

The EVANGEL

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CONFESSING • CARING • CALLING

INSIDE *this* ISSUE

Pg. 2 — From the Editor

Pg. 3 — Presiding Pastor

Pg. 4 — We Are Confessing

**Pg. 5-6 — As Christ Cares
for Us, so We
Care for Others**

Pg. 7 — Calling

**Pg. 8 — 200th Edition of
*The Evangel***

Pg. 9 — Bibles & Burgers

**Pg. 10-11 — Establishment
of Cash Reserve**

Pg. 12 — Joy 4 Ukraine

**Pg. 13 — Rev. Badenhop
Installation**

**Pg. 13-14 — Prayer
Bookmark**

**Pg. 14 — Rev. Cadle
Installation**

Pg. 15 — In Memoriam

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Editor: Gretchen Baker

Layout & Design: Lynette Macias

Cover Image: iStock Photo

Free to Confess, Care, and Call

Letter From the Editor

“Confessing, Caring, Calling:” These words not only describe our church body as The AALC, but also how we, as individuals, live our lives as children of God.

As I considered the theme and read the contributions for this edition, one of my favorite words popped into my head: “vocation.” It’s an understanding that has brought so much comfort to my own life, so yes, I will take every opportunity to talk about it.

What is vocation? Well, let’s chat.

For a good part of my life, I had this notion that certain jobs were more “spiritual” or more pleasing to God. I thought I needed to look for the right type of work to *really* be living the Christian life.

At various employments, the tedious, repetitious tasks made me question my life’s purpose. I would whine to the Lord, “Is this *really* what You want me to be doing? Is this *really* Your will for my life?”

Surely, there was something more “spiritually glamorous” that I was supposed to be doing. Something that meant more than just these mundane responsibilities.

Despite my whining, the Lord lovingly brought some excellent books and conversations into my life on vocation, which completely changed my understanding of these supposedly “meaningless” tasks.

Let’s see if I can explain it.

Consider this: we are all broken sinners. In mercy, the Father draws us to repentance, forgives us, and makes us His own. As a child of God, you are covered in Jesus’ perfect righteousness. Picture your pastor in his white alb on a Sunday morning: that is a picture of the white robes of Christ covering you.

Being covered in Jesus’ righteousness means this: **God is pleased with you.**

Wow... isn’t that *amazing*? To consider that I, an ungrateful, whiny sinner, can be transformed through Jesus into someone pleasing to God... That is the best news ever.

Now, since God is pleased with us, here’s the fun part: we get to live life! And do what we’re good at. Or simply do what needs to be done.

We get to live, work, invite, bake, build, teach, listen, hug, design, learn, organize, sing, preach, care, help, laugh, and so much more. Basically: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Through these activities, somehow the Lord uses us, stumbling, bumbling humans, to spread the gospel to the world.

Is it always fun? Oh no, of course not. Sometimes the task in front of us is really not fun. I’m convinced that dusting and scrubbing floors are not my “gift.” But the reality is, those tasks need to be done. So I do them (or make my teenager do them).

In the times when selfishness or complaining win over, turn to the Lord. Repent. Receive God’s forgiveness. Remember God is pleased with you through Jesus. Then get up and help your people. Repeat as many times as necessary.

That’s the emphasis I hope you take away after reading this month’s issue on “Confessing, Calling, Caring.”

While the tasks in front of us may be vastly different, through these vocations God is bringing the “message of reconciliation” to the world (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

As we say at the end of our worship service:

“Go in peace and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!”

The Editor
Gretchen Baker

Confessing, Caring, and Calling

by The Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins

Three characteristics have described The American Association of Lutheran Churches from our beginning: confessing, caring, and calling.

Confessing

We believe that God has saved us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from any of our own works. Martin Luther called this, “the chief article of the whole Christian doctrine.”

The Bible alone is the source of our theology and doctrine. We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. It is the indisputable authority and rule in all faith and life. The Holy Bible has greater authority than our feelings, our understanding, our culture, or our comforts. Simply stated, it is God’s Word.

Many people say that they believe the Bible, but they interpret it in a variety of ways. We accept the Lutheran Confessions because they are the correct interpretation and explanation of the Holy Bible.

Caring

We are a small but growing church body. This means every pastor and every congregation is dear to us. There are no disposable people here. We work hard to genuinely care for each pastor and every congregation in our Association.

