



Winter 2014-2015

# 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.





# JESUS: THE ULTIMATE GIVER OF LIFE

**W**e read in John 1:4, “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.” This is a pretty bold statement that John makes about Jesus. In Him—Jesus—was life. In other words, there is no life found in any other source. All life springs forth from Him. Everyone you meet has physical life that came from Jesus, although most don’t realize this. Also by way of Adam’s fall, all have sin and have death within them, though many do not realize this, either.

What a mission we have, by the Word of God, to let people know they were created by Him and for Him. God loves them so much He would not withhold anything to win them back to Himself—even His only Son. Though most people think they are living, they do not realize they are missing the one relationship that would fulfill them—a relationship with the One who gives life. Not only could they get along with a lot less stuff while they live, but they could know they have a Savior who is longing to welcome them into His presence one day.

So in the midst of winter, how good to be tapped into Jesus, the One who gives life no matter what the season.



**Lyndon Korhonen**  
AFLC President

## CHALLENGE:

Will you join us each Thursday at 1 p.m. as we pray for our churches, our country, and the world?

## CONTACT

Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, President  
763.545.5631 • [www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org)  
[president@aflc.org](mailto:president@aflc.org)

# REPENTENCE AND FAITH

“Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

“Teodoro, we have an evil spirit in our house!” Pepe, a second-grader in our kids’ club, came running up to me with the news. I looked questioningly at his mom, who was limping up behind him. Trampled by a cow when she was 10, Araceli walked as if one leg were four inches shorter than the other. She confirmed, somewhat uncomfortably, that her son’s story was true.

We had met Araceli and Leobardo, the father of her three children, several years before. After learning of their daughter Yovana’s heart defect, we had helped them with their medical bills, and grieved with them when Yovana died several months later. It was this painful experience, however, that formed the beginning of our relationship with this family.

Because of this friendship, I went to their house to learn more about this evil spirit. After discussing the need for repentance and Jesus’ protection from Satan when we turn to Him in faith, I mentioned the fact that they weren’t married. They bristled, remaining unconvinced; but due to their two kids’ sincere trust in Jesus, we prayed that God would deliver them from the spirit in their house. For a time, He did just that. Yet because the parents persisted in their sinful life, I wondered if the spirit might return.

A couple months later it appeared that the spirit had, indeed, come back. Once again I brought up the possibility that they could put their trust in Jesus and get married.

Leobardo’s response surprised me: “Yes, we are living in sin. We aren’t doing what’s right in God’s eyes.”

I asked him what it would take just to find out what the civil requirements would be for them to get married.

“Maybe I should go find out,” he said.

A few weeks later, Araceli showed me the list of requirements. It was the first step they had taken in turning away from their sinful life and acting in accordance with God’s Word. The week after Araceli gave me that list, something interesting happened. Leobardo, a day-laborer who hoped to get one week of work each month, was offered a job for two months straight. In that same week, someone else told him that when he was finished with that job, they had another one for him! Leobardo could clearly see the connection between their steps toward repentance, and God’s gracious provision.



They were married at the courthouse several months later, and the next Sunday we had a simple ceremony during our worship service. For the first time, they publicly professed their faith in Jesus and shared in His body and blood with our congregation.

Last year, Leobardo got his first full-time job and is half-way through his studies to finish grade school. Araceli just finished junior high, and they continue to host our mid-week Bible study in their home. Their kids, who come faithfully to Sunday school, know their Bible stories better than any other kid in the kids’ club. There’s still a spirit living in their house, but this time, it’s the Holy Spirit.

~ **Pastor Todd Schierkolk**  
AFLC Missionary, Jerez, Mexico

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

## CONTACT

Pastor Del Palmer, Director  
763.545.5631 • [delp@aflc.org](mailto:delp@aflc.org)  
[www.aflcworldmissions.org](http://www.aflcworldmissions.org)



# JESUS SEEKS AFTR DISCIPLES

**W**hen Jesus got into Peter’s boat on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, He also entered Peter’s world. It was a world with hours of fishing, empty nets, and sleepless nights. When Jesus stepped into the boat, all of that changed. He called Peter, challenged him, taught him, and tested him. Peter’s life was never the same. Jesus was after disciples who were available, faithful, teachable, and responsive (AFTR).

