# THE LUTHERAN SADOR



# **Encouraging Word**

# eadership thankful for

had an enjoyable day last Saturday in the company of many other women. Where was that? Our semi-annual district WMF rally, where we had a fabulous spring morning to drive to a country church in a beautiful setting.

Our morning session started with a singspiration lifting up words of praise to our Father God. Since WMF stands for Women's Missionary Federation, time was spent on updates on our missionaries. It was wonderful to share about new missionaries having recently accepted calls from World Missions - Nathan and Rhoda Jore and family, and Tomasz and Miriam Chmiel, and also about those who have become missionary candidates — Kevin and Pam Olson and family, and Andy and Monica Coyle and family. We spent time in small prayer groups, praying for our AFLC missionaries and other prayer concerns. What a special time to hear many voices lifted up to God in prayer.

Our morning Bible study looked more in depth at our theme, "Invisible Vision" taken from II Corinthians 4:16-18, where we focused on the fact that eternal values are most important in this life. Many wonderful Bible passages were shared around this theme.

Our afternoon session began with a volunteer choir (the women sounded great). We then had a wonderful panel of women sharing on how they impact the young families, children and youth in their churches through such programs as Cradle Roll and after school or evening programs like WINGS. A grandmother has made it a tradition to take her grandchildren to camp at the ARC, and another older woman encourages the youths

in her church by acknowledging their accomplishments through spoken word and letters. Lastly we were reminded by a college professor how important it is to reach children while they are young, so that when they leave home and go away to college they will continue in the way in which they have been taught (Proverbs 22:6). The word of the afternoon was "encourage." We all need encouragement.

It was an encouragement to me to have been at the rally. I am thankful for the leadership of the WMF in providing these opportunities, and others, for women's groups throughout the AFLC to gather for fellowship and encouragement. I am thankful for our district president, Miriam Klemme, for her leadership as each rally is planned. I am thankful for the local women's groups that host each rally — it may take work, but it is worth it. I am thankful for each woman who takes time out from a busy schedule to gather together as a body of believers to be refreshed and encourage one another.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (II Corinthians 4:16-18, NASB).

> — Carol Knapp Sunburg Free Lutheran Sunburg, Minn.

June 2006 Volume 44, Number 6



# **<b>ELUTHERANAMBASSADOR**

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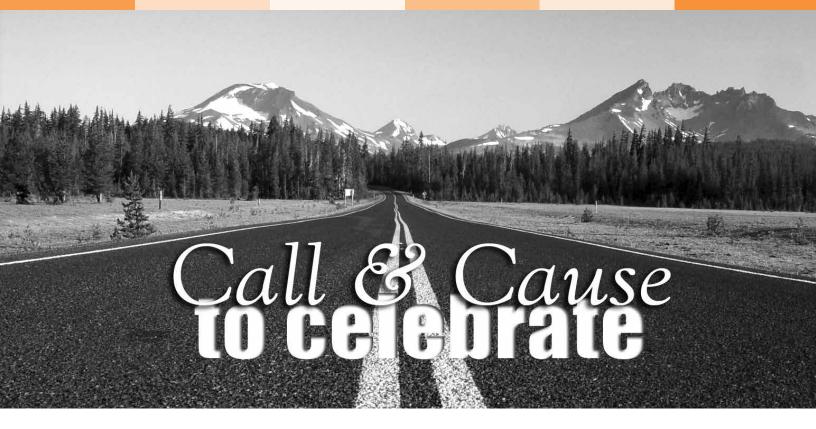
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# **Our President Writes**



t's conference time again, and our theme is a call and a cause to celebrate: "This is a Day of Good News!" from II Kings 7:9.

Hopefully many of our readers will be planning to travel June 20-23 to the Warm Beach Christian Conference Center in Stanwood, Wash., for our annual gather-

ing, which has been held every 10 years in the Pacific Northwest.

Robert L. Lee

We are called to celebrate the fact that God has privileged us to live in the day of grace. This means that the door of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ is wide open, and all repentant sinners are welcome to enter into abundant life.

Sometimes we sing, "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24) as though it simply refers to each new day dawning. Yet I am convinced that the broader sense of this verse might serve to remind us that we live on the glory-side of Calvary and the empty tomb.

Our theme also presents us with a cause to celebrate. God has granted us the privilege of living in the day of grace and the provision for proclaiming this good news to a waiting world. The fearful and disheartened disciples gathered in the upper room after Jesus had returned to His Father, aware of both a call to evangelize and their own inability to fulfill it. The good news, believers, is that we live on the glory-side of Pentecost, too, and the promise of His indwelling and empowering is to us and to our children. Thus, we are enabled to go forth with joy in obedience to His command.

The biblical word for "good news" is the same as our English words "gospel" and "evangelism." It means a message of victory or other news that causes joy and gladness, a word that is both powerful and effective. Victory, joy and celebration ... the words belong together, don't they? We seem to live in a world that usually majors in bad news, so our good news needs to be proclaimed with power, clearly and plainly. Lives depend on it.

There's a celebration waiting to happen at Warm Beach. Come and rejoice, go forth and serve!



t is finished." Jesus' last words illustrate salvation by grace. With this phrase, He declared that the redemption of mankind was done. Nothing else was or is needed to save us from our sins. Moreover, these words communicate another significant truth; Jesus' earthly ministry was over. No longer would He be around to heal the sick, help the needy, cast out demons, teach the crowds, or call sinners to repentance. Who would continue this ministry now?

This startling reality comes true far too often today in our congregations. Regardless of the circumstances, we find ourselves asking the same question, "Who will continue this now?" Frequently, we find ourselves scrambling at the last minute to find someone who can fill the newly discovered void. Usually the story stays the same; either any warm body will be asked to step in, or the work will get piled on another's already full plate. This happens regularly, without regard to a person's gifts, talents, qualifications, or experience. Suddenly "the new guy" finds himself overwhelmed and under prepared to complete his new task.

Is this the way God intended for us to work? Is there a better way of functioning? What would have happened if Jesus handed off His earthly ministry this way? Fortunately, Jesus did not operate the way we do today. Instead, our Lord had already resolved this crisis before it began. The solution started three years earlier when

Jesus called His first disciples. From that time onward He would spend time developing these rough and tumble young men into the future leaders of His church.

If we follow Christ's journey through the Gospels, we see His blueprint for intentionally training future leaders. No, we won't be able to exactly mimic Jesus' example of discipleship; however, its core principles can be taken and applied to almost any situation.

Jesus did not wait for volunteers. He sought out people with leadership qualities, even if they didn't realize it. According to each Gospel, Jesus called most of the disciples to Himself. They came willingly, eager to take in what He had to offer. Likewise, today we cannot sit back and wait for people to come and ask to be trained. It's our job to seek out those who have leadership qualities and challenge them to come and be mentored. This may feel impossible; as if there is no one worthy. Yet when Jesus called His disciples they were common fishermen and a tax collector, the type of people always overlooked.

As we look in Mark 8 we see that a key component to Christ's discipleship plan is observation. Here the disciples are watching Jesus as He ministers among the people. They watch Him teach, heal, and exercise power over death, nature, and the demonic forces. They were personally blessed, and witnessed firsthand how ministry is done before they were sent out. Accordingly, we need to take potential leaders and let them observe us in our ministry. Too many times people are rushed through

# The time to think about the future is now



training programs and immediately sent out before they have ever observed the ministry done.

The disciples not only observed Jesus in His ministry, they also helped Him. Matthew 14:13-21 records Jesus feeding the 5,000. Here, instead of performing the miracle Himself (which was standard operating procedure) He asked the disciples to assist Him. They found and distributed the bread and fish, thus taking part in the miracle. Equally, we, too, need to let potential leaders help us in our ministry, even if we can do it ourselves. They need to gain hands-on experience alongside of their mentor to prepare them to succeed on their own.