By the grace of God, we are growing and planting new churches. But no matter how large we grow, we are committed to being honest and gracious in our relationships among ourselves and with others. We take seriously the biblical command to be, “diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).

Calling

We believe that God has called us to care for people beyond ourselves. We are called to reach out to people as the hands and heart of Christ. The AALC is committed to pioneering new missions across America.

Also, we are called to extend the Kingdom beyond our shores, into other lands. There are people in every nation in desperate need of the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ. We may be small, but we are powerful when we walk together.

God is blessing our beloved body of churches and calling new people to “walk together” with us every day.

This is where we stand:

- We believe we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- We believe the Holy Bible is God’s infallible, inerrant Word.
- We accept the Lutheran Confessions because they are the right interpretation of the Bible.
- We are a church body that counts every pastor and congregation as precious.
- We believe God has called us to reach people in our communities and around the world.

Come join us. “Let’s walk together!”

The Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins serves as Presiding Pastor of The AALC.

We Are Confessing

by The Rev. Dr. Cary G. Larson

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”
Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)

The AALC is a body of Christians confessing our only hope is in Jesus Christ. We are confessing Lutheran Christians that absolutely believe that we are saved by grace through faith through Jesus Christ alone (Eph 2:8). When we say we are confessing, it is so much more than confessing guilt. We unquestionably come before God, corporately or privately, to confess our sins, and we certainly press into the sweet good news of absolution proclaimed from the mouth of our pastors. However, as we see in the Holy Scriptures, confessing is more about existing together in “one word” or, better said, “together we say the same thing.”

Together, we claim the truth of God’s Word. Together, we say the same thing across The AALC that the Holy Scriptures are the “divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God.”¹ Together we submit to the Word of God as “the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life.”² We are only saying the same thing that God says about His Word and through His Word. We dare not take this confession for granted as few Christians (even those who call themselves Lutherans) can claim they are saying the same thing within their own defined bodies, let alone with God’s Word. It also sets the tone and tenor on how we interact with others. Obviously, we cannot say the same thing with those who do not hold such a high view of the Holy Scriptures as pastors and congregations of The AALC.

Together we say the same thing about the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, which is neatly contained within the *Book of Concord*. Together we firmly stand in concord and accept the Symbols of the Lutheran Church³ unconditionally because (*quia*) they are an accurate exhibition or presentation of the pure doctrine of God’s Word and an excellent summary of the faith held fast by pastors and congregations of The AALC. To pledge acceptance unconditionally is to say that we,

together, believe that the Lutheran confessions are in complete agreement with Holy Scripture. That is, we promise to teach and preach and live together in accord with the teachings of these Symbols because they are in complete agreement with the Scriptures. Regrettably, some pledge adherence to the Lutheran confessions conditionally or in so far as (*quatenus*). This means we can never be sure what exactly it is that they subscribe to, and thus we are unable to be of one word or say the same thing together with them.

The AALC is not a loose confederation of pastors and congregations but rather a close association of pastors and congregations. This association of confessing Lutherans preach, teach, and confess the same thing: the doctrines of the Lutheran confessions are trustworthy and true because they are in full accord with the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God.

While each of the congregations of The AALC enjoys their “own authority pertaining to their life and mission,”⁴ we say the same thing in our life together and our mutual mission of the proclamation of repentance and the forgiveness of sins through the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world (Luke 24:4). We are a confessing Lutheran Church. May God - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - keep us so. Amen!

The Rev. Dr. Cary G. Larson serves The AALC in the roles of Assistant Presiding Pastor and Assistant to the Presiding Pastor.

¹“Declaration of Faith and Policy Position Statement of The American Association of Lutheran Churches,” The American Association of Lutheran Churches, November 7, 1998, 1.

²Ibid, 1.

³The Symbols of the Lutheran Church are: The ancient ecumenical Creeds: the Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian. The unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther’s Small Catechism, also other documents in the *Book of Concord* of 1580: the Apology (defense) of the Augsburg Confession, Luther’s Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles, Treaties on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord.

⁴“A Declaration of Faith and Intension,” The American Association of Lutheran Churches, 1987, 1

As Christ Cares for Us, so We Care for Others

by The Rev. Dean Stoner

Just recently the leadership of our church body was notified of a friend of The AALC who had become seriously ill with the COVID-19 virus and hospitalized. He is a Lutheran pastor from another country, and although not a part of our Ministerium, a beloved brother in Christ. Immediately a prayer was sent out across The AALC through a Constant Contact (an email group) to all who are a part of our Association (as well as others with whom we have a relationship), petitioning the Lord for our friend's healing and restoration and asking others to do the same.

