

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 1, 2001



## **Come together at the AFLC 39th Annual Conference**

**Williston, North Dakota  
June 13-17**

What is the holy  
Christian church? p. 4

We found a new  
church home p. 6

Building men of God p. 6

Helps for  
the caregiver p. 8



Emmanuel Free Lutheran, Williston, North Dakota.

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 1, 2001  
Volume 39, Number 6



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**Editor:** Rev. Craig Johnson  
**Assistant to the Editor:** Solveig Hjermstad  
**Editorial Board:** Rev. John Mundfrom, Oryen Benrud, Rev. Jerry Moan, Rev. James L. Johnson.

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**For editorial inquiries and information:**  
The Lutheran Ambassador, Box 446,  
Bruce, SD 57220-0446; 605-627-5188;  
fax 605-627-9254;  
e-mail [craigj@teleport.com](mailto:craigj@teleport.com)  
[wshjerm@brookings.net](mailto:wshjerm@brookings.net)

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## AN ENCOURAGING WORD

### Blessed emptiness

**H**aving recently celebrated another Easter season, and now enjoying the coming of spring with all its splendor, my thoughts turn once again to the miracle of life. This is one of my favorite seasons of the year. I love to see the grass green up, the leaves sprout forth from their budding branches, and the crocuses and daffodils poke their way through the barren ground. Nature is coming back to life after a long winter hiatus.

Just as nature offers us the promise of new life, so our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, promises new life for all who place their faith in Him. This gracious offer is founded upon the atoning work of Jesus at Calvary. The sorrow of Good Friday was soon followed by the resounding joy and life of Easter Sunday. The life of Easter Sunday was illustrated by the empty tomb and confirmed by the angelic message: "He is not here! He has risen just as He said."

"Empty" is an interesting word. It can conjure up thoughts of disappointment, such as looking for that last piece of dessert and finding none there; or joy, such as realizing the leftovers of last night's supper which did not particularly hit our fancy, are no more.

"Empty" when connected with Easter speaks of great joy! The risen Christ is proof positive that He was who He claimed to be. Earlier in His ministry, Jesus made the claim, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will rebuild it" (John 2:19-22). He told us He would rise again; and the events of

Easter proved the veracity of His claims. Anything less than the Resurrection would have made Jesus out to be a liar. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 1:4, Jesus "declared to be the Son of God with power by His resurrection from the dead."

Christ's resurrection and the empty tomb show us that the work of salvation was complete and accepted by God the Father. Paul writes in Romans 4:25, "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." His resurrection shows that we serve a risen Savior, one whom even death could not hold in its clutches. The Resurrection proves beyond any doubt that Christ won a total victory for each and every believer.

The empty tomb and Christ's resurrection guarantee that one day we too will rise again to join Him where He dwells. Read Paul's words in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. What a day that will be when we join our Lord and Savior in the sky and occupy, for all eternity, the mansion He is now preparing for us!



— *Pastor Edward Strom  
Emmanuel and Hauge  
Lutheran Parish  
Kenyon, Minnesota*

The fact that the president is asking faith-based organizations, including churches, to step up to the plate and deliver compassionate outreach

**1** challenges churches to identify their resources more clearly and put them to use more effectively.

Recognizing people's giftedness and matching them with the expanding opportunities being made available would further expose non-Christians to the true heart of Christ's followers and the significance of the church.

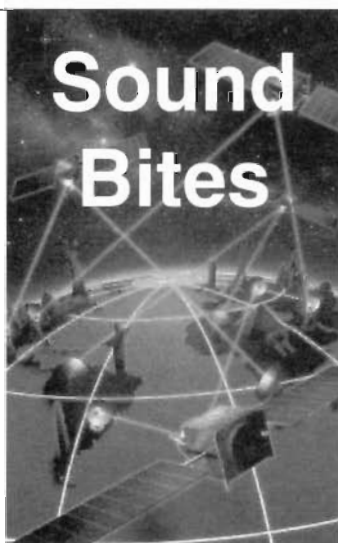
—George Barna

**4** There has been in our congregations a deep love for missions both at home and abroad, and we pray that this love may grow exceedingly.

—from the minutes of the 1962 organizational conference of the AFLC

**6** I know what most easily destroys churches. It is not crack cocaine. It is not government oppression. It is not even lack of funds. Rather, it is gossip and slander that grieves the Holy Spirit.

—Jim Cymbala



**2** The Holy Spirit, in answer to prayer, does everything ... You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you can do nothing but pray until you have prayed.

—John Wesley

**3** People will gladly function in the gift enabled ministry God has given them. They are less enthusiastic if they are simply asked to "fill a position" because no one else will do it.

—John Throop

A free congregation gladly accepts the mutual assistance which congregations can give one another in the work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

—Fundamental Principle 7 of the AFLC



# The responsibilities of a Free Lutheran congregation



*Pastor Dale Mellgren  
Mt. Carmel and Trinity Lutheran  
McIntosh, Minnesota*



**T**he exalted and unique nature of the Christian Church is revealed in Ephesians 1:17, 22-23, where according to the

Phillips translation, "The all glorious Father ... set Him (Christ) up as head of everything for the Church. For the Church is His body, and in that body lives fully the one who fills the whole wide universe." We are taught in Luther's Catechism regarding the nature of the Church. The question is asked, "Why is the Church called holy?" The answer given is: "The church is called holy because of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who performs His sanctifying work in all its members. For this reason the church is called holy, in spite of its sins and shortcomings."

Finally, in the meaning of the Third Article and in the Article itself, the miraculous nature of the Christian Church is described: "I believe that I cannot, by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him ... I believe in ... the holy Christian church."

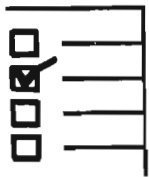
It is apparent that Christ's Church is, from beginning to end, a miracle of God's grace. It is His Church, brought to our midst by the work of the Holy Spirit breaking the self-will of man, crucifying the fallen nature and bringing forth the new creation in Christ "which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24, KJV). To this end, the Holy Spirit continually works, saving and sanctifying sinners. The local congregation is called and privileged above all else, to be included in this miraculous work of God's grace.



From the AFLC Fundamental Principles comes this statement: "The congregation directs its own affairs, subject to the authority of the Word and the Spirit of God, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government above itself." Political freedom is here joined with the individual congregation's responsibility to God. However, this responsibility is not a burden placed on our backs by God, but a glorious privilege and promise to those who will receive it.

Souls who, in faith, submit to the

authority of God's Word and Spirit become the personal responsibility of God. Jesus said, "I Am the Good Shepherd ... My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life" (John 10:11, 27-28, KJV). The Holy Spirit faithfully does His unseen, and often unrecognized work in the hearts of sinners and they are saved and being saved from the domination of the fallen nature into "the glorious liberty of the children of God (Romans 8:21 KJV). This describes the work that is to go on in a free and living congregation.



What, then, is the absolute necessity for spiritual life and the first responsibility of every congregation? Again, we find it in the catechism: "The Holy Christian Church is the congregation of saints of

true believers, where the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered according to the ordinance of God." The effectiveness of baptism and the Lord's Supper is found in the gospel promise they contain, therefore we will focus primarily on the ministry of the Word as the congregation's chief responsibility.

The law of God, rightly preached and taught, will always convict of sin and reveal God's wrath toward sin, make us anxious to seek Christ and show believers the fruits our faith must bear. The gospel, rightly preached, will bring to the broken sinner the glad tidings of the grace of God in Jesus Christ, freely granting righteousness and salvation to the repentant sinner. It is through the faithful ministry of the Word of God that spiritual life begins and continues. There is no substitute. It is the congregation's chief responsibility to God and the souls of all, to carry out this ministry, regardless of the response of the world or the example of other churches.



A word of caution is always in season, since we are all daily bombarded with temptations to use other means and methods in an effort to add to the effective-

ness of God's Word, or replace it altogether. We so often look for outward results in our ministries. When we are so tempted, consid-

er the following: Jesus came to us as the Living Word. We cannot separate Jesus from the Word of God, or the Word of God from Jesus. Therefore, when we are tempted to set the Word of God aside in certain situations, we are telling Jesus, "We don't want You here."

Then, there is the temptation to try to add to the Word's power by human persuasion, emphasize personalities, relying primarily upon mere human authorship and the like. In doing this we are really telling Jesus that "We know someone who can do a better job than You."

When the temptation comes to substitute human activity for the ministry of the Word, with some types of "how to" seminars, books, programs, etc., we are telling Jesus, "We can do this without You." Such neglect of the Word of God as the primary means of our ministry is actually unbelief.

