

Winter 2012-2013

News

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

Who We Are

THE OPEN BIBLE

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

•

THE ASCENDING DOVE

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

•

THE GREEN VINE

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





TIME TO GIVE THANKS & LABOR FOR HIM

The leaves have fallen, the brisk northwest winds carry a flurry of snow, and shorter days remind us that winter is well on its way into Minnesota. Such things also remind us that Christmas is just around the corner, and 2012 is in its last days. Even though time passes very slowly for our children and grandchildren, and especially so at this time of year, those of us in the grandparent category find that time passes so very quickly. James 4:14 tells us, “You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”

In John 4 Jesus reminded His disciples, and us as well, with these words, “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest ...’” (vs. 35). Oh how time flies, and yet we have the tendency to think that there is always tomorrow for those tasks not yet done. As we stand on the threshold of a new year, our intentions and desires are noble. We understand and agree with Jesus when He says “... lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest” (John 4:35). How much time remains we do not know, but we are certain that there are still many who need to be reached with His Word of saving grace.

In 2012 we celebrated 50 years as an AFLC. In so doing we acknowledged His hand of blessing and protection, the growth of His Kingdom, and that He has touched the lives of many with His salvation. The times of meeting together for the pastors’ conference, annual conference, and Reformation Sunday, and the chance to give to the Anniversary Love Offering on Nov. 25, were opportunities for us to pause and return thanks and praise to our Lord for all He does, which is marvelous in our eyes, even

as our conference theme verses as found in Psalm 118:23-24 proclaim: “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.”

The world is changing at an ever increasing speed. Modern day technology certainly reminds us that change will continue. It is important that we maintain our identity and keep a steady course as we communicate the wonderful news that Jesus has come, that He died and was raised again for the sins of the whole world, and that He will return again, maybe soon, for those who have believed and received Him as Savior and Lord.

What might we expect as we look to the future? One of the inevitable changes we can expect is that of a new generation taking our place in this Kingdom work. They will become the membership, the work force, and the leadership of the AFLC in this century. Our prayer for them, some of them yet unborn, is that they will remain faithful to our Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as to the Word which the Triune God has so graciously provided for our salvation. He, the Lord and giver of Life, will never change. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

It is with great confidence in Him and His powerful Word that I extend to you and yours a blessed Christmas and continued prayers for a blessed and prosperous New Year. “He is faithful and He will do it” (I Thessalonians 5:24).

• **Pastor Elden Nelson, AFLC President**



PARISH RESOURCES

for your congregation



JOURNEY THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Introducing new Grade 6 curriculum in the Ambassador Sunday School Series

Dig into God's Word while learning about the geography and culture of New Testament times. Similar in format to the Grade 5 book (Journey Through the Old Testament) with 36 lessons in one book, these Christ-centered Bible lessons with colorful illustrations also feature interesting sections of Word Works, Fast Facts, and a Catechism Corner. These lessons would also be appropriate and beneficial for confirmation students, youth, and even adults. Sample lessons can be viewed on our website where free supplemental teaching resources are available for download.

Student Book – \$16/each

THREADS OF GRACE

New daily devotional book

The daily fabric of our lives is woven with threads of expectations and commitments, laughter and tears, joy and discouragement, mundane routine and unpredictable events. In the midst of all this, the unbroken thread entwined throughout the life of the believer is the thread of God's grace given to us in Christ.

Written by people of the AFLC, the daily meditations in *Threads of Grace* are designed to turn our eyes toward Jesus each day and encourage us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen" (II Peter 3:18).

Congregations are invited to order copies of the book on a consignment basis to display at their churches and make available to members for purchase.

Leather bound limited edition – \$25/each or order 10 copies or more for \$22/each

Paperback edition – \$15/each or order 10 copies or more for \$12/each

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SHARING JESUS & SHOWING JESUS



"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." ~ 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

Teenagers are receiving the Gospel of Jesus shared through the communication of caring adults and caring teens. As we minister across the country, we regularly see adolescents eager to have adults and teens provide them with the time to be heard and the time to connect to one another.

