

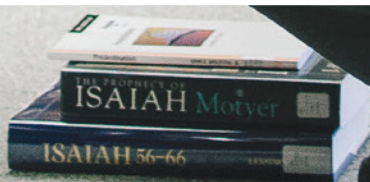
THE   
LUTHERAN

MAY 2015

# AMBASSADOR



## STUDENTS OF THE WORD







## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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## ENCOURAGING WORD

# ONE DAY EVERY SEVEN

BY LIZ TONNESON

**'B**ecause we do not rest, we lose our way ... We miss the quiet that would give us wisdom. We miss the joy and love born of effortless delight. Poisoned by this hypnotic belief that good things come only through unceasing determination and tireless effort, we can never truly rest. And for want of rest, our lives are in danger" (*Sabbath*, by Wayne Muller).

Rest. Solitude. Silence. These are things often missing from our busy and hectic lives. I realized one recent Sunday how far I am from truly resting, especially on the day specifically given to us for renewal and refreshment. Sundays were special growing up. We actually started celebrating them on Saturday nights with a special dinner and readings similar to a Jewish Sabbath meal. With the words, "He has given us one day of every seven to rest, worship, and deepen our relationship with Him," our day of rest would begin. With few exceptions, we weren't allowed to do homework, watch television, or use the internet on Sunday. We spent our afternoons taking naps, hiking, or reading books in hammocks up in the mountains. My dad wanted to instill in us the ability to be quiet, to be alone with God and our thoughts, and to be comfortable in a place where the noise of the world was absent.

And I have lost that. My Sunday afternoons look much like my Saturday afternoons. I don't set apart time to be in solitude with God on His day. I often take a Sunday afternoon nap, but I don't intentionally set other things aside to rest. And I sense a need for change, a desire to take God at

His word and allow myself to slow the pace of life and be still for a while. Of course, whether I take a Sabbath day or not has no impact on my salvation. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection I am saved, and no amount of "resting" or obeying God will make me more saved. But it will deepen my relationship with Him, and living in obedience is an expression of my love.

I am afraid of failing in this new resolve, as I have done a hundred times before. I always have good intentions, and do better for a time, but I eventually seem to end up right back where I started. Well, maybe not exactly back where I started. I will probably never know, at least here on earth, how much my life was changed or my relationship with God deepened just in those few times of intentional discipline and obedience.

And so I begin again, praying that God will continue teaching and renewing me as I allow myself to be quiet and rest before Him. I know He is drawing me into this place, and if you sit down and be still for a moment, I am sure you will find a yearning to rest and be refreshed in your own heart. As God spoke to the Israelites so many years ago, and is still speaking to us today: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength ..." (Isaiah 30:15).

*Tonneson, a former missionary kid in Ecuador, lives in Cloquet, Minn., where her husband, Ryan, is the seminary intern at St. Paul's Lutheran.*

The mission of the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Bible School is to establish students in the eternal and inerrant Word of God for a life of faith in Jesus Christ and faithful service in His Kingdom.

—Mission Statement

This is the Father's will that we should listen to what the man Jesus says, and give ear to His Word. You are not to try to be clever in connection with His Word, to master it or to argue about it, but simply to hear it. Then the Holy Spirit will come and dispose your heart so that you will believe and say from the bottom of your heart concerning the preaching of the divine Word: "That is God's Word and is the pure truth" and you will risk your life upon it.

—Martin Luther

Isn't this the final intent of seminary education, namely, to share our faith? We are being theologically educated in order to share our faith more fully. Everything we learn at seminary is for someone else. Do we need to be reminded that we can't share it well if we haven't studied it adequately?

—C. Samuel Calian

There is no magic in small plans. When I consider my ministry, I think of the world. Anything less would not be worthy of Christ nor of His will for my life.

—Henrietta Mears

He who teaches the Bible is never a scholar; he is always a student.

—Anonymous



# WELCOMING



# A NEW DEAN & PRESIDENT

Nick Schultz, a junior seminarian from Living Word Lutheran, Sioux Falls, S.D., interviews his former pastor on the new role he has been called to fill as dean of the Free Lutheran Seminary and president of the AFLC Schools.

**Nick Schultz:** How are you settling into your new role at the schools?

**Pastor Wade:** I don't know what "settled in" is. We are feeling at home. It was a long transition from Living Word. We love Living Word and Sioux Falls and it was really difficult to leave and feel at home. Honestly, it was the hardest thing I have ever been through. We bought a house nearby that is 147 steps away. I see the kids more now than I used to, which they notice and is good. The job itself has never been done before. Part of my job is defining my job, which can be daunting, but it is coming together. It is not necessarily what I thought it would be but it is fun. I feel like I am up to speed now and I am able to think clearly about what I need to focus on.

**NS:** When you look back to when you received the call to come to the schools, what were some of the things that ran through your mind?

**PW:** Last July when I was in the Czech Republic I spent a lot of time writing. Over the two weeks I was gone I wrote 12,000 to 15,000 words on various subjects involving leaving. It was really hard for me. What I learned was that though ministry to the congregation was always more than a job to me, the congregation had become a family to me. It had become a source of security and a place where I learned about healthy relationships where the love of God is modeled. People expect these things from their pastor, and I got to see that from the congregation. I would like that to be much more normal than it is today. I know that this happens in other places, too, but it made leaving very hard. We were leaving friends, family, people I worked with every day. We laughed together and cried together and it was really good.

**NS:** Did the long goodbye at Living Word make things more difficult?

**PW:** Oh yeah, it did. Though, not everything easy is preferable. I think it was exactly what we needed and what the church needed. It was really hard. It would have been much easier, short-term, if we had left right away. I think some of that extended period of time was necessary for me and for the congregation to work through some things. I'll be interested to see how I feel five years from now, and I'd be interested to talk to Living Word five years from now. It was a wonderful, glorious, awful time.

**NS:** Ever since I have known you, you and I have talked about wanting to pursue further education. What are your plans as you pursue further education this summer and beyond?

**PW:** Before I took the call to the schools I had looked at a summer study program in Strasbourg, France, that is run by John Warwick Montgomery. He has been writing about biblical Lutheran theology and philosophy for 50 years, and I want to learn from him. I also need to get a terminal degree for my job here so I will be pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Missiology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., starting this fall, which will take about two years.

**NS:** What are some of the practical things you learned at Living Word that you plan on implementing at the schools, especially as you think about teaching future pastors in the seminary?

**PW:** I've been concerned that I would forget about congregational life when I left

it. Now I understand there is no way for that to happen. It has been too formative in my life. It's not just what I know, it is who I am. God built me there. In our classes, it seems like everything comes back to pastoral theology. I'm glad for that. I learned all kinds of lessons: Loving the people, preaching the Word, walking with people, engaging and loving the mission field, equipping the saints for the work of service so there is health and maturity in the local congregation, and also the need for servant leaders in the congregation. These things are central to what I want to do here. My love for Living Word specifically, and the congregation generally, will inform everything that I do here.

**NS:** So now that you feel at home here in Plymouth, what does your typical day look like as the President of the Schools and Dean of the Seminary?

**PW:** I've always been an early-to-rise guy since I coached basketball. I wake up by 5:15 so that I can have plenty of time to get things done before devotions at 7:40. Couple that with some very late nights and it has been a challenge. I'm out of shape and my devotional life has been challenged. We have so many times we are in the Word during the day that I tend to push things off, which is an issue. The days are big. Lots of meetings. Most of them necessary. Lots of time with people. Not enough time teaching class or prepping for teaching. I love teaching. I get three hours a week to teach, which will, Lord willing, increase as time goes on. Right now I am trying to look and see what we have to work with and what needs to be done to get better and get sharper in a number of areas. That takes time and things are starting to get clear, and that is really, really exciting.



