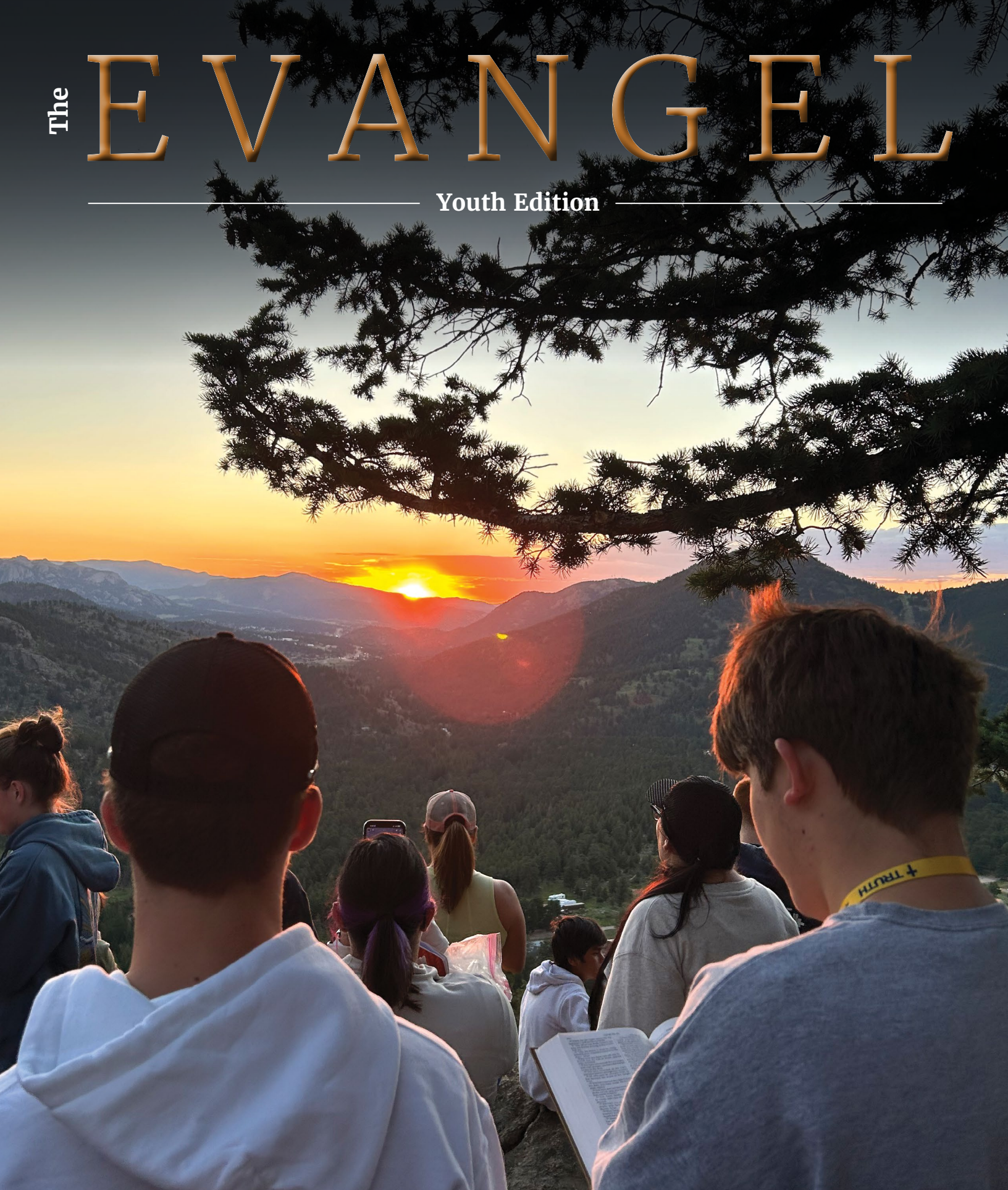


The

EVANGEL

Youth Edition





From the Editor

Much time and energy has been spent on concerns for our youth in today's world. While we need to be informed and aware, I must confess: at times it all overwhelms me. I have to consciously step back and refresh my perspective with: where is God in all of this?

Because as sure as His promises, God is present in our children's lives. I marvel at the various people God has brought into our own daughter's life to provide for her needs.

Where do you see evidence of God's gracious hand in your world?

In the pages of this Youth edition alone, we have reminders of God working through parents, pastors, older women teaching the younger, and youth workers planning activities at home churches or the conference in Colorado. A pastor planted a garden to feed the neighborhood kids. Seminary students are being trained for ministry with future generations, and a prayer warrior notices youth needs and crafts the prayer bookmark for us.

All of these "ordinary" stories point our eyes to God at work in our homes, churches, and communities. These are reasons to be at peace and have hope God will provide for future generations.

Forgive me for repeating myself, but I will share again the verse that has sustained me through the worries of parenting:

"He tends His flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in His arms

and carries them close to His heart;

He gently leads those that have young" (Isa 40:11).

Remember: The Good Shepherd holds His lambs close – and gently leads you as well.

In his peace,

Gretchen Baker

Gretchen Baker
The Editor

Cover photo: Youth at the Conference in Colorado hiked to Bible Point in the early morning hours. Photo by Bethany Hironaka.
More conference content inside this edition.

- 2 From the Editor
- 3 Presiding Pastor
- 4 Instructing the Least of Us
- 5 WOL: Teaching the Younger Women
- 6 2023 Youth Conference Recap
- 8 Youth Testimonies
- 10 Youth Q&A
- 11 Camp VBS
- 12 ALTS Hosts Summer Intensive
- 13 ALTS Student Intros
- 14 Regional Conferences Updates
- 16-17 Clergy Installations
- 17-18 Prayer Bookmark
- 18 In Memoriam: Rev. Hueter
- 19 Garden of Hope

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YOUTH MINISTRY BEGINS AT HOME



By Rev. Dr. Cary Larson

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov 22:6).

We all have a pretty good appreciation of parenthood as providing to meet all the appropriate needs of a child. Regrettably, when it comes to catechizing our children, we are tempted to delegate this responsibility to the church and specifically to the pastor. We need to recognize that youth ministry begins at home.

The vocation of parenthood includes many responsibilities. The care and nurture of parents affects all aspects of children’s lives and how they mature into competent and God-fearing adults. This care and nurturing include the responsibility of being the disciplinarian, the one who uses the Law to point out sin to curb sinful behavior, just as God the Father disciplines His own in love (Heb 12:4-11). However, just as needful for parents to teach proper discipline, so parents are assigned to teach the lifesaving Gospel of Jesus Christ to their children.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther expected youth ministry to begin at home. Find any faithful copy of Luther’s Small Catechism and turn to each chief part of the Small Catechism, you will read whose responsibility it is to minister to the family, which includes the children. For example, if you would turn to The Ten Commandments, you will read: “As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way.” What a contrast to what has occurred when it comes to teaching the faith to youth in the last three generations!