AFLC Youth Ministries continues to pursue sharing Jesus through the gospel and showing Jesus through lives invested in the next generation. We exist to win young people to Jesus Christ, to build them in God's Word and God's love, to equip them to share their faith with a biblical worldview, and to multiply maturing disciples of Jesus.

OPPORTUNITIES

FLY Beyond—More than 100 teens and adults gathered around the theme of Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified in Christ" in July. A Bible study on Colossians and evening messages on identity in Christ were powerful. Workshops on the reliability of Scripture, on vocation, and on being involved in ministry trained those in attendance to live by faith and to serve others in their congregations and communities.

Training—Pastor Holt taught the Free Lutheran Seminary's course on "Ministry to Youth" in August during Summer Institute of Theology. He continues to train and mentor in the Ministry Training Institute (MTI) Youth Ministry Track as well as lead the Introduction to Youth Ministry class at AFLBS. In January, he will teach in our seminary's one-week intensive course on youth ministry. He will also lead the new Introduction to Family Ministry course at AFLBS in the spring semester. AFLC Youth Ministries also continues to partner with many districts and congregations on healthy youth ministry events.

OUTLOOK

Youth Workers Retreat—The annual national youth workers gathering will be held at the Association Retreat Center on Jan. 25-27, 2013. This event encourages youth leaders and equips them with skills for further ministry. It has become a significant highlight for many youth workers through its affordable price, strong training, and wonderful fellowship.

Student Missions—We have set our sights on a global short-term mission trip to one of our AFLC missionary families for the summer of 2013. We are in discussions with our fields via the AFLC World Missions office and are recruiting leaders to establish this effort. We have seen more than 100 teenagers and young adults participate in these trips since 2001 and are looking forward to who the Lord prompts to be involved in the future.

FLY Convention—The national youth gathering of the AFLC will be July 1-6, 2013. Our FLY Team has been meeting regularly for more than a year to pray and prepare for this week of winning and building through the gospel. The new website for this event is www.flyconvention.org, which has significant information, including registration deadlines. The best rate deposit is due Jan. 31, 2013.



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YOUTH BOARD

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IMMITATORS OF CHRIST

By Matt Rieniets

I feel old ... seriously. I'm turning 24 in a few weeks. A couple of weeks ago, one of my youth group kids told me that I dress like an old man. And I've been noticing more and more that my head wants to desperately acquire the Lutheran haircut.

I'm not busting out the Dinty Moore and prune juice yet, but in my old age I'm starting to look back on life and think a bit more than I used to. I get to teach from my experiences now instead of from other people's experiences. I get to teach about what it means to be a disciple of Christ because I am His disciple.

I graduated from AFLBS in 2009 and then went on to attend Ministry Training Institute the following year, enrolling in the youth ministry track. I had the wonderful experience of being trained specifically under Pastor Jason Holt during on-campus classes, and then in my internship at Elim Lutheran, Lake Stevens, Wash., I was trained by Kayla Russum and Pastor Mark Molstre. I'm currently a little more than two years into my first full-time youth ministry position here in my home town of Tioga, N.D., and am continuing to educate myself more about what a disciple of Christ truly looks like and how I can be intentional about being a disciple maker, specifically to youth.

Before attending MTI I thought that I was going to be trained in all the nuts and bolts of youth ministry. For instance, I thought I would learn about how to put together a Bible study, how to balance a budget, how to find volunteers, how to mentor a teen, how to counsel a teen, etc. I did receive some solid teaching in those areas and others, but what I really walked away with was a picture of what a disciple actually looks like.

My training focused more on "being" a disciple than "doing" the work of a youth pastor. I look back on that experience with a great fondness because of that training. Now, being in a position where I am consistently called upon to be a voice from God into many teenagers' lives, I am grateful that I know His voice. How scary it would be to teach the gospel, but not know or not live what you are teaching.

I also love how we looked at the way that Jesus trained His disciples with the intention of mirroring His actions. Could there ever be a better person to mimic? That teaching took on new importance when I realized that there is a strong desire in youth ministry to mimic what other churches do to make disciples instead of doing what Jesus did. In MTI I learned to listen to THE voice instead of all the other little voices that are filling the air. Are there areas that I could use more training? Absolutely. Just ask my church. Do I know what my goal is in my ministry to and with youth? Yes! We are trying to look like Jesus.



