



Summer 2010

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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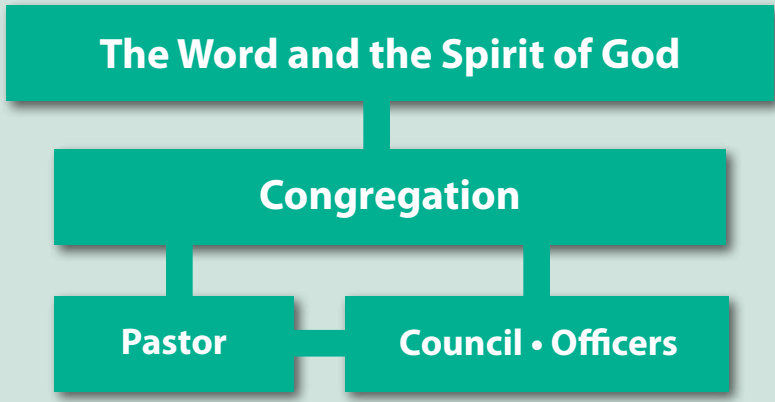
THE GREEN VINE

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 at the 2007 Annual Conference, Pastor Elden Nelson is the fourth president of the AFLC. Born in Arlington, S.D., he 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.



FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles of the Lutheran Free Church and the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations since 1897

1. According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth.
2. The congregation consists of believers who, by using the means of grace and the spiritual gifts as directed by the Word of God, seek salvation and eternal blessedness for themselves and for their fellow men.
3. According to the New Testament, the congregation needs an external organization with membership roll, election of officers, stated times and places for its gatherings, and other similar provisions.
4. Members of the organized congregation are not, in every instance, believers, and such members often derive false hope from their external connection with the congregation. It is therefore the sacred obligation of the congregation to purify itself by the quickening preaching of the Word of God, by earnest admonition and exhortation, and by expelling the openly sinful and perverse.
5. The congregation directs its own affairs, subject to the authority of the Word and the Spirit of God, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government above itself.
6. A free congregation esteems and cherishes all the spiritual gifts which the Lord gives for its edification, and seeks to stimulate and encourage their use.
7. A free congregation gladly accepts the mutual assistance which congregations can give one another in the work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.
8. Such assistance consists partly in the mutual sharings of spiritual gifts among the congregations through conferences, exchange visits, lay activities, etc., whereby congregations are mutually edified, and partly in the voluntary and Spirit-prompted cooperation of congregations for the accomplishing of such tasks as exceed the ability of the individual congregation.
9. Among such tasks may be mentioned specifically the training of pastors, distribution of Bibles and other Christian literature, home missions, foreign missions, Jewish missions, deaconess homes, children's homes and other work of mercy.
10. Free congregations have no right to demand that other congregations shall submit to their opinion, will, judgment, or decision; therefore, domination by a majority of congregations over a minority is to be rejected.
11. Agencies found desirable for conducting the joint activities of congregations, such as conferences, committees, officers, etc., cannot in a Lutheran Free Church, impose any obligations or restrictions, exert any compulsions, or lay any burden upon the individual congregation, but have the right only to make recommendations to, and requests of, congregations and individuals.
12. Every free congregation, as well as every individual believer, is constrained by the Spirit of God and by the privileges of Christian love to do good and to work for the salvation of souls and the quickening of the spiritual life, as far as its abilities and power permit. Such free spiritual activity is limited neither by parish nor by synodical boundaries.



PERSONAL EVANGELISM: *The Heartbeat of Heaven*

Entrusted with the missionary mandate, and empowered by God's promises, the AFLC Commission on Evangelism (COE) is passionate about equipping believers to share the message of salvation through the redemptive work of Jesus. Through teaching, consulting, and providing practical witnessing materials, the COE offers a rich tool chest of resources to encourage the evangelistic efforts at local AFLC congregations.

Get Equipped to Share your Faith

Many people don't know that the COE offers more than a dozen workshops designed to equip congregations in their pursuit of a personal evangelism lifestyle. See our complete workshop listing online and contact the COE director to schedule a training event in your church. Check out these two popular sessions:

• Nurturing

This one-hour seminar teaches the importance of having a "nursery" in our congregations, ready for newborn believers. Learn how to set up a relational environment that allows new believers to thrive in their faith and encourages their wobbling steps to maturity.

• How to Put Together a Testimony

Learn the dynamic influence of a personal testimony. This fast-paced, 60-minute session is packed with practical tips on preparing an effective, powerful testimony that will point others to Jesus.