Just as the Word of God and Jesus cannot be separated, so true spiritual life and the Word of God cannot be separated within a congregation without dishonoring Christ and bringing harm to souls. The ministry of the Word of God must always be a matter of personal surrender to Christ as Lord of His Church. Our first responsibility is to trust Him enough to faithfully employ the means of grace He has given us in order to bring forth the results He intends. Such confidence in Christ places the congregation safely in His care, He takes responsibility for His sheep and He keeps us from straying when we keep His Word primary in our ministry.



In years past, we in the AFLC would regularly restate the theme of our collective ministry as "Thus saith the Lord." In our "Declaration of Faith," we quote from the "United Testimony of Faith and

Life": "We bear witness that the Bible is our only authentic and infallible source of God's revelation to us and all men, and that it is the only inerrant and completely adequate source and norm of Christian doctrine and life. We hold that the Bible, as a whole and in all its parts, is the Word of God under all circumstances regardless of man's attitude toward it." If we as individuals, congregations and as an AFLC, will faithfully practice what we have here professed, the gates of hell will not prevail against us. At the same time, we need to be constantly reminded that such faith is our souls' only refuge.



# Our search for a

“**W**here the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (II Corinthians 3:17). This verse heads the official Internet web site of the AFLC, and it is aptly placed there. It became the foundation of our search at Faith Lutheran Church for a new spiritual home.

Five years ago, disagreement over the inerrancy of Scripture in a local Lutheran congregation resulted in nearly forty of its members deciding to find a new path to Christ. Our search had

one overriding criterion, that the God-breathed and inerrant Bible was to be the only authority in our lives. As we held

services in a two-car garage, a shelter house at

the state park, and in a downtown storefront, we researched various Lutheran bodies. After presentations and discussions with several affiliations, the congregation voted almost unanimously to seek an association with the AFLC.

The visits and Sunday worship led by Pastors Paul Nash and Robert Lee plainly showed us their passion for the Word of God, and their determination to save lost souls through Jesus. They explained to us that the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth, and should not be subordinate to any other congregation or synod. Their approach directly agreed with our as-yet-unspoken thoughts that an excess of organization leads to too much attention and emphasis on the organization itself, and not on the ultimate goal of helping others seek the grace of God.

AFLC congregations have no budgetary requirements to support a national body.

Our members are all “cheerful givers.” Many of us have experienced for years at church suppers and socials that people give much more in “free will” offerings than they ever would have paid from a set menu of prices. The AFLC seems to have the same principles in mind, confident that its congregations will gladly give much more of their own volition than some predetermined budgetary amount.

More importantly, Faith Lutheran’s newfound independence helped to wean us from a passive, “comfortable” church life. It caused many members of the congregation to take new, proactive roles in the church. In the beginning, with no pastor attached to the congregation, several men took turns delivering the sermon, and they still fill in for the pastor when needed. New Sunday school instructors were cultivated. Decisions about Bible school curricula had to be made, church services structured, a constitution ratified, each decision weighed upon the scales of God’s law. As a result, our congregation’s working knowledge of the Bible has

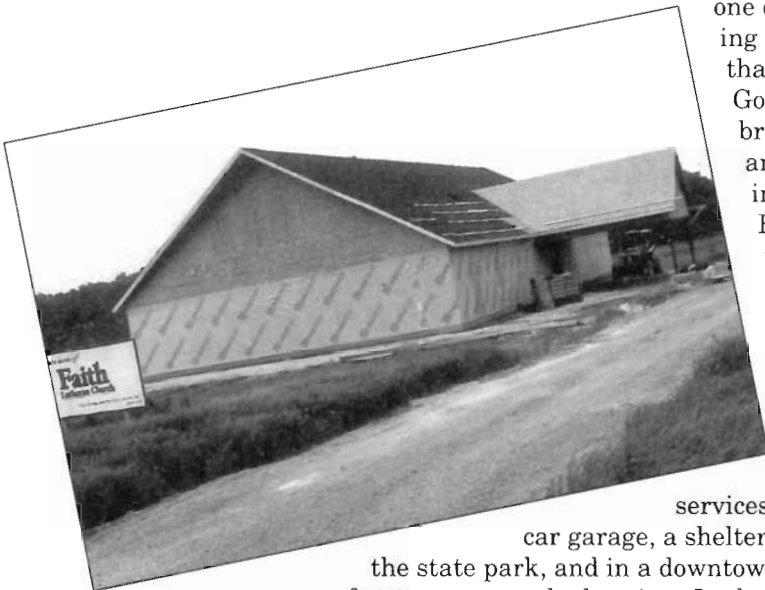
— *Pastor Jerry Peterson*  
*First Lutheran Church*  
*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

“**T**herefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (I Thessalonians 5:11).

I recall reading a book in the late eighties called “Missing From Action — Vanishing Manhood in America” by Weldon Hardbrook. It was a clarion call that men had lost their way to true manhood and thrown responsibility to the wind.

Men have not always had the best of models from other men. Often men tend to do what they have experienced in their own life. Have fathers provided a well-defined role model of manhood? If we’re honest, we have not grasped the way in which God wants men to take responsibility spiritually, to truly love their wives and children, or to be more supportive in their churches and communities. How can men regain their place and identity at home, work, community and the church?

In February 1996, members of my con-



# new church home

— Jeff Bremer and Phil Hunerkoch  
Council members at  
Faith Lutheran  
Metropolis, Illinois

been raised significantly. We are confident in this knowledge, eager to know more, and to share what we have learned with others. Faith Lutheran members soon began to venture into the community to share the Word. As of now, Faith's members conduct weekly Bible studies at a low-income apartment complex, and lead a monthly church service at the local Lutheran nursing home.

Another blessing of the freedom allowed under AFLC affiliation allows us to invite teachers and preachers from other denominations to speak to our congregation, something that would not have even been considered at some of our previous churches. As we receive these visitors' messages, we compare their words not to synodical doctrine, or man-made decrees of political correctness. Our only litmus test is: "is this message true to the Bible?" This was also the theme of a week-long revival held at the junior high auditorium with participation from Faith and several local churches.

Two years ago, Faith Lutheran called a

young man from within the congregation to be our pastor. Though he is unmistakably a man who knows God, he at that point had no formal training through the seminary. The leaders of the AFLC recognized his gifts and our needs, and crafted a schedule that allowed our pastor to attend seminary, while still serving us most of the year.

Looking back, five years have come and gone quickly. But this brief period of our spiritual lives has also been the most fruitful in our search to know Jesus. We have learned that the church is not about property, nor possessions, nor policies handed down from men chosen by other men. The church is about the undeniable recognition of our sinful condition, the unashamed acceptance of God's grace, and the unquenchable desire to tell everyone that Jesus Christ is Lord.



## Encouraging men to be men of God

gregation paid my way to attend the Promise Keepers Clergy Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. During this three-day event, 42,000 pastors gathered to "Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you ... For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline" (I Timothy 1:6-7, NIV). I returned a different man and my congregation knew it.

During this event, pastors ministered to pastors. Men were willing to be transparent with one another. The pastoral ministry can be one of the loneliest professions. Pastors are viewed as above the need of friendship



and support of other men. So also, being a man can be a lonely life as well. Men are expected to be self-sufficient with other men. But at this conference, men were encouraged to be more honest with themselves and others. It was refreshing!

When I returned, I was wondering what to do next. Within two to three weeks, the Lord sent a man to do some work at church. During conversation with him, he invited me to a 6 a.m. Thursday men's prayer breakfast at a local restaurant. Though interested, I opted to stay in bed that first

*(continued on next page)*

# HELP FOR THE ONES GIVING HELP

*Lois Grothe  
Bethany  
Free Lutheran  
Astoria, Oregon*

**"I** had a dream the other night," she said. "In it the rain was pouring and my mother was lying in the mud. She was covered in it. All I could do for her was prop up a tent over her and put a pillow under her head." She was talking about her elderly mother who is primary caretaker for her invalid father.

My friend who had the dream and I are both married and have children who need our care and guidance. We also both feel the need to help our parents who are either elderly or infirm or both. I feel at times like I just go around "putting out fires." The schedule for each day is determined by who has the most pressing need at the moment. When my friend told me of her dream I knew immediately the sense of inadequacy the dream seemed to portray.

Today more and more people find themselves members of a group called the "sandwich generation." This group is comprised largely of women, along with some men, who help their parents with home care as well as

caring for small children. When you add the fact that many women also have part-time or full-time jobs, you can see this is a perfect recipe for stress.