BY PASTOR BRETT BOE



I heard somewhere that the youth who continue in repentance and faith into their adulthood have, on average, about seven mature adults beyond their parents who influence them in their faith during the years of their youth. That little statistic has always resonated with me because, in addition to my parents, I was so blessed to have many caring, mature adults who influenced me as I was growing up. So, in light of that, I'd like to offer an ode to the adults who impacted my youth.

**Dad and Mom:** You encouraged me to pursue Christ by participating in vacation Bible school, Sunday school, and youth group. Constant attendance at church events was our way of life. I am so thankful for how generous you were to sacrificially pay our way to many, many summer Bible camps. Thank you.

**Monica:** You were so key in the years after faith became personal to me (which was my fifth grade year). You were our youth leader at Heirforce and patiently

answered my barrage of questions after each Bible study. I was hungry for God's Word and you provided it. I'll never forget the buzz and excitement of those years and the many other peers of mine who were blessed by that time in the mid-to late-1990s.

**Phil:** You showed me what it was to love people and also gave me my first taste of small-group Bible study. At our Friday

night group MILC (Men in Love with Christ), we had so much fun. But most of all, I remember the midnight Bible studies where we just couldn't seem to get enough. Thank you for the notes you wrote to me during those years (I still have them). Also, thank you for being brave in saying to me one night at a youth lock-in, "Brett, I think you'd make a good pastor someday." That changed the trajectory of my life.

**Rick:** You were a unique influence on my life as my high school Sunday school teacher. You brought your love for apologetics and taught us how to think critically. I am so indebted to you for that. You made us feel uncomfortable at times as you played the devil's advocate, but you did it with a sly grin that reassured us that you were stretching us for our own good. These times prepared

me to face the questions of the world and the world views with which I would later come into contact.

**Jeff:** In the midst of all these other youth leaders, you were constantly there. Week by week you fed our congregation God's Word. I can't tell you how much I soaked up during those Sundays. I still have all of your sermon outline sheets. You encouraged me through struggles and doubts. I will never forget how you allowed me to job shadow you when I was in high school. That one day with you showed me what it means to be a pastor. It was a huge day for me and solidified in my mind that I truly wanted to be a pastor and continue to prepare for that calling.

**Phil:** I took your classes at both AFLBS and AFLTS and saw your humility and high quality of teaching as you opened up God's Word to us. As you dissected the intricacies of the Greek text, my mind and heart were blown away by the pure gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was through these times that my convictions were cemented in Lutheran doctrine. Thank you.

**Jason:** My first interaction with you came during your seminary internship during my eighth grade year. Little did I know that one day I would serve alongside you in ministry. I have learned a lot from you, including how to lead with respect and a genuine love for people. It was a joy to help plan a few FLY Conventions with you and others. Thank you for teaching, modeling, and promoting what it means to win, build, and equip young people.

**Tim:** I served as a summer youth worker in your church. But my biggest memories with you come from the year I spent serving alongside you as an intern pastor. Your sense of humor and solid preaching of God's Word impacted me in many ways. I treasure the time we spent together as coworkers in the gospel. You exemplified what it means to serve as a ministry team. Thank you, friend, for your influence on my life.

**Mark:** Like Tim, I had the great privilege of serving in ministry with you. I will never forget the lessons I learned by observing you as a pastor day in and day out. Your genuine love for people overflowed in so many ways. You taught me what it means to put your hand to the plow and work hard in ministry. I'm forever grateful for that.

As you can see, God was very good to me to bring all of these people into my life. So, what about you? Whom has God brought into your life to impact you? I smile in wonder as I ponder who God will bring into my life next. I'm also wondering how God has used and is using me to impact and influence others. Please take a moment and thank these types of people in your life. I know they will be tremendously encouraged. And who doesn't need that today?

*Boe, who serves King of Glory Lutheran, Shakopee, Minn., is part-time faculty at AFLBS.*

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BRING INTO  
MY LIFE NEXT.





# MAKING AN IMPACT



# SEMINARY PREPARATION



**BY PASTOR JESSE KNEELAND**





It is my conviction that seminary is a critical part of a pastor's training. But when I first began to sense the call into ministry, I didn't feel that way. I have always been encouraged by men like the disciples—common fishermen, tax collectors, and nobodies—who became authors of the Scriptures and pillars of the

Church. My heart beats with excitement as I read of men like Hans Nielsen Hauge and the revival that began with a simple farmer who was brought to his own personal revival while singing a hymn in his father's field. His response was to pour himself into the Word of God. For weeks Hauge was gripped by Scripture so deeply that his mother was concerned that he couldn't pull himself away to sleep more than two or three hours a night. That's how the Haugean revival started, one ordinary, untrained man deeply gripped by the Word of God.

That's what happens when God chooses to use someone with little to offer to do His work. It's a complete act of grace. So why would I go to seminary? It was simple, I wanted to serve, but I couldn't imagine there was a church out there that didn't want a pastor serving them who had been trained. Yet for me, I saw seminary as a necessary obstacle and hurdle keeping me back from doing what God was pulling at my heart to do.

Then something happened late in my first year at the Free Lutheran Seminary. I was able to read and understand the original language of the New Testament. One night, as I prepared a message, the reality and the depth of Scripture in the original language hit me, and it hit me hard. I couldn't stop the tears from coming down my face as I praised the Lord for giving me the gift of this training.

In my middle and senior years at seminary, God worked a change of heart in me. My view of seminary changed from being an obstacle and hurdle, to seeing it as a critical part of my training. Don't get me wrong, it was the absolute hardest thing I've ever done in my life. Having seven kids at the time is beside the point.

I will tell you now, though, it was totally worth it. To walk through the books of the Bible with men who believed in the inerrant Word of God, that's what made it worth the hard times. These men not only grasp the depth of what God reveals, but were able to make it clear to a student like myself. This made AFLTS totally worth the uncountable sleepless nights.

On internship, I had the opportunity to do what my heart was burning to do. It was the opportunity to experience life in ministry, and to do it with a congregation that understood that I was still training, and allowed me to make mistakes. Internship was a time to let the rubber

meet the road. It was a time of less academic rigor and more practical training. I needed that time to be able to call a loving and grace-filled supervising pastor and ask rookie questions like, "What do I do when I visit a family at a hospital after their mom has just died?" (Thanks to Pastor Kris Nyman and Pastor Tom Olson.) The patient answers to my list of "what do I do when ..." questions and the experience of on-the-job training made whatever hardships internship brought worth it all. A simple "thank you" seems to lack the extreme gratitude that is deserved to every congregation that offers this needed training for our future pastors.

Nearly one year into my first call following graduation, I have a confidence and boldness instilled in me through the preparation of seminary and internship. As I preach and teach, as I walk alongside people in their lives, God has given me confidence and boldness that I am more "accurately handling the Word of Truth" (II Timothy 2:15). He has given me the ability to apply the "living and active" Word of God with confidence in the lives of others (Hebrews 4:12). And when I bring the Word of God to a

congregation, He has given me the boldness to speak "as one who is speaking the utterances of God" (I Peter 4:11).

We have been given the Word of the only true and living God. I still believe that the Word has the power to enable ordinary and untrained people to preach, teach, and disciple others. Yet still I praise God for our seminary, which gives our pastors an amazing gift of training and equipping in the Word of God. I am now one who believes that seminary is a critical part of a pastor's training.

