

THE LUTHERAN 

MAY 2010

# AMBASSADOR



Caring  
*for those  
who* hurt

# Soul thirst

BY SARAH VANCE

*"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God" (Psalm 42:1).*

**I**s your soul thirsty? Does your spirit need refreshing? Once we have tasted the goodness of the Lord, we long for the refreshing water that can only come from worshipping God.

What a joy it is for us to engage our whole hearts and minds in worship to God! When we praise the Lord with our whole self and submit all of our hopes, dreams, and desires to Him, He is glorified. God desires for us to surrender our lives totally to Him, and leave nothing back. We humbly need to pray, "Jesus, have Your way in me. I want nothing more than to please You in everything I think, say and do. I don't have much Lord, but all that I have, it's Yours." The Lord is pleased when we sincerely pour out our adoration to Him in full abandon and pray, "Jesus, I love You. I love You more than anything else." God desires to hear us pray, "Lord, whatever brings You glory, help me to do it so that I may please You."

I believe the greatest refreshing we can experience is when we worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. Yet, we worship God not for our own benefit, but for His. You and I were specifically created to worship Him. God has made all things for His glory and for His pleasure, including you and me. God created music for the foremost purpose of magnifying and glorifying Him, which is why we are so blessed when we have a personal time of worshipping God with hymns and praise songs.



We've all had our share of ups and downs. We desperately need to praise God even during our times of pain, loneliness, and suffering.

God has filled you with His Spirit and enables you to praise Him even during the hardest times. God uses us even when we are utterly broken to lift up His name and give Him the glory that He deserves. Those who do not have the Holy Spirit's power in their lives are completely mystified by how we can praise God when things are going wrong in our lives. God even uses our testimony of praising Him in tough times for the unbelieving around us to give Him glory. God desires for you to have a testimony of praise during the things you are experiencing right now.

I encourage you to pray this prayer today: "Oh Lord, let me drink from Your fountain that will never run dry, the fountain of everlasting life. Lord, if I drink from Your fountain, I will never thirst again. Lord, take my spiritual dryness and fill me full of You until I overflow. Let me praise you with all that I am and with all that I have. You alone are worthy, Lord. Here am I, send me."

God promises that when we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. God bless you as you worship Him today.

*Vance is a registered nurse in an intensive care unit in Staples, Minn. Her husband, Pastor Jeremy Vance, serves Zion Free Lutheran in Wadena, Minn., and Bethany Free Lutheran Church of Bluegrass, Sebeka, Minn.*

May 2010 >>

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR vol. 48, no. 5

Editor Pastor Craig Johnson  
craigj@teleport.com

Managing Editor Ruth Gunderson  
ruthg@aflc.org

Editorial Board Oryen Benrud  
Pastor Jerry Moan  
Pastor James L. Johnson

**The Lutheran Ambassador** (USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413) is published monthly by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. AFLC headquarters and publications office is at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441. Phone (763) 545-5631; fax 763-545-0079.

**For subscription changes and information:** The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441. 763-545-5631 or e-mail at luthamb@aflc.org.

**Subscription rates:**

\$19 a year, Group Rate, U.S.  
\$20 a year, Individual, U.S.  
\$22 a year, International  
Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, MN,  
and additional mailing office.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441.

God does not comfort us to make us comfortable only, but to make us comforters.

—John Henry Jowett

I choose kindness ... I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

—Max Lucado

I have discovered that the people who believe most strongly in the next life do the most good in the present one.

—C. S. Lewis

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.

Proverbs 17:22 (NLT)

# Care *for the* • sick

BY PASTOR JIM JOHNSON

**K**enny stopped in my office one day. He had bad news. He'd been diagnosed with an aortic aneurysm. It was growing and was in danger of rupturing. The doctors were planning surgery, but even that was risky. Kenny asked if we could put James 5:14 into practice, "Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord." We talked it over and prayed and then arranged to proceed. After Bible study that Wednesday night a group of us stuck around. We gathered around Kenny, laid our hands on him and prayed. Then we anointed him with oil and prayed some more.

Kenny ended up having the surgery, and it was successful. He reminds me periodically of that answer to prayer. The fact that stands out to him was how the prayer time changed his outlook on the surgery. This was a difficult surgery and his age and health put him at high risk. But he was able to go into the hospital with a sense of calm assurance that God was with him and would take care of him and his family.

That incident sticks with me as a good example of applying God's Word to the issue of health care in a congregation. Kenny did what James said—he called the elders to pray. And that prayer and anointing was not in conflict with the physical treatment given by doctors and nurses.

The word used for "anoint" in James is not the word used for the anointing of prophets or kings in the Bible (the word usually associated with the "spiritual" use of oil in Scripture). James uses a word that normally describes physical treatment of

the body, as when the Good Samaritan helped the man who had been beaten (Luke 10:34). In other words, James was prescribing prayer and medicine.

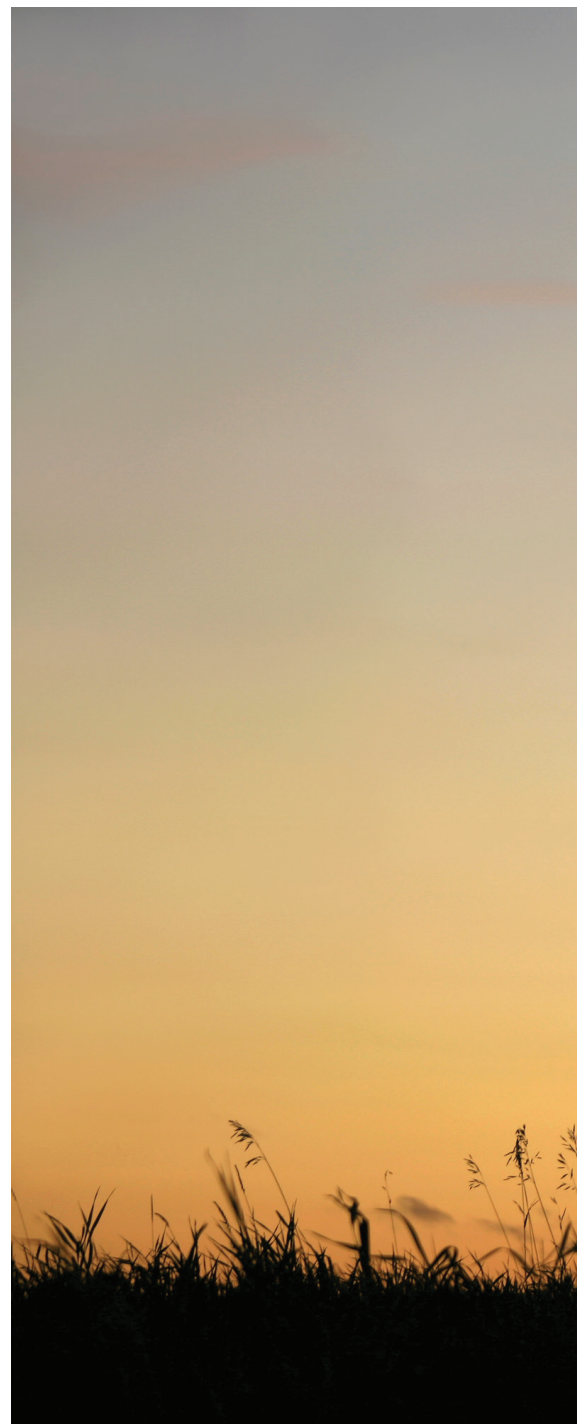
Prayer is the more significant of the two actions. It's the main verb in the sentence, the anointing is supplemental. And that is the main way a congregation can minister to the sick—prayer. It doesn't have to be in this form—anointing and prayer—though this should probably be more of a regular occurrence.

There are many ways to encourage prayer for the sick. Here at Calvary Free Lutheran in Fergus Falls, Minn., we make good use of prayer chains. We include these needs in our prayer times during Sunday worship services. And there are deacons and deaconesses connected to those who are sick in the congregation (as well as to others in need) for the specific purpose of regularly upholding them in prayer.