Here are some helpful hints for people in this situation:

**Try to rest.** I say *try* because I know from experience that often we lay awake thinking about the endless things to do. Or we stay up later than everyone else doing the most urgent tasks. Yet I have discovered that the less rest I get the less I am able to be helpful to anyone. Worse yet, like my children I get cranky when I am tired. Since "get rest" is tops on the world's list of helpful hints, I must not be the only person in need of a break.

Isaiah 40:29-31 says, "He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; he offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will give up. But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

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## ENCOURAGING MEN

Thursday morning. Later in the day, the man called and asked where I had been that morning. I had to confess, "I guess I stayed in bed." Right then, I decided I would be at the breakfast the next week. I had needed accountability to get me started.

Little did I realize at that time, the significance of accepting and gathering with other men. I did not go as a pastor, but as a man in need of friendship and support. These men promised that if needed, they would be available night or day. This has proved to be true. The faces have changed many times over, but the meetings have continued to provide friendship, fellowship, prayer support, personal accountability, and spiritual growth.

Within six months of joining the men's breakfast group, these men offered to host a Saturday morning breakfast at my church. The men prepared a full breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage and biscuits, pancakes and bacon. Since men usually like to eat, the meeting was well attended. Several men shared what the weekly gatherings had meant to them. From that meeting, some men agreed to meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the church. (I have to confess, I didn't think it would last since several of the men would come right from work without hav-

ing eaten supper. But I was wrong!) A group of men have continued to meet weekly for prayer, a book study written for men, and fellowship. It has helped to read, discuss and pray about the roles and responsibilities of men. There are many good quality Christian books that help in understanding growth of true manhood.

What can congregations do to minister to and encourage men? Find two or three men who are willing to make a commitment to meet at a particular time and place each week. It is easier for men to develop close and trusting friendships in small groups. It is important to provide a safe environment for men to be honest with and accountable to one another.

I thank God for raising this ministry among men. A couple of years after beginning this area of ministry, I experienced one of the worst nights in my life. I was deeply troubled. Though my wife and children tried to minister to me, they couldn't reach me. My wife called the church president who happened to be in the small group. Immediately he dropped what he was doing, came to my aid and in my brokenness, he ministered to me. Since we had shared much through the small group meetings, he was God's agent in my hour of need. That's one of the blessings of men's ministry.



In addition to taking care of your body, you need to take care of your spirit. I can tell when it is time to go into my quiet place for some one-on-one time with God. When I don't rest in God I sense worry and fear starting to take over my thoughts.

During a recent sermon our pastor talked about how we often lie awake worrying. He recommended making a "been done" list for those times — thinking of what Jesus has done — rather than fret over the "to do" list.

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise" (Philippians 4:8).

**Exercise and eat right.** Yes, I know this is from a woman who breakfasts on a handful of cold cereal and a cup of coffee ... then it only goes downhill from there. But realistically, how can we be healthy enough to care for all the people who are depending on us if we become exhausted and ill ourselves? Plus there is the benefit of stress relief that comes from a good brisk walk taken at the right moment.

Just as we need to feed and exercise our bodies properly we need to feed and exercise our souls. The Bible is our food. Jeremiah 15:16 says, "Your words are what sustain me. They bring me great joy and are my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty."

God's Word is necessary to spiritual life. It is nutritious, healthy food for the soul. God's Word also reminds us that we should esteem others and work for their good, a goal that can be lost in the day-to-day struggle.

"This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. This will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel" (Deuteronomy 17:20).

Time spent in prayer will strengthen us for the things we face very much like a workout strengthens our body. God promises to hear us when we pray. "The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers" (1 Peter 3:12).

**Divide the work load.** Ask for help, talk to family members, talk to your parents about ways to divide the work.

"Two people can accomplish more than



twice as much as one; they get a better return for their labor. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble. And on a cold night, two under the same blanket can gain warmth from each other. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

**Share with one another.** I know other people who have been or are in the same type of situation I'm in right now. Being able to share and pray with people who know exactly how you feel can be a great lift emotionally and spiritually. Talk to a person who has walked or is walking on the same journey who is further than you. Find a mentor. Titus 2 gives an example of younger people learning from the older.

My friend didn't lie awake all night after that dream. She had been visiting with an older member of our congregation. This lovely woman shared how she uses the times that she wakes in the night to pray. When we lay our concerns before Jesus we can then rest secure in the knowledge that he will take care of all things for our good. Mary prayed about the situation and the dream and was able to sleep peacefully through the night. We can do the same.



# THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

**JUNE 13-17, 2001**  
**WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL**  
**WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA**  
Conference Theme: "Looking to Jesus"  
Conference Text: Hebrews 12:1-2

## **Wednesday, June 13**

- 9:00 a.m. The conference committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.
- 8 p.m. The opening service of the conference with the sermon on the text by Rev. Stephen Snipstead, Kalispell, MT. AFLC President Rev. Robert Lee will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

## **Thursday, June 14**

- 7:30 a.m. Vision 2004 Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Devotions  
Report of the Credentials Committee  
Adoption of the Conference Agenda  
Election of the Nominating Committee for the 2002 Conference  
The President's Report  
Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA  
Report of the AFLC Foundation Secretary, Rev. Dan Klug, East Grand Forks, MN  
Reports of Chaplaincy Ministries  
Rev. Kerwin Sletto, Ottawa, IL  
Rev. Tim Skramstad, Zumbrota, MN  
Report of the Director of the ARC, Mr. Eric Westlake, Osceola, WI  
Financial Report, Andrew Anderson, New Hope, MN, Bookkeeper  
Report of the Family Bible Camps  
Lake Bronson - Treasurer, Mrs. Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, MN  
Wilderness - Treasurer, Mr. Don Olson, Fargo, ND  
Report of the Budget Analysis Committee  
Mr. Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD  
Report of the Nominating Committee always in order  
Election of nominees for the Missions, Schools, and ARC Corporations  
Report of Committee #1 (Administration)
- 11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN

- 12:00 noon Builders' Fellowship Luncheon  
Chaplain's Luncheon (Institutional, Military, Police/Fire)
- 1:30 p.m. Devotions  
Report of Credentials Committee  
Election Procedures  
Elections:  
President — 3-year term  
Vice President — 1-year term  
Secretary — 1-year term  
Selection of nominees to the Home Missions Committee  
— 1 pastor; World Missions Committee — 1 layman;  
Board of Trustees — 1 pastor, 1 layman  
ARC Board — 1 layman  
Continuing discussion of Committee #1  
Election of nominees to the Coordinating Committee — 1 pastor, 1 layman  
Election of Committee #1 for the 2002 Conference  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Rev. Martin Horn, Fosston, MN  
Report of the Director of Parish Education, Marian Christopherson, Crystal, MN  
Report of the Chairman of the Christian Academic Education Board, Rev. Brian Davidson, Hopkins, MN  
Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Minot, ND  
Report of the President of the Free Lutheran Youth, Mr. Robert Halvorson, Otsego, MN  
Report of Youth Ministries Director, Rev. Kevin Olson, Savage, MN  
Report of Committee #4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work)  
Schools Corporation annual meeting
- 5:30 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m. The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation. Speaker: Rev. Jeff Swanson, Newark, IL

## Friday, June 15

7:00 a.m. Missions Corporation Annual Meeting

9:00 a.m. Devotions

Report of Credentials Committee  
Election of member to the Board of  
Publications and Parish Education - 1 pastor  
Election of member to the Christian  
Academic Education Board — 1 layman  
Election of member to the Youth Board  
— 1 layman  
Election of Committee #4 for the 2002  
Conference  
Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship  
Board, Rev. Mark Antal, Leeds ND  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of  
Pensions, Rev. Lynn Wilson, Roslyn, SD  
Report of Committee #5 (Stewardship &  
Pensions)  
Election of member to the Stewardship  
Board — 1 layman  
Election of member to the Board of Pensions  
— 1 pastor  
Election of Committee #5 for the 2002  
Conference

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Pastor Dale Finstrom

12:00 noon ARC Corporation annual meeting  
Christian Educator's Luncheon

1:30 p.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of  
Trustees, David Borg, Cokato, MN  
Report of the Dean of the Seminary,  
Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, MN  
Report of the Dean of the Bible School,  
Rev. James L. Johnson, Plymouth, MN  
Report of Vision 2004 Director  
Rev. Tonnes Pollestad, Andover, MN  
Report of the AFLBS Alumni President,  
Mark Nelson, Maple Grove, MN  
Report of Committee #2 (Schools)

