



Summer 2016

News

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

Who We Are

THE OPEN BIBLE

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

•

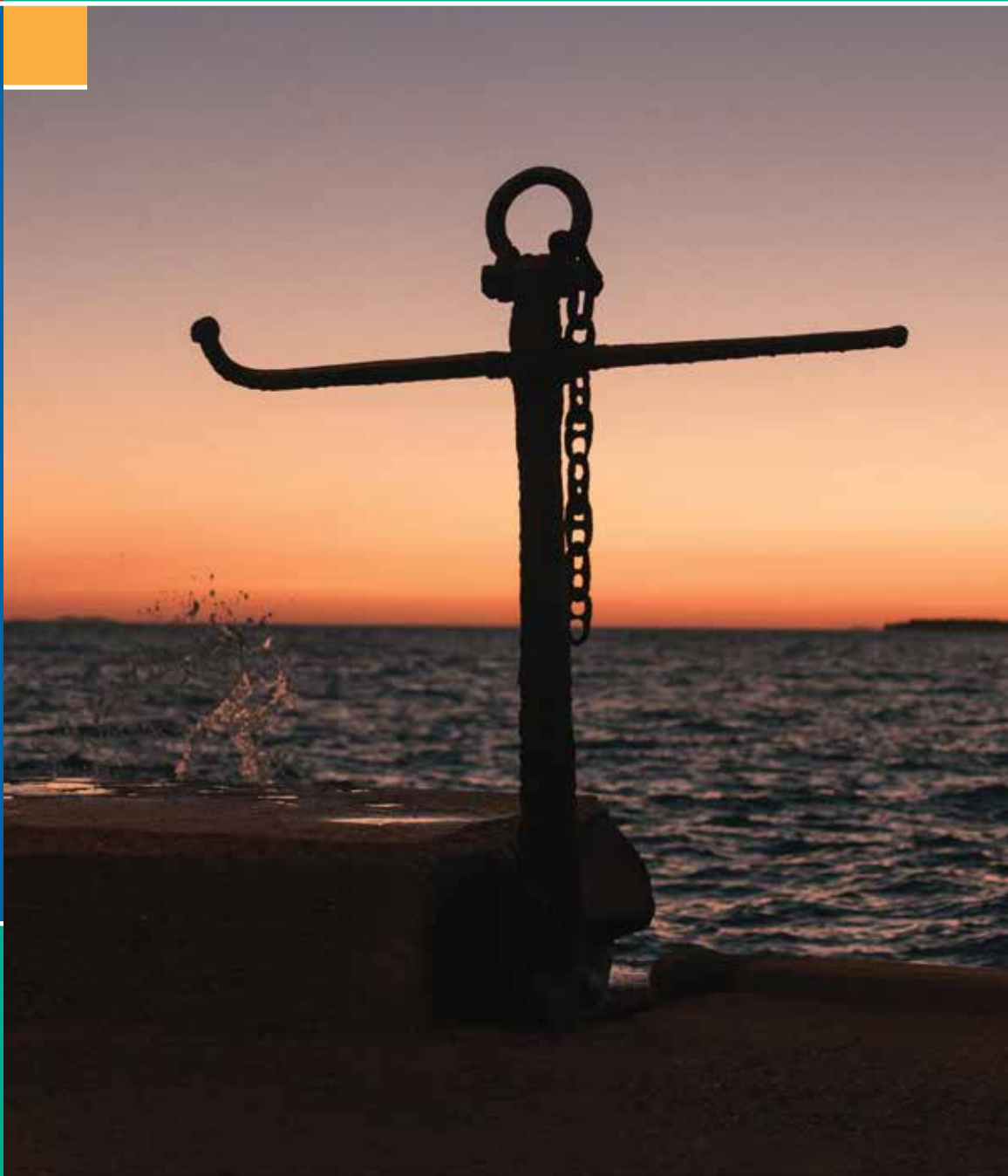
THE ASCENDING DOVE

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.





THE TIME TO GROW IS NOW

“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:9-10).

I think everyone looks forward to summer, especially those who live farther north. We long for warmer weather and longer periods of sunshine. We long to see the growth in nature and fresh new colors bursting forth.

