

United Voice

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER | GREENBUSH, MN | JULY - AUGUST 2021



2021 AFLC Annual Conference

Pastor David Niemela

Although we are planning to be at a family reunion over Independence Day weekend, we did already attend a family reunion. This reunion was the Association of Free Lutheran Churches' Annual Conference at the Free Lutheran Schools' campus in Plymouth, MN, June 16-19. It was encouraging to see brothers and sisters in Christ from our association of churches, both pastors and lay people.

The Conference is not all business—it is interwoven with prayer times, devotionals, worship services, and teaching times. Maybe you are wondering, “So what orders do we have for our church from the big wigs at the Conference?” None. This is because each church, including United, is treated as it should be: independent from any human rule, which includes the Conference. The Holy Spirit and His Word are the rule the church should submit to.

When you consider the decisions made at Conference, don't think of the word “obey.” There are no commands to obey. Rather, consider the word “join.” We join in the work of the AFLC, which centers around the Conference, because these are like-minded churches. Together, there are many things we can do better than alone. This includes Missions, providing a Seminary and Bible school to train students, youth ministry, and many other ministries.

Here are some highlights from the Conference, both what has happened this past year, and plans for next:

- The host, the Free Lutheran Schools (Bible College and Seminary) hosted most of the Conference's events in their new Student Life Center. Everyone on the Creation Museum and ARK Encounter trip from Greenbush got to tour this building, which houses not only a basketball court, but classrooms, and more. Ask them about it!

Church Events

- July 7th – FLY One-Night
- July 12th – WMF Bible study & meeting
- July 14-18th – Family Camp at Galilee Bible Camp
- July 18th – Church Night at the Fair (hosting)
- July 30th-31st – WMF Summer Rally at GBC
- Aug. 11 – WMF Bible study & meeting

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WMF News

Angie Truscinski, UFLC WMF President

Greetings from the WMF! June has been a busy and exciting month. We helped to feed anywhere from 35-60 kids plus adults each evening during VBS, it is so fun to get to know the kids and learn their likes and dislikes. Thank you to all the ladies who helped prepare and serve food and thank you to the other volunteers, FLBC Zion Team, and youth who took charge of VBS and kept all the little ones learning.

Following VBS, myself and others were blessed to go on the bus tour with the youth to the Bible College, Creation Museum and ARK Encounter. I am sure you will hear about it and see pictures of the experience. We were also blessed to be able to participate in the Women's Day at the Annual Conference on the way home from the trip. What wonderful speakers and memorial to those ladies who passed in the last year.

Teen and preteen camps at Galilee Bible Camp in Lake Bronson wrapped up at the end of June, and we were able to be involved by supplying meals for a day.

We skipped the scheduled June WMF meeting as it was in the middle of VBS. Instead, we will be reviewing both the June and July lessons during our next meeting, July 14.

June's study is in chapter 3 of 1 Timothy, and titled "God's Desire for Pastors and Deacons." The lesson states, "In 1 Timothy 2 we saw that God's desires for prayer and the roles of men and women in corporate worship serve His work to save sinners. God's will is that all people would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth."

The truth is that Christ gave Himself as a ransom for all people. God uses pastors to bring this truth to us."

Lesson 7 for July is from 1 Timothy Chapter 4 and titled *God uses Pastors to Save you*. The lesson states, "We need pastors who help us recognize false teaching and who continually teach us the Bible about our Savior, Jesus Christ. Through the truth that Christ Jesus is the ransom for all sinners, God saves us and keeps us saved."

In August, we will be studying 1 Timothy 5:1-16. This lesson is titled "Instructions for the Church (part 1)." The lesson states, "Pastors and churches are called to teach both God's Law and His Gospel according to the Bible. Through sound teaching from the Bible, the Holy Spirit works repentance, faith and godliness in us."

1 Timothy 5 gives specific instruction regarding certain groups

of people. These instructions teach us what obeying God's commandments looks like in various life situations. May God bring us repentance, faith and love for others through His Word today."

