

JULY
2014



Calvary Free Lutheran Church

PO Box 303

Arlington, SD 57212

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the 52nd Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations meeting at Grace Free Lutheran Church in Valley City, North Dakota, June 10th-13th, 2014. Greetings in Jesus' name.

"Rise Up and Build" is the theme of this conference. Building has been a part of my life ever since I was a young boy. From the small town of Esko, MN in the 1960's when I watched Dad build our new house to building forts out of small poplar trees in the neighbor's woods, it has been a fun part of my life.

From there it went to carpentering with my Dad's cousin for 7 summers to remodeling our house when I got married. When we moved to Minneapolis for Seminary, we bought and remodeled a home built in 1854 (7 years before the Civil War, for you history buffs). That home was a real challenge because little if anything was square or level, so that meant lots of scribing. When we moved to Montana, I worked on building additions for both of our churches there. When we moved to Cokato, MN. I built our home. In 1992, a tornado destroyed our church building, so I helped in finishing a new church building as well as 2 additions in the coming years. Also during those years I built a log cabin. Building with dimensional lumber takes vigilance to keep the building square and level, but building with crooked red pine and spruce trees takes constant vigilance, to try and keep things half-level and square.

When it comes to building the kingdom of God, I would liken it more to building with crooked logs rather than dimensional lumber. We're born into this world as crooked as can be (Jer. 17:9) and we live in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Phil. 2:15). Thankfully there is a Master Carpenter who not only can straighten out sinful humans, but totally make them new (II Cor. 5:17).

How thankful I am that we have a God who loves us, even to the point of sacrificing His only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16). The Father had a plan to send His Son into this world to build the church, but it cost Him His

life to birth it (Acts 20:28). Even after these crooked humans are redeemed, they still have an old nature that makes building the church quite an adventure. According to Eph. 4:11-12, it was for the purpose of building this body that the Lord gave gifts to the church. Specifically here, apostles and prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers were given “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.” In later verses in Eph. 4, Paul goes on to speak of “unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

There will be challenges that the church will face: spiritual immaturity caused by false doctrine and the trickery of man and craftiness in deceitful scheming. The guardian for the church in this building process is speaking the truth in love. I would liken this to the square and level in the physical building process. God has given us His unchangeable Word by which to judge all teaching. However, that truth can be spoken in an abrasive way in the family where the truth is clearly understood, but there is little sense of closeness because the love and care for the family members is lacking. You have known church families where all seemed to be so right, but children later rebel and husband and wife mysteriously split up.

It takes constant vigilance in the home to keep the right balance between truth and love. I know as I look back on raising two boys, I wish I would have mixed a bit more love and compassion in with the truth. I need God’s Word and other believers to help keep me in balance. We live in a time where, in the church culture, it seems that love is paramount and truth has little existence. Our challenge these days within the AFLC is, by God’s grace and His Holy Spirit working through the Word, to keep balanced in love and truth.

Since being elected to this office, I have had people ask me what my vision is for the AFLC. At first I felt badly that I hadn’t really thought about a vision. Then it dawned on me that it is tough to have a vision for an office that you don’t really expect to occupy! But after the reality began to set in, thankfully I found that I did have a vision brewing within, and I am discovering it is formulating clearer and clearer with each visit I make and each day I sit in the office.

From my days in Seminary through 30 years of pastoral ministry, I have had to realize that we have differences in our AFLC. My first realization of this was in Seminary, when I found out there were Christian brothers that had a different view of the millennium than I did. We had some classes with passionate debating about the premillennial view and the amillennial view. I remember talking with those who shared my view and trying to come up with more ammunition for the next class. It was at that time that I began to look at those with a different position than mine, as “a position that needed to be corrected.”

I thought I was fighting for truth, but I think love got lost somewhere along the way. I still remember being at the ARC and going to one with a different position and asking for forgiveness. I told him I was sorry for speaking about him behind his back and that in the future I would not do that. I did not want to do what Proverbs says is one of the things the Lord hates: “sowing discord among the brethren” (Prov. 6:19). As a result of that confession and promise, I began going to meetings and purposely sitting next to those who had a different view than I did. I read a book that explained “their” view that was different than mine and I found out that our positions were not as far away from one another as I thought.