The church and specifically pastors need to support parents as the primary workers in youth ministry, guiding and teaching parents that their children have entered a supernatural battle with the father of all lies. Through Holy Baptism and having been marked by the cross, children have been publicly declared the sworn enemies of the devil. These new children of God now shine (1 Thes 5:5) before the darkened dead eyes of the demonic

hosts, who immediately begin to scheme and strive, even before the baptismal party returns to their seats after the Sacrament of Baptism, to tear the new child of God away from Christ Jesus.

Would any loving parent, who knew someone, or something would do physical harm to their child, not do anything in their power to ensure their child is safe, healthy, and secure? Working parents do this all the time. When a child is physically ill, the parent naturally assumes something needs to be done for the sake of his or her child including taking time away from work at a loss of income or to forgo a trip to insure the child is healthy and safe. Rarely and usually only under duress will a parent delegate this primary responsibility to anyone else.

Is it any different to the spiritual health of a child? We as an association of confessional Lutherans need to empower our parents and help them appreciate their highest responsibility is to raise their children in the true faith because their children’s eternal life is at stake. A sure defense against the evil work of the sinful flesh of the child, the lost world and of the devil is for parents to put the Word of God in their child’s hand, bring him or her to worship, and do their utmost to provide a good example of living within the grace of God.

Thanks be to God; we know by faith that this does not rest on the parents alone and their own devices. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps our youth with Jesus Christ in the one true faith, just as He does for the whole Christian Church on earth. While the Holy Spirit uses the means of the church to provide proper ministry to children such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation instruction, youth group, and The AALC National Youth Conference, all of this should be second to the youth ministry that starts at home led by parents. †

The Rev. Dr. Cary G. Larson is the Presiding Pastor of The AALC.

INSTRUCTING THE LEAST OF US

By Rev. Joe Christina

I wrote an article some years back about a worship service and fellowship event we host here at Christus Victor entitled, “This I Know.” It is a modified liturgy that was specifically created for a special needs audience. During the first year of its existence, we spent the message (or sermon) part of the worship reviewing Bible history lessons from the Old and New Testaments. In its second year, I decided to begin taking the worshippers through the six parts of Luther’s Small Catechism. This proved to be a task that required prayer as well as discernment as far as how to teach the catechism in a simplified and meaningful way. But by the work of the Spirit, it also proved to be rewarding as these precious lambs began to truly grasp the truths of the Christian faith.

Something that was born of this experience (and that is a work in progress at this point) is a drafting of a special needs catechism teachers’ manual that I have been working on and intend to finish in time. I have had a considerable amount of experience working with those with special needs in different settings so it is a part of my own ministry that I am quite comfortable with. But I realized that for congregations with special needs lambs or for those who may want to consider reaching their local special needs community, perhaps they may not feel equipped to do so. My prayer is that when this guide is completed it may offer some tips to those who may want to pursue such an endeavor.

The guiding principle behind the entire project is one that I tend to strive to apply to many aspects of my ministry: brevity and simplicity. And in my experience in catechizing those with special needs, I had to teach myself to not be surprised when they clearly grasped a concept. I am reminded of an adult daughter

with Down Syndrome who once told her mom in exasperation, “Mom, I have Down Syndrome. I’m not stupid.” An example of this would be teaching on the Holy Trinity. Like children, special needs lambs have little problem learning there is one God and Three Persons. One need not be a theologian to grasp this truth. The following is an excerpt from the guide: “It can be tempting to wonder whether or not they fully understand the doctrine (Trinity) until we are forced to ask ourselves the simple yet convicting question: Do we?”

For anyone endeavoring to catechize those with special needs, perhaps my most vocal advice is this: be yourself. Be “real.” Do not feel as if you need to change your personality or your demeanor in order to effectively “reach” your special needs audience. I have found that as my lambs got to know me as exactly who Pastor Joe is, they became much more comfortable and feel as if they are a part of our extended church family. We will pray with one another, laugh with one another, and even give each other a hard time on occasion all in good nature. This relationship, which can admittedly take time to establish, is a crucial first step in any endeavor to share the truths of God’s Word with someone.

I put it this way: Special needs people are real. They have unique personalities like we do. And they respect real. It is my prayer that our churches don’t overlook opportunities to serve this community with the life-giving gospel of Jesus. †

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

Women of L.I.F.E.

Teaching the Younger Women

By Katherine Hofinga

“Older women...are to teach what is good, and so train the young women...” (Titus 2:3-4)

Are you an “older woman” or a “young woman”? Do you have a relationship with the other type of woman at church? The Executive Committee of the National AALC Women of L.I.F.E. has been discussing a problem that plagues many of our churches today: younger women aren’t involved in the Women of L.I.F.E. Bible studies. So, here’s the question: what are older women doing to foster engagement with younger women and girls in the church? We have a few examples, but we want to start a conversation with readers of *The Evangel*.

Some examples from our churches:

1. Having a “younger sister” to pray for and develop a relationship with;
2. Inviting teenagers to WOL Bible studies in the summer or whenever there is no school;
3. Serving funeral dinners together;
4. Pairing seasoned and novice Vacation Bible School teachers;
5. Mentoring younger women as they take responsibility preparing the altar for communion;
6. Recognizing a teenager’s interest and allowing her to assist as she grows in abilities;
7. Hosting a baby shower for the local Crisis Pregnancy Center.

I’m sure there are many more ways in which older and younger women connect at church. If you would be willing to share how your church is fostering cross-generational relationships and service opportunities, please email Gretchen Baker at *The Evangel* at theevangel@taalc.org. We plan to have a follow-up article with more ideas to try out in your local church.

Are you perhaps a young woman? Have you wanted to join a Bible study or serve your congregation in some way but felt too intimidated to even try? We’d like to hear from you, too! Are there ways the older women could help you find your place in the church? Are there roadblocks preventing you from being able to serve? Send us an email!

Whether you are young or old, Christ’s body needs you! Whether you are an elbow or an ear, Christ’s body needs you to function well. Let’s learn from each other because “the body is not made up of one part but of many” (I Cor 12:14). †

Katherine Hofinga serves as Co-Chair of the National AALC Women of LIFE. She also refers to herself as the “gallbladder” in the body of Christ.



Top and Middle: Younger and older women working together at Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Grace/Lake Madison in Nunda, SD. Submitted photo.