Christ saw the importance for the disciples to gain ministry experience while they were still being mentored. He provides them with an opportunity to do ministry themselves. In Mark 6, He offers them a chance to gain experience in a situation where they could succeed. Yet, this wasn't always the case. In Matthew 17 the disciples struggled as they attempted to cast out a demon, and Jesus had to intervene. It's important for us to let those we mentor do ministry themselves, both in environments where they can thrive and struggle. That way they can taste the joys and hardships ministry has to offer while under the protection of mentorship.

Jesus didn't just rely on experience to train His disciples; He also taught them regularly. They received instruction as they observed Jesus teaching the crowds and in the synagogue. It's also seen in Matthew 21:18-22

that Jesus taught them privately, offering specialized teaching and attention that prepared them for ministry. It's important that potential leaders attend worship services and Bible studies to grow in their faith. However, as mentors it's vital that we meet privately with them to offer the specialized training and individual attention they need.

The disciples had been called, they observed, helped, had gone out, and been taught for three years. Now, in Matthew 28, they were ready to continue Jesus' ministry when He left. When those we have been mentoring are ready to lead on their own it's vital that we completely hand over the ministry, or let them go to where God has called them.

To avoid the pitfalls that we frequently find ourselves climbing out of we need to follow Jesus' model of ministry. Identifying potential leaders for the future is simply not enough; we must invest our time and mentor them so they can be prepared for service someday. If Jesus' blueprint is taken and used to build our ministry, we'll be able to better identify, train and equip the leaders of tomorrow and beyond.

Christenson serves as the youth director at Amery Free Lutheran in Amery, Wis, and is a member of the AFLC Youth Board.



or a congregation to be free and living it needs those who aren't pastors — the lay people — to provide active leadership and service. That was a strong conviction held by Georg Sverdrup, the founder of the Lutheran Free Church movement. The following excerpts from a chapter of *Free and Living Congregations*, entitled "The Laity," by Keith Quanbeck, addresses this key feature of AFLC congregations:

Sverdrup maintained that in practice no congregation could be considered truly alive unless it had an active laity. It is not for the pastor alone to demonstrate a living faith, but for the whole congregation. At the heart of a free congregation is its laity actively using their gifts in the service of Christ. Thus the congregation is to become a fellowship of believers in which every gift of grace is encouraged and given the fullest possible chance for expression.

It was this belief that led Sverdrup to compare the congregation to a choir in which everyone sings: "The congregation lives and exists for work. It is a gathering of workers. The congregation is not organized unless there is work for all. It is not a congregation where a group of people hires a minister to do the work for them so that they themselves may go free. No, the congregation may well be compared to a choir and its director. Shall the director sing alone? Shall they not all be along? So, too, in the congregation; it is a fellowship of God's servants who work for God's kingdom. The leader does not become superfluous but all the more necessary in such a group."

Sverdrup also likened the congregation to an army with every man at his post.

"The pastor should be as a general in the army. The general certainly would not think it advantageous for himself to fight the enemy alone while the army slept. There is more than enough work in the congregation for all the children of God. ...

"The wise pastor will make use of all the gifts of grace for the building up of the kingdom of God." ...

Sverdrup's attitude toward the work of laity is not merely one of respect. He believes their involvement is vital to the spiritual life of the congregation. Working together, they form a vital partnership with the pastor. Through the gifts of the Spirit, the congregation is edified. And though God has given each member a gift, it is the congregation's responsibility to provide expression for it. To this end, it should be the desire of every congregation to have an active, Spirit-led laity.

In an article, entitled "The Free Church Fellowship," Sverdrup writes about lay leadership in the congregation, and in particular about the role of the deacons:

Most of the provisions concerning the work of the deacons in our congregations are to the effect that the deacons are the pastor's assistants in the spiritual care of the congregation who are charged with visiting the poor, sick and troubled, and that they are the elected and appointed servants of the congregation and responsible to perform such work on behalf of the congregation as is also privately incumbent upon each individual Christian. ...

Now if great care was required in the election of deacons in the apostolic congregation, then this is no less the case in our day. ... If we do not choose with understanding and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we hinder the kingdom of God from coming to us, in that we hinder the proper application of the gifts to the work in the congregation. If, however, we rightly respect the manifold gifts of the Lord and the works of the Spirit, we know that humble means can do wonderful things in the kingdom of God, provided they are used in the right place and to the service of the Lord. ...

The particular endeavor of the deacons should be to be followers of Jesus as helpers and comforters in the many kinds of distress that human life presents. ... The misery of sin meets us in a thousand ways. There is sickness, drunkenness, family dissension, unbelief and despair, perplexities of all kinds. Who can number all the forms of sorrow and distress? Who can number the tears that flow, often where no one suspects? To come into a house of sorrow and a habitation of distress and be given grace to wipe away a tear, comfort a heart, guide an erring one, exhort an unruly one, that is the beautiful work the congregation lays on its deacons. The Lord grant that there were many qualified for this work and many faithful in its often difficult practice.





e are living in a time of desperate need for true leaders — good and godly leaders — in society, in the Church, and in the home. Everywhere we look we see the failure of leadership. At such a time as this, how we need to keep looking to Jesus, the blessed Head of the Church. He never fails!

The Lord looks for people who will stand up and be counted (I Samuel 13:14; Ezekiel 22:30 et al), people of conviction and courage, people who accept responsibility, people who serve with humility, people who realize their strength rests in God alone.

But what is a true leader?

It is Jesus who is our perfect example in all things. The prophet Isaiah reveals the excellencies of Jesus the Messiah in chapter 42:1-9. In this text, we find qualities of true spiritual leadership. Here are some characteristics:

#### A true leader is one who has been chosen by God

Our Lord is described as, "My chosen One in whom My soul delights" (42:1). There was and is in Christ everything that pleased the Father. The Father delighted in His Son's submission to His will, yes, His obedience to the point of death on the cross.

You and I have been personally chosen by the Lord (John 15:16). We are a "chosen generation," chosen to bring praise to His name through the message of the gospel (I Peter 2:9). It is no human arrangement to be a spiritual leader in Christ's Church. It is a matter of being chosen to serve Him.

#### A true leader is one who is empowered by the Spirit of God

Jesus our Messiah was anointed for His earthly ministry: "I have put My Spirit upon Him" (42:1). Possessing the Spirit in an unlimited way (John 3:34), our Lord exercised His ministry in dependence upon that anointing (Acts 10:38).

As those who would serve the Lord, there is need to live in dependence upon the Spirit, to "walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16), and to continuously experience His fullness (Ephesians 5:18). It is a matter of daily yielding to His control (Romans 12:1-2).

#### A true leader is one who is a servant of God and His people

Our Lord is addressed as "My servant" (42:1) in Isaiah's text. Throughout His earthly ministry He lived in the realization that He was "about His Father's business" (Luke 2:49). He said He had come to "work the will of Him who sent Me" (John 9:4). It was His joy at the end of His life on earth that He had "finished the work" (John 17:4) the Father had entrusted to Him, the great work of salvation that resulted from His servanthood and His being "obedient unto death" (Philippians 2:8).

If you and I would be spiritual leaders, the servant spirit of Jesus is the key to our usefulness. In His strength we must seek not to be served but to serve. It is in obedience to His Word that the servant spirit is demonstrated in love for the Lord, love for His people, and love for a lost and dying world (John 14:21, 23-24).

#### A true leader patiently and hopefully deals with people

Isaiah describes our Lord's dealing with needy people, "...a bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench" (42:3). Where the flame of devotion to Christ burns at all, however feebly or dimly, our Lord will be sure not to quench it. Rather, He will trim it, give it fresh oil and cause it to burn more brightly. Cut the fig tree down? No, give it one more year, ... and another, ... and another ...