Another thing that happened in the following years was that no longer could I find someone in the room whom I had to force myself to talk to or sit by. We still had our different views, but no longer did I think I must remodel them. I loved them and they loved me. Little did I realize how this experience

would help me as I would face the next “difference.” It came in the 1990’s when I found myself as chairman of the Board of Trustees of our AFLC Schools.

I had known for years that we had different ways of dealing with the souls of people. It seemed to come to a head in Bible Camp or Youth Convention counselling. I would counsel a youth who is unsure of their salvation to confess their sin and ask Christ to forgive them. If they had never invited Jesus into their heart, I would help them to do that. I learned that others would direct them to their baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection, in order to help them understand that they simply needed to bring their sin to the Savior into which they were baptized.

As we talked these issues through, I saw that my approach could be seen as making too little of baptism. I was cautious that the other approach made too much of baptism. What helped me to understand was realizing that the goal was to help each person come to repentance and faith, to have a conscious living faith in Christ. That is where our common ground is and where I believe Scripture wants us to be.

As I went back to read through years of The Lutheran Ambassador, I found that, ever since the beginning of the AFLC, there has been this difference, but the goal was daily repentance and living faith. I don’t want to see young people come forward every year and think that their assurance rests in coming forward at an altar call. Neither do I want a person to look to baptism as a one-time event that is separate from a personal relationship with Christ. Many of our forefathers in the AFLC had different positions on how they dealt with souls, but they worked together and rejoiced in the common ground of souls having assurance of salvation in Jesus! Somehow speaking the truth in love holds the body of Christ together. Without a proper balance, it will fall apart.

In these days in which we live and I find myself as President, we still have differences in our AFLC. Some may be concerned that we are “less” than real Lutherans because we call people “who are spiritually dead” to come to Jesus. Some are concerned that too much is made of the Lutheran confessions and not enough of a living relationship with Jesus. As I look back on our AFLC and the Lutheran landscape around us, it evidently is a tricky thing to be “Evangelistic Lutherans.” However tricky it may be to maintain that balance, I am willing to give as many years as the Lord wants me here to lead that charge. I have been “shot at” in the 1990’s as some thought I had compromised my stand on evangelism by not standing only for one side. And I suspect that there may still be more target practice at this office. That is okay though, because the unity that I have experienced with you -- no matter which way you are “tipped” -- is worth it all.

So my call is this: do not keep your different perspectives on Scripture and Lutheran theology to yourself and those who agree with you, but talk about those different perspectives. If we can do it in love, we will keep each other in balance. We don’t want to become Lutherans who major only in the confessions without calling people to a personal relationship with Jesus, nor do we want to become Lutherans who preach Scripture and have little regard for the Confessions to which we say we adhere.

Do you see why I say that the church is better compared to building with logs than building with dimensional lumber? We are all very different and we have come to faith in Christ in different ways. We tend to interpret Scripture through our own experience and insist that others must come to Christ in that same way. Scripture must be our guide, not our experience. I would certainly welcome dialogue on any of these Biblical subjects so we can seek to understand one another and grow in our understanding of the Word of God. As we do this, I believe God will bless us with a unity that will strengthen us in these challenging days in which we live.

FINANCES

We all use technology, but with technology comes many costs. As we seek to be efficient in our work, all of this carries ongoing costs. I would like to say to you, in my first year of office, that I would like to present to you a lower budget. I like to try and cut costs and bargain hunt, but it seems tough to do that with technology.

In my travels this year, I am struck with how many small congregations we have in the AFLC. We have to guard our budgets so we do not get ourselves into debt. Please pray for us as we seek to manage the Lord's work in His way. We often feel free to fault our government for not living within its means, so we as the Church had better to do so.

THANKS

Thank you to the entire AFLC for the beautiful home that was purchased for the President's home. We have enjoyed having many guests to our home and I enjoyed the quarter-mile walk to the office even through this long, snowy, cold winter.

Thank you, Coordinating Committee, for the encouragement to spend much time with pastors and their wives. What a great fellowship time my wife and I have enjoyed with many of you around a meal. We look forward to getting to know all of our pastors and wives.

Thank you, churches, where we have already enjoyed worshipping and fellowshiping with you these last months. What a privilege it is to serve in this office. Please continue to pray for wisdom and understanding as I speak with churches and pastors.