5:30 p.m. Pastors' Banquet

8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service

## Saturday, June 16

9:00 a.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee  
Election of Committee #2 for the 2002  
Conference  
Report of Schools Corporation  
Annual Meeting  
Report of the Chairman of the World  
Missions Committee, Mr. Vernon Russum,  
Grafton, ND  
Report of the Director of World Missions,  
Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Plymouth, MN  
Report of Partners in Mission Outreach  
Board, Rev. Stephen Snipstead,  
Kalispell, MT

Report of the Chairman of the Home  
Missions Committee, Rev. Allen Monson,  
Lakeville, MN  
Report of the Director of Home Missions,  
Rev. Paul Nash, Brooklyn Park, MN  
Report of FLAPS Executive Director, Lavon  
Bohling, Hebron, NE

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Pastor Dale Finstrom

1:30 p.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee  
Report of the Chairman of the Commission  
on Evangelism, Mr. Gene Quist,  
Bloomington, MN  
Report of the Director of Evangelism,  
Rev. James Rasmussen, Maple Grove, MN  
Report of Committee #3 (Missions and  
Evangelism)  
Report of Missions Corporation Annual  
Meeting  
Election of member to the Commission on  
Evangelism — 1 pastor  
Election of Committee #3 for the 2002  
Conference  
Report of the Secretary of the Colloquy  
Committee, Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand  
Forks, ND  
Election of Colloquy Committee for the 2002  
Conference  
Report of special committees  
Election of 2 members to the Budget  
Analysis Committee - 3 year term  
Report of Committee #1 as the Committee on  
General Resolutions  
Other Reports

8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference

## Sunday, June 18

8:00 a.m. Communion Service

Leader: Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Minot, ND  
Speaker: Rev. Joel Lohafer, Ferndale, WA

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Leader: Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND  
Speaker: Rev. Elden Nelson,  
Kandiyohi, MN

— *Conference Committee*  
*Rev. Robert Lee, President*  
*Rev. Brian Davidson, Secretary*

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. — Hebrews 12:1-2*

# Committees to the 2001 annual conference

## Nominating Committee

Tim Berntson, Valley City, ND — Eastern North Dakota  
Wayne Duebner, Brockton, MT — Western North Dakota /Eastern Montana  
Nathan Dalager, Brookings, SD — South Dakota  
Glenn Espe, Thief River Falls, MN — Northwestern Minnesota  
Rev. Martin Horn, Fosston, MN — North Central Minnesota  
George Hartman, Dalton, MN — Southwest Central Minnesota  
Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, CO — Nebraska/Colorado  
Ray Miller, Duluth, MN — Lake Superior  
Kevin Olson, Eden Prairie, MN — Minneapolis  
Oryen Benrud, Goodhue, MN — Central Tri-State  
Pastor Dean Franz, Dollar Bay, MI — Northern Michigan  
Rev. Jerry Peterson, Oklahoma City, OK — South Central  
Vinton Bruflat, Chandler, AZ — Southwestern  
Jon Galland, Everett, WA — Pacific Northwest  
James Taylor, Bethel Park, PA — Eastern  
Stan Dale, Ottawa, IL — Illinois

## Colloquy Committee

Rev. Jon Benson, Upsala, MN  
Rev. Michael Burke, Ishpeming, MI  
Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, ND  
Rev. James Fugleberg, Fargo, ND  
Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND

## Budget Analysis Committee

Al Hatala, Bethel Park, PA — 2001  
Robert Knutson, McVie, ND — 2001  
Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD — 2002  
Jeff Jacobi, Wheatland, IA — 2003  
Loren Tungseth, Fergus Falls, MN — 2003

## 2001 Conference Committee #1-Administration

Bonnie Handsaker, Radcliffe, IA  
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, MN  
Willis Kettlehut, Deschler, NE  
Quintin Pettigrew, Mankato, MN  
Rev. Doug Lutz, Highlands Ranch, CO

## 2001 Conference Committee #2-Schools

Rev. Wayne Hjermstad, Bruce, SD  
Nathaniel Olson, Fargo, ND  
Lucy Boyum, Kenyon, MN  
Rev. Rick Long, Arlington, WA  
Albin Haugen, Fargo, ND

## 2001 Conference Committee #3-Missions and Evangelism

Marcia Pavesi, Bethel Park, PA  
Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND  
Rev. Tim Johnson, Fertile, MN  
Anne Erickson, Badger, MN  
Keith Quanbeck, Richfield, MN

## 2001 Conference Committee #4-Publications and Parish Education

Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Byron, MN  
Grace Larson, Buffalo, ND  
Mary Christianson, Fergus Falls, MN  
Rev. Tim Carlson, Wheatland, IA  
Phyllis Nikunen, Deschler, NE

## 2001 Conference Committee #5-Stewardship and Pensions

Rev. Craig Benson, Radcliffe, IA  
Roger Tollefson, Crookston, MN  
Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN  
Glenn Espe, Thief River Falls, MN  
Lee Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, WI



Bonnie and Roger Timm of Wilson, Wisconsin, visited with Pastor Walter Johnson, Shakopee, Minnesota, during a coffee break at last year's conference. The Timms are members of Christ the King Lutheran which joined the AFLC in October 2000.

# Nominees as presented by the 2001 nominating committee

## Coordinating Committee

*(1 layman, 5-year term - position now held by Marlin Benrud)*

James Taylor, Pittsburgh, PA

*(1 pastor, 5-year term - position now held by Rev. Terry Olson)*

Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, ND

Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Durant, OK

## Board of Trustees

*(1 pastor, 5-year term - position now held by Rev. Rodger Olson)*

Rev. Rodger Olson, Camarillo, CA

Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, McVile, ND

*(1 layman, 5-year term - position now held by Dr. Dan Mundfrom)*

Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, CO

Mr. Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD

## World Missions Committee

*(1 layman, 5-year term - position now held by Kermit Berge)*

Dr. Bob Kohl, Brookings, SD

## Home Missions Committee

*(1 pastor, 5-year term - position now held by Rev. Michael Crowell)*

Rev. Michael Crowell, Lake Stevens, WA

Rev. Peter Franz, Plymouth, MN

## Stewardship Board

*(1 layman, 5-year term - position now held by Joel Hanson)*

Mark Knutson, Newfolden, MN

Bill Piel, Ponca City, OK

## Board of Publications and Parish Education

*(1 pastor, 5-year term - position now held by Rev. Martin Horn)*

Rev. Martin Horn, Fosston, MN

Rev. Don Voorhees, Dannebrog, NE

## Christian Academic Education Board

*(1 layman, 5-year term - position now held by Rose Carlson)*

Linda Fugleberg, Fargo, ND

LaVonne West, Kalispell, MT

## Youth Board

*(1 layman, 5-year term - position now held by Jeremy Larson)*

Jeremy Larson, Fargo, ND

Paul Handsaker, Radcliffe, IA

## Board of Pensions

*(1 pastor, 5-year term - position now held by Rev. Lynn Wilson)*

Rev. Lynn Wilson, Roslyn, SD

Rev. Ron Knutson, Kerkhoven, MN

## Commission on Evangelism

*(1 pastor, 5-year term - position now held by Rev. Wayne Hjermstad)*

Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND

## ARC Board

*(1 layman, 5-year term - position now held by Dale Bentley)*

Dale Bentley, Mounds View, MN

Jim Ray, Cloquet, MN

## To the Missions Corporation:

*(20 terms of 5 years each)*

Sylvia Armen, Bethel Park, PA

Rev. Alan Arneson, Ottawa, IL

Rev. Craig Benson, Radcliffe, IA

Robert Dietsche, Osceola, WI

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Crystal, MN

Rev. James Fugleberg, Fargo, ND

Rev. Wayne Hjermstad, Bruce, SD

Rev. Dale Mellgren, McIntosh, MN

Aini Myking, New Hope, MN

Ron Thorson, Yorkville, IL

Darrel Weers, Fergus Falls, MN

Jon Welch, Grand Rapids, ND

Rev. Tom Gilman, Canton, SD

Rev. Al Magnuson, Reva, SD

Mark Knutson, Newfolden, MN

Don Luering, Fairbury, NE

Pastor Jerry Nelson, LaCrosse, WI

Rev. Del Palmer, Shakopee, MN

Harvey Hoops, Harvey, NE

Rev. John Dennis, Bethel Park, PA

Rev. Curt Emerson, Janesville, WI

Dean Goodfellow, Bruce, SD

Kenneth Lehmann, Onarga, IL

Rev. John Chandler, Amarillo, TX

Rev. Christian Andrews, Palmdale, CA

Jeremy Zeltinger, Jamestown, ND

Todd Bjorgaard, Warren, MN

Rev. Jerry Peterson, Oklahoma City, OK

\*\*Rev. Tom Tuura, St. James, MN

Tom Olson, Edinburg, ND

Phyllis Nikunen, Deshler, NE

\*Rev. Allen Monson, Lakeville, MN

\*Rev. Stephen Mundfrom, Arlington, SD

Fern Bohling, Hebron, NE

Delores Berkas, Wallace, SD

\*Eldwyn Van Bruggen, Valley City, ND

\*Halvor Knapp, Kandiyohi, MN

\*Member of Home Missions Committee

\*\*Member of World Missions Committee

"Standing in the heritage of the Lutheran Free Church, our parent church body, we seek to be a leaven within Lutheranism, not only a refuge. It is exciting to see the Fundamental Principles invoked in the written discussions, and I am convinced that our scriptural emphasis on the congregation as the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth can have an influence far beyond our association, in the midst of a debate that deals with the nature of the church."