I am still an ordinary man with little to offer except the experience of hard knocks in life, but it was my privilege to be trained through our seminary by godly, Bible-believing men. And I hope to boldly and confidently use my training to glorify God in every opportunity He gives.

*Kneeland serves Hope and Bethesda Lutheran Churches, Northome and Mizpah, Minn.*

WE HAVE  
BEEN GIVEN  
THE WORD  
OF THE ONLY  
TRUE AND  
LIVING GOD.



BY KEITH QUANBECK



It was September of 1978 and the first day of my first year at the Association Free Lutheran Bible School. More than 40 of us had decided to go to AFLBS that fall. As I looked around the classroom, I saw a few students that I knew, but for the most part I saw those whom I had never before met. I did not know in those moments that I was seeing for the very first time many people who would become my lifelong friends. Though we did not fully realize what lay ahead, classes before ours and since have learned that some of our deepest, most important relationships have come from our Bible school experiences. We were blessed by the grace of God in bringing us to AFLBS not only as fellow students who would learn together for

a year or two, but also as brothers and sisters who would travel the rest of our lives together in enduring friendships.

Others were more sensitive than I was to this. Not too long after our first meeting, one classmate went up to his room and prayed fervently about that most significant earthly friendship: “Lord, if my future wife is in this group, that would be wonderful! But please make sure it is not

...,” and he named a specific girl he had recently met. This classmate enjoyed the new friends he was meeting, but he also prayed honestly about something many of us tend to underestimate.

### WE NEED FRIENDS.

We enjoy friends, but we also stand in deep need of friends. The Bible gives great instruction on being a friend. We are to encourage, serve, accept, honor, admonish, bear one another’s burdens, be devoted to, and pray for our friends—among other things. Yet that same biblical instruction reveals God’s perfect understanding of our need for such friends, too. As we obey Him in these general terms of friendship toward others, He knows specifically how, when, and through whom He will meet our needs, as well. We might not even see it coming.

Jackie Robinson was the first African American to

play major league baseball. While breaking baseball’s “color barrier,” he faced jeering crowds in every stadium he went to. Playing one day very early in his career, Robinson committed an error. The fans began to ridicule him. There he stood, alone at second base, humiliated as the spectators jeered. Then shortstop Pee Wee Reese came over and stood next to him. He put his arm around Jackie Robinson and faced the crowd. The spectators grew quiet. Robinson later said that arm around his shoulder saved his career. In friendship, unacceptable shortcomings are met with unexpected grace. Needs are met and hearts are changed.

“Two are better than one,” the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us, “because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, NIV).

### WE NEED A FRIEND IN JESUS.

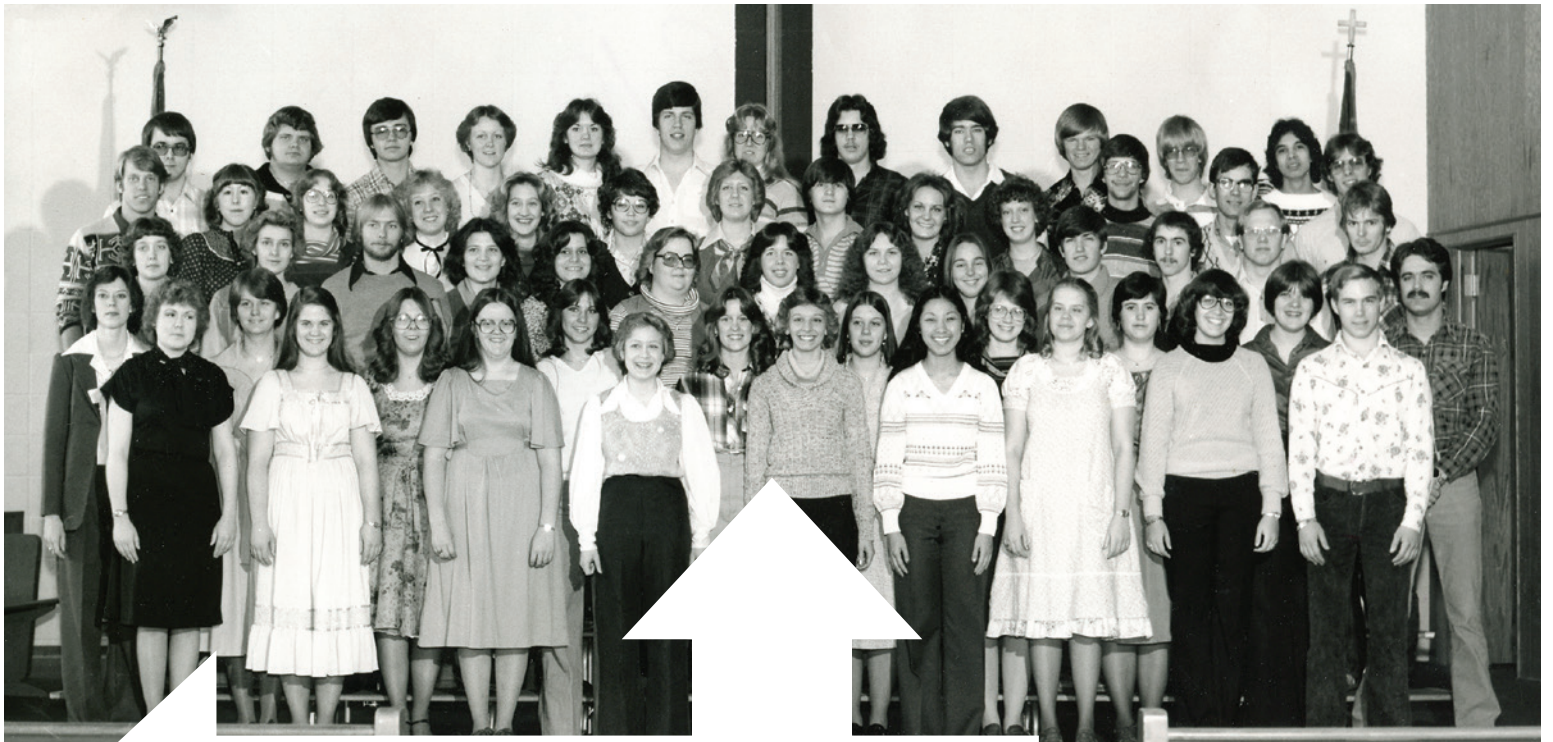
R.T. Kendall, in his book *Did You Think To Pray?* marvels, “God enjoys having me in His presence. He enjoys my company. He delights in listening to me ... It is such a dazzling thought, that the same God who has countless billions of angels worshiping Him 60 seconds a minute, day and night, to whom the nations are but a drop in the bucket, and who knows all about every leaf on every tree in the world, also welcomes my company...” Many things in this world cause us to wonder. That Jesus would ever call us friends defies imagination, but He does (see John 15:15). At the cross—the most astonishing display of friendship ever seen—our unacceptable shortcomings before a holy God were met with the unexpected grace of Jesus Christ. “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). The greatest honor we have is to know our Savior as friend.

Enduring friendships with each other are a ministry that celebrates God’s gracious friendship with us. As we go through the joys and triumphs, challenges and troubles of life, it is encouraging to know we are blessed with friends who are willing to travel with us. Friendships born and nurtured at AFLBS continue to grow, sometimes in unexpected ways. My classmate who prayed against marriage to the girl he met that fall in 1978 will be celebrating his 31st anniversary with her this summer. In Christ our needs are met. Our hearts are changed. We are equipped to love others as He loved us.