Bottom: Women from our Grace/Lake Madison Women’s Evening Bible Study (WEBS): learning together and from each other. Submitted photo.



Recap of the 2023 AALC Youth Conference

By Bethany Hironaka

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32).

Incoming eighth graders to outgoing twelfth graders gathered together in Estes Park, Colorado, at the YMCA of the Rockies for The AALC National Youth Conference from July 10–14, 2023. While enjoying God’s beautiful creation in the Rockies, our theme for the week was “Truth” based on John 8:32.

“Swen and Dean” Swenson led our kids each day through songs, dances, stories, and more. Rev. Scott Yount provided “Silly Time with Scottie,” featuring youth-participation, minute-to-win-it games, and other activities to help our youth get to know one another. Our keynote speaker this year was Rev. Gabe Kasper, who did an excellent job bringing the Word of God!

Our worship team members included Brad Longstreth, Julie Max, Bethany Hironaka, Scott Strosahl, Logan Hegna, Mark Wiita, and Kyle Lundblom.

Workshops were held Tuesday through Thursday on the following topics:

- “Stressed Out” – Rev. Len Brokenshire
- “Discovering My Identity in a World of Identity Crisis” – Ryan Christ
- “Praying Together” and “Improv 101” – Sue DeSha
- “And Then What?” – DSS Brigitte Gassman
- “Self-Love Through a Biblical Lens” – Bethany Hironaka
- “Baptism” – Rev. Philip Hofinga

- “Christian Civic Engagement” – Kris Johnson
- “Living Tech-Wise” and “Youth Ministry in a Secular Age” – Rev. Gabe Kasper
- “Youth Panel Discussion” – Tiffany Kearney Ledesma
- “Dating in an Ungodly World” – Brad Longstreth
- “Spiritual P.P.E.” – Kyle Lundblom
- “Finding Forgiveness” and “Presence is Everything” – Pr. Dean Swenson
- “Planting Seeds Mission” – Swen Swenson
- “Help, My Friend Says She is Transgender” – Rev. Roger Twito
- “Skit Time with Scott” and “Being an Everyday Missionary” – Rev. Scott Yount

We were also blessed to hear from our Presiding Pastor, Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, and Seminary President, Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper.

During our morning sessions, youth were able to have “Hang Time with God,” personal guided devotion time to examine Scripture and dive into the topic of the day. Our mission outreach this year, organized by Kris Johnson, was to assist the YMCA facilities with laundry and picking up trash around campus. After each nightly session, individual youth groups met for small group devotions and to reflect on the experiences and learnings of the day.

There were many other activities offered each day, including “Swen and Dean’s Variety Hour” talent show, sunrise hike to Bible Point,

Through our program presenters, worship team, and workshops, we learned about abiding in God's truth, and the freedom and love we receive through Christ.



mini golf, basketball, sand volleyball, reading in the library, arts and crafts, somewhat successful crowd surfing, and so much more.

One of the most moving parts of this whole week is our service of Holy Communion on Thursday night. After we partake of the body and blood of our Lord, youth are given the opportunity to be individually prayed for by sponsors. What is even more moving to see is youth praying for other youth.

There is no denying the Holy Spirit's presence throughout this week as our youth are free of distractions from home life, school obligations, work, or otherwise. Through our program presenters, worship team, and workshops, we learned about abiding in God's truth, and the freedom and love we receive through Christ.

Many people have given their time, talents, and treasures to make this week happen for these incredible children of God, and their season for helping with this conference has come to a close.

- Rev. Bill Yonker served our youth many years as our keynote speaker, always reminding us how much our God loves us through powerful messages and entertaining us with the best dance moves.
- Rev. Roger Twito has served on the Youth Commission since its beginning and has been our MC for many conferences. We thank God for the gifts He has given Rev. Twito to be able to minister to our youth so well. We are blessed to have Rev. Len Brokenshire now oversee our Youth Commission as our Pastoral Advisor and MC.
- Pat, Scarlet, and Shelley Dean have also been involved with the Youth Commission since the early years, working behind the scenes with registration needs and providing tremendous support during the conference. We have been extremely blessed for their commitment to the Lord and this conference.
- Nikki Hegdahl has been serving on the Youth Commission for several years, using her gift of leadership to make sure all the logistics of the conference work like a well-oiled machine. We are so thankful for the time and dedication she has given to serve on the Commission and to these kids.

Thank you to our Youth Commission and Planning Team members for their leadership, dedication, and love of Christ preparing this conference year after year. Current team members are: Rev. Len Brokenshire, Nikki Hegdahl, Mark Wiita, Tiffany Ledesma,

Bethany Hironaka, Kris Johnson, Sue DeSha, Brad Longstreth, Scott Strosahl, and Pat, Scarlet, and Shelly Dean. Thank you to Deaconess Brigitte Gassman for coordinating our workshops. We are excited for Rachel Shewmaker to be joining our team as she is stepping into the role of registrar.

Going from youth participant to sponsor and Commission member, it has been my biggest blessing to continually be a part of this conference in various ways. I'll confess at moments it can become extremely challenging to continue in the midst of stress, anxiety, and frustration over small trivial things that the devil uses to distract me from the true purpose of this week.

Words just don't do justice to how powerful our God is in the lives of these youth. I've seen God work in mighty ways through the hearts and minds of each youth present. Watching them worship, connect with people they know, harvest friendships with new friends, see them pray and love one another, be vulnerable at the foot of the cross, and so much more, are just a few of the many reasons this conference is so important. God meets these kids where they are during this week, revealing who He is and just how much He loves them.

There are two things I would like to ask of you, brothers and sisters in Christ. The first thing is prayer. Pray for these kids! They are going through many challenges alone and feel like they have nowhere to turn. Mental health, social media, peer pressure, and much more are having more of an impact on them than we may realize. They need prayer constantly.

The second thing: invest. This can be done in so many ways. Invest your time by listening to them, being available when they need someone to talk to, and being completely present in their lives. Invest in them by saying "hi" to them on a Sunday morning at church. Invest in your youth program. Invest your treasures in this conference; if that is where God is leading you, we could always use your support in this area.

These youth are the future of the church, and it is our job and responsibility to help lead, guide, and minister to them so they are equipped to raise the next generation by the grace of God and continue to walk with Him. Thank you for covering us with your prayers; we are so excited for 2025! †

Bethany Hironaka serves on the Commission for Youth Activities and is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Elk Grove, CA.

“In Their Own Words”

Youth Share about Their Time at Conference



Conference photos on pages 6–10 were taken by Bethany Hironaka, Scott Strosahl, Tiffany Ledesma, and others. Pictured here: brothers Oliver, Elliot, and Cooper Olsen attended the conference together this year. It was the first trip for Oliver, the second trip for Elliot, and for Cooper: the first time attending as an adult sponsor, after attending as a youth. The Olsen brothers are members of Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA.