Perhaps you are familiar with such Constant Contacts from The AALC. After all, our Presiding Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins, has sent out dozens over his years in office. This particular petition and prayer for our pastor friend exemplifies who we are as The AALC ... that we are a Church that is caring.

This is the mindset of our Church. It is a part of our DNA of this Association. Since The AALC's inception the ideal of caring has been organically infused into our ethos, initially through God's Word of grace and our response to our salvation found in Christ; but also, by faithfulness to confessional Lutheran theology and doctrine that the founding fathers of The AALC embraced.

The truth is that a truly caring Church stands firmly on God's Word, understanding the great responsibility of caring for souls, and refusing to deviate from Holy Writ. This was and remains paramount to The AALC as originally exemplified by our first Presiding Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Duane Lindberg.

Caring is still a part of our ethos today. Under the leadership of Dr. Leins, we have been reminded over and over again of the importance of preserving "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph 4:3). By his example we are all reminded of the importance of the "mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren," as Luther described it. This too is part of our DNA: a Church that encourages and comforts one another in the faith by confessing Christ's Gospel to one another and proclaiming forgiveness found in Him.

The slogan introduced a few years ago by Dr. Leins, "Confessing, Caring, and Calling," soon became a vision statement for our Association, a statement of our identity, helping us to know who we are and where we are going. And in part, this vision statement was a call for us all to walk together.

And we do walk together. We walk with each of our AALC congregations, as every one of them is precious to us. We look at each and every person within our Association as a dear brother or sister in Christ. Through the work of the Executive Committee of The AALC, the Association and Joint Councils, our Church body is dedicated to serve the local congregation however we can. The Commission on American Missions (CAM) often provides financial help to struggling congregations, especially in light of the challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But this commitment from The AALC leadership extends beyond just financial help. We seek to build on and grow relationally with each TAALC congregation and her leaders, finding thoughtful and perhaps even innovative ways to support their ministry.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

We also walk with our Ministerium, the clergy of The AALC. Whether it be the parish pastors of our Association, or those in Extended Ministry, or those Certified for Call, or the Emeriti, each and every man is important to us and a valued colleague in ministry. There is ongoing care provided by our Presiding Pastor, who is viewed by many of our pastors as a spiritual father, who serves these faithful men of God through prayer, counsel, and personal visits. As part of The AALC's commitment to caring for our clergy, we host our Pastors' Conference each year, and it is here that a sense of refreshment and rejuvenation can take place. Here among the brothers can our clergy relax and fellowship together, all the while being presented with helpful and insightful information and presentations to benefit their ministry.

We walk with the deaconesses of The AALC, women who have dedicated their lives to Word and Service for Christ's sake, serving not only their congregations but our Association. We are thankful to God for their ministry.

We walk alongside our Seminary students too, as they work their way through often grueling class schedules and seminary life, all the while maintaining a ministry or providing for his family. Our Association's commitment to help our students is not just with financial aid or providing independent studies, as important as those things are. But it is also in the understanding and compassion we have for those soon called to Word and Sacrament ministry. Our seminary staff, the Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper, Duane Kleven, and Bonnie Ohlrich, as well as many of our ALTS seminary professors, make it a point to get to know our seminary students personally, finding ways to care for and support them often outside of the classroom setting. Such care includes prayer, counsel, and personal visits. (Sound familiar?)



Yes, we are a caring Church, because caring is forever intimately connected with God's grace shown to all who are in Christ. Through the mutual conversation and consolation of each other, we can bear one another's weaknesses with loving care and concern. This is, in part, what 18th century Lutheran theologian Wilhelm Loehe spoke of concerning apostolic living, that caring is a powerful and "effective instrument" now embodied within the heart of congregations.¹ In Christ we care for each other, especially those in need, by encouraging our brothers and sisters of the assurances of God's promises found in their Baptism. Because Christ cares for us, we as The AALC can care for others through prayer and service. Fed and nourished in the Lord's Supper, we can boldly proclaim Christ's Gospel of forgiveness to others, even those who have hurt or harmed us. With a renewed and strengthened faith, we can walk together, caring for each other, regardless of the physical distance that may separate us, and do so in the name of the One who is, who was, and who is to come: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Rev. Dean Stoner serves as TAALC Administrator; previously, he served as National Home Missions Developer.