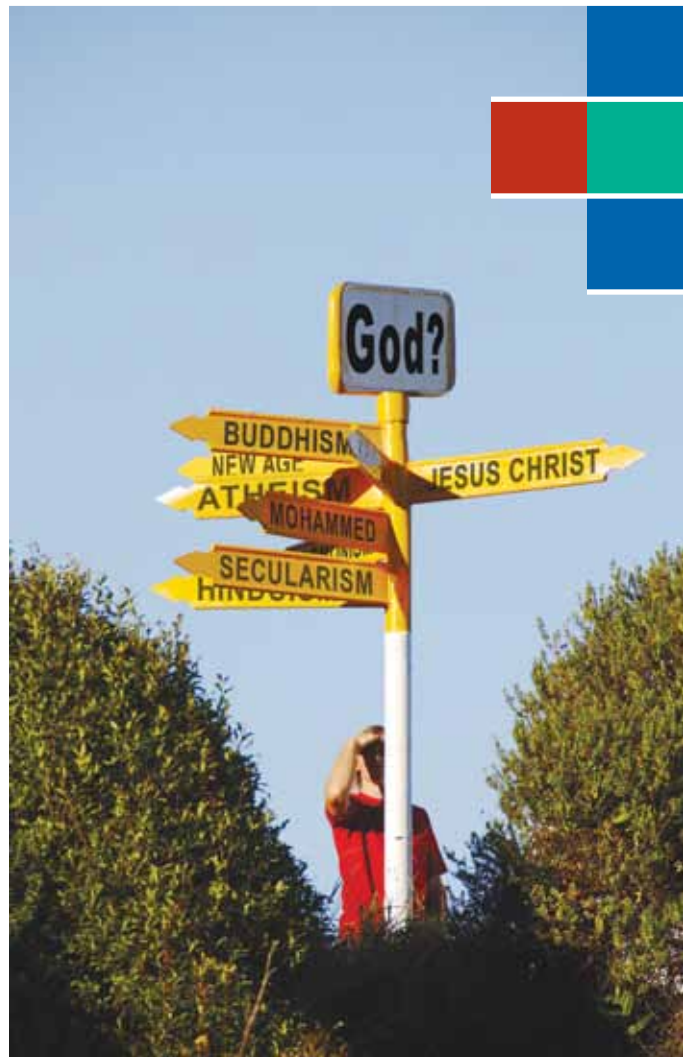
Also, keep your eyes open for the "Red Thread" district retreats the COE launched this year. These powerful retreats afford pastors and lay leaders an opportunity to get away and develop a step-by-step strategy for implementing lifestyle evangelism in their congregation.

Discipleship Manual

The *Discipleship Manual* is a well-researched, 48-page study guide that can be used with a group or in one-on-one discipling. Foundational doctrines such as attributes of God, Christian fellowship, prayer, and temptation are covered from a Lutheran perspective. Download your free copy from the Evangelism Web site today.

"We are using the *Discipleship Manual: A new Believer's Introduction to the Christian Life* with a small class of folks we have who are new to the faith. Thank you so much for all your great work to put that manual together for the AFLC." ~Dave and Diane Berg

"The AFLC's *Discipleship Manual* is by far the best study I have partaken in as it breaks the TRUTH into a refreshing, simplistic format." ~Layne Hoops



FAST FACTS

- Ninety-two percent of Americans say they believe in God.
- A whopping 57 percent of Protestant evangelicals say many religions can lead to eternal life.
- Every 60 seconds, five Americans die.
- Only 36 percent of self-identified Christians agree that it is important for followers of Christ to maintain positive relationships with people who are not Christians.
- About half of all adults (45 percent) say they are willing to try a new church or even a new form of church.

CONTACT

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COME AND JOIN US

Home Missions is intent on making disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ, with a unique focus on planting free and living Lutheran congregations within the U.S. Our ministry serves congregations in a dozen states, providing direction, training, personnel, and most importantly—prayer covering.

How grateful we are for the laborers God is providing for His work through seminary and AFLBS students, lay ministers, retirees, and so many others who have a heart to honor the Word of God.

A living example of this is Calvary Free Lutheran in Mesa, Ariz. This church mushrooms every winter with snow birds from the North, but ministry is steady year round. Mostly retirees, members at Calvary are finding creative ways to build relationships in their community through things like a weekly food pantry (100+ boxes each week), ESL classes, a youth group, basketball clinics, and men's and women's Bible studies. These folks aren't retiring from serving God; they are re-firing for ministry in a new season of life. This Home Mission congregation is on fire for evangelizing the lost around them. As a result, people in the community are coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Praise the Lord!

AFLC Home Missions follows the Apostle Paul's New Testament church-planting model. This process usually begins with informal inquiry meetings sponsored by a local group. Later, Bible studies start, then church services. We walk with a young congregation through finding a place to meet, writing a constitution, calling a pastor, and creative community outreach. We send Parish Builders and Barnabas ministry teams to assist in areas like teaching, visitation, canvassing, and working with youths. God's Word is going out and changing people's lives as relationships are built.



A FEW WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- ➔ **Join KneeMail,** our Home Missions weekly update with news, praises, prayer requests, and pictures from our Home Missions family. It's easy to sign up online. We are so grateful for our 500+ subscribers who keep us in prayer. We don't just hope for miracles, we depend upon them.
- ➔ **Invite a Home Missions** ambassador to share in your church. Our new "Come Join Us" presenta-

tion includes personal testimonies by Home Missions ambassadors, high quality PowerPoint programs, and an explanation on specific opportunities for every age to get involved. Our heart is to inform and equip believers with a vision for this church-planting ministry.

- ➔ **Explore our new Web site** for current volunteer opportunities using the gifts God has given you—construction, youth ministry, graphic design, writing, photography, cost-free giving options. There is a place for everyone who has a heart to serve the local church.

CONTACT

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PRACTICAL MINISTRIES: *Planes meet many needs*

“Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”

~Isaiah 40:31

In His great wisdom and grace, God delights in using all sorts of people and tools for carrying the good news of the gospel to lost souls. The airplane is one of those tools. Through God’s provision, the FLAPS aviation ministry came into existence in 1999.