Remember to check out the flyer for the District Women's Retreat that will be held at Galilee Bible Camp on July 30-31. Lynn Strand, our District President, has a wonderful line up of speakers, Bible study and fun. If you need more info, please contact myself or Lynn Strand.

Please be praying for our WMF officers and for our ladies in the WMF

UFLC WMF officer positions open for election

President

Treasurer

Talk with Angie Truscinski if interested in more information

meetings. We have elections each November and we will be needing some new officers. Some of our current officers have had the office for several years and they need break. Thank you for your consideration and prayers in this need.

Maggie Johnson Baptized!

Maggie LaMae Johnson, daughter of Dominique and Aubrey, was baptized during the worship service at United Free Lutheran on May 23. Her godparents are Dustin and Kayla Wahl.



Miriam Children's Home

Jonni Sliver, AFLC missionary to Brazil

Dear Pr David and precious family of United,

Warm greetings from a chilly Miriam Home. It is nearly the end of April, and as I write we are enjoying the first days of autumn, and I love it! Chilly nights (last night the low was 51 degrees – without heat in our houses, that is good sleeping weather!) and warm days, perfect for the kiddos to play!

One of the blessings of being able to work in the Miriam Home is the daily good example set for us by our kiddos. At a time when many adults bemoan all that has been missed, are frustrated by the continuing limitations, and fear the unknown next phases of life with COVID; kids just live! They play, they laugh, they trust that we are going to take good care of them – and we do! It is such a good reminder that if we set our eyes on our Father and trust Him to take care of us, even in the middle of the storm, we also have joy and peace, and confidence to live each day in His strength.

Dears, we want to thank each of you for your prayers, for your gifts, and for your sweet encouragement. Though each of us in the Miriam Home team have lost loved ones to COVID, we have also experienced protection, for ourselves and mostly for the kiddos! You help us to stand in Christ and bless the lives of our children and their families. During this last year we have been true miracles of protection and provision and you are very much a part of that!

Bless you and thank you!



Seeking Church Library Input

What would you like made accessible within our church library? Certain topics? Christian fiction titles? Audiobooks? Reference resources? Movies?

Jenny Niemela and Miranda Green are sifting through church library materials, and are excited to add some new items! If there is something you would like to see added, let either of us know. We want the library to be a valuable resource for building up each other's walk with Christ.

No deadline for suggestions; talk to us anytime.



2021 AFLC Annual Conference

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- AFLC Youth Ministries budget is \$165,400. At the floor of the Conference, this amount was raised \$25,000 above their original subsidy request of \$140,400. Let's keep them in mind so we can keep Dr. Jason Holt, the director of the ministry, at a full-time capacity in serving our churches.
- Parish Education released Volume V of its AFLC Heritage series. One Thing I Seek: Selected Writings of Francis W. Monseth. Dr. Monseth was the dean of our seminary and president of our schools before his passing in 2013.
- The President of the AFLC, Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, will be stepping down in 2022 as he finishes his third term. Pray that the Lord would raise up a replacement.
- Next year's Conference will be hosted at the Association Retreat Center near Osceola, WI.

There's much more that can be said about AFLC Evangelism and Discipleship's redesigned website, World and Home Missions adaptations to COVID restrictions, and other happenings. These plans are voluntary, so they won't automatically happen unless the churches join, since it must be freely, voluntary. If it is done in a free spirit, how much more impactful can it be than fulfilling some "have to's"?

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom"
~ 2 Corinthians 3:17, ESV

2021 VBS Highlights

We are happy and blessed to have had such a great turnout for Vacation Bible School this year.

We had the Zion Team from the Free Lutheran Bible College join us. Its members are Damaris Berg, Maggie Johnson, Brett Erickson, and Kyle Erickson. The theme was Destination Dig and the VBS team led us through five days of new songs, Bible verses, and daily themes that let us dig into God's Word.

As a planning committee we hoped to get from 35-45 kids each day, and we had anywhere from 50-60 kids each day! Angie and the ladies in the kitchen did a great job of starting each evening out with a meal, and we really appreciate that.