If we would be spiritual leaders, the Lord must renew the spirit of patient hopefulness continually in our lives. If we have given up on anyone as hopelessly hardened to the Lord, we must allow Him to create fresh hope in the power of His Word to transform. If we are tempted to despair of ourselves because of our failures, we must take Him at His Word of grace to forgive and restore. Above is a patient, hopeful Savior and Lord who still says to every person no matter what has happened, "Will you be made whole?"

#### A true leader perseveres despite the difficulties

It is said of our Lord by the prophet, "He will not fail nor be discouraged" (42:4). Even though He was "despised and rejected of men," our Lord did not stop until His work on earth was finished at the cross. Even though our Lord is neglected and unknown by so many today, He will continue His gracious work through His people until His Church is completed.

If we would be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:57) whatever the circumstances, the answer is in the Lord's promised strength. The promise is that "those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

What a great need for godly spiritual leaders in the Church of Christ at this hour! But to be a true leader, we ourselves must be followers of Jesus, finding in Him not only a perfect example but also, and most importantly, our all-sufficient Savior and Lord. It is in that relationship to Him that we can say with joyful confidence, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Monseth is dean of the Association Free Lutheran Seminary in Plymouth, Minn.



# **2006 AFLC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

June 20-23 — Warm Beach Camps and Conference Center, Stanwood, Wash.

#### Tuesday, June 20

9 a.m. | The conference committees meet for devotions,

instructions and room assignments.

7:30 p.m. Opening service of the conference with communion Leader: Pastor Mark Molstre, Lake Stevens, Wa.

Speaker: Pastor James Molstre, Bethel Park, Pa. AFLC President Pastor Robert Lee will open

the conference and appoint necessary committees.

#### Wednesday, June 21

8 a.m. | Conference breakfast

9 a.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee Adoption of the Conference Agenda

Election of the Nominating Committee for the

2007 Conference

The President's Report
Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating

Committee, Pastor Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Wash.

Report of the Chairman of the AFLC Foundation Kevin Olson, Eden Prairie, Minn.

Reports of Chaplaincy Ministries

• Institutional: Pastor Kerwin Sletto, Ottawa, III.

Military: Pastor Tim Skramstad, Eagan, Minn.

Report of the Director of the ARC,

Pat Flanders, Osceola, Wis.

Financial Report, AFLC Bookkeeper

Linda Nelson, Plymouth, Minn.

Report of the Family Bible Camps

● Lake Bronson — Treasurer, Sonia Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Wilderness — Treasurer, Jon Dryburgh, Grafton,
 N.D.

Report of the Budget Analysis Committee, Steve Jankord, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Report of the Nominating Committee, always in order

Election of nominees for the Missions, Schools & ARC corporations

Report of Committee No. 1 (Administration)

Prayer Hour — Pastor John Mundfrom

Noon Builders Fellowship Luncheon

Chaplains Luncheon (Institutional, military, police & fire)

1:30 p.m. Devotions

11:30 a.m.

5:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

Report of Credentials Committee

**Election Procedures** 

Elections

Vice President — One-year term

Secretary — One-year term

Selection of nominees to the Home Missions

Committee — two pastors;

World Missions Committee — one layman;

Board of Trustees — one pastor and one layman;

ARC Board — one layman

Continuing discussion of Committee No. 1

Election of nominee to the Coordinating Committee —

One pastor and one layman

Election of Committee No. 1 for the 2007 Conference

Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee

Tom Caouette, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Report of the Director of World Missions

Pastor Del Palmer, Shakopee, Minn.

Report of Partners in Mission Outreach Board President,

Kenneth Sletten, Duluth, Minn.

Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee

Pastor Richard Long, Arlington, Wash.

Report of the Director of Home Missions

Pastor Paul Nash, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Report of FLAPS Executive Director

Lavon Bohling, Golden Valley, Minn.

Schools Corporation Annual Meeting

The Mission Festival Service conducted by the

Women's Missionary Federation

Speaker: Nate Jore

#### Thursday, June 22

Missions Corporation Annual Meeting 7 a.m.

9 a.m.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of WMF President

Cheryl Skordahl, Gifford, III.

Report of the Chairman of the Commission

on Evangelism — Gene Quist, Bloomington, Minn.

Report of the Director of Evangelism

Pastor James Rasmussen, Maple Grove, Minn.

Report of Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evangelism)

Report of Missions Corporation Annual Meeting

Election of member to the Commission on Evangelism —

One pastor

Election of Committee No. 3 for the 2007 Conference

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications & Parish Education — Pastor Martin Horn,

Kenyon, Minn.

Report of the Director of Parish Education,

Marian Christopherson, Crystal, Minn.

Prayer Hour — Pastor John Mundfrom 11:30 a.m.

ARC Corporation Annual Meeting Noon

Partners in Mission Outreach Annual Meeting

1:30 p.m Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Chairman of of the Youth Board, Pastor Alan Arneson, Fosston, Minn.

Report of the President of the Free Lutheran Youth,

Paul Kneeland, Sioux Falls, S.D. Report of Youth Ministries Director,

Pastor Kevin Olson, Savage, Minn.

Report of Committee No. 4

(Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work)

Election of member to the Board of Publications and

Parish Education — One pastor

Election of member to the Youth Board — One layman Election of Committee No. 4 for the 2007 Conference

**Pastors Banquet** 

Speaker: Dr. Reuben Redal, Tacoma, Wash.

Laymen's Service

Speaker: Pat Flanders, Osceola, Wis.

Friday, June 23

Devotions 9 a.m.

7:30 p.m.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board

Pastor Donald Norr, Proctor, Minn.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions,

Glenn Espe, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Report of Committee No. 5 (Stewardship & Pensions) Election of member to the Stewardship Board —

One layman

Election of member to the Board of Pensions —

One pastor

Election of Committee No. 5 for the 2007 Conference

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, Colo.

Report of the Dean of the Seminary,

Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minn.

Prayer Hour — Pastor John Mundfrom

AFLC Foundation Lunch

1:30 p.m Devotions

11:30 a.m.

Noon

Report of Credentials Committee

Report of the Dean of the Bible School.

Pastor James L. Johnson, Plymouth, Minn.

Report of Committee No. 2 (Schools)

Election of Committee No. 2 for the 2007 Conference

Report of Schools Corporation annual meeting

Report of the Chairman of the Colloguy Committee

Pastor Joel Rolf, Valley City, N.D.

Election of Colloguy Committee for the 2007 Conference

Report of special committees

Election of members to the Budget Analysis

Committee — Two three-year terms

Report of Committee No. 1 as the Committee

on General Resolutions

Other Reports

7:30 p.m. Closing service with ordinations

Atonement Free Lutheran, Arlington, Wash.

Leader: Pastor Rick Long, Arlington

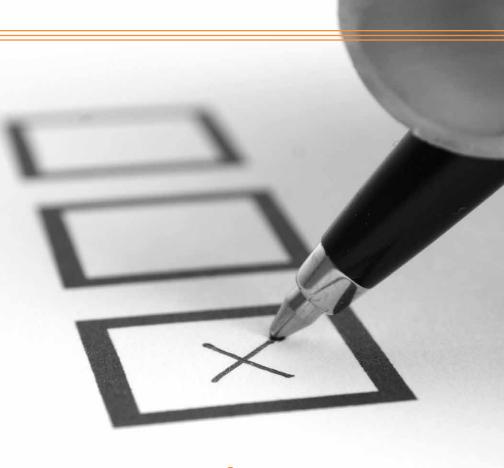
Speaker: Pastor Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Conference Committee

Pastor Robert Lee, President

Pastor Brian Davidson, Secretary

\* Members of the Coordinating Committee passed a resolution limiting the time allotted for each report at the Annual Conference to 20 minutes. Combining two reports, such as the president of a board and the director of the same department, will be counted as one report and given 20 minutes.



# 2006 Conference NOMINEES

#### Coordinating Committee

(One pastor, five-year term)
\*Pastor Gary Jorgenson, East Grand Forks, N.D.
Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, Minn.

(One layman, 5-year term) Brad Severson, Sioux Falls, S.D. Lowell Watt, Park River, N.D.