CONTACT

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EXPANDING OUR REACH

In the AFLC, independent corporations and independent congregations are core to our foundations both legally and in actuality. No corporation or congregation can force its will on the other. But our common belief in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, our view that the Bible is the complete written Word of God and is our only authentic and infallible source of God's revelation to us, unites us in spirit and in truth to seek by God's grace to work together until Jesus returns.

This independent structure, by the grace of God, has made us dependent on one another to accomplish the work we are called to do.

"We are utterly dependent people," said Pastor Paul Nash, director of AFLC Home Missions, at the September all boards meeting on the campus of the AFLC Schools in Plymouth, Minn.

We are dependent wholly on God's grace for salvation. We are dependent on one another for fellowship, encouragement, and support. Yes, we relying and depending on God and one another is a great privilege and benefit.

At this time of year, the AFLC Schools look to the VISION department to expand our reach for the next 50 years of service. We must not forget that each AFLC ministry is dependent on the regular financial support so that the work can continue. I ask everyone to first consider the congregational needs and the regular AFLC ministry needs before considering gifts to VISION. The seminary, Bible school, and departments of World Missions, Home Missions, Ambassador Publications, Evangelism, Youth Ministries, the ARC, and General Fund all depend on regular support to continue the work we believe is essential to our joint AFLC work.

Praise God for His faithfulness in sustaining the AFLC ministries for more than 50 years. I pray that we will not hold back the resources He has so richly provided as we look to expand our reach in the future. We have begun to share with congregations the next phase of VISION and its impact on the whole work of the AFLC. If you would like more information or would like someone to come and share in your congregation about this next phase of VISION, please contact Sherry Mork at 763-412-2004.

~ **By Steve Jankord**
Schools Board of Trustees



DEANS' LUNCHEONS

Tour our AFLC Campus, attend a class at the Bible school or the seminary, worship in chapel and have lunch with staff and students. We welcome you to visit our schools.

Deans' Luncheon dates for the remainder of the school year are Thursdays: Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 21, and April 25, 2012.

Deans' luncheons begin at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship at the administrative building, followed by attendance at an AFLBS or AFLTS class beginning at 10:10 a.m. Chapel service is held at 11:10 a.m., followed by lunch in Heritage Hall with the AFLC schools deans and staff.

Call the Bible school office at 763.544.9501 to make a reservation so we can prepare accordingly.

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Servant of the CONGREGATION

The Free Lutheran Seminary (AFLTS) exists to serve Christ and His Church. As a servant of each and every AFLC congregation, it provides many opportunities for spiritual growth through the study of the Scriptures, the inerrant Word of God.

THE MANDATE

(From the 1964 AFLC Annual Report of the Seminary Board)

→ CONSERVATIVE

“A theological seminary among Lutherans in our land with an orientation to the Bible ... “

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (II Timothy 3:16-17).

→ CONFSSIONAL

“... and to our historic confessions that is uncompromisingly faithful and sound ...”

“The Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and Luther’s Small Catechism are faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture” (Seminary Catalog, p. 13).

→ CONGREGATIONAL

“To preserve and to promote the goal we have together, that of free and living congregations.”

“... the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth. ... and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority above itself” (The Fundamental Principles, 1 and 5).



THE MISSION



“Preparing servant-pastors for faithful, Christ-centered ministry of the Word and sacraments in the local congregation.”

~Adopted by FLS Board of Trustees, April 2011

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A GLIMPSE ON CAMPUS

The Labor Day holiday brings with it not only the coolness of the fall breeze, but a fresh wind of life on the AFLBS campus.

Students and parents drive up the hill next to Medicine Lake, their cars filled to the brim with laundry baskets, boxes of books, used and tattered couches, family-sized cases of ramen noodles, mini refrigerators, and willing hearts, ready to be taught God's Word and trained to serve.

Before they know it, students are immersed in the Bible, memorizing chapters of Scripture, and learning the difference between theological terms such as justification and sanctification and law and gospel.