By Hayden Oftedal

This year was my second time attending The AALC Youth Conference in Estes Park, Colorado. The first time I attended I was an upcoming freshman and still didn't really know how to express my faith and make time for Christ in my life. While I got a good understanding of what being a Christian looked like, I did struggle at times, maintaining the faithful, God-loving, Christian life after I left Colorado. This time I was really looking forward to trying to bring more of what I learned in Colorado back home to South Dakota.

This year, I was always thinking about how I could apply what I was learning back to my real life. One of my favorite parts of the conference was doing “Hang Time with God” during the morning sessions. I realized that I could do that same thing in my everyday life, just spend five or ten minutes reading the Bible and praying to God.

Another one of my biggest takeaways this year was how important praying is. When praying I never knew what to say or when to say it, but I learned that it doesn't matter what you say or how, when, or where you say it. God will always listen when you speak to Him. Prayer is one of the greatest things in the world; as Christians we have the amazing privilege to talk to the great Creator of the whole world.

Thursday night was my favorite night of the whole conference by far each year. It is hard to describe in words just how amazing of a feeling it is to be there in a room full of Christians all there taking the body and blood of Jesus Christ. It feels as though Christ is in the room with you, rejoicing over every single teenager, sponsor, and commission member there. You feel so moved by everything happening you can't help but cry and give all your hardships and burdens to the Lord.

I still have one more chance to attend the conference, and I will certainly be taking the opportunity. You can only do things like this a handful of times, and I believe everyone should take all the opportunities they can get. After being back in South Dakota for about a week, I feel so much closer to God than I ever have before. I plan on continuing to grow closer and closer to God, and I give a lot of the credit to the conference for starting this fire inside of me. †

Hayden Oftedal is from Nunda, South Dakota.

By Bailey Hyland

I set my expectations super high for this trip. The girls in my youth group had told me about their past experience and how much fun they had. I figured I'd have fun, learn about God, and make new friends. I was excited to see the mountains and feel God's presence, but I was scared of having to open up about my sin.

My faith in God hasn't been the best since my grandma died in 2021. Her faith in God was strong, and she not only played a big role in my church, but also did other things to spread the Gospel. I aspired to be just like her but, when she died, I hated God. I did bad things to God's Word and I cursed His name multiple times. I did so because I couldn't understand how He could take someone that meant so much to me away. I still went to church and youth group but I struggled to give 100% of myself to Him. So the closer I got to Estes Park, the less excited I got. I felt that I wasn't going to experience things the same way since I kept falling back into sin and temptation. This is where I set the bar high and I basically told myself that if I didn't experience things the same way as everyone else then I was a failure and did not deserve to be here.

Swen and Dean, "Silly Time with Scottie," Reverend Gabe's sermons, morning and evening sessions, workshops, and "Hang Time with God" exceeded my expectations immensely. Slowly as the week went on, I started to feel a connection. For the first time in a long time, I felt happy. Wednesday morning during Hang Time with God, I realized that until Jesus was enough for me nothing else ever would be. I have always strived for more, but when I realized that I live in a temporary world that would never satisfy me, I then understood God made me on purpose, for

a purpose. Just as He did with everyone else. This thought hit me hard and completely changed my mindset.

Thursday morning my youth group walked up to Bible Point for a sunrise hike. Everyone else that went was excited for Communion that night; I, on the other hand, was not. I was scared to open up about everything that I had been struggling with and all the bad things I did to God. I hadn't told anyone anything about what I did for almost two years but, I knew that if I wanted to find peace I was going to have to open up.

So, that night I opened up to Pat Dean. The presence of God was with us. I have never felt something so strong, and the weight that God lifted off my chest was indescribable. I started to feel peace in His presence, joy knowing I'm endlessly loved, comfort knowing He wouldn't leave my side. During worship that night I praised Him with everything I had, I was giving Him thanks and seeing His goodness, I was finding abundant happiness in Him, and my joy was radiating onto others. He made me want to help others find Him too.

Making that connection with God that night was something that I needed for the longest time. Knowing now that I pushed Him away for so long upsets me, but I know I'm forgiven and I know He still loves me unconditionally. Going to this conference has helped me realize that. My experience wasn't the same as others, but God knew what I needed and gave me exactly that. And finding that peace and happiness through Him has made my experience a million times better than what I had set the bar to. †

Bailey Hyland is from Nunda, South Dakota.





Youth Q&A from 2023 Conference

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Elk Grove, CA

What types of activities does your youth group do at your home church?

- Wednesday night games and Bible Study
- Help serve suppers during Lent
- Visit the elderly: talk with them, play board games
- First meeting after summer break: "Ice Cream Drop" – youth leaders on the church roof drop ice cream and toppings down to the youth standing below
- Christmas party: youth get dressed up (boys in ties, girls in dresses) and have a nice dinner. Middle school version: wear pj's and have breakfast for dinner

What are some highlights from conference?

- Hike to Bible Point
- Speakers and electives
- Youth panel elective: youth could submit questions to a panel of 4 older youth, who answered questions on handling issues and how they stay strong in their faith.

How can we pray for the youth?

- Feeling stressed and overwhelmed
- Youth are not peaceful in mind and heart or at home. Pray for a place for them to feel safe and at peace.
- Keeping the faith after the conference; the closeness we feel to each other and God is gone.
- Staying connected with other youth, people around to talk through stuff with

Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA

What types of activities does your youth group do at your home church?

- Philistines – good game!
- Bonfires, small group Bible study, special events during the summer

What are some highlights from conference?

- Worship time
- Hang time with God (personal Bible study time)
- Rev. Gabe Kasper – main speaker

How can we pray for the youth?

- Mental health
- Acceptance of our beliefs; in school, other opinions are being forced on us
- Being ok with being different from people because of your beliefs

Christ the King, Waseca, MN, & Christ the King, Duluth, MN

What types of activities does your youth group do at your home church?

- Sunday evenings: start with an ice breaker, then have Bible Study with questions and discussions
- Service trip to Pennsylvania: sorted and packed clothes and food for the homeless

What are some highlights from conference?

- Worship time, singing with a group
- Meeting new people; reconnecting with old friends
- Swen & Dean
- Bible Point

How can we pray for the youth?

- Being treated like a kid, but expected to be like an adult
- Pressure to do really well

Community Lutheran Church, Wausaukee, WI

What types of activities does your youth group do at your home church?

- Get togethers twice a month for crafts and Bible Study
- Service projects like highway clean up

What are some highlights from conference?