— Pastor Robert Lee in *The President's Report, 2000.*

## NOMINEES CONTINUED

### To the Schools Corporation

(10 terms of 5 years each)

Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, MN  
Tim Jones, Wyndmere, ND  
Rev. Lynn Kenneberg, McVie, ND  
Rev. Terry Olson, Thief River Falls, MN  
Rev. James Ritter, Aurora, CO  
Rev. Steve Snipstead, Kalispell, MT  
C. Arthur Wilson, Bethel Park, PA  
Mike Coyle, Mankato, MN  
Hilbert Pfeifer, Dodge Center, MN  
John Talley, Milford, IL  
Rick Tollefson, Newark, IL  
Willis Kettlehut, Deschler, NE  
Rev. Ivars Krafts, Circle Pines, MN  
Rev. Earl Korhonen, Cumberland, WI  
David Van Hovlen, Milford, IL  
Michael Feil, Zumbrota, MN  
Kermit Nash, Plymouth, MN  
Jon Dryburgh, Grand Forks, ND  
Tim Berntson, Valley City, ND  
\*Larry Behne, Lowden, IA  
\*Member of Board of Trustees

### To The ARC Corporation

(10 terms of 5 years each)

Ivar Berge, Fargo, ND  
Dennis Holmquist, Maple Grove, MN  
Rev. James Johnson, Brooklyn Pk, MN  
Ralph Johnson, Upsala, MN  
Rev. Mel Meyer, Milford, IL  
Ernie Miedema, Valley City, ND  
Rev. Jonathan Unverzagt, Sparta, WI  
Rev. Randy Nelson, Newark, IL  
Fred Raasch, Zumbrota, MN  
Roger Pahl, Zumbrota, MN  
Quintin Pettigrew, Mankato, MN  
Pam Poncelet, Zumbrota, MN  
Roger Timm, Wilson, WI  
LaVerne Johnson, Wilson, WI  
Robert Johnson, Amery, WI  
Jason Norlien, Amery, WI  
Nola Johnson, Amery, WI  
\*Dale Bentley, Mounds View, MN  
Jim Ray, Cloquet, MN  
\*Member of the ARC Board

**When you are at the annual conference in Williston, plan to have breakfast with Vision 2004**

Thursday, June 14, 7:30 a.m.

See what is happening at our schools. Learn more about the expansion needs of our Bible school and seminary.

Cost: \$8.40 per person

Place: El Rancho Restaurant

Note your reservation on the conference registration form.

## OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

### Looking to Jesus

**T**urn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

The 2001 Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will meet on June 13-17 in Williston, North Dakota. The words of the familiar gospel chorus point to the theme from Hebrews 12, "Looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God" (v. 2).

It is good to gather as an annual conference. We will meet old friends there and enjoy their fellowship as a family of faith, in prayer and praise to the Lord. New congregations will be welcomed, so there will be new friends, too, who bless us as they experience the conference for the first time. It is good to hear the reports from AFLC common endeavors, to learn how our gifts have been multiplied in God's service, and to thank Him for so many open doors.

It is good to seek the Lord together, and this aspect of the conference is the best of all. The heart of our conferences is not the business sessions or the elections, but the messages from God's Word and the prayer sessions. We come to be informed, and to provide direction for our AFLC ministries, but the primary reason for gathering is to be inspired, looking to Jesus together, looking to Him to lead.

It will be good to meet in Williston, too, a delightful western community along the old Lewis and Clark trail that is waiting to welcome us. The host congregation, Emmanuel Free Lutheran Church, and her pastor, Jon Wellumson, have been working hard during the past months to make our visit there a pleasant one, and a record attendance should be expected. It is good to prayerfully prepare for the conference. Ask the Lord for safety when we travel, for direction in all of our deliberations, for an outpouring of His Spirit that will bring blessing to each congregation represented there.

For free and living congregations

— *Pastor Robert L. Lee*

### Welcome to Williston, North Dakota

In John 8:31b-32, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." For us it is a great privilege and a great gift to have the teaching of Jesus in the Holy Scriptures, the Bible. The promise of Jesus' words in this text are true. Our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations lives and grows through reliance on this promise, or dies through lack of true dependence on the Word of God. We have no human structure on which to build. Either God builds our congregations and their common ministries, or we become something other than what we were intended to be — a synod or the like, or we fade into oblivion.

With joyful anticipation, we invite you to join us in seeking the Lord and His will for us at our annual conference this summer at Williston, North Dakota. It is exciting to gather and see what He wants to do in and through us as we seek His will. May He grant us repentance, faith, freedom and life as we hear His Word together, and as we give ourselves to Him through our times of prayer.

We welcome you as we assemble this summer in Jesus' name.

— *Pastor Jon Wellumson*  
*Emmanuel Lutheran Church*

## Notes of interest:

Williston High School on W. Highland Dr., is one block away from Emmanuel Lutheran. All sessions will be at the high school which is handicap accessible.

The El Rancho Motel is about six blocks from the school and there are numerous restaurants within walking distance of the school.

The train connections to Williston are excellent. Airline service is especially good when coming from the west. Other airline connections may be made with the Minot airport, 120 miles away. District churches will provide transportation to Williston.

Day care will be at the church along with vacation Bible school led by AFLBS summer teams and youth from the district. Please indicate on the registration form the number of children needing day care. Lots of fun activities are scheduled, including a tour of Fort Union, a 1928 trading post near the junction of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers.

## Motels

Hwy 2 & 85

42<sup>nd</sup> St. W

Travel Host \*  
Airport International \*  
(Pool)

Select Inn \*  
(Pool)

Dakota Pkwy Hwy 2 & 85

10<sup>th</sup> St. W

El Rancho \*  
Motor Hotel  
Emmanuel  
Free Lutheran Church  
High School  
Conference Center

42<sup>nd</sup> St. E.

701-774-0041 (\$25.85-\$43.85)  
701-774-0241 (\$48.95+ up to four adults)

701-572-4242 (\$40.)

\* Location of Wednesday's Committees  
Trinity Christian School

29<sup>th</sup> St. E.

\* Super 8 (Pool)  
701-572-8371 (\$42.88-\$47.88)

701-572-6321 (\$41.95-\$46.95)

- VBS and Daycare Center

### Camping

Buffalo Trails is located on the north side of town — 701-572-3206.  
Prairie Acres RV Park is located on the west side of town — 701-572-4860.  
Lunds landing resort is approximately 25 miles east — 701-568-3474.



An illustration of Lewis and Clark selecting their winter campsite. The Lewis and Clark bicentennial is scheduled for 2003-2006.