In one sense, airplanes are “time machines,” since a primary benefit of their use is the efficient use of time. Our Minneapolis-based FLAPS airplanes continue to be used to transport AFLC staff and other ministry personnel to congregations around the country. A trip that would ordinarily take three days by automobile can be cut to one day when traveling by air. The end result is greater efficiency, productivity, and safety.

In Alaska, the airplane is essential for reaching numerous villages and settlements since most of the state does not have a network of roads. Our missionaries in the Bristol Bay area make regular use of the Cessna 175 that was dedicated and placed in mission service in 2008. The Cessna 175 transports not only people, but a variety of ministry cargo, including a portable generator, radio translator and antennae equipment for the KAKN radio ministry.

Our spacious heated hangar in Naknek, Alaska, is a huge blessing for mission work in that area. Originally built with volunteer labor, the hangar now serves as a hub for aviation ministry—not just for FLAPS, but for several other mission airplanes. The night before a flight is scheduled, an airplane is rolled inside the heated hangar so it is warm and ready for the trip the next morning. Mission planes rotate through the hangar on an as-needed basis.

The Naknek hangar is heated by waste oil, keeping heating costs to a minimum. What a blessing when a geothermal well drilling project, located not far from King Salmon, donated their waste oil to our ministry! We are thankful for God’s provision.

Please pray for God’s continued provision of resources for this ministry since it is important that we keep the airplanes well maintained. Pray, too, for wisdom and discernment for the members of the FLAPS Board of Managers as they plan for the future of the ministry.

If your congregation would like to have a presentation on the FLAPS ministry, please contact the Home Missions office. You can also sign up for our newsletter, *Heavenword*.

CONTACT

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WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

It was a cold, crisp Minnesota Saturday in February. The temperature was struggling to hover at zero. The clouds were doing all they could to spit out a flake or two of snow. It was one of those days when everyone asks, "What are we doing living here?"

On that same day in Celaya, Mexico, the morning started off at about 70 degrees with the sun shining brightly. There were hopes of a glorious Saturday. It was the type of day when most teens would be making plans to play football or go to the mall. Interestingly, a handful of teens arrived at a church where they would be encouraged to walk with Jesus. Some people might ask, "What are they doing here?"

Why would teenagers spend a gorgeous Saturday in class learning about God rather than relaxing with friends? Why would they be interested in the advice penned by writers 2,000 to 4,000 years ago? How could those words and history be relevant to a young person growing up in the information age?

The only reason is the regenerative power of the gospel. God's Word convinced these teens that their sins and rebellion against God had made them His enemies. They also trusted in Christ's mercy to forgive them. Now the Holy Spirit is living inside of them and motivating them to live for God out of thankfulness. They realize that these are not just ancient stories and dust-ridden morals unfit for the 21st century, but the advice of the living God, the Creator of the universe. These are the promises of the Redeemer who loved them enough to ransom them with His own life.

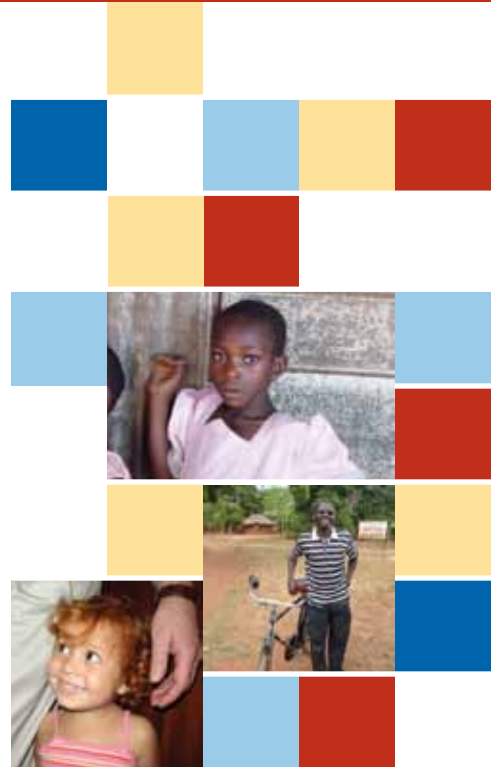
These teens are not asking, "What are we doing here on a beautiful Saturday?" They are drawn to hear more. One of the young men, Israel, a junior in high school, made this statement, "God willing, I hope to go to Bible school in Minneapolis when I finish high school."

What is AFLC World Missions doing here in Celaya? We are reaching individuals in a specific place with the life-changing gospel of Christ. That's what we're doing in many places throughout the world.

Have you been touched by the gospel of Christ? If so, come along with us by going, giving and praying that God would do the same in the lives of people around the world. Don't wait for God to ask, "What are you doing here?"

As you touch the lives of others through missions, you will help them have an answer to the most important question of all time, the question asked by God Himself at the entrance of heaven, "What are you doing here?"

Situations like this take place regularly on each of our mission fields as lives are changed one by one. Pray for our missionaries and national workers in Brazil, Ecuador, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Uganda and Ukraine.



Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." ~Matthew 28:18-20

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TRAINING IN AN ORAL TRADITION

What does an oral Bible look like? An oral Bible can look like a solar-powered MP3 player, or a written curriculum for oral teachers, or even a video on DVD or the internet. Really, all of these are just tools for communicating the Bible to someone in an oral method. A real oral Bible looks like a person, it looks like David, Godfry or Devasahayam.

These three men are teachers of the oral training curriculum that is being used to teach pastors in Uganda and India. They are ordinary men who are raising their families, pastoring a church and are caring for people. They love Jesus, and the best way to share Him with their people is through the stories that they have learned and memorized from God's Word.