# AFLC Schools Board of Trustees

Voted on by corporation members

(One pastor, five-year term)
Pastor Terry Olson, Grafton, N.D.
Pastor Dana Coyle, Ottawa, III.

(One layman, five-year term)
\*Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, Colo.
Tim Johnson, Mentor, Minn.

#### FLAPS Board of Managers

Voted on by corporation members

(One pastor, five-year term)
Pastor Greg Schram, Thief River Falls, Minn.
Pastor Henry Mohagen, Reva, S.D.

(One layman, five-year term) \*David Jameson, Earlville, III. Marlow Nash, Colfax, N.D.

#### Home Missions Committee

Voted on by corporation members

(One pastor, five-year term)

\*Pastor Rick Long, Arlington, Wash.

Pastor Tom Schierkolk, Eben Junction, Mich.

(One pastor, to complete three-year term) Pastor Tony Stockman, Brandon, Minn. Pastor Kris Nyman, Beulah, N.D. \* Incumbents

X Nominees not named by press deadline

#### Commission on Evangelism

(One pastor, five-year term)
\*Pastor Tim Johnson, Fertile, Minn.
Pastor Michael Burke, Ishpeming, Mich.

#### Partners in Mission Outreach

(One pastor, five-year term)
Pastor Ted Kennedy, Nogales, Ariz.
X

(One layman, five-year term) Enoch Thorsgard, Northwood, N.D. X

# Board of Publications and Parish Education

(One pastor, five-year term)
Pastor Les Johnson, Wilson, Wis.
Pastor Jon Benson, Upsala, Minn.

#### Youth Board

(One layman, five-year term) Jordan Langness, Brooklyn Center, Minn. Kayla Russum, Lake Stevens, Wash.

#### **Board of Pensions**

(One pastor, five-year term)
\*Pastor Mike Klenner, Freeman, S.D.
Pastor Dave Keippela, Wyoming, Minn.

#### ARC Board

*Voted on by corporation members* 

(One layman, five-year term) Phil Johnson, Esko, Minn. Denis Parsley, Pipestone, Minn.

#### Stewardship Board

(One layman, five-year term) Paul Slaamot, Tioga, N.D. Shawn Adrian, Valley City, N.D.

#### **World Missions Committee**

Voted on by corporation members

(One layman, five-year term) Vernon Russum, Grafton, N.D. Kim Keller, Osceola, Wis.

#### Nominating Committee members

Ivar Berge, Fargo, N.D. — Eastern North Dakota Jerome Rice, Tioga, N.D. — Western North Dakota/Eastern Montana Paul Kneeland, Sioux Falls, S.D. — South Dakota Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, Minn. — Northwestern Minnesota Pastor Tim Johnson, Fertile, Minn. — North Central Minnesota John Halvorson, Dalton, Minn. — Southwest Central Minnesota Layne Hoops, Deshler, Neb. — Nebraska/Kansas/Colorado Ken Sletten, Duluth, Minn. — Lake Superior

Pastor Phil Haugen, Crystal, Minn. — Minneapolis Wayne Walker, Kenyon, Minn. — Central Tri-State Pastor Tom Schierkolk, Eben Junction, Mich. — Northern Michigan Carl Busse, Humbolt, Tenn. — South Central John Rowan, Mesa, Ariz. — Southwestern Lois Forde, Lake Stevens, Wash, — Pacific Northwest George Lautner, Bethel Park, Pa. — Eastern John Talley, Newark, III. — Illinois

#### Missions Corporation

(20 terms of five years each)

\*Don Berge, Fargo, N.D.

\*Delores Berkas, Bloomington, Minn.

\*Fern Bohling, Golden Valley, Minn.

\*Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wis.

\*Pastor Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis

\*Scott Erickson, Badger, Minn.

\*Pastor James Fugleberg, Fargo, N.D.

\*David Haugen, Pelican Rapids, Minn.

\*Pastor Wayne Hjermstad, Bruce, S.D.

\*Halvor Knapp, New London, Minn.

\*Pastor Dale Mellgren, McIntosh, Minn.

\*Pastor Allen Monson, Mesa, Ariz.

\*Pastor Steve Mundfrom, Arlington, S.D.

\*Phyllis Nikunen, Minneapolis

\*Tom Olson, Edinburg, N.D.

\*Pastor Jerry Peterson, Oklahoma City

\*Pastor Tom Tuura, St. James, Minn.

\*Eldwyn VanBruggen, Valley City, N.D.

\*John Welch, Grand Forks, N.D.

\*Jeremy Zeltinger, Jamestown, N.D.

Carle Busse, Humbolt, Tenn.

Pastor Roger David, Armington, III.

Dean Eichorst, Shakopee, Minn.

Tim Erhardt, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Vickie Freestone, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Ramon Froberg, Minneapolis

Lois Grothe, Astoria, Ore.

Luverne Hagen, Badger, Minn.

Pastor Brent Horne, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Karl Johnson, Farmington, Minn.

Pastor Lynn Kinneberg, McVille, N.D.

Wes Kunz, Northwood, N.D.

Rosalie Larson, Fosston, Minn.

Bill Mitchell, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Joel Nash, Eden Prairie, Minn.

Tom Perin, Eagan, Minn.

Cynthia Petsinger, Arvilla, N.D.

Deb Rustad, Bloomington, Minn.

Steve Stull, Ottawa, III.

Grady Thorsgard, Northwood, N.D.

(One person to complete one-year term) Philip Benards, Minneapolis Miles Mondt, Sioux Falls, S.D.

#### Schools Corporation

(Ten terms of five years each) \*Larry Behne, Lowden, Iowa

\*Tim Berntson, Buffalo, N.D.

\*Jon Dryburgh, Grafton, N.D.

\*Dr. Philip Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn.

\*Pastor Earl Korhonen, Radcliffe, Iowa

\*Kermit Nash, Rogers, Minn.

\*Pastor Terry Olson, Grand Forks, N.D.

\*Pastor Steven Snipstead, Kalispell, Mont.

\*Rochard Tollefson, Newark, III.

\*Art Wilson, Pittsburgh, Pa.

John Amdahl, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Lucus Anderson, Maple Grove, Minn.

Jami Berg, Annandale, Minn.

Lyle Forde, Arlington, Wash.

Dave Fugleberg, Lakeville, Minn.

Dave Hensrud, Hoople, N.D.

Pastor Randy Nelson, Newark, III.

Tom Prichard, Minneapolis

Daniel Sletten, Manyel, N.D.

Dennis Winkelmann, Fosston, Minn.

#### ARC Corporation

(Ten terms of five years each)

\*Ivar Berge, Fargo, N.D.

\*Dennis Holmquist, Maple Grove, Minn.

\*Pastor Jim Johnson, Fergus Falls, Minn.

\*Pastor Mel Meyer, South Bend, Ind.

\*Ernie Miedema, Valley City, N.D.

\*Jason Norlien, Coon Rapids, Minn.

\*Jim Ray, Esko, Minn.

\*Roger Timm, Wilson, Wis.

\*Pastor Jonathan Unverzagt, Sparta, Wis.

Kermit Berge, Larimore, N.D.

Allen Burch, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Dan Erickson, Harrisburg, S.D.

Pastor Gary Haug, Minneapolis

Kevin Holman, Minneapolis Al Hurtley, Stacy, Minn.

Sue Parsley, Pipestone, Minn.

Wayne Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Pastor Jim Ritter, Parker, Colo.

Scott Schauer, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Pastor Eric Westlake, Zumbrota, Minn.

#### Nominees to serve at the 2007 Annual Conference

#### Committee No. 1

(Administration)

Pastor Karl Anderson, Argyle, Minn. Mel Fischer, Shakopee, Minn. Pastor Don Norr, Proctor, Minn. Eric Rasmussen, Plymouth, Minn. Trent Swanson, Sioux Falls, S.D.