The Ambassador Institute has welcomed Jesus to pilot our ministry boat, and He is still AFTR those same qualities in the leaders we train:

**Available:** Thomas is from Uganda. He is an unusually cheerful person and is not like any of the other officers in the Ugandan army. Instead of giving harsh demanding directions to those under his command, he sets the example and invites others to follow him. He is boldly confident about his faith and has no fear of sharing it with those under or over him in rank. He prayed with 40 men in the barracks to receive Christ last year. Thomas will finish the Ambassador Institute training program this spring. He has been available to the Lord’s call.



**Faithful:** Anil is a pastor’s son in India. He joined the Ambassador Institute’s training program after four years of studying theology at a Bible college. Last year, Anil traveled all night by train to reach one of the Ambassador Institute’s training centers. He taught for two days, and then returned home



by the night train. Anil did this twice a month for five months, and has now started again this fall. Anil has been faithful.

**Teachable:** Emmanuel is a pastor’s son in India. He studied at a Bible college for four years, and then for another two years under the Ambassador Institute. Emmanuel is a humble man who is listening carefully to the Lord and passing on the nuggets of wisdom and gems of knowledge that he has gained. Emmanuel is teachable.



**Responsive:** Darwin Paacha is a graduate of the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in Plymouth, Minn. He is a pastor in Cuenca, Ecuador, where he is overseeing the Aletheia Bible College. Darwin left a good teaching position because he felt God calling him to start a Scripture-based Lutheran Bible school. The college has started its second year, and by God’s grace it continues to move forward. Darwin has been responsive to the Lord’s leading.



We are grateful for these four leaders and the many others whom they represent as a part of the Ambassador Institute’s training. The teachers of this ministry receive no salary. What they have received freely, they, in turn, share freely with others, often times at a great personal cost. We praise the Lord for what He has been doing in the lives of these leaders and those whom they are teaching.

## CONTACT

Pastor Kevin Olson, Department Head  
763.545.5631 • kevin@afic.org  
www.ambassadorinstitute.org



# Introducing THE MINISTRY



## STA OPPORTUNITIES

- Campo Mourão, Brazil
- Curitiba, Brazil
- Jinja, Uganda
- Cuenca, Ecuador
- Jerez, Mexico
- Chirala, India

## 2015 MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

### ➔ Intergenerational Brazil Missions Trip

Date: May 30-June 15

Purpose: This trip will focus on work projects and ministering to congregations. The team will travel to Curitiba to work with Paul and Becky Abel at the ARCA and to Campo Mourão to the Bible school and Miriam Infant Home.

Cost: \$3,000/person

### ➔ Student Missions India Missions Trip

Date: July 29-August 18

Purpose: This is a student-focused opportunity for youths ages 15 to 19. While in India, students will be working alongside St. Paul's Primary School, a direct ministry of the AFLC in India. We will build relationships with the children, teach Bible stories, and visit local congregations.

Cost: \$3,200/person

**W**hat exactly is Journey Missions? That's a question I've been asked a fair amount since this department started in May. Journey Missions was created as a department dedicated to short-term foreign missions. The desire is for people of all ages to have an opportunity to visit AFLC World Missions ministries. Whether that is through a short-term mission trip or serving as a Short Term Assistant (STA), the vision for this ministry is for people to serve our Lord Jesus cross-culturally.

The objectives for each mission trip will vary due to the different cultures and ministries. Some trips may be primarily relational, some support-based, and some may be labor intensive. There are two types of mission trips currently available: student missions (ages 15-19) and intergenerational missions (open to all ages). Two short-term mission trips are open for applications in 2015.

Journey Missions has approximately 20 STA ministry positions available. An STA is a volunteer who works on a foreign field with a missionary. The STA program gives opportunities for volunteers to serve in a number of capacities from preaching and teaching, children's and youth ministry, manual labor, and anything in between. Volunteer work can be done for any period of time from a month or two, a summer, a year or longer if the Lord leads in that direction.