David had a friend visit him from another part of Uganda. David began to share some of the stories that they had studied from class. After each one, the visitor would ask David if he knew more. After David shared all of his stories, the visitor asked him to come back with him to his home area to share the stories with his people as well.

Godfry started listening to the oral Bible using a portable MP3 player. He asked if he could borrow it for two days, and he shared them with his wife who in turn shared them with their neighbors. After two days, the ten-hour battery life was drained. Godfry had never heard the biblical stories of Joseph or Isaac. He had only heard some biblical stories in a general way. But listening to God's Word was making the Bible come alive.

Passing on the stories of the Bible orally has been part of the human tradition for 6,000 years. Only in the last 500 years has written text been available for the common person. Yet even now many people have never opened a Bible to read it. When they have, they often get lost or don't understand it. It may seem strange to think of yourself as a walking Bible, but often times you are the only Bible that other people ever read.

The Ambassador Institute is working to get biblical training into the hands of pastors and leaders through people like David or Godfry. II Corinthians 4:6-7 says, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." In other words, God has been passing on his Word through His people, simple clay pots, and when that light shines out, it is obvious that it is from God and not from man.



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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), however congregational women are free to use that name or a specialized name for their local women's group. Our purpose is to promote interest and love for the Kingdom of God at home and abroad.

Meetings of the local WMF may be held once a month or as often as the group wishes. Resource packets are provided for the use of the leaders of each local group. These are sent in the fall of the year. Every year a Bible study is published by the WMF for the local groups to use as they wish.

Like-minded Christian women meet together to be encouraged in their walk with Christ by attending the spring and fall rallies in their local districts.

The National WMF Day is held once a year the day before the AFLC Annual Conference.



THE WMF PRAYS FOR AND SUPPORTS

→ World Missions

Offerings help support the AFLC World Mission work in the various countries where we have missionaries. We also have an STA (Short Term Assistant) Fund and Missions Scholarship that is available for seminarians who are approved as missionary candidates for World Missions, short term assistants, and missionary and seminary wives who desire to continue their spiritual education.

→ Christian Education

Offerings support the publication of Sunday school material as well as other Christian publications

produced by Ambassador Publications, the parish education department of the AFLC. Offerings also provide support for the AFLC Bible school and seminary. Cradle Roll packets may be ordered to give to parents of newborns in your congregations and community.

→ Home Missions

Offerings to this project go toward supporting our Home Missions work in setting up and establishing new congregations in the USA.

→ WMF General Fund

This fund covers many projects, including the materials that are printed and mailed from the WMF (*Helping Hand*, Bible studies, resource packets, and other necessary mailings). This fund also helps cover the annual WMF Day expenses, office equipment, supplies and board teleconference meetings or travel, salary for the Executive Secretary, Women's Outreach Coordinator, and stipends for the president and treasurer.

CONTACT

Women's Missionary Federation
wmf@aflc.org
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Celebrating
THE LORD AT WORK
through youth ministry



AFLC Youth Ministries exists to encourage local congregations to WIN teens to Christ, to BUILD them in God’s Word and God’s love, and to EQUIP them to share their faith with others, in order that we may see the multiplication of maturing teen disciples of Jesus.

We are called to minister to and with teenagers “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

OPPORTUNITIES

The first of the year saw Director Jason Holt return to full-time after 12 months at a part-time capacity. This move reflected the strong support of AFLC congregations and individuals through the Gideon Plan, which will have a sunset date of Dec. 31, 2010. Each one’s ownership of this department through prayer and finances was valuable in reaching this goal.

The 14th annual Youth Workers Retreat was a powerful time of training. Fifty-five participants spent time looking at how to be a disciple of Christ, who makes disciples, and who, in turn, make disciples. Following Jesus together in the local congregation, we can have a strong influence on the spiritual life of each teenager.

Spring retreats and rallies had Pastor Holt minister by means of God’s Word in four states. The return to full-time status enables him to be available to serve at your district or congregational youth event.

OUTLOOK

FLY Boot Camp is just around the corner on July 5-9. Boot Camp is a five-day equipping event held at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wis. This year’s theme, “The Trail of Truth,” will focus on a Christ-centered, biblical worldview. Practical sessions addressing apologetics and personal evangelism will make this week effective for each teen who attends.

Two international short-term trips are in final preparations through Student Missions. Under the leadership of coordinators Sam and Rachel Menge, one trip will serve in the Ukraine during July and another team will travel to India in August. The latter will partner with AFLC World Missions Director, Pastor Del Palmer.



YOUTH BOARD

- Chairman—Pastor Mark Johnson
- Vice Chairman—Dan Antal
- Secretary—Kayla Russum
- Communications—Pastor Wade Mobley
- FLY Representative—Jordan Langness
- Director of Youth Ministries—Pastor Jason Holt





Pursuing GOD'S MISSION

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary is an educational ministry of the AFLC. It has been invested with the responsibility of equipping qualified men who will labor as "servant-pastors" in the congregations. What are the concerns and emphases of AFLTS that are prayerfully imparted to its students? Three words characterize AFLTS's mission.

CONSERVATIVE

This designation refers to the Seminary's conviction that "the Bible is the divinely inspired, revealed, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God and, as such, is trustworthy in all its parts and the supreme and only rule of faith and practice." The word "inerrant" is deliberate in application to the Bible. It is because of the Bible's own testimony of its divine character that inerrancy must be the outcome. If the Bible is inspired by God, as its human authors testify, then any other conclusion is to disregard that witness.

