

The

EVANGEL

Easter





From the Editor

Happy Easter!

By the time this reaches your inboxes and mailboxes, the Church will already be weeks into the Easter season. But this beautiful time in the Church year is always worth highlighting.

In this edition, Rev. Dr. Cary Larson looks at what the world tries to say about death, in contrast to the true comfort of our living Redeemer. Rev. Joe Christina explores the account of the road to Emmaus in “Tell My Brothers.” Rev. John Morley writes on the disciples in the “waiting room.” And finally, Rev. Scott Yount shows how Jesus is all we need in this life, despite our circumstances. The world looks pretty terrible at times, but the message of “Jesus only” continues to sustain His children, even during the most fearful and unsettling times.

The sanctuary is at its best on Easter Sunday with flowers, color, candles, hymns, and liturgy. What a reason to gather with family and friends and sing “Alleluia” at the top of our lungs!

From this joy-filled service, we return to our “ordinary” lives. What now? Well, the mission continues across the world and at home. This edition includes two articles about God’s work in Ethiopia and Jamaica, as well as in our seminary and in our churches.

May you be refreshed with the peace and joy of this season, as we walk in this broken world with the hope of Jesus.

He is risen!

Gretchen Baker

Gretchen Baker
The Editor

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Why The Season of Easter Matters

By Rev. Dr. Cary G. Larson

I've often said I have a book in mind addressing American myths about death and dying, titled: "When Christ isn't Good Enough – Popular Myths When Dealing with Death and Dying." I don't know if you'll ever see it in print. However, the world presents many contrasting teachings about death: Hollywood offers dramatized afterlife stories, atheists focus on death as finality, eastern religions teach reincarnation, and occultists suggest mysterious continuations. These perspectives differ sharply from the biblical view. As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus during Easter's 50 days and beyond, consider these thoughts.

The Easter season challenges the idea that death is natural. We see death everywhere, in plants, animals, and people. Anticipated or sudden, we hear that death is natural, and therefore not evil. Remember Disney's "The Circle of Life" song in *The Lion King*?

If death is natural, why is it so frightening? Deep down, we know it is not part of God's original plan (Gen 3:19; Rom 5:12). The Bible says death is our enemy (1 Cor 15:26), caused by original sin (Rom 6:23), yet Jesus defeated it on the cross (Rom 6:9; Rev 1:18).

Despite everything you have heard, death is not natural nor good (Deu 30:15; 1 Cor 15:26). It is impossible to die with dignity. No matter how our culture tries to cover up death through choosing when to end life on one's own terms or to have a "celebration of life" instead of a funeral, such efforts are powerless to remove the sting of death (1 Cor 15:56).

The Easter season is about Christ Jesus' resurrection. His rising is God's declaration that the world's sins, including yours, are fully

paid for by Jesus' death. If we still had to earn eternal life, Christ's sacrifice would be pointless. But He has not failed (Col 2:15)!

The Bible tells us, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He, that is Christ Jesus, removed our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:12). My friends, this is good news!

The Good News of the Easter season is clear, factual, and not mythical. Sin has been disarmed. Satan, the father of all lies, has no power. Christ Jesus has defeated death (Heb 2:14-15). In fact, He has reduced death into a doorway: God's people need not fear "the valley of the shadow of death," because Christ Jesus is with us (Ps 23:4)!

It is possible that you or someone you know may find comfort in the myths we hear about death or dying. I expect polite pushback, asking what harm is there in holding on to these myths; after all, isn't it okay if they make one happy or provide the least bit of comfort?

The danger is taking our eyes off Christ Jesus, our living Redeemer, and placing our hope in lies or misinformation, even when coated with good intent. The season of Easter reminds all that it is Christ Jesus and His resurrection, not the well-meaning myths of our culture, who is our TRUE comfort in death and dying. Death is hard. "But thanks be to God, Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Him, though he die, yet shall he live." (John 11:25). Amen! Amen! Amen!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! †

The Rev. Dr. Cary G. Larson serves The AALC as Presiding Pastor.