In a similar way, we in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations long to see new growth spiritually in the lives of believers. We long to hear of souls that at one time had no peace with God but now have experienced the finished work of Christ on the cross and are living in the righteousness, peace, and joy that comes from knowing Jesus.

As you read about each department of ministry in your AFLC, pray that the Word of God will take deep root in hearts and lives and that God will be glorified. The good news in ministry is that growth does not occur only in the summer, but whenever the Word of God is received and acted upon. So first of all, let the Word of God come into your lives daily as you open your Bible and spend time with Jesus. Then pray that God might empower you to share Jesus with someone in your day.

May there be much growth this summer as the Word of God is going forth throughout this world.



CONTACT

Pastor Lyndon Korhonen
AFLC President
763.545.5631
president@aflc.org



GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

"So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work ... So the wall was completed ... in fifty-two days" (Nehemiah 4:6, 6:15a).

How in the world did the Israelites build a wall so tall and wide that you could be protected from enemies and march a parade on top of it in 52 days? This seems like a miracle, but we know one thing, their hearts were in it. When we put our trust in God and our hearts to do His work, He can do miracles.

In the same way, our church plant in Maringá is a real miracle. We moved here in 2004 at the request of the Brazilian national board and AFLC's World Missions Committee to plant a church in this city and help with the work in Campo Mourão—50 miles away. I knew that this would not be an easy task. Maringá is known to be a very expensive city in which to live.

From the start we were able to establish a formal congregational group with a church board, but we met mostly in our home or in a school. The congregation voted to save money to buy property on which to build their church. Each year property values went up more than 20 percent, so we kept on praying and saving. Finally in 2012 we were able to buy a lot, and in 2014 we voted to start to build.

In the fall of 2014 we presented our project to the World Missions Committee members to help us fund the prefab skeletal structure of the building. They approved the project, and by November 2014 we started moving forward. In the beginning of 2015 we started all the paperwork to get the project approved by the city and local government. On May 31 we had the groundbreaking ceremony, and by August all the paperwork was approved and a good amount of the contributions had come in.

After a long rainy season, in October we were able to lay the foundation. By the end of November we finished the skeletal structure and roof. Soon after that our men started to fill in the walls.

Thanks to Otávio, a retiree and one of our elders who oversees the project, construction has gone well. Occasionally two of his sons help him. One is the president of our congregation, and the other is the secretary. These three have done the bulk of the work, but others have come to help out on Saturdays.

An exciting economic turn of events which shows us God's hand in the project was when the US dollar climbed to an all-time high, causing us to go much farther in construction than originally planned. Like the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, I have never seen a project like this go so fast in Brazil.

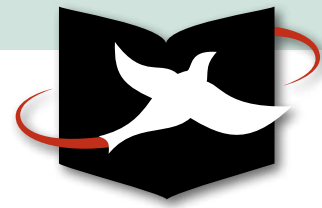
By the middle of 2016, we hope to be in our building with 60 percent of the work completed. We could not have done this if it wasn't for you who heard God's call to partner with us. We are so grateful to God. We pray that this church will be a place to disciple, heal, train and send souls into the harvest for the Kingdom of God. And we pray that this would be a mother church to help plant many other churches in Brazil.

We still will have some great challenges, but we are confident that God will help us. Missionary John Abel always said, "a life to live will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last." May we be faithful to His cause to the end. Amen!

~Pastor Jonathan Abel, AFLC missionary to Brazil

CONTACT

Del Palmer, Director, AFLC World Missions
763-545-5631 • worldmis@aflc.org
www.aflcworldmissions.org



CAREFUL BUILDING

“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 3:10-11).

The foundation that Paul laid was by the grace of God. He built it carefully, and it was laid on the foundation of Jesus. It is by the grace of God that the AFLC exists. We have been careful to build using the Word of God as the center of our heritage. Jesus Christ is the fundamental cornerstone in all that we do; He is what we build upon rather than personalities or programs. The pillars of grace, the Word of God, and Christ alone are key to our personal growth as disciples. Those pillars are also the reason for our success in the Ambassador Institute.

