



# United *Voice*

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER | UNITED FREE LUTHERAN |  
MAY - JUNE 2022

## Why Did You Stop at Verse 8, Pastor?

*Pastor David Niemela*

You may remember that on Easter, I noted that Mark suddenly ended his Gospel at 16:8: “They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” You may see that there is indeed a verse 9, along with verses 10-20. *That’s not an abrupt ending, Pastor. You forgot to keep reading!* you may think. But there are reasons I stopped at verse 8 that Sunday.

If you open your modern translation (like the NASB, ESV, or NKJV) of your Bible to Mark 16:9, you’ll notice there is a footnote, maybe with brackets, for verses 9-20. The footnote at the bottom of your page gives a qualification for verses 9-20 that they are not found in early manuscripts. In contrast, in your King James Bible of Mark 16, it simply includes verses 9-20 as part of the Bible text without any such qualification. Why would they change the text in the modern translations, if the King James Version (and probably most versions before that) included these verses?

Looking at this issue of Mark 16:9-20 is a good practice to introduce you to how our Bible was compiled, and we will focus specifically on the New Testament, and Mark 16. Understand that the first edition of the King James was published in 1611, and it became the most popular Bible in the United States. This Bible’s New Testament, along with any other Bible, is a translation from Greek, the original language the New Testament was written in. You may wonder, *so this is the Greek Bible Matthew, Mark, Paul, and John wrote in?* No, it isn’t. They didn’t get together to compile a Bible, but rather wrote books and letters largely independent of one another. We don’t have their original letters and books that they wrote.

So, what does this Greek Bible depend on? It depends upon copies. Matthew’s, Mark’s, Paul’s and John’s letters and books were copied by hand, by the church, when their books and letters were identified as valuable teachings to Christians. Over 5,000 of these copies of New Testament books still exist today! Some are complete, including Matthew through Revelation, while some are small, only including a couple verses.

## Church Events

- **May 1<sup>st</sup> – Confirmation Ceremony**
- **May 8<sup>th</sup> – Last day of Children’s Sunday School**
- **May 11<sup>th</sup> – WMF meeting**
- **May 15<sup>th</sup> – UFLC Baccalaureate**
- **May 16<sup>th</sup> – Blood Drive**
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Youth Team meeting**
- **June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> – VBS**
- **June 8<sup>th</sup> – WMF meeting**
- **June 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> – Teen Camp at Galilee**
- **June 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> – Preteen Camp at Galilee**



## Bentley Berg Baptized!



Bentley Ray Gerald Berg,  
son of Blaire and Michele,  
was baptized during the March 6  
worship service at United Free Lutheran.  
His godparents are Preston and Monica  
Byre and Ulrik and Kayla Aaskov.

## Children's S School & V

We had a great turnout for  
program, and it was fun to hear  
and play bells. We are lucky to  
kids! Our Sunday School year  
our last day will be May 8. V  
corner and it will look a little  
requested a VBS Team, but due  
high demand and not enough  
disappointed in the beginning  
wants us to see this as an oppo  
having VBS Friday and Satur  
we will have the program dur  
June 5. We may be reaching o  
helping hands and we will share  
they are decided. We know the  
charge and that everything has  
will. We cannot wait to see w  
"Rejoice always, pray continu  
circumstances; for this is God  
Jesus." (I Thessalonians 5:16-

## Amos Niemela Baptized!



Amos David Niemela,  
son of Pastor David and Jenny,  
was baptized during the March 13 worship  
service at United Free Lutheran.  
His godparents are to be determined.

## Irene Green Baptized!



Irene Anna Green,  
daughter of Matt and Miranda,  
was baptized during a private ceremony April 2.  
Her godparents are Alex and Alecsys Johnson and  
Brandon and Shania Waage.



## Why Did You Stop at Verse 8, Pastor? (continued from front page)

Some are old, one estimated to be copied back in 125 AD, while some are “new,” closer to 1,000 AD. Some were discovered in Egypt, some in Europe, some elsewhere. Some are more important than others, and that depends on each manuscript’s age, location, and other factors. Comparing these manuscripts to one another, they largely match, but there are differences. When there are differences in one verse, for example, scholars ask questions like, *what do a majority of the manuscripts read on this verse? Which of these manuscripts is the oldest and most reliable, and how does that one read, and how do others differ from it?* By comparing up the manuscripts, they discover the original text Matthew, Mark, Paul, and John wrote.

Let me tell you a story about one manuscript. In 1844, German biblical scholar Konstantin von Tischendorf traveled to the traditional site of Mount Sinai, to St. Catherine’s monastery. To his surprise, the monks there were housing a complete Greek Bible manuscript. This manuscript, now known as Codex Sinaiticus, is one of the most important discoveries for Biblical research. It is estimated that this copy was produced in the fourth century AD, making it an old and reliable manuscript of the Bible. One interesting observation of this manuscript is that it does not include Mark 16:9-20! Yes, it stops at verse 8. Newer manuscripts include verses 9-20, so it appears that a person copying Mark was not satisfied with the ending as presented in Codex Sinaiticus, so they added what we now know as verses 9-20. When the King James Version was translated in 1611, the translators did not have access to Codex Sinaiticus, which was discovered in 1844. The King James Version is a great translation, but since then, we have found more manuscripts, and some of these are older and more reliable. These many manuscripts, like Codex Sinaiticus, help sharpen our current Bibles to match with utmost precision what Matthew, Mark, Paul, and John wrote.