Thank you, Pastor Dick Gunderson, for staying on another year as assistant to the President. Your help has been invaluable as I came into this office. May God bless you richly as you continue to serve Him. Thank you, Karen Floan, for your work as secretary to the President. I don't want to know what this year would have been like without your help in this office. And thanks to all the office staff and the entire AFLC for your patience as this Finn continues to seek to serve our Lord.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Lyndon Korhonen



July 1st- 7pm
July 3rd- 1:30 pm
July 10th-

July 12th-
July 12th-
July 14th & 28th-
July 27th - Aug. 2nd

WMF evening Bible study
WMF afternoon Bible study
6:30 Deacons Meeting
8 pm Full Council
Brazil Team leaves for Brazil
Family Bible study 5:30 pm at CFLC
Men's Bible study at 7:30 pm at CFLC
AFLC Family Camp at the ARC, Osceola, WI

CFLC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The council met on 6/19/2014. Joel called the meeting to order and led with scripture and prayer.

SECRETARY REPORT:

None

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer's report was given by Marty Haufschild.

Total funds for the month of May = \$48,240.97, General Fund Balance = \$27,465.41.

Motion made to approve by M. Barker, 2nd by T. Smidt, motion carried.

TRUSTEES REPORT:

None

DEACONS REPORT:

None

PASTORS REPORT:

Ordination service scheduling, maybe September. The computer is up and running. Secretary position discussed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Swede's Electric bill was \$2,903 for dimmer switches and everything but the \$500 deductible will be covered.

NEW BUSINESS:

Peggy Schneider will be resigning as janitor as of the first of the year. We appreciate her years of service. Peggy will write up a job description.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by P. Danielson and 2nd by T. Smidt, motion carried.

Minutes recorded by Jody Weiss

Secretary: Joe Spilde

Congregational Meeting for Parsonage Roof

4/27/2014

The meeting was called to order with Joel Schneider presiding. The trustees received a bid from Bunker Construction for a new roof on the parsonage at a cost of \$7,577. Gordon Fenske made a motion to vote on fixing the parsonage roof and 2nd by Bill Buck. The motion passed.

There was a discussion of adding more seating in the back of the church. The discussion centered on adding chairs instead of pews. Evy Schneider moved to adjourn and 2nd by Butch Smith. Meeting adjourned.

Notes taken by Jody Weiss

Secretary: Joe Spilde

Congregational Meeting for Sanctuary Seating

June 1, 2014

Joel Schneider called the meeting to order.

The cost is \$136 per chair.

Gordon Fenske made a motion to purchase 48 chairs and 2nd by Gerald Moe. Motion carried.

Larry Larsen made a motion to adjourn and 2nd by Kathy Folsland. Motion carried.

Notes taken by Jody Weiss.

Secretary: Joe Spilde



There are two new paperback books in the library: "Twelve Extraordinary Women" by John MacArthur and "Prelude" by B. J. Hoff—a non-fiction and a fiction.

MacArthur had written about Twelve Ordinary Men and now has written about how God shaped a dozen women of the Bible and "faith was the root and the quintessence of everything that made these women extraordinary."

Lines from the LIBRARY

"Every major spiritual decline in the history of Christianity has come when the church has lost sight of the primacy of faith and begun to stress works instead.... Human instinct seems to tell us that what we do is more important than what we believe. But that is a false instinct, the product of our fallen self-righteousness. It is a totally wrong way of thinking—sinfully wrong. We must never think more highly of our works for Christ than we do of his works on our behalf." (Study Guide included)

B.J. Hoff is one of the Christian publishing market's most celebrated and successful writers of historical fiction and "Prelude" is actually three stories set in one in the mid-1800's. The characters might have been our own ancestors.

I've been "book-worming" since I was a child—a long time ago, and I urge others to do the same. One is never lonely with a book. Read to your children and choose good books for them to read.

Vincent Starrett: When we are collecting books, we are collecting happiness.

Joseph Addison: Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

Montesquieu: The love of reading enables a man to exchange the wearisome hours of life which come to everyone for hours of delight.

Horace Mann: Resolve to edge in a little reading every day. If you gain but fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of the year. (How could one stop after only fifteen minutes?)

Psalm 86:1,2: Hear, O Lord and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. You are my God: save your servant who trusts in you.