Late September brings the Revival Conference. Whispers of prayer are heard throughout the chapel as members of the student body, staff and faculty, friends, and alumni huddle in groups to ask the Lord to bring spiritual awakening to the school, our churches, communities, nation, and world. Students pray at the altar after the evening message, laying sins before the Lord, and asking Him to give them a burden for the lost.

The campus population doubles in size in mid-October when high school students from around the nation come for the bi-annual Campus Days event. They pack the dorms and fill the chapel with songs of praise and worship. High school students get a snap-shot of life at AFLBS and a taste of the solid Bible teaching. Many consider coming to AFLBS when they graduate from high school; some come simply to be spiritually refreshed.

Even within two months, students start to see the transforming power of God's Word in their lives. During testimony time in chapel a student speaks of his heart of stone that God has been slowly chipping away at and softening every day. Another student speaks honestly about her past sins and reflects back on when she hit "rock bottom," yet rejoices in the hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ, knowing that she is God's masterpiece.

We believe that the Word of God is living and active. It's powerful and effective. The Bible says it is. We see it every day in the lives of others. We praise Him for what He's done and anticipate what He will do, as AFLBS continues its mission, "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."



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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AFLBS is in the beginning stages of forming an Alumni Association. A steering committee of eight alumni with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences has been formed to begin planning for the association. Stay tuned in the months ahead for more information on alumni-gathering events and how you can get involved. In the meantime, plans have already been made to host a Christmas Coffee House on Saturday, Dec. 8, before the AFLBS Christmas concert. If you are in the Twin Cities that weekend, please stop in for some coffee and fellowship with your AFLBS family members. That is, after all, what we are—a family!



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



What is happening in the National WMF?

- ➔ The board has chosen projects to support each of our ministries, including the General Fund, in 2013:
 - Ambassador Publications: Printing 7th and 8th grade curriculum
 - Home Missions: Parish Builder training, radio and aviation ministry in Alaska
 - World Missions: \$500/month to each missionary
 - AFLBS: Furniture in the prayer room, updating Heritage Hall furnishing, and wall art on campus.
 - AFLTS: Goal of supporting each seminarian with \$100/semester for books; continuing education for faculty.
- ➔ The 2013 WMF Bible study is called *Genesis* by Sandra Weaver. It will be provided to all AFLBS women.
- ➔ WMF members will meet with seminary wives in January to encourage them and inform them of the work of the WMF. We will also host a pastor's wives luncheon during the winter Bible conference.
- ➔ June is the annual gathering of the WMF held in conjunction with the annual conference. The WMF Convention theme is "Forever O Lord ...Your Settled Word and Your Enduring Faithfulness," from Psalm 119:89-90.
- ➔ The WMF has several online resources available to keep you updated on local and regional activities:
 - Connect with us on Facebook: Womens Missionary Federation
 - Connect with us on our blog: womensmissionaryfederation.wordpress.com
- ➔ Board members are available to come to your church or district, at no charge, to assist in regular or special programs.

DEVELOPMENT FUND

Women attending the 2009 WMF Day at Annual Conference voted to fund the position of the AFLC Development director at \$500/month. Donations to this fund can be sent directly to our WMF treasurer with a note that the funds are for that position. So far, donations have not kept pace with the expense. Please consider what your local WMF could do to help.

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GOD'S DESIRE FOR THE WORLD

Do you know what God's desire is for the world? Salvation! I Timothy 2:4 says, God "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

The two words, "**all people**." No matter what race, country, age, or gender, these words describe God's heart for the entire world.

How does this happen? "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). The Lord has been using the Ambassador Institute as a tool to bring His Word to people so that they can be saved.

