



Summer 2012

# 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.





# AS WE MOVE FORWARD

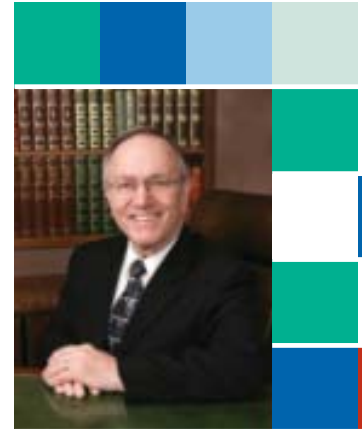
The halfway point of this year of celebrating 50 years as an Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is upon us. What does this year of JUBILEE mean to you and to me? In asking such a question I certainly would expect a variety of responses, but in a general way it means looking back and looking ahead.

Looking back over our last 50 years is very appropriate, and His blessings to us cause us to bow before Him in thanksgiving, adoration and praise. Our theme verses from Psalm 118:23-24 say it so well: "This is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

As to looking ahead, there are many questions and concerns that arise. Most of them focus on you and me. But now, as always, our focus must be on the One who has brought us thus far. His faithfulness and provision for you and me will never change in whatever time remains.

The task before us in the days ahead has not changed in the nearly 2,000 years since Jesus walked here on this earth and spoke words of direction, encouragement and promise. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20) ... "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you" (Luke 24:49) ... "I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am there you may be also" (John 14:2).

"As we forward move" is a phrase from the hymn *On Our Way Rejoicing*. We have been and I trust will continue, as hymn writer John Monsell wrote, to move forward singing joyful songs to our God, trusting Christ to conquer and to be our outward safety and our inward joy. The outcome of this journey for all who obediently follow Him is eternity with Him. And so we are on our way rejoicing! It is my prayer that each of us—as individuals, as congregations and as an AFLC—will continue to grow in Him as we serve the King of kings and Lord of lords, and that our celebration will continue to focus on Him.



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## DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT: ONE YEAR LATER

Pollestad works directly with each AFLC ministry to develop funding programs

It is amazing that summer is here already. Where did winter go? Those of us living in the Midwest did not have much of a winter this year—just an extended fall. Nonetheless, summer is here. Which means that it has already been one year since I began serving in this position. In that year, the ministry of development for the AFLC has gone extremely well; we are being blessed beyond our greatest expectations.

During this past year I have traveled to 17 states and visited about 80 churches. In all of my visits, I have found that the ministry of development is being received with open arms. People all across the United States have been waiting for someone to do what we are doing. Maybe you are wondering what the AFLC Development Department does. We are here to build relationships with partners for the expansion of God's Kingdom by coming alongside our partners to help them become the very best stewards of what God has entrusted to them. We do this by finding out what their ministry interests are and what it is that God is laying on their hearts for them to do. We then help them find creative ways to give to that ministry, either through a current financial gift or through an estate planning avenue, whichever is best for the partner. We are here to help and serve you as you carry out what God is leading you to do. Thank you for your partnership.

If you or anyone you know needs help finding a viable way to accomplish what God is placing on your hearts concerning current gifting or estate planning, please contact the Development office and I will be very glad to help in any way. Please pray for this ministry, the travels that need to be made, and my family. God bless you.



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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.



### Red Thread Retreats

It is exciting to see how well the retreats are being handled. We have had one retreat so far this year and plan to have four more this fall. What are we hoping to accomplish through these retreats?

- 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

### Intentional Discipleship Training

Intentional Discipleship Training is a Bible-based training process to equip the local congregation to rediscover the New Testament principles of disciple-making so it can fulfill the Great Commission.

This fall the Commission on Evangelism plans on having a workshop available for individual congregations and/or districts to go through Intentional Discipleship Training. The training, which will last about seven hours, will have two different parts.

- A one- to two-hour training workshop that equips qualified individuals to lead a one-hour intentional discipleship Bible study.
- A training workshop called The Small Group Leadership Seminar. Lasting about four hours, this section trains participants in all aspects of the intentional discipleship process, including how to start new studies, how to overcome group problems, and how to identify and train a new leader.

The Intentional Discipleship Training is evangelistic in nature and is focused on growing the local congregation both in biblical knowledge and with new behaviors.

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# 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.

### → Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Discipleship is the mandate the Christian Church described in Matthew 28:19-20. It's as big as the world and as multi-faceted as His people.

One congregation with a history of being a prayer house for AFLC World and Home Missions is Immanuel Lutheran Church of Springfield, Mo. Emmanuel is located about an hour north of Branson, Mo., and is often considered the Gateway to the South. We are excited about the new start this congregation is experiencing after many years without a pastor.