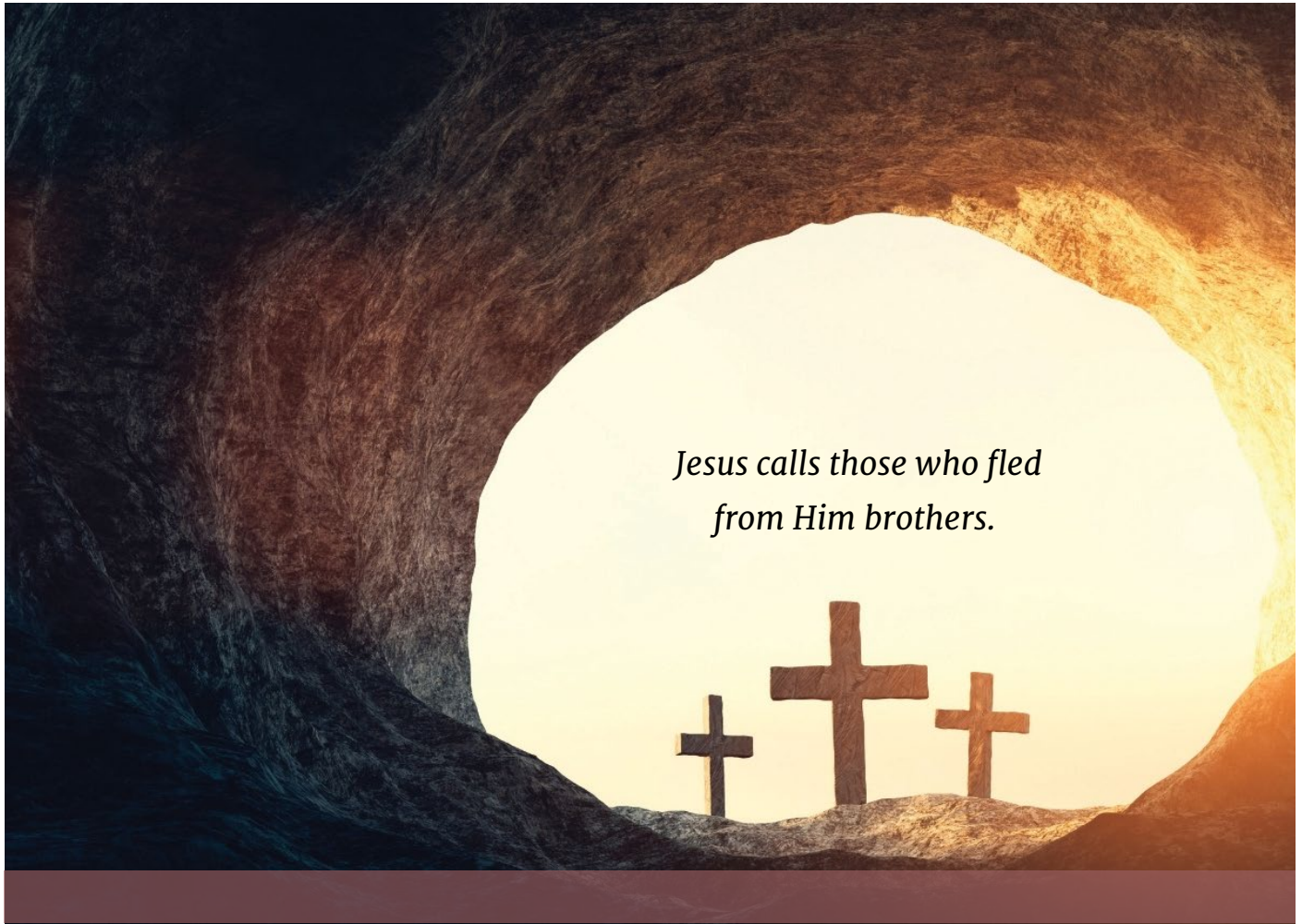
Easter



Tell My Brothers

Matthew 28:1-10

By Rev. Joe Christina



*Jesus calls those who fled
from Him brothers.*

There is a scene in *Tombstone* where Val Kilmer (playing Doc Holliday) is sitting at the poker table. After he wins a hand, his opponent is convinced he's somehow cheating and becomes irate. "Doc" laments the fact that they may not be friends anymore and eventually takes out his pistols and places them on the table and remarks, "There, now we can be friends again."