The grace of God brought the Ambassador Institute from one class in one country to more than 30 classes in three countries; from one language to eight; and from two people to a network of more than 40 missionaries, board members, and teachers. It is God’s grace that He has been transforming people as they study His Word for two years. It is through God’s grace that Pastor Brent and Emily Raan arrived in India and will be working alongside the Ambassador Institute training program there. It is God’s grace which is leading Micah and Famke Berger to northern Uganda to work among the Karamajong, a mostly unreached people group. It is God’s grace leading Pastor Nate and Rhoda Jore to the countryside outside of Jinja, Uganda, to plant churches and to guide the next teachers of the Romans study.

Paul’s letter to the Roman Christians is one example of his careful use of the Word of God to teach the people the doctrines of God. The Ambassador Institute study of the book of Romans builds on the Lutheran training in the first 84 lessons, and forces the students to wrestle with the clear doctrine that is presented in Paul’s letter. Memorizing all 16 chapters has had a great effect on the students. They have become confident in what they believe and are able to stand against the waves of false teachings that pound against them.

The Ambassador Institute is built on the Lord Jesus rather than on a personality or program. The curriculum highlights Jesus from the first lesson to the last. Growing in the knowledge, character, and ministry of Jesus may not look outwardly flashy, but it is an eternal foundation to build on. The Ambassador Institute training has multiplied because it is built on Christ. And the discipleship program works in multiple countries because at the core is Jesus.



“Entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” (II Timothy 2:2).

CONTACT

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



Seeing GOD AT WORK



Journey Missions had a busy start to 2016 leading a group to Ecuador, South America, in February to work with AFLC missionaries Justo and Patricia Pillman. Time flew by and we were already going through our debriefing sessions when it seemed as though we had just arrived. On our last day in country, we sent out an urgent prayer request to our prayer partners:

Hey all, we've got a very sick team member. We're leaving in one hour from Cuenca and she's been getting progressively worse. It's a four-hour drive to the airport and then we fly until 11:30 a.m. tomorrow morning when we land in Minneapolis. Please be in prayer for healing and guidance. As one team member said, "There's power in prayer!" And how true that is. Thank you for your willingness to pray!

Many people responded to the request, partnering with us in prayer as we journeyed home. By the time we reached Florida I was able to send the following message:

Hey everyone, thank you so much for the prayers. We are wheels down in Florida and our sick team member is feeling 95 percent! We know this is a huge answer to prayer and want to thank you for your faithfulness in lifting us up in prayer.

Through this trip, each of us had a unique opportunity to see the hand of the Lord at work in Ecuador. We saw His healing hand in the above instance, but time and time again we saw the hand of the Lord working as He watched over us and as relationships were built between our team and our Ecuadorian friends.

We had gone to Ecuador to partner with Paz de Dios church in building a play set for the congregation. The play set is a great addition to the outreach for children and families within the community, as well as for the congregation members. We saw that this was a tangible way to partner with the church and their ministry, however, we left with new a partnership in place. God created a desire within us to continue to pray for the ministry and the people we met there.

Through this trip we were able to see how the Ecuadorian ministry works, how the Pillman family continues to minister within Paz de Dios, and how we were able to build relationships with the congregation. Even more than that, we saw the hand of God at work. Though we crossed language and cultural barriers, we saw our amazing God—Who created all tribes and tongues—use each of us to be a part of His continued ministry. We had (and continue to have!) the opportunity to be used by God as the hands and feet of Jesus.

~Jon Nelson

CONTACT

Jon Nelson, Department Head
763.412.2042 • jon.nelson@afc.org
afcljourneymissions.org

The difference OF ONE

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something" (Edward Everett Hale).

The apostle Paul was a master at enlisting people in kingdom work. He firmly believed that each person was given a unique set of gifts to serve the Lord. He encouraged "each of us to exercise them accordingly" (Romans 12:6). In many of his letters to the churches, Paul lists numerous people who came alongside him in ministry. They were the key to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world of their day.

Fast forward to 2016 and look at the impact as members of the body of Christ serve Him using their unique gifts in Home Missions, the difference of one.

