

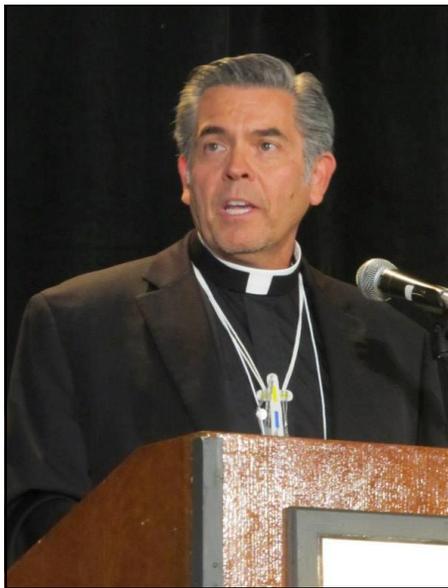


# News

of the Iowa Mission District  
of the North American Lutheran Church  
<http://www.lutheransonline.com/iowamissiondistrict>

October 2014

## *This and That from around The Iowa Mission District*



The big news this month is our upcoming Mission District Convocation on October 11th. Pastors, delegates and visitors to the convocation will gather at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Grafton at 9:00 am for registration, then in the sanctuary at 9:30 for opening worship. There, we will celebrate Holy Communion together and listen to the Reverend Doctor David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism, who is our guest preacher. A full agenda will be available at the convocation, but Dean Kimball indicated that we will have the closing of the convocation at 3:30 pm.

Among the items of business we will be engaged in is the election of a new Dean. As Dean Kimball has indicated, he will not be available for re-election. He has led us faithfully and well in these early years of our Mission District, and now needs a well-deserved sabbatical. Please be praying that the Lord will lift up a new Dean for us who will carry on the work of leadership.

For those who have not been to Grafton, it is in the north central part of Iowa, northeast of Mason City. If you are traveling from the south on US 65, continue through Manly about four miles and turn east on A39. At the stop sign east of the railroad crossing in Grafton, turn north, and the church will be ahead on the right. If coming from the north on US 65, the turn onto A39 will be about one mile south of Kensett. From the east or west on Highway 9, turn north at the four-way stop in Manly onto US 65 and follow the above directions. There are several other roads that lead to Grafton, but most people who know me well would agree that a map or GPS would give you better guidance!



### Upcoming Events

October 11, 2014—Iowa Mission District Convocation at Emmanuel Lutheran, Grafton (northeast of Mason City).  
August 13-14, 2015—NALC Convocation in Dallas, Texas.

## The Great Commission Society

*Pastor Barbara M. Wills*

*Peace Lutheran Church, Northwood, Iowa*



Isaiah wrote: “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here I am; send me!’” (*chapter 6, verse 8*) As the people of God in the North American Lutheran Church, we take to heart the belief that Christ Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life (*as recorded in John 14:6*) and that He sends us into the world to share this Good News. In Jesus’ last words to His disciples before His ascension, found in Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

Sharing the good news of Christ is such an important aspect of our faith that one of the four attributes of the NALC states that we are “Mission-Driven”. Missions are really important to us, and our congregations are encouraged to support missions both globally and locally. Some congregations do this by “adopting” a particular mission to support in their budgets. Others share financially with a number of missions and ministries, either on a rotating basis or as needs come to their attention. We are not restricted to doing our mission support in any particular way—variety is encouraged!

One way we can support missions is through the “Great Commission Society” of the NALC. If you haven’t heard of the Society, you can find more information on the NALC web site. Basically, it’s a way of “networking congregations and individuals who have a passion for the proclamation of the Gospel and commitment to the calling of the Great Commission.” Jesus Christ is the central focus of the work of the Society, and members support this work through prayer, Bible study, witness, contributions of time and talent, and through financial support. “Membership funds will be used to support missionaries, mission starts and renewal initiatives.” Our beloved Dr. Gemechis Buba, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, started the Society, and is quite possibly its most active member!

If you’re interested in knowing more about the Society you can find information at <http://thenalc.org/great-commission-society/>. Members can be individuals (the financial commitment is \$20 per month, or \$240 per year) or congregations (\$100 per month or \$1,200 per year). You can also e-mail Dr. Buba at [gbuba@thenalc.org](mailto:gbuba@thenalc.org) if you have questions that aren’t answered through the web site..





## Meet the Reformers

*The Protestant Reformation changed the world, as those who sought to be faithful to the witness of the Bible protested the discrepancies they found in the teachings of the medieval Roman Catholic Church. We Lutherans tend to think that Martin Luther started the whole thing and was the primary reformer of the 16th century. And it is true that his posting of the 95 theses (or statements) challenging many of the Catholic Church's teachings and practices—coming just as the newly invented printing press offered an avenue of speedy and widespread communication of ideas—seemed to be the spark that ignited the wildfire of protest.*

