sufferings and trials, James' statements may seem hard to hear. Actually, he is on to something! Trials and sufferings are never wasted by the Lord; they transform our hearts and help us grow a character pleasing to Him (see the list of them in 2 Peter 1:3-11). Such qualities of heart are extremely valuable to God because they reflect the nature of His Son in us. When these qualities are present in the heart there is a fullness of joy, a peace, a degree of humility about life and a contentment that can be gained no other way. We are living in a time when true character will be longed for again.

To run with endurance is to see beyond our inevitable trials and into the gracious purposes of God for them. By God's grace we can learn endurance and grow! Amen.



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



**Left:** Mission District Secretary, Pastor Solveig Zamzow, taught this year's First Communion class at Manchester. Their special day took place on Palm Sunday. Pastor Kurt Pasko, a local Presbyterian Pastor who also assists during the pastoral vacancy, joined in celebrating the holy occasion.

**Right:** Pastor Paul Weeg shares the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus during the children's sermon at Emmanuel Lutheran, Grafton, IA, on Easter Sunday.



### **Disaster Response Update**

Betty Burkhalter, the Iowa Mission District Disaster Relief Coordinator provided an update to the Mission District Council which included the following needs:

- Both the warehouses in the Iowa Mission District need to be restocked. All items are needed but flood/cleaning buckets, kitchen kits and health kits are critical items. If anyone would like to assemble buckets and is in need of some to fill, she has 100 empty buckets with lids available. You may contact her at [bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com](mailto:bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com). The lists for the other kits and needed items are available on the Iowa Mission District website: [www.iowamissiondistrict.com](http://www.iowamissiondistrict.com)
- A tool trailer that will provide needed tools when mission teams go to disaster areas is being equipped, but the process is slow. An air compressor has most recently been ordered. A few needed items have been donated by folks in our Mission District, but most of the items received so far have come from people outside our Mission District. Please consider helping with this project. Money to purchase equipment can be sent to the Mission District Treasurer, Belinda Borchardt—her email and mailing addresses are on the last page of the newsletter. Money sent for the tool trailer needs to be marked accordingly to be sure it goes to the proper "fund". It will be used to purchase the needed equipment. You can visit the Mission District website ([www.iowamissiondistrict.com](http://www.iowamissiondistrict.com)) to find the lists of items needed.



#### **A RETIREMENT PARTY**

**HONORING PASTOR KEN KIMBALL**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025:**

**PROGRAM: 2:00 – 3:00 PM**

**RECEPTION: 3:00 – 5:00 PM**

**AT THE WATERVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**115 MAIN STREET, WATHERVILLE, IOWA**

**RSVP TO KERRI GIBBS AT [CKGIBBS@ACEGROUP.CC](mailto:CKGIBBS@ACEGROUP.CC)**



*Pastor Ken Kimball was the first Dean of the Iowa Mission District. He has served Old East Paint Creek and Old West Paint Creek Lutheran Churches for the past thirty years. He has been a blessing to his congregations, the Iowa Mission District and to all who have been blessed by his ministry.*





NALC  
IOWA  
MISSION  
DISTRICT



# SPRING RETREAT

*wild*

Hosted by: First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
May 16th-18th | Students 7th-12th grade  
Manchester, Iowa

*Register Now!*



[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/D/E/1FAIPQLSCZUA-EQJAXUCIRYB70EGBYOEWHLK8BZVXUKIFVW\\_MTL2VIEP-A/VIEWFORM?USP=SF\\_LINK](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIPQLSCZUA-EQJAXUCIRYB70EGBYOEWHLK8BZVXUKIFVW_MTL2VIEP-A/VIEWFORM?USP=SF_LINK)

**Left:** Please note the information regarding the youth retreat May 16-17. Please register by May 4<sup>th</sup>!! Information for obtaining a form is listed on the bottom right corner of the flyer at left.

**Below:** On April 27th three young people affirmed their Baptism promises at Western Douglas. It was a huge celebration with a sanctuary filled with supporting families, friends and a congregation that is particularly well known for their ministry to and with children and youth. It was Pastor Zamzow's third Confirmation service as Supply Pastor. That seems like a feat!?! God is good.



**Left:** Six young ladies celebrated their First Communion at St. John, Western Douglas.



## Upcoming Events

**May 19-20—Iowa Mission District Pastors' Retreat**—Lake Okoboji Resort and Conference Center, Okoboji, IA

**June 15 – Installation of Pastor Chris Martin** – 4 pm - St. Paul Lutheran, Sheldon, IA. Pastors are invited to vest. Red is the color of the day

**July 20—28, 2025—Iowa Mission District Youth Trip**—Burnsville, NC

**August 3-8, 2025—NALC Luther Week**—Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburg, PA

**September 20, 2025—Iowa Mission District Convocation**—St. John's, Le Mars, IA

NOTE: Nominations are needed for several positions in the Mission District. The form is on the next page. Please prayerfully consider nominating people to serve our Mission District.

## Biographical Information of Nominee - 2025

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

Position for which you are being nominated:

\*Co-Dean - West \_\_\_\_\_ (3 year term)

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ (3 year term, clergy or lay person)

Council Rep. - Clergy (3 year term) \_\_\_\_\_

Council Rep. – Lay (3 year term) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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How do you understand your faith?

