



# News of the Iowa Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church

<http://www.lutheransonline.com/iowamissiondistrict>

May 2014

## News and Notes From Around the Mission District



### Mission District Council

The Iowa Mission District Executive Council met April 12 at Cabin Coffee in Mason City. We welcomed Pastor Solveig Zamzow to the Council. Other business included finalizing plans for the Mission District Pastors' Retreat on April 28-29, gaining information about a Mission Festival at First Lutheran in Manchester (August 8-9, with Pastor Gemechis Buba presenting), and making plans for our October 11th Mission District Convocation (to be held at Emmanuel Lutheran in Grafton with Pastor David Wendel as main presenter).



*On May 4 Pastor Marshall Hahn of the St. Olaf Lutheran Parish will be leaving on a 2-week trip to Ethiopia. He will be accompanied by Pastor Challa Baro from the Ebenezer Oromo Evangelical Church of Minneapolis. The congregations of the St. Olaf Parish – Norway Lutheran of St. Olaf and Marion Lutheran of Gunder – have been mission partners with the Ebenezer congregation for the past two years.*

*Ebenezer is an Ethiopian immigrant congregation serving the Oromo community in Minneapolis. The Oromo people are the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia with their own language and culture. Many Oromo left Ethiopia in the 80's and 90's due to persecution, famine and hardship and scattered around the world. Challa Baro left in 1999 and has not visited his home country since.*

*While on the trip Pastor Hahn will send updates which will be posted on their parish website at [www.stolafparish.com](http://www.stolafparish.com).*



*Right, Pastor Kris Snyder poses with Dr Harold Koenig from Duke University, the presenter at the "Faith and Healthcare Conference" sponsored by the Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center. There is a growing interest among many members of the medical community in how one's faith impacts healing. As noted in the conference brochure, the purpose of this conference was "To increase interdisciplinary awareness of religion and spirituality as resources that may impact healthcare challenges for patients, providers and the general community."*



## **Christ Is Risen!**

*Pastor David Steffenson*

*Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN*

We are witnesses of the resurrection; Pentecost People with a shout of Alleluia forever flowing from our lips. Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! We don't make a peep; we make a loud AMEN. Our Easter inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for those who are, by the power of God, guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In Christ, we know that the One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion at the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born again into *a living hope* that does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are scattered seeds, sprinkled with the blood of Christ. The Resurrected One invites us to come and see, and to go and tell! Quickly!

In Matthew 28, we have three commissions. The Resurrection Mission begins with a mega earthquake and the testimony of an angel. The Counter Mission begins with a conspiracy and the proclamation of a lie. The Great Commission begins with worship and doubt, and ends with obedience and Emmanuel. Frederick Dale Brunner, in his Matthew Commentary, reminds us that the resurrection does not happen for its own sake; hence Matthew ends his Good News Story not with resurrection, but with the Risen One's Great Commission to disciple the nations. The Resurrected One always goes ahead of us and, as promised, meets us on the way to our prescribed destination. The women run with haste in obedience to their call and commission. The Mission of God—the resurrection message—is not only wonderful, it is also urgent. We've been told, and so we must go and tell. Quickly. The Sent One sends us into a mission field where the fields are always white for harvest. Pray therefore!

The journey from Jerusalem to Galilee is about 100 miles. In Matthew's Gospel faith is a walk. Brunner writes, "Only faith, that is to say, only a walk to Galilee, will see Jesus." St. Luke reminds us that on the road to Emmaus our hearts will burn and burst as Jesus opens the Scriptures to us. In the breaking of the bread our eyes will be opened, and in the dark of night we will travel up the road seeking brethren to share good news with. No one can see Jesus, hear the Good News, and keep the resurrection to themselves. St. John reminds us that Pentecost begins on the cross as Jesus hands over His Spirit, and continues on Easter Evening as Jesus breathes on His disciples, blesses them with peace, and bestows upon them the "office of the keys". The fifty days of Easter will climax with the Feast of Pentecost. The mighty rushing wind bestows explosive power upon the church for the mission of witnessing. Come and see; go and tell. Quickly!