¹Loehe, Wilhelm. *The Word Remains*, 55

Calling: The Role of the Commission on American Missions in the Outreach Mission of The AALC

by The Rev. Joe Christina

The Great Commission of our Lord was a “marching orders” for His church as a whole. As the baptized redeemed, it falls to each of us to be His lights in our respective mission fields of work, school, home, and community. This is our calling as a church and a kingdom of priests. It is not simply for pastors, deacons, evangelists, and elders to carry out this role.

That said, the Lord of the Harvest has granted His church on earth certain structures and institutions to assist churches in their calling of the Great Commission. In our association, we have the Commission on American Missions (CAM). CAM exists to be a resource for congregations answering the calling of their Lord’s Great Commission.

Currently

At present, CAM supports a variety of outreach endeavors in our association. The Wittenburg Door Project is a valuable collegiate outreach manned by The Rev. Dave Spotts. This ministry has the unique privilege of reaching many students—including international students—with the gospel and with Bible study and prayer opportunities.

CAM also supports our home mission congregation Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Milton, FL. Pastor Robert Wallace labors in that mission field and is currently worshipping on Sunday mornings, as well as having weekly Bible studies. Pastor Wallace also spends his weeks reaching out into his community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CAM also supports Barn Again Lutheran Church in their outreach mission in Cedar Crest, NM. Along with these, CAM has assisted various congregations in various onetime requests for assistance throughout the years. Some of these needs have been directly related to the challenges the virus has laid upon our churches.

Future

While we analyze continually our current projects in The AALC, we exist as a commission to be at service to any of our sister congregations in our association. We would like all of them to be aware that CAM is an option when it comes to them fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord. I am humbled by the committee I serve with and look forward to continuing the work the Lord sets in our path

The Rev. Joe Christina became the National Home Mission Developer with CAM in 2020.

He also pastors Christus Victor Ev. Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, NC.



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
OF
LUTHERAN
CHURCHES

evangel

WORD ♦ GRACE ♦ FAITH

No. 1, July '87

"Continue in my Word" (John 8:31, 32)

Minneapolis, MN

INTRODUCING THE AALC

The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) was incorporated on March 25, 1987. The AALC will provide an option within the conservative-middle of American Lutheranism for those laity, congregations and pastors who do not wish to be a part of the new Lutheran Church (ELCA).

Under the Lord's guidance, the laity and clergy who are organizing the AALC envision a church body which incorporates the best features of the 1960 ALC constitution. These include: a strong statement regarding the inerrant nature and infallible authority of the Bible; emphasis on the authority and autonomy of the local congregation; priority of concern for the salvation of all through evangelism and world missions.

The AALC believes that it is called to give primary loyalty to Jesus Christ and to His totally reliable and dependable Word, the Bible. Congregations and pastors of the AALC believe that they are called to continue the strong Statement of Faith of the ALC in keeping with the promise of Jesus:

"If you continue in my Word you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31, 32)

We readily acknowledge that statements of faith alone do not make a vital Christian fellowship, but only as these words serve as a means whereby men and women are led to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

AALC ACCEPTS PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS



The AALC took action at its last Board meeting to approve the applications of the following pastors for membership on the AALC clergy roster: Rev. Donald Thorson, Chippewa Falls, WI; Rev. Fred Luthy, Big Rapids, MI; Mark Dankof, Seattle, WA.

The Board of Trustees also accepted the application of Christ Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, WI and St. Matthias Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA. Congregations and pastors may apply for membership in the AALC by

200th Edition of *The Evangel*

This July/August 2021 edition marks the 200th issue of *The Evangel*. *The Evangel* was first published July 1987, mere months after the forming of The AALC in March 1987.

In *To Tell the Truth: A 25-Year History of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (TAALC) 1987-2012*, Dr. Duane R. Lindberg wrote that the purpose of *The Evangel* was "to provide information about The AALC and inspiring articles to its readers."

The first editions were created by Dr. Lindberg and National Office Secretary Sandra Shippy. The Publication Committee consisted of Rev. Jonathan N. Kennedy, Mr. U. Howard Kersten, Dr. Duane Lindberg, Rev. James E. Minor, Mr. Stanford A. Reep, and Mr. Standley Strong.

The four-page first edition featured articles on The AALC's statement of faith and information for pastors and congregations seeking to join The AALC. Regional updates were provided, plus plans for The AALC Constituting Convention to be held in the fall. Women of The AALC were invited to a Women's Retreat held at Chippewa Valley Bible Church, Chippewa Falls, WI, at a cost of \$10 for the two-day event.