The Resurrection account of Matthew's Gospel tells us that after Jesus met the Marys, He tells them to have His *brothers* head to Galilee and there He will meet them.

His "brothers." The one who denied Him three times while He stood before the sham trial of the Sanhedrin and High Priest. The ones who all swore at the Passover that they would never abandon Him and then fled like mice when the cellar light is turned on as He allowed men to arrest Him.

But now the cup was drained. Now the terrible suffering and the atoning death were over. Now the One who breathed His last was no longer flatlined but was alive and well. Now the shroud that enfolds all nations was swallowed up in victory. Now they were friends again. Our Lord loved the "dull" disciples in life, in death, and in rising again. "Tell my brothers..."

It always fascinates me that Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday were all violent events. We are obviously aware of the violence of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The slapping

of our blindfolded Lord. The scourging of His holy back and His terrible blood loss. A crown of thorns pounded into His holy skull. Nails driven into His hands and feet. We are told from Saint Matthew that "The earth shook and the rocks split" upon Jesus' death. But in his account of the Resurrection, Matthew records that there was another violent earthquake. He records that the tomb guards shook and became like dead men. And then the angel rolled back the stone and sat on it. The violence was over. So was the work of our salvation so that the Trinity and mankind could be friends again. Which is why Jesus calls those who fled from Him brothers. In the waters of Holy Baptism, we too are family now.

And what the Marys do in Matthew's account is what all mankind is called to do and yet sadly many do not: they worship Him. Only God changes water into wine. Only God walks on top of water (which is the Sunday School lesson that has impacted me harder than any other). Only God tells the waves and the wind to calm down and they do. Only God dies for the sins of the unlovable and then snaps death's neck like a mere twig. And it is God who tells the Marys that the disciples—and you and I—are officially family now. He is risen...! †

The Rev. Joe Christina serves Christus Victor Ev. Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, NC, and as National Home Missions Developer for The AALC.

Easter



In the Waiting Room

John 20:19–31

By Rev. John Morley

If you've ever sat in a hospital waiting room, you know the feeling. The TV is on, but no one is really watching. The coffee is thick, and the air feels unusually heavy. The clock hangs on the wall and loudly echoes each passing second in a clear, slow cadence. Every time the door opens, heads snap up. You're waiting for news. Praying for good. Bracing for bad. Waiting rooms are places where you feel helpless. You can't fix what's happening behind those doors. You can only sit there with your thoughts and anxieties—and sometimes even your deepest fears and worries.

Today, we encounter the disciples in a waiting room of sorts. The doors are shut and locked. Their teacher and friend was crucified. Everything they thought they knew has been shaken and turned upside down. And they are waiting. Peter denied Jesus three times. The others ran when He was arrested. They swore loyalty and they promised faithfulness. Yet, when the moment came, they failed and fell short. Now they sit together in a room that feels more like a waiting room than a sanctuary. *If that can happen to Him, what is going to happen to them?* Instead of a clock slowly echoing from the wall, the methodical ticking of guilt, anxiety, and uncertainty rings out every second of passing time.

It is right here that St. John gives us one of the most comforting sentences in Scripture: “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you...’” (John 20:19, 21). No one unlocked the door. No one invited Him in. He does not wait for Peter to apologize. He does not wait for Thomas to sort through his doubts. No “Why did you abandon me?” No, “Explain yourselves.” He comes to them in the midst of their fear, anxieties and worries. The risen Christ steps into their waiting room and speaks: “Peace be with you.”

This peace is not just a calm feeling. This peace is not a shallow encouragement. It is not the kind of peace you get from good news on a medical chart. It is the peace that was won by His cross. The war between God and sinners is over. The wrath of God has been satisfied. Sin has been paid for. Death has been defeated. “Peace be with you.” It is the peace of a restored fellowship with God. It is the peace of the resurrection.

The disciples are glad when they see the Lord. Fear gives way to joy. Outside of this waiting room the Romans are still in power. The world is still a dangerous place. A world where there is fighting and rivalry. A world where there is hatred, uncertainty, and death. Yet Jesus once crucified—now is alive! “Peace be with you.” Peace for troubled and fearful hearts. Peace for confused and uncertain minds. Peace in the midst of a most un-peaceful world. Jesus once crucified—now is alive! He is risen and that changes everything.

