



Summer 2011

News

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

Who We Are

THE OPEN BIBLE

God's Word is the foundation of faith and life.

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THE ASCENDING DOVE

The Holy Spirit ascending is symbolic of the freedom of the congregation and the power and guidance of the Spirit.

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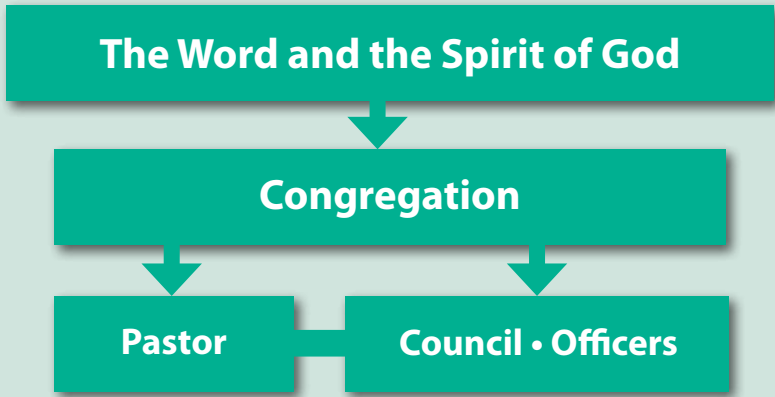
THE GREEN VINE

The vine is the emblem of the living congregation bearing fruit for the Lord.





How the AFLC is organized



CONTACT

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441
 763.545.5631 • www.aflc.org

MEET OUR PRESIDENT

Elected for his second term at the 2010 Annual Conference, Pastor Elden Nelson is the fourth president of the AFLC. Nelson is a 1972 graduate of the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. He has served several congregations in Oregon, Minnesota and North Dakota. He also served as director of Home Missions, vice president of the AFLC and assistant to the president.



AFLC HIRES DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Pollestad will work directly with each ministry to develop funding programs

Pastor Tonnes Pollestad was recently hired by the AFLC as the director of Development. He and his wife, Mary, live in Andover, Minn. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Pollestad is a 1972 graduate of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School. He attended the Free Lutheran Seminary, graduating with a Masters of Divinity in 1991. He served Maranatha Free Lutheran Church in Spring Lake Park, Minn., for eight years. Pollestad previously worked for the AFLC as director of Vision 2004 for four years, guiding the first stages of the expansion of our campus in Plymouth, Minn.

For the past nine years, Pollestad has worked as regional field director for the Bible League International, covering a 10-state territory. His primary responsibility was to raise funds to meet the ministry's annual budget. During this time, he visited with donors, building deeper relationships and sharing information about areas of ministry they could support through prayer and financial gifts. Among several giving options, Pollestad facilitated avenues for donors to be able to give portions of their estates to the Bible League.

As director of Development of the AFLC, Pollestad will be working with the directors of each ministry of the AFLC, helping them assess funding opportunities in order to expand the kingdom of God. His duties as director of Development will allow him to travel across the U.S., meeting with individuals, churches and church boards to help them connect with opportunities of ministry God may lead them to support with their financial resources. Pollestad looks forward to meeting with you in his travels. Please be in prayer for him and his family as he travels.

Let us always keep in the forefront that God is still on the throne and we have much work to do in expanding His kingdom.



CONTACT

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PERSONAL EVANGELISM: *The Heartbeat of Heaven*



Why does your congregation exist? Could it be that it exists to fulfill the Great Commission? If this is the case, what are you as a congregation doing to be “disciple makers”? This mandate is so big we must learn to disciple new believers so we can multiply laborers to fulfill the Great Commission. Christ calls the Church to move from being a warehouse for church-going Christians to becoming a factory for making disciples for Jesus Christ.

FAST FACTS

- 29 percent of U.S. college students are still involved in church activities by their junior year.
- 80 percent of seminary and Bible school graduates who enter the ministry will leave within the first five years.
- 52 percent of pastors who decided as kids to follow Jesus did so at children’s camp or VBS.
- 80 percent of a church’s first-time visitors heard about the church through a friend, co-worker, or family member.
- There are 1.7 billion people around the globe with little or no access to the gospel.
- There are 1.5 billion Muslims comprising 22 percent of the world’s population.
- 85 percent of college students who will graduate in 2011 plan to move in with their parents.
- 75 percent of Americans support student religious speech at public schools.
- The U.N. reports there are more than 140 million orphans around the world.
- 65 percent of U.S. Christians have never read the New Testament.
- Just half of all U.S. self-identified Christians firmly believe the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles (not the facts) that it teaches.

Something new for 2011

The concept of a **Red Thread Retreat** has been talked about in the Commission of Evangelism since 2009. We have been working through two pilot retreats and have taken suggestions from participants. We are now planning four Red Thread Retreats for this fall. What do we plan on accomplishing?

- Explore ideas for incorporating evangelism into the life blood of your congregation.
- De-program evangelism in your congregation.
- Brainstorm with small groups.
- Teach biblical principles pertaining to the Red Thread.
- Partner with lay leaders help for maximum impact.
- Be intentional about making **disciple-makers** in your congregation.

Why Evangelize?

The Word says we are to be Christ’s “witnesses ... even to the most remote parts of the earth” (Acts 1:8). This means witnessing to your friends, neighbors, relatives, and even those you do not know. Please consider partnering with the Commission of Evangelism to share Jesus with everyone whom we come in contact.

CONTACT

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(Compiled from Mission America Coalition monthly newsletter.)

DISCIPLE-MAKING CHURCHES

Home Missions is intent on growing disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ as we plant free and living Lutheran congregations within the United States. Ephesians 4:13 describes the goal of our maturing is “the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

**It’s not just about being disciples ourselves.
It’s not just about making disciples.
It about making disciples, who make disciples.**

How does Home Missions plant disciple-making churches? It always begins with a move of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of a group of individuals. Usually the group contacts AFLC Home Missions to host an informational meeting. As a leadership team develops, Bible studies start, and eventually a weekly gathering for worship takes place. We walk these young AFLC gatherings through finding a place to meet, building strong core leadership, pulpit supply, pastoral call, and creative community outreach. We want to build relationships which can lead to a conversion experience in Christ.

→ New Growth in Berks County, PA

Berks County, situated in southeastern Pennsylvania, is one of the locations God is moving and stirring revival! With an estimated 75 Lutheran churches, sadly, few are truly preaching the Word. Disciple Lutheran Fellowship (Reading, Pa.) is a new AFLC Home Missions congregation that God called as a light in the middle of this community.

Members are receiving calls and answering many questions about biblical Lutheranism, Disciple Lutheran and the AFLC. Their goal is to keep planting seeds throughout the area so that other people and congregations have the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ. Last fall, Disciple Lutheran received Pastor Eugene Enderlein as their first interim pastor.

→ Barnabas Teams

The North and South Barnabas teams are junior and senior Bible school students commissioned by AFLC Home Missions for 10 weeks of intense summer ministry. Home Missions chose the name “Barnabas” because of its meaning: son of encouragement. Barnabas team training emphasizes teaching vacation Bible school, sharing testimonies, building relationships, and leadership.

→ Consider Discipleship

Discipleship involves obeying the Holy Spirit as He speaks through His Word. It involves hospitality in your home. It involves praying with a friend in the middle of a store, or just before you leave church when they mention a need. It involves opening up your Bible when you make a hospital visit. It means getting involved in people’s lives in a caring, compassionate way that builds them in the Lord and sometimes makes you uncomfortable. What step towards discipleship can you take today?



