

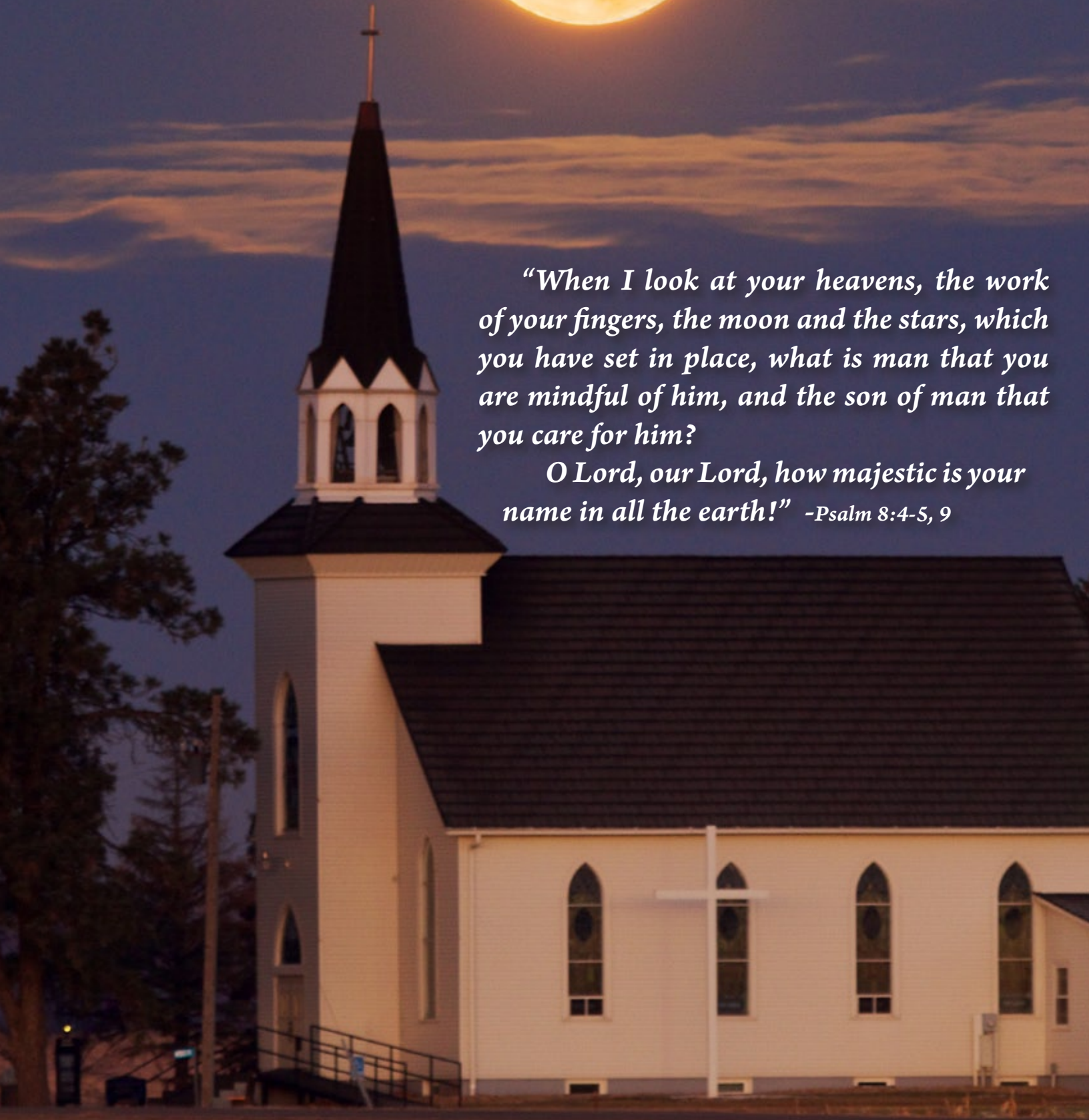
# *The* EVANGEL

*A Publication of The American Association of Lutheran Churches*

Issue No. 199— May/June 2021

*“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”*

*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” -Psalm 8:4-5, 9*



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Editor: Gretchen Baker

Layout & Design: Lynette Macias

# God's Faithfulness

*Letter From the Editor*

*"Is God really with me? Does He see my suffering? Does He hear my prayers?"*

The questions still come, even for those of us who have known the answers since Sunday School. When the burdens of life feel so heavy and unending, my eyes falter. Instead of looking to my heavenly Father, I look for a change in circumstances as proof of whether or not God is faithful.