CONFESSIONAL

The Seminary believes without qualification that the ancient creeds and the Lutheran confessions are correct expositions of the Word of God. A strong emphasis on the necessity to "rightly divide" Law and Gospel and to keep the chief article of the Augsburg Confession, justification by grace alone through faith, ever in focus is apparent in the Seminary's curriculum and practice. It holds that the Means of Grace, Word and Sacraments, are indispensable for the ministry of the congregation.

CONGREGATIONAL

It is the belief of the Seminary that the local congregation is the "right form of the Kingdom of God on earth." There is no other ecclesiastical entity presented in the New Testament that takes precedence. It is the Word of God and the Holy Spirit that comprise the true and only authority over the congregation. The congregation has been entrusted with the Means of Grace, Word and Sacraments, and is endowed with all the spiritual gifts necessary for its edification and outreach as it seeks to be, for God's glory, a free and living congregation.

OPPORTUNITIES

→ Summer Institute of Theology

An extension of the regular seminary program, SIT provides an opportunity for continuing theological study for those who are in Christian ministry and introduces other interested registrants to the study of Lutheran theology. It will be conducted August 2-6 on the campus at Medicine Lake. The following courses will be offered: *Studies in Joshua* (Pastor Martin Horn, guest instructor), *Theology of Biblical Persecution* (Pastor Ray Ballmann, guest instructor), *Biblical Marriage Counseling* (Pastor Robert Lee, instructor), *Studies in the Gospel of John* (Pastor Phil Haugen, instructor), and *Our Lutheran Confessions* (Dr. Fran Monseth, instructor).

→ Winter Inter-Term

Join with our full-time students on the campus for courses January 3-14, 2011. The course offerings include: *History and Aims of the AFLC* (Pastor Robert Lee, instructor), and *AFLC Missions* (Pastor Del Palmer, guest instructor).

→ Internship Program

A vital part of preparation for pastoral ministry in the AFLC,

the Seminary invites cooperating congregations and their pastors to share in the final year of a student's preparation by providing an internship opportunity. Under the guidance of an experienced parish pastor, the intern is given a variety of ministry experiences through which he is able to apply what he has learned in the classroom. The 12-month internship year usually begins on June 1.

CONTACT

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GOING DEEPER

with God



AFLBS offers a unique, two-year, college-level education in the Bible. It is an extraordinary place to establish a deeper relationship with God and deeply understand His Word in a welcoming Christian community. At AFLBS, all of life is studied in submission to the Word of God and its principles. Our mission since 1966 is to establish our students for a life of faith in Jesus Christ through the eternal and infallible Word of God. Our students become transformed through God's Truth and engaged in making it known to others. You will experience Christian friendships that will last for a lifetime.

→ Academically Distinctive

The two-year Bible track includes courses from Genesis to Revelation, plus related studies in evangelism, discipleship, missions, prayer, apologetics, church history, music, and various other topics. Our pastor professors work diligently to provide the best biblical training on a deeply personal level for each student. Many credits are accepted by major colleges. The 25-acre campus is located on the shores of Medicine Lake in the northwest Minneapolis suburb of Plymouth. Classes are offered each morning from 8 a.m. to noon.

→ Affordable Tuition

At AFLBS, we are committed to provide the best value possible. The cost to attend is approximately \$8610 yearly, including tuition, room and board. Many jobs are available in the area to make it possible for students to work after classes. Students may apply for scholarships to help defray the costs.

→ Tradition of Music Excellence

AFLBS has a long tradition of music excellence. Music teams perform and minister to congregations, nursing homes, campus chapels, special events, and summer camps. The Concert Choir and Proclaim Choir have a national or international tour each spring. AFLBS also offers private instrument and voice lessons, small and large group ensembles, and instrumental ensemble. These student-led teams are available for ministry throughout the year.

→ Intercollegiate Athletics

Our men's, women's, and co-ed sports develop personal character and an attitude of excellence to develop leadership skills. We offer intramural sports in volleyball, softball, soccer, and Ultimate Frisbee. Men's and women's basketball teams participate in the NIAC conference and ACCA national tournaments. Our women's team won nationals in 2004 and 2006. Our coaches are committed to Jesus Christ and desire to see every team member reach their full potential.

→ Music & Service Ministry Teams

Our ministry teams are an important outreach to communities and congregations. These are abundant through various gospel teams including music, evangelism, visitation, puppet ministry, urban ministry and local congregation involvement. There is a dynamic mission emphasis throughout the year that is an important focus for every student.

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Customize a campus visit

You are invited to meet our friendly faculty, staff and students! We would love for you to experience our campus life through a fall or spring Campus Days weekend or Preview Day, chapel (twice weekly), or a personal tour of the campus. Stay overnight with students; attend a class, concert, or sporting game; meet with the Student Development Director, the AFLBS Dean or a professor.

Please call or e-mail to set up a personal visit, attend a campus event, or apply.



Becoming MISSION MINDED

The Ministry Training Institute (MTI) is an evangelism, youth ministry and missions training ministry of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School (AFLBS) in Minneapolis. The purpose of MTI is to train believers for the mission of furthering the gospel of Jesus Christ by serving in free and living congregations or as a missionary in another culture or place. We desire to equip Christians to serve and love the people to whom God sends them, to teach sacrifice and service in the context of a practical work experience on location, and to experience the dynamic process of mentorship under experienced trained leaders.