This is the main thing, since, as James

(5:15) writes, "the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up." Those words make clear that even when medical treatment is applied, we recognize that it is ultimately the Lord who brings healing.

I haven't always seen such positive results from our times of prayer and anointing. I struggle with faith in those situations. But I do know that in every case, God has brought complete healing for the individual, sometimes here in the physical realm, sometimes it has been eternal healing in heaven.







Congregational ministry to the sick involves more than prayer. I appreciate so much our Friendship Committee. Its members will call an individual or family dealing with sickness and arrange to bring food or other help as needed. Often help comes through willing individuals, not through formal congregational organization. A ride to a clinic appointment or help with house cleaning or with a fix-up project can be a huge lift to someone who is ill.

Just a few weeks ago Kenny brought smiles to another family when he stopped while driving past and cleaned the snow

off their front steps and sidewalk. Another congregation member came over with his snow-thrower after a bigger snowfall. Calvary's Sunshine Committee makes sure a card is sent to people who are hospitalized. And often the flow of other cards brings real cheer to a dreary hospital room. A visit to the sick person can be a real blessing.

Our Stephen Ministers are often assigned to people who are dealing with some kind of sickness. These trained lay people give one-to-one Christian care in their weekly visits as part of our congregation's Stephen Ministry, which functions under

the auspices of the Stephen Ministry organization in St. Louis, Mo.

The significance of the opportunity before our congregations when we care for the sick is seen in Matthew 25:36, where Jesus says, "I was sick and you looked after me." How well are we looking after Jesus in the guise of all those who are sick in our congregational communities?

*Johnson serves Calvary Free Lutheran, Fergus Falls, Minn.*

# Family battle

BY DEB ANTONSEN

Our battle with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) began on Feb. 26, 2004, when our son, Paul Jeremiah Antonsen, was born.

After daylong labor, and with much assistance from our family doctor, we met Paul for the first time at 11:07 p.m. From the onset, I could tell this birth was different from those of our two daughters. Our son was deathly grey and not crying. I kept repeating to the doctor, “He is not crying.” After just a few minutes, and before I could even hold Paul, the neonatal intensive care team was called in to work with our son.

Shortly thereafter, Paul was wheeled out of the room and my husband, Randy, and I were left to wonder and pray.

Early the next morning, Randy and I were visited by the pediatric cardiologist, Dr. Theresa Stamato, and her nurse, Barb. They informed us that heart testing done overnight had indicated that Paul was suffering from a condition called severe aortic stenosis—his main heart valve was too thick and was not allowing blood to pass freely to the rest of his body. Dr. Stamato went on to explain that the procedure needed to insure Paul’s survival could not be performed in our Sioux Falls, S.D., hospital. After careful and quick consideration, it was decided that Paul and I would fly via air ambulance to Iowa City, Iowa. Randy would drive there later in the day.

After arriving in Iowa City, Dr. Tom Fagen performed a balloon procedure in an attempt to open Paul’s main heart valve. Initially, the heart intervention worked. However, Paul’s recovery was slow. The three of us spent two weeks in Iowa. We came home expecting that Paul would fully

recover after a few months and life would return to normal.

Our first follow-up appointment with Dr. Stamato occurred two days after returning to South Dakota. It was then that I was informed of Paul’s secondary condition, pulmonary hypertension. In addition to his heart not doing quite as well as expected, we now knew that pressures in the artery between the heart and lungs were measuring 140 (normal pulmonary pressures range between 20 and 30).

Over the course of the next few years, our family had to transition from having a child with minor limitations, to having one who was seriously and chronically ill.

Six months after our Iowa City venture in 2004, our family made a trip to Ann Arbor, Mich., for the first of four open heart surgeries for Paul. In 2006 we returned to Michigan to try an experimental procedure to remove scar tissue from Paul’s heart, as well as to repair a valve. Over the course of time, we learned that although the scar tissue removal had successfully helped lower Paul’s pulmonary pressures, his mitral valve and enlargement of the left ventricle were becoming worrisome to his team of doctors.

This past year, Paul had to endure two open heart surgeries in Michigan, as well as pacemaker placement and listing for transplantation in Iowa City. He must now live his life with germ limitations, a mechanical heart valve, frequent finger pokes, and medications to manage his disease.

Over the course of these past six years, Randy and I have learned that God has a purpose and plan for each of our lives. We believe He has given us our son as a wakeup call. First of all, to show us the deep and

wide suffering such families as ours have to endure. Second, to impress upon our hearts that we as believers in Christ have a responsibility to engage a disease that kills more children yearly than *all* forms of cancer combined!

As we have been in the trenches, Randy and I have appreciated of the prayers of fellow Christians. We often say that Paul and our family would not be where we are today without prayer. Additionally, there are many folks who have helped us carry our burdens and in so doing maintain our miracle called Paul. The most helpful have been those who don’t try to fix our problems or family, but who stand ready to lend a hand as needed. Although those needs vary with each CHD family, we have found child care help, financial assistance, and home remodeling help extremely helpful.

As Randy and I have prayed and laid our heart desires before the Lord, we sense His leading for us to establish a “help for little hearts” ministry. While He has revealed the direction he wants our lives to take, the timing is still unclear.

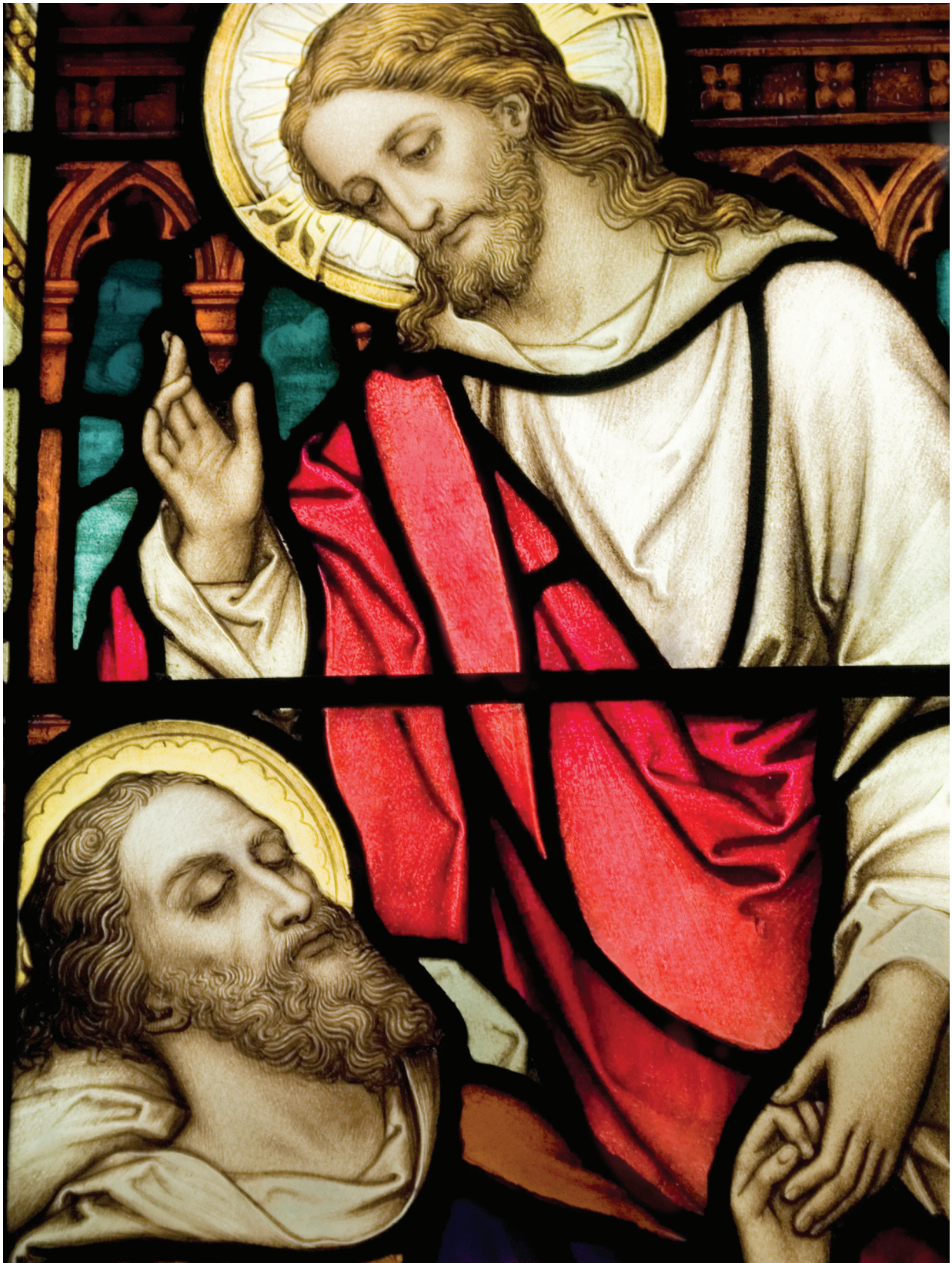
Prior to our pacemaker trip to Iowa City this past November, we had prayer wristbands made for our son. On the back is Philippians 4:13, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