#### Committee No. 2

(Schools)

Pastor Wayne Hjermstad, Bruce, S.D. Phil Jensen, Sioux Falls, S.D. Michelle Satren, Minneapolis, Minn. Scott Schauer, Oklahoma City, Okla. Mark Sivertson, Sioux Falls, S.D.

#### Committee No. 3

(Missions and Evangelism)

Bill Buck, Brookings, S.D.

Pastor Roger David, Armington, III.

Dale Manternach, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Pastor Bruce Peterson. Minneapolis

Pastor Don Richman, Bloomington, Minn.

#### Committee No. 4

(Publications and Parish Education)

Jon Dryburgh, Grafton, N.D. Solvieg Hiermstad, Bruce, S.D. Pastor Steve Mundfrom, Arlington, S.D. Karina Olson, Eden Prairie, Minn. Audrey VerMulm, Sioux Falls, S.D.

#### Committee No. 5

(Pensions and Stewardship)

Pastor Roy Johnson, Northome, Minn. Bryon Beyer, Sioux Falls, S.D. Pastor Jerome Nikunen, Minneapolis Pastor Larry Severson, Roseau, Minn. LaVern Thompson, Fergus Falls, Minn.

# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Hosts: Atonement Free Lutheran, Arlington, Wash.; Elim Free Lutheran, Lake Stevens, Wash.; Triumph Lutheran, Ferndale, Wash.; Calvary Lutheran, Everett, Wash.; Grace Lutheran, Buckley, Wash.; Our Redeemer Lutheran, Kirkland, Wash.; New Hope Free Lutheran, Snohomish, Wash.; Spencer Creek Lutheran, Eugene, Ore.; Bethany Lutheran, Astoria, Ore.; Stillwater Lutheran, Kalispell, Mont.; Faith Free Lutheran, Kalispell.

# **Conference registration**

Name:
Spouse (if attending):
Address:
Phone (D):
City / state / zip:
Congregation:

Are you: pastor / visiting pastor / lay member / lay visitor
Spouse: pastor / visiting pastor / lay member / lay visitor

Registration: \$30 single, \$40 couple

Make checks for registration only payable to AFLC and send to 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441.

Registrations received after June 1 must add a \$5 late fee.

A downloadable copy of this form is available at www.aflc.org

# **Events planned for children, youths**

A full morning and afternoon schedule is being planned for all children and youths. Because Warm Beach is a Christian campground facility, it offers a wide variety of activities for the young while adults are in session, including:

- In the mornings, beginning Tuesday, group study and fellowship times for youths and VBS for children.
- Supervised activities in the afternoon, including a pool, open to all those staying in Warm Beach facilities.
- Putt-putt golf and horseback riding for an additional charge.
- Nursery care during all business sessions, as well as the WMF Convention and the pastors and wives banquet.

# **WMF REGISTRATION**

Name —	————— Congregation —		
Address —	City State	е	– Zip ———
Registration cost (\$7, please chec	k) (Registration required. Afte	er June 1 mu	ıst add a \$3 late fee.)
Luncheon (\$8.50, please check) —	<b>Banquet</b> (\$10.75, pleat	se check)-	
District presidents and national officers, pl	anquet here <b>or on food/housing form</b> (page ease register for Wednesday's advisory break ne day. Please mark below, <b>or on page 16</b> , to	kfast on page	e 19.
Number in nursery —	Number in VBS		
Registration begins at 8 a.m. For more info	ormation, visit www.aflc.org/women. Make.che	ecks navahl	e to

Registration begins at 8 a.m. For more information, visit www.aflc.org/women. Make checks payable to **Atonement Free Lutheran WMF** and mail to Atonement Free Lutheran WMF, 6905 172nd St. NE, Arlington, WA 98223.

# WMF CONVENTION

# Seeking PERSPECTIVE

aving trouble keeping your spirit renewed? Hard to focus on God's will in the midst of your busy life? Struggling as you seek God's perspective? Join the Women's Missionary Federation June 20-21 in Stanwood, Wash., for a special time of renewal. There you can take time away to focus on Christ alone, hear gifted speakers discuss topics that apply directly to your daily life, and participate in loving Christian fellowship.

On June 20, AFLC women will gather at Warm Beach Christian Camp for our annual WMF National Convention. Children's activities and nursery will be available so busy moms can take some time away for refreshing. To register, return the form on page 14 or go to www.aflc.org.

The theme is "Seeking God's Perspective," based on this year's Bible study, "The Higher Perspective," by Linda Korhonen. The reprinting of this popular study has been very well received and is already touching lives.

During the morning session, missionary Becky Abel will share on our theme verse from Isaiah 55:9. Also, elections will be held for National Treasurer and National President. Lynn Wellumson, treasurer, is eligible for re-election. Cheryl Skordahl, president, has served two terms and seeking other opportunities.

During the luncheon, new AFLC missionaries Rhoda Jore and Miriam Chmiel will share about their upcoming works in Uganda and the Ukraine. As many women requested, additional time is being allowed for fellowship amongst the attendees.

Afternoon workshop topics were taken directly from the Bible study. You may choose to attend two of the following workshops:

- Complacency to Commitment: Commitment to the call of mission or ministry presented by Jan Gee and Lori Crowell
- Depression to Delight: Working through emotional difficulties in God's way presented by Sue Garner
- Disarray to Discipline: Organizing for the benefit of your home and spiritual life presented by Michele Mobley
- Loneliness to Loving: Moving through life's losses and mentoring those in need presented by Faith Nelson

During Tuesday evening's banquet at 5 p.m., Lynn Wellumson will share about her recent trip to Brazil, and missionaries Paul and Becky Abel will share music and the message.

On June 21, members of the Advisory Committee and the WMF National Board will meet at 7:30 a.m. The Mission Festival service begins at 7 p.m. with a focus on the new mission work in Uganda. AFLC missionary Nate Jore will give the message and a commissioning service for the new missionaries will follow.

Robin Jameson
 Communication Secretary

#### **TUESDAY**

8 a.m. Registration

9 a.m. Morning session, including

devotional, memorial, and group prayer by Faylin Myhre; Bible study by Becky Abel; praise and worship by AFLBS Ambassadors; and business

meeting

Noon Luncheon, with greetings from

Rhoda Jore and Miriam Chmiel, farewell from Cheryl Skordahl

2 and 3 p.m. Workshops, choose from:

Loneliness to Loving
Depression to Delight
Disarray to Discipline
Complement to Commitme

Complacency to Commitment

5 to 7 p.m.

Banquet, including installation of officers by Pastor Robert Lee; "40 Years Under the Southern Cross" by Lynn

Wellumson; and special music and message by missionaries

Paul and Becky Abel

#### WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Mission Festival service,

including praise and worship by AFLBS Ambassadors; commissioning service for new missionaries by Pastor Del Palmer; greeting from Paul and Becky Abel, Tomasz and Miriam Chmiel, Nate and Rhoda Jore; Uganda presentation by Pastor Del Palmer; message by Nate Jore

# FOOD AND HOUSING

Warm Beach Camps & Conference Center, Stanwood, Wash.

AFLC www.aflc.org

Hosts www.aflchurch.org

Warm Beach www.warmbeach.com

e invite you to come to this year's annual conference in a setting of natural beauty. The Pacific Northwest offers the grandeur of the Cascade and Olympic mountain ranges, graced by the beauty of Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands. Because the conference site is 20 minutes from the nearest hotel or restaurants, we encourage you to lodge and eat on site.

AFLC Evangelism will host "Rekindling the Fire," an event for pastors and wives, on June 19. The WMF National Convention (page 15) will be held June 20. The annual conference begins with an opening service on the evening of June 20 and runs through June 23.

These four pages contain the registration form for **food and housing**. Please take your time to work through it step by step. If you have questions, please call Jan at (425) 231-3100, Meribeth at (360) 435-2213, or Atonement Free Lutheran at (360) 435-9191. Registrations received after **May 25** must pay a late fee of \$25.