Join our family

Join “Knee Mail,” Facebook or Twitter for a weekly dose of fresh inspiration, ministry news, and prayer requests.

CONTACT

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ESSENTIAL SERVICES: *A typical ministry week*

Small airplanes are essential in Southwest Alaska where there are virtually no roads. Pastor-pilot Jeremy Crowell recently shared some thoughts on a typical Sunday in the Naknek area. Here are his comments:

“Typical.” I have found that since I’ve been flying in Naknek, it is difficult to define what typical is. There are so many variables that affect flying here in Alaska: winds, weather, runway conditions, salmon fishing season and hunting season.

You may wonder how those last two relate to flying. One Sunday, the weather, winds and runway conditions were good and we planned to hold worship services in a village. I called our contact person there who said, “Nobody will be here, everybody is out hunting caribou!” This is typical during these seasons as people depend on subsistence hunting and fishing to supplement their food throughout the year.

So, what does a typical week of flying the FLAPS aircraft in Alaska include? Sundays by far are the busiest days of flying. They begin with Sunday school and worship services in North Naknek. Then, typically, we fly the Cessna 175 across the Naknek River to the village of South Naknek. If weather and schedules allow, we will also fly to the village of Ekwok (about 45 miles north and west of Naknek). This usually produces a bit of a logistical problem. The South Naknek worship service and Sunday school are held at 2 p.m. and we usually want to be returning from Ekwok in time for the evening services at North Naknek. We normally fly to South Naknek, drop off passengers to lead the service, and we then take off for Ekwok to hold services there. We then pick up those in South Naknek on the way back to North Naknek. Another solution to this problem is for fellow members George and Heidi Steinberg to use their own personal two-passenger airplane to fly to South Naknek to hold services while Pastor Jeff Swanson and I fly to Ekwok.

During the week, if weather and schedules allow, we’ve been able to fly for KAKN radio station to check on equipment, fly to area villages to deliver quilts donated by our WMF ladies, and even help fly children for the local Christian school’s field trips. This summer, we anticipate being able to fly children to and from Bible camps so they, too, can have an opportunity to hear the gospel message. So that’s what our flying ministry is about, being able to use this ministry tool that God has provided, to carry the good news to people so that they may come into His Kingdom!

This summer, the six-seated Piper Cherokee Six will be moved to the Alaska mission, where it will be used to carry larger loads of people and cargo for longer distances. The Minneapolis-based Cessna 182, donated to FLAPS in 2004 by a family in Nebraska, will continue to be used for general transportation needs of the AFLC.



CONTACT

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FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD

The objective of World Missions is to create saving faith and trust in God around the world. It was a delight to hear of that happening in Brazil recently.

At the Miriam Infant Home live a pair of twins who were born prematurely. They have a number of medical problems. One day they were both very ill and needed to be hospitalized in Curitiba, 300 miles away. The infant home did not have the funds for medical care at the hospital or to pay for an ambulance to transport them. The infant home staff prayed, asking the Lord to intervene. He answered that prayer in multiple ways.

The Lord brought their plight to the attention of a lady in Campo Mourao. She had a roomy car, and drove the children and one of the infant home workers to Curitiba. At the hospital they needed to see a specialist. Normally he charges \$180 for each consultation, but he treated the twins for free and gave them the medication they needed. Hospital admission was too expensive. The infant home worker didn't even have the funds to care for the twins outside of the hospital. Again, the lady who drove them to Curitiba helped. She had a friend who housed them in an apartment. She also provided their meals and bought them new clothing. Following their treatment she transported them back to the infant home.

The final statement of the man who related this story was, "Jesus fed the 5,000 with two fish and five loaves from a small boy. In the same way, He answered our prayer, providing for the twins with the compassion of a doctor and a lady who cared."

World Missions is proclaiming the good news of Christ around the world. Our objective is to connect people to the Savior. In each place God is creating faith in lives and proving Himself faithful.



CONTACT

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PLEASE PRAY FOR

- ➔ **World Missions Department**
Pastor Del Palmer, director
Pastor Kevin Olson, Ambassador Institute
- ➔ **Missionaries**
Pastor Jonathan and Tamba Abel, Brazil
Pastor Paul and Becky Abel, Brazil
Pastor Connely Dyrud, MTI
Pastor Nathan and Rhoda Jore, Uganda

Pastor Todd and Barb Schierkolk, Mexico
Jonni Sliver, Miriam Infant Home, Brazil

- ➔ **Missionaries on Loan**
Darwin and MaryAnn Jackson, WMPL, Mexico
Steve and Glenda Kvale, Wycliffe, USA
- ➔ **Commissioned at Annual Conference**
Pastor Andy and Monica Coyle, EEMN, Ukraine
Justo and Patricia Pillman, Ecuador



TEAMWORK IN A GROWING FAMILY

The Ambassador Institute, as an extension of the World Missions department, is reaching out to several countries, offering solid biblical and theological training. The Lord has been opening doors to countries and networking people to make it possible.

- Nathan Olson, a seminary student from Shakopee, Minn.
- Devasahayam Dunna, a pastor in Chirala, India
- Cheryl Jore, a former missionary from Cuiaba, Brazil
- Valery Hryhoryk from Belarus
- Joan Paige, a former teacher from Shakopee, Minn.
- Paul Pillman, former missionary in Cuenca, Ecuador

This is a diverse group of people, yet the Lord is using all of them to translate and prepare the Ambassador Institute Oral Bible Study Curriculum. These six, along with 10 others, are working with the English, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Telugu and Lusoga languages, opening doors for national leaders to use the curriculum to teach their people.

- Following the first graduation in Uganda, 20 graduates are teaching new classes. There are now 100 students going through the curriculum.
- In India the first class of 20 students is wrapping up their first year of training and will finish the curriculum in January of 2012.
- In Brazil, Pastor Anilton Oliveira da Silva has just begun to use the curriculum to teach students. His goal is to reach students who are off campus.
- Sam and Rachel Menge will lead a Student Missions trip to Ecuador this summer, using the oral curriculum to evangelize. They will work with former AFLTS graduate Pastor Darwin Paacha, who now serves in Cuenca.
- In Belarus, Pastor Valery plans to use the curriculum in a correspondence training program.
- Pastor Andy and Monica Coyle will be commissioned as AFLC missionaries on loan to East European Missions Network. They will help start a Bible school near Odessa, Ukraine, and we are looking forward to working with them as their plans progress.

The AFLC is often referred to as a family. As the ministry of the Ambassador Institute expands into more countries, the family continues to grow. We praise the Lord for chances to partner with people within the AFLC to edit this curriculum as well as the chance to partner with other parts of the family of God in multiple countries.



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CONTACT

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



The national and district organization for women in the AFLC is called the Women's Missionary Federation of the AFLC (WMF). Our purpose is to promote interest and love for the Kingdom of God at home and abroad.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We hope that all of the women of the AFLC will be able to meet March 23-25, 2012, at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wis., to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Women's Missionary Federation.

The Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) of the AFLC was organized in 1962 in Thief River Falls, Minn. Since then, the WMF has grown just as the AFLC has grown throughout the years. We thank God for His faithfulness to us. Members of the WMF have been blessed by the participation of many women as volunteer officers, Bible study writers, editors, and through faithful giving. God has used the WMF in many ways to help provide for the needs of the AFLC schools, Parish Education, World Missions, and Home Missions.

