

The EVANGEL

28th General Convention Edition





From the Editor

Greetings to all post-convention!

I had the pleasure of attending this year's General Convention of The AALC. Meeting fellow believers is such a great reminder that we are part of a greater church body across the United States and even the world! Hearing the voices raised in song at the evening services was one of the highlights for me.

Convention is one of those experiences where such a variety of talents is on display. God has gifted people in such interesting ways, and we all benefit.

How fitting that the theme verse this year was:

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of Jesus Christ,"
Colossians 3:12-17.

From the people who can make sense of numbers or keep accurate counts of voters and votes, to those who swept the chapel floor each night, those who sought out conversations, to those who kept the rules of order in meetings, to the cheerful voice that announced to the assembly each morning: "The coffee has arrived!" All these gifts—and more—were shown daily, each person sharing something the church body needs in order to function and thrive.

And of course, we know behind each pastor, delegate, and visitor in attendance, were churches and families back home, offering support and waiting eagerly for the travelers' return.

Ultimately, each portion of the convention pointed us back to our foundation: the Word of God. The speakers who shared presentations, devotions and prayer, or in each evening service, all directed us to the unchanging truths of Scripture and how our salvation in Jesus and life as a Christian are revealed there.

What an awesome gift God gives through faithful ones remaining steadfast to His Word. We are blessed!

As you read through the various convention highlights in this issue, I pray you are reminded of how precious it is to be part of a church body so determined to remain in God's truth. And may you be reminded of the gracious God who uses each of our gifts to share His truth with the world.

Serving with you,

Gretchen Baker

Gretchen Baker
The Editor

- 2** From the Editor
- 3-4** Looking Forward
- 5-7** 28th AALC Convention
- 8** Parish Education
Commission
In Memoriam
- 9** Women of L.I.F.E.
- 10** Nominating Committee
- 11** Doctrine and Church
Relations
- 12** Commission for Higher
Education
- 13** AALC Foundation
- 13-14** Prayer Bookmark
- 14** Sola 500
- 15** WOL Sews Dresses
- 16-17** Hymn Feature
- 18** Sign of the Times
- 19** Missions Conference

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Cover photo: The Rev. Steve Smeback celebrates Holy Communion during an evening service at The AALC General Convention. Photo by Rev. Richard Day.



By The Rev. Dr. Cary Larson

Building off the successes and the lessons learned of the past eight years, we need to continue to do the work of an evangelist. The past eight years have sent us on the right course doctrinally. Still, we need to engage our society faithfully and fruitfully, TOGETHER!

Those who track the evangelism efforts of Lutheran congregations have found that at about the 35-year mark, congregations start turning inward and focusing on their own internal needs rather than serving their communities with the Gospel. At this point, congregations focus less on the Scriptures and Confessions and more on constitutions and by-laws. How old is The AALC? Exactly 35 years. I wonder what is true for congregations can be true for national church bodies? Avoiding this requires us to be faithful and fruitful with what our Lord has given us.

In May of this year, the SW Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America did not meet for their synod assembly because they could not make a quorum in their registration. In my experience in volunteerism and organizational management and as a pastor, the primary reason people don't participate in something is that they don't think they matter at the end of the day. In The AALC, YOU sincerely count. You are not an insignificant part of a sea of people. You are very significant to the present and future of The AALC. Your congregation matters, regardless of size, regardless of where in this country, as she has an essential part of our collective work for the sake of the Gospel. The church is an organism as together we are the body of Christ. We need communion. To go it alone is unsustainable. Therefore, I propose we need to reform once again around the Third Article. To permit the Holy Spirit to do what the Holy Spirit does best; to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep us in the true faith.

I propose we focus on families, specifically men of families, and empower them to man up and lead their families in the true faith. If we are going to do that, then we must equip them. What if we call our Standing Committee of Men to examine the existing programs across our association and provide resources or best practices to strengthen and equip men spiritually? In doing so, all our congregations are strengthened.

I believe the Lord is providing a season for the resurgence of Christian schools as our culture moves farther away from the Lord. I propose the Parish Education Commission work with our congregations with existing Lutheran schools to provide resources and assist our congregations who desire to start a Christian day school. While many of our congregations can't go it alone, perhaps, they can provide the needed leadership to rally like-minded Christians in their communities. As I've attended conferences on classical Lutheran education and learned from other Lutheran pastors and educators, these schools can start small with tremendous outcomes.

As I visit with pastors rostered in other Lutheran bodies, I often visit with pastors in the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), a flat, congregational-based Lutheran church. These pastors complain that they are professionally lonely and their congregations are isolated. I want to avoid that for us. I propose that our Evangelism Commission encourage our congregations to intentionally nurture relationships with one another in Christ Jesus at all levels of our association. Perhaps pair up with another congregation in the region or across regions, as it works best. Despite our geographic challenges, it isn't that complicated. This spring, Pastor John Morley and

Looking Forward continued...

the children of Christ Evangelical Lutheran, Ellis, KS, sent a big care package to the congregation that I served. This package was filled with valentines, sweets, and drawings to the children of my congregation. This simple package had an impact. Folks, if children can do this, need I say more?

In this post-Christian secular society, it is incredibly tempting to follow the pattern of those who want to satisfy itching ears for the sake of growth. The AALC must never back off reforming around her confessions as a Lutheran church. We MUST catechize for faith and life. If the irreverent pop star Lady Gaga, in her recent hit song, can sing about heaven and God answering prayers, we know Americans are not atheists. Regrettably, they seek validation in anything that will make them feel "enough." Adults of all ages are confused and thirst for hope; we can find this even within our congregations. I propose we assign our Publications Commission and our Parish Education Commission, with the talents of some of our gifted pastors, to prepare catechesis material for adults. There is no shortage of solid materials for youth, but we need to get this into the hands of adults too. I also challenge us to learn from some of our pastors who are leading in leveraging the Internet and work towards a more prominent presence to cast Christ's net as wide as possible on the Internet.

A Latin phrase translates into "The law of prayer is the law of belief." In other words, the way you worship is what you believe. I propose that we give serious thought to developing a TAALC hymnal. Believe it or not, it is very economical with today's publishing technology, and I've done the research to work with Concordia Publishing House to have an online version to develop weekly service bulletins. While our Lutheran confessions permit Christian freedom in how we worship, we need to provide our congregations a solid Scriptural and confessional base to work within their worship and prayer life so they can worship as they believe. Historically, hymnals have always served Lutheran bodies to foster greater unity. I believe this is essential for The AALC as we continue in this century.