The Lord launches His resurrection mission, and His enemies (religious leaders in cohorts with the laity) quickly mount a counter Mission. Brunner writes, "The countermission says, 'Christians lie; their gospel is a fraud; they sneaked in, stole the body, and now everything they say about a "raised Lord" is a confidence game.' But Matthew says, 'The fraud is not ours.'" Brunner adds, "Wherever God erects a House of Prayer, the Devil builds a Chapel there." The resurrection mission prevails in spite of the opposition by the enemy and the reticence of disciples. Filled with the Spirit, Disciples find the faith to obey and, as promised, meet Jesus on the Mountain where directed church people (believers and doubters) receive a Great Commission. The One with all authority commands us to make disciples of all people in all places by being disciples, christening all people into the all-encompassing name of the Triune God, and teaching them to keep all that our Lord has commanded. Remember, Emmanuel is with you all-ways, at all times and in all places, forever.

Bill Hybels in his book, Just Walk Across the Room, writes, "Ten thousand steps. Roughly, that's the distance you travel from sunrise to sunset, each and every day of your life. It adds up to about 115,000 miles in a lifetime—or more than four times around this big blue planet of ours. With that said, just one question: Are you using your steps wisely? Assume the distance across most rooms is twenty feet—about ten steps. What if ten steps—just one-thousandth of your daily average—could actually impact eternity?" What are we waiting for? He has risen as He told you. Come and see. Go and tell. Quickly. Do I have an AMEN? Alleluia!



## ***The Lutheran Confessions***

As we continue our “journey” through the Book of Concord, we now move to some of the less familiar documents. “The Smalcald Articles” were written by Martin Luther in response to a letter he received from the elector of Saxony (written December 11, 1536), in which the elector instructed him to “prepare a statement indicating the articles of faith in which concessions might be made for the sake of peace” (with the Roman Catholic Church and those who had not joined the Reformation) and the articles “in which no concessions could be made.” (p. 287) Pope Paul III had called for a council to discuss these issues, originally set for May 1537, in Mantua, but later postponed until 1545, in Trent. Luther’s document was reviewed by a small group of theologians—including Philip Melanchthon—who proposed some revisions, and were signed by eight individuals.

The elector of Saxony took the document to Smalcald where the “Smalcald League” (a defensive league of Reformed princes, including the elector of Saxony, officially organized in December, 1530) met on February 8, 1537. Luther was ill at the time and not able to attend, and Philip Melanchthon persuaded the princes not to adopt the articles, believing that the adoption would precipitate doctrinal disputes among the members of the League. Although the articles were not officially endorsed by the League, many of the clergy present at the convocation signed the articles in support of the faith expressed in them. As time went on, they were viewed more favorably “as a witness to genuine Lutheranism” (p. 288) and were finally incorporated in

the Book of Concord.

There are 3 parts, and they address the Reformers’ beliefs in regard to God, Christ, praying to saints, monasteries, the papacy, sin, the law, repentance, the nature of the church, Baptism, Holy Communion, the office of ministry, marriage of priests, confession, human traditions, etc.

*(Information and excerpts from Luther’s Small Catechism, pp336-337, The Book of Concord, as translated and edited by Theodore G. Tappert.*



*Right: Pastor Kris Snyder (who serves as chaplain at Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center) participates in the April 23rd groundbreaking ceremony for the new regional healthcare center.*

### **Upcoming Events**

May 29, 2014—10:30 am—Ascension Day service at Our Saviours, Ackley, IA

July 24-25, 2014—NALC Convocation in Charleston, SC

August 8-9—Iowa Mission District Conference on House Churches. Pastor Gemechis Buba, presenter. More information will be coming.

October 11, 2014—Iowa Mission District Convocation at Emmanuel Lutheran, Grafton (northeast of Mason City).

## 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; Pr. Jean Rabary  
+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.

*Please note this change in Pastor Hahn's address.*

## 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@neitel.net](mailto:stolafparish@neitel.net)  
Pastor Christopher Staley, Treasurer—[cbstaley@netins.net](mailto:cbstaley@netins.net)

### Executive Council Members:

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Pastor Barbara Wills—[barbarawills@mchsi.com](mailto:barbarawills@mchsi.com)  
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*The Iowa Mission District  
now has 34 congregations!*



**NALC**  
North American Lutheran Church