We would encourage all of the women of the AFLC to participate in whatever women's ministry program you have in your congregation. Most of all we pray that you will see the importance of studying the Word of God together. There is a strong bond that is created as women of all ages gather together to study the Word, pray, and fellowship together. This can truly be an asset to a congregation's ministry in the community.

As we look ahead to this year of celebration, may all the glory and honor go to our Lord and Savior for all the blessings He has bestowed on the WMF and the AFLC through these years.

2012 BIBLE STUDY

Next year's Bible study is being written by Faylin Myhre, former Women's Outreach Coordinator for the WMF. Titled "Pearls for a Princess," the study is currently being edited and formatted for publication. Watch for ordering information in fall publications.

Response to the WMF Bible studies has been very good. We are thankful for all of the churches of the AFLC who use it for their women's groups and also for all of the churches outside of the AFLC who have ordered them in the past. The WMF strives to produce high quality Bible studies for use in women's groups. These Bible studies are distinctively Lutheran in emphasis.

RESOURCE MANUAL

The WMF is currently working on putting together a Resource Manual. This manual will include a history of the WMF, resources for organizing a local or district WMF, leadership training ideas, and resources for women's programs. The manual will include lists of helpful books as well as lists of Web sites where women can go to get good ideas for programs in their churches. This manual will be available by the 2012 annual conference, and one copy will be given to every AFLC congregation.

CONTACT

Women's Missionary Federation
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Coming alongside you as you
COME ALONGSIDE YOUTH

"He [Jesus] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." ~ Colossians 1:28

MISSION

AFLC Youth Ministries Department exists to partner with local congregations to win students to Christ, to build them in God's Word and God's love, and to equip them to communicate their faith with others, which results in the multiplying of maturing teen disciples of Jesus.

OPPORTUNITIES

- **FLY Convention**—The Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Convention will be held July 4-9 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colo. The theme for this year's convention is "It Is Written," based on John 20:30-31. We expect approximately 2,000 people to attend our national youth gathering.
- **Student Missions**—Eighteen teens and leaders will be traveling to Ecuador July 24–August 17. Our Student Missions team will participate in a youth institute, teach English to peers, and present the Bible through an oral method. This team is led by volunteer coordinators Sam and Rachel Menge.

OUTLOOK

- **Training**—We are developing events for the upcoming year to equip both teens and adults in their faith and ministry. The annual Youth Workers Retreat will be held at the Association Retreat Center in January 2012 to provide continuing education for youth leaders. **FLY Boot Camp** is our national youth leadership conference. With elements of biblical worldview and personal evangelism, this event will be held in July 2012 at the ARC to deepen growing teen believers. Members of the Youth Board are also discussing additional avenues for more specific equipping of current congregational youth leaders as well as training for developing youth leaders.
- **Together**—We are grateful for each open door to partner with district and congregational efforts to reach, teach, and train youth in Jesus Christ. Please contact us for more information on how our tools can enhance your existing youth ministry efforts or assist in establishing sustained ministry to and with teenagers.



YOUTH BOARD

- Pastor Mark Johnson
- Pastor Wade Mobley
- Kayla Russum
- Dan Antal
- Jordan Langness

Pastor Jason Holt, Director
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CONTACT



Holding fast the FAITHFUL WORD

Since its founding in 1964, the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary has served congregations of the AFLC in the preparation of servant pastors for faithful, Christ-centered ministry of the Word and sacraments. An orthodox school of theology in the tradition of Lutheran pietism, AFLTS' prayerful aim is that each graduate will hold firmly to the Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God, subscribe to the Lutheran confessions as faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture, and recognize the local congregation as "the right form of the kingdom of God on earth." From its inception, the seminary's statement of policy has underscored the highest priority in the training of men for the ministry: "The Association is in need of pastors who reflect the faith and practice of the congregations. These pastors are to be servants of congregations—conservative, pietistic and evangelical. ... A pastor is to be, above all, a man of God."



OPPORTUNITIES

- ➔ **Summer Institute of Theology**
Dates: August 1-5
Courses: Studies in the Pastoral Epistles, Lessons from the History of Revival, Worship and the Congregation, Doctrine of "Last Things."
- ➔ **Winter Inter-Term Program**
Dates: January 2-13, 2012.
Courses: Introduction to Missions, Church Planting and Development
- ➔ **Seminary Internship Program**
Dates: June 1, 2012–May 31, 2013
Congregations that host a seminary student for 12 months during fourth-year internship.
- ➔ **Pulpit Supply**
Dates: Sunday worship services
Invite a seminary student or faculty member to conduct a worship service in the absence of the pastor.
- ➔ **Friends of the Seminary**
Commit to faithful prayer and financial support of the ministry of AFLTS as a "Friend of AFLTS"
- ➔ **Adopt-a-Student**
Dates: During the seminary school year
Initiate regular contact with a seminary student and his family. The normal year-long commitment involves prayer, encouragement and financial support.
- ➔ **The Servant Pastor**
Receive the seminary publication, *The Servant Pastor*, which includes articles and book reviews by students, faculty and alumni. Enjoy getting to know the students and their families through pictures, testimonies, etc.



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The impact of GOD'S WORD

It is a great joy to see the power of God's Word at work in hearts and lives on the campus of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School. It is the earnest prayer of faculty and staff alike to teach and to speak God's Word in truth. We unashamedly believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God from Genesis to Revelation. It is the truth as Jesus declared in John 17:17, "Sanctify them in truth. Thy Word is truth." As God's Word is studied in personal devotional times, taught and received in classes, studied in assignments and shared with others in music, Bible studies, and in the workplace, the impact of that Word becomes more and more evident in changed lives. Faith comes and grows by hearing the Word of God.

Bible School exists as an extension of the ministry of each congregation. The five-fold purpose of AFLBS continues as it has since its beginning in 1966.

- To bring students into and establish them in the assurance of personal salvation in Christ Jesus through the study of God's Word.
- To prepare students to face a secular society in school and community by grounding them in the Word of God.
- To help students embrace the truth as found in the Bible, and to reject the theological errors so prevalent today.
- To challenge students to seek God's will in all personal and vocational choices and to pursue the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as given in Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."
- To equip students to serve in free and living Lutheran congregations.

We are especially grateful for the faithful prayer support of so many of you as you pray for faculty, staff and students. So much of the fruit experienced at Bible School is a direct result of God's people praying and God graciously answering those prayers.

➔ **Andrea Thompson, Williston, N.D.**

Freedom! As I have been going through the book of Galatians, I am in amazement of God's crazy relentless love for me. It says in Galatians 1:11-12 that the understanding of the gospel is by complete revelation from Christ. After meditating on this for quite a while I was brought to my knees, humbled by my Savior. God chose me (John 15:16), He revealed to me the law and gospel, and has given me a real and alive relationship with Him ... Because of the gospel and His grace, I am called to a life of freedom.

➔ **Matt Grothe, Astoria, Ore.**

I feel that God has been giving me clearer direction for my future, or maybe I'm just listening now. I find myself not being as bitter toward bad things happening in my life. I noticed during my first semester of Bible school I would have a bad day and it would reflect in other people's interaction with me. Now I can look at any situation and I find it easier to remind myself that God orchestrated all of it. ... I love the environment that AFLBS fosters, an environment of spiritual growth where other students and myself can grow closer to God.