# LOOKING TO JESUS... HEBREWS 12:1-2

June 13-17th, 2001



2001 Association of Free Lutheran Congregations  
39th Annual Conference Registration Form  
Williston High School  
Williston, North Dakota

Hosted by: Emmanuel Free Lutheran Church  
1213 3rd Ave. W, Williston, ND 58801  
701-572-0138  
email: jwellums@host1.dia.net  
Pastor Jon Wellumson

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Children (names and ages) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lay Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lay Visitor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pastor (Member)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pastor Visitor
<input type="checkbox"/>	WMF Day Only

Registration Information: (delay in registration may hinder material or meal availability)

	Before June 1 <sup>st</sup>	After June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Total
Conference registration for singles	Pre-registration \$20.00	Registration \$25.00	\$_____
Conference registration for couples	Pre-registration \$30.00	Registration \$40.00	\$_____
WMF Registration (Wednesday only)	Registration \$5.00		\$_____
Vacation Bible School Registration (number of children K-6) _____	No Registration (Free-will offering)		

## Conference Meals:

*Restaurants are available near the conference site. No meals will be provided other than those listed below for special events.*

## Conference Events:

Event	Meeting Time	# Attending		Per Person	Total
WMF Luncheon	Wednesday Noon		X	\$6.50	
WMF Banquet	Wednesday Evening		X	\$7.50	
Schools Corp.	Thursday 5:30 pm		X	\$7.75	
ARC Corp.	Friday Noon		X	\$7.75	
Missions Corp.	Friday, 7:00 am		X	\$8.40	
Pastor's Banquet	Friday Evening		X	\$13.19	
Vision 2004	Thursday 7:30 am		X	TBA	
Builder's Fellowship	Thursday Noon		X	TBA	
Christian Ed Luncheon	Friday Noon		X	brown bag	
				<b>Total Cost</b>	

Payment must accompany registration. Make checks payable to: AFLC Total Conference Cost \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed forms, with total payment, to:

AFLC

Attn: 2001 Annual Conference  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55441

# Womens Missionary Federation Annual Convention

Wednesday, June 13, 2001  
Williston High School, Williston, North Dakota

Theme: "Like mirrors — reflecting the Lord's glory."  
"All of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transformed in ever increasing splendor into his own image, and this is the work of the Lord who is the Spirit" (II Corinthians 3:18).

Theme Song: "My God How Wonderful Thou Art"

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. — Registration

Praise and worship — Christie Jacobson,  
Burlington, ND

Devotions and prayer time — Deanna Larson,  
Wahpeton, ND

Morning Bible Study teacher — Rose Carlson,  
Wheatland, IA

Memorial Service — Grace Syverson, Tioga, ND  
Business meeting

12:15 — Lunch (pre-registration required)

Sharing time and a special feature

1:40 p.m. — Two afternoon workshop sessions

Presenters are:

Anne Presteng, Grafton, ND — "Worship and  
Praise"

Laurie Nash, Brooklyn Park, MN — Bible study  
on theme verse

Rev. James Rasmussen, Maple Grove, MN —  
"Friend to Friend Evangelism"

Priscilla Horn, Fosston, MN — "Inner Beauty"

5:15 p.m. — Banquet (pre-registration required)

Installation of officers

Speaker: Eunice Will, Springfield, MO

Thursday, June 14.

Mission Festival Service 7:30 p.m.

See schedule of the annual conference.



Taken at the 1999 WMF breakfast in Fergus Falls, MN.

## Ladies, join us for the WMF Convention Day

Our annual convention is a time when young and old come together with fresh new God-given ideas emerging together with the older ones to create a new twist and a sweet aroma. I remember the smell of freshly dried clothes brought in from the out-of-doors. That sweet freshness is how I look at our newer generation of women coming into the AFLC women's groups. Many of them have grown up in our AFLC congregations and have been to our Bible school. They are active in our congregations, listening to and studying the Word. The vibrancy and zeal these young women are bringing as they reach out to others, both at home and on the mission field, is refreshing to those of us who have served for many years. The Lord's work continues.

Scripture tells us to mentor (Titus 2:3-5), and they have been mentored well as many of our younger women maintain positions both at home and in the work place. Challenges and temptations facing them today were foreign to us in the previous generation.

The Women's Missionary Federation, with its common goal and purpose, is one of the few organizations where the synergism of all ages accomplishes the

visions and tasks placed before us by our Lord. Yes, the world has changed, but human hearts remain desperately in need of God's unchanging, relevant, and inspiring Word which is "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16).

This year again as your WMF Board, we have prayerfully planned our convention day of inspiration. We've called on some of our well-mentored young ladies to lead us in music, devotions, Bible studies, and encouraging workshops. Former "missionary kids" will lead the lunch and banquet sessions: Cheryl Aakre, WMF Executive Secretary, and Eunice Will. (Please note that you must register for lunch and the banquet in advance. See the registration form for the AFLC Annual Conference.)

Our prayer as a WMF Board is that this day will truly inspire and encourage you to keep on keeping on. Pray for your board members as new officers will come on board and others will retire. Our vision and goal remains throughout the generations. By God's grace, may we be faithful.

—Marilyn Thoreson  
WMF National Secretary

## **Fundamental Principles of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**

1. According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth.
2. The congregation consists of believers who, by using the means of grace and the spiritual gifts as directed by the Word of God, seek salvation and eternal blessedness for themselves and for their fellow men.
3. According to the New Testament, the congregation needs an external organization with membership roll, election of officers, stated times and places for its gatherings, and other similar provisions.
4. Members of the organized congregation are not, in every instance believers, and such members often derive false hope from their external connection with the congregation. It is therefore the sacred obligation of the congregation to purify itself by the quickening preaching of the Word of God, by earnest admonition and exhortation, and by expelling the openly sinful and perverse.
5. The congregation directs its own affairs, subject to the authority of the Word and the Spirit of God, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government above itself.
6. A free congregation esteems and cherishes all the spiritual gifts which the Lord gives for its edification, and seeks to stimulate and encourage their use.
7. A free congregation gladly accepts the mutual assistance which congregations can give one another in the work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.
8. Such assistance consists partly in the mutual sharing of spiritual gifts among the congregations through conferences, exchange visits, lay activities, etc., whereby congregations are mutually edified, and partly in the voluntary and Spirit-prompted cooperation of congregations for the accomplishing of such tasks as exceed the ability of the individual congregation.
9. Among such tasks may be mentioned specifically the training of pastors, distribution of Bible and other Christian literature, home missions, foreign missions, Jewish missions, deaconess homes, children's homes and other works of mercy.
10. Free congregations have no right to demand that other congregations shall submit to their opinion, will, judgment, or decision; therefore, domination by a majority of congregations over a minority is to be rejected.
11. Agencies found desirable for conducting the joint activities of the congregations, such as conferences, committees, officers, etc., cannot in a Lutheran Free Church, impose any obligations or restrictions, exert any compulsions, or lay any burden upon the individual congregation, but have the right only to make recommendations to, and requests of, congregations and individuals.
12. Every free congregation, as well as every individual believer, is constrained by the Spirit of God and by the privileges of Christian love to do good and to work for the salvation of souls and the quickening of spiritual life, as far as its abilities and power permit. Such free spiritual activity is limited neither by parish nor by synodical bounds.

# 2001 Summer Bible Camps

*And He said to them,  
"Come away by  
yourselves to a lonely  
place and rest awhile."*

— Mark 6:31

## Take time to be refreshed at camp



### **Junior Camp at the ARC**

Osceola, Wisconsin  
June 24-29 (for grades 4-7)  
Call Pam Olson at 888-748-3969

### **Teen Galilee Bible Camp**

Lake Bronson, Minnesota  
June 24-29  
Call Pastor Ken Hart at 218-782-2249

### **Boys' Basketball Bible Camp scheduled for Aug.**

The Northwest Minnesota District is sponsoring a Basketball Bible Camp at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minnesota, beginning August 7 at 1 p.m. and continuing through the morning of August 10. Pastor James Rasmussen will be the Bible teacher and evening speaker. Art Knutson, a coach in Grafton, North Dakota and Pastor Dennis Gray will be the deans. For additional information contact Coach Knutson at 701-352-3898 or Pastor Gray at 218-874-2101. The camp is open to all boys going into grade 8 through 12. If you are interested in being a counselor, contact Pastor Gray.

### **Western ND/Eastern MT Family Camp**

Camp Cherith, North Dakota  
June 25-29  
Call Pastor Mark Olson at 701-664-2187

### **Kids Kamp at the ARC**

Osceola, Wisconsin  
June 29-July 1 (for grades 1-3)  
Call Pam Olson at 888-748-3969

### **Pacific Northwest Family Bible Camp**

Arlington, Washington  
July 8-12  
Call Pastor Les Galland at 425-252-6775

### **Galilee Family Bible Camp**

Lake Bronson, Minnesota  
July 8-13  
Evening speaker — Pastor Tom Olson  
Call Pastor Craig Wentzel at 701-644-2353

### **Wilderness Family Bible Camp**

Lake Park, Minnesota  
July 10-15  
Evening speaker — Pastor Martin Horn  
Call Pastor Bruce Dalager at 701-772-1218

### **Pickarel Lake Youth Bible Camp**

Grenville, South Dakota  
July 22-28  
Call Pastor Wayne Hjermstad at 605-627-5445

### **ARC Family Camp**

Osceola, Wisconsin  
July 29-August 4  
Adult Bible teacher — Pastor Peter Franz  
Call Pam Olson at 888-748-3969

### **Eastern ND Youth Bible Camp**

Bethany Bible Camp, Bemidji, MN  
August 5-10  
Call Pastor Bruce Peterson at 701-847-2916

### **Classic's Retreat at the ARC**

Osceola, Wisconsin  
October 5-7  
Teachers — Pastor Ken Thoreson and Pastor Bruce Peterson  
Call Pam Olson at 888-748-3969

### **Fall Family Retreat at the ARC**

Osceola, Wisconsin  
October 26-28  
Speaker — Pastor Jeff Swanson  
Call Pam Olson at 888-748-3969



### Opportunity available with Partners in Mission Outreach

God has used "Partners in Mission Outreach" bus trips to Mexico in recent years to bring spiritual and practical help to our southern neighbors. Many of you have been a part of these trips and know how much is given and received on such short-term mission outreaches.