*Quanbeck is a 1980 graduate of AFLBS and a 1988 graduate of AFLTS. He lives in Plymouth, Minn.*

WE ENJOY  
FRIENDS, BUT  
WE ALSO  
STAND IN  
DEEP NEED  
OF FRIENDS.





ENDURING

FRIENDSHIPS





# THIS



# GENERATION

BY BETHANY BERNTSON



I heard some form of this sentence more times than I can count when I was growing up, “One of the coolest things about AFLBS is the friends that you make when you get here.” From the time I was little, I remember hearing stories of all the fun things my older cousins did with their friends when they were at Bible

school, and I couldn’t wait to get there myself. Apparently, others in my class shared my anticipation because after the Free Lutheran Youth convention in 2011, a Facebook page was started so that the AFLBS classes of 2016 and 2017 could get a head start on this fellowship.

Immediately, the Facebook page gave credence to the old adage, “Children should be seen and not heard.” One need scroll back only a few years to see online debates between 14 and 15 year olds over whether Tim Tebow would make a good pastor, whether it’s better to be a PK (pastor’s kid), or what the best Christian band was at the time. Over time, though, the Facebook page served as a place where future students could share prayer requests and encouraging Bible verses, as well as being the way to set up class meetings during Youth activities like FLY, an annual conference, or Campus Days.

Besides the social media connections my class was able to make, one thing that sets our generation apart is that our class is one of the first to have a really large number of kids whose parents and even grandparents went to Bible school and were close friends. Many of the students in our class were friends even before our class began arranging meetings and talking on Facebook simply because of family connections.

Because of all this interaction, my classmates knew each other pretty well before we got to Bible school. This is a relatively new phenomenon, and the question that often arises is how this pre-enrollment closeness has affected our time here.

As with any change, it came with its share of both positives and negatives. For the first couple weeks of school, the class was very cliquey. To me, this was really intimidating. I felt like I was at a really awkward stage with basically my whole class in which I knew their names and a little bit about them, but didn’t actually know much about them and had no idea how to start a conversation with them. People generally just hung out with the friends they already had instead of making an effort to make new ones. Fortunately, this attitude didn’t last long, and soon enough people began branching out and making new friends. This was a really cool transition to be a part of, because all of the people that I had only seen pictures of on a screen were all of a sudden real people with real personalities.

Throughout the New Testament we see examples of

believers gathering together and fellowshiping frequently. They encouraged one another in the Word, and formed congregations in which the Word was preached and the sacraments administered. At Bible school, we have a similar opportunity to spend time with other believers studying and wrestling with God’s Word and what it means for our lives five days a week, on top of being involved with our own congregations on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Much like the New Testament believers, our class is called to follow the author of Hebrews’ instruction, “Consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (10:24).

Our pre-enrollment knowledge of each other did not facilitate relationships like those that

are described in this passage, but relationships like this are the ones that truly encourage discipleship and growth. While knowing each other pre-enrollment may have been fun, and I would certainly encourage current high schoolers to get to know their classmates if they have the opportunity, I definitely want to encourage those students who don’t know many people

not to let that be a deterrent to their coming. They have not missed out on the best part of friendship, because the depth of relationships that are built here at Bible school are pretty unique and require all the time, energy, and late-night discussions that occur throughout the year to really form.

The fact that much of my class knew each other before we got here may have been the cause of our friendships those first couple of weeks, but we rejoice knowing that our relationships no longer come simply because of that fact, but from the unity that is built from mutual discipleship and love for God and His Word.

*Berntson, an AFLBS junior, is a member of Zion Lutheran, Green Township, rural Valley City, N.D.*

RELATIONSHIPS  
LIKE THIS ARE  
THE ONES  
THAT TRULY  
ENCOURAGE  
DISCIPLESHIP  
AND GROWTH.



# A LIFE

# CHANGED



BY JEREMY NIKUNEN

**D**

espite the fact that I have been a Christian since a very young age, I haven't always understood the gospel. I may have understood it in my head, but in practice I didn't really think Jesus had paid for all of my sins. I basically thought that Jesus died for my sins before I was saved, but I had to make up for the

sins I had committed since I had been saved. I thought

God was mad at me when I sinned, so I tried to do good things to make up for it. It wasn't until I was at Bible school that I really began to understand the gospel.

One day in my first semester of Bible school, in one of Pastor Phil Haugen's classes, we were talking about Ephesians 2:1-10. He

hit really hard on verse one, emphasizing that we were "... dead in our trespasses and sins ..."

Next he asked the question, "What can a dead man do to save himself?"

The answer of course was, "nothing."

Pastor Haugen then went on to Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works,

so that no one may boast." This passage led me to begin to understand the gospel. I came to realize it isn't about my effort, my trying, my attempts to not sin, rather it is about Jesus and what He did for me on the cross.

Since that day, I have been growing in faith and learning just how much Jesus loves me and how much He has done for me. Through classes, attending church, and personal study I am often reminded that I am a wretched sinner deserving of God's wrath. But then I am reminded of my wonderful, gracious Savior who came in my place to die for me in order to pay the price for my sins and satisfy the wrath of God. It is so great to know that when I fail, I have a Savior who already paid the price. I think of II Corinthians 12:9, which says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Another development that has happened for me while I've been at Bible school is a continuing sense of calling to the ministry. I first felt the call to ministry the summer before my last year of high school, and it has only continued to become stronger in my years at AFLBS. A verse that has encouraged me in my call is Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." At AFLBS I have learned the importance of the Word and the role it plays in creating faith in us. When I realized all that Jesus has done for me, I couldn't help but love His Word and want to learn it and share it with others. Although I can't be sure what the future will hold for me, AFLBS has been a great place to prepare for whatever God has in store.

*Nikunen, a senior at AFLBS, is from Watertown, Minn.*

IT IS SO GREAT  
TO KNOW THAT ...  
I HAVE A SAVIOR  
WHO ALREADY  
PAID THE PRICE.



## Tips for the congregation with service members

- Stay connected with members of your church serving in the military. Treat them as you do our precious AFLC missionaries. Pray for them on a regular basis. Send them updates from your church. Send them letters of encouragement. Welcome them with open arms when they are home.
- If you have a pictorial directory, ask the military family or individual for a picture to be included. Post their picture in a special place in your church.
- Ask them about their needs, prayer requests and praises.
- Remember their children on the cradle roll.

# THE MILITARY FAMILY

BY PASTOR MARK ANTAL

I could not have served in the U.S. Army without the support of my family. Many times they did without me being present for a special family event. I know that my situation is not unique. Daily, the families of our armed forces sacrifice a great deal to keep our military strong.

In 1917, Captain Robert L. Queisser of the Fifth Ohio Infantry, in honor of his two sons who were serving in World War I, developed a banner with two blue stars on a white background, with a red edging, one star for each son. The banners were adopted by the Ohio state legislature and later by the U.S. Congress. An addition was made during World War II. When a service member died, the family would change the color of the star to gold.

Military families are quite unique. They still have the same wants, needs, and desires of other families, but they face challenges that most Americans will never have to withstand.

Military families are often separated from their loved ones as they live overseas or in places of the country away from their extended families, communities, home church, language and customs.

Service members often have a language all their own. Phrases and acronyms commonly used in the military can make family members feel excluded by this language barrier.

Service members have a very strong bond to each other. This trust creates a strong bond that lasts a lifetime, and sometimes causes jealousy

between family members.

The benefits of military life are not all that they appear to be. Yes, there is a guaranteed income, but it is usually lower than what a person can make employed as a civilian. Healthcare can mean waiting in long lines, with limited choices. As an officer while serving on active duty, I saw firsthand the sacrifice and hardship of enlisted soldiers with families.