CONTACT

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Becoming MISSION MINDED

The Ministry Training Institute (MTI) has three main tracks of study: youth ministry, cross-cultural missions, and mission aviation ministry. Through one year of intensive study and internship, students learn to share the gospel directly and indirectly in their roles as youth workers, short- and full-term missionaries, children’s ministry, mission aviation, or as parish builders. We invite students of all age groups, including those who already have a vocation.



CONTACT

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From our students

JOSIAH ROLF

In winter, much of Alaska is in darkness, not only outwardly, but spiritually. I was able to reach some of these people by two modes—aviation and radio. Flying over these communities, I could see how isolated people are. In the wild parts of Alaska, where there are no roads, the only way to travel is by the sky and by river. When the waves of the river are frozen in winter, waves of another sort can reach them: radio waves. Alaskans’ eager reception of the gospel shows the kind of spiritual void they’ve had most of their lives. I haven’t seen *hunger* like I’ve seen it here. I’ve been invited into people’s homes for a meal, and when I begin to talk about God, instantly I can tell that they are more interested in the Word than even the food on their plates. This has taught me a lot about the kind of hunger that I should have. It would be both irresponsible, and irreverent to think of my time in Naknek as only an internship. This is life.

BRYAN BOHL

I have learned, as our beloved teacher and mentor, Pastor Richard “Gumby” Gunderson, would constantly remind us in class, “Missionaries must be flexible!” I personally found this to be true shortly after we arrived. My parents and grandparents were missionaries, so I had a pretty solid idea of what the life of a missionary consisted of. Firsthand observation, however, really puts all that head knowledge into a new perspective. Everyday, something would happen that was not what we particularly had in mind. From phones ringing to rain pouring, to all kinds of vehicle malfunctions and nonfunctional equipment, our plans constantly changed drastically or slightly. But God was always behind the scenes, calling the shots and giving us cues, with the end product being much better than we had imagined, and proving again the truth of Proverbs 16:9, “The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

KATHRYN NORRIS

Love is truly a wonderful thing. God’s love changes people; I have seen that firsthand. Most of the kids we have come into contact with in Brazil come from broken homes. These kids are hurting and need to see Christ’s love. I am thankful that I don’t have to speak Portuguese fluently to love people. I have learned that one of the best ways to show love is by spending time with them—tplaying games, baking cookies, playing music, being there when they are hurting to listen and hold them when they are crying. The question is, will we take the time that is needed to change a life forever? When it comes time for me to leave Brazil I will shed many tears and leave a part of my heart here. But I will not let the pain of loving discourage me. I will let the pain of separation remind me to pray for my brothers and sisters here and also be encouraged to continue to love all those whom God brings in my path.

NEW GROWTH

Schools plans building projects



AFLC Schools are in the beginning stages of new growth on the campus in Plymouth, Minn. At the annual meeting, held during the annual conference in June 2010, members of the AFLC Schools Corporation voted to proceed with the process of planning and development for a gymnasium/auditorium and a new dormitory for an additional 100 students.

Members of the AFLC Schools Board of Trustees have formed a building committee. The members of this committee have had a number of meetings, during which they have reviewed plans, researched and discussed ideas, and calculated necessary funding—all in the beginning stages and preparations to proceed with construction.

Kinghorn Construction has been chosen as the general contractor for this project. We have a previously established relationship with Kinghorn, which was the general contractor for the Heritage Hall building project. Kinghorn also headed up construction of the last two seminary housing units. Members of the building committee recognize the advantages of continuing to work with Kinghorn. With the recommendation of the building committee, the AFLC Schools Board of Trustees has selected to work with the architectural firm of Architects Rego & Youngquists of St. Louis Park, Minn.

The building projects will be approached in several phases. Currently, members of the building committee are consulting with ARY to prepare schematic drawings and 3-D models of the proposed buildings. It is the desire of the building committee to have these available for viewing at this annual conference. The estimated cost for the gymnasium facility is \$3,501,549 and the additional dormitory \$3,001,278.

The ministry of the VISION program began with prayer and the coming together of members of the Board of Trustees to seek the Lord, asking that He be their vision as they discussed expansion and development. Seeking the Lord, His will, and His plans continues to be our focus. Would you join us in the fellowship of prayer, covering these projects from the beginning stages of growth to completion? We are trusting in the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:19, “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.” Those are familiar, encouraging words, spoken to us from a gracious Father who desires to lead us step by step. Praise His name for the privilege that is ours to come before Him and the promise of His presence.

With gratitude to God, who is able to do far more than we can ask or think, and the blessing that is ours to serve Him, we also thank you for your prayers and support. “Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1).



BUILDING COMMITTEE

Daniel Mundfrom

Wayne Floan

Ivar Berge

James Rolf

John Talley

Kermit Nash

Wendy Westlake

John Presteng

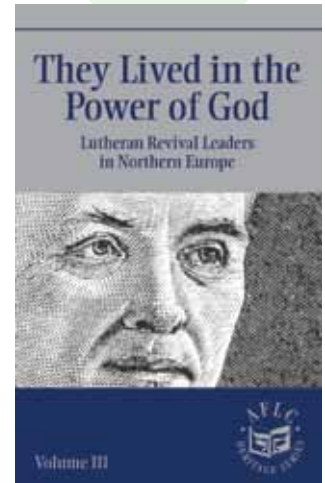
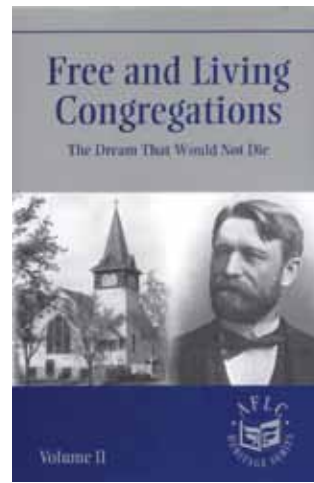
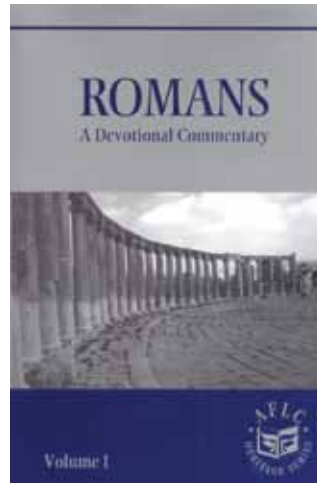
Sherry Mork



AFLC HERITAGE SERIES

NEW

The AFLC Heritage Series is an ongoing hardcover classic series that reflects the Lutheran, pietistic, and Scandinavian heritage of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The series includes material that is theological, historical, biographical, or devotional in content. The goal of the series is to include new works, works previously published, and works not previously translated.