On one of these days of worry and waiting, the task before me was routine: help my husband get the Sunday bulletin together. As I typed up the responsive reading from Psalm 115, I suddenly realized what I was typing:

"You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield. The Lord has remembered us..." (verse 11).

What a thought: that God remembers *me*? *He is my help and shield*. I marveled at how the verses fit exactly what I needed to hear, how in this routine task, the Lord was pointing my eyes to His care for me.

Later that day, two loved ones reached out via text and phone call to see how we were doing.

Was my life different? Was the struggle gone? No, my circumstances were still the same. The cause of my worry still staring me in the face.

But these "small" things are what God used that day to remind me of His faithfulness. *He* took ac-

tion and gently guided my eyes back to Him and His attention to my needs.

God was faithful in those moments, as He is in every moment. Whether or not we are looking for Him, He comes to His worried, anxious children.

First and foremost, He comes through His Word, which is where He has always promised to be. God is moving through His Word to open our eyes to our sin, His forgiveness, His fatherly care. He moves even in times where we might be just routinely opening our Bibles for a task that needs to be done.

God also comes to us through those around us. It may be as simple as a text message from a loved one or the acts of service demonstrated in the articles on the pages of this issue: a church serving a meal to the community, others giving money to provide food for believers in Africa, neighbors caring for each other, a pastor serving his congregation.

What may look ordinary to us is actually God at work, showing His faithfulness through His children, helping those around them.

May your hearts be at rest today: God is faithful to you, His dear children. He knows what you need (see Matthew 6).

In His care,  
Gretchen

## Cover Photo:

*Photo by Christian Begeman*

The moon rising over the Lake Madison Lutheran Church, Nunda, SD, at dusk. *The Evangel* wishes to thank the photographer for generously giving permission to use this photo. More of Begeman's work can be seen on his photo blog <https://cbegeman.blogspot.com> or purchased at <https://cbegeman.smugmug.com>.

# The Lord is Faithful

by *The Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins*

**T**wo decades after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, persecution of Christians was still prevalent. St. Paul wrote in Second Thessalonians 1:4-5:

*Therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.*

Paul, himself, was no stranger to suffering. He explained to the Corinthians that five times he had received the 39 lashes, three times he had been beaten with rods, and once he was beaten with stones. He was three times shipwrecked and spent a night and a day in the deep. He had been in dangers from robbers, from countrymen, from Gentiles, and from false brethren. Often, he had been in hunger and thirst, without food and in cold exposure (2 Corinthians 11:24-27). Paul knew how to bear suffering for the faith. He was strong in faith, though he admitted his weaknesses. Paul knew that his strength was not in himself, but in Christ who strengthened him.

So, when Paul wanted to encourage the Christians of Thessalonica, when he wanted to offer them strength amid persecution and hope in their suffering, what did he do? Did he remind them of how great they were? Did he describe their perfect faith that had never been weak or unsure? Did he exhort them to face the trials in their own strength? No! Paul knew better than to tell people to count on themselves. Instead, Paul told them about the One who alone is forever and always faithful. Paul wrote:

*But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3).*

This is a good message for us today. Though we are not suffering physical persecution for our faith in Jesus Christ, there are still plenty of trials that we face. We are tested by the devil, by the world, and by our own weakness. We can be overwhelmed by the worries of life, the sorrows of the soul, or the unfair treatment of enemies and even our friends. But, Paul would have us turn our minds to Christ and to trust in His power to care for us, to protect us, and to provide for us.