MTI has three main tracks of study: youth ministry, cross-cultural missions, and mission aviation ministry. Through the 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. Recent high school graduates are required to first attend AFLBS for two years. All applicants will be interviewed on a case-by-case.



CONTACT

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From our students

In the last few weeks that I have been here it has been a blessing but also a challenge. I am so thankful for the opportunity I have in being in Jerez, Mexico. Helping out with the kids is a huge blessing. It is so exciting to see kid's open and attentive to hearing the Word of God. One of the challenges, though, is the language. Though there is that challenge and others it is a reminder to give everything up to God like it says in Psalm 55:22a: "Cast you burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you."

~Hannah Swanson

The biggest focus that God has been teaching me would be the importance of loving each other. In Jesus' words to the disciples in the Gospel of John, he does not say that all men will know we are his disciples by our zeal for the lost, or even by our zeal for God and his commands (while these things are both very important). Instead, what Christ lays out as the most clear evidence of all that we are His disciples is the love that we have for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

~Jacob O'Flanagan

God has been teaching me that He knows the plans He has for me and I don't have to worry about anything. When I have been worried, God has always provided. He has guided me and been faithful. It's scary for me to know that He lets me choose, but I'm so thankful He has brought me back to Him before it was too late. God has been teaching me that He loves everybody and they might live under different circumstances or even believe different things, but I am to love others with Christ's love. On my internship I've learned that even if you can't speak the language, you can still be a witness to people.

~Amanda Bellefy

GOD'S PROVISION

Heritage Hall debt paid in full



Indeed we give thanks and praise to God for his provisions in reaching yet another goal within Vision. Phase II (Heritage Hall) was completed and the mortgage debt has now been paid in full. We celebrate this wonderful milestone at our 2010 AFLC annual conference.

We are most grateful to each of you, as well. Your support through financial resources and prayer are vital to this ministry. God's mercies are abundant as He uses servants like you to accomplish His work on earth.

More than an investment in the cost of buildings, you have invested in the lives of students. Students are equipped, through the study of God's Word, to share the message of God's plan of salvation, offering the knowledge of this hope and future to the lost, and drawing lives to a relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you for your investment and partnership as we continue to work together to expand the VISION of the AFLC schools.

THE PHASES

- Phase I** Building, site work, permit and contractor fees were completed in 1999. A four-unit seminary housing structure, and site work for future structures. Two seminary housing units were completed in 2006 and 2007, each with four units.
- Phase II** Student Center, including classroom space, library, music area, offices and cafeteria. Completed in 2003.
- Phase III** New dormitory for 100 students.
- Phase IV** Multi purpose auditorium, complete with gymnasium.
- Phase V** Additional 100-student dormitory.

HISTORY OF VISION

In January 1997, members of the AFLC Schools Board of Trustees met at a retreat in Osceola, Wis., to pray about a vision for the future of our schools. Out of that prayer retreat came a vision for expansion.

The vision included growth of larger student bodies in both schools and more faculty and staff, along with buildings to accommodate the increase.

That same June, the AFLC conference endorsed Vision 2004.

DEANS' LUNCHEONS

Opportunities are available for visitors to come to campus for tours, attend classes and chapel services, and enjoy lunch and fellowship with staff and students. Luncheons are held monthly during the school year and are posted on the Web site www.afbs.org.



CONTACT

Sherry Mork, Director
763.544.9501 • slmork@afbc.org
www.afbs.org/vision

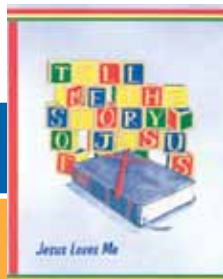


The Ambassador SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES

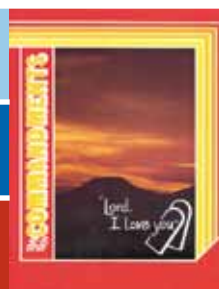
Ambassador Publications serves the local congregation by providing biblical Lutheran educational and devotional resources to encourage diligent and faithful teaching of the Word of God in homes and churches.



Preschool



Kindergarten



Grade Two



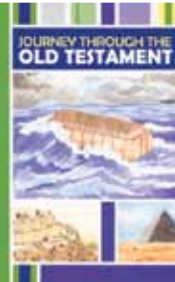
Grade Four



Grade One



Grade Three



Grade Five

- ➔ Systematically gives students a complete overview of the Scriptures and *Luther's Small Catechism* as they move through the series.
- ➔ Focuses on the Gospel as the power for salvation and sanctification.
- ➔ Nurtures believing children in their faith and calls unbelievers to receive salvation through faith in Christ.

Request a free sample copy.

Prayer Needs

- ➔ Pray for staff, board members, and volunteers working on various projects.
- ➔ Pray for God's provision to meet our financial shortfall. In 2009, we only received 77 percent of the budgeted subsidy request. Your gifts enable our department to develop and publish Christ-centered educational and devotional resources to serve our congregations.

Coming Soon

- ➔ *They Lived in the Power of God: Lutheran Revival Leaders in Northern Europe—AFLC Heritage Series, Volume III*
- ➔ *Worship: The Secret of the Lord (Part 2: Confession of Faith)—Bible Study*

CONTACT

Ambassador Publications
763.545.5631 • parished@aflc.org
www.aflc.org/publications



A publication FOR THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

The Lutheran Ambassador exists to ...