We know that waiting room, don't we? We know what it is like to live behind locked doors. Fear about the future. Fear about our country and lives. Fear about our health or our children and our children's children. We scroll the news and feel our stomach toss and turn. We watch the world and culture all around us shift and sometimes we wonder what comes next. We carry around guilt and shame. We have not loved God with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We are more than just anxious and worried people living in a messy and messed-up world. We are sinners standing before a holy and righteous God.

And yet, “Jesus comes and stands among us and says to us, ‘Peace be with you.’” The doors are locked. No one opened them. No one invited Him in. He comes anyway. No “Explain yourselves.” He comes in the midst of all these fears, anxieties and worries. The risen Christ steps into your life and speaks: “Peace be with you!” The crucified and

risen Jesus walks into rooms filled with fear. In your own waiting rooms—whether they be hospital chairs, financial uncertainty, or sleepless nights weighed down by guilt—He speaks forgiveness to guilty consciences. He gives to you the true peace that the world cannot provide.

In the Divine Service, the risen Lord stands among His people. Through the preaching of His Word, He proclaims forgiveness, life and salvation. In the waters of Baptism, He claims sinners as His own and marks them with His promise. In the Lord's Supper, He gives to you the very body, once nailed to the cross, and the blood shed for your salvation. The same Jesus who stood in that locked room still comes to His Church. In all these ways, our Savior's “Peace be with you” is still sounding forth in all the world. It is little to no wonder why the Church breaks her silence with so many alleluias sung, chanted, and spoken during the Easter season!

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (John 20:21).

We still sit in waiting rooms. We still face uncertainty. We still wrestle with sin and doubt. But we do not sit alone. The crucified and risen Jesus walks into rooms filled with fear. He speaks forgiveness to guilty consciences. He gives peace that the world cannot provide.

And then He sends forgiven sinners back into their daily callings, into their vocations—not as a people who have it all together, but as people who have seen the Lord through His Word. What you have received, you also give. In your families and marriages, in your schools and workplaces, you take:

Words of forgiveness to those who are burdened by sin.

Words of hope to those who have no hope.

Words of life to those who are dying.

Words of truth to the troubled and confused.

Words of peace to those in turmoil.

Words of comfort and joy to those who are downcast.

Words of love to those who are outcast.

Words of faith to the doubting.

Words of life in the midst of death.

For Christ is risen! [He is risen indeed! Alleluia!] He is risen and that changes everything.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen. †

The Rev. John Morley serves Christ the Ray of Hope Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM.

Pointing to Christ

Luke 24:13-35

By Rev. Scott Yount

It was truly a dark and sad time for the disciples of Jesus. Their Lord had been hung on a cross and murdered. For them, it was the epitome of injustice. The one man who had truly done no wrong, was sentenced to die a criminal's death. A man they had left everything to follow, giving up years of their lives, was now gone forever, or so they thought.

But on the road to Emmaus hope is found for two of Jesus' disciples. While walking on the road and discussing things together, they were approached by a man they did not recognize. We read the man is Jesus, and yet they are kept from recognizing him. The Man asks about their conversation, and we are told they stood still, looking sad. Cleopas, one of the two disciples questions the Man: "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" (Luke 24:18). He proceeds to tell the Man about how Jesus, a prophet mighty in deed and word had been crucified. And how they had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel.



“All of the Old Testament was pointing us to the Christ who would come to redeem the world.”



Oh, the irony! Unbeknownst to Cleopas, this was Jesus, and He was the one to redeem Israel! Jesus speaks to them in verses 25-27: “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

Yes, Jesus makes it clear, that it is all about Christ. Beginning with Moses and the Prophets, all of the Old Testament was pointing us to the Christ who would come to redeem the world from sin, death, and the devil! We are told the disciples’ hearts burned when Jesus spoke to them and explained the Scriptures. Jesus, the Word made flesh, explains how the words of Scripture point to Him!

Yes, the disciples were heartbroken and left in utter despair by Christ’s death on the cross. But Jesus turns their despair into joy, when He reveals that the cross was the plan all along. It was the means of redemption for all who believe and trust in Christ. By faith in Christ and His work on the cross we are saved. It is all about Christ, and that is good news!