*Antonsen and her family are members of Living Word Free Lutheran, Sioux Falls, S.D. More information regarding congenital heart disease and their journey as a family can be found on Paul’s Caring Bridge site ([www.caringbridge.org](http://www.caringbridge.org), then type in pauljeremiahantonsen).*











# *The healing* power *of* prayer

BY PASTOR TOM OLSON

**S**ome churches have healing services. I have always wanted the congregations I serve to have prayer teams to anoint the sick with oil and lay hands on them during Holy Communion. The command to do this from James 5 seems clear, but it is not in our worship tradition.

After serving almost 20 years in the ministry, an opportunity came, quite spontaneously, one Sunday morning at our little Faith Lutheran congregation in Mineral Point, Wis. Two intercessors volunteered to stand in the corner and pray during the communion distribution for anyone who needed healing. Several people felt touched by the hand of God that day, but for some reason we never repeated it. I knew that this was something we needed to do again at the right time.

When I was called to the 193-year-old St. John's Lutheran congregation in Newark, Ohio, I wondered if we could pray for the sick in this way. The front of our small historic sanctuary is crowded, and I wanted this prayer time to be publicly seen so that those in the pews could join us in prayer. But we had to have the right people to pray. God gives the gift of healing to certain people (I Corinthians 12:28). The Great Physician had wonderfully prepared about

seven of our members for the task, giving us enough people to pray at both services. These people had faith to believe God for healing and they had compassion forged by their own suffering.

With anointing oil in hand, our prayer ministers came forward at the first communion table. After serving them communion, I anointed their outstretched hands with oil and prayed a prayer of consecration over them. I was shooting from the hip because I never had done anything like this before. They stood in a small, open space in the front corner of the church and we invited anyone who wanted physical or emotional healing to come for prayer after they had communed.

The results have been extraordinary. People leave the prayer corner with tears in their eyes and testimonies of the touch of God. Rest assured, there is no emotional hype since our prayer time is offered during our liturgical communion service, which is taken from the *Ambassador Hymnal*. Amazingly, the power of God has been so strong that one of our older prayer ministers has reported that she can hardly remain standing in the mighty presence of God. Another team member recently reported the same thing.

To the best of my knowledge there

have not been any amazing healings like the blind receiving their sight. But it is my opinion that we pray because God's Word commands us to pray, not because we get what we want on our timetable. Something good must be happening because people keep coming back for prayer and the look on their faces tells me that the practice of anointing with oil and laying on of hands is good. In fact, this prayer is becoming spontaneous. One non-communion Sunday, after I finished shaking congregants' hands following the service, I noticed that a group of people were gathered in a huddle at the altar praying over a young woman who was to have surgery the next day. By the time I got there they were finished and I just said the Amen!

I urge your church to have a consecrated prayer team in the corner of your sanctuary to minister during communion to those who need the healing touch of God. Christ is still in the healing business, even here in the second oldest German Lutheran church west of the Alleghany Mountains. Exodus 15:26: "... for I am the Lord, who heals you."

*Olson serves St. John's Lutheran, Newark, Ohio.*

---

# Why we already measure up

By LIZ OLSON

**F**lat abs in just ten minutes! Shed ten pounds in just ten days!

Sound familiar? We live in a society whose focus is mainly on outward appearances, a society whose main goals are looking stylish, being fit, and ultimately being perfect. The problem is, nobody can live up to expectations like these. Nevertheless, we as believers have fantastic news: God tells us that His power is made perfect in our imperfections. We don't have to live up to society's expectations because, thankfully, God isn't an advocate for perfection. However, I do believe that Christ is an advocate for healthy living.

Healthy living can mean a thousand different things to a thousand different people, because it's really catered to the individual person. The beauty of exercising and eating healthy is that there are millions of different ways to do it. You can run, bike, swim, ski, and honestly do anything you want as long as you're moving. Being fit and healthy doesn't have to be a time-consuming, overbearing burden. It can be fun, although most of the time it does require some work and discipline.

Working out is incredibly beneficial. It raises mood levels, keeps blood pressure and heart disease risks at a minimal and even helps you lose weight. God tells us that our body is a temple of the Holy Ghost. I may be reading into this a little bit, but if our body is a temple and God resides in us, why wouldn't we want to be healthy? God

wants us to take care of ourselves.

I Thessalonians 4:4 says, "Each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable." We need to find a balance. Honoring God by caring for ourselves is important. God speaks against being lazy on several occasions in the Bible. Being lazy with our health is something that will eventually catch up with us. We will eventually see the effects of the McDonald's meals we ate everyday last week.

Being too fanatic about exercise can become harmful, too. We have such an emphasis on being thin and looking good that some teens and adults are overly involved in exercise and weight loss. We now have an increasing number of bulimic and anorexic disorders daily. Ephesians 5:29 says, "After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it." God calls us to feed and care for our bodies in a safe way.

How on earth do we care for our bodies without going overboard? Start small. Try to eat one healthy meal a day or start with one walk a day. If you just do one thing small each day, the effects begin to add up and you begin to notice a difference. Suddenly you feel a lot better than you did yesterday. You transform from only being able to run one minute to being able to run a marathon. God blesses those who work hard for Him. In everything you do, do it for the Lord. He will bless you. Even in exercise.

Remember what we find in Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own im-

age, in the image of God he created him ..." I think we often times forget that God created us, that we are created in *His* image, not anyone else. He knew exactly what you were going to look like, what color hair you were going to have, what body type you would have. He created you to look exactly how He wanted you to look. He had you in mind from the very beginning.

It's very easy to dislike what God created you to be. But once you go down that road, you begin to put a strain on your relationship with Him. If your mentality is, "If I could just be a little thinner or if I could just look like this other person, then I would be happier," you will soon become unbearably unhappy with what God created you to be. I think this is where Genesis 1:27 becomes unbelievably powerful—understanding that God created us in His image. We look exactly how we are supposed to look.

When you realize this, then it becomes easier to want to live a healthy life. Suddenly the pressure to look perfect or to be perfect is gone, because in Christ we are perfect. There is no amount of crunches to do or carrots to eat that will ever change that. Christ will always view us as His perfect creation.

*Olson, a junior at the Association Free Lutheran Bible School, is a member of Emmaus Lutheran, Bloomington, Minn.*





# The ministry of presence

BY CHAPLAIN KERWIN SLETTO

**B**ack in 1978 I was having coffee with a friend of mine by the name of Dale Jacobson. We were just sitting there and not really saying anything. I told Dale that I should think of something to say and Dale's response to me was that sometimes it's just good to sit quietly with a friend and enjoy each other's company without talking. That really spoke to my heart. We don't always have to talk, but we can enjoy each other's company.

When I arrived to serve as chaplain at Valley Memorial Homes in Grand Forks, N.D., they had a program called the Abiders. Abiders are volunteers who, when called, would come and sit for two hours with a resident who was nearing the end of his or her earthly life. We offer an Abider to the family for times when the family can't be there or when family lives a distance away. What a ministry of health and comfort for the terminally ill person as well as a comfort for the family to know that someone is with their loved one.