As much as we value the empowered congregation in our association, we need to reassess our desires to go it alone when it comes to missional work. Our individual work is awe-inspiring. However, I propose that our congregations become more intentional in working together through our Commission of American Missions and our World Mission Commission. I believe the more we work together regionally and nationally, the more effective we will be in encouraging and supporting innovative and entrepreneurial mission work. I don't think this objective is impractical, as we saw it happen in recent days. When Russia invaded Ukraine, collectively, across this association, we came before the throne of God, interceding for the welfare of our dear brother Pr. Scott Yount and his beloved wife and the people he serves. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we came together as a national body and accompanied our prayers and petitions with a significant financial gift.



The Rev. Dr. Cary Larson was elected as Presiding Pastor of The AALC at the 28th General Convention, held June 21-24. He was installed at the Thursday evening service with his wife Connie (shown here) and two of his three daughters in attendance. Submitted photo.

Four of The AALC's Presiding Pastors, past and present, were in attendance at the installation service on Thursday evening: Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins, Rev. Dr. Duane Lindberg, Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, and Rev. Dr. Thomas Aadland. Photo by Rev. Richard Day.

As we discern the Spirit together, we press into the promise Christ Jesus has given us. We, His people, do not go it alone. He has promised to be with us and go before us. Our Jesus will never forsake us! In mutual ministry as the body of Christ, we move forward to be faithful and fruitful.

Your servant in Christ Jesus. Amen. †

The Rev. Dr. Cary Larson was elected Presiding Pastor at the 28th General Convention of The AALC.

AALC GENERAL CONVENTION ELECTS NEW PRESIDING PASTOR

By Rev. Dave Spotts

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23, ESV).

It is by the mercy of God in Christ that the 28th General Convention of The American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) assembled in Plymouth, Minnesota, during the week of June 21-24, 2022. About 80 voting delegates representing nearly 40 churches were present in person. Through action of the assembled body, we also made it possible for about 20 additional delegates to participate in the discussion and debate and to bring the voice of their church congregations in matters of business, even though they were not able to attend in person.

Though there were numerous resolutions presented to the body, discussed, debated, and voted on, the chief items of business involved selection of officers. Not only did we select Rev. Dr. Cary Larson as our next Presiding Pastor, and Rev. Roger Twito to replace him as the Assistant Presiding Pastor, but we also placed clergy and lay members into office in a variety of commissions, all of which serve to help the body function smoothly in this world. These commissions work with the National Office to care for current and potential members of the clergy roster, to articulate doctrinal stances clearly and fairly, to nurture our seminary and develop its programs, and to care for non-clergy church workers.

The convention also featured a number of workshops presented by our pastors, including addresses on timely topics such as the radical gender identity movement and the critical need of nurturing men in leadership within the Church.

Chaplain Stephen Unger spoke at length to the general assembly, discussing the care of those in the Church who are suffering through trials including illness, isolation, and fear of the unknown.

Where is the Lord going to lead The AALC in upcoming years? Our new Presiding Pastor spoke to some of his desires. Dr. Larson hopes to continue the tireless work of visitation to congregations and pastors, building bridges of ministry, as Dr. Leins has exemplified over the past eight years. The growth of interactions among churches in our Association has been a great encouragement. By God’s grace, Dr. Larson hopes to

encourage ongoing sharing of ideas and resources as we work together to show Christ and His mercy to our world.

Dr. Larson also spoke to a fervent desire that we reach our world more purposefully through the discipling work of elementary and secondary Christian education, providing schools where Christians can thrive and grow in their understanding of the redemptive nature of Christ’s kingdom. While many people consider Christian schooling to be essentially similar to that which is done in the public sector, Dr. Larson thinks we would do well to consider a distinctively classical Christian educational model, in which subjects are treated interactively and addressed in a biblical manner, with Christ as central to all knowledge and understanding. This model of schooling can provide our culture with a sense of the inherent human dignity that comes from living as bearers of God’s image. He hopes that growth in Christian education will serve as one of God’s instruments to bring God’s grace to our world.

The AALC currently does not have its own distinctive liturgy and hymnody. As a possible means to building unity of vision and clarity of identity as a worshiping body, Dr. Larson suggests that we consider the development of a service book which reflects our theological priorities and consistency with the Lutheran Reformation. This, of course, would be a very long-term project. Yet, as he recognizes, the body of Christ believes as it worships (*lex orandi, lex credendi*). We have seen church bodies departing from historic orthodoxy as they adopt materials for worship which express heterodox ideas. It is always appropriate to reaffirm our identity through our worship.

In sum, we never know quite what the Lord will do when He gathers His people together. The 28th General Assembly of The American Association of Lutheran Churches was a time to remember that the Lord has not abandoned His love for His people. His steadfast love endures, as does His promise to keep His people. Thanks be to God. †

Rev. Dave Spotts serves Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry as a missionary campus chaplain to the collegiate communities in Columbia, Missouri.



28th General Convention of the AALC

Top left to right: - Mr. Patrice Legbanon, General Secretary, representing The Lutheran Church in Africa. (submitted) - Rev. Dr. Fred Hall and Rev. Jay Eberth. Rev. Dr. Curtis and Debbie Leins with the Rev. Dr. Duane and Mardell Lindberg. - Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins officiated the installation of the new Presiding Pastor the Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, assisted by Rev. Dr. Duane Lindberg. - Rev. Roger Twito spoke at the evening service. - Rev. Stephen Unger was the keynote speaker.

Bottom from left to right: - Rev. Jamie Strickler processes out following the opening service. LCMS Greetings by Rev. Dr. Nabil S. Nour - The worship team from Ascension Lutheran Church in Ames, IA, led the singing at the evening service. - Celebrating Holy Communion. - Rev. Neil Cadle served as Convention Chaplain. - Rev. Dr. Cary Larson (Presiding Pastor) celebrates Holy Communion. Photos by Rev. Richard Day.





The AALC clergy in attendance for the Thursday evening service at the General Convention. Submitted photo.