Home Mission Pastor Rich Ramsbacher reports, "We've been working on discipleship and [building] relationships with our neighborhood." As a result, he reports, "God is now placing many un-churched [belong to a denomination but not attending] people in our path, and we hope to reach them." Their beautiful new church sign reflects the congregation's commitment to stay under the authority of the Word of God.

### → Come Join Us

Church planting can't happen apart from the involvement of local congregations. Come Join Us presentations are one way Home Missions is getting the word out. Loren Tungseth, Home Missions director of resource management, is passionate about raising awareness of what God is doing through AFLC church planting, summer teams and Parish Builder ministries, and especially the Naknek, Alaska Mission.

"I have been privileged to make three trips to Naknek since 2008, when God called the AFLC to the ministry there," said Tungseth. "I have gone twice as a Home Missions Committee member and once with a work team from my home church, Calvary Free Lutheran in Fergus Falls, Minn. God has given me a heart for the work there ... and I'm impressed with the great tools for ministry that God has given us to use in sending His gospel to that remote part of the United States."

So far more than 70 AFLC congregations have participated in Come Join Us presentations, which includes Loren and his wife Sharon's personal testimony, a high quality PowerPoint to help you "see" what God is doing in Home Missions, and an explanation on specific opportunities for every age to get involved in church planting.

Presentations are available for Sunday school hours, Sunday evening or midweek services, WMF rallies or mission festivals. Contact Loren Tungseth ([loren.tungseth@gmail.com](mailto:loren.tungseth@gmail.com)) about scheduling a Come Join Us presentation with your congregation.



### Join our family

Join "Knee Mail," Facebook or Twitter for a weekly dose of fresh inspiration, ministry news, prayer requests, and pictures. It's like a family. Won't you come join us?

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## BEHIND THE SCENES

We've all seen airplanes at airports or flying in the air, but we don't usually see what is done behind the scenes to keep them flying. What exactly takes place to keep the FLAPS airplanes flying safely? Good maintenance is as important for preventing mechanical problems as is making repairs after a problem takes place.

For all the years of its existence, FLAPS has been blessed with Christian mechanics who maintain its airplanes. Their time is often donated or discounted, which helps us minimize maintenance costs. For the two FLAPS aircraft in Alaska, it is a blessing that AFLC Pastor Jeremy Crowell is an experienced pilot and mechanic with inspector authorization. Our Alaska missionaries say this past winter was one of the coldest in recent memory. Thank God we have a heated hangar in Naknek where maintenance can be done.

During the coldest winter months, flying activity is slowed, which makes it a good time to do a comprehensive annual inspection on each FLAPS plane. Crowell starts the inspection with an engine compression and timing check. Then he changes the air and oil filters and services the spark plugs. He inspects the engine and looks for anything that might be an issue and takes care of it. He also removes numerous inspection panels on the airframe and inspects the aircraft structure, flight control and fuel systems, etc. This involves removing the interior of the cabin, including seats and most of the upholstery panels, opening the interior inspection panels, etc.

The inspection is done in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the Federal Air Regulations. Once the inspection is complete, the plane is serviced and reassembled and the engine is test run. All the necessary log book entries are made, paperwork filed, and the aircraft is returned to service for another year. Twelve months later, the process is repeated.

Although inspections are time consuming, it is assuring to know the airplane is in top working order, especially when flights are made over rugged, uninhabited terrain in Alaska in a variety of weather conditions. The people we carry in the mission planes don't normally see all this inspection and maintenance being done. Yet good maintenance of the FLAPS airplanes is on-going and very important.

We often see the Lord's provision in this area, too. Equipment of various types, including parts and radios, have been donated to FLAPS just at the time they're needed. In addition, MARC (Mission Aviation Repair Center), based in Soldotna, Alaska, sells aviation fuel and parts at their cost to aviation mission organizations like FLAPS. We thank God for all these networking details that contribute to the aviation ministry in Alaska.

The FLAPS ministry was also blessed with a grant of \$15,000 from the Lutheran Mission Society for the purchase of fuel for our mission planes in Alaska. Aviation fuel in Naknek costs about \$7/gal., so this is a big help for the ministry.

God's hand is evident in the provision of needed resources for the FLAPS ministry. "To God be the glory, great things He has done!"



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# WHEN WE REACH THE END OF OUR RESOURCES

"... I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

God is working around the world to build His church. Neither trying situations nor even the gates of hell can hinder His power to fulfill His promises. If any church has experienced trying situations, it would be our church in León, Mexico. A dwindling congregation in a violent country, the congregation at one point had a pastor in his 90s, a building that had stood unfinished for decades, and a reduction in AFLC financial support. None of these attributes stopped God from fulfilling His promise to bless those who honor Him.