What are the things that make you feel weak? Do you suffer with health problems, pain, or sickness? Are you worried about the health of a loved one, a spouse, or a child? Do you stay awake thinking about finances, job, or the future? Do you worry about your church, your nation, or your family? What can you do about these things? Often, they are beyond your control. In the moment of your fretting and fearing, Paul the Apostle of Christ, would interrupt your thoughts and say:

*But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3).*

In the Old Testament, many of the festivals contained an act of remembrance, a recounting of the mighty acts of God! They recalled the salvation history of God, and how He had rescued His people Israel from terrible moments and overwhelming forces. They remembered that the Lord is faithful! This same practice of remembering was commanded by Jesus at the Last Supper. His disciples were admonished to receive His body and blood and to remember His great demonstration of love and mercy upon the cross and in the empty tomb. "Take and eat. This is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." Christ Himself was present in the bread and cup, demonstrating that God gives forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life because, even when we are not, the Lord is faithful!

I wonder if today is a time when you need such a reminder. Perhaps, you too could recount His mighty deeds in your life. People used to say, "Count your blessings!" Maybe they were saying, "Let's remember all the things that God has done for us!" Can you do that? Can you recall a time when your back was against the wall and you were helpless? You needed a miracle, and God gave you one. Can you remember? Maybe instead of counting sheep, you could count God's miracles in your life. Instead of feeling weak or worried or exhausted, you could receive the Word of the Lord recorded by the Apostle Paul:

*But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3).*

Amen.

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

# A Story of a Great Neighbor

by Shanda Knight

A story of a great neighbor: Many of you have heard me talk of our former neighbors.

They were curious when Tom moved in, waaay back 24(ish) years ago. A single guy with a race car. Ideal neighbor, right?

They became friends.

I came in the picture as a girlfriend and met him over the fence and waved at her through the window. Later they were at our wedding; they were instant friends.

We were so excited to tell them when we were expecting a baby.

They met Tom in the drive to find out about her when they noticed us gone, and then, only he reappeared. Despite not hearing well, they had heard our suburban leave in the wee hours of the night, right after we got home with Baby the day before.... and again, he met Tom in the drive to ask if something was wrong with Lydia (she was dehydrated and re-admitted because my milk didn't come in.).

They were continual neighborhood buddies.

He loved to squirt the hose at Lydia on a hot day.

She cheered Lydia on from the window as she learned to ride her bike.

We'd bring goodies and chat.... many talks over the fence.

We would help with a few things, and they blessed us so much too!

A few years ago, they moved. Lydia and I cried when the moving day came, but we endeavored to keep in touch, and we have had several visits.

Today he called; she died last night....

67 years.... that's how long they were married. 67 years. Last night he "lost" her to natural causes.

We can hear "sad" in his voice.

Because of Covid we haven't seen them since last winter, but we always write letters and talk on the phone.

Tonight, we dropped off a little care package, and we called from the parking lot to let him know it was there. It felt so impersonal, but it is what we could do.

Today I have sat here a lot looking at their former house. It will always be their house to me. They were great neighbors. It made me just really reflect on all of us being "great neighbors." Making our little corner of the world a better place.

I had two friends die this week - and both were great people. They aren't going to heaven because they are great people; I will see them in heaven because we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

But they were great people... and they both made the world a bit brighter. What if each of us, just because we love people and just because we have that joy of salvation, made the world a bit brighter? We need more "good neighbors."

Please pray for our friend who lost his wife. Please pray for all those losing loved ones. Grieving is weird right now. But in the meantime, let's love well and be "good neighbors."

*Shanda Knight serves as Director of Children and Family Ministries at Ascension Lutheran Church in Waterloo, IA.*

*This article was originally published as a Facebook post on December 26, 2020, and has been edited for clarity.*

*Used with permission by the author.*

# Introducing The AALC's New Bookkeeper

We welcome Carlene Kamradt, as the new bookkeeper for The AALC. Carlene and her husband, Steve, reside in Fayetteville, NC, and are members of Christus Victor Lutheran Church. Carlene has shared the following about herself:

I have been a Lutheran all my life. After getting married and moving to Germany (courtesy of the Air Force), my husband, Steve, and I spent 5 ½ years there before transferring to England for 3 years. We returned to the US to a small town in southwest Oklahoma.