- **1** Business woman/mom from California is managing The Net in Naknek, Alaska, this summer: Bobbie Overgaard
- **1** Teacher/logger from Felch, Mich., will be working at The Net: Bob Davidson
- **1** Newlywed couple from Minnesota will serve on the Alaskan vacation Bible school team: Kyle and Marli Arneson
- **1** Recent AFLBS graduate is serving as a Parish Builder in Mesa, Ariz.: Kaelyn Anderson
- **1** Sunday school raises funds and sends their offerings for the Cherokee 6 engine overhaul: Rose Sunday school, Roseau, Minn.
- **1** Grandma from Stover, Mo., is going to help bake at The Net: Judy Rehmer
- **1** AFLBS graduate answers God's call to serve as a Parish Builder at New Hope in Jamestown, N.D.: Tasha Foss
- **1** Retired vice-president of a company joins our support staff to work with the technical needs of KAKN in Alaska: Rod Scheel
- **1** Work team of 16 will go to Naknek to do remodeling projects: Prince of Peace Church, Beulah, N.D.
- **1** Church gathering supplies for The Net in Alaska: Immanuel Lutheran, New Liepzig, N.D.
- **1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1** AFLBS students giving their summer to serve on Barnabas Teams

We are so grateful for such men and women who answer God's call to serve Him wherever and whenever. We invite you to come join us. "Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you" (I Samuel 12:24).

NORTH BARNABAS



SOUTH BARNABAS



THE SCHEELS



UPCOMING DATES

- Alaska VBS starts June 6
- The Net opens June 13
- Barnabas teams leave for summer ministry on June 4

CONTACT

Pastor Paul Nash, Director
763.545.5631 • homemis@aflc.org
www.aflchomemissions.org



God is FAITHFUL

An exciting aspect of ministry is to see how God works through His people and situations to accomplish His plan. He uses people from various walks of life and He uses many tools for ministry. Frequently He uses resources and means that are different than we had imagined.

When the FLAPS aviation ministry began in 1999, the Lord provided a small two-seated airplane that cruised at 100 mph. A newly licensed pilot, Pastor Tom Olson, was the first FLAPS full-time pilot to serve in Alaska. The Cessna 150 does not fit the typical mission airplane profile with its small size and limited cargo carrying capacity. But God knew it was right for the Alaska ministry since the primary need was to fly across the wide Naknek River in order to serve the congregations on either side.

Not long after that, God provided a four-seated Cessna 175 that had excellent capability for taking off and landing from short, unimproved airstrips. Pastor Henry Mohagen, also a newly licensed pilot, answered the call to serve in Alaska. The Cessna 175 made it possible to expand the outreach to small villages in southwest Alaska and to carry more load.

In 2008 Pastor Jeremy Crowell took a Home Missions call to serve in Alaska, and in 2010 a decision was made to move the FLAPS Piper Cherokee Six plane from Minneapolis to Naknek. With six seats and a larger engine and airframe, it enables the carrying of a significant amount of cargo.

The Alaska ministry has continued to grow and now includes transporting village youths to Bible camp, vacation Bible school teams to remote villages for ministry in the summer, supplies to remote villages, and AFLC missionaries to areas of need.

FLAPS continues to own and operate a Cessna 182 that is based in Minneapolis and is used to help serve mission transportation needs in the Upper Midwest.

All the planes FLAPS has owned and operated were clearly provided by God. We weren't looking for any of them. As operating costs continue to increase, God continues to provide the resources when they're needed.

This winter the Piper Cherokee Six was flown to MATA (Mission Aviation Training Academy), our sister mission aviation organization in Arlington, Wash. A complete engine and propeller overhaul was completed there. In addition, a new state-of-the-art avionics package was installed. The plane was flown back to Naknek in late April, where it resumed serving ministry needs.

The people at MATA provided an excellent workshop space



and several licensed Christian mechanics to help with the work. We're also thankful for a Christian man in North Dakota who has a top aircraft engine overhaul facility. He did an excellent job, and gifted all of his labor costs to FLAPS. God is indeed good.

Although much growth has been experienced in the FLAPS ministry, much remains to be done. "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest" (John 4:35b).