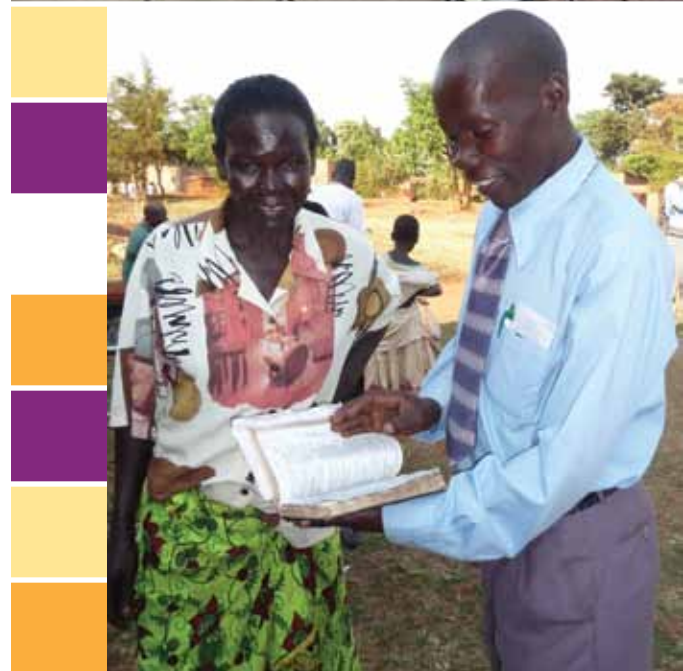
The focus is simple--international biblical education--but the effect of that simple focus is people hearing God's Word and lives being transformed.

In Cuenca, Ecuador, ten home studies just began to use the Ambassador Institute curriculum to train people in their congregations in God's Word. In Odessa, Ukraine, nine students joined the new Bible school, which uses this curriculum. The school received the endorsement of the Ingrian Lutheran Church of Russia. In Uganda, the second class will graduate this coming January with 70 students who have completed the two-year, 84 story, 2200-verse curriculum.

In India, those who have been trained in the Word of God through the Ambassador Institute are now leading churches in communities that were previously completely Hindu. One of the goals in India has been to start churches among unreached people groups. These are segments of the population where less than 2 percent of the people know of Jesus.

Several churches have been started in these Hindu communities. The oral training that these pastors have received gives them a great tool to share the gospel. Pastor Devasahayam is holding three different classes in various places in India. Each class meets once a month for three days to go over the lessons. Then students share those same stories from God's Word with their churches, neighbors, family and friends. Pastor Luther Dasari has said that the requests for training exceed the people we have to do the training. By God's grace, families and communities are hearing God's Word, turning from idols, and coming to Jesus.

It is amazing to watch the Lord work in such a powerful way through such a simple tool. Please continue to keep the ministry of the Ambassador Institute in prayer as God is using those who are trained with His Word to fulfill His perspective for the world: the salvation of souls!



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GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

The purpose of AFLC World Missions is to make disciples around the world. Usually disciples are made one person at a time. The following is missionary Justo Pillman's experience as he disciplined a young man named Kevin in Ecuador.

Inwardly I groaned as I waited for the bus. I had just finished the weekly high school youth Bible study and was dreading the 50-minute ride home. It was 6:30 p.m. and I knew our ride was going to be overflowing with sweaty, smelly bodies returning home on the last bus of the day. Looking on the bright side, I had a companion this day. Kevin, one of the youths who had just begun attending the study, was riding with me since he lived in the same part of town.

As the months passed, these 50 minutes every Monday squished with 100 or more people in a bus turned into a tremendous blessing. Kevin and I spent the time building a friendship and talking about life and the challenges he was facing. He would ask tough questions like whether guys should wear earrings or not and we would talk about what the Bible had to say.

It's been about three years since that first bus ride with Kevin, and since then he has continued to hunger for the Lord. Different people in the congregation have watered and nurtured him in his faith, and God has given growth. Weekly Kevin leads music at different church events and also leads devotionals. He will be graduating from high school soon. I spoke with him a couple weeks ago and he told me he is praying about the possibility of attending Bible school. Praise the Lord for the next generation of leadership He is raising up for the Ecuadorian church. May they always be faithful to the Word.



Then 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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THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

AFLC Home Missions exist to glorify God by planting new disciple-making congregations in the United States. Our long-range vision is to see a healthy AFLC gathering in every major city across America. It is an enormous goal for an association the size of the AFLC, with a majority of congregations in the Midwest. But we serve an enormous God.