As a veteran STA to Brazil and mission trip leader, I have grown to value how impactful short-term missions are, both to the ministry and to the attendee. The opportunity is there to see and experience an AFLC foreign field that has been prayed for and supported over the years, and to participate in a tangible way.

Though both great opportunities, the goal of Journey Missions is not for attendees to serve once and be done. Rather, the goal is a long-term impact. We pray people will go, serve, and return home with rejuvenated hearts to continue serving in a local congregation.

We ask that you would please pray with us that this ministry will flourish and there will be an unrelenting desire in people's hearts to serve the Lord in numerous ways. Also pray that through these short-term experiences, hearts will be ignited into long-term callings, both here and abroad.

## CONTACT

Jon Nelson, Department Head  
763-545-5631 • [jon.nelson@aflc.org](mailto:jon.nelson@aflc.org)  
[www.aflcworldmissions.org/journey-missions](http://www.aflcworldmissions.org/journey-missions)



# *A matter of* **TRANSPORTATION**

**By Pastor Jeremy Crowell**

I remember when I was about 15 years old being quite involved in our church's youth group. In addition to having our weekly Bible studies, we often had a quarterly youth retreat. When these youth retreats were held at our home church, transportation for my sister and I was never really an issue. It usually involved asking our parents for a ride to the church. We would hop in the car and in less than 30 minutes we would be at the church with the other youth, enjoying the fellowship and teaching from God's Word. Transportation in Alaska can be quite a different story.

We recently helped in the community's annual youth retreat sponsored by the churches here in Naknek. Here in southwest Alaska, there are no roads between the villages. My role was coordinating flights. We had about 80 youths who attended. More than 40 of those youths were flown in. They came from the villages of Port Alsworth, Iliamna, Iguigig, Kokhanok, Levelock, New Stuyahok, King Salmon, Naknek, South Naknek, Egegik, Pilot Point, and Port Heiden. Based on how many villages had youths coming to the event, you can see how many flights would have to be involved. In addition to flying our FLAPS Cessna 175, it took five other aircraft to ferry in all the participants. We continue to rejoice not only in the safe flying and good weather, but also for the opportunity that these youths had in hearing the gospel.

We continue to pray that God would speak to individuals through His Word and for opportunities for us to proclaim His Word. Some of these opportunities are found in our regularly scheduled services. On Sundays, George and Heidi Steinberg usually fly the FLAPS Cessna 175 from Naknek to South Naknek for services there. The flight lasts only a few minutes but is necessary since there is no bridge across the river that divides Naknek from South Naknek. Around the same time, Pastor Jeff Swanson and I take off in the Piper Cherokee Six for the village of Ekwok. This flight is about an hour long round trip. Sometimes we are able to bring along some of the people from the congregation here in Naknek. It is always exciting to see people desiring to hear God's Word and to worship together. On Thursday evenings, we have a Bible study in South Naknek. This, of course, means that we fly once again across the river, and another opportunity to share God's Word.

These are just some of the examples of how the FLAPS aircraft are used here in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska. We continue to praise the Lord for His faithfulness to us and for the resources He has given to us to further His kingdom!



## CONTACT

Lavon Bohling, Executive Director  
763.412.2018 • [flaps@afic.org](mailto:flaps@afic.org)  
[www.flapsministry.org](http://www.flapsministry.org)

# NEWS FROM HOME MISSIONS

## Preparing: Disciples Who Make Disciples

In January, Pastor Nash will teach classes at both our AFLC seminary and Bible school. This will be his second year teaching “Dynamics of Serving Within a Living Congregation” to AFLBS students. We have already seen many blessings from that first class. Currently, three of the students from that class are serving as Parish Builders in Home Missions congregations in Jamestown, N.D., Mesa, Ariz., and Hagerstown, Md.

Erik Stoores, who serves at New Hope Free Lutheran in Jamestown, writes, “I have been leading both the youth group on Wednesday nights and a Sunday school class for high-school aged youths. Both have been going well. I love the people here and am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as a parish builder.”