Thanks to the many people who support this ministry with their prayers and gifts. We don't know what the future holds for this ministry, but we know Who holds the future.

~Lavon Bohling

CONTACT

Lavon Bohling, Executive Director
763.412.2018 • flaps@aflc.org
www.flapsministry.org



KNIT TOGETHER

in love through Christ

“That their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:2-3, NASB).

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’s theme this year is “Knit Together In Love Through Christ” from Colossians 2:2-3.

The national WMF board members are here to serve you. Much of our board time is spent securing biblically sound Bible studies and organizing the national convention. Other activities this spring have included:

- ➔ Esther Hylden, first vice president, gave a word of encouragement and Barb Strand, communication secretary, introduced the WMF at the Home Mission Retreat in Mesa, Ariz.
- ➔ Board members have attended and presented at district rallies.
- ➔ This past December all churches were sent a DVD with information about the WMF in the Resource Manual update packet. Also included were updated pages. Has your congregation viewed this video? If you do not have a copy of the video, it can be accessed from our website or contact Dawn Johnson at ctk@wwwt.net. This helpful manual is meant to be easily accessible to all members of your women’s group. It contains informational material, organizational resources, ministry resources, and program ideas.

It isn’t human organization or clever plans that knit us together. It’s the mission that Christ has given to us. What a privilege it is to be His ambassadors.



BOARD MEMBERS

Lynn Wellumson, president
 Esther Hylden, first vice president
 Lori Willard, second vice president
 JoyAnn Dahl, recording secretary
 Barbara Strand, communication secretary
 Deb Benson, treasurer



CONTACT

Women’s Missionary Federation
wmf@aflc.org
www.aflc.org/women





STAFFING NEED

Please pray and consider how you can make a difference



God has graciously provided funding for many publishing projects. For example, did you know we currently have a backlog of projects whose printing costs have been completely funded by generous, designated gifts? But with our limited part-time office staff, we have not been able to finish the work on these projects. We have an urgent need to increase staffing hours so we can continue providing congregations with Christ-centered, quality Sunday school materials.

Adding needed staffing hours would cost approximately \$25,000 per year. We are looking to fund these additional hours for three years, giving us time to increase the budget to maintain this level of staffing. The total estimated cost for the three years is \$75,000, meaning we'd need to raise \$25,000 for each of the three years.

Would you consider giving towards this need and sharing it with your congregation? Our need for one year would be met if

- 25 congregations or individuals give \$1,000
- 50 congregations or individuals give \$500
- 100 congregations or individuals give \$250
- 250 congregations or individuals give \$100

Thank you for praying for AFLC Parish Education and for considering this need. We confidently pray that God will provide in His time according to His will.

AFLC Heritage Series Volume IV coming soon

Celebrating 50 years of AFLC missions in Brazil, this new book is expected to be released in June. Especially focusing on early mission years of laying the groundwork and planting congregations, the book gives a chronological history of our mission work in Brazil and also includes testimonies, maps, and photographs. Thank you to author Loiell Dyrud, who has spent countless hours interviewing, gathering, researching, compiling, writing, and editing to make this volume possible! Thank you also to the national WMF and AFLC World Missions for helping to fund the publication.

Previous Heritage Series volumes still available:

- I. Romans: A Devotional Commentary
- II. Free and Living Congregations: The Dream That Would Not Die
- III. They Lived in the Power of God: Lutheran Revival Leaders in Northern Europe

BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS

Pastor Sam Wellumson, Chairman
 Pastor Wes Langaas, Vice Chairman
 Bonnie Handsaker, Secretary
 Clara Gunderson
 Solvieg Hjermstad

CONTACT

Marian Christopherson, Director
 Ambassador Publications
 763.412.2010 • parished@afcl.org
www.ambassadorpublications.org



BEARING FRUIT

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you” (John 15:16).

AFLC Youth Ministries focuses on winning, building, equipping, and multiplying maturing teen followers of Christ. This mission can be seen in this one verse above from Jesus.

We want to see teens know Christ through His grace (“I chose you”). We pursue encouragement for believing teens by God’s Word and God’s Spirit (“your fruit should abide”). We point teens to the reality that every Christian is a Kingdom worker (“appointed you”) and that they are released into their world as ones of influence (“you should go and bear fruit”). The Lord is bearing fruit across the AFLC!