We pray and trust that the upcoming conference will be a special event for all who can take part. Let us know how we can serve you. A downloadable copy of this form will be available at the AFLC's web site (listed above).

 The 2006 Annual Conference Committee Congregations in the Pacific Northwest

#### SECTION A WHO'S COMING?

Name(s)			——— Phone	e ———	
Address —	Cit	ty	State _	Zip	
Tell us the number of youth:	s or children who will	take part in our pro	gramming. See page 1	0 for program details.	
Youths, seventh grade	e and older, who wa	nt to be involved in y	outh activities:		
Children, ages 4 throu	ı <b>gh sixth grade</b> , who	o will be involved in '	/BS and children's act	ivities:	
Children, younger tha	n 4, who will be care	d for by the nursery	or VBS staff, as appro	priate:	
For those traveling by air to airport, between Seattle and option of renting a car or tal	SEA-TAC Airport (th d Tacoma), you will h	e Seattle ave the	·	e (Directions to site v.warmbeach.com)	
transport van to Marysville ( Marysville, we will provide s		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	I/we are flying or	ut and plan to rent a car	
Please check which you pla	in to do. You must ma		, ,	nd plan to use the	
own reservation with Belling Call (866) 235-5247 or visi	•	n.	Bellingham Airpo service from Ma	orter. We will need shuttle rysville.	
If you plan on using the a	irporter, may we ha	ve your flight and a	nirporter information?	?	
# flying in your party:	Airline:	Flight #:	Date:	Arrival time:_	
Airporter leaving SEA-TAC	at:	Arriving i	n Marysville at:		

#### **SECTION 6** Where do you plan to stay and eat?

Options available at Warm Beach Camp & Conference Center

- Olympic View Lodge: Motel-style rooms; one queensize bed and two day beds per room; linens included
- Cascadian Lodge: Lodge-style rooms; one double bed and two day beds per room; vanity in each room; central bath in each wing; linens available (\$8/person) or provide your own
- Mt. Baker Cabins: Family/dorm-style rooms; one double bed and four single bunk-style beds per room; two rooms
- share bath; four rooms per cabin; linens available (\$8/person) or provide your own
- Glacier & Whistler Lodges: Dormitory-style cabins; three sleeping rooms per lodge with central lobbies and baths; 10 single bunk-style beds per sleeping room; linens available (\$8/person) or provide your own
- Recreational vehicle/camping area: Electricity, water, and sewer available

#### If you plan to ...

- ... lodge in a Warm Beach facility with either the 3- or 4-night lodging/meal plan, complete parts 1 and 6
- ... lodge in a Warm Beach facility less than 3 nights and/or eat only selected meals, complete parts 3, 5 and 6
- ... camp in Warm Beach recreational vehicle area, complete parts 3, 5 and 6
- ... arrange your own off-site lodging and eat only selected meals, **see part 4** for hotel information, but also **complete parts 5 and 6**

## PART 1 Lodging and meals at Warm Beach

- 4 night/12 meal plan includes lodging Monday through Thursday nights and all meals beginning Monday dinner through Friday lunch (See Part 6 regarding special meals)
- 3 night/9 meal plan includes lodging Tuesday through Thursday nights and all meals beginning Tuesday dinner through Friday lunch (See Part 6 regarding special meals)

		4 night/12 meal Plan # People \$ Total	3 night/9 meal Plan # People \$ Total
Olympic	Single Occ.*	\$418 X =	\$314 X =
<b>,</b> ,	13-Adult	\$289 X =	\$217 X =
	5-12	\$152 X =	\$114 X =
	0-4	\$24 X =	\$18 X =
Cascadian/	Single Occ.*	\$320 X =	\$240 X =
Mt. Baker	13-Adult	\$225 X =	\$168 X =
IVIL. Dakei	5-12	\$148 X =	\$111 X =
	0-4	\$24 X =	\$18 X =
Glacier/	13-Adult	\$168 X =	\$126 X =
Whistler	5-12	\$134 X =	\$100 X =
AAIIIƏLIGI	0-4	\$24 X =	\$18 X =

Linens are extra for all lodging except for Olympic. You may bring your own or have them provided for you.

Linens \$8 X \_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_ \$8 X \_\_\_ = \_\_\_

#### Part 1 Total:

<sup>\*</sup>Single Occ. means that a person wishes to occupy the room alone and the pricing is higher. If the room will be occupied by two or more people, please use the other pricing options.

June 2006 17

# PART 2 Camping in Warm Beach RV area

		4 night/12 meal Plan	3 night/9 meal	Plan
		# People \$ Total	I # People	\$ Total
	13-Adult	\$117 X =	\$88 X =	
	5-12	\$94 X =	\$71 X =	
	0-4	\$24 X =	\$18 X =	
Part 2 Total:			_	

# PART3 Part-time lodging (or extra nights not included in lodging/meal plans)

Which nights are you reserving lodging for? (Please circle) Sun Mon Tues Weds Thurs Fri # People # Nights \$ Total Single Occ.\* Χ \_\_\_\_\_ \$85 X **Olympic** Χ \_\_\_\_\_ 13-Adult \$56 X \_\_\_\_\_ 5-12 \$22 X \_\_\_\_\_ Χ \_\_\_\_\_ 0-4 \$6 X \_\_\_\_ Χ Single Occ.\* \$73 X Χ Cascadian/ 13-Adult \$42 X \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_ Mt. Baker 5-12 \$21 X \_\_\_\_\_ Χ \_\_\_\_\_ 0-4 Χ 13-Adult Glacier/ \$21 X Χ 5-12 Whistler 0-4 Χ \_\_\_\_\_ 13-Adult Χ \_\_\_\_\_ **RV/Tent** 5-12 \$9 X \_\_\_\_\_ Χ \_\_\_\_\_ sites 0-4 \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ Χ \_\_\_\_\_

Part 3 Total:

Lodging off-site (The following is located at the I-5 Warm Beach exit, a 20-minute drive)
Hawthorne Inn & Suites — Call (360) 657-0500 to make your reservations. Cost: \$89 single or double

## Additional meal options (Part-timers or meals outside of lodging/meal plans)

Note: Monday lunch and Friday dinner are **not included** in the lodging/meal plans but may be added here.

(1) Write in the # of people for each meal; (2) total meals at right; and (3) write in totals in price chart on next page

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total meals
Breakfast	Not offered					
Lunch						
Dinner						

Price chart for extra	Breakfasts	13-Adult 5-12 0-4	# Meals	_ X _ X _ X	Price \$6 \$5 no charge	\$ Total = =	- - -
meals	Lunches	13-Adult 5-12 0-4		_ X _ X _ X	\$8.50 \$7.25 no charge	=	-
	Dinners	13-Adult 5-12 0-4		_ X _ X _ X	\$10.75 \$9.50 no charge	=	- -
Part 5 Total:							_
	pecial meals and I	panquets # Meals	ар	se <b>in</b> blan credit			S Total

Special meals and bar	nquets # Meals		Those <b>in</b> a plan		Those <b>not in</b> a plan		\$ Total
Monday Rekindling Fire banquet (for pastors and wives)		Χ	\$10 credit	or	no charge	=	
Tuesday WMF luncheon		Χ	no extra	or	\$8.50	=	
Tuesday WMF banquet		Χ	no extra	or	\$10.75	=	
Wednesday WMF advisory breakfast		Χ	no extra	or	\$6	=	
Wednesday Builder's Fellowship lunch		Χ	no extra	or	\$8.50	=	
Wednesday Schools Corporation dinner		Χ	no extra	or	\$10.75	=	
Thursday Mission Corporation breakfast		Χ	no extra	or	\$6	=	
Thursday ARC Corporation lunch		Χ	no extra	or	\$8.50	=	
Thursday PIMO lunch		Χ	no extra	or	\$8.50	=	
Thursday pastors and wives banquet		Χ	\$6 extra	or	\$16	=	
Friday FLAPS breakfast		Χ	no extra	or	\$6	=	
Friday AFLC Foundation lunch		Χ	no extra	or	\$8.50	=	

Part 6 Total:

### **SECTION D** Totals

Part 1 Total: (Lodging/meal packages at Warm Beach)	
Part 2 Total: (Camping at Warm Beach)	
Part 3 Total: (Part-time or add-on lodging)	
Part 5 Total: (Part-time or add-on meals)	
Part 6 Total: (Special meals and banquets)	
Late fee for lodging/meal plans received after May 25 (\$25)	
Total for all sections	_
Deposit sent with this registration (not less than \$50)	
Balance due at conference	

Make checks payable to AFLC PNW District and mail with completed form to Atonement Free Lutheran Church, 6905 172nd St. NE, Arlington, WA 98223. Or fax to (360) 403-7521.