Parish Builders Kayla Paige and Katarina Reimer both serve at Calvary in Mesa. They write, “Kids club is growing rapidly, definitely keeping us on our toes! We have around 26 kids coming regularly on Wednesdays. When Barb [Gustafson] presented the gospel two weeks ago, all of the kids who attended showed interest in beginning or continuing their relationship with Christ.”

The J-term classes focused on church planting and parish building equip students for a lifetime of service in their AFLC congregations back home, or in a Home Missions gathering or church plant. These young leaders help provide the necessary manpower to meet the pressing needs in these churches, as well as help equip the laity to lead and be disciples who make disciples.



## Proclaiming: God’s Message of Hope

Over the summer months we had the privilege of sending out three vacation Bible school teams. Two Barnabas teams served Home Missions congregations in the lower 48 states, traveling more than 17,000 miles during their 10 weeks on the road. Team member Sam Nelson said, “I was blessed to see God work faith in the hearts of children through the ministry of summer teams.” Our third VBS team spent six weeks flying into the remote villages of Alaska to share the good news of the gospel with kids.

Within the AFLC Home Missions office, our Director of Development Loren Tungseth and his wife, Sharon, travel around the United States sharing a presentation called, Come Join Us. These presentations are a wonderful introduction to the work of Home Missions. Our goal is for people to leave informed about the work of Home Missions and equipped to share the message and get involved. Please contact our office if you are interested in having Loren come speak to your church. This past year we’ve also added Julia Prichard as our administrative assistant. She is a wonderful manager of the busy office and enjoys serving our AFLC family.



## Praying: About the Future and Opportunities for Expansion

In recent months we’ve experienced some unthinkable events around our nation and the world. Now more than ever before we have the wonderful opportunity to give people hope through the gospel message. We are continually praying and seeking out small groups of people to establish gatherings that will eventually become free and living congregations. Will you join us in prayer as we bring each opportunity to the Lord, asking for His direction in how we can best use our resources, both financial and manpower, for his glory?

## CONTACT

Pastor Paul Nash, Director  
763.545.5631 • [homemis@aflc.org](mailto:homemis@aflc.org)  
[www.aflchomemissions.org](http://www.aflchomemissions.org)



# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

**T**he purpose of the Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) is "to awaken and deepen interest in and love for the Kingdom of God at home and abroad, thus sharing in the great missionary enterprise of the Christian church." Prayer is our first privilege and priority.

At the All Boards fall meeting held on the campus of the AFLC Schools in Plymouth, Minn., the WMF board presented a skit to the female students at the Association Free Lutheran Bible School (AFLBS), giving them the history of the beginning of the Bible school. Wearing dresses, hats, and other attire commonly worn in 1966, the officers playacted the humble beginnings of a group of women who loved the Lord, loved the Word, and loved their children. The skit began at a WMF gathering after a long cold winter when the women started a fund-raising effort called \$1000 Grand Fellowship. The purpose of the effort was to raise funds to start a Bible school. Later, in June during the Annual Conference, a group of people met during the noon hour to pray for a Bible school. Just three months later AFLBS opened its doors to 13 students. What a blessing to see how God has worked to expand the ministry of AFLBS, even to this day.

A luncheon for the wives of AFLC pastors was held this fall in conjunction with the AFLC Pastors' Conference. Our speaker, Linda Korhonen, wife of President Lyndon Korhonen, encouraged the women with the topic "Proven Genuine." A panel discussion was also offered with four pastors' wives who answered questions from their various backgrounds of service.

Members of the WMF board have been busy traveling to local and district WMF gatherings. We have visited South Dakota, Minnesota, and California in the last few months. Funds are still available for groups looking for support, encouragement, and fellowship. Please contact Executive Secretary Dawn Johnson at 715-505-4454 if we could be of service.



## WMF PROJECTS FOR 2015

- ➔ **Ambassador Publications:** Complete printing of fourth grade curriculum and new projects at the board's discretion.
- ➔ **Home Missions:** Half to the Pastors and Wives Retreat and half to be used at the board's discretion.
- ➔ **World Missions:** Goal of \$500 each month to each missionary.
- ➔ **AFLBS:** Half to completing the coffee shop in Heritage Hall and half to be used at the Board of Trustees' discretion.
- ➔ **AFLTS:** Supporting each seminarian with \$100 each semester for books, a *Lutheran Ambassador* subscription, and continuing education for faculty.