We had ladies working hard to organize creative crafts and snacks that tied into the daily theme and we are also thankful for the teen helpers that did such a great job with all of the kids.

Our offering went to the Gator Gap Fund and, through the generous donations, we were able to donate \$870.

We had a great turnout for our program Thursday evening and the kids were able to show all that they had learned and worked on throughout the week.

Thank you to all who helped before, during and after this busy week, and also a huge thank you to such an amazing congregation for allowing us to host this event.

Thanks All!

United Free VBS Committee



UPCOMING AFLC EVENTS

Association Retreat Center (ARC) ~ Osceola, WI

For more information, visit www.arc-aflc.org

- ❖ FLY Zone, grades 5-8 ~ July 18-22
- ❖ Family Camp ~ August 1-7

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

For more information, visit www.aflc.org

- ❖ None at this time

NW MN District

More information to appear on church website, Facebook page, and future bulletins

- ❖ Family Camp at Galilee Bible Camp ~ July 14-18
- ❖ FLBC Alumni & Friends Picnic, TRF ~ July 18
- ❖ NW MN District WMF Summer Retreat at GBC ~ July 30-31
- ❖ Parish Education Meeting ~ August 22

Free Lutheran Bible College & Seminary ~ Plymouth, MN

For more information, visit flbc.edu

- ❖ 2021 FLBC Golf Scramble ~ July 30
- ❖ FLBC Disc Golf Tournament ~ July 31
- ❖ 2021 Summer Institute of Theology ~ Aug. 2-6



Welcome

Eliana Daisy Marie Olson

Born March 16, 2021

6lbs, 2oz.



We are so thankful for the arrival of a healthy baby girl. The girls, Mariah (4) and Selah (3) are absolutely overjoyed to have another sister.

Her name is pronounced *Ellie-ah-na*, and it means "God hears". We believe that the Lord has heard our prayers as He has continued to provide for Bible Translation work among the unreached people groups of the world.

God also heard our desire to have another child, and opened a door for us to come back to the United States for such a time as this. God hears all of our prayers, He is always listening, even when we can't quite put our hopes into words!

New Mission Service Opportunities!

We are seeking **two people** for work alongside us on Ukerewe Island.

Volunteer ESL Teacher	3 Months
Volunteer Nanny	6 Months – 1 Year

These opportunities are a partnership between **Lutheran Bible Translators** and **AFLC Journey Missions**. We are praying that God will put a bold calling on two people's lives for this chance to serve among the Kerewe of Tanzania. If you'd be interested or would like to know more about these opportunities, we'd love to hear from you. You can reach me (Andrew) directly at Andrew.Olson@lbt.org

If you'd like to apply...

All applicants should first reach out to LBT's Emily Wilson.

If you are a member of the AFLC, please also contact Jon Nelson with Journey Missions.

Emily.Wilson@lbt.org
Jon.Nelson@aflc.org





Pictures



Selah turned 3 on March 18th.



Dr. Phil and Kristin Tanner have again opened their home for us to stay. What a blessing that has been.



(Right) The girls enjoy reading books with Alexis.



(Left) Andrew received a t-shirt from Microsoft in recognition of his mini Nitrogen Computer prototype.

(Below) Mariah *loves* holding baby Eliana



The team has been working hard on team-checking and assembling a Biblical Key Terms list in the book of Acts. We miss them a lot and love when they send photos 😊



Soundbyte



"We've all come together and said, "Together, we can eradicate Bible poverty if we partner.... So I love challenging people. Come be a partner with us. Be a part of this, because together, in our lifetime, we can eradicate Bible poverty on our watch."

- Mart Greene

Founder of Every Tribe, Every Nation Coalition (E3)
Ministry Investment Officer, Hobby Lobby



Prayer Requests

- That the Lord will open the door for our work permit to be renewed this month.
- Please join us in prayer for a safe return to Tanzania for our family.
- Praise the Lord with us for the safe delivery of baby Eliana.
- For the team checking of Acts, and the next steps for the Bible Translation.
- For the peace and well being of Tanzania, as the president died tragically in March.
- That open doors for distribution would exist for portions of the Kerewe New Testament.