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Remember, this is only an introduction. There’s much evidence I will gladly point you to. If you would like, ask me questions (or for resources). A wealth of evidence will show that

we can be confident in the translation we hold in our hands, whether that be the King James

Version, or another, modern, version. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35, NASB 1995).  
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# WMF News

Angie Truscinski, President

Greetings and blessings from WMF.

Our Bible study continues in Psalms with May being Psalm 94 “Behold the Just One” written by Karen Floan. Verse 1 of Psalm 94 reads, “The Lord is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth. Rise up Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve. How long, Lord will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?”

Floan writes, “do you wonder why God doesn’t seem to respond to the injustices of our world? Do you wonder why evil seems to prevail and even triumph? The writer of Psalm 94 appears to wonder as well and laments for the evil that is taking place around him asking God to address the injustices of his day.”

To find out more on Psalm 94, please join us Wednesday, May 11, at 6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

We continue with a lesson on Psalm 95 in June. “Behold the Rock of our Salvation” by Anne Presteng.

As Martin Luther noted, “Psalm 95 is a call to worship ‘come let us sing’. The Psalm teaches and calls us to Christ and to the Word of God, to true worship” (*Reading the Psalms with Luther*).

The June Bible study will be on Wednesday, June 8th at 6:45pm. We encourage you to join us!

There will also be short business meetings following the monthly Bible studies. Together, we discuss the missionary reports, review finances, and any projects that are coming up.

Ladies, please join us. We have all ages attending; you are not alone. Whether through WMF or another Bible study, I implore you to prioritize gathering together to study God’s word and fellowshiping with your sisters in Christ.

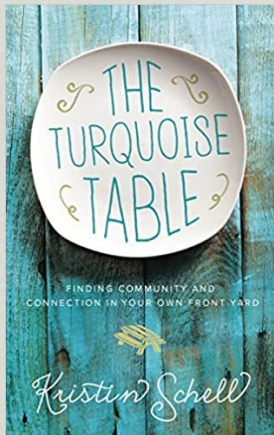
Lastly, 2023 brings the 50th Anniversary of United Free. If you are interested contributing to the celebration, please let me know.

Also, if you have any United Free pictures from the last 10 years, please consider sharing them with me for a memorial video. The photos will be added to a compilation previously made for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**WMF**   
Women of the AFLC



# New Books in the Church Library



## *The Turquoise Table* by Kristin Schell

Desperate for a way to slow down and connect, Kristin put an ordinary picnic table in her front yard, painted it turquoise, and began inviting friends and neighbors to join her. Life changed in her community, and it can change in yours too. Alongside personal and heartwarming stories, Kristin gives you:

- Stress-free ideas for kick-starting your own Turquoise Table
- Simple recipes to take outside and share with others
- Stories from people using Turquoise Tables in their neighborhoods

Encouragement to overcome barriers that keep you from connecting

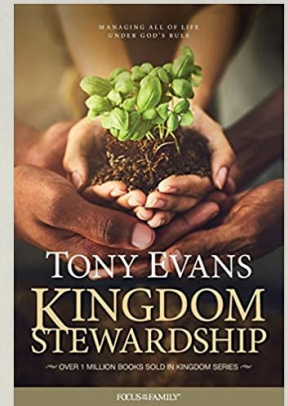
This gorgeous book, with vibrant photography and a ribbon marker, invites you to make a difference right where you live. The beautiful design makes it an ideal book to give to a friend or to keep for yourself. Community and friendship are waiting just outside your front door.



The 2022 Men Alive retreat took place April 23 at Galilee Bible Camp. Pastor Terry Olson, AFLC Vice President, spoke on "Reconciliation in the Church."

## *Kingdom Stewardship* by Tony Evans

In this encouraging and challenging book, you will learn that stewardship includes how you manage all that God has given you—your time, your talents, and your treasures—to advance God's kingdom and bring Him glory. While many stewardship books focus on managing financial resources, Tony Evans says that your finances are one small part of a much bigger calling. He teaches that God owns all things, and you are the manager of His assets. When



you bring your entire life into alignment under God, you will be blessed with purpose and the abundant life that comes from living by God's eternal principles.

## UPCOMING AFLC EVENTS

### Association Retreat Center (ARC) ~ Osceola, WI

For more information, visit [www.arc-aflc.org](http://www.arc-aflc.org)

- ❖ Family Camp Weekend ~ May 27-30
- ❖ Fire Up (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) ~ June 26-30
- ❖ Onward (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) ~ June 26-30



### Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

For more information, visit [www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org)

- ❖ Annual Conference, Osceola, WI ~ June 15-18

### NW MN District

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

- ❖ Galilee Teen Bible Camp ~ June 21-26
- ❖ Galilee Pre-Teen Bible Camp ~ June 26 - 30

### Free Lutheran Bible College & Seminary ~ Plymouth, MN

For more information, visit [flbc.edu](http://flbc.edu)

- ❖ Spring Concert ~ May 6
- ❖ Graduation ~ May 7