Educate

About the AFLC

Equip

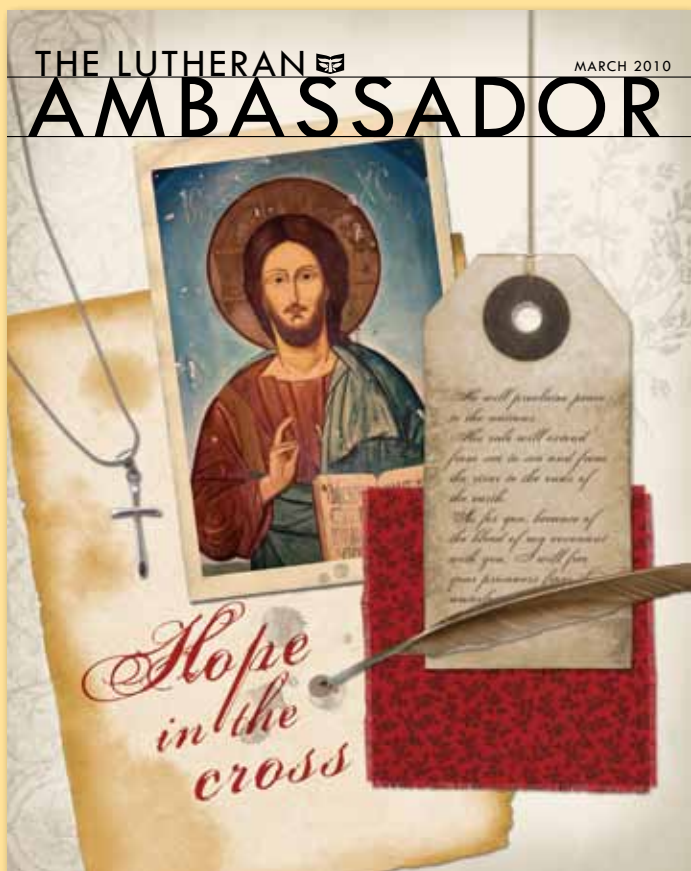
Christians for service

Encourage

The local congregation

Evangelize

Our neighbors and the world

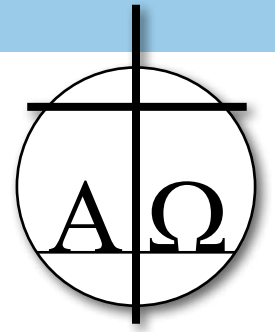


The Lutheran Ambassador is a monthly magazine published by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Each month features a specific theme, carrying articles both practical and devotional. Our writers, all volunteer lay people and pastors from our local congregations, are a key feature in our publications. 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.)



RETREAT CENTER

The Association Retreat Center (ARC) is your AFLC, full-service retreat and conference center 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:

The 2010 giving campaign is called BOLD (Believing Our Lord Delivers). Projects include:

- Waterslide—\$20,000
- General Fund—\$180,000
- Apartment remodel—\$200,000
- Phil Featherstone Scholarship Fund
- GAZA Building—\$10,000

Volunteering:

Volunteers are needed for:

- Painting
- General maintenance
- Electrical
- IT assistance
- Housekeeping
- Landscaping
- Office work

ARC volunteers are invited to stay with us for free while volunteering at the ARC.



ARC Camps & Retreats

2010 Schedule

- Fire Up Youth (Grades 4-7)
June 20-25
- Kids' Camp (Grades 1-3)
June 25-27
- Family Camp
July 25-31
- Classics' Retreat (55 & Over)
September 17-19
- ARC Family Weekend
October
- Chosen Child Conference
November 5-7
- Silent Prayer Retreat
December 3-4
- ARC Christmas Festival/The Carol
December

2011 Schedule

- SIDeSIDE/Sno Daze
February 4-6
- Couples' Retreat
February 18-20
- Women's Retreat
March 18-20
- Men's Retreat
April 15-17
- ARC Family Weekend
May 2011
- 'Fire Up' Youth Camp
June 19-24
- Kids' Camp
June 24-26

CONTACT

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

WILDERNESS CAMP

When you need to get away

The AFLC Wilderness Bible Camp is located on 77 wooded acres in the beautiful lakes country of central Minnesota. The Wilderness Camp provides a restful setting for renewal, fellowship, and solid biblical study. The Family Bible Camp is July 13-18. Our evening speaker will be Pastor Joel Rolf, dean of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School.

The schedule at camp is relaxed, which allows time for family and fellowship with other campers. The only official events on the schedule are a morning Bible study and an evening service. The rest of the time is open for activities such as forest trail hikes, swimming at nearby beaches, recreation, raspberry picking, or simply sitting around chatting. One of the favorite events is not on the schedule, but every night, after the younger campers have been shuttled off to bed, many of the adults stay up well into the night discussing topics deep and light.

The name of the camp continues to be "Wilderness Bible Camp," but that is not an entirely accurate description. Over the years, the camp has continued to develop and now has a long list of amenities. There are a number of sleeping rooms available for use, as well as kitchen storage, preparation, and eating facilities, a large bathhouse, RV campsites with water and electricity, and a dump station. God has truly been generous to the AFLC, as this entire camp has been established, built up, and maintained by the gifts and labor of individuals.

The use of the camp is also available for all AFLC members and churches on a free-will donation basis. There are no fees charged, but free-will offerings are taken to support the ongoing work of the camp.