- Meeting new friends
- "Skits with Scott" elective with Rev. Scott Yount

How can we pray for the youth?

- Family at home, younger siblings looking up to us

Christ Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, WI

What types of activities does your youth group do at your home church?

- Once a month get-together with other area Lutheran church youth groups for games, food, and Bible Study

What are some highlights from conference?

- Seeing friends find peace and get advice
- "Skits with Scott" elective with Rev. Scott Yount

How can we pray for the youth?

- Family members with health issues
- Meeting friends and finding fellowship back home



Ascension Creates New Tradition: CAMP VBS

By Shanda Knight

The beginning of June... every year for the last (I think) 19 years, the preteens and teens of Ascension Lutheran in Waterloo, IA, are buzzing with excitement for Camp VBS (Vacation Bible School)! To be honest, I am too, because it is a fantastic time of ministry unlike any other for these kids.

VBS is a staple in many churches, but our church had hit a bit of a wall regarding VBS and the pre-teens. Those older students thought VBS was too young for them. In reality, it is hard to minister with the same materials at the same time to preschool through 6th grade—so some creative minds got busy and created Camp VBS.

What is Camp VBS? Well, think of it as being a smaller, local version of the Colorado Youth Conference for those exiting grades 4-6. There are worship sessions, outings, sometimes a service project, games, silly songs, workshops (everything from baking to how to have quiet time, to how to change a tire, to staying physically fit) – but held right here at our church.

Camp VBS started at Ascension as three days and two nights. It has taken a few forms of sleeping in tents to sleeping inside. COVID-19 year we were all heartbroken thinking Camp VBS wouldn't happen, but after thinking how we "could" do it rather than what we "couldn't" do, we made it day camp that year. The teen leaders (who I rely on a lot for opinions on what is cool and meaningful) missed the overnight, so the year after COVID, when things were still a little uncertain for some, we did one optional overnight. The one overnight has stuck. It has seemed to be the right mix of sleeping over, but also everyone stays in a better mood because they only have one night that is lacking in sleep.

This year Camp VBS was held under the theme "But God." In our world if someone says "but" – nothing good usually comes after it. "We could go get ice cream, but we don't have extra money." "I'd like to go, but I have plans with someone else..." However, when the word "God" is added to "but," it changes everything for the better. We were still sinners, but God loves us and sent His Son for us. Joseph was sold to slavery, but God was with him. Joseph was wrongfully accused and thrown into prison, but God was with him. Joseph rose to power – and God was still with him. This was a powerful theme, and one that the preteens and teens alike soaked in.

I get the honor of directing this camp each year, but I certainly do not do it alone. Let me share a bit about the volunteers. First, I need to talk about the teens. They make this camp happen every single year! They are paired up (usually one experienced and one newer one) and assigned a "cabin" of kids of their gender. They lead Bible studies, lead games, some lead workshops, share devos before bed, run PowerPoints, take photos for our slideshow, spend time with the campers and invest in their lives. The teens who are musical will help with singing or instruments for songs. Or those who are more drawn to actions would even impress Swen and Dean with their enthusiasm for actions! We really try to encourage them to be good role models – both at camp and throughout the year – so the students see them in worship and see them active in the life of the church.

Then there are the adults – the adults come in at various levels of participation. We have speakers (usually our pastors and church staff), workshop leaders, kitchen help, check-in, overnight male

continued on page 12

Camp VBS continued...

(I'm the overnight female), day-long point person, game help, and drivers. It takes an army!

Why do I love Camp VBS so much?

1. It allows us to have a VBS program tailored to each age group to better meet their needs.
2. Students have time away from every-day life and focus in on the Lord for three days. They learn what it is to be a part of the Bible study. They start to understand where the Bible is a handbook of God's Words for our life!
3. The teens grow so much as well. They take on leadership, and in the process grow in Christ themselves. Many have commented how Camp VBS leadership has been a growth point for them in their faith journey. (I use Camp VBS examples often when called as a reference for one of the teen leaders seeking a job because there are so many examples!)

Camp VBS is a lot of hard work of planning and coordinating, but it is worth every ounce of effort in how it impacts all involved.

It is impossible to share all the details of Camp VBS with you in a short article, but if you would like to explore getting one started at your church, I'd be glad to talk with you and help you get started. Please contact me at shandaknight@yahoo.com or 319-233-1358.

P.S. My favorite part of *The Evangel* is when churches share things they do that work! In fact, that's why I shared this article. I'd love to read what is going amazing at your church and get ideas from you – please submit those articles – *The Evangel* editor would love to hear from you! †

Shanda Knight is the Director of Children & Family Ministries at Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA.

Seminary Presents Summer Intensive: Leading Lutheran Liturgy

By Rev. Dr. Curtis E. Leins

Immediately after the conclusion of our Spring Quarter, American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS) offered a Summer Intensive Course: "Leading Lutheran Liturgy," on June 19–22, 2023. We are grateful to Calvary Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN, and Rev. Joe Marsh for hosting this event. This was a terrific opportunity for professors and students to gather together for four days, to study and experience the Lutheran Liturgy, and to talk about AALC congregational worship.

There were several goals that were accomplished with this face-to-face learning event. We shared worship and prayer each morning and evening. We studied the history and theology of Lutheran worship. We learned about worship in our own AALC congregations. Students became acquainted with the variety of worship styles and practices across our congregations, and the importance that each congregation ascribes to its own worship style and tradition. Perhaps most important of all, men of God, who are preparing to become AALC pastors, were able to spend days in fellowship together. The 21 participants enjoyed deep theological discussions, personal interactions, fun and laughter, each day and late into the night. It was wonderful to see God join men together in relationships of faith and service. I suspect that their friendships will last a lifetime, as these students become pastors of our AALC congregations, serving Christ and His Church for decades to come.

Presenters for the event included: Rev. Jon Holst, Administrator of the seminary and Pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Lutheran Church in Jurupa Valley, CA; The Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper, ALTS Seminary President; and The Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins, Professor of Theology of ALTS. Topics that were presented and discussed

included: Service Preparation by Pr. Holst; Jewish Antecedents by Dr. Leins; Eucharistic Sacrifice by Dr. Cooper; Luther's Revision of the Mass by Dr. Leins; Church Music by Pr. Holst; A Walk through the Liturgy by Dr. Cooper; The Role of the Pastor in Worship by Pr. Holst; and Sacred Time and Sacred Space by Dr. Leins. Video recordings of these presentations will soon be available on the ALTS YouTube channel.

ALTS wants to thank the delegates of The AALC 2022 General Convention who approved a special line item in the budget to support seminary intensive, face-to-face events. Also, the seminary wants to give special thanks to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon, OH, for their generous contribution to this event.