# **Youth**

# Take Courage



ave you made plans to attend FLY **Boot Camp? Formerly** known as the Leadership Training Conference, Boot Camp is an intense training ground for students who have a heart for the world but don't know how to reach it. Come for a week to be trained as a student leader in your church's youth ministry. There's still time to register!

#### WHEN

July 10-15

#### **WHERE**

Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis.

#### COST

\$300

#### WEB

www.aflc.org/youth

#### PHONE

763-545-5631

eadership and fear — their definitions seem to oppose each other. Yet fear and leadership are intertwined.

Why does fear play such a major role in life? If we are honest with ourselves it is because of the unknown. Life is out of our control, and we don't like it that way.

Abraham experienced the unknown. Hebrews 11:8 tells us, "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going." It took courage for Abraham to follow God without the benefit of knowing where God was leading him.

God calls us to daily make decisions and take the risks that call for courage. It is not just the soldier on the battlefield or the high school student in speech class who can relate to this. We all experience fear and are reminded of how vulnerable we are. Perhaps someone may wrongly interpret our body language, or we may fumble our words or make the wrong decision. If we have courage, it means we are overcoming fear. Leaders are willing to take the risks, count the cost, make decisions and lead on.

Writer and speaker John Maxwell has observed, "What's ironic is that those who don't have the courage to take risks, and those who do, experience the same amount of fear in life."

Avoiding conflicts we dread will significantly sap courage. Whether we are facing a life-threatening illness or a disagreement with someone, it is important that we confront what we feel. Courage comes when we swallow our fears and sense within how much our response changes everything — even if the worst happens.

Dr. Martin Luther King, as he spoke out on civil rights issues, had much to fear. He wrote, "Courage faces fear and thereby masters it; cowardice represses fear and is thereby mastered by it." Like King, we must be willing to recognize fear for what it is and then determine to choose courage.

The Bible states that angels were quick to call for courage. "Fear not," Gabriel said to Mary when he told her she would soon become mother to the Savior. "Fear not," said the angel of the Lord to trembling Gideon, soon to lead his people in warfare.

The Bible tells us that fear of God is vital. God calls us to have a reverent fear of Him. This is an essential ingredient for leadership. It results in courage.

But why should we fear God? Isn't He a God of love who invites everyone to be saved? Yes! But the Scriptures also say God is holy and just and hates the evil that His creation chooses. Throughout the Bible we find directives to "fear God." The Psalms declare, "Happy are those who fear the Lord" (128:1); "Praise the Lord, all you who fear him" (22:23); "Serve the Lord with reverent fear and rejoice" (2:11).

What a strange mixture — rejoicing and fear. Yet God is honored by rightly placed fear. Scripture tells us that is where there is ultimate joy and peace. Psalm 111:10 states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever."

> Pastor Alan Arneson Calvary Free Lutheran, Fosston, Minn.

# **World Missions**

# Cultural Differences

s Lutherans on the mission field in Latin America, we have found that one of our strengths is that we observe the Church year, especially Advent, Lent, and Easter. This creates a God-given bridge between us and the local culture, because these observances are also very important to the Roman Catholics around us. The one thing that most of our neighbors are missing, however, is a warm personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Our peculiar strength and the open door before us lie in bringing these two things together.

On Thursday of Holy Week, the traditional emphasis here is mostly on the Pope. The television channels carry the annual foot-washing ceremony, in which the Pope washes the feet of several cardinals in Rome. In our church, we celebrate a special service of communion, commemorating the night in which the Lord Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. People come to church and prayerfully follow a devotional guide that we have prepared, to ready their own hearts for the sacrament. When each one is ready, they come to the altar to receive the Lord's Supper individually and be prayed for. This night has become a focal point of our entire church year, and many people's lives have been more profoundly affected by this one evening than perhaps any other.

In Mexico, Good Friday is the focal point of Holy Week. The resurrection is almost forgotten while the sacrificial death of Christ is the main event. In our town they hold a "procession of silence," in which the people march through the streets in absolute silence, accompanying a statute of the dead Christ in a glass coffin and an image of the Virgin Mary on a palanquin. Most of the emphasis of this celebration is on the pain and suffering of Mary, who is considered the "co-redeemer" with Christ. In order to provide a contrast to the culture of doom preached locally on Good Friday, in our church we gather to worship the Lord and remember the benefits of His sacrifice on our behalf. This is followed by prayer for healing, deliverance, and provision. The idea that people can go directly to God with these needs because of Jesus' death on the cross is revolutionary here!

On Easter morning the streets are practically empty. In Latin American culture, Holy Week effectively ends on Friday night. There is no concept of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It has been a challenge over the years to get even the Christians to come to church on Easter. It takes a while for new Christians here to understand and appreciate the joy of Easter, but when they do, the celebration is truly joyful. For the last few years, fellow missionary Barb Schierkolk and my wife, Debbie, have provided some kind of Easter breakfast in the sanctuary, followed by a special service with a lot of singing and a presentation by the Sunday school. Easter Sunday has become one of the most joyful events of the entire year for us, and Holy Week one of our most effective outreach opportunities.

Pastor Dan Giles
 Missionary
 Jerez, Mexico

### PEOPLE & PLACES

**Pastor Ken Hart**, Greenbush, Minn., has accepted a call to serve Peace Lutheran, St. Francis, Kan.

**Pastor Matt Steendahl**, Moses Lake, Wash., has accepted a call to serve St. John's Lutheran of Schwer, Milford, Ill.

Senior seminarian **Mark Richardson** has accepted a call to serve Calvary Lutheran, Wallace, S.D., where he served his internship. He was ordained May 28 at Ruthfred Evangelical Lutheran, Bethel Park, Pa., his home congregation.

**Pastor Mark Benz**, Gaithersburg, Md., a retired chaplain for the US Army, will travel to Russia in June and July to train chaplains in the Russian Armed Services.

Senior seminarian **John Brennan** has accepted a call to serve St. Peter Lutheran, Melvin, Ill., where he served his internship. He will be ordained June 11 at his home congregation, First Lutheran, Oklahoma City.

Senior seminarian **Tomasz Chmiel** was ordained May 21 at the AFLC Schools Chapel in Plymouth, Minn.

Members of **Faith Lutheran**, Metropolis, Ill., will celebrate the congregation's tenth anniversary with a celebration on June 11. Events begin at 4 p.m. and will include an evening meal and vespers. All are welcome. For more information, please call Carole Logeman at (618) 524-4595.

Members of the AFLC Coordinating Committee accepted resolutions of affiliation from two Home Missions congregations. **Good Shepherd Free Lutheran**, Madison, S.D., is served by Pastor Steve Mundfrom, who also serves Calvary Free Lutheran, Arlington, S.D. **Cornerstone Christian Church**, Brandon, Fla., is in the process of calling a pastor.

The Pastor Connely Dyrud family is in search of any recordings made of Carolyn Dyrud when she sang in AFLC churches. The recordings will be used to record a CD. Contact Pastor Dyrud at (763) 315-4376 or email him at connely.dyrud@aflc.org.