## WMF 2015 Bible Study

The 2015 WMF Bible study is a Word study of the Book of Ephesians by Kathy Horneman. For more information, contact Dawn Johnson at [ctk@wwt.net](mailto:ctk@wwt.net).

## CONTACT

Lynn Wellumson, President  
[wmf@aflc.org](mailto:wmf@aflc.org)  
[www.aflc.org/women](http://www.aflc.org/women)





# PARISH RESOURCES

## *Grade 4 curriculum updated*

**V**olunteers, board members, and staff have been working hard the past two years to prepare new Grade 4 curriculum on The Apostles' Creed in the Ambassador Sunday School Series. The first quarter student books have been published and are being used by many of our congregations.

This curriculum presents what the Scriptures teach about the Trinity—that God is Three in One. Each of the three quarters focuses on one Person of the Trinity as students study the three articles of The Apostles' Creed. The first quarter teaches about God the Father, the Creator of all things. The second quarter student books will be published in November and the third quarter in the spring. You can preview sample student lessons on our website. Teacher resources are also available there to download free this year at



[ambassadorpublications.org/apcurriculum/grade4](http://ambassadorpublications.org/apcurriculum/grade4).

Thanks to the WMF for supporting this project. Funds are still needed to print the third quarter student books. If anyone would like to make a donation toward the new curriculum, gifts can be sent to Ambassador Publications designated for “Grade 4.”

### Ambassador Hymnal Concordance PDF

Created for those involved in planning worship services where the *Ambassador Hymnal* is a primary resource, the *Ambassador Hymnal Concordance*, which has been out of print for several years, is now available in a downloadable PDF file on our website for \$15. Compiler Pastor Brian Davidson reminds us, “These are not mere words listed in this book, but words chosen by hymn writers to express their love and devotion to God. These hymns are intended to not only help us to worship Almighty God, but also to teach the eternal concepts of faith, love, piety, etc.” A written history of the *Ambassador Hymnal* is also available on our website.

### NEW OFFICE ASSISTANT

You might hear a new friendly voice when you call our office in the afternoons between 12:30 and 4:30. Kristin Fritz began working as a part-time office assistant at the end of August after Rosalie Dietsche left to take a full-time position. Kristin is a 2007 graduate of AFLBS and has been serving on campus as a dorm assistant during the past year. Kristin’s primary responsibilities are serving customers who come to our bookstore, answering phone and email inquiries, filling and shipping orders, and completing data entry related to sales and inventory.



### BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS

Pastor Sam Wellumson, Chairman  
Candice Johnson, Vice Chairman  
Bonnie Handsaker, Secretary  
Clara Gunderson  
Pastor Wes Langaas

### CONTACT

Marian Christopherson, Director  
763-545-5631 • [parished@aflc.org](mailto:parished@aflc.org)  
[www.ambassadorpublications.org](http://www.ambassadorpublications.org)

# The WISDOM OF JESUS



“To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” ~ Colossians 1:27-28

The world of teenagers is in constant motion. The ideologies presented to them in this world range from directly attacking Christianity to subtly undercutting the faith. Adolescents and people of all ages need the wisdom of Jesus to discern the challenges of this age.

AFLC Youth Ministries exists to win young people to Jesus Christ through the gospel, to build them up in God’s Word and

God’s love, and to equip them to live and to share their faith, which results in multiplying maturing teen disciples of Jesus who rely on His wisdom.

Our department has been called on by the AFLC family to present the wisdom of Jesus to teenagers and their families by partnering with congregations in local, district, and national ways.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**FLY Beyond**—Our national youth equipping event was held July 21-25, 2014, at the Association Retreat Center. One hundred and twenty teens and adults joined together for a strong training week with Bible studies in Ephesians, equipping in biblical worldview, and discussion teams of six to eight people to wrestle with and apply biblical truths. The next FLY Beyond will be in July 2016.