Currently we offer Abiders during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., but it is our hope to expand those hours so that an Abider would be available anytime during a 24-hour period. We want to expand our ministry of presence. Sometimes an Abider will sit quietly with the resident, while other times the Abider pray or provide Scripture. It all depends upon the circumstances with the resident. There have been many times when a resident has almost been in a coma, and yet as have I proclaimed God's promises and prayed, the resident has visibly relaxed. Thankfully God's Word does not return to Him without accomplishing the purpose for which it was sent (Isaiah 55:11).

In a way, sitting with people who are terminal is much like taking someone to the airport. Airlines require that we be at the airport at least two hours ahead of time before our flight takes off. We have to sit and wait. What a joy to have someone sit with us and keep us company. When the time arrives for the plane to leave, we watch as they get on the plane and fly off to their appointed destination.

By faith in Jesus, we don't need to fear being with someone when they die anymore than we need to fear seeing someone take off on an airplane. We can pray for them. We can wish them well. We can commit them into the hands of God to continue His provision for them. Jesus says that He goes to prepare a place for us and that He will come again to receive us to Himself that where He is, we may also be. He is the way, the truth and the life and the only way to the Father.



We have a wonderful opportunity of ministry to help people who are terminal and their families. We can abide with them. I encourage you to call your hospital or nursing home and ask if they could use a volunteer to abide. God opens doors of opportunity. May He bless you in your ministry of presence.

*Sletto, a chaplain at Valley Memorial Homes, Grand Forks, N.D., is the chairman of the AFLC's Division for Institutional Chaplaincy.*





## 2010 annual conference WELCOME

*AFLC Schools, Plymouth, MN, will  
host the annual conference June 15-18*

**I**t has been 15 years since the annual conference of the AFLC met in Bloomington, a southern suburb of the greater Minneapolis area. And it has been 26 years since meeting on the campus of the AFLC schools in Plymouth, Minn. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the AFLC Schools Board of Trustees for their invitation to all of the people of the AFLC to return home to the Medicine Lake campus on June 15-18 for the 48th annual conference.

The members of the conference planning committee are eagerly preparing for what we anticipate will be a large and joyful gathering. The theme for the conference is taken from Nehemiah 8:10b, "The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength." Congregations in the metro area are lending a hand in preparing for and carrying through with the many tasks involved with hosting such an event.



Pastor Elden Nelson

This issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* will provide information regarding registration, board and committee nominees, lodging, meals and the agenda. As in years past, the Commission on Evangelism will host AFLC pastors and wives to the seventh annual Rekindling the Fire set for Monday, June 14. The Women's Missionary Federation will gather for their annual day of fellowship, business, challenging studies and messages on Tuesday, June 15. At the same time, resolution committees will study reports and put together resolutions to be acted upon during the business sessions Wednesday through Friday, June 16-18. At least some of the boards and committees will also meet on Tuesday.

You will notice on page 19 that on Saturday, June 19, we are planning a worship seminar, which will be led by Tom Kraeuter. Tom shared with our pastors at the January Pastor's Conference, and was very well received. I personally believe this will be a great opportunity for our people to learn and grow in special ways on the topic of worship. It is being offered free of charge for all who attend.

Prayer is a vital part of the preparations for our meeting together. Thank you to all who have been so doing, and I encourage everyone of us to be praying for our Lord's direction and blessing as we plan for and attend this 48th annual conference.

Sven Oftedahl, one of the founding fathers of the Lutheran Free Church, referred to the annual conference as "The Power House of the LFC." It is my prayer that as in conferences of years past this conference will also know the power of God challenging us, inspiring us, and leading us in the work and fellowship of the Kingdom.

Thus, it is my privilege to welcome you to the campus of the AFLC Schools in Plymouth for the week of June 14-19 to share the joy of the Lord as you reunite with old friends, make new friends, listen, speak, pray, and worship, and in all be refreshed by His strength.

*Nelson, who is a member of Grace Free Lutheran, Maple Grove, Minn., is president of the AFLC.*



# 2010 annual conference AGENDA

**DATES:** June 15-18

**SITE:** AFLC campus, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN

**HOST:** AFLC Schools

*Note: The opening service will be held at New Hope Church, 4225 Gettysburg Ave. N., New Hope, MN*

## TUESDAY, JUNE 15

### 9 a.m.

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

### 7:30 p.m.

The opening service of the conference with Communion.  
New Hope Church, 4225 Gettysburg Ave. N., New Hope, Minn.

Leader: Pastor Peter Franz, Maple Grove, Minn.

Speaker: Pastor Tim Skramstad, Eagan, Minn.

AFLC President Pastor Elden Nelson will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

### 9 a.m.

Devotions: Seminarian Brett Boe

Report of the Credentials Committee

Adoption of the Conference Agenda

Approval of 2009 Annual Conference Report

Election of the Nominating Committee for the 2011 Conference

The President's Report

Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee,  
Pastor Gary Jorgenson, Baxter, Minn.

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

Reports of Chaplaincy Ministries

Institutional: Pastor Kerwin Sletto, Grand Forks, N.D.

Military: Pastor Mark Antal, Park River, N.D.

Report of the Director of the ARC,  
Pat Flanders, Osceola, Wis.

AFLC Financial Report,  
Cory Buck, New Hope, Minn.

Report of the Family Bible Camps

• Lake Bronson: Treasurer, Sonia Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minn.

• Wilderness: Treasurer, Jon Dryburgh, Grafton, N.D.

Report of the Budget Analysis Committee,  
Nathaniel Olson, Argusville, N.D.

Report of the Budget Analysis Review Committee,  
Cory Buck, New Hope, Minn.

Report of the Nominating Committee, always in order  
Election of nominees for the Missions, Schools and ARC  
Corporations

### 11:30 a.m.

Prayer Hour—Pastor Wayne Olson, Faith, S.D.

### Noon

Builder's Fellowship Lunch

Chaplain's Lunch

### 1:30 p.m.

Devotions: Seminarian Jeremy Crowell

Report of the Credentials Committee

Election Procedures

Elections: (all terms five years unless noted)

• President—three-year term

• Vice President—one-year term

• Secretary—one-year term

Selection of nominees to the:

• Home Missions Committee—one pastor;

• FLAPS Board of Managers—one layman;

• World Missions Committee—one layman; one  
layman (three-year term);

• Board of Trustees—one pastor;

• ARC Board—one layman

Report of Committee No. 1 (Administration)

Report of Nominating Committee

Election of nominees to the Coordinating Committee—  
one layman

Election of Committee No. 1 for the 2011 Conference

### 5:30 p.m.

Schools Corporation Annual Meeting

### 7 p.m.

The Mission Festival Service conducted by the WMF  
Speaker: Missionary Darwin Jackson, Nogales, Ariz.



## THURSDAY, JUNE 17

### 7 a.m.

Mission Corporation Annual Meeting

### 9 a.m.

Devotions: Seminarian Micah Hjermstad  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee,  
     Tom Caouette, Brooklyn Park, Minn.  
 Report of the Director of World Missions,  
     Pastor Del Palmer, Shakopee, Minn.  
 Report of Partners in Mission Outreach Board President,  
     Ken Sletten, Duluth, Minn.  
 Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee,  
     Pastor Richard Long, Arlington, Wash.  
 Report of the Director of Home Missions,  
     Pastor Paul Nash, Brooklyn Park, Minn.  
 Report of FLAPS Executive Director,  
     Lavon Bohling, Golden Valley, Minn.  
 Report of WMF President,  
     Lorilee Mundfrom, Eugene, Ore.  
 Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism,  
     Pastor Tim Johnson, Northwood, N.D.  
 Report of the Director of Evangelism,  
     Pastor James Rasmussen, Maple Grove, Minn.  
 Report of Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evangelism)  
 Report of the Missions Corporation Annual Meeting  
 Report of Nominating Committee  
 Election of member to the Commission on Evangelism—one  
     pastor; and one layman (two-year term);  
 Election of Committee No. 3 for the 2011 Conference