A Visitor's Perspective on The AALC's General Convention

By Gage Garlinghouse

I was invited to attend the 28th General Convention of The AALC, and it had a profound effect on me. As soon as we arrived, Rev. Dean Stoner asked me to help out, and from that moment on, I was running microphones around, filling coolers, and doing whatever little task I was asked.

Everyone welcomed me, and as soon as they learned who this random Ohio boy was, they treated me as their brother. Rev. Dr. Leins, Rev. Stoner, and many other amazing people, all of whom I gladly call friends, ensured that I enjoyed my time, and did everything in their power to give me the best possible experience I could have asked for.

There are many great stories from this convention, some of which involve Dairy Queen, or a post-convention airport adventure, however, I feel it's best to end by asking that I am not the final person who attends a convention in this capacity.

This convention gave me a second home, and a second family with The AALC. I have always wanted to attend seminary, and being with all the wonderful people in attendance confirmed in me what I have always felt, and reassured me that I was pursuing the right call. I cannot overstate the effect this convention, and these amazing people have had on me.

So, if you know a young man who is thinking about seminary, or who would benefit from this fellowship, invite them. Let them find the home that I have been so blessed to discover.

I'm so grateful that I got to attend this convention, and I hope that as I participate in future conventions, I will be able to see others who came with no idea of what to expect, but who will leave having found a home, a family, and a place in the body of Christ. †

Gage Garlinghouse is an undergraduate student and friend of The AALC.



ELECTION RESULTS

from 28th General Convention of The AALC

Presiding Pastor
Rev. Dr. Cary G. Larson

Assistant Presiding Pastor
Rev. Roger Twito

Secretary
Rev. Joe Marsh

Clergy Commission
Rev. Dave Spotts, Rev. Jerry Storrs
Mr. John Carlson

Board of Appeals & Adjudication
Rev. Richard Day, Rev. Tom Jahr
Rev. Scott Strohkirch, Mr. Thomas Knight
Mr. Doug Stewart

Commission on Doctrine & Church Relations
Rev. Phillip Hofinga, Rev. Jon Holst
Mr. Remi Sheppard

Commission for Higher Education
Rev. Dean Stoner, Mrs. Karen Holst
Dr. Paul Larson

Commission for Commissioned Church Workers
Church Worker – Deaconess Brigitte Gassman
Lay Person – Ms. Debra Anderson

TAALC Foundation
Mr. Doug Taylor, Mr. Brian Friedrichsen

Women of LIFE
Co-chair – Susan DeSha
Secretary – Debbie Friedrichsen
Mission Outreach Chairman – Lea Eldred

Parish Education Commission



Parish Education Commission Offers Bible Study Recommendation

By Rev. Neil Cadle

Greetings from the Parish Education Commission. We are delighted to offer an update of our activities to our brothers and sisters across The AALC. As you may be aware, the role of the Parish Education Commission is to seek out resources and means to enhance Christian education in member congregations. With the help of The AALC leadership, we have begun this process by examining various curricula from Lutheran bodies as potentially beneficial for our congregations. Since we have just started the process, at this time we have only examined one curriculum, though we hope to examine more in the near future.

The curriculum that we have recommended for general adult use is called “The Ideal Congregation: In the Light of Holy Scripture” from Northwestern Publishing House (the publishing arm of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, or WELS). It’s an 11-session study on the traits that, according to the Bible, are the marks of a faithful congregation. Topics include Worship and Bible Study, the Sacraments, Stewardship, Missions, Discipline, etc. Rev. Cadle is currently using this study at Bethel Lutheran Church, Rowland, PA, and would be happy to offer more detailed information, if any congregation is considering using it.

We hope to have more adult and Confirmation curricula examined

soon, and our long-term goal is to have a comprehensive catalogue of recommended curricula for all ages and groups.

Additionally, folks from within The AALC have been asked to prepare studies for various entities, such as the Women of L.I.F.E. We are grateful for their willingness to undertake this task and wish to assist them in their work, as well.

At this time, however, the Parish Education Commission has two vacant positions, from the North Plains and Western regions. If anyone might feel called to serve on the Commission from those regions, please reach out to The AALC leadership. We are excited to have a full complement to do this important work of the Church.

Christian education is important; in fact, it’s vital for the believer to grow in faith. It is the Commission’s desire and goal to help each congregation and each member of The AALC live and grow in the faith of Christ. “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long (Psalm 25:5). †

Rev. Neil Cadle serves Bethel Lutheran Church, Rowland, PA, and as Chair of the Parish Education Commission.

~ In Memoriam ~

Rev. Christopher Rodger Meyer

July 19, 1934 – May 6, 2022



The Rev. Christopher Rodger Meyer entered the Church Triumphant on May 6, 2022, at the age of 87. His funeral service was held on May 9 at Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, GA.

Pr. Meyer was an Emeritus Pastor on the Clergy Roster of The AALC. He served as Pastor of a former AALC congregation, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, in Costa Mesa, California, from 1992 to 1995, at which time he retired from full time ministry.

He was a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO, having earned an MDiv degree in 1959, followed by a STM degree in 1965, and a Th. D. in 1970. He was ordained in 1960 and served several LC-MS congregations before joining the Clergy Roster of The AALC.

His wife, Elizabeth, preceded him in death on March 19, 2020. They were married for 62 years.

Women of L.I.F.E. (WOL) hold Business Meeting at Convention



The Women of L.I.F.E. (WOL) met at Convention and held their business meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. A summary of the minutes follows:

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer, Donnette Taylor. Each of our nine benevolences received \$806.07 from the National WOL, totaling \$7,254.63 in donations.

Approved Benevolences to be Supported by WOL

The Women of L.I.F.E. voted to support the following benevolences:

- God's Hidden Treasures
- Steve Lellelid with Friends of Madagascar Mission
- AALC ALTS
- AALC Evangelism
- AALC Youth
- The Sending Place
- Lutherans For Life
- Rev. Dave Spotts with Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry
- Rev. Scott Yount and Joy 4 Ukraine with Spiritual Orphan Network (SON)
- Scholarship for a woman taking classes at American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS)

Election of Officers

Co-Chair: Sue DeSha volunteered and was elected to be the new Co-Chair, replacing Karen Huskamp.

Missions Coordinator: Lea Eldred volunteered and was elected to be the new Missions Coordinator, replacing Beth Brokenshire.