I decided it was time to get a degree in accounting, because I had always been good with numbers, and I would be able to use it wherever we lived. Before I could complete my degree, we transferred to the island of Guam for two years. Then we arrived in Fayetteville, NC.

I finally completed my degree and began working for a public accounting firm and have stayed with them ever since. Along the way, I was a church organist and choir director. Steve

retired from the Air Force in 2001.

Until recently (COVID), I have continued to have opportunities to travel within NC and to other states for work purposes and visits to family and friends. I have been a church treasurer in three states, starting out with 13-column ledger paper and a pencil, then Excel and software specifically for church accounting.

I am looking forward to continuing serving the Lord with the gifts he has given me while also serving The AALC.



**The AALC welcomes new Bookkeeper Carlene Kamradt, pictured here with her husband, Steve. Submitted photo.**

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## Thank You, Julie!

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I took over the bookkeeping role from former bookkeeper, Dwight Neal, back in July 2016, and have been blessed beyond measure in this support ministry these past 5 years. I live in Ames, IA, and am a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Ames, where I get to enjoy the passionate preaching of Pastor Roger Twito, and have worked closely on accounting functions with The AALC's Treasurer, Dr. Dan Kruger.

I was raised in a small town in Iowa by two wonderful parents and sister, deeply rooted in a strong Christian faith. My sister and I were just a handful of kids in my hometown who had perfect attendance going to Sunday School from kindergarten all the way through confirmation, even when that meant my folks needed to drive us 17 miles during Iowa winter weather to get to the small Lutheran country church my folks grew up attending. I still have all my attendance pins I collected each year that we received for perfect attendance (anyone remember getting those back in the 60's?). My parents and grandparents were active in our church, from being in adult choir to serving on Council and finance committees. So wanting to serve in those roles when I became an adult was an easy and natural desire.

I met my soulmate (a Catholic boy with the last name of Luther) during the summer of my junior year of college, and we were married a year later. Jay and I have been married now for over 41 years. We never had children of our own, but we have had two nephews living with us while they attended college in Ames, and each of us had a parent move in with us at different phases of life, giving us extensive care giving experience (and memories that we are now grateful we have).

I am grateful to have been blessed with a passion for accounting, graduating from the University of Northern Iowa with



**The AALC thanks outgoing Bookkeeper Julie Luther for her work in this role since 2016. Luther is pictured here with her husband, Jay. Submitted photo.**

a B.A. degree in Accounting in 1979. God has graciously provided me with a lengthy career as a practicing CPA in various capacities, including being an audit manager in the Iowa Auditor of State's Office and serving in business manager/chief financial officer roles.

It has been a true pleasure giving back to God by serving as support staff to The AALC these past few years. It was with sadness in my heart when I informed AALC leadership that I needed to step out of this role, but for good reason. The AALC has grown tremendously in these recent years, which includes time needed to properly account for all that has been happening through the dedicated work of Dr. Leins, Pastor

Stoner, and the rest of The AALC staff; and from the faithful leadership of the Board of Trustees and all of the Councils and Commissions. It is time to hand the baton over to another passionate and experienced accountant, which God has found with Carlene Kamradt. Carlene's experience will be a blessing to The AALC, and she will be an awesome addition to the staff.

In closing, as the saying goes "life is full of unexpected blessings." Well, because of the pandemic, Jay and I ended up purchasing a 2021 Winnebago Solis (a camper van), and now that we are empty nesters, we plan to travel the United States with plans to attend church services at as many of the member AALC churches on our paths as we can. I look forward to meeting those congregations that I got to know in name through The AALC these past years.

Blessings to you all in Jesus' name!

Julie Luther

# In Memoriam



## *The Rev. E. David Gensch*

*April 7, 1944 – October 26, 2020*

The Rev. E. David Gensch entered the Church Triumphant on October 26, 2020, at the age of 76. Pr. Gensch was passionate about sharing the love of Christ and serving others. He graduated from Trinity Seminary, Columbus, OH, on May 31, 1970, and was ordained on June 14, 1970. During his nearly 50 years of pastoral ministry, he served St. Paul Lutheran in Gilman, IL, and the following TAALC congregations: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Twp, Napoleon, OH; the duo parish of First Evangelical Lutheran Church and Lucky Mound Lutheran Church in Parshall, ND; and most recently St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church in Traer, IA, until his retirement in December 2018. Pr. Gensch and his wife, Judith, were married for 51 years.

