



News

of the Iowa Mission District
of the North American Lutheran Church

www.iowamissiondistrict.com

November 2016

A Word from the Dean

THANKSLIVING

“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

--Philippians 4:6

“Have no anxiety.” That sounds like one of those impossible demands that we hear at times: “Get over it!” “Pull yourself up by your bootstraps!” “Stop thinking about it!” How are we supposed to do that? How are we supposed to stop becoming anxious when we see all the problems that are out there? When we look at the world around us, there are all sorts of things that make us anxious. We are anxious about our jobs, anxious about our future, our children, about the elections about to take place, about the violence in our world, in our country, in our communities. How can we avoid becoming anxious about all of these things that threaten our world and our families? It is enough, at times, to make us want to just lock our doors and shut it all out of our lives.

Yet, as disciples of Jesus, we are called to a different response. When Paul writes, “Have no anxiety about anything,” he is not saying that we should simply close our eyes to the problems in our life and in our world. Instead, he is telling us to bring all our concerns to God in prayer—to make our requests known to God. And the key is in those two words: “with thanksgiving.” Paul is saying that even in the midst of all of the anxiety-producing troubles in life, we are to give thanks. Even while we ask God to address these concerns, we are to offer to Him our thanksgiving and praise. To give thanks in the very act of making our request is a profound statement of faith.

It is saying that no matter how serious our concerns are, and no matter how many questions we have about the future, we trust in the Lord to hear our prayers and to see us through. It is saying that even when we are convinced that the world around us is embroiled in violence and evil and uncertainty, we remain confident that God’s goodness will prevail. It may not be in the way we would want or anticipate, but the future is in God’s hands. Giving thanks in this way is not just being grateful for what God has done but trusting in what God will do. It is not just responding to the fortunate circumstances of life, but living a life of thanks to God, offering our “thanksgiving” to God, not with anxiety and worry, but with faithfulness and praise.

Rev. Marshall E. Hahn, Dean, Iowa Mission District, NALC

This and That from around the Iowa Mission District



Installation Service *Pastor Mark Lund* *St. John Lutheran Church* *Boyden, Iowa*

The congregation of St. John Lutheran of Boyden, Iowa has called Pastor Mark Lund to serve as their pastor. There will be a Service of Installation for Pastor Lund on Sunday, November 20, at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the congregation in welcoming Pastor Lund. All visiting clergy are invited to participate in the service of installation. May God grant His blessings upon Pastor Lund and the St. John congregation as they enter into this partnership in ministry!



Zion Lutheran Church in Readlyn, IA will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on Sunday, July 16, 2017. The celebration will include a worship service and a meal as we give thanks to the Lord for the outpouring of His grace all these wonderful years. We would be honored if you would save the date for this celebration. Pastors are invited to vest for the worship service. Please RSVP to Todd Kuethe, president of Zion in 2017) at: tkuethe@netins.net or [319-823-8235](tel:319-823-8235).

Upcoming Events

December 29-31, 2016—Youth Event at Riverside Bible Camp. Contact Pr. Jason Cooper for details (Cell: 515-293-0342)

August 9-11, 2017—NALC Convocation in Nashville, Tennessee.

September 16, 2017—Iowa Mission District Convocation. Location to be determined.



Free Choir Robes

Emmanuel Lutheran in Grafton has 27 maroon-colored, used choir robes to give away. The robes are in fair to excellent condition. Congregations interested in the robes would be responsible for picking them up or paying for shipping. If interested, please contact Pastor Solveig Zamzow at 641-748-2736.

Together in Christ

*Pastor Christopher Staley
First Lutheran Church
St. Ansgar, Iowa*

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet
together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the
Day drawing near.*
Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV

If someone were to catch you in a moment by yourself, and in a state of complete honesty and asked you, "Why do you attend Sunday worship," what might you say? You may, if you had enough time to think about it, come up with a rather impressive list. Of course, at or near the top would be how amazing your pastor is, right? Don't answer that question. Maybe for you it is the music, the beauty of the sanctuary, the fact that your family has been attending worship at this church for several generations, etc. Or maybe it is something much more mundane, like, "That's what I always do on Sunday." It was this final answer that would have been mine early in my life. It was, after all, what my family did on Sunday. No one ever posed the question on a Saturday afternoon, "What should we do tomorrow?" We didn't have to ask, because we just knew.

It wasn't until I got to be older, and moved out of the nest, and, more importantly, that I moved away from home that my answer to that question would have changed. Let me use some words I've heard a few times to try to explain:

*Making your way in the world today takes
everything you've got.
Taking a break from all your worries, sure
would help a lot.
Wouldn't you like to get away?
Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name,
and they're always glad you came.
You wanna be where you can see,
Our troubles are all the same*

*You wanna be where everybody knows Your
name.*

*You wanna go where people know,
people are all the same,
You wanna go where everybody knows your
name.*

I know, I know. These words are the theme to a television show from a bygone era that took place in a bar, and not a church. But, consider what the words are talking about, and the sorts of images they evoke, apart from the television show they preceded. Don't you hear in these words a sort of echo of the sentiment of the words from Hebrews at the top of this article? The local congregation, especially as most of us experience it here in the nation's heartland, is where we go to be with those people we know the best, and who know us best, and who come together, in large part, to cling together to the hope we have in Christ Jesus, especially as the world around us seems to be circling ever nearer to an abyss of chaos. We come together as a congregation to encourage one another, support one another, knowing that everyone there is carrying some sort of a burden that can be made lighter precisely in our bearing up with one another.