**Student Missions**—In the summer of 2014, a team of 21 teens and three adults was led by veteran short-term assistant Jon Nelson to join alongside the work of Paul and Becky Abel in Brazil. This group was able to partner with projects at the ARCA, visit congregations, and see the Kingdom work in our oldest-established AFLC mission field. The Student Missions title was released this fall into the oversight of Journey Missions within the World Missions Department.

## OUTLOOK

**Youth Workers Weekends**—The national youth leaders gathering will be Jan. 9-11, 2015, in Minneapolis. This training and refreshing weekend includes attendance at Youth Leadership’s “Recharge” event. Registration forms are available at [www.aflc.org/youth](http://www.aflc.org/youth).

**Apprenticeship Program**—In response to AFLC Annual Conference direction, we offer an Apprenticeship Program to link developing youth leaders with healthy congregations for a 12-month training time. Applications for apprentices and host congregations are available for the 2015-2016 cycle.

**FLY Convention**—The next FLY Convention will be June 29–July 4, 2015, at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colo. “Identity” is the theme drawn from Ephesians 1:3-14, which points to all that has been accomplished in Christ. The entire registration process is online at [www.flyconvention.org](http://www.flyconvention.org).

**Training**— In response to AFLC Annual Conference direction, we continue to develop an Apprenticeship Program to link developing youth leaders with healthy congregations for a 12-month training time. Applications for apprentices and host congregations will be available at the beginning of 2014.



## CONTACT

Pastor Jason Holt, Director  
763.545.5631  
[jasonholt@aflc.org](mailto:jasonholt@aflc.org)  
[www.aflc.org/youth](http://www.aflc.org/youth)

### YOUTH BOARD

Pastor Mark Johnson, Chairman  
Andrew Benson, Vice Chairman  
Sharon Rykhus, Secretary  
Jordan Langness, Treasurer  
Pastor Seth Forness, Member

### FLY COMMITTEE

Pastor Eric Rasmussen, President  
Pastor Adam Osier, First Vice President  
Daniel Hurner, Second Vice President  
Stephanie Nelson, Secretary  
Heidi Nelson, Devotional Life Secretary  
Jordan Rumohr, Treasurer  
Chris Rasmussen, YM Admin. Assistant



# *A place to soak up* **GOD'S WORD**

## **Diana Alverson**

Junior, Osakis, Minn.

“Bible School is giving me the courage and strength to step out of my comfort zone and proclaim His great love to the world. I know it is God at work and I can’t wait to see what the rest of the year has in store.”



## **E**

leven miles northwest of downtown Minneapolis sits a small, two-year Bible school called AFLBS. Nestled on the shores of Medicine Lake in Plymouth, 122 students come from 16 different states and 7 different countries to soak up teaching in the Word of God. They take a break from math, science, English, and humanities to study the most important book of all: the Bible. God’s Word changes their lives. They build lasting friendships. A foundation for their life is laid.

The mission of AFLBS 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.



## **Chris Papillon**

Junior, Sheridan, Ill.

“Bible school is a great place to seek after God. Along with going in depth in studying the Bible, I have been blessed with the new friendships I have made. I can’t wait to see where my time spent at AFLBS takes me years down the road.”



## **Trent Johnson**

Senior, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

“My time at Bible school has been instrumental in my growth as a follower of Jesus Christ. As God’s Word has been taught to me, the gospel has been proclaimed. It’s a message that unflinchingly stirs up joy.”

## **Miriam Olson**

Junior, Vadnais Heights, Minn.

“I don’t regret choosing AFLBS! I am excited to see what God has in store for me in revealing His Word, growing spiritually, and in fellowship with other believers.”



## **Bethany Berntson**

Junior, Valley City, N.D.

“God has used my time at AFLBS to humble me and to demand a reliance on Him that I’ve never felt before. I thank God every day for the opportunity He has given me to study His Word daily in an environment like this.”



Association Free Lutheran  
Bible School, 3134 East  
Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
763.544.9501 • aflbs@aflc.org  
www.aflbs.org

## **CONTACT**



# A year of TRANSITIONS

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.