Planning has begun for a special 35th year anniversary edition of *The Evangel* coming in 2022.



Bibles & Burgers

by Tom Knight

Ground beef and scriptural truth are what the men and boys of Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA, focus on every 6-8 weeks on Sunday evenings. The event starts out with a simple meal of hamburgers, chips, and baked beans, (served with COVID-19 precautions in place) followed up by a time of fellowship. This allows men who don't get to see each other very often a chance to catch up and for new men to get to know one another.

Once the food is put away, a 30-45 minute Bible study follows that includes input and some discussion amongst the men. The goal of "Bibles and Burgers" is to give men a chance to fellowship with each other and to spend some time in the Word of God. Men don't always do their best work when they are hungry, so we eat first and study after!

In a world where Biblical manhood is often overlooked and sometimes even ridiculed and mocked, it is vitally important to remind men of all ages who they are in Christ and what Christ has done for them. The Bible has much to say about the role and behavior of godly men, and it is a blessing to discover these truths together as a group and put them into action in our day to day lives.

This event has also been able to reach out beyond the walls of the church and draw men in from the community who enjoy the fellowship and study as well. If you are ever in the area and want to join us, please feel free to reach out to me and we will save you a spot!

Tom Knight serves as Director of Men's Ministry at Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA.



Establishment of Cash Reserve and Major Maintenance Funds at Ascension Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa

by Dr. Daniel H. Kruger, Neils J. Johnson, Rev. Roger J. Twito, and Richard J. Gladon



Background

In the January 2021 issue of *The Evangel*, we described the development of a strategic ministry plan at Ascension Lutheran Church. Six strategic ministry goals were developed in that plan. Strategic Goal #1, the most important one, was to develop better outreach to missionaries and other organizations spreading the Gospel across local, state, national, and world landscapes.

In our research for our retreat, we found and discussed at length, the idea that the healthiest churches allocate 30 to 50% of their income to missionaries and other organizations spreading the Gospel. We decided we wanted to become the healthiest church we could be. But in order to do that, we needed to develop a budget for operating the church while allowing us to begin increasing our giving to missionaries and other organizations. The manner by which this increase in funding to mission projects would be financed was incorporated into Strategic Goal #2. However, the Strategic Ministry Planning Committee and our Stewardship Committee quickly realized we first needed to set aside money in case catastrophe(s) hit our church. We needed to be prepared to handle catastrophe(s) and continue to operate the church. After much discussion, we developed a path for establishing funds that could handle a variety of catastrophes.

The Cash Reserve Fund

Strategic Goal #2 laid out how the church would work toward meeting its operational and debt (mortgage) commitments, while increasing our monetary commitment to spreading the Gospel. One committee member had his own business, and when the Great Recession hit in 2008, he and his company were devastated. He encouraged us to establish a cash

reserve fund that would allow all church operations to continue unabated for six months if the church lost all its income. Most other committee members felt a three-month reserve would be sufficient due to the broad and stable employment base of the congregation.

Negotiations between that person and the committee went back and forth. Finally, the committee settled on three months, or 25% of the budget for the coming year, would be set aside as a rolling Cash Reserve Fund. Over a few years, we built our Cash Reserve Fund, and for 2020, that amount was \$133,700. Just after we fully established this fund, COVID-19 hit the Ames area (talk about God's timing), and churches were not able to meet for several weeks. Eventually, we were able to have services, but our attendance was about 50% of what it was before the pandemic. Fortunately, few people in our congregation lost their jobs, and although giving has been down by about 10%, we have been able to keep going, without tapping into the Cash Reserve Fund. Nonetheless, we are grateful that if something else catastrophic happens, we can still keep the church operating for at least three months.

The Major Maintenance Fund

Another committee member who worked professionally as a cost estimator for major construction projects suggested the church develop a Major Maintenance Fund. That fund would be available for major purchases and major repairs to our facilities not covered by insurance. The committee member suggests his clients set aside 1% of the original cost of the project each year, and if there is no need to spend the money, it can accumulate as a rolling fund. Therefore, over the life of the building, the cost of a complete replacement can be done, albeit at the rate when the building was first built. We have been developing this fund gradually, and we started 2020 with \$106,000 in the fund. Thus, if our entire heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, or something similar, would need to be replaced immediately, we would not need to have a capital campaign or appeal to the congregation to fund the replacement. We could fund the replacement immediately, and solicit the congregation to replenish the Fund as soon as they were able to do so.