Currently our bus is sitting and we have no coordinator. Please pray with us to see both of these situations remedied. The PIMO bus is available for groups who would like to organize trips to annual conferences, the FLY convention or mis-

sion outreaches. The PIMO board will help as we can with such trips. If you would like to be considered for coordinator of PIMO or have names you would like to suggest for this position, let us know.

Contact PIMO with comments, suggestions or requests for trip help.  
Steve Snipstead  
PIMO Board  
(406) 752-2481  
stsnip5@juno.com  
or Jeff Swanson (815) 695-5489  
jswanson7@juno.com

### Sonja Dahl resigns as missionary nurse

The AFLC World Missions Committee accepted the tendered resignation of medical missionary Sonja Dahl during its last committee meeting. Miss Dahl has been on an educational leave of absence for approximately the past 18 months in order to complete schooling toward her registered nurse degree. Sonja has indicated that she desires to get medical work experience here in the United States before considering any further mission medical service. Sonja states: "God has not given me peace about continuing with AFLC World Missions, even though the burden for missions still lays heavy on my heart. In light of this I am resigning as missionary nurse from AFLC World Missions effective June 1, 2001."

The AFLC World Missions fami-

ly is thankful for the time and ministry that Sonja had among us and in our mission work in Brazil. Sonja's work and contribution on the Brazil AFLC campus in Campo Mourão and with the children of the Miriam Infant Home has been greatly appreciated. Our prayers go with Sonja as she begins this new time of work and ministry. We pray always that God would continue to bless her and open the various doors of opportunity and ministry that He would have in her future.

For those of you who have supported Sonja with your prayers and gifts, we thank you! To you who have provided financially, may I suggest that you prayerfully consider redesignating your gifts toward one of our missionary families who are critically short in their "person-

**Cokato, Minnesota** — Good Shepherd Free Lutheran presented a musical drama called "The Promise" during Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday weekends. Over 70 people from the congregation prepared this evangelistic message of love and peace as an outreach to the surrounding communities. Last year the congregation also presented this drama based on the life of Christ and nearly 1,500 people attended the four free performances.

**Thief River Falls, Minnesota** — Our Saviour's Free Lutheran Church is preparing to celebrate their 50th anniversary on August 5, 2001. They will be honoring charter members. AFLC President Robert Lee will be the morning speaker. Our Saviour's was the host congregation for the AFLC's organizing conference in October 1962.

**Missionaries Tim and Renata Hinrichs**, thank God for His presence and mercy which comforted them during the birth and death of their son, John Paul on January 4, 2001. They are grateful for the outpouring of prayers and cards from friends and supporters in the States. Their primary focus now is increasing the ministry of the Bible school in Poland. Their rental house in the Czech Republic is no longer available after June 1, so they are seeking housing across the border in Poland where they can be closer to the Bible school.

**Missionaries David and Sarah Nelson**, Lisbon, Portugal are praying for government approval in the form of being given visas to continue past the June 2001 deadline. This is a common struggle for evangelical workers in Portugal. Pray for the Nelsons and all who are proclaiming God's saving truth in spite of unfriendly government policies.

al support." Please contact the world missions office for details on "personal support" for one of our financially needy missionary families.

**For the World Missions Committee**  
—Eugene W. Enderlein

**Pastor Wayne Juntanen** has been called out of retirement to join Pastor Henry Johansen and Pastor Cliff Johnson on the "visitation team" at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cloquet, Minnesota.

**Durant, Oklahoma** — Faith Lutheran Church was received on the congregational roster of the AFLC by the coordinating committee on March 26. A home mission congregation, Faith is served by Pastor Gary Jorgenson, and worships in a new, recently completed facility.

## **Eight students complete studies at AFLTS**

On May 26, 2001, the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary will see eight students complete their programs. Graduating or completing their studies are: Jon Bylkas, Steve Carlson, Todd Erickson, Phil Hooper, Peter Makadi, Terry Wall and Peter Ward. Pastor Earl Korhonen will receive his M.Div. degree.

This year's first-year class of ten seminarians will be joined next year by 15 students who are expected to begin their seminary studies. About half of those new seminarians will be international students.

**Philip Hooper**, a colloquy student at the Free Lutheran Seminary last year, accepted a call to serve as associate pastor of Community Lutheran, Oceanside, California. Hooper, a graduate of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, also completed an internship at Faith Lutheran Church in Shakopee, Minnesota.

## **Matching gifts program benefits schools**

During the fourth quarter of 2000, Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) members gave Free Lutheran Seminary \$5,500 which was matched by AAL through their Member Gift-Matching Program. In that same quarter, the Association Free Lutheran Bible School was given \$4,940 through the same program. Annual gifts of \$25 to \$100 made by AAL members to participating Lutheran schools are matched dollar-for-dollar by AAL.



**Tioga, North Dakota** — Zion Lutheran sponsored a mission trip during March 15-20. Twenty-six people from the Tioga area participated in the work/mission trip to the inner city of Minneapolis. The group stayed at the Urban Immersion Retreat Center while they worked with several ministry and service organizations. They presented the Marie Sandvik Center with 26 quilts made by the Zion Quilting Ladies.

## **Seminary internships announced**

Two seminarians will begin their year of internship on June 1, 2001. Dana Coyle will spend the year at Elim Lutheran in Lake Stevens, Washington and with their pastor, Mark Molstre. Clint Hoff will travel to Cloquet, Minnesota to work with Pastor Tom Olson and St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

**St. Paul's Academy of Cloquet, Minnesota** currently has teaching positions available for a school administrator, an upper elementary teacher, and a kindergarten teacher. If you would like more information, contact Emery Risdall at St. Paul's Academy, 1705 Wilson Ave., Cloquet, MN 55720. Telephone 218-879-2536 or email [erisdall@aol.com](mailto:erisdall@aol.com)



**Deshler, Nebraska** — Pictured are some of the twenty-two members who have recently joined Abiding Word Lutheran Church. Pastor Jerome Nikunen is the present pastor at Abiding Word.

## Memorial Gifts

### Department given to

*In memory of*

### Home Missions

*Ann Olson*

*Borghild Trove*

*Ervin Rurup*

*Helmer Olson*

*Jerry Adams*

*Don Lerud*

*Linda Odegaard*

*Doris Mikkleson*

*Mrs. Palmer Heglie*

*Lyle Osmundsen*

*Ebb Carlson*

### World Missions

*Walter Amundson*

*Myrtle Dyrud*

*Harold Gast*

*Linda Odegaard*

### Vision 2004

*Vernon Nelson*

*LeRoy Sandal*

*John Schmidt, Jr.*

*Dean Hari*

*Mildred Hedke*

*Albert Bartsch*

*Mrs. Jack O'Neil*

*Gordon Newell*

*Myrtle Dyrud*

*Fred Peterson*

*Barton Olsen*

### Evangelism

*Harriet Dalager*

*Myrtle Dyrud*

### Youth Ministries

*Otto Grimsrud*

### General Fund

*Gordon Newell*

### Parish Education

*Myrtle Dyrud*

### AFLTS

*Erling Skarderud*

### AFLBS

*Pastor Saarisu*

*Borghild Trove*

*Mildred Pinkey*

*Gordon Hanson*

*Margaret Torgerson*

*Don Lerud*

*A. Sung*

*Linda Odegaard*

*Irene Hass*

### In Honor of

*AFLBS — Mr. and Mrs. Vernon*

*Kaldor's 50th anniversary*

*World Missions — Martin*

*Bjornson's 90th birthday*

## Two churches being refurbished for centennial celebrations

Calvary Lutheran Church of Everett, Washington is remodeling their church in preparation for their 100-year anniversary scheduled for August 10-12, 2001.