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Youth Workers Weekends**—We are seeing results from the equipping and encouraging of youth leaders that attended our annual gathering on January 8-10, 2016. Leaders are sharpened in their focus to share Jesus and spend their lives investing in teens.
- **YouthWorks Partnership**—We are finding interest in ways for teens to be serving others beyond their congregation and their community. Some AFLC youth groups have joined together to attend a week in Kansas City, Missouri through the national organization YouthWorks to demonstrate God’s love in Jesus’ name.

OUTLOOK

- **FLY Beyond**—Our national youth equipping week will be held July 18-22, 2016 at the Association Retreat Center. Under the theme “Entrusted”, teens will receive training in Biblical worldview, Christian apologetics, and spiritual gifts.
- **FLY Convention®**—Our next national youth gathering is July 3-8, 2017 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Co. We once again expect to exceed 2,000 attendees with the theme “Illuminate” from John 8:12. Jesus continues giving His light of life!



CONTACT

YOUTH BOARD

- Pastor Seth Forness, chairman
- Andrew Benson, vice chairman
- Jordan Langness, treasurer
- Sharon Rykhus, secretary
- Pastor Mark Johnson, member

FLY COMMITTEE

- Pastor Eric Rasmussen, president
- Pastor Adam Osier, first vice president
- Pastor Daniel Hurner, second vice president
- Rachael Ballmann, secretary
- Heidi Nelson, devotional life secretary
- Jordan Rumohr, treasurer
- Sharon Rykhus, youth board liaison
- Chris Rasmussen, YM admin. coordinator
- Daniel Keinanen, FLY Convention coordinator

Pastor Jason Holt, Director
763.545.5631
jasonholt@aflc.org
aflc.org/youth



A publication FOR THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

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.)



CONTACT

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

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.

DEVELOPMENT

WE GIVE THANKS

This summer marks the one-year anniversary of welcoming my fifth grandchild earlier than planned in order save the life of his mother. John 3:16-17 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever, believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” As I visited by the bedside of this little innocent boy, tethered and tied with tubes and monitors, I could only imagine the meaning of John 3:16. God gave His *only* son. I can’t imagine my response if God had asked me to give up one of my two children.

As I prayed over my grandchild in the NICU, I thought about the price God the Father paid: To be ripped away from His son, and to send Him to this world for us, a sinful, sad, and wretched race. But He did this willingly and without reservation because he loves us and wants all to come to Him.

The dictionary defines “giving” as freely transferring the possession of something to someone. Freely, that captures giving in one word, doesn’t it? This is how we are told to live our lives, giving freely from what we have. When I stood over that NICU bed, the life of my grandson was not first on my list of things to freely give. This, however, is the picture of giving we see from the Father.

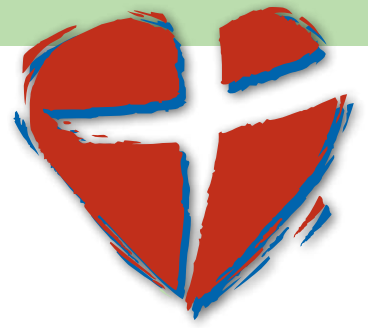
When I meet people and pray with them about opportunities within the ministry, it is not about the funds, the proposals, or dollars. These friendships are lasting, life-changing, and life-shaping to me. God calls us to sharpen one another as iron sharpens iron, and this is exactly the blessing that I am afforded as I meet with individuals to pray about God’s leading. I am left blessed because they are giving freely, not only of their talents and tithe, but with their prayers.

Just as God gives life, He also brings new life to the AFLC as donors give freely of what God has given to them.



CONTACT

Pastor Tonnes Pollestad, Director
763.545.5631 • tonnes@aflc.org



The joy of DISCIPLE MAKING

“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, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age ...” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Have you ever asked yourself: What was Jesus focusing on in the Great Commission? If you stop and study the Greek text of Matthew 28:19, you will find that Jesus’ focus was to “make disciples.”