This fund really helped our Congregation in 2020. Ascension needed to expand its parking capabilities by about 50 stalls to help ease traffic between services and Sunday School, and major events such as confirmation, Easter, and our Christmas program. We also knew we will need to construct a Christian Education Center some time in the future. The parking lot expansion project also included all the earthwork for the Christian Education Center, along with an additional driveway to ease traffic flow, and a storm water management pond system to handle the occasional 5" to 6" rains we get.

Our original estimate from the engineering/design company was \$304,000 plus about \$16,000 for associated administrative costs. Over a period of about six months, we held an appeal, rather than a capital campaign, to raise this \$320,000, and we achieved our goal in time to start the project. However, during this appeal, the church was going through the necessary steps for the project with the City of Ames. By the time the City was done "adjusting" our project to meet its ordinances, regulations, etc., and the bids were received, we were looking at \$385,000, plus the \$16,000 for administrative costs. We now had a shortfall of \$81,000. We were able to use the Major Maintenance Fund to make up this shortfall, with the plan that the congregation will replenish the Fund as they have the means to do so. This fund allowed us to complete the project without immediate fundraising and within the time frame the city required for completion of the project.

Epilogue

The development of this Cash Reserve Fund has allowed Ascension to maneuver its way through the pandemic without fear the church would need to shut down due to a lack of operating expenses. And the Major Maintenance Fund has allowed us to complete a major construction project without returning to the congregation to appeal for the \$81,000 shortfall so that the parking lot expansion project could be completed. Although Ascension has had the means to establish these funds to a relatively high level, other TAALC churches may want to explore the development of similar funds to help buffer against unforeseen, and maybe catastrophic, events that could be financially devastating to the church.



A Sunday worship service is one of the year-round ministries led by Joy 4 Ukraine. Photo by The Rev. Scott Yount.

Spotlight on Missions:

Joy 4 Ukraine

by Beth Brokenshire

The World Mission Commission would like to introduce you to one of the mission organizations we support: Joy 4 Ukraine. Joy 4 Ukraine exists to bring the joy of the Gospel into the lives of orphans in Ukraine, through compassion, care, and community.

Ministries of Joy 4 Ukraine are led by AALC Pastor Scott Yount. Pastor Scott is an associate missionary of Spiritual Orphans Network (formerly East European Missions Network). Year-round outreach includes the following: weekly visits to the Boy's House Orphanage in Bila Tserkva, for songs, Bible stories and crafts; weekly visits to the School for the Deaf in Bila Tserkva; youth group at the Cerebral Palsy Center; young adult group Friday gatherings; handicap accessibility monitoring and advocacy with local community members; and Sunday worship services.

In addition to their year-round ministries, Joy 4 Ukraine also offers special seasonal events for children with special needs like summer camps and a Night to Shine prom each February. At Christmas, Pastor Scott dresses as Father Frost and delivers gifts, hosting Christmas events for the hearing impaired and children at the Cerebral Palsy Center.

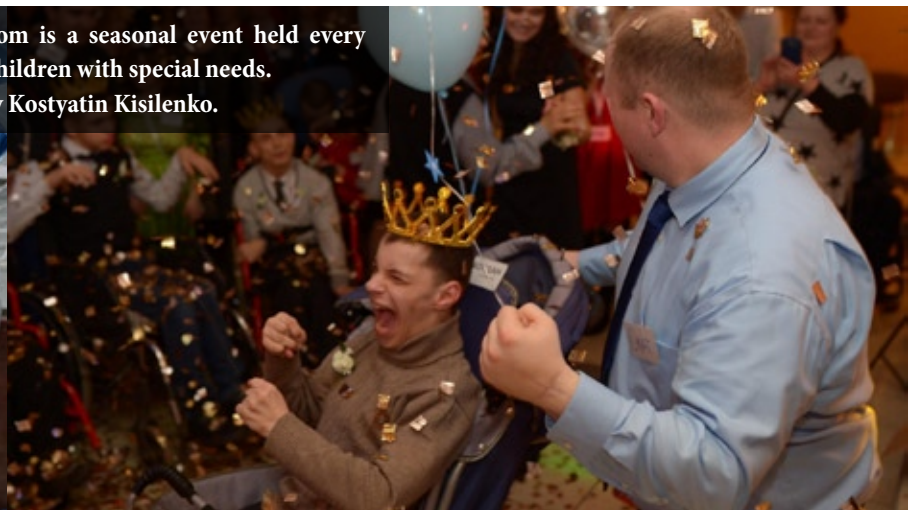
We are thankful for the Lord's provision! Please join us in lifting up Pastor Scott and his wife Lena in prayer as they continue to serve the people of Ukraine.