~Ferne Liebsch



JULY BIRTHDAYS

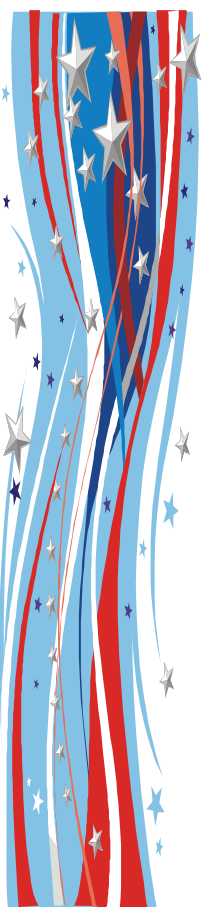
Paul Dyr Dahl	7-1
Elaine Kohl	7-1
Connie Ricke	7-1
Amy Schneider	7-4
Faith Nicholas	7-5
Landon Leighton	7-6
Dawn Johnson	7-9
Tom Nelson	7-10
Helen Lytebo	7-10
Makayla Timm	7-15
Ryan Huntimer	7-16
Beth Jorenby	7-17
Butch Smith	7-20
Kade Hauck	7-20
Eric Fosland	7-21
Rick Hillestad	7-21
Amber Rae Bryant	7-22
Peggy Schneider	7-22
Kira Klienjan	7-22
Marlene Klinkel	7-24
David Ulschmidt	7-24
Bev Nelson	7-28
William Haufschild	7-25
Tim Newman	7-26
Lance Larsen	7-27
Ava Steffensen	7-29

JULY ANNIVERSARIES




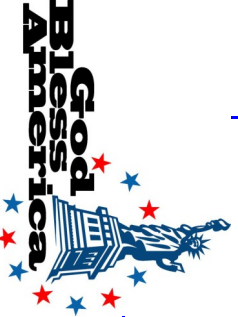
Teresa & Jody Weiss	7-3-2003
Wade & Michele Mobley	7-8-2000
Eric & Sara Folsland	7-13-2002
Allen & Bev Nelson	7-15-1959
Frank & Renee Hoff	7-16-1976
Eric & Heather Asmussen	7-19-2008
Brian & Amy Schneider	7-25-2009

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let us know so that we can celebrate your special day with you!

July 2014



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00pm WMF (women's) Bible Study Meeting	2	3 1:30pm WMF (women's) Bible Study Meeting	4  Independence Day	5  Brazil Team Leaves for Brazil 5:30pm Family Bible Study
6 9:00am Prayer 9:30 am Worship	7	8 2:30pm Food Pantry Volunteers	9	10 6:30pm Deacon's Meeting 8:00pm Full Council	11	12
13 9:00am Prayer 9:30 am Worship	14 7:30 PM Men's Bible Study 	15	16	17 9:30am -Quilting!	18	19
20 9:00am Prayer 9:30 am Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00am Prayer 9:30 am Worship	28 7:30 PM Men's Bible Study	29	30	31		
AFLC Family Camp at ARC, Osceola, WI						

Area Bible Studies

Please call or email for more information.

605-983-5254

info@cflconline.org

Arlington
Wed. 8:30 p.m.
At Calvary Free
Larry- 605-983-3316

Lake Preston
Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Jan-605-847-4700

Oldham
Wed. 7:30 p.m.
Joel- 605-482-8404

Brookings
Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Bob- 605-693-4668

Family Bible Studies
Friday 6:30 p.m.
Elizabeth- 605-983-5098
Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Jesse or Holli Spilde
530-5424 or 230-1052

Get Plugged In!!

Missionary Focus for the Month:

Justo and Patricia Pillman were called by the World Missions Committee and commissioned at the 2011 Annual Conference. Justo has served as an AFLC Short Term Missions Assistant in Ecuador for several years while pursuing the call to be an AFLC missionary. Justo was serving, Paz de Dios Lutheran Church (Peace of God). The church requested that he be assigned to work with them. After evaluating the violence in Mexico the World Missions Committee sensed it to be God's will to seek placement of the Pillmans in Ecuador. The Pillmans arrived in Ecuador at the end of June 2012 and have begun serving alongside the Paz de Dios Lutheran Church.

Birthdays: Justo: (March 18), Patricia: (Sept. 5), Nathanael: (Dec. 19), Hannah: (May 28, 2013)

Prayer Concerns: Wisdom as we schedule and work with the many discipleship opportunities, Health for our family, Grace for Patricia as she continues to learn Spanish, That God would continue to bind us together as a couple, Praise the Lord for providing a vehicle and apartment and Praise for continued growth in the Paz de Dios Church.



Missionary Focus for July
~Pillman Family in Ecuador~

CALVARY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Catchall