## *The Rev. Donald Thorson*

*December 22, 1928 – January 9, 2021*

The Rev. Donald Thorson entered the Church Triumphant on January 9, 2021, at the age of 92. Pastor Thorson and his wife, Marge, were faithful members of Christ Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls, WI, where Pr. Thorson had once served as pastor.

Don graduated from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, in 1955 and was ordained that same year. Throughout his years of ministry, he served parishes in North Dakota, Kansas, and Wisconsin.

He was the first Assistant Presiding Pastor of the American Association of Lutheran Churches, having served from 1987 - 1991. In 2020, Pastor Thorson was honored by The AALC Executive Committee as the Assistant Presiding Pastor of the Inaugural Executive Committee of The American Association of Lutheran Churches. As such, Pastor Thorson was recognized as one of the *Founding Fathers of The American Association of Lutheran Churches*, along with Dr. Duane Lindberg (Presiding Pastor), Dr. Thomas Aadland (Secretary), and Pr. Jim Minor (Treasurer).

A memorial service for Pr. Thorson will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2021, at 2:00PM at Christ Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, WI.



# Sharing Thanks

by Rev. Joe Christina

On my desk (next to all my diecast airplanes) sits a little turkey that flaps its wings in the sunlight. It's my year-round reminder of a special event that we've been holding at Christus Victor for the past four years now: our free community Thanksgiving Dinner. We began this tradition after an impromptu after church meeting that involved myself and two other members of the congregation. And since that meeting, this event has only grown in volunteers and those we have the privilege to feed.

In 2017, we hosted our first Thanksgiving Dinner in the fellowship hall next to the church. We decided to host the event somewhat "last minute," and our advertising was pretty well bare minimum. The Lord sent us approximately 30 people from the community to feed. In 2018, we stopped counting after about 130. In 2019, we estimate we fed around 200.

*"This event has only grown in volunteers and those we have the privilege to feed."*

This year because of the virus, we held our meal as a takeout event. This proved to be very effective and much less stressful on our faithful volunteers. Recipients simply pulled into the parking lot and someone would go to their vehicle and see how many takeaway trays they needed. In each bag, we included with the food a card with a brief gospel message. We estimate to have sent 160 meals out the door. We also deliver



A local farmer supplies the church with 60–70-pound turkeys for the Thanksgiving meal. Photo by Pastor Christina.

gas station as well as the local fire department.

The Fayetteville Police Department has been of great help in promoting the event on their Next Door page for our particular region of the city. Likewise, the YMCA on Fort Bragg also promotes the event. We have also since upgraded our church sign to include a marquis that we use to advertise.

With the economic hardship many face in our area of North Carolina, the event is always well received by many grateful diners. And we also encourage members to come as well to have a great meal with our Fayetteville neighbors. The event takes place on Thanksgiving Day from 1–3 pm so that members and volunteers can attend while still being able to attend their own family dinners afterwards. (We have our own family Thanksgiving on Black Friday which, in my humble opinion, is the best way to observe Black Friday: at home.) Our menu includes turkey, mashed and sweet potatoes, stuffing, many desserts, and a southern Thanksgiving staple: collards.

Lord willing, in 2021, we will also increase our delivery system by bringing trays to known areas of concentrated homelessness in town. Since we use prepackaged cutlery, this means that anyone can eat wherever they wish. We are very grateful to our volunteers as well as our "goliath" turkey farmer who supplies us with 60–70-pound birds that we use for the event (no, that wasn't a typo). And we appreciate the prayers of our brethren in TAALC as we continue to plan for the upcoming year.