### 11:30 a.m.

Prayer Hour—Pastor Wayne Olson

### Noon

The ARC Corporation Annual Meeting  
 Partners in Mission Outreach Annual Meeting

### 1:30 p.m.

Devotions: Seminarian Michael Johnson  
 Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish  
     Education, Pastor John Mundfrom, Eugene, Ore.  
 Report of the Director of Parish Education,  
     Marian Christopherson, Crystal, Minn.  
 Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board,  
     Pastor Mark Johnson, Dalton, Minn.  
 Report of the President of the Free Lutheran Youth,  
     Daniel Keinanen, Onalaska, Wis.  
 Report of Youth Ministries Director,  
     Pastor Jason Holt, St. Michael, Minn.  
 Report of Committee No. 4  
     (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work)  
 Report of Nominating Committee  
 Election of member to the Board of Publications and Parish  
     Education—one pastor  
 Election of member to the Youth Board—one pastor  
 Election of Committee No. 4 for the 2011 Conference  
 Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board,  
     Pastor Greg Schram, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Report of the Chairman of the Benefits Board,  
     Jordan Volk, Brandon, S.D.  
 Report of Committee No. 5 (Stewardship and Benefits)  
 Report of Nominating Committee  
 Election of member to the Stewardship Board—one pastor;  
 Election of member to the Benefits Board—one pastor;  
     one layman (four-year term)  
 Election of Committee No. 5 for the 2011 conference

### 5:30 p.m.

Pastor's Banquet  
 Speaker: Pastor Thomas Gilman, Lakeville, Minn.

### 7 p.m.

Laymen's Service  
 Leader: Emil Busse, Eagan, Minn.  
 Speaker: Tom Caouette, Maple Grove, Minn.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 18

### 7 a.m.

FLAPS Annual Meeting

### 9 a.m.

Devotions: Seminarian Robert W. Lee  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
     Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Las Cruces, N.M.  
 Report of the Dean of the Seminary,  
     Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minn.  
 Report of the Dean of the Bible School,  
     Pastor Joel Rolf, Plymouth, Minn.  
 Report of Committee No. 2 (Schools)  
 Report of Nominating Committee  
 Election of Committee No. 2 for the 2011 Conference  
 Report of the Schools Corporation Annual Meeting

### 11:30 a.m.

Prayer Hour—Pastor Wayne Olson

### Noon

Lunch

### 1:30 p.m.

Devotions: Seminarian Thomas Olson  
 Report of Credentials Committee  
 Report of the Chairman of the Colloquy Committee,  
     Pastor Dennis Gray, Newfolden, Minn.  
 Election of Colloquy Committee for the 2011 Conference  
 Report of special committees  
 Election of Budget Analysis Committee—one pastor; one layman  
 Report of Committee No. 1 as the Committee on General  
     Resolutions  
 Other Reports

### 7:30 p.m.

Ordination/Closing Service  
 Leader: Pastor Greg Lenz, Chanhassen, Minn.  
 Speaker: Pastor Robert Lee, Crystal, Minn.

Conference Committee

Pastor Elden Nelson, President  
 Pastor Brian Davidson, Secretary

# 48th annual conference

# NOMINEES



## Coordinating Committee

(One layman, five-year term)

\*Lowell Watt, Park River, N.D.  
X

## Schools Board of Trustees

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One pastor, five-year term)

Pastor Jon Benson, Upsala, Minn.  
Pastor Eric Rasmussen, Fergus Falls, Minn.

## World Missions Committee

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One layman, five-year term)

Paul Handsaker, Radcliffe, Iowa  
Glen Mork, Buffalo, Minn.

(One layman, three-year term)

X

X

## Home Missions Committee

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One pastor, five-year term)

\*Pastor Dale Finstrom, Fertile, Minn.  
Pastor Tom Olson, Newark, Ohio

## ARC Board

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One layman, five-year term)

\*Roger Timm, Wilson, Wis.  
X

## Stewardship Board

(One pastor, five-year term)

\*Pastor Greg Schram, Thief River Falls, Minn.  
X

## Board of Publications & Parish Education

(One pastor, five-year term)

\*Pastor John Mundfrom, Eugene, Ore.  
Pastor Phil Hooper, Duluth, Minn.

## Youth Board

(One pastor, five-year term)

\*Pastor Wade Mobley, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Pastor Seth Forness, Fargo, N.D.

## Benefits Board

(One pastor, five-year term)

\*Pastor Larry Haagenson, Loveland, Colo.  
Pastor David Johnson, Silverhill, Ala.

(One layman, four-year term)

X

X

## Commission on Evangelism

(One pastor, five-year term)

Pastor Jim Johnson, Camarillo, Calif.  
Pastor Peter Franz, Maple Grove, Minn.

(One layman, two-year term)

Ron Smith, Brookings, S.D.  
Eldon Hesterberg, Gifford, Ill.

## FLAPS Board of Managers

*Voted on by corporation members*

(One layman, five-year term)

Tim Erhardt, Lake Stevens, Wash.  
Kevin Lee, Beulah, N.D.

\* Incumbents  
 \*\* Must be re-elected to corporation to remain on committee or board  
 X Nominations not named by press deadline

## Missions Corporation

(20 terms of five years each)

Dr. Peter Dyrud, Plymouth, Minn.  
 \*\*Pastor Dale Finstrom, Fertile, Minn.  
 \*\*Gene Finstrom, Buxton, N.D.  
 Vonne Coyle, Nicollet, Minn.  
 Pastor Michael Flechsig, Ortley, S.D.  
 Cal Gunnink, Ortonville, Minn.  
 Arley Hartsoch, Ray, N.D.  
 Pastor David Hinrichs, Park River, N.D.  
 Pastor Mark Johnson, Dalton, Minn.  
 Ron Jorgenson, Beulah, N.D.  
 Micah Hjermstad, Bethel Park, Pa.  
 Chris Kiefer, Ontonagon, Mich.  
 Glen Larson, Fosston, Minn.  
 David Littler, Duluth, Minn.  
 \*\*Dr. Lyle Mattson, Greenbush, Minn.  
 Pastor Ken Moland, Kirkland, Wash.  
 Pastor David Nelson, Ontonagon, Mich.  
 Pastor Kris Nyman, Beulah, N.D.  
 \*\*Pastor Joe Ocker, Frost, Minn.  
 Kevin Olson, Eden Prairie, Minn.  
 Doug Panchot, Velva, N.D.  
 Ralph Peterson, Portland, N.D.  
 Greg Schmitke, Glyndon, Minn.  
 Dean Skoglund, Bruce, S.D.  
 Wanita Sletten, Duluth, Minn.  
 Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S.D.  
 Nancy Staudinger, Ontonagon, Mich.  
 Ron Staudinger, Ontonagon, Mich.  
 \*\*Loren Tungseth, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
 Eunice Will, Springfield, Mo.

10 more nominees needed

(one three-year term)

X  
 X

## Schools Corporation

(10 terms of five years each)

Pastor Alan Arneson, Fosston, Minn.  
 Pastor Ronald Dahle, Grenora, N.D.  
 Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.  
 Pastor Kirk Flaa, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
 Bonnie Handsaker, Radcliffe, Iowa

David Handsaker, Radcliffe, Iowa  
 Kevin Kantonen, Cloquet, Minn.  
 Scott Knutson, Minot, N.D.  
 Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, Cokato, Minn.  
 Paul Kylo, Byron, Minn.  
 Corrine Mattson, Greenbush, Minn.  
 \*\*Michael McCarlson, Webster, S.D.  
 Michele Mobley, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
 Pastor Brent Olson, Clayton, Mo.  
 Pastor James Molstre, Bethel Park, Pa.  
 Brent Peterson, Valley City, N.D.  
 Wendy Westlake, Zumbrota, Minn.  
 X  
 X  
 X

(One one-year term)

X  
 X

(One four-year term)

X  
 X

## ARC Corporation

(10 terms of five years each)

Peder Aadahl, Brookings, S.D.  
 Alan Behm, Lowry, Minn.  
 Scott Bellefy, Wallace, S.D.  
 Oryen Benrud, Goodhue, Minn.  
 Andy Benson, Montgomery, Ill.  
 Pastor Eric Christenson, Amery, Wis.  
 Mike Coyle, Nicollet, Minn.  
 Ernie Hilbert, Wheatland, Iowa  
 Kevin Holman, Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Kevin Hooper, Ishpeming, Mich.  
 Nancy Langness, Ishpeming, Mich.  
 Kenneth Lehmann, Onarga, Ill.  
 Pastor David Keippela, Wyoming, Minn.  
 Kevin Mortenson, Dexter, Minn.  
 Dennis Parsley, Pipestone, Minn.  
 Pastor Tonnes Pollestad, Andover, Minn.  
 Roger Quanbeck, Cavalier, N.D.  
 Pastor John Rieth, Grand Forks, N.D.  
 Lee Schierkolk, Valley City, N.D.  
 Greg Tanner, Brookings, S.D.