Secretary: Debbie Friedrichsen volunteered and was elected to be the Secretary, replacing Mary Dapelo.

Meeting minutes transcribed by Barbara Ruuska and summarized by Katherine Hofinga. †



WOL pic: The AALC Women of L.I.F.E. held their business meeting during the 28th General Convention. The group elected new officers and voted on benevolence giving. The women met again Thursday morning for the WOL Prayer Breakfast. Photo by Gretchen Baker.

Pastors Wives: A group of pastors' wives took the opportunity to gather one evening at the convention and get to know each other better. WOL Co-Chair Katherine Hofinga led the group in personal introductions, plus opened discussion for ideas on future gatherings, including the possibility of meeting a day early prior to the next General Convention. The group was encouraged to join the private Facebook group and to share emails for staying in touch, then broke into small groups for prayer. Photo by Rev. Richard Day.



Nominating Committee



The Laborers Are Few

By Rev. Jerry Storrs

The Constitution of The AALC states that during their respective regional convocations, each of our five regions select a member of their region to sit on the National Nominating Committee. In preparation for the next AALC biennial convention, this committee meets with our Presiding Pastor, selects a chairperson, and begins the daunting task of selecting candidates for national office and commission positions which will be vacated as of the coming convention.

Each TAALC commission (that is on the ballot at General Convention) has roughly half of its positions become available for each biennial convention. This is so the commissions always have continuity as their membership changes. Each commission has a certain number of clergy positions and a certain number of lay people. On all of the commissions, each elected position may be elected two four-year terms in succession. In other words, the commitment is from four to eight years and as with any other volunteer position, a member can resign at any time.

Since the six-member Nominating Committee is typically made up of pastors (this year we had one layperson), the task of selecting candidates for the clergy positions is relatively easy. Yet, clergy rarely have a broad knowledge of our national membership to know enough lay people who are outside our respective congregations to fill all the open lay positions. Discovering folk who might consider offering their gifts and abilities to a commission can be cumbersome. Parish pastors don't typically recommend members of the flocks they shepherd because they don't want to cause them to become overburdened with tasks outside their communities. This is all understandable, but it still leaves the Nominating Committee at odds with who to consider.

People always ask, "What's involved?" or "How much time does it take?" or "What are the responsibilities?" These are all good questions and can be answered by reading The AALC Constitution & Bylaws. It is also helpful to speak with a member of any given commission who is currently serving or recently stepped down to know any practical information like how often do they meet and how long those meetings might be. All of this type of information

Our Lord told and instructed the seventy-two whom He sent:

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Luke 9:2 (ESV)

is truly variable from one commission to another.

What is important for our congregations and church body is that the Lord's work is done through His people. St Matthias (Acts 1:23-36) was called to help with the "administrivia" of those who were called to preach and teach the Gospel. Did he expect this? Likely not. Could he have said, "No, I'm too busy?" Perhaps. Yet apparently, he did not. Did Matthias have an active part in the ministry? Yes. Even though he's not mentioned in Scripture anywhere else, we can be confident that he played a very important role. He did those things "behind the scenes" that the missionaries did not have to do.

The officers, committees, and commissions of our congregation, region, and national church administrations are just as important as those who fill the roles of missionary and pastor. While the Church remains in the world, her mission and tasks must function within worldly expectations. The fewer servants who rise to deal with the administrivia, the less time there is for the missionaries and pastors to perform their called duties. The Gospel is taught and the Gospel is preached. That is the central point to our Lord's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), yet while that is done there are other tasks the church must undertake.

As you enter into your daily devotions, please offer prayers that our God would lead servants to come forward to share in the behind-the-scene tasks in The AALC. As you seek ways that you could be a part, consider the roles each of our regions and national church have for folk who may have interest in serving in ways you are able. Speak with your pastor about areas of need not only in your congregation, but those of the greater body of The American Association of Lutheran Churches.

Although Jesus was sending them to do active missionary work, the application of His instruction remains true for all the servants of our congregations, regions, and our national church body. Laborers are few. And the old proverb is true, "many hands make light work." There is work to be done. Come, join those who serve and add your hands to the work. †

Rev. Jerry Storrs serves as Chair of The AALC Nominating Committee



Doctrine & Church Relations



CDCR Tasked With Doctrinal Guidance and Church Relations

By Rev. Benjamin Baker

There are a number of purposes listed in our AALC Constitution in regard to the Commission on Doctrine and Church Relations (CDCR). But to summarize, the chief goal or objective of the CDCR is “to provide guidance to the Association in matters of doctrine and church-relations,” with the result that the CDCR “promote the unity and purity of the doctrines taught and proclaimed by this Association.” (Const. B04.13.01; B04.13.05.01) There are multiple ways that we go about this task, and one of those ways is to produce reports on various doctrinal issues. When this happens, the CDCR will seek out qualified theologians and request documents from them (this could be research on a particular issue, a position paper, a study paper, etc.). These documents are then reviewed and discussed by the CDCR. After final edits and review, the report will be made public for use in our church body.

An additional step to this process has been taken by the CDCR recently: since the clergy of The AALC are also primary theologians of our Association, the CDCR has desired their input on theological and doctrinal issues. To gather such input, the CDCR has hosted meetings of our Ministerium to give them the opportunity to give their feedback. Again, the goal of this additional step has been the purpose of promoting unity among the clergy of our Association in regard to doctrine and practice. As a point of clarification, these reports are not “official doctrinal statements” of The AALC. Our Constitution expressly states that our doctrine and theology (taught by Holy Scripture and expressed faithfully by our Lutheran Confessions) cannot be changed. These reports, rather, serve to bring clarity to our doctrine and to give guidance in the understanding, interpretation, and application of our doctrine. The CDCR is committed to addressing whatever issues come our way with faithfulness to Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions.

The most recent issue that has occupied the CDCR has been in regard to the doctrine and practice of the Lord’s Supper. We requested documents from qualified theologians to address this important doctrine. Our report, which is in the final stages of

review and editing for publication, consists of three parts: 1) The Theology of the Lord’s Supper, 2) Admission to the Lord’s Supper, and 3) Practices Surrounding the Celebration of the Lord’s Supper. As stated above, we brought the Ministerium into the discussion and received their input and feedback on each of the three parts. Once the final edits are made for publication, this report will be made public for use in our Association.