A word of Scripture that comes to my mind is one I shared many times with soldiers facing hardship or deployment. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD YOUR GOD WILL BE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO" (Joshua 1:9). Joshua had a daunting task before him, to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land, a military conquest of epic proportions.

Military families: hear this Word. Be strong and courageous. The task ahead may seem huge and lonely. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. These are easy words for me to say on this side of military retirement. But God has not changed. And He promises, "for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Hold fast to the rich promises of God's Word. He will sustain you through any trial you can possibly face.

*Antal, an AFLC chaplain and retired National Guard chaplain, serves Victory Free Lutheran, Park River, N.D., and Grace Free Lutheran, Edinburg.*





# A WATCHMAN

## EZEKIEL 33:7

We invite you to come to this year's annual conference June 16-19 at Warm Beach Christian Camp & Conference Center, Stanwood, Wash. The Pacific Northwest offers the grandeur of the Cascade and Olympic Mountain Ranges, highlighted by Mount Rainier and Mount Baker, and graced by the beauty of Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands. The conference site is 20 minutes from the nearest hotel or restaurants, so we encourage

you to lodge and eat on site.

Because of the variety of housing and meal package options, the registration form is lengthy. It will not be printed in *The Lutheran Ambassador*, but it is available as a printable document at both [www.afc.org](http://www.afc.org) and [www.afchurch.org](http://www.afchurch.org). Registration can be submitted online, as well. We would suggest printing the registration form, working through it, then either calling in your registration to (360) 502-3452,

or submitting the online form. If submitted online, you will receive an e-mail confirmation with the balance due. If you are unable to print the registration form, we would be happy to mail one to you.

We pray and trust that the upcoming conference will be a special event for all who can take part. A limited number of scholarships are available to those who qualify, please inquire during registration. Let us know how we can serve you.

The conference will offer something for the whole family. We are planning a full morning and afternoon schedule 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. See you in June in Washington.

~The Pacific Northwest District, hosts

### ARC Corporation

(10 terms of five years each)

\*Peder Aadahl, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
 \*Alan Behm, Lowry, Minn.  
 \*Stan Christenson, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
 \*Michael Coyle, Nicollet, Minn.  
 \*Ernie Hilbert, Wheatland, Iowa  
 Kevin Hooper, Ishpeming, Mich.  
 \*Nancy Langness, Ishpeming, Mich.  
 Elwood Manninen, Annandale, Minn.  
 Jackie Manninen, Annandale, Minn.  
 \*Dennis Parsley, Pipestone, Minn.  
 \*Roger Quanbeck, Hallock, Minn.  
 Roger Seldal, DeKalb, Ill.  
 8 more nominees needed

### Schools Corporation

(10 terms of five years each)

\*Pastor Alan Arneson, Fosston, Minn.  
 Pastor Brett Boe, Shakopee, Minn.  
 Cory Buck, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
 \*Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.

\*Gary Erickson, Dalton, Minn.  
 \*Pastor Kirk Flaa, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
 Ben Floan, Andover, Minn.  
 Paul Hensrud, Grand Forks, N.D.  
 \*Pastor Jim Johnson, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
 Brian Lunn, Bemidji, Minn.  
 \*Licensed Pastor Mike McCarlson, Webster, S.D.  
 \*Pastor James Molstre, Newark, Ill.  
 \*Brent Peterson, Valley City, N.D.  
 Kyle Smith, Dickinson, N.D.  
 George Winston, Newark, Ohio  
 Five more nominees needed

### Missions Corporation

(20 terms of five years each)

\*Vonne Coyle, Nicollet, Minn.  
 \*Dr. Peter Dyrud, Plymouth, Minn.  
 Mark Fagerstrom, DeKalb, Ill.  
 Gene Finstrom, Buxton, N.D.  
 Pastor Arlo Feiock, Bemidji, Minn.  
 Pastor Michael Flechsig, Pleasanton, Texas  
 Pastor Ken Hart, Fairbury, Neb.  
 \*Pastor Micah Hjermstad, Ishpeming, Mich.

Tim Jordan, Valley City, N.D.  
 \*Ron Jorgenson, Lidgerwood, N.D.  
 \*Vince Larson, Buffalo, N.D.  
 \*Glen Larson, Fosston, Minn.  
 \*Dr. Lyle Mattson, Greenbush, Minn.  
 Gary Maxwell, Gifford, Ill.  
 \*Pastor Ken Moland, Kirkland, Wash.  
 Guy Murray, Ishpeming, Mich.  
 \*Pastor David Nelson, Badger, Minn.  
 Phyllis Nikunen, Cloquet, Minn.  
 \*Pastor Kris Nyman, Hagerstown, Md.  
 \*Pastor Joe Ocker, Frost, Minn.  
 \*Kevin Olson, Fargo, N.D.  
 Mark Olson, Winsted, Minn.  
 Debra Olson, Winsted, Minn.  
 \*Ralph Peterson, Portland, N.D.  
 Mark Schields, Dickinson, N.D.  
 Chuck Siems, Urbana, Ill.  
 \*Wanita Sletten, Duluth, Minn.  
 Nancy Staudinger, Tamarack, Minn.  
 Shane Voxland, McIntosh, Minn.  
 Marilyn Wagner, Minot, N.D.  
 10 more nominees needed

# NOMINEES

## Coordinating Committee

(One layman, five-year term)

\*Lowell Watt, Park River, N.D.  
Scott Ducote, Durant, Okla.

## Schools Board of Trustees

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One pastor, five-year term)

\*\*Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck, Moorhead, Minn.  
Pastor Earl Korhonen, Radcliffe, Iowa

## Commission on Evangelism

(One pastor, five-year term)

\*Pastor Lee Hoops, Kindred, N.D.  
Pastor Rich Carr, Tioga, N.D.

## Youth Board

(One pastor, five-year term)

Pastor Jason Gudim, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Pastor Seth Forness, Hawley, Minn.

## World Missions Committee

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One layman, five-year term)

\*\*Glenn Mork, Buffalo, Minn.  
X

## Board of Publications & Parish Education

(One layman, five-year term)

Maren Sletten, Argusville, N.D.  
Solveig Hjermstad, Bagley, Minn.

## Home Missions Committee

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One pastor, five-year term)

Pastor Alan Monson, Mesa, Ariz.  
Pastor Gerry Peterson, Oklahoma City

## FLAPS Board of Managers

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One layman, five-year term)

\*Dr. Kevin Lee, Beulah, N.D.  
\*\*Shane Voxland, McIntosh, Minn.

## Bay Broadcasting

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One layman, three-year term)

\*\*Mark Schields, Dickinson, N.D.  
Paul Christenson, Fergus Falls, Minn.

## ARC Board

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One layman, five-year term)

\*\*Ernie Hilbert, Wheatland, Iowa  
Chad Rieschl, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

## Benefits Board

(One pastor, five-year term)

Pastor Richard Anderson, Elk River, Minn.  
Pastor Ken Moland, Kirkland, Wash.

\* Incumbents

\*\* Must be elected to corporation to remain on/be elected to committee or board

X Nominations not named by press deadline

## Nominees to serve at the 2016 conference

### Committee No. 1

(Administration)

Pastor Gerry Peterson, Oklahoma City  
Pastor Ray Ballmann, Kopperl, Texas  
Jordan Langness, Beulah, N.D.  
X  
X

### Committee No. 2

(Schools)

Pastor Shane McLoughlin, Minot, N.D.  
Scott Carmichael, St. Francis, Kan.  
Jarrod Hylden, Beresford, S.D.  
Pastor Barry Nelson, Tripp, S.D.  
Roger Quanbeck, Hallock, Minn.