So what does it mean to make disciples? It really is a picture of coming alongside an individual of the same gender and lovingly walking through life with him or her, helping your friend learn more about Jesus daily. It means that you help your friend realize the amazing gift he or she has received in salvation.

Why make disciples? Jesus said to! After showing His great love (*agape*) toward us, Jesus now wants us to make disciples out of a deep love (*agape*) we have for Him and those He places in and around us. It is a joyous task.

Be careful. When you are trained to be a disciple maker it gets into your DNA and you feel empty if you are not discipling someone.

Four key ingredients in disciple making.

1. Prayer
2. Time
3. Love
4. Intentional multiplication

Want to know more? Contact any Commission On Evangelism member or Pastor Jim Rasmussen, director of AFLC Evangelism.



COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Pastor Timothy Johnson, chairman
- Michael Lynnes, vice chairman
- Eldon Hesterberg, secretary
- Pastor Lee Hoops
- Kevin Hoops

CONTACT

Pastor Jim Rasmussen, Director
763.545.5631 • evangelism@afcl.org
www.afclcevangalism.org



The VISION 50 YEARS AGO



If you could click through the years of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School on a View-Master reel, the images within view would have virtually transported you to places around the world. The vision to establish an AFLC Bible school in 1966 has led to 50 years of faithful teaching, which has established many students in God's Word, training them to take that Word out into the world.

The forward-thinking view of fledgling AFLC congregations in the 1960s recognized the need for a Bible school to provide a place where youths could become solidly grounded in God's Word. This move prepared the way for more than 2,900 students to study the Bible at AFLBS, and resulted in a group of young people who have contributed to strong congregations within the AFLC.

Click the reel again and it would reveal approximately 275 students who have graduated from our seminary and are either serving or have served AFLC congregations.

Along the way during those 50 years, the AFLC Schools have encountered growth and development which necessitated additional funding. Through the generosity of many individuals and churches, dorms were built, seminary housing was provided, scholarships granted, and Heritage Hall was built to enhance the AFLBS experience with classrooms, library, cafeteria, and a music department. God has been faithful, and the schools have continued to provide students with the opportunity for an immersive journey through the Word of God.

Scholarship 400 is an aspect of VISION that has had a major impact on supporting Bible school students. Since the fall of 2012, we have provided \$400 scholarships to 215 students in an amount totaling \$111,428.00. We praise the Lord!

God has given us a vision through the truth of His eternal and inerrant Word to continue to teach the Word, train servants, and transform lives. As we click through subsequent reels and navigate forward with this vision, we will continue to encounter growth and development needs essential to ministry.

Looking to the future, the schools have building plans for an auditorium/gymnasium and another set of dorms. General maintenance and upkeep on the facilities is an ever present consideration. As we strive to increase student enrollment, scholarship needs will also increase. Please continue your support of the schools through financial resources and your prayers. Pray with us that our vision is always viewed through the Word, and focuses on our Master, Jesus Christ.

~**Sherry Mork, advancement and finance coordinator**

CONTACT

Sherry Mork, VISION Coordinator
763.544.9501 • slmork@afcl.org
www.aflbs.org/vision



Preparing SERVANT PASTORS

for free and living congregations

Next year at AFLTS at least 28 full-time students will study to be servant leaders in free and living Lutheran congregations. Students study in the classroom for three years, learning God's Word, how to use it, and why it is important to all aspects of life and ministry. We teach students to connect precious, eternal human souls to the eternal Word of God, preaching Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. Those students then complete a one-year, congregation-based internship that applies what they have learned to a life situations. Once those students have completed their study and are approved by the faculty, members of the AFLC Schools Board of Trustees, Coordinating Committee, and Colloquy Committee, they are ready to serve a congregation—maybe your congregation. None of this happens on its own. Your personal and congregational investments of time, money, and provision of learning opportunities makes all of this happen.

~Pastor Wade Mobley, Dean of AFLTS

→ CALLED

I first got the call to ministry during Bible school. God used His Word and brought some conviction on me. But I ran from it for a while. In the midst of summer VBS teams and several years assisting in church planting, I tried to ignore the call to full-time ministry. But I eventually got the message. God cracked through my thick skull and I finally said as Isaiah did, "Here I am Lord, send me."