Missionary Todd Schierkolk and World Missions Director Del Palmer visited the congregation this spring and found it alive and healthy. The dwindling congregation was growing. A number of new families had moved to León from Mazatlán. The pastor's son was now leading the service and teaching Bible studies. New people were coming from the community because the church was reaching out.

The church had grown so much that the chapel they were meeting in was no longer big enough. Even though there was a reduction in support from the AFLC, they needed to get the church finished. They trusted in God and set out to finish the structure. During their visit, Schierkolk and Palmer found the roof work complete. The congregation had the funds to put in the windows and an electrician from the congregation offered to finish the electrical work.

God is building His Church around the world. He has invited us to be a part of it. God was at work in His church in León, and the congregation was depending on Him. When we are weak we are more likely to depend on Him. That's what God explained to Paul when He said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9).



## PLEASE PRAY FOR



### Missionaries

Pastor Jonathan and Tamba Abel, Brazil  
Pastor Paul and Becky Abel, Brazil  
Pastor Connely Dyrud, MTI  
Pastor Nathan and Rhoda Jore, Uganda  
Justo and Patricia Pillman, Ecuador  
Pastor Todd and Barb Schierkolk, Mexico  
Jonni Sliver, Miriam Infant Home, Brazil



### Missionaries on Loan

Pastor Andy and Monica Coyle, EEMN, Ukraine  
Steve and Glenda Kvale, Wycliffe, USA

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# LONGING FOR & LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

"We want to thank you for bringing the Ambassador Institute to us because we know that now we are receiving the true Word of God." That quote, read at a conference in Uganda this past January, represents a passion that stands out in many countries where we minister. There is a hunger for learning the Word of God.

When Musasizi Wilson was asked, "Why do you give your time and energy to train others?" he answered, "When you have tasted something that is sweet like honey, you want to share it with others."

The Ambassador Institute Oral Bible Study Curriculum contains 84 narratives from the Bible, equaling 2,200 verses that the students memorize. Each lesson also emphasizes three pillars of education.

## → The first pillar is knowledge or doctrine.

Paul admonishes believers in I Timothy 4:16, "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." The doctrines of Scripture define us as Lutherans; they help us understand God's Word and they direct how we are to live. The nature of man and the means of grace are topics that transcend culture and apply to everyone who studies God's Word. The law, the gospel, and Christ are themes that flow through all of Scripture. Head knowledge is necessary so that we know what and why we believe, but that knowledge must also affect the heart of a person.

## → The second pillar is character.

Believers must grow into maturity. Head knowledge must accompany a heart transformation in the life of a believer. The fruit of the Spirit reveals the work that God is doing on the inside. It might be easy to see the character flaws in others, but God's Word reveals what every follower of Christ must look like. I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 both describe in detail the qualifications for being a leader in a church. Those qualities lay out the topics for discipleship, which is lived out in ministry.

## → The third pillar is ministry life.

The student must put to work the head knowledge and the heart transformation through hands that care for others. Romans 12 refers to the different gifts of the Spirit and how each part of the body is needed to make up the whole. Ministry life covers caring for those in the church and becoming family for those without a church home. It means reaching others through evangelism and missions. It includes teaching, preaching, worship, and prayer. As the whole body works together, the Lord is glorified and the Church is built up.

We want to thank you for your partnership in this ministry which builds strong pastors and leaders as our international friends continue to testify to us.

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**CONTACT**

# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

## *Celebrating 50 years*

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

The WMF is truly grateful to God for His watch and care over us 50 years ago when He allowed the formation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. We know that the task at hand was not an easy one for the pioneers of the AFLC. However, with the deterioration of the belief of the Bible as the true Word of God in the churches of that day, something had to be done. So in 1962 the founders of the AFLC met in Thief River Falls, Minn., to prayerfully plan the work of the AFLC. We are also grateful to God for the women who attended that meeting and their vision for the Women's Missionary Federation.

The WMF has had two celebrations this year. The first took place March 23-25 at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wis. The event was a celebration of the 50 years of the WMF in a retreat setting. Through skits and other presentations, we had lots of fun looking back at the old styles as well as looking ahead to the styles of the future. We also had great times of teaching and fellowship. The theme for the retreat was taken from Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

On June 12, the women of the AFLC will gather in Thief River Falls again as we mark another 50th anniversary celebration with the WMF Day at the AFLC Annual Conference. The theme of this celebration is taken from I Samuel 7:12: "Thus far has the Lord helped us." We recognize that God has been the One who has allowed us to grow as a church body and, particularly for us, as the Women's Missionary Federation. We thank Him for His faithfulness to us. We pray that God would enable us to continue on and be faithful to the inerrant Word of God in all we do.



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# IT IS HIM!