In addition to Family Camp, a Labor Day Retreat is held every year beginning Saturday evening and ending Monday morning on that weekend, which includes a potluck supper, evening hymn sing, and a pancake breakfast Monday morning. We would love to see more congregations take advantage of this wonderful gift that God has provided.



Wilderness Bible Camp

- Located 11 miles South of Lake Park, Minn., on County Road 5.
- Family Camp dates: July 13-18

Galilee Bible Camp

- Located in Lake Bronson State Park, Minn.
- Family Camp dates: July 5-9
With Foundation, an AFLBS Summer Team

CONTACT

Wilderness Bible Camp
Questions—Gordy Grange: 218.589.7551
Reservations—Nathan Dalager: 218.437.6035

Galilee Bible Camp
Dr. Lyle Mattson: 218. 437.6035



CONTACT

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

A unique
PLACE TO SERVE

Members of AFLC Institutional Chaplaincy serve as chaplains in hospitals, nursing homes, and hospice. It is an opportunity to serve people both within the church and outside of the church. Our chaplains serve as an extension of our churches to bring the Word of God to individuals as they experience changes in health and home.

It is also an opportunity to reach out to those who, for a variety of reasons, have lost contact with their church home and to those who have never been a part of the Christian Church. We have the unique opportunity to reach out as God's servants to people with the peace and promises of God's Word.

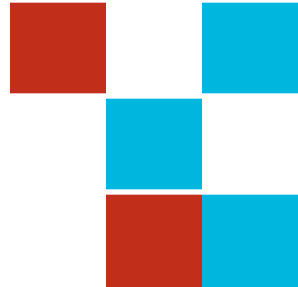
Several years ago, it was decided by our members that we should encourage those who are called to be chaplains to complete one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. This can be accomplished as you serve in your own congregations. Clinical Pastoral Education helps a person explore their own feelings as well as enhancing listening skills to better understand and

serve those in need.

If God has laid it on your heart to serve as a chaplain, we invite you to contact Chaplain Kerwin Sletto and let him know of your desire. If it is your desire to serve as a chaplain with a local police department or fire department, we would be glad to connect you with the appropriate resources.

Our 12th annual chaplains seminar is scheduled for September 22-24 at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks, N.D. Contact Chaplain Kerwin Sletto if you desire to attend.

We welcome you to serve.



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
Dexter, MN—Zion 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
Brandon/Riverview, FL—Cornerstone Christian
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

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
Kindred, ND—West Prairie Lutheran
Larimore, ND—Living Faith Free Lutheran
Larimore, ND—Middle Grove Lutheran
Leeds, ND—North Prairie Free 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
Menasha, WI—Living Word 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—Newark Lutheran
Newark, IL—Lisbon Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran
Ottawa, IL—Faith Lutheran
Ottawa, IL—Freedom Lutheran
Rochelle/Ashton, IL—Redeemer Free 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
Eden Prairie, MN—King Of Glory 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
North Branch, MN—Salem Lutheran of Oxford
Plymouth, MN—Vision of Glory Lutheran
Shakopee, MN—Faith 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
Seward, NE—Mighty Fortress Evangelical 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
Fertile/Mentor, MN—Maple Bay Free Lutheran
Fosston, MN—Calvary Free Lutheran
Halstad, MN—East Marsh River Lutheran
McIntosh, MN—Mt. Carmel Free Lutheran
McIntosh, MN—Trinity 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
Ishpeming, MI—Hope Free Evangelical Lutheran
Metz/Posen, MI—St. Peter Lutheran
Ontonagon, MI—Redeemer Free Lutheran
Pelkie, MI—Grace Free Lutheran

NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA

Argyle, MN—Alma Lutheran
Argyle, MN—Our Savior's Lutheran
Badger, MN—Badger Creek Lutheran
East Grand Forks, MN—Christ the King Free Lutheran
Goodridge, MN—Reiner Lutheran
Greenbush/Badger, MN—Oiland 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
Arlington, WA—New Hope Free Lutheran
Astoria, OR—Bethany Lutheran
Brookings, OR—Trinity Lutheran
Buckley, WA—Grace Lutheran
Eugene, OR—Spencer Creek Lutheran
Everett, WA—Calvary Lutheran
Ferndale, 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
Tomball, TX—Crown of Life Lutheran
Tulia, TX—Christ Lutheran
Weslaco, TX—Faith Lutheran

SOUTH DAKOTA

Arlington, SD—Calvary Free Lutheran
Beresford, SD—Skrefsrud Lutheran
Bruce, SD—Grace Lutheran
Canton, SD—Redeemer Free Lutheran
Centerville, SD—Immanuel Free Lutheran
Chamberlain, SD—St. Olaf Lutheran
Eagle Butte, SD—Emmanuel Free Lutheran
Faith, SD—Bethel Lutheran
Freeman, SD—Salem Free 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
Roslyn/Webster, SD—Buffalo Lake Lutheran
Roslyn/Webster, SD—Saron Lutheran
Roslyn/Webster, SD—Tabor Lutheran
Sioux Falls, SD—Abiding Savior Free Lutheran
Sioux Falls, SD—Living Word Free Lutheran
Volin, SD—Trondhjem Lutheran
Wallace, SD—Calvary Lutheran
Waubay, SD—Egeland 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.

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/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.



More information

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441
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CONTACT

Yes, I would like more information about the AFLC.

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