Volume I

➔ **Romans: A Devotional Commentary**

A verse-by-verse reading through the book of Romans by well-known devotional writer Carl O. Rosenius. \$20

Volume II

➔ **Free and Living Congregations: The Dream That Would Not Die**

Celebrates the 40th anniversary of the AFLC and explains the history and biblical principles and practices of the AFLC and its predecessor, the Lutheran Free Church. A study guide for personal or group use leads readers through the book chapter by chapter. *Book \$20, Study Guide \$5*

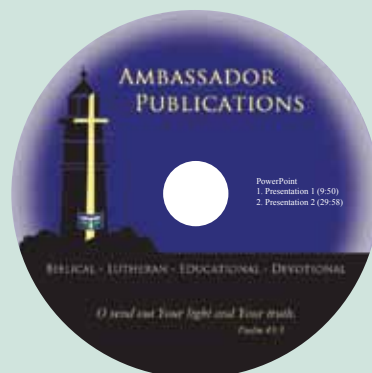
Volume III (new)

➔ **They Lived in the Power of God: Lutheran Revival Leaders in Northern Europe**

Translated from Finnish, this collection of biographical writings by Dr. Uuras Saarnivaara on Lutheran pietists from Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland includes chapters on Johann Arndt, Jakob Spener, C. O. Rosenius, Hans Nielsen Hauge, Ole Hallesby, and many others, as well as maps and informative, historical introductions to give context to each biography. \$22

New PowerPoint CD

Every AFLC congregation was recently sent a new PowerPoint CD, which includes two presentations informing about the ministry of Ambassador Publications. We invite each congregation to take time to watch one or both presentations in a group setting. Simply insert the CD into your computer, click on one of the presentation options, and the program should run by itself. Then let us know if you have any questions about Ambassador Publications.



CONTACT

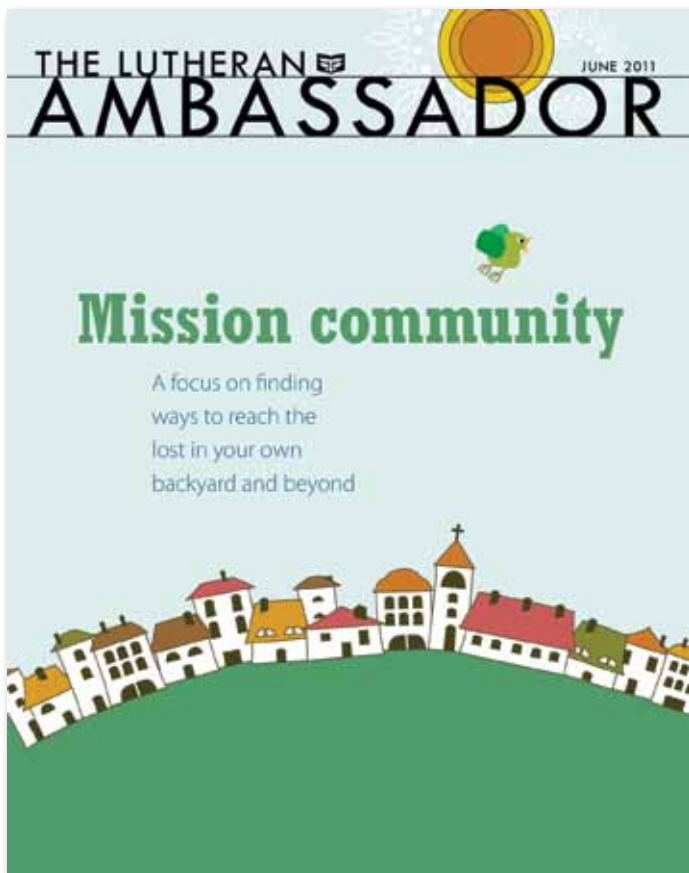
Marian Christopherson, Director
 Ambassador Publications
 763.545.5631 • parished@afc.org
www.ambassadorpublications.org



A publication FOR THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

The *Lutheran Ambassador* is a monthly magazine published by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Each month features a specific theme, carrying articles both practical and devotional. Our writers, all volunteer lay people and pastors from our local congregations, are a key feature in our publications. Our magazine features monthly columns geared toward building a strong devotional life, tackling the basics of our beliefs, and sharing life experiences in order build up the Body of Christ. All of our articles and columns center around biblical, Lutheran doctrines and heritage.

Our magazine also features news and information from our local congregations, schools and AFLC departments.



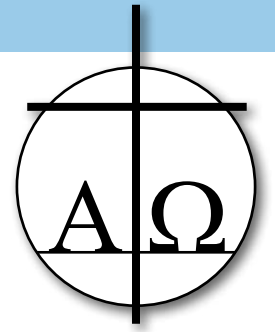
Subscription rates

- Individual\$20/year
- International\$22/year
- Group\$19 each/year
(Subscription list maintained by congregation, mailed directly to your home.)
- Bulk\$17 each/year
(Subscription list maintained by congregation, mailed bulk to one address.)

Ruth Gunderson, Managing Editor
763.545.5631 • ruthg@afc.org
www.afc.org/lutheran-ambassador

CONTACT

RETREAT CENTER



The Association Retreat Center (ARC) is a full-service retreat and conference center owned by the AFLC and located 45 miles northeast from the Twin Cities metropolitan area in the heart of northwest Wisconsin vacation country. We invite you to consider us for your church family camps, youth camps, winter retreats, men's retreats, women's retreats, craft retreats, or pastoral hermitage. AFLC churches and organizations receive a 15+ percent discount when holding a retreat at the ARC.

Support the ARC

Giving:

Our giving campaign is called BOLD (Believing Our Lord Delivers). Funds given toward this campaign will be used for mortgage elimination. Other giving projects include the Phil Featherstone Scholarship Fund.

All undesignated gifts will be directed to the BOLD Campaign.

Volunteering:

Volunteers are needed for: painting, general maintenance, electrical work, IT assistance, housekeeping, landscaping, and office work.

ARC volunteers are invited to stay with us for free while volunteering at the ARC. For more information, contact Pat Flanders.



ARC Camps & Retreats

2011 Schedule

- Fire Up Youth (Grades 4-7)
June 19-24
- Kids' Camp (Grades 1-3)
June 24-26
- Family Camp
July 24-30
- Open house
August 27
- Classics' Retreat (55 & Over)
September 9-11
- ARC Family Weekend
October
- Chosen Child Conference
November 4-7
- Scandinavian Dinner & Auction
November 19
- Silent Prayer Retreat
December 2-3 (4)*
- Christmas Festival
December 9-11

*Option of extra overnight with breakfast

2012 Schedule

- SIDExSIDE
February 3-5
- Sno Daze
February 3-5
- Couples Retreat
February 17-18 (19)*
- Women's Retreat
March 23-25
- Men's Retreat
April 20-21(22)*
- Fire Up Youth Camp
June 24-29
- Kids' Camp
June 29-July 1
- Family Camp
July 29-August 4
- Classics' tRetreat (55+)
September 14-16
- Chosen Child Conference
November 9-11

CONTACT

The Association Retreat Center
2372 30th Ave.
Osceola, WI 54020
800.294.2877 • www.arc-aflc.org
the_arc@centurytel.net

WILDERNESS & GALILEE BIBLE CAMPS



Galilee Bible Camp

Located in Lake Bronson State Park, Minn.
Family Camp dates: July 11-15
Mission hour speaker: Pastor Todd Schierkolk
Adult Bible teacher: Pastor Tim Carlson
Youth Bible teachers: Lyle and Joel Mattson
Children's Bible teachers: AFLBS summer team

Galilee Bible Camp
Dr. Lyle Mattson: 218.782.2310
wiktel.net/galileebiblecamp

Wilderness Bible Camp

Located 11 miles South of Lake Park, Minn.
Family Camp dates: July 12-17
Speakers: Pastors Lloyd Quanbeck and Connely Dyrud

Wilderness Bible Camp
Questions—Robert Softing: 218.937.5414
Reservations—Nathan Dalager: 218.437.6035

CONTACT

2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls, Minn., invite you to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations during the 2012 Annual Conference next June.