As the Summer Intensive drew to a close, students were anxiously awaiting the start of the Summer Quarter, July 11–September 12. This summer, we are offering one course as an introduction for new or prospective students: "Church History Overview," taught by Dr. Chris Caughey and Dr. Curtis Leins. Many of our longstanding students have already completed this entry level course. However, ALTS has 30 students who have registered for "Church History Overview" this summer!

Please continue to remember the seminary in your personal and congregational prayers! †

The Rev. Dr. Curtis E. Leins is the Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation at ALTS.

American Lutheran Theological Seminary

Meet the Students: Introducing a few from our growing student body at ALTS



Joel and Karyn Guido and their 3 daughters currently serve as missionaries in Ecuador. Submitted photo.

Karyn Guido

*Degree pursuing:
Master of Arts in Theology*

Karyn Guido grew up in Oregon in a non-religious home, but through God's grace and mercy received salvation at age 17. She is a physician assistant who works occasionally in urgent care and primary care, enjoys Star Trek, and misses Oregon berries.

After years of desiring to do so, she started the ALTS MAT program with a focus on church history in the fall of 2022.

She and her husband, Joel, along with their three daughters, have served as missionaries in Cuenca, Ecuador, for the last seven years, working primarily with young families and leaders and serving on medical brigades.

Joel is nearing completion of the ALTS MAR program with a focus on church administration. The material, devotions, research, and relations they have been blessed with in the ALTS program have already gone forth and produced fruit in Ecuador. Karyn is very grateful for the chance to study in the ALTS program, for the professors, and for all those who pray for the program. Thanks be to God! †



*Rev. Chris Streeper.
Submitted photo.*

Rev. Chris Streeper

Degree Pursuing: Master of Divinity

Rev. Chris Streeper is a colloquy candidate who was ordained as a minister in the Southern Baptist tradition in 2017. He has served as a deacon in two congregations, as the lead pastor of the Medina Bible Church, and as the associate pastor of two church plants.

He began his theological studies at Sioux Falls Seminary and transferred to American Lutheran Theological Seminary after completing adult confirmation at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Valley City, OH. Rev. Streeper currently serves St. Paul as a colloquy resident, and as a visiting pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Wellington, OH.

Rev. Streeper resides in Spencer, OH, with his wife Vauna. They have five children: Derek (19), Dylan (17), Bryan (16), Morgan (16), and Judah (4). Rev. Streeper and his wife are both veterans of the United States Coast Guard. Their son, Derek, is a cadet at the Citadel Military Academy in Charleston, SC.

Rev. Streeper has been a bi-vocational pastor for most of his time in ministry, working as a professional educator. He recently accepted a position at Lutheran East HS in Cleveland, OH, where he will teach Senior Religion and Ethics classes. Vauna retired from active duty after completing twenty years of service and continues to serve the Coast Guard as a Special Victims Advocate at District 9 Headquarters in Cleveland, where she provides service and training to units throughout the Great Lakes region.

Rev. Streeper is an Inkling Fellow at the C.S. Lewis Institute of Northeast Ohio. He and his wife are active members of the Medina County chapter of the Disabled American Veterans. Rev. Streeper is looking forward to completing his colloquy and MDiv, receiving and taking a formal call, and plans to pursue a doctorate in apologetics. He hopes one day to teach future seminarians at ALTS as an associate professor. †



Regional News



Greater Heartland Region Holds Conference

By Rev. Steve Klawonn

Delegates and pastors of the Greater Heartland Region of The American Association of Lutheran Churches gathered together in Holstein, IA, June 22 – 24, 2023. Ten of the sixteen churches in the region were represented with a total of 28 voting delegates.

Our conference theme for this year was “Reclaiming Your Role in Christ’s Church,” as we focused on how we move forward in this difficult age in a Christ-like way of living and sharing our faith as we speak the truth in love.

Presiding Pastor Rev. Dr. Cary Larson blessed us with a session on reclaiming the role of men in the church and the importance of the spiritual leadership that comes from the vocation of being men. Tom Knight spoke words of encouragement on how to start and the importance of Men’s Ministry in each congregation. Rev. Steven Klawonn then shared how each person has a role to play in the church and in our communities and how we represent Christ in all we do, thus making it all the more important that we seek God’s wisdom in how we interact with the world, not as the world would act, but how Jesus would, did and does act even now in our lives.

We were blessed with a presentation by Mr. Phil Gassman through video on an upcoming Missions Conference that will be held Oct. 14 – 15 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Ames, IA.

Two worship services were held at Faith Lutheran Church in Holstein. During the first night’s worship, Rev. Klawonn shared God’s Word and Presiding Pastor Larson officiated communion. The message for the second service was given by John Linch, who has finished his seminary training at ALTS and is finishing the process of being certified for Call. We appreciated John’s words of encouragement and look forward to seeing how God works in his life in service to the Church.

Regional Chairman Ed Kleiner expertly handled the business of the Greater Heartland Region as we voted the following people into positions of service:

- Regional Pastor – Rev. Steven Klawonn, Prince of Peace Evandale, Iowa
- Assistant Regional Pastor – Rev. Dave Spotts, Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry, Columbia, Missouri
- Regional Secretary – Mrs. Katherine Hofinga, Grace/Lake Madison Lutheran, Nunda, South Dakota
- Regional Treasurer – Mrs. Jodi McClurkin, Prince of Peace Evansdale, Iowa
- Regional Mediation Board – Rev. Michael Badenhop, Ascension, Waterloo, Iowa
- Regional Mediation Board – Rev. Dave Spotts, Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry, Columbia, Missouri
- Regional Mediation Board – Ms. Donna Nelson, Ascension, Ames
- Regional Mediation Board – Miss Kristie Rysdam, Prince of Peace, Evansdale, Iowa
- National Association Council – Ms. Donna Nelson, Ascension, Ames
- National Board of Trustees – Mr. John Linch, Ascension, Ames, Iowa
- National Parish Education – Mrs. Shanda Knight, Ascension, Waterloo, Iowa

- National Pensions – Mr. Bob Folkmann, Ascension, Ames, Iowa
- National Youth Commission – Mr. Scott Strosahl, Ascension, Ames, Iowa
- National Nominating Committee – Rev. Roger Twito, Ascension, Ames, Iowa

We had one resolution that was brought forward and voted on regarding the “Respect for Marriage Act.” The resolution called for the Greater Heartland Region to encourage pastors and congregations to express opposition to the “Respect for Marriage Act” because in it, the government redefines the meaning of “marriage” in a manner which violates the religious, cultural, historical, and traditional consensus understanding of marriage; and, therefore, represents a violation of the Jeffersonian principle of separation of church and state. This resolution passed and will be forwarded to the next National Convention.