*The Rev. Joe Christina serves the congregation at Christus Victor Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, NC, and as National Home Mission Developer for TAALC.*



This little turkey sits on Pastor Joe Christina's desk, as a reminder of the Thanksgiving Dinner his church has served to the community for four years. Photo by Pastor Christina.

## Pastor and Congregation Celebrate 25th Anniversary

New Hope Lutheran Church of Newfolden, MN, and Pastor Ollie Urdahl celebrated 25 years together in ministry in October 2020. Pastor Ollie came to serve as pastor in 1995, and his vision was to be a church without walls ministering with love, acceptance, and forgiveness.



Last fall, Pastor Ollie Urdahl celebrated 25 years of ministry with Hope Lutheran Church, Newfolden, MN.

Some highlights in his ministry are community services including Vacation Bible School with an outreach team from Youth With A Mission, speaking at tent meetings in Newfolden and Viking, plus helping other churches with pulpit supply.

Pastor Ollie has always had a heart for missions and has led outreach teams 27 times to Haiti and 3 times to Mexico.

When Pastor Ollie became pastor at New Hope, he encouraged the congregation to support the Haiti Faith Tabernacle Mission, which they continue to support and serve as a channel for donations to that mission.

Pastor Ollie has a servant heart and many times has been known as the “community pastor,” where he responds to the call whether it is serving New Hope as pastor, preaching at Newfest and Good Ol’ Days Community Service, or wherever the need may be.

Pastor Ollie is a shepherd in more than one way; he not only has a “flock” at New Hope, but is a farmer that raises sheep and cattle on his farm north of Viking, MN. He also served as a supervisor on the Viking Township Board and currently is on the Viking Fire and Rescue Team.

*New Hope Lutheran Church is a charter member of The AALC. This article was submitted by parishioner Pat Moen.*

## PRAYER BOOKMARK MAY 2021

1. Commission for Higher Education
2. Dss. Brigitte Gassman
3. Dss. Kathy Awtrey
4. Dss. Susan Scott
5. Faith Lutheran Church *Holstein, IA*
6. Faith Lutheran Church *Watseka, IL*
7. Faith Lutheran Church *Columbus, ND*
8. First Evangelical Lutheran Church *Parshall, ND*
9. Trinity Lutheran Church *West Hempstead, NY*
10. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
*Franklin, NC*
11. Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of  
*Deephaven Wayzata, MN*
12. Grace Lutheran Church *Nunda, SD*
13. Hope Lutheran Church *Brighton, IA*
14. Hope Lutheran Church *Hampton, VA*
15. Hospital Chaplains
16. ILC, Den Lutherske Kirke *I Norge*
17. Local TAALC church
18. Rev. Larry Juergensen
19. Rev. Neil Cadle
20. Rev. Dr. Cary Larson *Assistant Presiding  
Pastor*
21. Prison Chaplains
22. Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper *Seminary President*
23. Rev. Joe Christina *National Home Mission  
Developer*
24. Pastors’ Wives
25. Rev. Len Brokenshire
26. Rev. Michael Badenhop
27. Rev. Michael “Myke” Main
28. Rev. Nathan Hoff
29. Rev. Norman C. Hoffeld
30. Seminary professors
31. Women of L.I.F.E. groups



## PRAYER BOOKMARK

*JUNE 2021*

1. TAALC Foundation
2. Rev. Dean Stoner *Administrative Assistant to TAALC*
3. Association Council
4. Rev. Thomas Baumgarten
5. For God to raise up church leaders
6. Rev. Robert Wallace
7. Kongsvinger Lutheran Church *Oslo, MN*
8. Rev. Joe Marsh *Secretary of TAALC*
9. Lake Madison Lutheran Church *Rutland, SD*
10. Light of Christ Lutheran Church *Williston, ND*
11. Lucky Mound Lutheran Church *Ryder, ND*
12. Mr. Duane Kleven *Administrator of the ALTS*
13. Rev. Michael Callahan
14. Mighty Fortress Evangelical Lutheran Church *Seward, NE*
15. Mountain View Lutheran Church *Thornton, CO*
16. New Hope Lutheran Church *Newfolden, MN*
17. Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church *Williston, ND*
18. Our Savior Lutheran Church *Piqua, OH*
19. Parish Education Commission
20. Peace Lutheran Church *Defiance, OH*
21. Rev. Norman R. Beighley
22. Rev. Paul Hueter
23. Rev. Phillip Hofinga
24. Rev. Poul Erik Norgaard
25. Rev. Ray E. Lorthioir, Jr.
26. Rev. Robert G. Snitzer
27. Rev. Rusty Phillips
28. Rev. Scott Neumann
29. Christian Martyrs
30. Those who are grieving