## Nominees to serve at the 2011 conference

### Committee No. 1

(Administration)

Kurt Ziegler,  
 Bethel Park, Pa.

X  
 X  
 X  
 X

### Committee No. 2

(Schools)

Pastor Ronald Dahle,  
 Grenora, N.D.

Tom Olson,  
 Plymouth, Minn.

X  
 X  
 X

### Committee No. 3

(Missions and Evangelism)

Pastor John Amundson,  
 New Leipzig, N.D.

X  
 X  
 X  
 X

### Committee No. 4

(Publications and Parish Education)

Pastor Rodney Johnson,  
 Stanley, N.D.

Pastor Paul Kneeland,  
 Sahuarita, Ariz.

X  
 X  
 X

### Committee No. 5

(Stewardship and Pensions)

Donald Bullene,  
 Bloomington, Minn.

X  
 X  
 X  
 X



## REGISTRATION

**June 15-18 at the AFLC Schools, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, Minn.**

For a downloadable form, and for more information, visit [www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org) and click on "conferences"

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (if attending): \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

AFLC Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership (Check one)

You: \_\_\_\_\_ Rostered AFLC Pastor or serving AFLC church \_\_\_\_\_ Visiting Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Member \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Visitor

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Rostered AFLC Pastor or serving AFLC church \_\_\_\_\_ Visiting Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Member \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Visitor

Name of person attending WMF Convention on June 15: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the number of children attending: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 and younger \_\_\_\_\_ 6-12 \_\_\_\_\_ 13-17

**Meals and banquets:** Children ages 5 and younger eat free. Board and committee members must register for applicable meals. When two options are available, please check which meal(s) you will be attending by marking the number of those attending in box(es) before meal. **Meal registration must be received by May 31.**

Meal	Ages 13-Adult	#	Ages 6-12	#	Total
Tuesday Conference breakfast	\$5.50		\$2.75		\$
Tuesday Conference Committee lunch	\$7		N/A		\$
Tuesday WMF luncheon	\$7		N/A		\$
Tuesday WMF banquet	\$8.50		N/A		\$
Wednesday breakfast: <input type="checkbox"/> WMF advisory board <input type="checkbox"/> Conference	\$5.50		\$2.75		\$
Wednesday lunch: <input type="checkbox"/> Builder's Fellowship <input type="checkbox"/> Conference	\$8.50		\$4.25		\$
Wednesday dinner: <input type="checkbox"/> School's Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Conference	\$8.50		\$4.25		\$
Thursday breakfast: <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Conference	\$5.50		\$2.75		\$
Thursday lunch: <input type="checkbox"/> ARC Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Conference	\$8.50		\$4.25		\$
Thursday Conference dinner	\$8.50		\$4.25		\$
Thursday Pastors and Wives banquet	\$15		N/A		\$
Friday breakfast: <input type="checkbox"/> FLAPS <input type="checkbox"/> Conference	\$5.50		\$2.75		\$
Friday Conference lunch	\$8.50		\$4.25		\$
Friday Conference dinner	\$8.50		\$4.25		\$
<b>Total meals</b>					<b>\$</b>
<b>Conference registration fee (\$30 single/\$40 couple)</b>					<b>\$</b>
<b>WMF convention registration fee (\$7)</b>					<b>\$</b>
<b>Total registration and meals</b>					<b>\$</b>

Make checks payable to "AFLC Schools" and mail to: AFLC, c/o Conference Registration, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441.

# Housing options for 2010 annual conference

The 2010 annual conference will be held June 15-18 on the campus of the AFLC Schools in Plymouth, Minn. The conference committee has gathered information on available housing for conference attendees. The options range from on-campus dorm housing to hotels and campgrounds. The map at right shows the approximate location of the campus (noted by star) and the housing options (A-G).

★ Campus dorms will be available to rent for the week. Options include \$25/night for a two-person room or \$35/night for three to four people. There is a one-time charge of \$10 for bedding per person. A limited number of air conditioning units are also available for \$10/day. Call (763) 544-9501 to reserve a room.

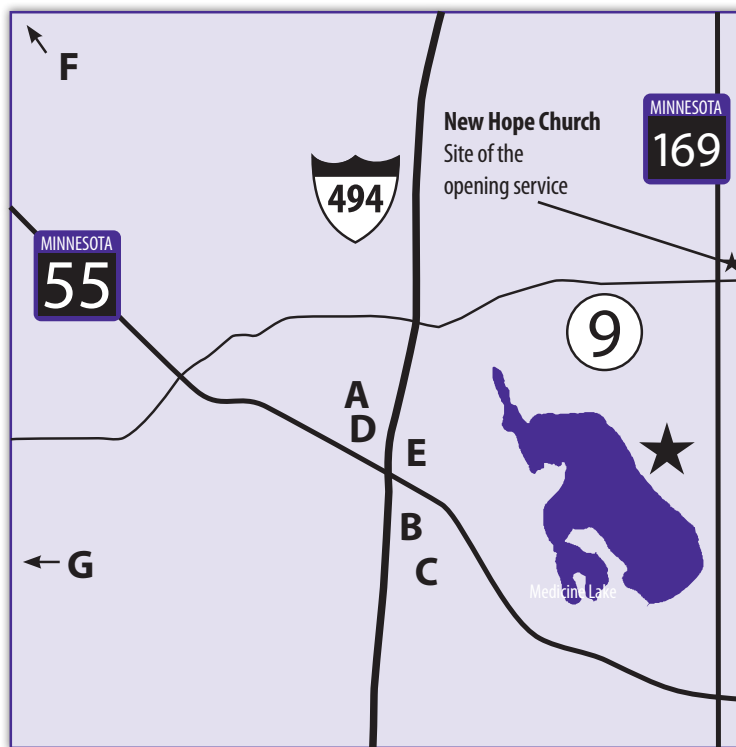
**A:** Comfort Inn, 3000 Harbor Lane, Plymouth. One king or two double beds for \$75/night. Call (763) 559-1222 or visit [www.comfortinn.com](http://www.comfortinn.com).

**B:** Best Western, 2705 North Annapolis Lane, Plymouth. One king or queen, two queens or two doubles for \$75/night. Call (800) 528-1234 or visit [www.bestwesternplymouth.com](http://www.bestwesternplymouth.com).

**C:** Red Roof Inn, 2600 Annapolis Lane, Plymouth. One king for \$55/night; two doubles for \$60/night; one king with microwave and refrigerator for \$65/night. Call (763) 553-1751 or visit [www.redroof.com](http://www.redroof.com).

**D:** Days Inn, 2955 Empire Lane, Plymouth. Any room for \$47/night with AFLC rate. Must make reservations 30 days in advance. Call (763) 559-2400.

**E:** Radisson Hotel, 3131 Campus Drive, Plymouth. One king or two doubles for \$109/night. Call (763) 559-6600.



**F:** KOA campground, Maple Grove. Call (763) 420-2255.

**G:** Baker Campground, 2309 Baker Park Road, Maple Plain. Call (763) 559-6700 or visit [www.threeriversparks.org](http://www.threeriversparks.org).

## Register for children, youth events

Special programs will be available for children and youths during the AFLC annual conference June 15-18 on the campus of the AFLC Schools, Plymouth, Minn.