### Committee No. 3

(Missions)

Pastor David Franz, Radcliffe, Iowa  
Pastor Matthew Ballmann, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Donald Burmeister, Mount Vernon, S.D.  
Clarence Haugen, Snohomish, Wash.  
Pastor Micah Hjermstad, Ishpeming, Mich.

### Committee No. 4

(Publications and Parish Education)

Ernie Hilbert, Wheatland, Iowa  
Pastor Ken Hart, Fairbury, Neb.  
Pastor Dennis Gray, Newfolden, Minn.  
Joel Erickson, Oslo, Minn.  
Bill Fish, Everett, Wash.

### Committee No. 5

(Evangelism and Benefits)

Nathan Dalager, Argyle, Minn.  
Pastor Luke Emerson, Newark, Ill.  
Wayne Gerlach, Mitchell, S.D.  
Guy Murray, Ishpeming, Mich.  
Pastor Brett Boe, Shakopee, Minn.



# AGENDA

*“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me” (Ezekiel 33:7).*

**DATES:** June 16-19

**SITE:** Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center, Stanwood, Wash.

**HOSTS:** Atonement Free Lutheran, Arlington, Wash.  
Elim Lutheran, Lake Stevens, Wash.



## TUESDAY, JUNE 16

### 9 a.m.

The conference committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.

### 7 p.m.

The Opening Service of the conference, with Communion

Leader: Pastor Craig Johnson, Astoria, Ore.

Speaker: Pastor Ken Moland, Kirkland, Wash.

AFLC President Pastor Lyndon Korhonen will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

### 9 a.m.

Devotions: Ryan Tonneson, AFLTS graduate

Report of the Credentials Committee

Adoption of the Conference Agenda

Approval of 2014 Annual Conference Report

Selection of nominees for corporations:

Missions Corporation

Schools Corporation

ARC Corporations

The President's Report

Reports of AFLC ministries—General

Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee

Report of the Director of Development

Report of the Chairman of the AFLC Foundation

Reports of Chaplaincy Ministries

• Institutional

• Military

Report of the Director of the ARC

Selection of nominees for corporation meetings:

- Home Missions Committee—one pastor;
- Bay Broadcasting Committee—one layman (three-year term);
- FLAPS Board of Managers—one layman;
- World Missions Committee—one layman;
- Board of Trustees—one pastor;
- ARC Board—one layman

### 11:30 a.m.

Prayer Hour: Pastor Stephen Snipstead, Kalispell, Mont.

### Noon

Conference Lunch

Home Missions/Builders Fellowship Lunch

Chaplains Lunch

AFLBS Alumni Lunch

### 1:30 p.m.

Devotions: Jarrod Hylden, AFLTS graduate

Report of the Credentials Committee

Reports of AFLC ministries—General, cont.

AFLC Financial Report

Report of the Family Bible Camps

• Lake Bronson

• Wilderness

Report of the Budget Analysis Committee

Reports of AFLC ministries—AFLC Schools

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Vision

Report of the Dean of the Seminary

Report of the Dean of the Bible School

Reports of AFLC ministries—Missions

Report of the Chairman and Director of the World Missions Committee

Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee

Report of the Director of Home Missions

Report of Executive Director of FLAPS  
 Report of WMF President  
 Reports of AFLC ministries—Publications, Parish Education & Youth  
 Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications  
 and Parish Education  
 Report of the Director of Parish Education  
 Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board  
 Report of the President of the Free Lutheran Youth  
 Report of Youth Ministries Director  
 Reports of AFLC ministries—Evangelism and Benefits  
 Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism  
 Report of the Director of Evangelism  
 Report of the Chairman of the Benefits Board

### **5:30 p.m.**

Conference Dinner  
 Schools Corporation Annual Meeting

### **7 p.m.**

The Mission Festival Service conducted by the WMF  
 Leader: Pastor Paul Nash, AFLC Home Missions director  
 Speaker: Dary Fink, MATA, Arlington, Wash.

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 18**

### **7 a.m.**

Mission Corporation Annual Meeting

### **9 a.m.**

Devotions: Rob Edwards, AFLTS graduate  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Report of the Nominating Committee  
 Election of the Nominating Committee for the 2016 Conference  
 Election Procedures  
 Elections: (all terms five years unless noted)  
 • Vice President—one-year term  
 • Secretary—one-year term  
 Report of Committee No. 1 (Administration)  
 Report of Nominating Committee  
 Selection of nominees to the Coordinating Committee—  
 one layman  
 Election of Committee No. 1 for the 2016 Conference  
 Report of Committee No. 2 (Schools)  
 Report of the Nominating Committee  
 Election of Committee No. 2 for the 2016 Conference  
 Report of Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evangelism)  
 Report of the Nominating Committee  
 Election of Committee No. 3 for the 2016 Conference

### **11:35 a.m.**

Prayer Hour: Pastor Stephen Snipstead, Kalispell, Mont.

### **Noon**

Conference Lunch  
 The ARC Corporation Annual Meeting  
 PIMO Lunch and AFLC Schools Alumni Lunch

### **1:30 p.m.**

Devotions: Dan Antal, AFLTS graduate  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Report of Committee No. 4 (Publications, Parish Education & Youth)

Report of Nominating Committee  
 Selection of nominees to:  
 Board of Publications and Parish Education—one layman  
 Youth Board—one pastor  
 Election of Committee No. 4 for the 2016 Conference  
 Report of Corporations  
 Schools Corporation Annual Meeting  
 ARC Corporation Annual Meeting  
 Missions Corporation Annual Meeting  
 Report of Committee No. 5 (Evangelism and Benefits)  
 Report of Nominating Committee  
 Selection of nominees to:  
 Commission on Evangelism—one pastor  
 Benefits Board—one pastor  
 Election of Committee No. 5 for the 2016 conference

### **5:30 p.m.**

Conference Dinner  
 Pastors' Banquet

### **7 p.m.**

Laymen's Service

## **FRIDAY, JUNE 19**

### **7 a.m.**

FLAPS informational breakfast

### **9 a.m.**

Devotions: Nick Schultz, AFLTS middler  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Report of Special Committees  
 Report of the Colloquy Committee  
 Election of Colloquy Committee for the 2016 Conference  
 Election of Budget Analysis Committee:  
 one layman (three-year terms)  
 Report of Committee No. 1 as the Committee on General  
 Resolutions  
 Other Reports

### **11:35 a.m.**

Prayer Hour: Pastor Stephen Snipstead, Kalispell, Mont.

### **Noon**

Conference Lunch

### **1:30 p.m.**

Devotions: Brent Raan, AFLTS graduate  
 Report of Credentials Committee  
 Remaining conference business

### **5:30 p.m.**

Conference Dinner

### **7 p.m.**

Ordination/Closing Service  
 Leader: Pastor Kevin Olson, Crystal, Minn  
 Speaker: Pastor Mark Antal, Park River, N.D.

Conference Committee  
 Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, President  
 Pastor Brian Davidson, Secretary





**WMF**  
WOMEN'S  
MISSIONARY  
FEDERATION

# REDEEM THE TIME

BY DAWN JOHNSON  
& LYNN WELLUMSON

*See then that you walk  
circumspectly, not as fools but  
as wise, redeeming the time,  
because the days are evil.*  
—Ephesians 5:15-16

**Y**ou are invited to  
attend the 53rd  
annual WMF  
Day on June 16,  
which is held in  
conjunction with the AFLC  
Annual Conference at Warm  
Beach Camps and Conference  
Center in Stanwood, Wash.