2,000 years later, and it is still all about Christ. He is still all we need. I’m writing this article in Ukraine, on the four-year anniversary of the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion. For the children with special needs and their families that I work with here in Ukraine, it is a dark and sad time much like it was for the disciples in Luke 24. Dark in a very literal sense, as Russian rocket attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure have left millions of Ukrainians without power, and thousands without heating in the middle of the worst winter I can remember in my 11 years serving here.

Every day there are more attacks, more homes destroyed, more refugees forced to flee, more deaths. Everyone knows that war is horrible. But few realize just how horrible it is for people with special needs. What are they to do when there is no power and their elevators don’t work and they live on the eighth floor? How are they to flee to a bomb shelter hundreds of stairs underground?

In the midst of all the terrible things this war had brought, we have good news to share. Everything Ukrainians need, can be found in Christ. Ukrainians need light; Jesus is the light of the world, in Him there is no darkness at all. Ukrainians need peace; Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He is our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in times of trouble.

Ukrainians need warmth this winter. I saw a recent video shared by a family with a newborn in Kyiv, Ukraine. Their high-rise apartment is without electricity and heat in the middle of winter. Their newborn baby is wrapped in blanket after blanket after

blanket with a hot water bottle tucked in there just to keep warm. Seeing this broke my heart. My wife and I just had our first child, and it is hard to care for our baby when we only have a few hours of power a day. I can’t imagine these parents with no power and no heating at all.

And yet, somehow that video reminded me of our relationship with God. Sometimes the cold can seem like a living thing. On winter nights you can feel the cold coming through the windows, trying to invade the house. As much as the parents were probably stressed and worried out of their minds, trying to keep the cold out and their baby warm, the baby in the video was perfectly peaceful, sleeping soundly in those blankets, safe from the cold seeping into that room.

The Bible also speaks of sin, as a living force, that is looking to tempt and destroy us. But when we place our faith in Christ and His work on the cross, we too are at peace, safe from the sin that wants to invade our hearts, separate us from God and condemn us. As I wrote before, Ukrainians need warmth this winter; well, Christ is our blanket. Isaiah 61 tells us how God has clothed us in garments of salvation and covered us with robes of righteousness.

Perhaps that passage in Isaiah is one of the ones Jesus explained to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The great news that by faith, Christ’s righteousness becomes our righteousness. Without Christ we are lost in darkness, without peace, bound by sin. With Christ, there is no darkness, there is peace, and we are clothed with righteousness, untouched by the stain of sin.

Yes, the cross continues to be good news. It was God’s plan, the means of our salvation. It is right for us to read the Old Testament, as pointing to Christ, that is the example Christ gave us on the road to Emmaus. It is all about Him!

No matter what problems you are facing in your life, whatever uncertainty you might have, whatever darkness you feel won’t go away, whatever sin is trying to come into your house to tear you down, trust in Christ. The disciples began our passage standing still and looking sad, but when their eyes were opened and they finally recognized Christ, the passage ends with their hearts burning and sharing the good news with the other disciples!

We put our faith in Jesus, for Christ alone is our salvation. And like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we get to share the good news that Christ is risen, and that it is all about Jesus, the one who was, is and will forever be, the Messiah we hoped for, the Savior who came to redeem. Amen. †

The Rev. Scott Yount serves in Ukraine with Joy 4 Ukraine Ministry and the Spiritual Orphans Network (SON).



Missions

AALC Gives Support to Mission in Ethiopia

In January, The AALC World Missions Commission began sponsoring an evangelistic and humanitarian project in Ethiopia led by Brother Tariku, a university professor and pastor with Mekane Yesus, the largest Lutheran Church in the world. One in six in the State of Tigray died during the devastating 2020–2022 Civil War, leaving thousands of children who lost their parents, sometimes in the most brutal way. Some twenty Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), children of Muslim, Orthodox, and Evangelical backgrounds, are now given two hot meals five days a week, while also hearing the Gospel and receiving Christian love and instruction.