Activities for youths in grades 7 through 12 will include Bible studies, recreation and service projects. A complete list of activities and a registration form is available online at [www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org). Click on "conferences," then on "2010."

A VBS and daycamp enrollment form for children ages 5 through those in 6th grade is also available on the Web site. The VBS program will be held at Grace Free Lutheran, Maple Grove.

Finally, a nursery registration form is available for children ages 4 and younger. The nursery will be available June 15-18.

## Day of events planned for WMF

The WMF Day is planned for Tuesday, June 15, on the campus of the AFLC Schools, Plymouth, Minn., beginning with a time of worship in the chapel. A Bible study will be led by Mary Christenson. A business meeting will follow.

Lunch will be held in Heritage Hall, followed by workshops under the theme of encouragement. Ellen Monseth will speak on Persevering through Forgiveness; Beth Talley will speak on Remembering God's Faithfulness; Beverly Enderlein will speak on Encouragement to Persevere; and DaNeil Olson will speak on Our Source of Encouragement: Total Dependence on God.

The day will conclude with a banquet at 5 p.m., with AFLC missionary Becky Abel speaking.

## Worship seminar after conference

The AFLC will sponsor a free seminar on worship June 19 on the campus of the AFLC Schools in Plymouth, Minn.



**Kraeuter**

The seminar, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall, will feature author and speaker Tom Kraeuter.

The seminar is a practical, biblical forum focusing on the heart and substance of worship. Far from a typical seminar setting, Tom's engaging style and practical teaching will keep you involved and interested throughout the day.

"I have attended five of these seminars and each one gets better. ... I have seen Tom's passion for Christ grow and intensify over the years ... I know this seminar will challenge and encourage all who long to experience Christ," said Pastor David Johnson, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minn.

Morning sessions will run from 9 to 11:30 a.m., with a lunch break until 12:30 p.m. Afternoon sessions will be held until 3:30 p.m. Registration is at 8:30 a.m.

This seminar will be offered at no cost for AFLC Conference attendees, but you must register in advance. Please call Karen Floan at (763) 545-5631 to register, or register online at [www.training-resources.org/wsem\\_aflc.html](http://www.training-resources.org/wsem_aflc.html).

# The hands and feet of Christ

BY MOLLY WIESEN

**C**enturies before “health-care” and “reform” were buzzwords that caused debate, anxiety, and conflict, the Bible gave us wonderful examples of caring for those who had sickness and infirmity. Jesus, our great physician, teaches that we have the capacity to contribute to the health and well-being of others through three effective “Ts” of intervention: time, touch, and telling.

Jesus gave of His time. He was not too busy to go to a person, one-on-one, and help him or her, as we see when He went to Peter’s mother-in-law and healed her. He took the time to talk with people and learn their stories, asking the father of the boy with convulsions (Mark 9:21), “How long has he been like this?” He stopped in the middle of important things (teaching/dialoguing with the Pharisees) and made time to address the needs of the paralytic man who was lowered through the roof (Luke 5 17-25). Jesus gave of His time to all people, without prejudice toward race or class. He showed mercy in healing a synagogue ruler’s daughter (Luke 8:50-55), as well as the daughter of the Syrophoenician woman (Mark 7:25-30), and raised from the dead the son of a poor widow (Luke 7:11-15).

Jesus consistently reached out and physically touched those in need. He knew what researchers in our time have proven—that touch has a beneficial physiologic effect. The firm reassuring pressure of a warm hand or a sincere hug prompts healing responses



in a person’s body. Scripture recounts many times when Jesus, with no hesitation, reached out and touched the person He was helping. He was willing to touch, even when it wasn’t very attractive, as we see when He touched the leper (Mark 1:41). In Mark 7:33-35, we see Him putting His finger in a man’s ears and touching his tongue in order to restore the man’s speech and hearing.

Jesus constantly told people how to cure their biggest problem: “Turn from your sin and be healed.” Romans 10:14 says, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” We need to share that truth.

As followers of Christ, we *can* make a difference in the big picture of health. Make a nutritious meal for a shut-in person. Take the time to listen to people talk about changes in their health, which could lead to an earlier diagnosis and treatment. Help a person in need get regular checkups. Volunteer at a pregnancy help center. Hold hands with a senior person. Drive someone to

chemo treatment. Hug the new mom at church. Pat a veteran in the nursing home on the back. Put your arm around an insecure teen. Share the gospel. Love doesn’t cost billions; it’s priceless.

*Wiesen, the second vice president for the WMF, is a member of Bethel Free Lutheran, Grafton, N.D.*





BY TOM CAOUETTE

# Our mission

**T**he question has been asked of the AFLC World Missions Committee (WMC), “Why do you send missionaries overseas when there is such a great need here in the United States or even in our own community?” The answer is that we do what we do because God has instructed us to do so. Matthew 28:19 is referred to as the Great Commission, and it is also the basis of the AFLC World Missions purpose statement which reads: “By the grace of God, to make disciples of all nations through teaching and evangelism.” Other departments within the AFLC, including the local congregations, serve to meet the needs close to home.

Another question asked of the AFLC WMC is, “How do you intend to achieve this purpose?” The response to that question can be found in the World Missions vision statement, which reads: “The vision of the AFLC World Missions Committee is to establish self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating congregations around the world.” This is accomplished with more of an emphasis on teaching as opposed to providing, and more of an emphasis on people as opposed to infrastructure or capital investment. It is also the intent of the AFLC WMC to not simply facilitate an individual’s call to missions, but to develop opportunities for people to serve in world missions.

This new direction does not mean we abandon the work already achieved or in progress, such as the Bible school and church planting ministry in Brazil. It simply means new work will more likely follow the example of the new work in Uganda, which has an emphasis on training leaders. The Ambassador Institute, under the direction of Pastor Kevin Olson, is now well established to assist missionaries in the area of training curriculum and support.

The question that begs asking now is, “Who is willing to

serve?” All existing AFLC mission fields are currently in need of additional missionaries. The World Missions department desires to expand the work through sending additional reinforcements to our existing mission fields. The World Missions Policy Manual provides for the creation of a Field Conference, where missionaries serving the same field work together to accomplish their goals. This does not mean they have to be located in the same city; rather, they should meet together on a regular basis to assess their activities and provide a unified voice back to the United States in regards to their needs and recommendations. This process does not restrict individual goals and gifts, but rather provides a vehicle for support and encouragement.

Teaming with other mission organizations is also proving effective for AFLC missionaries. East European Missions Network (EEMN), World Mission Prayer League (WMPL), and Wycliff currently have AFLC missionaries serving in their organizations. This teaming arrangement opens many more doors of opportunity and provides for a much more efficient operation in regard to cultivating multiple mission fields.

John 4:35 says, “Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”

If you might consider the call to missions, please contact the World Missions office to look into the opportunities. The candidate process is non-binding and provides ample opportunity for God’s leading in this area. The call is free and the benefits are eternal, so what do you have to lose?

*Caouette, Maple Grove, Minn., serves as the chairman of the AFLC World Missions Committee.*

# AFLC memorials: March

## AFLBS

David Klukken  
Lois Johnson

## AFLTS

Clinton Peterson

## All Departments

Pastor Donald Duff

## Evangelism

Alta Hanson

## FLAPS

Rachel Tuura

## Home Missions

Lois Johnson

## Parish Education

Jeff Nelson

## Vision

Wayne Erickson

## World Missions

Pastor Milo Gudim  
Helen Tollefson  
Erling Emerson Jr.  
Carl Lindblom

## ARC hosts upcoming retreats

A look at upcoming retreats and camps at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis.

### • Family Weekend at the ARC

Dates: May 21-23

Cost: Free

It's a perfect time to get away and rest a while. We will open our camp to you to enjoy a weekend on us to show you how much we appreciate your support. Spend two nights and enjoy five meals with us. Meet new friends or get together with old ones. Either way, you'll enjoy some great spring weather and friendships.

Join us in getting ready for the summer camping season. Projects include general landscaping, planting flowers, firewood cutting and splitting, and painting (weather permitting). Service projects are not a requirement of your stay with us.