"Him [Jesus] we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:28, ESV).

## MISSION & VISION

The AFLC Youth Ministries Department exists to partner with local congregations to win teenagers to Jesus Christ, to build them in God's Word and God's love, and to equip them to communicate their faith with others as well as live their faith by God's grace. When this mission is demonstrated, we see the multiplying of maturing teen disciples of Jesus, who also make disciples and understand their position in the Body of Christ.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- **FLY Beyond**—Our biennial equipping event will be held July 16-20, 2012, at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis. With the theme rooted in Galatians 2:20, we will train teenagers to define their world through the lens of the cross and Jesus Himself.
- **Leader Training**—We are grateful for the partnerships with our schools (AFLBS, the Ministry Training Institute, and the seminary) and with our districts to offer quality biblical equipping for adults in youth ministry. We are currently envisioning new ways to maximize our opportunities to be most effective and available to our AFLC family.
- **Youth Workers Retreat**—Part of our plan for training includes our annual Youth Workers Retreat, which is designed for both volunteer and vocational leaders. We enjoyed the blessing of the largest retreat in the event's history this last January. We are eager to build off this yearly highlight at the beginning of next year.

## OUTLOOK

- **FLY Convention**—Our national youth gathering will be held July 1-6, 2013, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colo. With the theme "Broken" from Isaiah 53, FLY will bring teenagers together to celebrate that Jesus was broken for us and to dwell on the life that we have through faith in Him.
- **Student Missions**—After a year off from trips this summer, we turn our gaze to the summer of 2013. We are pursuing new coordinators for this global exposure program and are strengthening our procedures to ensure the best experience possible for those who attend.
- **Congregational Process**—The first half of this year has been active for many AFLC churches evaluating their process to share Jesus with this generation of young people. We are impressed by the thoughtful, intentional efforts. We are sharpening our tools to assist local congregations that are developing a vocational youth ministry position, while keeping a priority on assisting the vast majority of churches that are effectively led by volunteer youth leaders.

## YOUTH BOARD

- Pastor Mark Johnson, chairman
- Jordan Langness, vice chairman
- Pastor Wade Mobley, secretary
- Dan Antal, treasurer
- Sharon Rykhus, FLY liaison

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# TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MEN

In almost 50 years of ministry, the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary has enrolled more than 250 men.

## MORE THAN 250 MEN

- ➔ ... have been taught 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.”
- ➔ ... have studied the ancient creeds and the Lutheran confessions as faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture.
- ➔ ... have been instructed from the Word that the local congregation is “the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth” and that it acknowledges no authority above itself except the Word and Spirit of God.
- ➔ ... have learned that “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.”

The Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, in fellowship with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, continues to earnestly desire to “lift up the standard of God’s unfailing and inerrant Word, the Scriptures, and of biblical evangelistic Christianity in opposition to all modern apostasy. Its fervent aim remains—to give Christian teaching and training in uncompromising loyalty to the divine Word in order to prepare witnesses and workers for effective Christian ministry.”

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2).



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# GOD'S WORD

God's faithfulness is foundational to our past, present, and our future. From the very beginning of the AFLC in 1962, God has faithfully carried the Association. It was founded on the belief that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant authority in all matters of faith and life. Since the Bible school began in 1966, the study of God's Word has equipped students to serve and impact the world around them through proclaiming the gospel and sharing their faith.

The AFLBS mission statement captures that theme: "Our mission is to establish students in the eternal and inerrant Word of God, for a life of faith in Jesus Christ, and faithful service in His Kingdom."

The Bible school exists as an extension of the ministry of each congregation. The power of God's Word established in the hearts of students is an investment that carries lifelong significance and eternal dividends, not only to the students, but to every one of us.

"On any given Sunday in our congregation, one can observe former AFLBS students teach Sunday school, attending worship, serving as council members, serving in music ministry, and in general being strong members of our congregation ..., " said Pastor Tim Carlson, Grafton, N.D. "We we have experienced the school's positive impact on our own congregation."



We are grateful for your partnership in praying for our schools and the AFLC as a whole. God has blessed us immensely, and as we thank Him for the gracious provisions, we also come humbly seeking that His will be continually accomplished among us. Prayer is a vital component and your partnership is essential.

We are seeking partners who would share in this heart of prayer and commit to praying on a daily basis. Would you consider partnering with us in prayer? There's no greater work to do, nor is there a work in which more people can be involved than prayer. We are completely dependent upon our sovereign God who hears and answers the prayers of His people. Given the shortness of time and the length of eternity, can we count on you to pray for us and with us? Register either online, through e-mail, or by contacting us by phone.