**T**he mission of the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Bible School 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.

Our current school year in the seminary marks an important time of transition for the ministry that God has entrusted to the AFLC. First, the good news in October was the action taken by the TRACS (Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools) to grant our school accreditation candidacy. There will still be work to accomplish for full accreditation, but in the meantime we have complete benefit of that status. We are grateful to Dr. Mark Olson and Pastor Joel Rolf for their leadership in this process. Second, February 1 will mark the beginning of his service on our campus for a new seminary dean and schools' president, Pastor Wade Mobley, Sioux Falls, S.D., who was elected at the annual conference last June. We look forward to his leadership.

This first semester is an exciting time of transition for four new students who have commenced their seminary studies, and at least two more are expected to join them in January. It is transition time for our ten interns, too. One of them will be transitioning to the second half of his internship in Uganda, another will be done in January, and the others (after approval by the appropriate boards) should be available for call in March. Please continue to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send others to prepare for pastoral service.

It is good to know that we have a faithful Father who guides and provides during these seasons of transition, and that we have a Savior who is "the same yesterday and today, yes and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). We thank you, too, as we thank Him for a family of concerned and praying friends who generously support this ministry of preparing servants for Kingdom service.

~By Pastor Robert Lee, interim dean



Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary  
3120 East Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441  
763.544.9501 • [aflts@aflc.org](mailto:aflts@aflc.org)  
[www.aflts.org](http://www.aflts.org)

CONTACT



“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?” (II Corinthians 13:5)

# BUILDING OUR HERITAGE



## 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 are Thursdays: Jan. 29, Feb. 26, March 26, and April 23, 2015, as posted on the website [aflbs.org](http://aflbs.org).

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.

Please call the VISION office at 763.412.2004 or 763.544.9501 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.

The AFLC Schools recently achieved Candidate Status through TRACS accrediting agency. For the AFLC and its congregations, this means the benefits and the challenges of being an accredited institution of higher education are available to us beginning this academic year.

We praise God for the efforts of our deans, faculty, and staff. We have great schools, and we want to continue to build on the tradition started 50 years ago. But it also puts a lot of responsibility on us to examine what we do in light of our heritage and the standards we have set for ourselves.

Dr. Mark Olson is our Chief Academic Officer and our Institutional Effectiveness Director. His responsibilities include seeing that our schools are evaluating what we do and providing feedback to the Board of Trustees. The members of the board and the deans will consider these evaluations carefully and make changes after prayerful review.

The AFLC Schools' Philosophy of Education motivates us: “The Schools' goals in training are not complete with mere intellectual understanding of the doctrines and practices of God's Word, the Lutheran Confessions and AFLC distinctives, however. The Schools are intent on seeing that the personal life of each graduate is conformed more and more to the image of Christ, informed, motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit through faithful application of the Law and the Gospel. Homes, congregations and the world need godly spiritual leaders. This passion drives the Schools' Word-centered emphasis. Both formal and informal instruction encourages students to deepen their personal devotional life and express their faith through active participation in local congregations which provide opportunities for spiritual nourishment, worship, and service.”

Our VISION of expanding the reach of the AFLC in spreading the good news of Jesus depends on how we faithfully carry out our mission in our homes, our congregations, and each of our AFLC ministries. We cannot do it alone. We encourage your involvement. Please pray for us, actively support your local pastor and congregation, come to campus to observe what God is doing, and ask God how you can be involved.

We also ask you to pray for Pastor Wade Mobley and his family and Living Word Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, S.D., in these times of transition. Pastor Wade will begin to serve as our new President and Dean of the Seminary on February 1. May God guide him and all of us as we seek to be faithful to His work until Jesus comes again.

~Steve Jankord

On behalf of the AFLC Schools Board of Trustees

## CONTACT

Sherry Mork, VISION  
763.412.2004 • [slmork@aflc.org](mailto:slmork@aflc.org)  
[www.aflbs.org/vision](http://www.aflbs.org/vision)



# Are you a **DISCIPLE MAKER?**

Disciple making is not a part of evangelism,  
but evangelism is a part of disciple making.