Registration will begin at  
8 a.m., and the program at  
9 a.m. Kathy Horneman, author  
of the 2015 WMF Bible study,  
will be the morning speaker.  
Former missionary Debra Giles  
will share devotions. This year  
the WMF is again offering  
workshops during WMF Day.  
They include: “Being Prepared,”  
by Bonnie Upton, a chalk  
art presentation by Wendy  
Westlake, and a presentation on  
AFLC Home Missions by Pastor  
Jim Johnson.

If your congregation has  
had members pass away this  
year, please e-mail the funeral  
bulletin to Dawn Johnson at  
ctk@wwt.net or send to 2991  
30th Ave., Wilson, WI 54027,  
and they will be recognized  
during the memorial service led  
by Barbara Moland.  
Our Wednesday evening  
Missions Festival Service will  
be led by AFLC Home Missions  
Director Pastor Paul Nash, and  
will feature Dary Finck, from  
Mission Aviation Training

Academy (MATA), as the  
evening speaker.  
The WMF will host a  
breakfast on June 17, featuring  
AFLC missionaries to Uganda,  
Pastor Nate and Rhoda Jore.

*Johnson, Wilson, Wis., is the  
executive secretary of the WMF  
and Wellumson, Williston, N.D.,  
is the president of the WMF.*

## 2015 WMF Convention • June 16 • Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center, Stanwood, Wash.

Please use this form to register for the WMF Convention and luncheon on Tuesday, June 16, and for the WMF breakfast on June 17.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Cost	#	Total
*Registration	\$13		\$
**Tuesday luncheon	\$9.50		\$
**Wednesday breakfast	\$6.75		\$
Total			\$

*\*The registration fee is required for all attending the convention. **Make checks payable to “WMF of AFLC” and mail to: WMF Treasurer, Deb Benson, 39694 SD Hwy 44, Armour, SD 57313.** Registrations must be postmarked by May 31. Preregistration is required to attend the luncheon. Childcare and VBS will be provided.*

*\*\*Send the luncheon and breakfast fees only if you have not registered for these meals through the AFLC Annual Conference.*



BY JONNI SLIVER

Y

ears ago, when I worked with street boys in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, I had a

conversation with a group of gang members about the importance of school. I mentioned a standard fixture in every school when I was a youngster: the truant officer. The boys didn't know what that was, so I explained that it was against the law for kids to skip school. If you missed school and your mom didn't call in to say why you weren't there, it wouldn't take long for the truant officer to come tap, tap, tapping at your door. The boys were pretty surprised by that, and one said, "So that's why all Americans are rich!" The mistaken view of our financial situation aside, it was an astute observation. This young man understood the corollary between applying oneself in school and having success in life.

A big part of the ministry of the Miriam Home is to teach our children what they haven't learned at home. For some it is the value of simple personal hygiene, for others it is self-respect. As you can imagine, many of our children need to learn the value of going to school. For others the understanding is already there.

Lucas reminded me of that earlier conversation.



He arrived the beginning of 2014, along with three younger sisters, and stayed with us for a complete year while his parents dealt with their alcohol addictions. One of the first things that I noticed

about Lucas was that he had plans for his future. Though he hadn't had much encouragement at home, his grades and attendance were pretty good when he arrived, and he had a plan—he hoped to be a geography teacher.

Soon Lucas turned 15 and we were able to get him into an apprenticeship program. He had after-school classes and was able to apply for part-time work. (In Brazil, minors are only legally able to work if they are part of one of these programs.) Lucas was thrilled! One of the requirements was good grades in school, and the opportunities to apply for jobs were given first to the students with the best grades. Lucas was one of the first in his group to be given a job. He works as a clerk in the Ministry of Justice here in Campo Mourão. He is surrounded by university students doing their internships, and he is challenged every day to dream big.

One of the reasons Lucas was so excited to get a job was to be able to help his family. For as long as he can remember, his family has lived a

bare bones existence because both of his parents drank, and his mother would often disappear for days on end. Today both of his parents have completed alcohol treatment programs; his mother is more than a year sober. Lucas and his sisters have rejoined their family.

As soon as he started working, Lucas promised Pastor Silvio (the "dad" for the Miriam home) that he would put 50 percent of his salary in savings. Before they rejoined their family permanently, the children spent the weeks of Christmas and New Year's with their parents. On Dec. 28, Lucas called Pastor Silvio; he said his father's salary was enough to buy Christmas dinner but not New Year's. Lucas wanted to ask permission to use part of his salary to buy the dinner for his family. We were so blessed both by his desire to help his family *and* by his respect in asking Pastor Silvio to use his own money.

Our desire is to see children leave the Miriam Home stronger than they came—physically, spiritually, and intellectually—and Lucas is a great success story.



*Sliver is an AFLC missionary serving at the Miriam Infant Home in Campo Mourão, Brazil.*



PEOPLE & PLACES

**Daniel Hurner** has accepted a call to be the associate pastor of the Dalton, Minn., parish (Zion-Sarpsborg, Kvam, and Tordenskjold), where he will serve with Pastor Mark Johnson. Hurner is completing his seminary studies with an internship at Our Savior's Free Lutheran and First English Lutheran of Lostwood, Stanley, N.D.

**Ryan Tonneson** has accepted a call to serve the Gateway Gathering in Mesa, Ariz. The Gateway Gathering is a Home Missions church planted in conjunction with Calvary Free Lutheran, a Home Missions congregation in Mesa. Tonneson is completing his seminary studies this month after serving an internship at St. Paul's Lutheran, Cloquet, Minn.

**Pastor Tom Reagan** has accepted a call to serve Bethany Free Lutheran, Abercrombie, N.D. Reagan will conclude his service to Faith Lutheran, Blackduck, Minn., at the end of May.

**Pastor Andy and Monica Coyle**, AFLC missionaries on loan to East European Mission Network, announced that they will end their call to Ukraine and will return to the United States following graduation at the Bible school on June 28. Their plans for the future are uncertain at this point.

**Pastor Robert L. Lee** has accepted a call from the AFLC Schools Board of Trustees to a half-time teaching position, beginning June 1. He will continue to also serve as editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

**Pastor John Rieth** has announced his retirement as chaplain at Altru Health System, effective June 3. He concludes 19 years of ministry there, the past 11 as manager of the Pastoral Care Department. He will continue in his position as president of the Division for Institutional Chaplaincy in the AFLC. He will remain in Grand Forks where he, his wife, Pat, and their children are members at Christ the King Free Lutheran, East Grand Forks, Minn. He will also remain available for pulpit supply.

Kazanjian served Alabama church

Dr. Karnig Kazanjian Jr., 73, of Foley, Ala., died March 21. Kazanjian, an AFLC pastor, served Zion Lutheran, Silverhill, Ala. He graduated from Memorial High school, Guttenberg, N.J., and earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland. He went on to earn a master's degree at Farleigh Dickerson University, and his master's of divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C. He earn his doctorate of ministry from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa. He was an ordained minister for 28 years, serving congregations in Murfreesboro, Tenn., Anniston, Jacksonville, Mobile and Silverhill, Ala. He served with the Veteran's Administration as a chaplain, as a hospital chaplain at Providence Hospital, Mobile, and as a hospice chaplain.

Surviving are his wife, Kathi Kazanjian, and two sons, Keith Kazanjian, Hiram, Ga., and Kevin Kazanjian, Anniston.

The memorial service was held March 24 at Zion Lutheran, Silverhill, with Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, AFLC president, and Pastor James Korzun officiating.