## SCHOLARSHIP 400

AFLBS desires to continue its mission of training disciples of Jesus Christ with the Scholarship 400 initiative. The prayerful goal is that God would provide 400 people to give \$250 a year for student scholarships. This would provide \$100,000 annually to help many more students study at AFLBS. It is an investment for eternity.

While AFLBS seeks to keep tuition costs low, many students find it difficult to fund their Bible school education. Many churches have graciously given scholarship support to students from their congregation. However, the majority of our current students do not receive support. We often hear comments from prospective students that the cost is prohibitive. As a result, they decide not to attend AFLBS. Other students are unable to continue their Bible school education for financial reasons. We would love to tell them that there are scholarship funds available. Would you prayerfully consider a gift of \$250 a year (\$20/month) to help students grow in their faith in Jesus at AFLBS?

## 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 ministers, mission aviators, or parish builders. We invite students of all age groups, including those who already have a vocation.

Ministry training is disciple making. This is what Jesus Christ did the last three years of His life before He laid His life down on the cross to save us from our sins. In essence, this is what the MTI is all about. We teach and train our students to put their two years of Bible school into practice by various means: one-on-one discipleship and ministering to families, small groups, and large groups—all of these areas build up the work of the Church, which is the kingdom of God on earth.

The three tracks of ministry—Cross-Cultural Missions, Youth Ministry, Mission Aviation—are taught in the classroom during the fall semester on the AFLBS campus. During the spring semester, students spend three months on an internship assignment. Those students in the mission track are sent to a foreign country to focus on cross-cultural missions. While there, they are mentored by veteran missionaries in that country. Students in the youth ministry track are placed under an AFLC youth director or pastor who is serving a church that is involved in youth ministry in their community. The student is then mentored in that ministry. Students who enroll in the mission aviation track are sent to work with the AFLC's aviation ministry in Alaska, where they are mentored by a seasoned AFLC pilot in church work.

We continue to ask you to pray and support our students as they are being disciplined in the Lord's service. "Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you'" (John 20:21).



Four students studied youth ministry in the 2011-12 class at the Ministry Training Institute. Pictured, with faculty, are (from left) Pastor Jason Holt, Brandon Fouks, Seth Knutson, Steve Jensen, Shane Remington, Jacob Neufeld and Pastor Connely Dyrud.

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# EXPANSION

## *Through the AFLC Seminary*



The original plans for Vision included growth for the seminary and the Bible school. Since 1999, we have completed three married seminary housing units, with four living units in each building, for a total of 12 units. Praise God for the gifts we have received for these units. The project provides economical housing for our seminary students on campus and makes it convenient for families to be fully involved in campus life near Medicine Lake. In addition, housing fees, less actual expenses, provide significant scholarship funds for students, making seminary affordable.

As we desire to follow God's leading to expand our reach through the seminary, Dr. Francis Monseth (AFLTS dean) will lead the schools through accreditation. This process will require Dr. Monseth, who has been dean for 30 years, to adjust his schedule to focus on this very important undertaking. Members of the Board of Trustees plan to have preparations finalized to apply for accreditation in early 2013. This will take additional work and added expenses to go through the whole accreditation process over the next several years. We have dedicated significant funds from a legacy gift to take care of most of these expenses short-term.

Accreditation will simplify the process for seminary students to receive government aid they have earned through the GI Bill. But most importantly, as Dr. Monseth has said, it will help the seminary sharpen what it already does. We are confident we can apply for accreditation without compromising our core principles.

We are thankful for the congregations' support of the seminary. The schools will need your support of the seminary operating budget even more so as we step through this open door to expand our reach through accreditation. We ask you to pray for Dr. Monseth as he

leads this process and consider supporting the AFLTS operating budget to help us continue to prepare pastors for work in our congregations.

*Steve Jankord*  
AFLC Schools Board of Trustees

### DEANS' LUNCHEONS

Tour our AFLC campus, attend a class at the Bible school or seminary, worship in chapel and have lunch with staff and students. We welcome you to visit our schools. Deans' Luncheons are held monthly during the school year. The dates are posted on the schools' Web site. Call the Bible school office to make a reservation so we can prepare accordingly. Also, please feel welcome to stop by and visit our campus anytime you are in the area.

### CONTACT

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# OUR BOARD & STAFF

The AFLC Board of Publications and Parish Education is a dedicated, five-member board elected by the Annual Conference to oversee the publishing and educational ministry of the AFLC. The board has two-day meetings on campus about every six weeks and also conducts numerous online meetings in between to edit Bible lessons and make decisions related to the ministry. During the past several months, the board has been regularly participating in online meetings through GoToMeeting.com two days a week for several hours at a time mainly to edit grade six Bible lessons.

