



News

of the Iowa Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church

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November 2014

Iowa Mission District Convocation

Farewell Dean Kimball

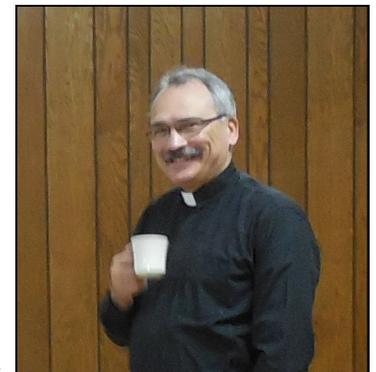
One of the highlights of the October 11th Convocation was the presentation of a farewell gift to Pastor Ken Kimball, our out-going Dean, and his wife, Debbie. Pastor Solveig Zamzow presented Pastor Kimball with a large envelope in which were gift certificates for several nights in a B&B, dinner at a lovely restaurant (that features Brussels sprouts on their menu, and which Pastor Z assured Pastor K that if he and Debbie were not fans of this lowly veggie she and her husband, Michael, would be glad to help by taking their leftovers), and money for gasoline for their relaxing event. Following the presentation Pastor Kimball received a standing ovation as a sign of gratitude for his years of faithful leadership.



Welcome Dean Hahn

The election of a new Dean was a major item of business at the Convocation. The Convocation elected Pastor Marshall Hahn, former Mission District Secretary, to succeed Pastor Kimball. Pastor Hahn serves two congregations in Clayton County—Norway Lutheran Church in St. Olaf, and Marion Lutheran Church in Gunder (home of the Iowa-famous *Gunderburger*). Many of you are well-acquainted with Dean Hahn and have had the privilege of hearing him speak at meetings in your congregations.

We also welcomed Pastor Zamzow as the newly-elected Secretary of our Mission District, and Pastor Allen Hermeier (Pastor of Waterloo Ridge Lutheran Church) as the newest member of the Executive Council. Mr. Brent Bruns was re-elected to the Executive Council, as well.

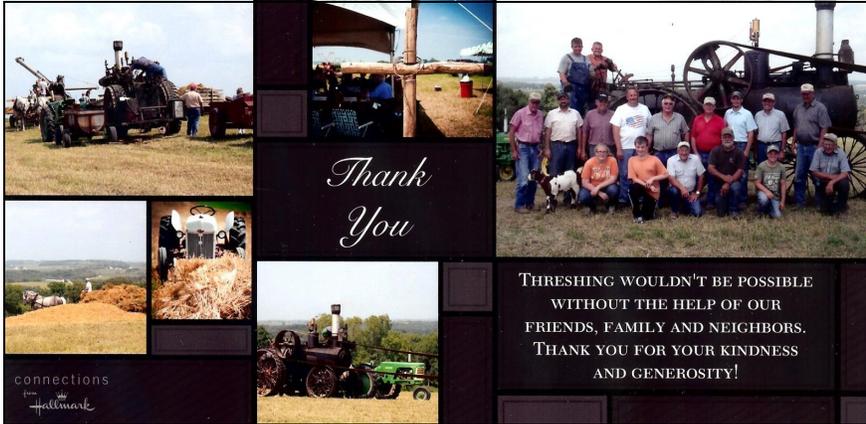


Other Highlights

Other highlights of our day together included welcoming Pastor David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism. Pastor Wendel was the preacher for the opening Reformation Service of Holy Communion and emphasized the words of the revered reformer, Dr. Martin Luther, in his trial at the council of Worms, Germany, reminding us that our consciences are to be bound to Holy Scripture. As our keynote speaker, Pastor Wendel also began a wonderful address based on the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation. Dinner was ready to be served in the middle of his presentation so he graciously made the entire manuscript available to us, and it was sent to pastors and congregations of the Iowa Mission District via e-mail. This was the first time Pastor Wendel has visited the Iowa Mission District, and we greatly appreciated his time with us.



This and That from around The Iowa Mission District



Third Annual Harvest Festival Waterloo Ridge Lutheran Church

Each year the congregation invites the community to participate in old-time threshing on Saturday and to share the Outdoor Service on the same field followed by a Potluck Dinner on Sunday. In the picture at left, the Norwegian Ridge Harvest Company at the Ernest Gavle Farm on August 2nd and the Harvest Service on August 3rd at Waterloo Ridge Lutheran Church.

Sunday School Rally Day

Emmanuel Lutheran in Grafton connected learning with fun and global outreach on their Sunday School Rally Day in September. Using the model of the famous TV show “The Amazing Race”, students, parents and grandparents formed teams and ‘raced’ to eight different stages as they gathered clues about Kenya and a little boy named Lawrence whom the Sunday School is sponsoring through Compassion International. From learning a song in Swahili, to eating unfamiliar foods, to becoming familiar with highlights about Kenya, to building a mud hut... the kids and adults found lots of enjoyment and the year of learning is truly off to a good start – and a good finish! :) Students and parents also committed themselves to offerings which will cover the entire cost of the sponsorship for seven year old Lawrence whose single mother works only occasionally as a farm help. In the first month the kids already exceeded their goal and are busy corresponding with Lawrence. It indeed is an amazing race!



Display tables and representatives offered first-hand information on missions and educational materials at the Iowa Mission District Convocation, October 11th.

A Mission Field in Our Midst

Rev. Tony Ede

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Manchester, Iowa

Like many of you, my first missionary experience was as a high school student. I was doing work with many other youth in preparation for the national youth convention. I felt a great sense of pride, purpose and the beginning stages of “*vocatio*” for my life. To say the least, I was hooked. Now as I live out my vocation as pastor, father, husband, friend et al, I often reflect on those embryonic stages of vocational growth as we have all done.