At our General Convention this year, a resolution was brought to the floor of the Convention concerning the sanctity of human life. There were some questions in regard to some of the language in this resolution, and the Convention referred the resolution to the CDCR and commissioned a report from the CDCR to be forthcoming in the next six months (from time of Convention).

Another task of the CDCR has to do with inter-church relations. That is, we have as our directive to seek out such church bodies as we can find for the purpose of setting up dialogue with them, which then perhaps will lead to a recognition of agreement and unity of doctrine and confession. Several attempts prior to this year’s Convention unfortunately did not come to fruition due to a variety of circumstances. We would like to see dialogue take place between The AALC and the Lutheran Church – Canada, as well as a confessional Lutheran Church body in Central or South America. One of the goals in this regard would be that we could fairly easily travel to Canada or South America to give aid or assistance (perhaps teaching some theological classes, etc.) in person. But we will see where the Lord leads us with this and what opportunities He presents to our church body.

The CDCR currently consists of our Presiding Pastor Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, ALTS President Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper, Rev. Phillip Hofinga, Rev. John Holst (newly elected), Mr. Ed Kleiner, Mr. Remi Sheppard (newly elected), and Rev. Benjamin Baker †

Rev. Benjamin Baker serves the congregations of St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, Traer, IA, and St. Paul Lutheran Congregation, Tripoli, IA. He also currently serves as chairman of the CDCR.

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DETAILS PLANS FOR THE SEMINARY

The Commission for Higher Education (CHE) remained busy since the previous General Convention. Looking back, the work and accomplishments of this devoted group of volunteers and appointees can be separated into several areas.

1. Establishing a plan

A primary initiative was to identify a set of strategic objectives for the American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS). After hashing through several ideas and suggestions, we developed a list of objectives important for the continued viability of the seminary.

Develop a financial strategy: We recognize that delivering a relevant curriculum, employing vibrant and effective instructors, and mitigating the financial hit on seminary students are extremely important. However, we also recognize that the financial needs of the seminary must be met. Indeed, ensuring the long-term financial health of the seminary was identified as a top objective.

Deepen the adjunct instructor pool: We greatly admire and appreciate the work of our seminary instructors. We must recognize, however, that turnover in the faculty ranks is expected. It is prudent for the seminary to have a “deep bench” of potential instructors to accommodate flexibility and aid in seminary growth.

Review the AALC/ALTS/CHE constitution and bylaws: The evolution of the seminary over the years proved to be a driving force leading to this review. Changes to these documents require a significant amount of time for review, reflection, proposal, and approval within the procedural structure of The AALC.

A clear goal for the seminary is to pursue accreditation. Achieving accreditation provides certification of our instruction, provides a formalized structure to ensure viability and longevity, and increases visibility for those seeking a Word-centered theological education. Following review with an accreditation body, the CHE developed an initial plan for ALTS to reach accreditation.

One important component of the accreditation requirements is having full-time faculty. This faculty member will teach seminary courses; provide spiritual support to students, their families, and instructors; and assist the seminary president in recruiting students, pursuing accreditation, and fundraising. Following the approval of the ALTS budget, we are excited to announce our first Professor of Theology and Spiritual Formation: Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins.

2. Clarifying our role

Everything starts with knowing who we are and defining our purpose. The CHE developed the vision and mission statement for the seminary, which we humbly presented to the congregations. Also, as the CHE and the seminary move forward, effective and

timely communication is very important. Monthly CHE meetings and often more frequent seminary leadership meetings reflected the ambition of the CHE and the increased operational realities of the seminary. We found that communication with the national office and the various AALC councils and committees was not occurring as needed nor as expected.

The role the CHE plays as the advisory group over the seminary often conflicts or is strained by the accountability the CHE has within The AALC organizational structure. Clarity in the CHE’s responsibilities, expectations, and limitations is needed. The accreditation process will require a review of this accountability.

Interest in the seminary continues to grow, domestically and internationally. Laity education has the possibility of significant growth as we experienced in the interest of our 2021 summer Old Testament history course. Seizing these and other opportunities is important for future growth but, more importantly, to reach out with God’s Word to others in this world. We look forward to working with The AALC leadership and congregations as we try to capitalize on these opportunities.

3. Looking ahead

The next CHE term will take the reins of a vibrant component of The AALC. Not only is interest in the seminary growing, but so is the significance of instructing our current and future pastors in today’s hurting world. Looking ahead, the primary issues for the CHE to tackle include:

- Improving communication with AALC leadership and all congregations.
- Effectively promoting the important work of the seminary.
- Supporting fundraising efforts of the AALC Foundation.
- Proceeding through the accreditation process.
- Maintaining an intense scrutiny of the financial position of the seminary currently and going forward.
- Providing a strong voice in the decision related to the seminary location.
- Shepherding the growth of the seminary.

In closing, the members of the CHE thank The AALC congregations for support, and we ask for your continued support of our vision. Through your support and through the guidance of our Lord, may the seminary continue to provide the God-centered education so dearly needed in our world today. †

Members of the CHE contributed to this article.



September 2022

PRAYER BOOKMARK

The AALC Foundation provides financial support

By Doug Taylor



A Charitable Foundation is an organization created to raise funds for charitable purposes. The AALC Foundation has three parts, each supporting a different goal.

- The first account is to help develop the American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS). Funds deposited in this account are used as needed to support and grow ALTS.
- The second account is to help pioneer new congregations. Earnings from this account will be used to support churches that are being started.
- The third account is intended to support churches struggling to remain viable or in need of growth.

There are different ways to make charitable donations. The first would be a future gift, usually through an estate. Examples would be insurance proceeds or from a retirement account. With this type of gift, we have no control of the timing.

Another would be a delayed gift such as a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust. In this instance, an irrevocable gift is made to a charity. The charity then provides income to the Grantor for a specific period. At the end of the period, the balance of the account goes to the charity.

A more common type of gift would be an immediate gift. Usually, these gifts would be cash or appreciated real property such as stocks or real estate.

Charitable gifts often have tax benefits to the Grantor. However, always consult an accountant or tax attorney before making a gift to determine possible benefits.

The remainder of this article will focus on the Seminary (ALTS). We are entering an exciting time in The AALC. Our Seminary has begun the process of accreditation. This will take up to eight years to complete. We at the Foundation in consultation with the Seminary are making plans to ensure that adequate funding is available.