Pastor Scott Yount dresses up as Father Frost during the Christmas festivities held at the Cerebral Palsy Center. Photo submitted by The Rev. Scott Yount.



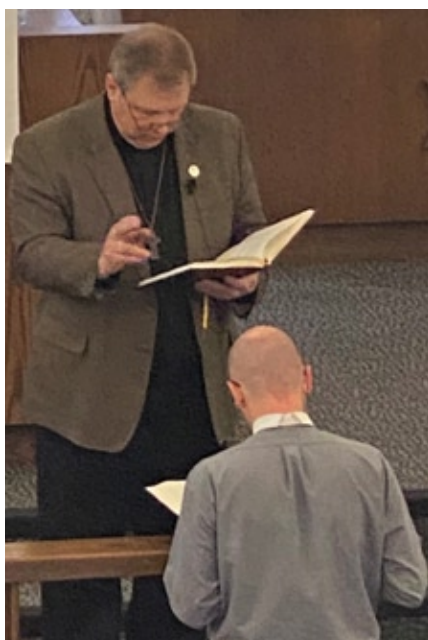
The Night to Shine prom is a seasonal event held every February for children with special needs. Photos by Kostyatin Kisilenko.



Rev. Michael Badenhop Installed at Ascension Lutheran



The Rev. Michael Badenhop was installed as Senior Pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA, on April 11, 2021. He is pictured with The Rev. Len Brokenshire and The Rev. Dr. Cary Larson. Pastor Badenhop joined Ascension Lutheran - Waterloo in June 2019 as Associate Pastor, during the time when Senior Pastor Len Brokenshire was deployed overseas with the U.S. Air Force as a chaplain. At the beginning of 2021, Pastor Brokenshire was given the opportunity to take on a full-time chaplain position with the U.S. Air Force which he accepted. Photo by Shanda Knight.



The Rev. Michael Badenhop is installed as Senior Pastor by The Rev. Dr. Cary Larson. Photo by Tina Harris.

PRAYER BOOKMARK JULY 2021

1. Abiding Grace Lutheran Church *Gillette, WY*
2. Churches without pastors
3. Rev. Benjamin Baker
4. Commission for Commissioned Church Workers
5. Prayer of Thanksgiving for all the saints who have gone before
6. Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church *Frazier Park, CA*
7. Sonland Lutheran Church *Casa Grande, AZ*
8. Rev. Tim M. Cartwright
9. Rev. Steve Smeback
10. All affected by Covid-19
11. Poplar Lake Lutheran Church *Fosston, MN*
12. The AALC Youth Convention in Estes Park, CO
13. Youth, chaperones, speakers traveling to/from CO
14. AALC Foundation Board of Directors
15. Rev. Steve Lundblom
16. Regional Chairmen
17. Rev. Scott W. Bieker
18. Pilot Knob Lutheran Church *Forest City, IA*
19. Rev. Steven Klawonn
20. Ailing pastors
21. Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church *Sidney, MT*
22. Rev. Scott Strohkirch
23. New congregations
24. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church *Evansdale, IA*
25. Rev. Ryan Dexter
26. Persecuted Church
27. Rev. Gary DeSha
28. The Sending Place
29. Redeemer Lutheran Church *West Union, IA*
30. Commission on Doctrine and Church Relations
31. The AALC Ministerium

PRAYER BOOKMARK

AUGUST 2021

1. Rev. Abraham McNally
2. World Mission Commission
3. Christ Lutheran Church *Duluth, MN*
4. Rev. William P. Moberly
5. AALC leadership
6. Trinity Lutheran Church *San Pedro, CA*
7. Board of Appeals and Adjudication
8. Clam Falls Lutheran Church *Frederic, WI*
9. Rev. Roger Twito
10. Board of Trustees
11. Christus Victor Lutheran Church *Fayetteville, NC*
12. Rev. Richard Sunderlage
13. Call Committees
14. Christ Lutheran Church *Germantown, MD*
15. Rev. Alexander McNally
16. Standing Committee for Men
17. Christ the King Lutheran Church *Chesterfield, MI*
18. Rev. Darrel Deuel
19. Seminarians
20. Christ the Ray of Hope Lutheran Church *Albuquerque, NM*
21. Rev. Dave Spotts
22. Publications Commission
23. Community Lutheran Church *Wausaukee, WI*
24. Rev. John Hallock
25. Pastors' Wives
26. Elim Lutheran Church *Brush Prairie, WA*
27. Rev. Paul J. Johansen
28. Pastors and Church workers
29. Emmanuel Lutheran Church *Bremerton, WA*
30. Rev. Phil Meadows
31. Prospective seminary students