And so it is right that the NALC has identified one of its core values as being congregationally focused. It is in our local congregation that this encouragement, this support, this knowing and being known takes place. Because, making our way in the world today takes everything we've got. And none of us dares try it alone.



Make a Joyful Noise! ***The Hymns We Sing***



As the end of the Church year draws to a close our worship changes pace as well. As we began the year with Advent and the anticipation of the birth of Christ, we also recognized the “already, not yet” reality in which we live in this “in-between time” as we await the return of our Lord Jesus at the end of time. The final Sunday of the Church year brings this anticipation full circle, and we rejoice in our Lord’s eternal Kingship.

The long-awaited Messiah, born of the Virgin Mary, is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He has overcome all the forces of evil—sin, death, and the devil—in His death and resurrection. He ascended to sit at the right hand of the heavenly Father. He sent the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. His claim on us is eternal—beginning at creation, continuing through the eons of time, and culminating on the day of His return to judge the world in righteousness.

For now His reign is hidden from those who reject His Lordship. When He returns, every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

(Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10-11).

Christ the King Sunday is celebrated each year on the last Sunday of the Church year, and the joyous hymns of praise to our eternal King rise to the heavens as we pour out our adoration and love to Christ the Lord. Of the hymns of praise to our King Jesus, two are especially appropriate on this day of celebration: #170, “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (written by Matthew Bridges -1800-1894) and #171, “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!” (one of the many hymns penned by Charles Wesley—1707-1788).

Crown Him with Many Crowns

*Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark, how the heav’nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sin
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king
Through all eternity.*

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

*Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your hear, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

Donations and Correspondence

Checks sent to the Mission District for support should be made out to the ***Iowa Mission District, NALC***, and mailed to Pastor Christopher Staley at **PO Box 141, St. Ansgar, IA 50472-0141**.

Correspondence for Mr. Craig Lease, Mission District Secretary, should be sent to **405 7th St. N., Northwood, IA 50459**

Items for the Mission District newsletter (pictures, news, etc.) are best sent via e-mail to Pastor Barbara Wills at barbaramwills@gmail.com.

Congregations of the Iowa Mission District

Ackley: **Our Saviour's**, Dan Buhs, Lay Minister
Allison: **New Life**, Galen Eiben, Lay Minister
+Atlantic: Holy Trinity—Call Process
Avoca: **Trinity**, Pr. Eric Meissner
Badger: **Badger Lutheran**, Pr. Scott Meier
Bode: **St. Olaf Lutheran**, Call Process
Boyden: **St. John**, Pr. Mark Lund
Dorchester: **Waterloo Ridge**, Pr. Allen Hermeier
Eagle Grove: **Evangelical Lutheran**, Pr. Jason Cooper
Eagle Grove: **Samuel Lutheran**, Pr. Rich Taylor
Ellsworth: **Trinity**, Pastor Jon Rollefson
Emmons, MN: **Emmons**, Pr. Christopher Martin
Gilmore City: **First**, Call Process
Grafton: **Emmanuel**, Pr. Solveig Zamzow
Gunder: **Marion**, Pr. Marshall Hahn
+Huxley: **Shepherd of the Prairie**, Scott Licht, Lay Minister
Laurens: **Bethany**, Pr. Jerry Wittmus
Manchester: **First**, Pr. Tony D. Ede
+Monona, **Faith**: Pr. Melvin Harris
+Northwood: **Peace**, Pr. Barbara Wills
Palmer: **St. John's**,

Plainfield: **St. John**, Pr. Kim Thacker
Readlyn: **St. Matthew**, Call Process
Readlyn: **Zion**, Call Process
+Robins: **Servants of Christ**, Pr. Ron Voss
+Rochester, MN: **Emmanuel**, Pr. David Steffenson
Ruthven: **Zion**, Pr. Thomas Summerfield
St. Ansgar: **First**, Pr. Christopher Staley
St. Olaf: **Norway**, Pr. Marshall Hahn
Sheldon: **St. Paul**, Pr. Craig Nissen
+Sibley: **Faith**, Pr. Tim Nappe
Spencer: **Trinity**
+Strawberry Pt.: **Mission in Christ**, Pr. Gary Burkhalter
Thor: **Ullensvang**, Pr. Darryl Landsverk
Waterville: **Old East Paint Creek**, Pr. Ken Kimball
Waukon: **Old West Paint Creek**, Pr. Ken Kimball

+ indicates mission congregation

*The Iowa Mission District
has 36 congregations!*

The following pastors are available for pulpit supply:

Pastor Gary Burkhalter—815-394-9309 (Sundays)
Pastor Duane Marburger—563-506-3191
Pastor Jean Rabary—563-608-2044
Pastor David Steffenson—253-302-9845 (Sundays)
Pastor Paul Weeg- -641-381-0675



Iowa Mission District Leadership

Pastor Marshall Hahn, Dean—stolafparish@netel.net
Craig Lease, Secretary—pdlease@gmail.com
Pastor Christopher Staley, Treasurer—cbstaley@netins.net

Executive Council Members:

Pastor Allen Hermeier—handahermeier@mchsi.com
Pastor Barbara Wills—barbarawills@gmail.com
Pastor Gary Burkhalter—pqburkhalter52@hotmail.com
Brent Bruns—bvbruns@netel.net
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