Tariku and his wife and three daughters reside in Axum, where he teaches at the University of Axum, while pastoring a church. At the same time, he is overseeing the spiritual and development activities of a new plant in nearby Shire, along with other brothers and sisters there, renting a building that also serves as a center for the children.

He thanks The AALC for their timely support and covets their prayers as he serves in this difficult environment. The additional funds from The AALC helped the meal program to be continued without interruption, which would otherwise occur due to lack of funds and shortages of other basic inputs resulting from political situations leading to inflation.

Those wishing more information can contact Rev. Dr. James Hoefer, TAALC pastor and chair of Hope for Horn of Africa (HHA), or visit www.hopeforhornofafrica.org. He first met Tariku in 2017 shortly after radicals had burned down his church, while the police watched.

Currently, the largest project of HHA is teaming with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus to care for 150 IDPs between 5 and 18 years old in Adwa, Tigray. †



Brother Tariku (top) from the Mekane Yesus in Ethiopia, (above photo) sharing a Bible story with vulnerable children at Shire Mekane Yesus, while eating a meal provided through the children's center. Submitted photos.



A team from western ND traveled to Jamaica in February 2026 to assist with hurricane recovery. (Left) Gary Hansen, Wendy Hansen, (from Light of Christ Luth. Church, Williston, ND), Rev. David Huskamp (Shepherd of the Valley, Sidney, MT), Rev. Kevin Beard (Light of Christ Luth. Church, Williston, ND, and Trinity Luth. Church, Alexander, ND), and Lynn Brodal (Faith Lutheran Church, Columbus, ND) help pour cement for homes. (Right) Jamaican team members and those who worked with us. Submitted photos.

Mission Team Serves in Jamaica

By Rev. David Huskamp

In October of 2025, the island of Jamaica was devastated by Hurricane Melissa, a category 5 hurricane with winds of 145mph. It was bigger than Hurricane Katrina and the third strongest ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean.

When I saw the pictures and heard of the need, I invited members from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT, as well as other congregations in the North Plains Region to take a week and go help those who were in need. The task of rebuilding is immense and overwhelming; however, I often tell our members: “You can’t do everything, but everyone can do something.”

With that charge in mind, we partnered with the organization Experience Mission and went to Catadupa, Jamaica, in February 2026. When we arrived, during the 20-mile, 1½ hour drive to our destination, we saw the massive nature of the destruction: houses, churches, businesses, and buildings with extensive damage, many in need of repair.

Because of the generosity of several of the churches in the North Plains Region, we were able to purchase and deliver three sets of Milwaukee cordless tools including extra blades and bits to equip the saints to expedite the work. These tools were quickly put to use and are now available to be used by other teams that join in the work in Jamaica for the kingdom of God.

It was a great week and a hard week. There was joy mixed with pain as we labored, carrying the sand, gravel, water, and 94-pound bags of Portland cement 30 yards up the hill. After mixing the cement with shovels, we loaded the concrete into three-gallon buckets only to carry it back

down the hill, handing it up the ladder to pour the support beam columns.

So many of the Jamaicans are poor and unable to rebuild on their own. Anna, a poor but faithful widow and church worker, is just one example of so many in Jamaica. Anna’s house was completely destroyed during the hurricane. The church rebuilt the house increasing its size to a one room 16x16 structure. Our team hauled in the fill for the flooring. The next group will pour a cement floor so she can once again have her own home.

We have been blessed to be a blessing to others. Despite the hard work and sore muscles, there was a lot of joy and laughter. The Jamaicans were so thankful that God heard their prayers. God answered those prayers by sending our team (one of many) to help.

At the present time, we are working to purchase a cement mixer for the church to use to help in the rebuild efforts. We are also looking into helping repair the broken water system.

The needs of the community will continue. Hopefully, again next winter when it is -20 degrees, we can again serve our Lord and our brothers and sisters in the delightful climate of Jamaica.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph 2:10). †

The Rev. David Huskamp serves Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT. He also serves as Regional Pastor for the North Plains Region.



From Your
Seminary



How Does ALTS Impact You and Your Congregation?

At the heart of every healthy congregation, you will find a pastor who is faithful, well-formed, and deeply rooted in the Word of God. That is no accident. Pastoral formation begins long before you see a pastor in the pulpit.

This is where the American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS) makes its greatest impact.