## Women of L.I.F.E.

The Women of LIFE met for their business luncheon on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, during the 27th General Convention of TAALC in Wayzata, MN.

Devotions were given by Sue DeSha, as she led the women through Lesson Seven (Hannah: Pouring Out Our Soul) of the 2021 Bible Study titled "Beloved Apprentice: Becoming a House of Prayer." Sue also provided each woman in attendance a copy of the study to take home with them to present to their home Women of LIFE group.



God's Hidden Treasures is one of the ministries supported by Women of L.I.F.E. Photo by Olexei Leonov.

Minutes from the 2018 Business Meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was given. WOL has supported 10 ministries over the past two years and each ministry received \$855.41 during that time.

Benevolences were discussed and it was voted to continue to support:

Steve Lellelid (Friends of Madagascar Mission)

Paul & Lea Eldred (Damascus Road Ministry)

God's Hidden Treasures

Lutherans For Life

The Sending Place

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry

The AALC General Fund (thereby supporting the work of ALTS, Evangelism, and the Youth Convention)

Officers were elected, including Co-Chair Katherine Hofinga, Treasurer Donnette Taylor, and Materials Resource Coordinator Laurie O'Brien.

Table decorations were furnished by Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Deephaven, and pictures of some of the ministries that WOL supports were also on the tables.

Due to the shortened convention schedule, the women in attendance met for a prayer vigil on Wednesday morning in place of the usual prayer breakfast.

*Compiled by Mary Dapelo, Katherine Hofinga & Gretchen Baker*

## Thank You, Lisa!



After seven years at the helm of *The Evangel* magazine, Editor Lisa Cooper recently stepped down from this position. The AALC cannot thank Lisa enough for her tireless effort and commitment to her work as Editor, and the exceptional editions she produced and published over the years.

Lisa and her husband, The Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper, President of ALTS, reside in Groton, NY, with their two sons, Jacen and Ben.

Lisa, we wish you the best in all your future endeavors. God's blessings to you and your family!

The AALC thanks outgoing *Evangel* Editor Lisa Cooper for her work in this role for the past seven years. Submitted photo.



Lisa and her husband, The Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper, with their sons, Jacen and Ben. Submitted photo.

## Welcome, Gretchen!

At the same time, we rejoice that The AALC has a new Editor of *The Evangel*, Mrs. Gretchen Baker! Gretchen comes to The AALC as Editor with experience and a great work ethic, offering many new ideas for our national magazine.

Gretchen is married to The Rev. Benjamin Baker, and they reside in Traer, IA, with their daughter, Meg. Pastor Baker serves St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Welcome aboard, Gretchen!



The AALC welcomes new *Evangel* Editor Gretchen Baker, pictured here with husband, Rev. Benjamin Baker, and daughter, Meg. Submitted photo.



Lynette Macias is the graphic designer behind the pages of *The Evangel*. She is pictured here with husband, Armando, and daughter, Sofia. Photo by Pea Pod Photography Studio.

## Layout and Design

For the past ten years, Lynette Macias has been in charge of the layout and design for *The Evangel*. We thank her for her faithful and outstanding service in the years past and look forward to many more issues to come!

Lynette and her husband, Armando, and their daughter, Sofia, live in Napoleon, OH.

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*The*  
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## Church News:

*The Evangel* welcomes submissions of what's happening in your congregation, even short updates or a photo on news, 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
- Regional AALC meetings

Obituaries: *The Evangel* is also accepting obituaries of clergy and lay pastors from within our church body.

### To submit content:

Email Gretchen: [theevangel@taalc.org](mailto:theevangel@taalc.org)

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