Isaiah 54:2 paints an accurate description of the challenge before us: “*Enlarge* the place of your tent; *Stretch* out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; Lengthen your cords and *strengthen* your pegs” (emphasis added).

Enlarge and Stretch

Calvary Free Lutheran, a current Home Missions congregation in Mesa, Ariz., has an open door to *enlarge* their ministry by helping plant a sister congregation on the other side of their community. Surprisingly, with a demographic of young families, few churches are located on the west side of Mesa. Without even looking, a local charter school offered their facility for meeting, in full support of a new neighborhood church. Calvary’s first sponsored events at the new location were a Harvest Festival and Thanksgiving Eve service. It’s a delight for AFLC Home Missions to partner with Calvary in this process.

Home Missions is *stretching*, too. In 2012, three new congregations received a full-time pastor for the first time! Pastor Dennis Norby and family moved to Enderlin, N.D., and Pastor David Johnson and family moved to Pennsylvania to accept a dual parish call in Reading and Boyertown. By faith, Home Missions cooperates with these young congregations to call, support, and provide ongoing training for a pastor.

We pray we will see more AFLC gatherings with growing believers started in 2013. We pray that God will raise up faithful and persevering pastors for these congregations.

Strengthen

Enlarging our ministry requires a strong core of disciples and leaders. In August, Home Missions hosted our largest Parish Builder training event ever under the theme, “Love, Lead, Launch.” Guest speakers, panel discussions, and hands-on ministry focused the training on building relationships that allow biblical discipleship to unfold naturally. AFLBS graduates, pastors, and lay leaders from across the age spectrum were in attendance. In the evenings, attendees helped canvas and survey residents in Bufflao, Minn., with the possibility of starting a new gathering. We have found tremendous value in having one or two Home Mission plants in proximity of the Twin Cities. They offer a great opportunity for training purposes for our Bible school and seminary students.

You can learn more about the scope of our vision to **enlarge, stretch,** and **strengthen** by inviting Home Mission ambassadors, Loren and Sharon Tungseth, to speak at your church. They have an especially compelling personal testimony to share on the Home Missions work in Southwest Alaska. They are visiting as many AFLC congregations as possible in order to raise an army of prayer warriors for Home Missions. Please, come join us.



Join our Family

Join KneeMail, our weekly update with news, praises, prayer requests, and pictures from our Home Missions family. You can also check out happenings on our Facebook fan page..



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ALASKA PILOT'S LOG



By Pastor Jeremy Crowell

Looking over my pilot's logbook this past month, I am excited to see the role our two FLAPS airplanes play in rural Southwest Alaska.

The Cherokee Six is a ministry Suburban, transporting our team to various opportunities otherwise inaccessible by road. For example, we used the Cherokee Six to fly Pastor Jeff Swanson and his family to Port Allsworth for a ministry family retreat hosted by Arctic Barnabas Ministries. This was a great time of refreshment for them and for many other missionary families in Alaska. On my flight back to pick up the Swansons, I brought two other individuals for the Fall Family Conference hosted by Tanalian Bible Camp. My travel companions' excitement and anticipation for hearing God's Word was contagious.

I also had the opportunity to fly youth for a Southwest Alaska area youth rally. Our Naknek hangar and aircraft tie-down area was packed with airplanes that transported youths and leaders for the weekend. There were at least six aircraft that made this rally

possible. About 60-70 youths heard from God's Word that weekend, and we continue to trust the Holy Spirit to use it in their lives.