Chairman Kleiner noted that we need to review our Regional Constitution. It was left up to Regional Pastor Klawonn to organize a committee to conduct this review and to have it ready by our next conference.

Prince of Peace in Evandale offered to hold the next Regional Conference in 2025. No final action has yet been taken.

The Greater Heartland Region of The American Association of Lutheran Churches recognized two outgoing members from the Regional Executive Committee. Regional Pastor Phil Hofinga and Regional Treasurer Marie Easter were each given certificates of appreciation for their years of service to the Region and to Christ’s Church. Thank you, Pastor Phil and Marie, and may the Lord richly bless you both as you move to different areas of service. †

The Rev. Steve Klawonn was elected Regional Pastor for the Greater Heartland Region. He serves Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Evansdale, IA.



Page 14: Conference attendees enjoyed fellowship between sessions and before the evening services at Faith Lutheran Church, Holstein, IA.

Top Left: Shanda Knight introduces herself to the assembly.

Top Right: Mr. Tom Knight spoke on Men’s Ministry.

Bottom Left: Rev. Steve Klawonn is installed as Regional Pastor by Presiding Pastor Rev. Dr. Cary Larson

Eastern Region Holds Conference

By Rev. Dean Stoner

The AALC Eastern Regional Conference was held June 26–28, 2023, at St. Timothy Lutheran Church of Charleston, WV. The Conference began with worship Monday evening, followed by the business of the church on Tuesday. Rev. Joe Christina, Region Pastor of the Eastern Region, led the meeting.

Elections were held; below are the results:

- Rev. Joe Christina – Regional Pastor (re-elected)
- Rev. Jamie Strickler – World Missions (re-elected)
- Rev. Alex McNally – Men’s Standing Committee
- Rev. Neil Cadle – Association Council
- Mr. Greg Scigiano – Evangelism
- Rev. Raymond Lorthoir, Jr. – Publications Commission
- Rev. Gary Benson – Board of Trustees (re-elected)
- Mrs. Ann Sloan – Commission for Women (re-elected)
- Rev. Joe Christina – Nominating Committee (re-elected)

Rev. Dean Stoner gave a presentation on the authority of Holy Scripture, followed by The Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, who gave a report on the state of The AALC, along with a presentation on Men’s Ministry. Tuesday evening dinner and fellowship was hosted by Jeff Runyan, friend of St. Timothy Lutheran and The AALC.

The Conference ended with worship Wednesday morning.

The Rev. Dean Stoner serves as Administrative Assistant to The AALC.



Installations



Rev. Morley Installed at Christ the Ray of Hope Lutheran Church

The Rev. John Morley III was installed as our Lord's divinely called servant to our brothers and sisters of Christ the Ray of Hope Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM, on June 4, 2023. Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, Presiding Pastor of The AALC officiated Pastor Morley's installation with assistance from Rev. Jerry Storrs, TAALC's Western Region Pastor. As the LC-MS pastor who provided pulpit supply and pastoral services to the congregation during their time of vacancy, Rev. John Hellefingler also assisted in the worship service of more than 45 members and visitors.

Since her chartering in 1990, Christ the Ray of Hope had been served by the Rev. Harold Johnson who retired in October 2022. As a graduate of our American Lutheran Theological Seminary, Rev. Morley has served TAALC congregations in Arizona, North Dakota, and Kansas before receiving our Lord's call to serve in New Mexico. Our congregation in Albuquerque has celebrated many outreach projects ranging from their local community to international ministries, and they look forward to what the Lord has in store for them as they continue their walk with Him under the guidance of their newly installed pastor and his beloved wife, Gigi.

There was a wonderful meal known as a "not-nic picnic" served in the congregation's fellowship hall after worship, and a good celebration was enjoyed by all. Thanks be to God for His supply of men to serve him in the Office of the Holy Ministry!

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus ... preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." (1 Tim 3:1-7) †



Top: Rev. John Hellefingler, Jr., LC-MS Emeritus, Rev. Jerry Storrs, Rev. John Morley, and Presiding Pastor Rev. Dr. Cary Larson after the installation service. Submitted photo.

Middle: Rev. John Morley with his wife, Gigi. Submitted photo

Bottom: The installation service for The Rev. John Morley III at Christ the Ray of Hope Lutheran Church, Albuquerque, NM, on June 4, 2023. Submitted photo



Rev. Ishimaru Installed at Christ Lutheran Church

September 2023

PRAYER BOOKMARK



Top: The Rev. Eric Ishimaru was installed at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Waseca, MN, on Sunday, May 21, 2023, at a 3:00 pm service. Clergy present and participating in the installation were (front row): The Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, Rev. Roger Twito, Rev. Eric Ishimaru, Rev. Joe Marsh, Rev. Dr. Tom Stover, (back row) Rev. Dan Sollie, Rev. Steve Klawonn, and Rev. Dean Stoner. Submitted photo.



Middle: Presiding Pastor Rev. Dr. Cary Larson and Rev. Eric Ishimaru, pictured with the church's founding Pastor, Rev. Ray Peterson. Submitted photo.

Bottom: The clergy procession following the service, which was well attended by both members of the congregation as well as local community. A meal was served after the service. Submitted photo.

1. Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, Presiding Pastor of The AALC
2. Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA
3. Christian Education Directors
4. Bethel Lutheran Church, Rowland, PA
5. For our schools
6. Faith Lutheran Church, Columbus, ND
7. Rev. Dean Stoner, Administrative Assistant to The AALC
8. For parents and children
9. Rev. Carl Bengston
10. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN
11. Commission for Youth Activities
12. Kids clubs or programs
13. Christ Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, WI
14. Kids in Confirmation and Communion classes
15. For the youth to grow in their faith
16. For kids to understand the importance of Church
17. Rev. Dr. Christopher Caughey
18. For God to raise up Youth Church Workers
19. For youth to resist peer pressure
20. For youth who don't know Jesus
21. Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ellis, KS
22. Rev Roger Twito, Assistant Presiding Pastor
23. For youth who have left the Church
24. Rev. Richard Day
25. For abused children
26. Ascension Lutheran Church, Ames, IA
27. For children who are suffering
28. Sunday School kids
29. For kids seeking adoption
30. Protection for the unborn