For me, I was a project. My pastor saw gifts in me at an early age that could be used in the mission field for Christ. He was a constant encourager and knew exactly how to bring out the best in me, as well as strengthen that “*external call*”. He was driven and through him, through his vision, call, vocation, mission...however you name it, I also became a pastor. Shortly before I was ordained at the ripe ole age of 25, he retired in the midst of his 60’s. Kind of a one in, one out rule for him.

So, is this a new mission field for us? I can’t put the exact numbers down, but I am going to venture that there are a whole bunch of pastors that are going to be in retirement gear soon, if not already. Do we really ever “hang it up”? Maybe not, at least not all the way. But how can we, as leaders in this “*ecclesia*”, bring up the next group of pastors and lay leaders in the faith? How can we plant seeds in them now as junior high students, high school students or younger for the gifts and tasks of being mission-driven evangelists? Where do we place our young ones so that they have those unique, vocation building moments for the Kingdom of God?

I think we did that, at least in a small way at our first Confirmation Rally at First Lutheran in Manchester on October 26th. Forty-two students and adults were able to open Scripture, partake in the supper, have fellowship, worship and learn with others just like them. Maybe you haven’t noticed, but junior high is a tough time for kids. The more we can gather together, the better—especially if it is for the purpose of deepening the faith. At this and other events like this in the future, my prayer is that we place in the hands of our youth the tools needed to face the faith challenges ahead.

At this event, our very own Rev. Ian Wolfe opened up the Small Catechism to us. In the mere moments of time that we had, we learned that the Small Catechism is not just something that we give to students for their learning, and when they are done they can put it on the shelf to collect dust. Rather, as the theme stated, the “Catechism is For Life”. We continue to fulfill our baptismal vows and we continue to encourage the faithful with those simple words of faith. Words that “*call, gather enlighten and sanctify*” us all for the Kingdom of God.

So, take a look at your congregation. Who do you see? How can you encourage just one to consider the call to ministry? How can you deepen the call to be missionaries in the world? And how can you spread the love of God in Christ Jesus to our young ones? “*Whatever you do, do it with your whole heart as if working for the Lord and not for a master*” *Colossians 3:23*



Meet the Reformers: Martin Luther

Baptized on November 11, 1483, the day after his birth in Eisleben, Germany, Martin Luther, son of Hans and Margarethe, was to become one of the most famous men in western history, and perhaps in the world. Becoming well known was never Luther's goal. In fact, his greatest desire throughout life was to please God and attain salvation.

As a young man, Luther studied at the University of Erfurt to become a lawyer, because that was the wish of his father, a miner. Universities were under the jurisdiction of the Church, and even law studies were aimed at instilling the fear of God and devotion to the Church in their students. Luther was very devout and sensitive—prone to mood swings—and the emphasis of medieval Christianity on God's wrath and fear of hell, often led him into periods of depression. Convinced that he could never be good enough to earn God's love, Luther went to great extremes to discipline himself and purge himself of sin. A moment of danger from a bolt of lightening on the highway as Luther returned to school from a visit home, and a promise to Saint Anne (the patron saint of miners) in the midst of a prayer for help, ultimately led Martin to enter the Augustinian Monastery as a novice in 1505, at the age of 21. In the monastery, living in austerity and dedicating his whole life to God, Luther hoped to find peace.



However, this was not to be. Despite spending hours in prayer, fasting often, going to confession more frequently than was required, and even beating himself with a small whip designed for that purpose, Luther could find no peace.

Finally, in 1511, Luther was sent from Erfurt to become a professor at the new University of Wittenberg. There, preparing to teach a course on the book of Romans, Luther made an amazing discovery. Reading the words of the Apostle Paul, Luther learned that we are incapable of becoming righteous by our own efforts and works. Our righteousness and salvation come from the merits of Christ, in His death and resurrection, and are given to us as free gifts. From that

time, Luther began to question many of the teachings and practices of the Church. He wrote extensively, and on the Eve of All Saints' Day, October 31, 1517, he posted 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, inviting other theologians to debate some of these issues with him.

Luther's hope had been to reform the Church and bring it's teachings and practice in line with Holy Scripture. Standing firm on his convictions that we are saved by the Word of God alone, by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone, he refused to back down when his writings brought the wrath of the pope down on him. He was eventually excommunicated from the Catholic Church. As Lutherans, we owe our understanding of Christ's love and salvation to Martin Luther, whose courage and devotion to the Lord changed the Christian faith forever.

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

Iowa Mission District Leadership

Pastor Marshall Hahn, Dean—stolafparish@netel.net
Pastor Solveig Zamzow, Secretary—PastorZ@wctatel.net
Pastor Christopher Staley, Treasurer—cbstaley@netins.net

Executive Council Members:

Pastor Darryl Landsverk—blepd@wccta.net
Pastor Barbara Wills—barbarawills@mchsi.com
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Brent Bruns—bvbruns@netel.net
Sheldon Bieri—5somewhere@laurens-ia.com
Gregory Olson—golson@ruthventel.com

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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.

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 Solveig Zamzow, Mission District Secretary, should be sent to **PO Box 282**, Grafton, IA 50440

Upcoming Events

August 13-14, 2015—NALC Convocation in Dallas, Texas.

*The Iowa Mission District
now has 35 congregations!*



NALC
North American Lutheran Church