CONTACT

Chaplain Kerwin Sletto, Director
Division for Institutional Chaplaincy
ksletto@gra.midco.net

Chaplaincy **OPPORTUNITIES**

Institutional chaplaincy is a unique ministry where God has called pastors to serve in long-term care facilities, hospitals and hospice care. It is a ministry by which God has called us to walk with other individuals as they travel on their journey here and on to their eternal home.

I find it hard to believe that I have served for 18 years as a chaplain within the AFLC Department of Institutional Chaplaincy, and I just love what I do. After serving as a parish pastor for eight years, I pursued my chaplaincy training in 1991 in Minot and Jamestown, N.D. I enjoyed being a parish pastor. At the same time, I am so glad that God called me into chaplaincy.

When I first entered the AFLC's chaplaincy ministry, there were only two of us, Chaplain Howard Franzen and myself. The program has grown and today to 21 chaplains within our institutional chaplaincy program. We enjoy wonderful support from the AFLC. Our board members meet quarterly, and we also host the annual AFLC Institutional Chaplaincy Seminar each fall as we explore a variety of ministry topics and gain from mutual fellowship and support. Over the years our annual seminar has included topics such as the different roles of a chaplain and how we fit in to other ministries. The 2010 conference covered ministry to the wounded, including both the individuals who are hurt and their caregivers. We've tried to include regular sessions on self care, as well. In the coming year, we are covering subjects such as companionship, technology, the 12-step aging process and procrastination.

The Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), the national certifying body for chaplains, requires four units of clinical pastoral education. A unit of CPE usually takes three months to complete and can be accomplished while a pastor serves his parish. Those who have taken CPE have found that it expands and further equips the pastor in his ministry and helps him explore his own issues and ministry opportunities. The CPE participant also increases his listening skills. God has blessed us with many answers in the Bible, but sometimes we don't always hear the question. Those of us within the Department of Institutional Chaplaincy encourage our members to have at least one unit of CPE and, if possible, participate in additional units. Many of the chaplaincy opportunities throughout our country require APC membership.

If you sense a call into the ministry of institutional chaplaincy, please feel free to contact myself or any of the AFLC institutional chaplaincy board members. We would love to talk with you.

By Chaplain Kerwin Sletto

REASONS TO GIVE

The Foundation exists to receive gifts and grant money given to ministries within the AFLC

RECEIVING GIFTS

The Foundation receives gifts from people who want to support AFLC ministries. Gifting options include:

- Cash
- Stocks and bonds
- Life insurance policies
- Real estate
- Charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities

The gifts can be directed to the following five funds within the Foundation:

- The Association Retreat Center Fund
- The Capital Improvement Fund
- The Christian Education Fund
- The Missions Fund
- The Unrestricted Fund

GRANTING MONEY

The Foundation Board grants money on a yearly basis from each of the five listed funds. Any ministry within the four AFLC Corporations (ARC, Coordinating Committee, Missions and Schools) can apply for grants on a yearly basis. The grant amounts will vary depending on the application and the fund monetary size.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ➔ Should my giving to the Foundation take the place of regular (yearly, monthly, etc) contributions to the AFLC ministries?
No. The AFLC ministries depend on gifts every month to meet yearly operating expenses.
- ➔ Why should I consider giving to the Foundation?
*Gifts to the Foundation will primarily be for three purposes:
Giving of non-cash gifts (the Foundation will direct you to financial, legal and tax professionals if you desire)
The giver may want their gift to be distributed to the AFLC ministries over an extended period of time
The giver may want their gift to be distributed to the AFLC ministries by an independent board*
- ➔ How will Foundation grants be used by the AFLC ministries?
The grants will likely be used for special projects that are often unbudgeted.





WHO WE ARE

A list of congregations by district

CENTRAL TRI-STATE

Boscobel, WI—Trinity Lutheran
Cannon Falls, MN—Our Savior's Lutheran
Dexter, MN—Zion Lutheran
Ellendale, MN—First Lutheran
Fairbank, IA—Lord of the Harvest Lutheran
Forest City, IA—Trinity Lutheran
Frost, MN—Dell Lutheran
Garden City, IA—Stavanger Free Lutheran
Goldfield, IA—Hauge Lutheran
Jewell, IA—St. Paul's Lutheran
Kasson, MN—Mt. Sion Lutheran
Kenyon, MN—Emmanuel Lutheran
Kenyon, MN—Hauge Lutheran
Mankato, MN—Word of Life Free Lutheran
Onalaska, WI—Christ Is Lord Lutheran
Radcliffe, IA—Salem Lutheran
Saint James, MN—Hosanna Free Lutheran
Windom, MN—Living Word Lutheran
Zumbrota, MN—Our Saviour's Lutheran

EASTERN

Ambridge, PA—St. John's Lutheran
Bethel Park, PA—Ruthfred Evangelical Lutheran
Boyertown, PA—Living Faith Lutheran
Canal Winchester, OH—Peace Lutheran
Canfield, OH—Paradise Lutheran
Cranberry Township, PA—St. John's of Lovi Evangelical Lutheran
Crescent City, FL—Peace Lutheran
Elizabethville, PA—Salem Lutheran
Hagerstown, MD—Christ Community
Hagerstown, MD—St. Paul's Evangelical Free Lutheran
Landisburg, PA—Mt. Zion Lutheran
Loysville, PA—Tressler Memorial Free Lutheran
Millerstown, PA—St. Matthew Lutheran
Newark, OH—St. John's Lutheran
North Royalton, OH—Abiding Savior Lutheran
Reading, PA—Alsace Lutheran
Reading, PA—Disciple Lutheran Fellowship
Sarasota, FL—Rivers Edge Community
Wyomissing, PA—Kissinger Lutheran

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA

Binford, ND—Bethany Lutheran
Buxton, ND—Ny Stavanger Free Lutheran
Devils Lake, ND—Christ Free Lutheran
Edinburg, ND—Grace Free Lutheran
Edmore, ND—Living Word Lutheran

Egeland, ND—Lakeview Lutheran
Fargo, ND—St. Paul's Free Lutheran
Grafton, ND—Bethel Free Lutheran
Grand Forks, ND—Trinity Free Lutheran
Hampden, ND—Zoar Lutheran
Hatton, ND—Zoar Free Lutheran
Larimore, ND—Living Faith Free Lutheran
Larimore, ND—Middle Grove Lutheran
Leeds, ND—North Prairie Free Lutheran
Leonard, ND—West Prairie Lutheran
McVile, ND—New Luther Valley Lutheran
Minnewaukan, ND—Trinity Free Lutheran
Northwood, ND—Ebenezer Lutheran
Park River, ND—Victory Free Lutheran
Portland, ND—Valley Free Lutheran
Starkweather, ND—Trinity Bergen Lutheran
Valley City, ND—Grace Free Lutheran
Valley City, ND—Zion Lutheran of Green Township