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How have you been active in the church?

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

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

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

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Signature

\*Any ordained NALC pastor residing/serving a congregation west of I-35 is eligible to be nominated for the position of Co-Dean – West.



## Names for Jesus: *Day Spring*

Pastor Barbara M. Wills

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ the true and only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear."*

These words from Charles Wesley's hymn, "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies" (LBW #265) are probably familiar to most of us. It's a wonderful morning hymn—and a very appropriate hymn for the Easter season as we move from the somber mood of Lent into the brightness, joy and hope that comes with the celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

As you may have noticed, the hymn addresses our Lord not only as "Christ"—one of Jesus' names that is very familiar to us—but also as, "Dayspring" and "Daystar". Have you ever wondered where these names come from? They don't appear in the more modern translations of the Bible, and are not the familiar names we use to address our Lord Jesus in worship and prayer. However, the term Dayspring appears twice in the King James version of the Bible and was a word in common use a couple of centuries ago. In Job 38:12-13, when the Lord speaks to Job out of the whirlwind and questions him, one of the questions is this: "*Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?*" In this passage, the Lord is replying to Job's complaints by reminding him of the fact that the Lord God has all power and created all things, and that we limited creatures are very foolish when we criticize our Creator. But the term "dayspring" appears here in reference to the start of a new day—and the Lord created all days. In the Revised Standard and English Standard versions of the Bible, the word "dawn" is used instead. The word "dayspring" would have been more easily understood by people reading the King James version of the Bible in earlier times, but is not a term we use in modern English.

In the book of Job, we find the term Dayspring referring to the start of a new day, but it

wasn't used to refer to the Messiah in the Old Testament. However, in Malachi 4:2, we find another term--Sun of righteousness—that also refers to the morning: "*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings....*" Sun of Righteousness is also used in the hymn, and it's a clear reference to the Messiah who was to come. In the New Testament (King James version), Zechariah uses the name, Dayspring, another word for Dawn, when he makes this prophecy about the Messiah (Jesus) when his son, John the Baptist was born. "*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dayspring will visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*" (Luke 1:76-79)

The term Daystar that's used in the hymn refers to the morning star. This, too, is a reference to the start of a new day. Peter uses this word in his second letter: "*For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased', we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.***" (2 Peter 1:16-19)

In the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, we have the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies, and the fullness of our Lord's glory which Peter, James and John glimpsed in Jesus' transfiguration on the mount. Our Lord said, "*I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" (John 8:12b) The Light of Christ—the Dayspring—the start of a new day—has dawned upon us. May we walk faithfully in His Light as we seek to live each day to His glory.

# Announcements

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

North American Lutheran Church  
2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309  
PMB 409  
Bedford, TX 76021-4703

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

## Pastors available for pulpit supply:

Pastor Kristine Dohrmann—515-802-2539  
Pastor Natacha Kemp—507-785-0412  
Pastor Andrew Loomis—712-298-6587  
Pastor Jack Miller—507-798-2408  
Pastor Mike Wikstrom—480-203-1556



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)



## Donations and Correspondence

Checks sent to the Mission District for support should be made out to the ***Iowa Mission District, NALC***, and mailed to:

**Mrs. Belinda Borchardt**  
**Iowa Mission District Treasurer,**  
**PO Box 105,**  
**Grafton, IA 50440.**

Correspondence should be sent to:

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

Items for the Mission District newsletter (pictures, news, etc.) are best sent via e-mail to

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

## Mission District Pulpit-Supply Guidelines

In October of 2022, the Mission District Council voted to recommend that congregations pay a visiting pastor \$200 for a worship service in addition to the current IRS mileage rate. At a subsequent meeting, we also decided to recommend that congregations do the same for a visiting pastor who performs a wedding or a funeral. Any honorarium that the family might want to give to the pastor would not be deducted from this, as the pastor is providing a service to the congregation. We also recommend that a congregation which has more than one worship service in a day, pay an additional \$50 to the pastor for each additional service. (The 2025 IRS rate is \$0.70 per mile.)





## ***Congregations of the Iowa Mission District***

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

+ indicates mission congregation

## **Iowa Mission District Leadership**

Pastor Christopher Staley, Dean  
[cbstaley@netins.net](mailto:cbstaley@netins.net)  
Pastor Solveig Zamzow, Secretary  
[solveigzamzow@gmail.com](mailto:solveigzamzow@gmail.com)  
Belinda Borchardt, Treasurer  
[aayngl@wctatel.net](mailto:aayngl@wctatel.net)

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

Pastor Ron Rasmussen  
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Pastor Doug Hedman  
[pdhedman@gmail.com](mailto:pdhedman@gmail.com)  
Pastor David Klappenbach  
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Lyle Hollander  
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Cindy Gibbs  
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Dean Armstrong  
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### **Disaster Response Coordinator**

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

### **Mission District Registrar**

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

### **Mission District Website Administrator**

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

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

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

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

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

*The Iowa Mission District  
has 41 congregations.*

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