May-June Bible Reading Schedule

		Week Day	Reading	Additional Two-Year Reading
Thursday	Season of Pentecost	July 1	Jeremiah 31:1-34	Jeremiah 31:35-40
Friday		July 2	Jeremiah 32:1-25	Jeremiah 32:26-44
Saturday		July 3		Psalms 30
Sunday		July 4		Psalms 31
Monday		July 5	Jeremiah 33	Jeremiah 34-35
Tuesday		July 6	Jeremiah 36	Lamentations 4
Wednesday		July 7	Jeremiah 37	Lamentations 5
Thursday		July 8	Jeremiah 38	
Friday		July 9	Jeremiah 39	
Saturday		July 10		Psalms 32
Sunday		July 11		Psalms 33
Monday		July 12	Jeremiah 40	
Tuesday		July 13	Jeremiah 41	
Wednesday		July 14	Jeremiah 42	
Thursday		July 15	Jeremiah 43	Jeremiah 44
Friday		July 16	Galatians 1	Jeremiah 45
Saturday		July 17		Jeremiah 46
Sunday		July 18		Jeremiah 47
Monday		July 19	Galatians 2	Jeremiah 48:1-20
Tuesday		July 20	Galatians 3	Jeremiah 48:21-47
Wednesday		July 21	Galatians 4	Jeremiah 49
Thursday		July 22	Galatians 5	Jeremiah 50
Friday		July 23	Galatians 6	
Saturday		July 24		Jeremiah 51:1-26
Sunday		July 25		Jeremiah 51:27-64
Monday		July 26	Jeremiah 52	Esther 1

		Week Day	Reading	Additional Two-Year Reading
Tuesday		July 27	1 John 1	Esther 2
Wednesday		July 28	1 John 2	Esther 3
Thursday		July 29	1 John 3	Esther 4
Friday		July 30	1 John 4	Esther 5
Saturday		July 31		Esther 6
Sunday		August 1		Esther 7
Monday		August 2	1 John 5	Esther 8
Tuesday		August 3	2 John	Esther 9
Wednesday		August 4	3 John	Esther 10
Thursday		August 5	Ezra 1	Ezra 2
Friday		August 6	Ezra 3	
Saturday		August 7		Psalms 34
Sunday		August 8		Psalms 35
Monday		August 9	Ezra 4	
Tuesday		August 10	Ezra 5	Haggai 1
Wednesday		August 11	Ezra 6	Haggai 2
Thursday		August 12	Ezra 7	
Friday		August 13	Ezra 8	
Saturday		August 14		Ezra 9
Sunday		August 15		Ezra 10
Monday		August 16	Nehemiah 1	
Tuesday		August 17	Nehemiah 2	Nehemiah 3
Wednesday		August 18	Nehemiah 4	
Thursday		August 19	Nehemiah 5	
Friday		August 20	Nehemiah 6	
Saturday		August 21		Nehemiah 7:1-45
Sunday		August 22		Nehemiah 7:46-73
Monday		August 23	Nehemiah 8	Nehemiah 9:1-15

		Week Day	Reading	Additional Two-Year Reading
Tuesday		August 24	John 1:1-18	Nehemiah 9:16-38
Wednesday		August 25	John 1:19-51	Nehemiah 10
Thursday		August 26	John 2	Nehemiah 11
Friday		August 27	John 3	Nehemiah 12:1-30
Saturday		August 28		Nehemiah 12:31-47
Sunday		August 29		Nehemiah 13
Monday		August 30	John 4:1-38	
Tuesday		August 31	John 4:39-54	
Wednesday		September 1	John 5:1-18	
Thursday		September 2	John 5:19-47	
Friday		September 3	John 6:1-40	
Saturday		September 4		Psalms 36
Sunday		September 5		Psalms 37