Matthew 28:19 says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This verse tells us to make disciples of all nations. How is this done? If we stopped and did a survey of Jesus’ life with the disciples and the apostles it would look like this.

The disciples were trained in prayer. They saw Jesus pray and Jesus laid prayer out for them. He trained them. The disciples learned how to learn from the “word that became flesh”. So we today are to learn how to dig into the written Word. Jesus taught the disciples how to share with others who He was. All that was taught to them became natural to them when they were given the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). We have the Holy Spirit today as well. The key for disciples is that when they are trained their lives naturally produced fruit. Not because I have to, but because it is going to be the natural out flow of their relationship with Jesus.

If you are interested in learning more about disciple making contact any of the Commission on Evangelism members. Pastor Tim Johnson, Pastor Lee Hoops, Kevin Hoops, Michael Lynnes, Eldon Hesterberg, and Pastor Jim Rasmussen.

Pastor Jim Rasmussen, Director  
763.545.5631 • [evangelism@afcl.org](mailto:evangelism@afcl.org)  
[www.afcl.org/evangelism](http://www.afcl.org/evangelism)

**CONTACT**

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR



### *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.

#### **SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

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



**CONTACT**

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



## FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S DESK

I grew up in Faith, S.D., and attended Bethel Free Lutheran every Sunday with my parents, John and Marcia Samuelson. My mom taught Luther League, and my pops never missed a chance to instill in me valuable life lessons. I had the ideal environment to foster a strong faith in the Lord Jesus. Somewhere along the way, I missed a key aspect of being one of God's children: I missed a personal relationship with Him.

My senior year was a struggle. I was not in a good place spiritually. In April 2007 we found out that my pops was sick. After numerous tests and trips to the hospital, he was diagnosed with kidney cancer and given a prognosis of six to eight months to live. I vividly remember flipping my Bible open out of complete desperation and reading Romans 8:28 – "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord, and are called according to His purpose." That verse couldn't have been shoved in my face any closer than it was, but I was still missing what Jesus had been trying to show me. It was going to take more than a "holy flip" to convince me that I was missing something in my life.

Even though I had been to Campus Days, I did not plan to go to AFLBS. Instead, I moved out of my parents' house and went to work at a restaurant. I hadn't applied for student loans, colleges, or even given a thought to what I was going to do with the rest of my life. At the end of summer I started to worry. I called my dad and he asked me, "Well, what about AFLBS?" I didn't have time to send off applications to any other schools, so I gave them a call and asked if it was too late to apply. They said they'd love to have me. So off to AFLBS I went.

When I arrived I was shocked. People I did not know asked me how my pops was doing. They had been praying for my

family. The and fellowship that I had immediately on arrival was incredible. A few months into the school year I finally saw what the Lord was trying to show me the night that I flipped open my Bible. I realized how much the Lord had given me. Through my dad's cancer, my lack of motivation, and everything else under the sun, He made *all* things, whether good or bad, work for good. More than seven years after my pop's initial diagnosis, he is alive and well.

I will never be able to fully express my gratitude for what God did in my life through AFLBS. The Holy Spirit moved in ways I never thought possible, and I developed a personal relationship with Jesus.

Being able to see firsthand the immense power that prayer had on my dad's life, I learned to fully trust God in my own life.

After leaving AFLBS, God blessed me. He put me in a financial position where I can give back. I would not have been able to go to AFLBS without the financial support that I received. I am extremely grateful for the AFLBS' patience and generosity while accepting my school payments. Financial support is required to run a school like AFLBS at an affordable cost for students. I can only hope and pray that through my financial contributions, God would change someone else's life in the way that He changed mine.

In traveling I hear many testimonies of how the AFLC has influenced lives. Here is a testimony that inspires the heart and proves God's faithfulness to His children.

~Tonnes Pollestad

~By JC Samuelson

### CONTACT

Tonnes Pollestad  
 Director of Development  
 763.545.5631 • [www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org)  
[tonnes@aflc.org](mailto:tonnes@aflc.org)

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

# 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](http://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.