Gallerson served Louisiana church

Pastor Ron Gallerson, 63, of Mansura, La., died March 25 at Grace Home of Alexandria, La. Gallerson, served St. Paul Lutheran, Mansura, an AFLC congregation.

Surviving are his wife, Linda, one son, Johnathan Johnson, of Georgia, two daughters, Rhonda (Thurman) Wade, Bunkie, La., Alexandra Chenevert, Baton Rouge, La., one step-son, Darrell Fox, of Nevada, one step-daughter, Lucinda Fox, of California, one brother, Bryan Gallerson, Plano, Texas, and two grandchildren.

The memorial service was held March 28 at St. Paul Lutheran, with Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, AFLC president, officiating. Burial was held in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery.

MARCH MEMORIALS

<b>AFLBS</b>	Kazanjian
Margaret Mundfrom	Pastor Ron Gallerson
Ruth Claus	<b>Home Missions</b>
Gordon & Carley Olson	Darlene Davidson
Sharon Pierson	<b>WMF</b>
	Helen Smetter
<b>AFLTS</b>	<b>World Missions</b>
Gordon & Carley Olson	Maija Carlson
Greg Osier	Harold Palmer
<b>Evangelism</b>	... in honor of
Greg Osier	<b>AFLBS</b>
Sharon Pierson	Pastor Wade Mobley
Steve Bierle	<b>World Missions</b>
Pastor Karnig	Mildred Marks

AFLC BENEVOLENCES January 1-March 31, 2015

FUND	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	PRIOR YEAR-TO-DATE
General Fund	\$28,726	\$87,925	\$83,634
Evangelism	8,479	29,152	34,832
Youth Ministries	9,345	24,270	44,374
Parish Education	7,512	31,753	30,240
Seminary	19,312	71,117	64,528
Bible School	28,575	90,254	87,406
Home Missions	36,214	119,840	103,028
World Missions	27,883	89,497	104,348
Personal Support	44,176	119,971	106,421
TOTALS	\$210,223	\$663,779	\$658,811
Contact the individual departments for further information about specific financial needs.			

# OUR CHAPEL

**T**he chapel on a hill overlooking Medicine Lake in suburban Minneapolis might arguably be called the single-most familiar emblem of our association, and it was one in a series of answers to prayer that occasioned the opening of the seminary 50 years ago. It was dedicated by the Hauge Lutheran Innermission Federation in 1960, purchased by the AFLC four years later, and has been the center of campus and administrative life for most of our history.



Pastor Robert Lee

Recollections need to be stirred to recall the many ways in which this very versatile building has served our fellowship, so please join me in a walk down memory lane. The former apartment on the east end first served as home for the Bursheims; later it would be remodeled as the AFLC president's office, finance and Home Mission offices, and today the seminary dean and administrative assistant offices are there. The first seminary classroom was in what is now the lower east classroom, which has also been a small apartment as well as faculty offices.

The current large seminary classroom housed the first Bible school women (with a shower in the storage closet at the end of the hall). The first Bible school classes met in the west end of the dining room area, and the kitchen served our campus well. The south side of the chapel was also the seminary classroom for many years, with a room on the west end that housed at various times the library, the finance office, faculty offices, and the World Missions office. Parish Education also found a home in the chapel building until the new administration building was constructed.

The first office of the AFLC president was located beneath the balcony in what is now the media room, which would later be utilized as a pastor's office and faculty

office. The library may hold the record for the most moves, and one can think of at least four locations (including a room constructed in the balcony) where it has been located in the chapel before the new Heritage Hall was built.

The chapel was the home for Medicine Lake Lutheran congregation (now Grace Free Lutheran) during the majority of its 50 years; it might be said, in fact, that the congregation was organized because the building was available. Many couples were married in the chapel over the years, and there have been many funerals, as well. It was not always easy for the congregation to conduct a full program, sharing the space with the AFLC national offices, as well as with the seminary and Bible school.

During the 2010 AFLC Annual Conference the chapel was rededicated after an extensive remodeling program as the Hans Nielsen Hauge Memorial Chapel. The former classroom on the south side was eliminated in order to provide

more seating room, a fine pipe organ was installed, air conditioning was added, and impressive new oak altar furnishings (built by Pastor Dick Ewing) now grace the front of the sanctuary. Gifts are still needed to erase the remaining debt for this project.

The construction of the AFLC administration building in 1992 allowed our schools to have full use of the chapel, and the expanded facilities provided by Heritage Hall in 2004 made a home for the library, kitchen and dining room, and faculty offices. Yet the chapel is still close to the heart of campus life and worship, and that is as it should be.

This journey of memories is a personal one for me. Fifty years ago this coming fall

I began my seminary studies in the chapel together with the second class of the new school. Here I began to date a young lady on the staff named Gloria who would soon become my wife, and we were married in the chapel. (We smile to recall that she was serving as secretary to the president, as well as seminary and Bible school secretary, plus handling subscriptions to *The Lutheran Ambassador*!) Both of our children were confirmed in the chapel, too, as more memories were made. Most of my years of ministry have been spent here as a faculty member. This may continue for a few more

*Recollections need to be stirred to recall the many ways in which this very versatile building has served our fellowship ...*

years, and then I expect that my funeral service will be held here.

The story of our chapel has many chapters, but there is a unifying theme. It was dedicated in 1960 by the Hauge Federation as a center to provide Word-centered spiritual life and fellowship and to train workers for the Kingdom and to promote scriptural evangelism. It was sold to us with the conviction that this emphasis would continue, and by the grace of God these same commitments survive and thrive on our campus ... and in our chapel. May we be found faithful in passing on this beautiful heritage (Psalm 16:6) to new generations.



*building the base*

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# IN EVERY SEASON OF LIFE

BY PASTOR WES LANGAAS

**W**e all see the seasons change throughout the year and understand why, but the regularity of times and seasons is also based on a promise God gave to Noah. After the flood Noah offered burnt offerings and the Lord said, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never destroy every living thing, as I have done.

'While the earth remains,  
Seedtime and harvest,  
And cold and heat,  
And summer and winter,  
And day and night  
Shall not cease."  
(Genesis 8:21-22)

Noah and his family would see climate changes they had never seen before, but God

promised that time and seasons would continue as He had commanded until the end of the world.

God also said that "the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth." Sin remains a constant evil in our heart. Our sinful nature does not change with the seasons, and no rain or flood can make it clean. Cleansing from sin would require the shedding of blood. And for that we have Jesus. John says that "if we walk in the Light as [God] Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (I John 1:7). That promise is true in any season.

Grass, flowers, and even our flesh will someday die. "For,

'ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS,  
AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE  
THE FLOWER OF GRASS.

THE GRASS WITHERS,  
AND THE FLOWER FALLS  
OFF,  
BUT THE WORD OF THE  
LORD ENDURES FOREVER.'

And this is the word which was preached to you."  
(I Peter 1:24-25)

The word of God is settled forever and remains our constant source of new life and growth in God's grace.

Even while abiding in God's Word and living in God's grace we can experience troubles from unconfessed sin as well as from the evil in this world. Maybe you've known the chill of autumn with dark clouds of sorrow, sadness, or loss. Maybe you've experienced a winter of the soul, a time of loneliness or a love grown cold. You may experience a springtime of new growth, but the roots are shallow and the flowers

don't bloom. Maybe you are going through the dry heat of summer from unconfessed sin, or a longing to be refreshed by springs of living water.

In all of these times we need to remember another promise of God: "Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19, ASV). Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is the same yesterday, today and forever, and He is always present to restore our souls and refresh us in every season of life.

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