**Derek Kalkes**, Chaska, Minn., has accepted a call to serve the Lake Region Parish (Tabor, Saron, and Buffalo Lake), Roslyn, S.D. Kalkes is a recent graduate of Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hancock, Mich., and was approved for a call by the Coordinating Committee. He will join the fellowship roster upon ordination.

#### Publications available from Mercy and Truth

Mercy and Truth has published the second chapter of Clarence Carlsen's book, *The Years of Our Church*. Titled, "Doctrines and Principles," the second chapter is available for \$6, including postage. Write to Mercy and Truth, 19594 350th St. NW, Newfolden, MN 56738-9286. A dis-

count is available for purchasing multiple copies.

Also available for \$6 is Pastor James L. Johnson's paper, titled "Georg Sverdrup Slept Here," where Johnson tells the story of Sverdrup's summer vacations at Furuly, the family retreat for the Ole Dahle family.

# APRIL Memorials

#### **AFLBS**

Johannes Herset FLAPS

Robert Olson

#### **General Fund**

Celeste Finstrom

#### **Home Missions**

Evelyn Woodward Charlie Anderson

#### **Miriam Infant Home**

Burt Ram

#### **Parish Education**

Laverne Nyflot

#### **WMF**

Roy Larson Martha Baumgarn

#### **World Missions**

Febe Hernandez, Clara Floyd

#### **ARC** summer camps

The Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis., will host AFLC summer camps:

Junior Camp: June 11-16

For grades 4-7, cost: \$175

Kids Camp: June 16-17

For grades 1-3, cost: \$65

Family Camp: July 23-29

Cost: \$285-\$590 per family Family Retreat: August 19-20

Cost: \$225 per family

Classics Retreat: Sept. 22-24

For ages 55+, cost \$75

Retreats include lodging and meals. For more information, visit www.arc-aflc.org, email arcregistration@centurytel.net, or phone (800) 294-2877.

#### **Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences (4 months) - January 1 - April 30, 2006

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy			% TOTAL	
General Fund	\$325,700	\$26,509	\$110,598	34	
Youth Ministries	57.949	8,316	23.946		
Evangelism	98,330	10,729	28,395	29	
Parish Education	96,477	5,269	29,165	30	
Seminary	189,224	19,839	63,156	33	
Bible School	296,257	19,617	85,393	29	
Home Missions	293,287	43,802	89,654	31	
World Missions	260,933	23,417	75,610	29	
Personal Support	376,641	34,822	130,128	35	
TOTALS	\$1,994,798	\$192,320	\$636,044	32	
TOTALS 2005	\$1,860,474	\$193,342	\$666,136	36	
Goal 33%			• •		

These are the Annual Conference-approved budgets but do not reflect all the financial needs of the departments. Contact the individual departments for further information.

## [Editorial]

# humble leadership

hen Jim Collins and his research team set out to write the book "Good to Great," they didn't intend to have much in it about leadership. Their goal was to do a study on how some companies go from being what is considered good to great, while others



Craig Johnson

stay where they are. Collins wanted his research team to downplay the role of the top executives. But as the team did their research, they couldn't avoid facing the fact that there was some-

thing different about the leadership of the great companies.

The difference was not what they expected. In the first chapter of the book, Collins writes: "We were surprised, shocked really, to discover the type of leadership required for turning a good company into a great one. Compared to high-profile leaders with big personalities who make headlines and become celebrities, the good-togreat leaders seem to have come from Mars. Self-effacing, quiet, reserved, even shy — these leaders are a paradoxical blend of personal humility and professional will." They found that actually, "Largerthan-life, celebrity leaders who ride in from the outside are negatively correlated with taking a company from good to great."

Congregations sometimes think they need dynamic leaders who are full of charisma if anything great is going to happen. But those who overlook the importance

of humility are headed for trouble.

Collins found that the leaders of the good-to-great companies "channel their ego needs away from themselves and into the larger goal of building a great companv. ... Their ambition is first and foremost for the institution, not themselves." These "leaders want to see the company even more successful in the next generation."

In a similar way the Bible teaches that people are placed in various positions of leadership "so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12, NIV). Leaders aren't to try to make themselves look good, but to build up the congregation. Our concern is for the long-term health of the congregation. How a congregation does five vears after a leader leaves might be more of an indication of the effectiveness of the leader than how it does when he is present.

Collins writes: "Those who worked with or wrote about the good-to-great leaders continually used words like quiet, humble, modest, reserved, shy, gracious, mild-mannered, self-effacing, understated, did not believe his own clippings, and so forth. ... The good-to-great leaders never wanted to become larger-than-life heroes. They never aspired to be put on a pedestal or become unreachable icons. They were seemingly ordinary people quietly producing extraordinary results."

In Scripture we're called to "be completely humble and gentle" (Ephesians 4:2). When the disciples wondered, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the

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kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:1-4). Jesus exalts the humble to positions of leadership. He delights in using ordinary people to do extraordinary work.

To illustrate the difference between the good-to-great leaders and others, Collins and his team used the analogy of a window and a mirror. The leaders of the less successful companies would "look out the window for something or someone outside themselves to blame for poor results, but would preen in front of the mirror and credit themselves when things went well." The effective leaders did the opposite. They looked out the window and noticed others who deserved credit for good things that happened. They looked in the mirror and took responsibility themselves for failures.

Apart from Jesus, Moses was probably the most effective leader the world has known. He is described as "a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3). The Church is in need of leaders like Moses: humble leaders.

#### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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# **Something to Share**

# Father, Papa, Daddy

n my last column, (you remember that one, I'm sure!), I delved into having a personal relationship with Jesus. Everyone must have liked that idea, because no one contacted me to say otherwise! Well, I got to thinking, if God wants us to have a personal relationship with Jesus, what kind of relationship are we supposed to have with God the Father? Interested? Let's look at Scripture again to find out.

First of all, let's digest this little bit of news: every prayer of Jesus recorded in the Scriptures begins with "Father." Makes sense, since we believe Jesus to be the "only begotten Son of God" (John 3:16). When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, what word do you suppose Jesus used to address God? If you know the Lord's Prayer, you know the answer. Jesus taught them to say, "Our Father, who art in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). Now that is amazing in itself. We are encouraged by Jesus Himself to address the God and Creator of the universe as our Father. A little formal, maybe, but wonderful nonetheless, because "Father" assumes some level of personal relationship.

The word Jesus used for "Father," as recorded by Matthew, was *abinu* (the plural of *abba*). That's an Aramaic word that is closer to "papa" or "daddy" in common English. "Our Daddy, who is in heaven." How do you like the sound of that? And what kind of relationship does that word assume that we have with God the Father? A very personal relationship of child to awesome God/ Father, who is also my Heavenly Daddy! Wow!

Now, just in case you need some more convincing (though the words of Jesus ought to be quite enough), please notice what the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:15-16: "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." That's the truth, amazing as it may seem. When we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord by faith, one of the many wonderful things that happen is we are made children of God. Then the Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit that we truly are God's children, or "sons," which means we, both men and women, will inherit all His riches. By the Holy Spirit's help and urging we even dare to believe that we can call upon God, yes our "Father" in the formal and awesome sense, and also as our "Heavenly Daddy" in the personal-relationship sense.

So what is the witness of Scripture telling us about the relationship that God the Father wants with each one of us? The witness is clear: the all-powerful Father wants to be known by you in the deeply personal and intimate relationship of daddy and child. I know, it takes quite a while for this to sink in and become real in our hearts and minds. But the Holy Spirit is testifying to your spirit that this is true. Believe it according to the Word of God. Try it in your prayer life. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep on testifying to your spirit until you have owned the truth: "God the Father is my Heavenly Daddy. He loves me with an everlasting love. There's no daddy like Him!" Let's get personal!

Pastor Joe OckerDell LutheranFrost, Minn.