Every ALTS student—whether preparing for ordination, becoming a commissioned church worker, or deepening theological knowledge—receives training that is immediately relevant to real ministry. Our commitment is simple: We form leaders who can teach, preach, counsel, comfort, and shepherd with biblical clarity and Christlike compassion.

Consider the ripple effect of a single faithful pastor:

A congregation grounded in sound doctrine
Marriages counseled toward reconciliation
Young people hearing the Gospel clearly
The lonely visited
The grieving comforted
The lost welcomed home

This is the ministry your support makes possible.

ALTS is not just an academic institution; it is a formation center for Gospel-centered leaders whose ministry touches countless lives.



When you support ALTS, you invest in:

- The next generation of Confessional Lutheran pastors
- Deaconesses, teachers, youth ministers, and church leaders
- Congregations strengthened through faithful preaching and teaching
- A worldwide witness to Christ and His saving work

Your partnership truly multiplies.

In our next *Evangel* article, we will discuss the urgency of the moment, and the action ALTS is taking.

Please know we at the seminary are praying for you. Please pray for us. †



Ordinations and Installations



The Rev. Jacob Allan Schaeffer was ordained into Office of the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacraments and installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Watseka, IL, on Sunday, February 1, 2026, with the Rev. Dr. Cary Larson presiding. Rev. Schaeffer is a December 2025 graduate of the American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS). He completed his vicarage at St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Augusta, KY. Present for the installation service were: (back row) Rev. Aaron Uphoff, Calvary Lutheran Church (LCMS), Watseka, IL; Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins; (front row) Rev. Dr. Chris Caughey; Rev. Jacob Schaeffer; and AALC Presiding Pastor Rev. Dr. Cary Larson. Submitted photo.✝



The Rev. Benjamin Baker was installed as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Parshall, ND, and Lucky Mound Lutheran Church, Ryder, ND. The service was held on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at First Lutheran Church with the Rev. Dr. Cary Larson presiding. Also present were clergy from the North Plains Region: (back row) Rev. David Huskamp, Rev. Kevin Beard, (front row) Rev. Dean Johansen, Rev. Greg Stenzel, Rev. Benjamin Baker, and Presiding Pastor Rev. Dr. Cary Larson. Previously, Rev. Baker served the congregations of St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church, Traer, IA, and St. Paul Lutheran Congregation, Tripoli, IA. Submitted photo.✝

May 2026 PRAYER BOOKMARK

1. To remember to thank God for salvation
2. Rev. Mark Raitz
3. Gretchen Baker, *Evangel Editor*
4. Rev. Richard Day
5. To ask God to move our hearts to repentance
6. Bible Lutheran Church, Dodge Center, MN
7. Rev. Thomas Baumgarten
8. Rev. Matthew Fenn, ALTS Provost
9. Rev. Orlando Hash
10. For peace in Christ
11. Rev. John Bergson
12. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, MN
13. Rev. Paul Hueter
14. Christ Lutheran Church, Chetek, WI
15. Rev. Norman Hoffeld
16. Women of L.I.F.E. Committees
17. Christ Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, WI
18. To thank God for victory over death
19. Rev. Arne Bjelland
20. Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry
21. Rev. Jay Eberth
22. Women of L.I.F.E. Executive Committee
23. Rev. Dr. Fred Hall
24. Unity in the Church
25. Rev. Len Brokenshire
26. For all who mourn
27. Rev. Tylan Dalrymple
28. Ukraine Ministry - Rev. Scott Yount
29. Mr. Michael Baumgarn
30. For kids to understand the importance of church
31. The Sending Place



June 2026

PRAYER BOOKMARK

Grace Lutheran WOL Active in Ministry & Outreach

1. West Great Lakes Region
2. Rev. Eric Ishimaru
3. To set our minds on things above
4. Rev. David F. Johnson
5. Christ Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN
6. Rev. David M. Johnson
7. For help amid doubt and fear
8. Rev. Larry Juergensen
9. For God to fill every household with His wisdom
10. Rev. Leon Knitt
11. Clam Falls Lutheran Church, Frederic, WI
12. For those in any affliction or need
13. Rev. Michael Main
14. Board of Trustees
15. That we receive Christ in sincerity and truth
16. Rev. Dale Zastrow
17. The AALC Ministerium
18. Evangelism Commission
19. Rev. Carl Bengston
20. Seminary Professors
21. Rev. Joseph Marsh
22. Community Lutheran Church, Wausaukee, WI
23. Standing Committee for Men
24. Christ the King Lutheran Church, Waseca, MN
25. For The AALC General Convention
26. Rev. Robert Ross
27. Protection for the unborn
28. Rev. Dan Sollie
29. Local AALC church
30. Rev. Dr. Thomas Stover