*But Martin Luther was not the first person to object to the Roman Catholic teachings, and he was not alone in the difficult work of opening up a new way of being Christian. In the 15th century, Petr Chelčický, a Bohemian reformer objected to many of the teachings of the Catholic Church, and held beliefs similar to the Anabaptists who were also protesting during Luther's time. John Calvin, a French theologian, was a contemporary of Luther and the Presbyterian Church grew out of his teachings. Ulrich Zwingli was a leader of the Reformation in Switzerland, and for a time he and Luther worked together until they hit an impasse on several theological issues. No particular denomination traces its roots to Zwingli, but he was influential in his own time.*

*Despite the fact that Luther is not the only theologian who objected to many of the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church, he is perhaps the best known, and led the way through the early, tumultuous years of the Reformation. He seemed to draw the*

*greatest amount of criticism from the Pope and other leaders of the Church, and he was ultimately excommunicated by the Pope when he refused to “recant”—take back—his statements of faith. One of his famous statements shows the fervor of his faith: “Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.”*

*Although Martin Luther did not want a church body named after him, we on the western side of the Atlantic Ocean are called “Lutheran” to distinguish our tradition from that of other churches of the Reformation.*

*Beginning with Martin Luther, we will meet some of the reformers during the next few months and learn something about their lives and beliefs. It is because of their faith, spiritual discernment and courageous following of our Lord Jesus that we in the Lutheran tradition hold the understanding that we are saved by Scripture (God's Word) Alone, Faith Alone and Grace Alone.*



## Congregations of the Iowa Mission District

Ackley: **Our Saviour's**, Pr. Kris Snyder  
+Atlantic: Holy Trinity—Pr. Paul Breddin, Interim  
Avoca: **Trinity**, Pr. Eric Meissner  
Badger: **Badger Lutheran**, Pr. Darryl Landsverk  
Bode: **St. Olaf Lutheran**, Pr. Steve Bliss  
Boyden: **St. John**, Pr. Dan Hart  
Clarksville: **New Life**, Call process  
Dorchester: **Waterloo Ridge**, Pr. Allen Hermeier  
Eagle Grove: **Evangelical Lutheran**, Pr. Jason Cooper  
Eagle Grove: **Samuel Lutheran**, Pr. Rich Taylor  
Ellsworth: **Trinity**, Pr. Christopher Staley  
Emmons, MN: **Emmons**, Pr. Christopher Martin  
Gilmore City: **First**, Dan Buhs, Pastoral Associate  
Grafton: **Emmanuel**, Pr. Solveig Zamzow  
Gunder: **Marion**, Pr. Marshall Hahn  
+Huxley: **Shepherd of the Prairie**, Scott Licht, Pr. Assoc.  
Laurens: **Bethany**, Pr. Jerry Wittmus  
Manchester: **First**, Pr. Tony Ede  
+Monona, **Faith**: Call process  
+Northwood: **Peace**, Pr. Barbara Wills  
Palmer: **St. John's**,  
Plainfield: **St. John**, Pr. Kim Thacker  
Readlyn: **St. Matthew**, Pr. Mark Lund  
Readlyn: **Zion**, Pr. Mark Lund  
Ruthven: **Zion**, Pr. Thomas Summerfield  
St. Ansgar: **First**, Pr. Paul Weeg  
St. Olaf: **Norway**, Pr. Marshall Hahn  
Sheldon: **St. Paul**, Pr. Craig Nissen  
+Sibley: **Faith**, Pr. Tim Nappe  
Spencer: **Trinity**  
+Strawberry Pt.: **Mission in Christ**, Call process  
Thor: **Ullensvang**, Pr. Darryl Landsverk  
Waterville. **Old East Paint Creek**, Pr. Ken Kimball  
Waukon: **Old West Paint Creek**, Pr. Ken Kimball

+ indicates mission congregation

## Mission District News

The Mission District newsletter is an important way for the congregations of the Iowa Mission District to stay connected.

We hope you will make use of this publication to share news from your congregation. **Please e-mail pictures and information** you would like to share to Pastor Barbara Wills at [barbarawills@mchsi.com](mailto:barbarawills@mchsi.com).

The newsletter may be printed by each congregation and distributed to members, copied directly into your congregational newsletter, and/or forwarded to those who have e-mail addresses. We hope the newsletter will be helpful in providing mutual support and exchange of information among the congregations in our mission district.

## Mission District Support

Checks sent to the Mission District for support should be made out to the **Iowa Mission District, NALC**, and mailed to Pastor Christopher Staley, PO Box 32, Ellsworth, IA 50075-0032. Correspondence for Pastor Marshall Hahn, Mission District Secretary, should be sent to **PO Box 56**, St. Olaf, IA 52072-0057.

## Congregations Relating to the Iowa Mission District

+Rochester, MN: **Emmanuel**, Pr. David Steffenson



## Iowa Mission District Leadership

Pastor Ken Kimball, Dean—[pastrken@acegroup.cc](mailto:pastrken@acegroup.cc)  
Pastor Marshall Hahn, Secretary—[stolafparish@netel.net](mailto:stolafparish@netel.net)  
Pastor Christopher Staley, Treasurer—[cbstaley@netins.net](mailto:cbstaley@netins.net)

### Executive Council Members:

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*The Iowa Mission District  
now has 34 congregations!*



**NALC**  
North American Lutheran Church