October 2023

PRAYER BOOKMARK

1. Sunday School Teachers
2. Lake Madison Lutheran Church, Nunda, SD
3. Help for kids who are being bullied
4. Youth Directors
5. Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Williston, ND
6. Rev. Joe Christina, National Home Mission Developer
7. For youth to build good friendships
8. Rev. Rich Eddy
9. For youth to make good choices
10. For youth not to be ashamed of their faith
11. Rev. Don F. Ginkel
12. Mighty Fortress Ev. Lutheran Church, Seward, NE
13. Youth groups
14. Christ Lutheran Church Duluth, MN
15. Those youth learning how to drive
16. Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper, ALTS President
17. For the kids to remember God's care for them
18. For the youth to balance home, Church, and school activities
19. Elim Lutheran Church, Brush Prairie, WA
20. For youth struggling with mental health issues
21. For the kids to know whom to trust
22. First English Lutheran Church, Gibsonburg, OH
23. For kids in sports
24. For kids to seek help
25. Rev. Jay Eberth
26. For kids to feel safe at home, church, and school
27. Dan Kruger, Treasurer of The AALC
28. For kids dealing with health issues
29. Bible Lutheran Church, Dodge Center, MN
30. For those kids who struggle in school
31. Rev. Dr. Fred Hall

In Memoriam: Rev. Richard G. "Dick" Hueter



February 17, 1935 – July 15, 2023

The Rev. Richard "Dick" Hueter, age 88, entered the Church Triumphant on Saturday, July 15, 2023. At the time of his passing, he was at the Trillium Hospice House in Marquette, MI. Pr. Hueter was an Emeritus Pastor on the Clergy Roster of The AALC. He served for many years as Pastoral Advisor for The AALC Women of L.I.F.E.

Pr. Hueter received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Capital University in Columbus, OH, and continued on to earn his Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA, and later a Master of Arts degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. He married Evelyn Mueller on August 23, 1959 and served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea for 19 years. He later served as Pastor of Central Lutheran Church in Menominee, MI, Community Lutheran Church in McAllister, WI, as well as Christ Lutheran Church in Shingleton, MI.

In Papua New Guinea, Dick's skill in construction and building provided invaluable support to local mission stations. He and his wife Lynn were active in the local music society and the amateur theatrical society in town, bringing that music into their home through many rehearsals and music nights. Back in the United States, Dick enjoyed planting and landscaping, first with the parsonage yard, and then at their retirement property. Throughout that time in the United States, he served as a volunteer fire fighter in several departments over several decades.

And at all times, he lived out his faith, both in his vocation, and in his daily life. He shared the following witness frequently: "I like being a Christian. I don't have to wonder if I'm good enough or if my excuses should be better. I am condemned; but this same Judge offers to forgive me and welcome me to Heaven. What a great blessing!"

Dick is survived by his wife, of nearly 64 years, Lynn; three sons, Rev. Mark (Merlyn) Singh-Hueter, Rev. David (Sandy) Hueter, and Rev. Paul (Diane) Hueter; five grandchildren; one great-grandson; and sister Dorothy (Rudy) Kolberg, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Anna Hueter, brother Robert, sister Irene, and nieces Barbara Reardon and Rebecca Kolberg.

Funeral Service was held at Community Lutheran Church, McAllister, WI, with burial following in the church cemetery. †



Photos were taken and submitted by The Rev. Richard Sunderlage.

Garden of Hope: Providing Food for the Community

By Brad Saleik – Publication: The Fort Wayne Lutheran

A common story many know from the Bible is the feeding of the 5,000. It can be found in all four gospels and tells the story of Jesus providing meals for 5,000 people, despite having only five loaves of bread and two fish. After the basket was finished being passed around, including to Jesus' disciples, "They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve baskets full of broken pieces that were left over."

Fast forward nearly 2,000 years and a local pastor is trying to see what Jesus can do through his project which entails a local Lutheran church property near Waynedale [IN], just under a dozen volunteers and a food desert full of hungry children. He calls it the "Garden of Hope."

"If the Lord fed over 5,000 on two fish and five loaves, let's see what Jesus can do with a couple of acres," joked Pastor Richard Sunderlage, who volunteers at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church at 1819 Reservation Dr. in Waynedale. "God is a big God who provides what we need in order to do his work down here."

Pastor Sunderlage, a 1982 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, is a volunteer visitation pastor at Mount Calvary. He has served congregations and started new ministries in Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Florida and Indiana.

He assists the youth program director at Mt. Calvary where kids from the community come on Tuesday nights for food, Bible teaching, and recreation.

"They come for the food, I think. And they take a little extra, which is fine," explained Sunderlage.

He came up with the idea three years ago but wasn't able to make everything come together. Then, Mount Calvary had a pastoral vacancy and he offered to help.

He came on board and volunteered with their shut-in and youth ministries. He was convinced something had to be done when they had to cancel the youth ministry one night because the church was being used as an election polling site, and four kids showed up looking for food. When he made a trip to a local McDonald's, he knew a more permanent and sustainable solution needed to happen.

Pastor Sunderlage, having grown up on a farm, saw the church's 15

acres and suggested the Garden of Hope. This year, about two of the 15 acres will be tilled. That checks a big box. Add in some volunteers for the labor, at least 100 donated items including tomato plants, melons and a budget to purchase sweet corn and other vegetables, and the Garden of Hope is starting to take shape.

After some early troubles with the ground being filled with clay and bricks, he found some land closer to the church more suitable. Tilling and planting began in mid-May and will continue for several weeks.

"Tilling is not for the faint of heart; that's for sure," said Sunderlage.

Soon they will have rain barrels in place to provide moisture for the crops, and Sunderlage notes that a 1,200 square foot roof can provide 600 gallons of water with a one-inch rain.

They hope to have everything planted by early June in segments and harvest enough for the community in need and then some. Some plants can be planted in July and still reap a harvest.

They plan to distribute the food to the community, other Lutheran churches, and food banks, focusing mainly on Waynedale and the south side of Fort Wayne.

"You can grow 20,000 pounds of sweet corn per acre," said Sunderlage. "There should be plenty for everyone."

Pastor Sunderlage also provides pulpit supply in Gibsonburg, Ohio where more individuals have volunteered to help with the planting and harvesting.

He is always accepting donations of any kind – plants, equipment, money and good old-fashioned volunteer laborers. He is specifically seeking a small garden tractor to use for the garden.

"This is not a community garden, but more of a garden for the community," said Sunderlage.

"There is no doubt the Lord will provide a bountiful harvest. . . . There is a lot of ministry to be done and we are called to do it. God will provide right here, right now, I'm sure of it. That's what we are doing here with the garden." †

Brad Saleik is the Editor of the Fort Wayne Lutheran publication. This article was originally published in The Fort Wayne Lutheran and is printed here with permission. Our thanks to the publication and Writer/Editor Brad Saleik.

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UPCOMING EDITIONS...

Please be in prayer for and consider contributing to these upcoming editions:

Nov/Dec 2023: Advent and 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

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