~Pastor Ryan Tonneson, Gateway Gathering, Mesa, Ariz.

→ TRAINED

While in seminary, I am learning how to properly interpret, apply, and teach the Word of God. I'm also learning the practical side of ministry, caring for and loving a congregation and the people in it.

~David Niemela, AFLTS junior, part-time youth leader at Good Shepherd Free Lutheran, Cokato, Minn.

→ PREPARED

I have loved learning in a classroom with my classmates, but look forward to investing daily in the lives of those who are a part of a local congregation and working to build up the Body of Christ in that local congregation.

~Alex Amiot, AFLTS senior, assigned to internship at Ruthfred Lutheran, Bethel Park, Pa.



CONTACT

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary
3120 East Medicine Lake Blvd.
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441
763.544.9501 • aflts@afc.org • www.aflts.org



Teaching the Word. Training servants. Transforming lives.

EQUIPPING STUDENTS



For 50 years, AFLBS has been equipping students to:

- Interpret and rightly apply Scripture
- Understand God's story of salvation throughout the entire Bible
- Share and defend their faith in Jesus Christ
- Live out Biblical roles and responsibilities in the congregation
- Build a foundation for Christian life and ministry

INCOMING STUDENT Q & A

Q. How will biblical studies at AFLBS benefit your life?

A. How AFLBS will benefit my life is quite simple: deep intensive study of the Bible. Graduating from high school soon has made me realize that I'm not as knowledgeable of God's Word as I want to be. Going to Bible school will show me that true knowledge, and prepare me for my life ahead.

~Zach Lynnes, Leonard, N.D.

A. Spending two years studying the Bible will benefit my life with a stronger relationship with God, a greater knowledge of the Bible, and lifelong friendships.

~Andrea Anderson, Amery, Wis.

A. I believe it will be an invaluable investment of my life, no matter where God leads me. What better way to spend my time than studying His Word? I will be better equipped to share my faith with this world and answer people who will challenge my faith.

~Sophia Rosgaard, Rock Valley, Iowa



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

CONTACT

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

Registration is now open for the AFLBS 50th anniversary celebration, scheduled for July 28-31. The weekend will feature Bible classes, workshops, worship services, class reunions, recreation outings, a 5K Run/Walk, and a 50th anniversary gala featuring speaker Wayne Pederson.

View the full schedule and register at www.aflbs.org/50. For more information, email 50thAFLBS@gmail.com or call the AFLBS Office at 763-544-9501.

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

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 4268

ASSOCIATION RETREAT, CONFERENCE & CAMP CENTER

COME AWAY AND REST



The Association Retreat, Conference & Camp Center is an important ministry that serves many of the AFLC churches and groups from the Twin Cities area, from many backgrounds. The ARC is a unique ministry that provides a safe, distraction-free place to meet with God. Our hope is that the lives of those who visit us will continue to be changed, so they can bring hope and the message of Jesus to their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. Last year alone more than 600 people dedicated or re-dedicated their lives to the Lord.



EVENT CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| June 19-24 | Fire Up Youth Camp for grades 4-8 |
| July 18-22 | AFLC Youth Fly Beyond Camp |
| July 20-23 | SONSHINE Christian Music Festival |
| July 31-Aug. 6 | AFLC Family Camp |
| Sept. 9-11 | ARC Fall Men's Retreat Airplane and Car Show Weekend |
| Sept. 13-15 | AFLC Pastor's and Wives Retreat |
| Oct. 7-9 | Classics' Retreat for 55+ |
| Oct. 28-30 | ARC Fall Family Weekend—It's FREE! |
| Oct. 30 | Scandinavian Festival Fundraiser Dinner |
| Nov. 4-6 | ARC Fall Women's Artist and Crafting Retreat |
| Nov. 11-13 | Worship Leader's Retreat for musicians, A/V techs, and pastors |
| Dec. 30-Jan. 1 | New Year's Eve Ski/Snowboarding Weekend |

CONTACT

ARC • 715.294.2877
arceventcoordinator@gmail.com
www.associationretreatcenter.org