Please let us know by May 10 if you are coming so that we can plan for you. Call (800) 294-2877 or e-mail [arcregistration@centurytel.net](mailto:arcregistration@centurytel.net) to reserve your time with us.

### • Fire Up Camp

Grades 4-7

Date: June 20-25

Leader: Pastor Eric Westlake, Zumbrota, Minn.

Theme: Let's Not Just Survive, Let's Thrive

Cost: \$190

### • Kids' Camp

Grades 1-3

Dates: June 25-27

Leaders: Jim and Tosca Grimm, directors of Our Space, a Christian child care program.

Theme: Daniel the Fearless Prophet

Cost: \$75

### • Family Camp

Dates: July 25-31

Cost: Vary according to family size, accommodations

For more information on these retreats and future camps, contact the ARC by e-mail at [arcregistration@centurytel.net](mailto:arcregistration@centurytel.net) or call 800-294-2877. You can also visit the ARC Web site at [www.arc-aflc.org](http://www.arc-aflc.org) for more information.

## People and Places

**Tom Olson**, who will graduate from AFLTS in May, has accepted a call to serve the Trinity Lutheran Parish of Zap (Immanuel Lutheran), Dodge (St. Paul Lutheran), and Golden Valley (Golgotha Lutheran), N.D. Olson's home church is Grace Free Lutheran, Edinburg, N.D. He is serving his internship at Trinity Lutheran Parish and Prince of Peace Lutheran, Beulah, N.D.

**Brett Boe**, who will graduate from AFLTS in May, has accepted a call to serve as associate pastor at the Dalton, Minn., parish—Kvam Free Lutheran, Zion-Sarpsborg Lutheran and Tordenskjold Free Lutheran (Underwood). Boe's home church is Helmar Lutheran, Newark, Ill. He is serving his internship assignment at Bethel Free Lutheran, Grafton, N.D.

The site for the **opening service** of the AFLC Annual Conference has been changed. The service will be held at 7:30 p.m. June 15 at New Hope Church, 4225 Gettysburg Ave. North, New Hope, Minn.



Galilee Bible Camp now has a new building on site, which will be used as a utility space. Besides a storage area, the building also houses a workshop and bathroom. Galilee Bible Camp is located in Minnesota's Lake Bronson State Park. Family camp will be held July 5-9.

## AFLC BENEVOLENCES Jan. 1-March 31, 2010

FUND	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	PRIOR YEAR-TO-DATE
General Fund	\$26,548	\$80,078	70,215
Evangelism	10,288	50,117	21,231
Youth Ministries	7,371	54,996	14,952
Parish Education	11,982	26,044	33,020
Seminary	19,798	58,464	46,461
Bible School	31,0559	123,126	66,847
Home Missions	27,050	140,614	65,914
World Missions	24,428	77,901	54,124
Personal Support	25,486	73,792	96,933
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$184,005</b>	<b>\$685,132</b>	<b>469,696</b>

Contact the individual departments for further information about specific financial needs.

# Hearts of compassion

In the days of the early Church, a severe epidemic hit many areas of the world. City officials offered up gifts to the gods, hoping that would end the misery. They did nothing, however, for their suffering citizens.

Christians, even though they faced frequent persecution, refused to ignore the needs of these people who were created in the image of God and loved by Jesus. They were often the only ones who would care for the sick and bury the dead. Dionysius,



Pastor Craig Johnson

bishop of Alexandria, wrote, "Presbyters, deacons, and laymen took charge of the treatment of the sick, ignoring the danger to their own lives. ... Their activity contrasted with that of the

pagans, who deserted the sick or threw the bodies of the dead out into the streets."

In A.D. 251 the church in Rome cared for 1,500 widows and others in need. A hundred years later the church in Antioch was supporting 3,000 widows, sick, poor and travelers.

Even some of those who were involved in persecuting the Church recognized that nobody cared for the hurting the way the Christians did. It became understood that if you were suffering, the people to turn to were the Christians.

In our day, in places around the world that have been hit by terrible disasters, such as Haiti after the recent earthquake, Christian relief agencies have maintained the Church's legacy of caring for those in

distress. Even secular news reporters have taken note that Christians have been the first to arrive to the places of great need. They have worked the hardest and stayed the longest.

The Church has a great legacy, and we should strive to maintain it. We should make it our goal to be known, in our own country and around the world, as the people who care for the hurting more than anyone else does.

In the Gospels we see that people looked at Jesus as the One to turn to when they were suffering. "When the sun was setting the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them" (Luke 4:40, NIV). No one cared for those who were suffering like Jesus cared. "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:35-36).

In the midst of all the debate that has been going on in our country over health care, I pray Christians would be known as the people who have the most concern for the sick and the suffering. Having a heart full of compassion for the hurting isn't being soft or liberal. It is being Christlike.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus told of a man who had been beaten

up by robbers and left half dead by the side of the road. A priest and a Levite passed by him on the other side. Maybe they thought it was the man's own fault that he was in trouble. Maybe they thought some agency should be responsible for his care. Maybe they just felt they were too busy.

A Samaritan stopped and bandaged the man's wounds and cared for him.

*We should make it our goal to be known, in our own country and around the world, as the people who care for the hurting more than anyone else does.*

Samaritans were a despised ethnic group, and the hurting man probably belonged to a different group. People wouldn't have considered it the Samaritan's job to do this, but he stopped anyway and cared for the man's needs. That is the kind of thing you do when you love your neighbor (Luke 10:25-37).

Jesus said when we look after the sick we are doing it for Him (Matthew 25:36-40). He identifies with the suffering people of the world. That encourages us when we suffer and it motivates us to serve. Hurting people matter a great deal to Jesus and so they should matter to us as well.



---

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

---

---

Periodicals

---

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*building the base*

BY PASTOR TOM TUURA

# Heaven, harps and hallelujahs

I was at a visitation recently and heard a harpist calmly and peacefully playing beautiful hymns in the background as people came and went. I had to refresh my memory on the connection between the harp and heaven. It turns out that it is a biblical association. Revelation 14:2-3 says, “And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne ...”

The concept of heaven is a popular idea. In many religions, it is the ultimate reward, although I don’t know if using harps as background music is common in all of them.

Polls have repeatedly shown that most people believe in heaven, though few of these same respondents have the corresponding belief in hell. I’ve also heard that people, when asked if they are going to heaven or hell when they die, overwhelmingly answer that they are going to heaven—but they are not so sure about

their neighbors.

I’ve also heard that this common belief, also called universalism, is becoming more and more prevalent, even among mainline Christian denominations.

What about you? Are you part of this group that believes you’re going to heaven? If someone asks you if you are going to heaven, do you answer, “Yes, of course.” Or more hesitatingly, “Yes ... of course ... isn’t everyone?”

The good news is that heaven is one of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible, most clearly expressed in the New Testament. Jesus Himself leads the way in giving us the information of its everlasting certainty. But Jesus doesn’t teach that it is the automatic destination for everyone.

The truth is, reaching heaven is impossible for any member of the human race based on their own merits, as Paul writes in Romans 3:23 and 6:23.

One day Jesus commented, “I tell you, no, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). He even stated, “Not everyone that saith unto me,

Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven ...” (Matthew 7:21).

But reading through the third chapter of John’s gospel, we learn about Jesus’ mission and purpose for coming—that of bringing eternal life through faith in Him.

Let’s press the pause button at this point and go back to you. While our own merits cannot get us to heaven, Jesus’ merits can, namely by His death, burial, and resurrection—and your faith and trust in that redeeming work. Jesus is not a universalist. He is the only way, as He said himself.

By trusting in Christ’s merits and work for us, we can have a certainty of heaven, harps and hallelujahs. Heaven is God’s free gift to us, received through His Son’s sacrifice. It’s *not* universalism. It’s *not* something we can automatically count on. Instead, heaven is a gift consciously received by God’s gracious will (John 3:16).

*Tuura, who serves Living Word Lutheran, Windom, Minn., writes a blog at [www.part-timecountrypreacher.blogspot.com](http://www.part-timecountrypreacher.blogspot.com).*