As director, Marian oversees the writing and publishing of Sunday school curriculum and other books, manages the inventory and bookstore, and represents the department through book displays or workshops in congregations, at WMF rallies, and conventions. Much time is spent corresponding with a large number of volunteers and coordinating projects as well as responding to e-mail inquiries.

Brent and Diane both work part-time in the office Monday through Friday. Brent attends seminary classes in the morning and works in the office in the afternoon entering orders in the computer, running computer reports, and helping to manage inventory. Diane works in the office primarily in the morning and is also employed locally as a massage therapist. Diane assists with volunteer contacts, correspondence, and formatting books for publishing. Both Brent and Diane help customers in the store as well as by phone and e-mail. They also fill and ship orders and pack and unpack books for workshops and other events in addition to multiple other tasks.

Sarah Daas, who used to work in the office as secretary, now works a few hours a week from home and maintains our Web site, makes contacts for bulletin articles, and assists with certain projects.



TOP: Ambassador Publications office staff: Office Assistant Brent Raan, Director Marian Christopherson, and Secretary Diane Brubakken.



ABOVE: The Board of Publications during a skit about the ministry of Ambassador Publications, presented in the chapel to the AFLBS senior Christian Education class. Pictured (from left): Andrea Christenson (Amery, Wis.); Candice Johnson, vice chairman (Stanley, N.D.); Bonnie Handsaker, secretary (Radcliffe, Iowa); Pastor Sam Wellumson (East Grand Forks, Minn); and Pastor John Mundfrom, chairman (Beresford, S.D.).

## Coming soon

- New devotional book entitled *Threads of Grace*, a collection of bulletin articles from the past 25 years.
- New grade six student book, *Journey Through the New Testament*.

## Staffing needs

At the 2010 AFLC Annual Conference, members of the Board of Publications expressed a great need to hire an additional full-time staff member. Additional funds are still needed above and beyond our regular budget. Please pray that God would provide for this need according to His will.

## CONTACT

Marian Christopherson, Director  
Ambassador Publications  
763.545.5631 • [parished@aflc.org](mailto:parished@aflc.org)  
[www.ambassadorpublications.org](http://www.ambassadorpublications.org)

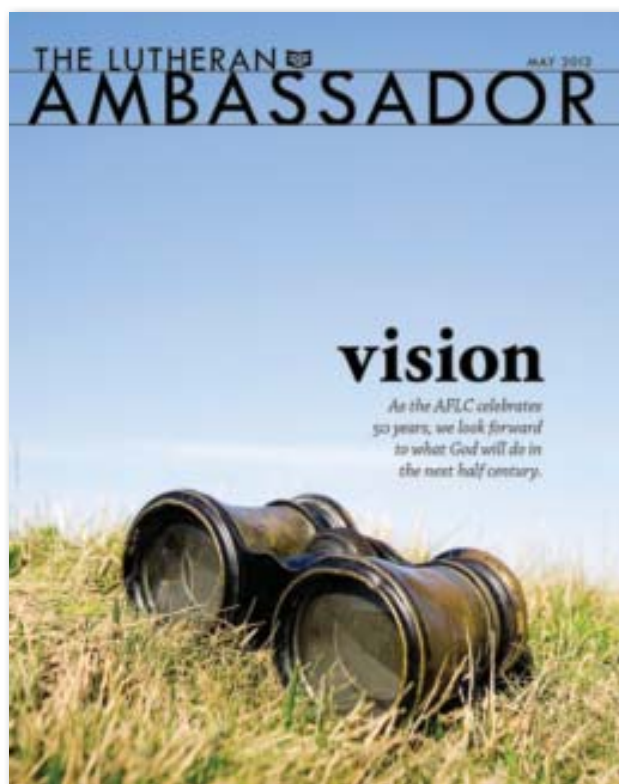




## *A publication* **FOR THE LOCAL CONGREGATION**

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.



### 50 percent off

As the AFLC celebrates its 50th anniversary, *The Lutheran Ambassador* is marking the occasion by offering a 50-percent discount on the cost of a **new individual subscription**. Contact our office for information.

### Subscription rates

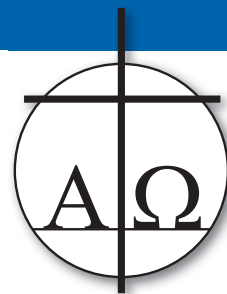
- Individual .....\$20/year
- International .....\$22/year
- Group .....\$19 each/year  
(Subscription list maintained by congregation, mailed directly to your home.)
- Bulk .....\$17 each/year  
(Subscription list maintained by congregation, mailed bulk to one address.)