Accreditation is a form of quality control ensuring that institutions of higher learning satisfy certain standards. One requirement for accreditation is to have full time

continued on page 12

1. Western Region
2. Ascension Lutheran Church Waterloo, IA
3. Rev. Arne C. Bjelland
4. Bethel Lutheran Church Rowland, PA
5. For all the seminary students
6. Family of Christian Martyrs
7. For work in Bible translation
8. Bible Lutheran Church Dodge Center, MN
9. Rev. John Morley
10. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church St. Paul, MN
11. Commission on Doctrine and Church Relations
12. Rev. Dale Zastrow
13. Christ Lutheran Church Chippewa Falls, WI
14. American Lutheran Theological Seminary
15. For the youth
16. Christ Lutheran Church Duluth, MN
17. Commission for American Missions
18. Tartu Academy of Theology
19. To resist peer pressure
20. Joy 4 Ukraine Ministry
21. Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Ellis, KS
22. Evangelism Commission
23. The upcoming Pastors' Conference
24. Rev. Stephen Unger
25. Elim Lutheran Church Brush Prairie, WA
26. Abiding Grace Lutheran Church Gillette, WY
27. Christ Lutheran Church Chetek, WI
28. Sunday School Kids
29. Rev. Thomas Jahr
30. Our nation's leaders



October 2022

PRAYER BOOKMARK

1. Kongsvinger Lutheran Church Oslo, MN
2. Pr. Charles Sandison
3. Faith Lutheran Church Holstein, IA
4. Nominating Committee
5. Light of Christ Lutheran Church Williston, ND
6. Rev. Clark Brown
7. That God would raise up church workers
8. Rev. David Swarthout Sr.
9. Rev. Dr. Daniel Schroeder
10. Prison Chaplains
11. Rev. Don F. Ginkel
12. Mighty Fortress Ev. Lutheran Church Seward, NE
13. Youth groups
14. College & University Campus Chaplains
15. Rev. Dr. Duane R. Lindberg
16. New Hope Lutheran Church Newfolden, MN
17. Rev. Greg Stenzel
18. Rev. Dr. Fred P. Hall
19. Rev. Devon Woodyard
20. Shut-ins
21. Rev. Harold E. Petersen
22. For God to Raise Up Church Leaders
23. For kids in sports
24. Persecuted Christians
25. Rev. Jay Eberth
26. Women of LIFE Committees
27. Our Savior Lutheran Church Piqua, OH
28. Pr. Ollie Urdahl
29. Regional Mission Developers
30. Rev. John Holst
31. Rev. Dan Sollie

Financial Support continued...

professors on staff. The budget just passed for 2023 and 2024 established a full-time position which will be filled by Dr. Leins. As you are aware, he was termed out as Presiding Pastor, so this is the next phase of his career. In discussion with him, I can assure you that the enthusiasm he had in his past position will carry into this new position.

The budget just passed has a significant shortfall for the next few years. We do have adequate reserves to cover the next few years, but we are starting the process of raising the needed funds. I will address how we plan to raise these funds in future articles. In the meantime, feel free to contact Dr. Jordan Cooper, Dr. Curtis Leins or me, Doug Taylor, to discuss possible gifts.

This is an exciting time for The AALC, but without a strong Seminary, our future would be in doubt. †

Doug Taylor serves as Chairman of The AALC Foundation.

Sola 500

500 ALONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We need your help! The American Lutheran Theological Seminary is asking for your support. At the 28th General Convention of The AALC, a new Financial Support Campaign was established for our seminary. It is called: Sola 500.

Those who belong to the Sola 500 will pledge \$25 per month (\$300 per year), in order to give basic support to American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS). The goal is to enlist five hundred Sola 500 Sponsors by the end of 2023. When five hundred Sola 500 Sponsors have been enlisted, the total contribution to the seminary will be \$150,000 per year. Reaching our goal of 500 Sponsors each year will bring financial stability to the American Lutheran Theological Seminary, ensuring that all ALTS students will continue to receive the very best confessional Lutheran seminary education for years to come.

- Solus Christus: Christ Alone
- Sola Scriptura: Scripture Alone
- Sola Gratia: Grace Alone
- Sola Fide: Faith Alone
- Sola 500: 500 Alone Can Make The Difference

If you want the message of God's saving grace to be given to future generations, perhaps you too will become one of the Sola 500.

To make your commitment, contact:

The Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins: 410.441.0122
 Mrs. Bonnie Ohlrich: 260.755.9401
 or visit: <https://donorbox.org/sola-500>

500 alone can make a difference!



WOL Sews Dresses for Girls Around the World

By Kathy Schuhmacher

The “Threads of Love” quilting group at Ascension Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Iowa, hosted a project day in March 2022 for making dresses for girls in need and who are at risk around the world. “Dress a Girl Around the World” has this mission: “We dream of a world in which every girl has at least one new dress. We want girls to know that they are worthy of respect, and that they are loved by God” (www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com).

Missionaries take these dresses to girls all around the world. In receiving “God’s best dress,” not only are these girls being gifted what could be their first ever new dress, they’re also receiving dignity, health, joy, and love. A “Dress a Girl!” label is stitched onto the front of each dress in the hope that it will serve as a deterrent for human trafficking. How so? The label shows that the girl belongs to an organization, and, as a result, a predator might pass them over.

After hearing about this project from my sister, I shared this exciting opportunity with my own quilting group at Ascension, and we all decided this was something we wanted to do, too. Plans began to be made. We received dress-making guidelines from the ministry to prepare for the project. The quilting group invited ladies and girls in the congregation to participate with the quilters, even if they were non-sewers. The congregation was given the opportunity to donate fabric, as well as ribbon, rickrack, and lace to embellish the dresses.

Twenty ladies and one teen daughter attended the workday. At arrival, they signed up for a special door prize, then chose and set up their work stations. Devotions and initial instructions were given. Dress kits had been prepared and were ready to stitch. The sewing machines began to hum while the non-sewers cut out more dresses, and pinned or pressed fabric. We enjoyed home-made rolls at our mid-morning break and a delicious soup luncheon at noon. It was a great day for fellowship!