First Lutheran of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma is preparing to renovate their building in preparation for their centennial celebration scheduled for June 12-13, 2002. This past April 20, the Oklahoma City Community College Chamber

Choir performed a concert in First Lutheran's beautiful nave. This was a first in a series of musical events commemorating their centennial.

### Missionaries Henry and

**Linda Mohagen**, Naknek, Alaska are thankful to be through their first Alaskan winter. Though it was less severe than the previous winter, they have learned much about survival. Linda also completed an EMT class. They recently wrote, "We enjoy our work here and look forward to what the Lord has in store for us each new day. We keep busy with Bible studies and worship services."

**Winger, Minnesota** — Dovre Lutheran hosted the North Central Minnesota District Spring WMF Rally on April 28. Pastor Bill Goodman, Bemidji, Minnesota spoke on his trip to China last November.

## WMF Memorial Gifts

Oford Boe, Tioga, ND

Anne Olson, Valley City, ND

Linda Odegaard, Tioga, ND

Mylo Sorensen, Valley City, ND

Selmer Kjelland, Valley City, ND

Esther Helgeland, McVile, ND

Julius Lauen, Watertown, SD

Alice Dahl, Roseau, MN

Vernon Nelson, Grand Forks, ND

**Dalton, Minnesota** — Zion-Sarpsborg Lutheran enjoyed hearing their new 13-rank pipe organ on Easter Sunday. The organ is a 1926 Moller that was originally in the Federated Church in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

### Dr. A.L. Barry dies

The president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, passed away on March 23, 2001. The Rev. Dr. A. L. Barry, 69, was the church body's eleventh president and the first to die in office. The LCMS is the second largest Lutheran group in North America, with 2.6 million baptized members in 6,121 congregations. The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Kuhn, the Missouri Synod's First Vice President, will serve as president until a new president is installed in September.

## Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

### AFLC Benevolences (3 months) – January 1 - March 31, 2001

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D	% TOTAL
General Fund . . . . .	\$267,241.00	\$19,135.87	\$73,735.84	28
Seminary . . . . .	126,462.00	10,545.83	37,717.15	30
Bible School . . . . .	162,545.00	15,328.98	46,919.23	29
Home Missions. . . . .	242,838.00	23,075.71	68,897.22	28
World Missions. . . . .	206,762.00	19,186.06	57,373.84	28
Capital Investment . . .	9,490.00	413.75	1,767.10	19
Parish Education . . .	78,302.00	3,504.91	17,674.04	23
Church Extension . . .	26,119.00	4,695.36	7,535.54	29
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,119,759.00</b>	<b>\$95,886.47</b>	<b>\$311,619.96</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>TOTALS 2000 . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,147,510.00</b>	<b>\$83,839.21</b>	<b>\$270,482.82</b>	<b>24</b>

### Goal 25%

The evangelism department received \$3,864.67 in March.

## Growth that is desirable

**W**hen you are elementary-school age you enjoy hearing people comment on how you have grown. When you get into adulthood your body can still get bigger, but it's the kind of growth where you go out and not up. It's no longer desirable to be known as a "growing boy."

Some types of growth are healthy and sought after and some aren't. This applies to our physical bodies, and also to the body of Christ, the Church.

It can be tempting at times to become consumed with growth in numbers, both in our individual congregations and in our association of congregations. We can become "bottom-line" type of people who only look at how many are in attendance or how many belong. If the number is large and growing, we are pleased. We assume all is well. If the number drops we despair. We wonder what we are doing wrong. Those with large numbers get looked at as successful. They must be doing it right. The temptation comes to wonder about those with small numbers and look down on them in some way.

Numbers need to be noticed, but we should analyze the numbers and look beyond them.

Various studies have concluded that in the past decade in no county in America has church attendance grown at a faster rate than the growth of the county's total population. One speaker, in considering that statistic, spoke on how some churches have seen large growth in numbers. That growth, however, is often transfer growth — people who belonged to one church but now have transferred to another — as opposed to conversion growth — people who previously had no relationship with the Lord or a local congregation. Instead of seeing new people enter the kingdom of God, too often we are seeing people who are already in the kingdom simply trading places.

I appreciate the stance of one large-church pastor regarding people who begin attending their church after previously belonging to another Bible-teaching church. Those people are encouraged to return to their previous church and try and deal with the problems they may have had there. He discourages people from following after "the latest show in town."

May we in our local congregations have a similar type of focus: not seeking to draw people out of other Bible-teaching churches into ours, but to bring people who don't know Jesus into the kingdom. That was the Apostle Paul's desire: "It has always been my ambi-

tion to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation" (Romans 15:20, NIV).

Our AFLC has experienced much transfer growth over the years. Congregations that have experienced difficulties in other church bodies have found a home with us. We give thanks that we have been able to serve these congregations and our hope is that we will all be enriched by our fellowship. The type of growth we are most interested in, however, is not simply having more congregations on our roster. We are most interested in seeing more people in a relationship with Jesus. The question we should be asking is not just do we see more congregations in our association but do we see more people who belong to Jesus because of the work of our congregations.

The emphasis in our church body is on the local congregation. Our first fundamental principle states, "According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth." Thus, we long to see growth within our congregations; that they would grow in their relationship to the Lord and their outreach to the world. We desire for the growth in our departments and headquarters to be only that which is necessary to adequately serve the congregations. We do not look at the size of our departments as an indication of how well we are doing as a church body. We look at what is going on in the local congregations. This is because the Lutheran Free Church movement is, as

Dr. Bernhard M. Christensen described, "a cooperative venture in building Lutheran congregations by means of a dominant emphasis neither upon organization nor upon the intricacies of doctrine but upon living and personal Christian experience. ... It is an experiment in extreme ecclesiastical democracy and decentralization. It is a searching test of faith in the power of the Spirit of God."

The emphasis is to be "upon living and personal Christian experience." Our culture can tempt us to think if we have a growing number of activities, if our calendar is more full than it was before, things are good. Or we can pursue with fervor growth in how much money we take in or how big an organization we can create or numbers we can claim as members. May we seek most of all to see the numbers who know Jesus grow and that we would do as Peter commands, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18, NIV).

—Pastor Craig Johnson

**"Some types of growth are healthy and sought after and some aren't."**

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## THE ASSOCIATION RETREAT CENTER

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### Ready, set, grow

**W**hen I first came to the ARC in 1995, growth was one of the first things the board and I discussed. We wanted to be good stewards of what God had given us. We prayed that God would allow the ARC to be used by more people. Bob and Carol Dietsche were the first directors of the ARC. They laid an excellent foundation for us to build on. Now we were asking that God would broaden the ministry of the ARC.

God answered that prayer. We have experienced phenomenal growth. Seven years ago about 4,000 people visited the ARC. This year we expect over 15,000 people here on our grounds in rural Osceola, Wisconsin. God has more than exceeded our hopes and expectations for growth. I'm an optimistic person, and prefer to avoid the details. Six years ago when I thought about growth at the ARC, I was excited about seeing it filled with campers. I didn't think about the complications that would come with growth. Growth always requires change and most of the time it is not comfortable.

With the increase in numbers, one of the first challenges we faced was a lack of space. To remedy this, we needed more staff to remodel and build new facilities as well as to serve the growing numbers of campers. We now employ fifteen full-time, year-around staff and add 15-20 summer staff. More staff means working out employee benefits, schedules, vacation time, personality conflicts and the like. The increase in staff wages and benefits combined with the cost of building and renovat-

ing have created some financial challenges. We are deeply grateful for people like Bob Dietsche and Pastor Phil Featherstone who still work full-time at the minimum wage of 1960. Others have helped us during summer months and are paid only with room and board.

Another challenge we face is increased government regulation. As we grow, so do the stipulations. I am simply amazed at the amount of time I spend shuffling the increased paperwork.



These growing pains, whether experienced by families, congregations, or the ARC, are opportunities for us to stretch and realize more of our potential for what God wants us to be. Often they open our eyes to the bigger picture of who God is, what He can do and what He expects of us.

Recently we have seen tremendous growth in our AFLC camps, in large part due to Pam Olson, our new program director. We have also seen a surge in use from churches outside the AFLC. It has been an awesome experience to see God's Spirit working in the lives of so many people from these groups. I praise God for the opportunity to see His hand at work.

— **Eric Westlake**  
*Director of the ARC*

(If you decide to pray for growth and God answers, "Yes," He will stretch you in ways you might not expect, or be comfortable with. However, you will thank God that He did.)