The women of Grace Lutheran Church, Nunda, SD (Greater Heartland Region of The AALC), serve their brothers and sisters and the community with events throughout the year. Committees take care of the usual business of planning events and bringing food, as well as an altar guild taking care of paraments and flowers for Sunday services. The ladies also hold a diaper derby between Mother's Day and Father's Day to collect diapers, wipes & needed baby supplies for our local abuse shelter. A quilters group makes about 100 quilts a year to go to charities and people in need. The women also host a very large fall supper every year to benefit the church treasury and the WOL missions, including supporting youth attending camp. The Nunda WOL group also joins their sister church, Lake Madison Lutheran Church, Rutland, SD, for a monthly Bible study. Submitted photos.



Women of L.I.F.E.

Women of The AALC Make Plans for Convention

Greetings from the Executive Board of the National Women of L.I.F.E. (WOL)! As we get ready for our national convention, we want to encourage every woman of The AALC to consider joining our sisters (and brothers) at the 30th General Convention of The AALC from June 23-26, 2026, at the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary in Plymouth, MN. The women have two opportunities to meet together for fellowship, business, and prayer:

1. Our Women of L.I.F.E. luncheon (all women are invited!) will be Wednesday, June 24, from 11:15 AM-12:55 PM. We will have a devotional, enjoy lunch and fellowship together, and conduct the business meeting. During the meeting, we will
 - a. review our benevolence giving and the work being done by the missionaries we support,
 - b. vote on our benevolences for the next two years, and
 - c. vote on new officers. The positions that need to be filled are: Co-Chair, Secretary, Mission Outreach Coordinator.

Please prayerfully consider joining the executive committee, or, if you know someone who would like to serve on the executive committee, feel free to nominate them.

We also have openings for the Greater Heartland and the West Great Lakes Regional Representatives.

2. Our prayer meeting will be Thursday, June 25, from 7:30-8:15 AM at the college. We will carpool from the hotel to the college. Come be a woman of prayer with us! Coffee and treats will be provided.

If you are unable to join us at convention, please know that we would still love to hear from you. You may contact Katherine Hofinga, Co-Chair, at 307-689-8834 (call/text) or email khofinga@hotmail.com.✝

Attention all Pastors' Wives!

We are excited to invite all Pastors' Wives (PW) of The AALC to join us early for Convention on Tuesday, June 23! For those who are able, we will go out to eat together for lunch. We will then have the opportunity to learn from the Rev. Dr. Jordan and Mrs. Lisa Cooper as they help us navigate how to be the PW that God has called us to be.

We hope you can join us! Send us an email if you are thinking about attending, and we'll make sure you get any updates.

We will also have a Pastors' Wives dinner on Wednesday, June 24, from 5:00-6:30 p.m., as another opportunity to build relationships with one another.

If you can't be at the convention but would like to be kept in the loop about pastor's wife stuff, please email Katherine Hofinga at khofinga@hotmail.com or Gretchen Baker at flowerspurple@hotmail.com, and we will be in touch.✝

The American Association of Lutheran Churches

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UPCOMING EDITIONS...

Themes for 2026: Six Church Seasons and High Feast Days

Please be in prayer for these upcoming editions:

Jul/Aug: Pentecost (*deadline May 1*)

Sept/Oct: High Feast Days in the Church (*deadline July 1*)

Nov/Dec: Advent & Christmas (*deadline Sept. 1*)

Church News:

The Evangel welcomes submissions of what's happening in your congregation.

To submit content, **email the editor** Gretchen Baker: theevangel@taalc.org

Or mail: Gretchen Baker, PO Box 84, Parshall, ND 58770