Once the day was over, it was apparent that another workday needed to be scheduled. This project, funded in part by Thrivent, resulted in the sewing of sixty-four dresses over two scheduled work days with many of the ladies taking home an unfinished dress or two to complete. These lovely dresses were blessed by our pastor, Mike Badenhop, during a Sunday worship service in April.

The dresses were then packed up and taken by Marie Easter and myself to the headquarters for “Dress a Girl Around the World” in Forest City, Iowa. There we met the founder of this organization, Rachel Eggum-Cinader, who greeted us and gratefully accepted our dresses noting how beautifully they were stitched. She told



Dresses sewn by the women at Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA, for the organization: “Dress a Girl Around the World.” Recipients of dresses can be seen on the website: www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com.

us more about the organization that, since its inception in 2009, has blessed over 2 million girls with dresses made by ambassadors such as ourselves from all over our country and beyond. Her annual dress goal is 100,000. Rachel has a heart for children in Uganda, and many dresses are hand delivered there, as much as possible by missionaries and by herself.

One of our Ascension ladies, Sandy Walker, uniquely responded to the call to the “Dress A Girl Around the World” project. Sandy was unable to participate at the work days as she is a caregiver to her homebound husband. Yet, Sandy was willing to sew dresses at home. She and her niece Bethany responded to God’s command to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:39), as together they sewed twelve of our sixty-four dresses. They didn’t stop there! As of mid-June Sandy informed me that she had sewn sixteen more dresses (16!) and that she and her niece have made plans to sew more! She loves sewing these dresses, she told me. This ministry has allowed her to participate with us, while being readily available to meet the needs of her husband.

As Christians, we are the hands and feet of Jesus. The apostle Paul penned these words in Colossians 3:17 and 23:

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him... Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord, you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ.”

If you or your Women of LIFE group would like more information about this project, you can learn more at: www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com. I also would welcome any questions. My email is: schuhmacherkl@gmail.com. †

Kathy Schuhmacher is a member of Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA.



HYMN FEATURE

“Lord Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word!”

By Rev. Steve Klawonn

At the very foundation and throughout the history of The American Association of Lutheran Churches, the plaintive cry that resounds from this beautiful hymn was the bedrock of all that was said and done, as pastors of the old American Lutheran Church stood up for the inerrancy of the Holy Word of God. The Scriptures are and forever will be, the guiding light that leads us into the future, as we faithfully proclaim the Gospel and administer the Sacraments to generation after generation of sinners in need of the saving grace and forgiveness found through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

There are indeed times in everyone's life, and within the life of Christ's Church, that the faithful are called upon to forsake what the world would say is right in order to follow the Word of God regardless of the cost. It is during such times as this, our hymn can bring us comfort in our time of need and encouragement for our heavenly future.



Martin Luther wrote this hymn around 1541 or 1542. When it first was published, it was thought to be “a children’s hymn” that would be sung to teach the people to take a stand against the two archenemies of Christ and His Holy Church: the pope and the invading Turks. As we have come to expect, Luther didn’t have a filter and didn’t mince words. He told it how it was. An example of this would be in the original text of stanza one which read, “Preserve us, Lord, in Your Word, and restrain the murder of the pope and Turks, who would cast down Jesus Christ, Your Son, from Your throne¹.” Luther was not afraid to express exactly what was on his mind during those perilous times, no matter how controversial it was.

Later, in the 17th and 18th centuries, the immediate threat that was posed for so many years by the Roman Catholic Church and the Muslims had eased, and some Lutherans changed the text to a more general statement against all those who would threaten God’s Word and its proclamation.

As we examine this hymn in more detail, we see first of all that it is trinitarian in form as each of the three stanzas are addressed to a successive person of the Trinity.

*Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done².*

In the first stanza addressed to God our heavenly Father, there is the petition that He “curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from Your Son.” Throughout the history of the church, the names of the various enemies of the church may have changed, but our musical text still offers us two ways that the church is constantly attacked: spiritually and physically. Satan is the father of all lies and, in an effort to drive a wedge between God and His people, he attacks and continues to try to tear the Church apart in both obvious and the most devious ways. He will try whatever it takes to cause this separation and lead us straight to the eternal abyss. While today most Christians might not feel much of a physical threat in America against themselves or the Church, we remain in constant and fervent prayer for the protection of those who are at risk both at home and around the world.

*Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.*

The second stanza directs us back to the foundational source of the Church’s ability to fight the battle against our enemies. The object

of the hate that comes against the Church by its enemies is their hatred of Jesus Christ. He is the one whom they constantly seek to destroy. The irony is that it is the same Jesus Christ who is the only source of power that can defeat them.

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
Matthew 16:18:

*O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.*

While we endure the onslaught of Satan while we are on this earth awaiting the second coming of Jesus Christ on the Last Day, and as the unity of the Church is constantly threatened, it is all the more necessary for us Christians to faithfully seek the Holy Spirit to guide us and keep us in the true faith as we see in stanza three. It is through the Holy Spirit, that we have confidence to live our faith in the face of any difficulty and know He will come to our aid. We never cease to pray that in the final battle with death, the “Comforter of priceless worth” will support us and bring us to a blessed end filled with heavenly peace that only comes in Christ’s kingdom.

Luther’s hymn is less about asking God to help us escape from the troubles of this life than it is a cry for sustaining us in faithful endurance while we are in the middle of such troubles. We are not promised an easy life while on this earth, but we are promised that we will never go through trials and tribulation alone.

When we are tempted to try to understand and discern God’s inscrutable will in the sufferings that go on in this world, we are reminded in the Small Catechism: “God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature... and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.” (Third Petition, How is God’s will done?)

God bless each of you every day as you faithfully live your Christian walk in the face of the fiery darts of the enemy. May God look upon us with favor and give us His peace! †

*Rev. Steven Klawonn serves Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in
Evansdale, Iowa.*

[1] Johann Christoph Olearius, *Evangelischer Lieder-Schatz*, “Part 3” (Jena, 1706), 96.

[2] Martin Luther, “Lord Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word,” *Lutheran Service Book* (Saint Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 2006), #655. Public domain.



NEWS



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Evansdale, IA, has replaced their old sign with a new digital sign that can be programmed with various messages about church and community events. Submitted photo.

A Sign of the Times

By Rev. Steven Klawonn

Every church and civic organization has said to themselves at one time or another, “How can we raise our community awareness and catch people’s attention that we are here?” It has been a constant struggle through the years, especially for churches, as we seek new ways to evangelize and make a difference in our communities for Jesus Christ.