Ruth Gunderson, Managing Editor  
763.545.5631 • [ruthg@aflc.org](mailto:ruthg@aflc.org)  
[www.aflc.org/lutheran-ambassador](http://www.aflc.org/lutheran-ambassador)

### CONTACT

# RETREAT CENTER

*Come away and rest awhile*

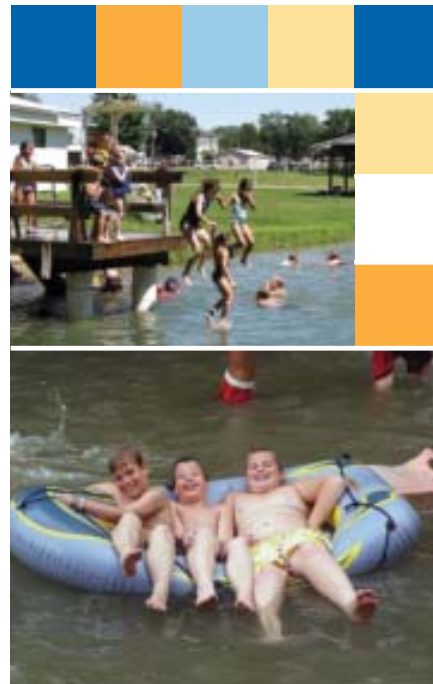


The Association Retreat Center (ARC) is a full-service retreat and conference center owned by the AFLC and located 45 miles northeast from the Twin Cities metropolitan area in the heart of northwest Wisconsin vacation country. We invite you to consider us for your church family camps, youth camps, winter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

For more than 30 years the Association Retreat Center has hosted people from a variety of secular and faith-based groups who have come to refresh themselves spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Our 80 acres of space located in the beautiful St. Croix River Valley, near Osceola, Wis., offers a variety of on-campus and off-campus recreation. Enjoy our walking trails, athletic fields, swimming beach with waterslide or a variety of other options on campus. Or enjoy golfing, hiking, canoeing, shopping and many other options nearby.

The ARC offers a perfect place for your retreat, family camp or youth event. Our full-service kitchen, as well as several options for lodging and meetings, make the ARC a great place for God's people to get away to a place where they can be re-energized to make a difference in their homes, churches and communities.

See our Web site for information on holding your own event or retreat or joining us for one of 12 ARC-sponsored events.



## 2012 Camps & Retreats

- ➔ Fire Up Youth (Grades 4-7)  
June 24-29
- ➔ Kids' Camp (Grades 1-3)  
June 29-July 1
- ➔ Family Camp  
July 29-August 4
- ➔ Classics' Retreat (55 & Over)  
September 14-16
- ➔ Chosen Child Conference  
November 9-11



The Association Retreat Center  
2372 30th Ave.  
Osceola, WI 54020  
800.294.2877 • [www.arc-aflc.org](http://www.arc-aflc.org)  
[the\\_arc@centurytel.net](mailto:the_arc@centurytel.net)

## CONTACT





## WILDERNESS & GALILEE BIBLE CAMPS



### Galilee Bible Camp

Located in Lake Bronson State Park, Minn.  
Family camp dates: July 9-13  
Theme: Our Eternal Hope  
Theme verse: Jeremiah 29:11-13  
Evening speaker: Pastor Tom W. Olson  
Mission hour speaker: Pastor Richard Gunderson  
Adult Bible teacher: TBA  
Youth Bible teachers: TBA  
Children's Bible teachers: AFLBS Cornerstone summer team

### Wilderness Bible Camp

The AFLC Wilderness Bible Camp is located on 77 wooded acres in central Minnesota. The term *wilderness* is not entirely accurate, since the camp has a chapel building, nine sleeping rooms, kitchen facilities, and a bath house. But the camp certainly provides families with a chance to come away from a busy routine and enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

The camp provides a great resource for various retreats, youth group outings, or even an inexpensive vacation destination. The camp is available on an entirely free-will offering basis to all AFLC members and congregations. We would love to see more people make use of this wonderful gift.

If you have questions about the camp feel free to contact Nathan Dalager at 218-437-6035. If you are interested in using the camp, contact Maranatha Free Lutheran Church at 218-498-2808 to get on the schedule.

### Family Camp Dates

The 2012 Family Camp runs from July 17-22 with Pastor Jim Fugleberg and Pastor Dale Mellgren speaking.

### CONTACT

Galilee Bible Camp  
Dr. Lyle Mattson: 218. 782.2310  
[wikel.net/galileebiblecamp](http://wikel.net/galileebiblecamp)

Wilderness Bible Camp  
Questions—Maranatha Free Lutheran: 218.498.2808  
Reservations—Nathan Dalager: 218.437.6035





### CONTACT

Chaplain Kerwin Sletto, Director  
Division for Institutional Chaplaincy  
[ksletto@gra.midco.net](mailto:ksletto@gra.midco.net)

# *Chaplaincy* OPPORTUNITIES

Institutional chaplaincy is a unique ministry where God has called pastors to serve in hospitals, long-term care facilities, hospices and prisons—our newest area of ministry. Institutional chaplaincy is a ministry by which God has called us to walk with other individuals as they experience the challenges of life and continue on their journey home to be with the Lord. I find that as people are experiencing life's challenges, they are more willing to search for and lean upon the promises of God. There is an openness in people's lives at this time that allows chaplains to offer comfort and encouragement and share in their lives.