ILLINOIS

Argyle, WI—Cornerstone Lutheran
Ashkum, IL—Zion Lutheran
Bensenville, IL—Grace Lutheran
Brodhead, WI—Bethany Lutheran
Champaign, IL—Messiah Lutheran
DeKalb, IL—Grace Lutheran
Gifford, IL—St. Paul's Lutheran
Indianapolis, IN—St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran
Janesville, WI—Trinity Free Lutheran
Leland, IL—St. Petrie Lutheran
Lincoln, IL—Good Shepherd Lutheran
Melvin, IL—St. Peter's Lutheran
Metropolis, IL—Faith Lutheran
Metropolis, IL—St. Stephen's Lutheran
Milford, IL—St. John's Lutheran of Schwer
Milwaukee, WI—Servant of the Savior Lutheran
Mineral Point, WI—Faith Lutheran
Montgomery, IL—St. Olaf Lutheran
Morris, IL—Bethlehem Lutheran
Morris, IL—Grace Lutheran
Newark, IL—Helmar Lutheran
Newark, IL—Lisbon Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran
Newark, IL—Newark Lutheran
Ottawa, IL—Faith Lutheran
Ottawa, IL—Freedom Lutheran
Sheridan, IL—Fox River Lutheran
Waukesha, WI—Acts 2 Lutheran
Wheatland, IA—Christian Free Lutheran
Whitestown, IN—St. Mark's Lutheran

LAKE SUPERIOR

Cloquet, MN—St. Paul’s Lutheran
Duluth/Proctor, MN—Augustana Lutheran
Duluth, MN—St. John’s Lutheran
Finlayson, MN—St. John’s Lutheran
Mason, WI—Our Savior’s Free Lutheran
Superior, WI—Our Redeemer Free Lutheran
Tamarack, MN—Tamarack Lutheran
Virginia, MN—Good Shepherd Lutheran

MINNEAPOLIS

Amery, WI—Amery Free Lutheran
Anoka, MN—Solid Rock Free Lutheran
Barronett, WI—Timberland Ringebu Free Lutheran
Bloomington, MN—Emmaus Lutheran
Cokato, MN—Good Shepherd Free Lutheran
Colfax, WI—Faith Lutheran of Running Valley
Cumberland, WI—Hosanna Free Lutheran
Eagan, MN—Living Word Lutheran
Elk River, MN—Living Hope
Lakeville, MN—Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran
Maple Grove, MN—Grace Free Lutheran
Minneapolis, MN—Faith Free Lutheran
Minneapolis, MN—Hope Lutheran
Mora, MN—True Vine Lutheran
North Branch, MN—Salem Lutheran of Oxford
Plymouth, MN—Vision of Glory Lutheran
Shakopee, MN—Faith Lutheran
Shakopee, MN—King Of Glory Lutheran
Spring Lake Park, MN—Maranatha Free Lutheran
Stacy, MN—Sunnyside Free Lutheran
Wilson, WI—Christ the King Lutheran

NEBRASKA • KANSAS • COLORADO

Bertrand, NE—Faith Free Lutheran
Dannebrog, NE—St. Peder’s Evangelical Lutheran
Deshler, NE—Abiding Word Lutheran
Elkhorn, NE—Community of Grace Evangelical Lutheran
Fairbury, NE—Faith Lutheran
Laurel, NE—United Lutheran
Loveland, CO—Lutheran Church of Hope
Saint Francis, KS—Peace Lutheran

NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Bagley, MN—Grace Free Lutheran
Bagley, MN—Rice Lutheran
Beltrami, MN—Resurrection Free Lutheran
Bemidji, MN—Bethany Free Lutheran
Bemidji, MN—Trinity Free Lutheran
Blackduck, MN—Faith Lutheran
Erskine, MN—Saron Lutheran
Fosston, MN—Calvary Free Lutheran
Halstad, MN—East Marsh River Lutheran
McIntosh, MN—Mt. Carmel Free Lutheran
McIntosh, MN—Trinity Lutheran
Mentor, MN—Maple Bay Free Lutheran
Mizpah, MN—Bethesda Lutheran

Northome, MN—Hope Lutheran
Shevlin/Bagley, MN—Alida Lutheran
Shevlin, MN—Landstad Lutheran
Winger, MN—Dovre Free Lutheran
Winger, MN—Union Lake

NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Chassell, MI—Maranatha Free Lutheran
Eben Junction, MI—Calvary Free Lutheran
Escanaba, MI—Escanaba Free Lutheran
Felch, MI—Abiding Word Lutheran
Ishpeming, MI—Hope Free Evangelical Lutheran
Metz/Posen, MI—St. Peter Lutheran
Ontonagon, MI—Redeemer Free Lutheran
Pelkie, MI—Grace Free Lutheran
Shingleton, MI—Christ Lutheran

NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA

Argyle, MN—Alma Lutheran
Argyle, MN—Our Savior’s Lutheran
Badger, MN—Badger Creek Lutheran
Badger, MN—Oiland Lutheran
East Grand Forks, MN—Christ the King Free Lutheran
Goodridge, MN—Reiner Lutheran
Greenbush, MN—United Free Lutheran
Newfolden, MN—Westaker Free Lutheran
Roseau, MN—Rose Free Lutheran
Roseau, MN—Free Lutheran of Roseau
Roseau, MN—Spruce Free Lutheran
Salol, MN—Norland Free Lutheran
Strandquist, MN—Hegland Free Lutheran
Thief River Falls, MN—Abundant Life
Thief River Falls, MN—Our Saviour’s Lutheran

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Arlington, WA—Atonement Free Lutheran
Astoria, OR—Bethany Lutheran
Brookings, OR—Trinity Lutheran
Buckley, WA—Grace Lutheran
Dillon, MT—Our Savior’s Lutheran
Eugene, OR—Spencer Creek Lutheran
Everett, WA—Calvary Lutheran
Ferdale, WA—Triumph Lutheran
Kalispell, MT—Faith Free Lutheran
Kalispell, MT—Stillwater Free Lutheran
Kirkland, WA—Our Redeemer Lutheran
Lake Stevens, WA—Elim Lutheran
Mount Vernon, WA—Lord of Life Lutheran

CONGREGATIONAL ROSTER

SOUTH CENTRAL

Bastrop, TX—Trinity Lutheran
Brownsville, TX—Free Lutheran Fellowship
Durant, OK—Faith Lutheran
El Campo, TX—Faith Lutheran
Garden City, KS—St. James Lutheran
Glenn Rose, TX—Word of Truth Lutheran
Humboldt, TN—Ebenezer Free Lutheran
Oklahoma City, OK—First Lutheran
Pleasanton, TX—Good Shepherd Lutheran
Saint Louis, MO—Gloria Dei Lutheran
Silverhill, AL—Zion Lutheran
Springfield, MO—Immanuel Lutheran
Stover, MO—Christ Lutheran
Tomball, TX—Crown of Life Lutheran
Tulia, TX—Christ Lutheran
Weslaco, TX—Faith Lutheran