Six years ago, shortly after I was blessed with and accepted the Divine Call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Evansdale, IA, I had people in the congregation who would pull me aside and express an interest in updating our current sign that sat out near the street, letting people know that we are here. As much as an update would have been beneficial, it just wasn’t the right time to incur major debt while we were still paying off our Fellowship Hall. After much discussion, it was agreed that perhaps it wasn’t the right time and we would wait for a future opportunity.

Fast forward four years when we celebrated the burning of the mortgage for the Fellowship Hall, and once again the subject of the sign for our church was broached. Within a month of that discussion being had, we were all sidelined with Covid, and when the future of worship services and the church in general in flux, we again tabled the issue. As frustrating as it was for all of us, we felt it important to keep praying about it, and God would reveal to us in His good time when we could or if we could proceed with the project.

Once we had survived the worst of the pandemic and had resumed “in-person” worship services along with continuing our online live-stream, we once again addressed the opportunity

to increase our community profile through a new sign for Prince of Peace. After examining several signage options, we chose a local company with a great reputation and proceeded to start raising the \$45,000 to afford this sign. We prayerfully brought this need before the congregation.

It never ceases to amaze us when things come together perfectly when it is all in God’s good time. Once we made our project and the cost known, the members of Prince of Peace stepped up, and within a few very short weeks, we had all the money needed to proceed. The sign was ordered and we “patiently” waited for it to arrive, as there were supply chain issues involved just like with any company.

Six months later, our new sign arrived! It is so easy to program and with our computer, we can make updates no matter where we are in just a few minutes. As you can see, it does catch the eye as you drive down the road, and everyone knows that we are a church that is active and on the move for Jesus Christ. We not only advertise worship services and weekly activities, we also work with the community to display community events of interest.

We thank God daily for His many blessings and we pray that Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will be a beacon of the Gospel for Evansdale, IA, and the Cedar Valley. †

Rev. Steven Klawonn serves Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Evansdale, Iowa.

Missions Conference Planned for Fall 2022

By Dr. Philip W. Gassman

Worshippers departing services from the Ascension Lutheran Church (ALC) sanctuary in Ames, IA, are met with Jesus' words from the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20). ALC has endeavored to grow during the 21st century in fulfilling this Great Commission, via expanded giving for missions, increased numbers of supported missionaries, greater levels of ALC member involvement in short-term mission trips, hosting mission conferences, and other ways of supporting missions outreach.

The Lord has provided multiple catalysts that have encouraged our growth in missions including: (1) the strong leadership and missions passion exuded by Pastor Roger Twito and his wife Cathy, (2) a committed and passionate Evangelism-Missions (EM) team, (3) the visionary impact of an ALC Strategic Plan implemented in 2017, and (4) missions guidance, insight and passion imparted by Pastor Bill Moberly, who leads Awakening Lives to World Missions (<https://www.alwm.org/>).

Pastor Moberly's ministry reflects his experiences of pastoring Lutheran churches in Iowa, Minnesota, and California during 1984 to 2004, leading Eastern European Missions Network from 2004 to 2015, leading Awakening Lives to World Missions (ALWM) since 2015, leading dozens of short-term mission trips, and authoring a book on missions. We first connected with Pastor Moberly when he conducted workshops at ALC in 2014 and 2018. Key recommendations of the 2018 workshop were: (1) increased prayer for global missions, (2) expanding short-term mission trips, (3) improving missions education, and (4) holding an annual missions conference.

We held our first missions conference in the fall of 2019, which was followed by subsequent missions conferences in the fall of 2020 and 2021. Participants in the first three conferences primarily consisted of ALC members although some participants were external to our congregation. The 2020 conference was conducted during a stressful period of the pandemic, which resulted in our first use of on-line Zoom technology for hosting some of our presenters.

The 2021 conference included these presenters, some of whom shared from their home locations via Zoom:

- Dr. Steve Anderson with ALC/Global Eye Mission
- Matt Cline with Cru
- Karen Dubiel and Cathy Twito with ALC
- Pastor Bill Moberly with ALWM
- Tim Tjernagel with World Team
- Pastor Scott Yount with Joy 4 Ukraine



The Scripture passage on the back wall of the sanctuary at Ascension Lutheran Church, Ames, IA. Submitted photo.

Following the 2021 conference, plans began for an expanded 2022 conference. The conference will be jointly sponsored by ALC and Celebrating Global Missions (CGM, <https://www.cgmmag.com/>), an ALWM digital magazine ministry that Pastor Moberly launched in collaboration with Pastor Kent Groethe.

The 2022 conference is scheduled for Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and will feature on-site, video, and/or Zoom presentations from three missions organizations that are CGM ministry partners (<https://www.cgmmag.com/partners/>).

Tentative presenters for the 2022 Missions Conference include:

- Pastor David Lerseth with Friends of Madagascar Mission
- Pastor Bill Moberly with ALWM
- Dr. Philip Gassman and other members of ALC
- World Mission Prayer League, Lutheran Bible Translators, and more.

We will also provide insights and perspectives gained from ALC missions-related experiences including presentations from supported missionaries who have served in Spain, Turkey, and other countries. The conference will explore strategies for reaching unreached people groups, supporting believers in intensely persecuted environments, developing a missions program for inexperienced churches, supporting short-term mission trips and related topics.

A conference registration webpage has been established (<https://www.alwm.org/globalmissionconference>). A registration fee of \$15 for on-site participants has been established to help cover the cost of food and other incidental costs. Sessions held in the sanctuary will be broadcast on-line via Facebook and some other sessions will be accessible by Zoom. More information will be forthcoming. †

Dr. Philip W. Gassman is a member of Ascension Lutheran Church, Ames, IA, and is part of the group planning the 2022 Missions Conference.

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UPCOMING EDITIONS...

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

Nov/Dec Theme: OT Prophecies Fulfilled (*Content deadline Sept 1*)

Jan/Feb 2023: The Divine Service (*deadline Nov. 1*)

Mar/Apr 2023: Missions – Local and International (*deadline Jan. 1*)

May/June 2023: Congregational Life (*deadline March 1*)

July/Aug 2023: Holy Scripture (*deadline May 1*)

Sep/Oct 2023: Youth Edition (*deadline July 1*)

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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