The Rev. Neil Cadle has been installed at Bethel Lutheran Church, Rowland, PA. Pictured here with: (left to right) Rev. Dean Stoner, Rev. Neil Cadle, and Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins. Photo by Leatrice Anderson.

Rev. Neil Cadle Installed at Bethel Lutheran

On May 16, The Rev. Neil Cadle was installed at Bethel Lutheran Church, Rowland, PA.

The installation was held during the worship service with Holy Communion. Rev. Dean Stoner served as Liturgist, Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins as Homilist, and Rev. Neil Cadle as Celebrant.

Pastor Cadle is originally from Ravenswood, WV. After working as a geographer/cartographer, Pastor Cadle graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary and was ordained in 2011. He served in ELCA congregations and as a hospice chaplain, before being colloquized into The AALC in late 2019. Pastor Cadle says he “became Lutheran in St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Charleston, WV, where Rev. Jamie Strickler currently serves.”

Pastor Cadle shared this about his church:

Bethel Lutheran Church was formed as a pre-ALC congregation in 1912. Bethel purchased this building from the Methodists and have been here ever since. The congregation joined The AALC in the early 90s. Many of the families who founded the church or joined later are of Norwegian descent: families who moved to the Poconos from NYC and wished to continue to worship in the Lutheran tradition.

Pastor Cadle said he is “excited to be in The AALC and at Bethel!”

In Memoriam

The Rev. Michael Joseph Callahan

January 19, 1961 – May 9, 2021

The Rev. Michael Joseph Callahan entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, May 9, 2021 at the age of 60.

Pr. Callahan graduated from American Lutheran Theological Seminary on June 30, 2020, with a Master of Divinity Degree. He was called by the Lord to service in Parshall, ND, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church and Lucky Mound Lutheran Church. He was ordained at First Evangelical Lutheran Church on September 13, 2020. At the time of his passing, he was also serving as the North Plains Regional Representative on The AALC's Standing Committee for Men.

His family said: "Mike's two favorite things to discuss were Jesus and grace. He knew deeply that he was a sinner, and the gift of grace that he experienced in Jesus. It was such a joy to witness all the transformation God did in him through the years....The biggest gift you could give Pastor Mike is a deeper commitment to Jesus and serving one another in God's love and by God's grace."

The funeral service was held on May 18, 2021, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Williston, ND, with The Rev. David Huskamp officiating.



Donald G. Yount

March 11, 1934 – April 8, 2021

Donald G. Yount entered the Church Triumphant on April 8, 2021, at the age of 87. He was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Elk Grove, CA, where he had served as Treasurer for 20 years. At the time of his passing, he was serving as a Western Region Board Member on The AALC's Board of Trustees.

Don was a very faithful man, and his children and grandchildren will always remember his strong dedication to the Lord and the example he set for all of them. Don and his wife, Neoma, were married for 68 years.

Funeral Services were held on April 26, 2021.

The American Association of Lutheran Churches

921 East Dupont Road, #920

Fort Wayne, IN 46825-1551

Address Service Requested



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The American Association of Lutheran Churches

Phone: (260) 452-3213

Email: theaalc@taalc.org

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

Sept/Oct Theme: Youth (Content deadline July 30)

Nov/Dec Theme: Advent/Christmas (Content deadline Sept 1)

Jan/Feb Theme: Seminary (Content deadline Nov 1)

Mar/Apr Theme: Developing and Maintaining Men's Ministries
(Content deadline Nov 30)

Church News: *The Evangel* welcomes submissions of what's happening in your congregation, such as:

- Anniversaries of clergy ordination or installations
- Church activities or celebrations
- Men's and women's events
- Youth and children's activities
- Outreach or community events
- AALC clergy obituaries

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

Or mail: St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church, Attn: Gretchen Baker, 207 Taylor St., Traer, IA 50675