This past week, winter came unexpectedly. Unfortunately, frigid temperatures and snow will limit mobility of our aircraft for a few months, but we'll fly as we are able. Our scheduled trip to Ekwok for Sunday service was postponed until the weather cleared on Wednesday. In the back of the plane we brought with us quilts made by ladies in our AFLC. Paul and Mary Christenson from Calvary Free Lutheran in Fergus Falls, Minn., rode along to help distribute the quilts. In addition to the quilts, they brought along Gideon New Testaments. I enjoy flying, but it is even more fulfilling to know I am flying in order that people might hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

NEWS



CESSNA 182 CONTINUES TO SERVE

The Minneapolis-based Cessna 182 Skylane airplane continues to serve the ministry needs in the Central States. Through the use of this airplane, Home Missions Director Pastor Paul Nash was able to be a part of a new church building dedication in August for Good Shepherd Free

Lutheran at Brainerd, Minn., in the morning and an anniversary celebration at Living Word Free Lutheran at Sioux Falls, S.D., in the afternoon. A majority of our AFLC congregations are in communities not served by major airlines; however, they are usually near a smaller airport. The Cessna 182 is well suited for operating in and out of these smaller airports.

TRACTOR PURCHASED

Earlier this year, FLAPS received several financial gifts and grants, making it possible to purchase a new 36 horsepower four-wheel-drive Kubota tractor with a front-end loader for the Alaska Mission. The tractor makes it much easier and safer to move mission planes in and out of the hangar, rather than moving them by hand. The Kubota loader is also a workhorse for moving snow, and it arrived just in time for this winter. We are so grateful for God's provision through the donors who made this purchase possible.

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PERSONAL EVANGELISM:

The Heartbeat of Heaven



EVANGELISM IN THE OIL PATCH

The AFLC has a vision for sharing the gospel with those working in the oil fields. We are looking for oil field evangelists. What are oil field evangelists? They are men who are willing to work in the oil fields of Western North Dakota, live in a man camp, and be intentional about sharing Jesus. We are hoping to send a few two-man teams into the oil fields of Western North Dakota to help us with our vision.

Remember, the Kingdom of God grows one soul at a time. Pray for the souls of those working in the oil fields.

For more information contact Pastor Elden Nelson or Pastor Jim Rasmussen.

THE DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL

The second edition of "The Discipleship Manual" is done! There have been some new additions to the previous edition, including a glossary, and the addition of color as well. There were corrections made throughout the manual to make it look cleaner and to correct a few errors.

Members of the Commission on Evangelism pray that God's Kingdom will be strengthened through the discipling process of new believers.

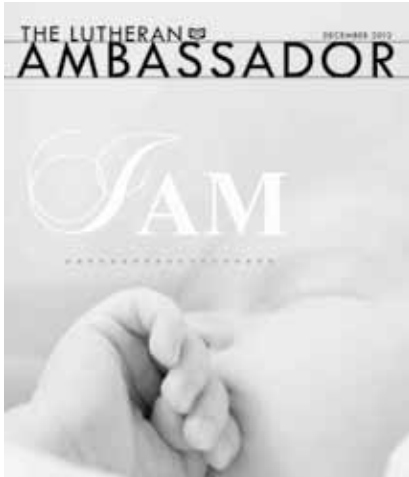
CONTACT

- ➔ Eighty-five percent of all youths sitting in prison today are from fatherless homes.
- ➔ Nineteen percent of U.S. adults self-identify as having no religious affiliation. Just 6 percent did so in 1990.

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A monthly publication for the
LOCAL CONGREGATION



The Lutheran Ambassador, the AFLC's monthly magazine, exists to educate its readers about the AFLC, to encourage the local congregation, to equip Christians for service and to evangelize our neighbors and the world.

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DEVELOPMENT

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S DESK

This summer has been filled with travel, meeting new partners, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the AFLC and watching the Lord lead in all of these areas. It continues to be an ongoing blessing for me as I meet partners and continue to build deeper relationships. These partners are so excited to see what God is doing through the ministries of the AFLC. In each area that I travel, people truly love the ministry of the AFLC. All of them want to see it expand for the Kingdom of God. Please pray for more open doors to share about the ministries of the AFLC with new partners.



Please visit us at www.afcl.org and click on "About Giving." This link will take you to the planned-giving page, which has many tools to help you with planning for your estate. Please take some time to look at what is offered. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Each ministry has several funding opportunities available for you to consider helping in the expansion of God's Kingdom. I am available to discuss all of the funding opportunities from each ministry with you. Please call my office and I will share them with you.

From our office to each of you, have a very blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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FINDING OUT MORE

Informational packets available online

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

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

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