The AFLC's department of Institutional Chaplaincy continues to grow both personally and numerically. When I first became a chaplain for the AFLC, there were only two chaplains—Chaplain Howard Franzen and myself. Today, there are 22 chaplains within our department. Our board members meet quarterly, as well as yearly with the AFLC Coordinating Committee. We have been truly blessed as a part of the AFLC.

Each September we meet for a three-day seminar to help us grow in our ministries as well as to encourage each other. This year Chaplain Ron Mahnke will lead four sessions on self care. We will also offer a session on hobbies and another on clinical pastoral education (CPE).

We encourage the members of our department to take at least one unit of CPE. Those who have done this have been greatly blessed and their ministry enhanced. CPE can be taken as an extended unit, requiring a meeting with a supervisor and peers one day a week, and the rest of the requirements can be accomplished through a local parish.

If you sense a call into the ministry of institutional chaplaincy, please feel free to contact myself or any members of the AFLC Institutional Chaplaincy Board. 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.*



Cory Buck, Business Manager  
763.545.5631 • [coryb@afcl.org](mailto:coryb@afcl.org)  
[www.afcl.org/foundation](http://www.afcl.org/foundation)

CONTACT



# 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. Zion 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

### EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA

Abercrombie, ND—Bethany Free Lutheran  
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

Enderlin, ND—Hope Free 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  
Jamestown, ND—New Hope Free Lutheran  
Larimore, ND—Living Faith Free Lutheran  
Larimore, ND—Middle Grove Lutheran  
Leeds, ND—North Prairie Free Lutheran  
Leonard, ND—West Prairie Lutheran  
McVie, 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  
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  
Deshler, NE—Abiding Word Lutheran  
Elkhorn, NE—Community of Grace Evangelical Lutheran  
Fairbury, NE—Faith Lutheran  
La Junta, CO—Mission Lutheran  
Laurel, NE—United Lutheran  
Loveland, CO—Lutheran Church of Hope  
Saint Francis, KS—Peace Lutheran

## NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Bagley, MN—Alida Lutheran  
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, MN—Landstad Lutheran  
Winger, MN—Dovre Free Lutheran  
Winger, MN—Union Lake

## NORTHERN MICHIGAN

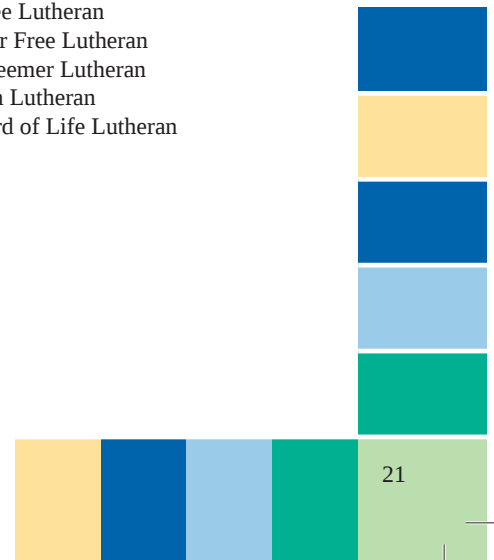
Chassell, MI—Maranatha Free Lutheran  
Eben Junction, MI—Calvary Free Lutheran  
Escanaba, MI—Escanaba Free Lutheran  
Felch, MI—Abiding Word Lutheran  
Ishpeming, MI—Hope Free Evangelical Lutheran  
Ontonagon, MI—Redeemer Free Lutheran  
Pelkie, MI—Grace Free Lutheran  
Posen, MI—St. Peter Lutheran  
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—Free Lutheran of Roseau  
Roseau, MN—Rose Free Lutheran  
Salol, MN—Norland Free Lutheran  
Salol, MN—Spruce 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  
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  
Glenn Rose, TX—Word of Truth Lutheran  
Humboldt, TN—Ebenezer Free Lutheran  
Mansura, LA—St. Paul's 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  
Mitchell, SD—Amazing Grace 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

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  
Sebek, 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  
Manteca, CA—United Lutheran  
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  
Brockton/Culbertson, MT—Faith Free Lutheran  
Culbertson, MT—Bethel Community  
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  
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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](http://www.aflc.org).

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.