SOUTH DAKOTA

Arlington, SD—Calvary Free Lutheran
Armour, SD—St. Peter Lutheran
Beresford, SD—Skrefsrud Lutheran
Bruce, SD—Grace Lutheran
Canton, SD—Redeemer Free Lutheran
Centerville, SD—Immanuel Free Lutheran
Chamberlain, SD—St. Olaf Lutheran
Delmont, SD—Hope Lutheran
Eagle Butte, SD—Emmanuel Free Lutheran
Faith, SD—Bethel Lutheran
Freeman, SD—Salem Free Lutheran
Grenville, SD—Buffalo Lake Lutheran
Grenville, SD—Saron Lutheran
Hendricks, MN—Singaas Lutheran
Madison, SD—Good Shepherd Free Lutheran
Ortley, SD—Ortley Free Lutheran
Pipestone, MN—Christ the King Lutheran
Pukwana, SD—Pukwana Lutheran
Reva, SD—Slim Buttes Lutheran
Sioux Falls, SD—Abiding Savior Free Lutheran
Sioux Falls, SD—Living Word Free Lutheran
Tripp, SD—First American Lutheran
Volin, SD—Trondhjem Lutheran
Wallace, SD—Calvary Lutheran
Waubay, SD—Egeland Lutheran
Webster, SD—Tabor Lutheran

SOUTHWEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Abercrombie, ND—Bethany Free Lutheran
Brainerd, MN—Good Shepherd Lutheran
Brandon, MN—Chippewa Lutheran
Clinton, MN—Elim Lutheran
Dalton, MN—Kvam Free Lutheran
Dalton, MN—Zion/Sarpsborg Lutheran
Fergus Falls, MN—Calvary Free Lutheran
Glenwood, MN—Scandia Lutheran
Glyndon, MN—Maranatha Free Lutheran
Hawley/Fargo, ND—Grong Lutheran

New London, MN—Gausdal Lutheran
Ortonville, MN—Abiding Faith Free Lutheran
Sebeka, MN—Bethany Free Lutheran of Blue Grass
Spicer, MN—Green Lake Lutheran
Starbuck, MN—Minnewaska Lutheran
Sunburg, MN—Sunburg Free Lutheran
Underwood, MN—Tordenskjold Free Lutheran
Upsala, MN—Word of Life Free Lutheran
Wadena, MN—Zion Free Lutheran

SOUTHWESTERN

Camarillo, CA—Good Shepherd Lutheran
El Cajon, CA—Reformation Lutheran
Fountain Hills, AZ—Joy Christian Community
Kernville, CA—Prince of Peace Lutheran
*Laguna Woods, CA—Lutheran Church of the Cross
Mesa, AZ—Calvary Free Lutheran
Nogales, AZ—Triumph Evangelical Lutheran
Oceanside, CA—Community Lutheran
Salinas, CA—St. Ansgar's Lutheran
Tucson, AZ—Abiding Savior Free Lutheran
*Associate

WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA • EASTERN MONTANA

Beulah, ND—Prince of Peace Lutheran
Bismarck, ND—Calvary Free Lutheran
Culbertson, MT—Bethel Community
Culbertson, MT—Faith Free Lutheran
Dickinson, ND—Our Saviour's Free Lutheran
Dodge, ND—St. Paul Lutheran
Golden Valley, ND—Golgotha Lutheran
Harvey, ND—Trinity Bethany Lutheran
Minot, ND—Bethel Free Lutheran
Mott, ND—Trinity Lutheran
New Leipzig, ND—Immanuel Lutheran
Ray, ND—Beaver Creek Lutheran
Stanley, ND—First English Lutheran of Lostwood
Stanley, ND—Our Savior's Free Lutheran
Taylor, ND—Taylor Lutheran
Tioga, ND—Norman Lutheran
Tioga, ND—Zion Lutheran
Williston, ND—Emmanuel Free Lutheran
Zap, ND—Immanuel Lutheran

CANADA

Camrose, AB—Solid Rock Free Lutheran
Chaplin, SK—Chaplin Lutheran
Drummondville, QB—Trinity Lutheran
Edmonton, AB—St. Matthew's Lutheran
Elbow, SK—Bethel Lutheran
Enderby, BC—Emmanuel Lutheran
Frontier, SK—Bethel Lutheran
Hawarden, SK—Bethlehem Lutheran
Lake Alma, SK—Faith Free Lutheran
Mortlach, SK—Bethany Lutheran
Vernon, BC—Living Word Lutheran

CONFERENCE-APPROVED STATEMENTS

Sanctity of Life

Adopted by the 1986 Annual Conference

WHEREAS, the 1977 Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations resolved to oppose therapeutic abortions as a means of birth control and to encourage each congregation and individual to protest in writing to their respective legislative officials; and

WHEREAS, the 1978 Annual Conference resolved to continue to oppose the sin of abortion; and

WHEREAS, the 1980 Annual Conference reaffirmed the “conservative stand taken by the AFLC based on the Word of God and His Laws concerning the moral issues of our day;” and

WHEREAS, the destruction of millions of lives by means of abortion which began with the 1973 Supreme Court decision still continues; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations affirms that

- the unborn children are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception (Job 10:9-10; Psalm 51:5; 139:13-17; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41-44);
- the unborn children stand under the protection of God’s command against murder (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Numbers 35:33; Acts 7:19; I John 3:15); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage a clear witness on behalf of the sanctity of unborn life, including the support of responsible pro-life groups in our communities, such as “Lutherans for Life,” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage prayerful support for the development of alternatives to abortion programs, providing compassionate help for those in need;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we boldly proclaim Law and Gospel, which alone can change the sinful hearts of men and women and turn them from sin to salvation.

Adopted by the 1995 Annual Conference

RESOLVED, that the 1995 Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations reaffirms our biblical convictions that unborn children are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception and stand under the protection of God’s law against murder; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the employment of every peaceful and legal avenue to enact laws restoring protection to unborn children be encouraged, while relying on the spiritual resources available to God’s people for fighting the spiritual battle for the sanctity of human life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conference also expresses its opposition to the violent actions of some abortion opponents, convinced that the violence of abortion will not be overcome by further violence, and that Christians must not take the law into their own hands in opposing evil.

Adopted by the 2000 Annual Conference

BE IT RESOLVED, that we affirm the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we denounce abortion, including partial birth abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia all as sin and that we pray that these practices would come to an end in our country by losing their personal support as well as any legal sanction;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage our congregations to support pro-life organizations like Lutherans For Life and local crisis pregnancy centers with our prayers and giving; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we extend a heart and voice of compassion and forgiveness in Christ to those who are experiencing crisis pregnancies or who have been involved in abortion.

Marriage and Family

Adopted by the 2000 Annual Conference

WHEREAS, the attack against Biblical Christianity is so intense in society today, including a direct assault against the Bible’s teaching on marriage and the family,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we as the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations reaffirm our uncompromising stand on God’s Word that marriage is instituted by God to be between one man and one woman.

WHEREAS, we live in a culture in which homosexuality is being

more aggressively promoted and more broadly accepted, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations reaffirm our love in Christ for every person including those involved in the homosexual lifestyle while rejecting their lifestyle itself as sin,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage our congregations to pray for and support with their gifts those individuals and organizations seeking to reach and rescue those in a homosexual lifestyle by biblical means and message.

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441
763.545.5631 • www.aflc.org

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FINDING OUT MORE

Informational packets available online

Would you like to find out more about the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and its ministries? The AFLC has prepared a comprehensive packet filled with booklets, magazines and other publications designed to answer many questions you or someone you know may have about our history, congregations, biblical beliefs and ministries. These packets are available in an Adobe PDF (portable document format) online at www.aflc.org/about/e_info.

If you would like to order a packet from our administrative headquarters, please write to AFLC INFORMATIONAL PACKET, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441. Or you may call 763.545.5631 and ask to speak to Karen Floan.

Pictured below is a sampling of documents available online or through the mail.

