



# United Voice

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER | UNITED FREE LUTHERAN  
NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 2021

## Why Fear?

*Pastor David Niemela*

“And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation” (Luke 1:50). These are the words Jesus’ mother Mary exclaimed, rejoicing with her elder relative Elizabeth in hearing she was also pregnant (with whom we would come to know as John the Baptist).

We might wonder about that particular word she said, “fear,” since, on the one hand, fear has positive connotations in the Bible, as it does in the verse quoted above. On the other hand, there are verses that described the glorious appearance of angels speaking to the simple shepherds, “Fear not” (Luke 2:10), as they announced Christ’s birth. So, should we fear, or not? The circumstances of these verses obviously differ, but let’s dig into the concept of fear to help ease our dread of it.

Think about the signs at the zoo, like the one by the lion enclosure, “Do not climb on the wall.” For what reason should you not climb this wall? Is it because of the fifth commandment, “You shall not kill,” as in, don’t kill your own life by giving it to the lions? In other words, that you should fear the lions and their threat to your life? Or is it because of the fourth commandment, “Honor your father and your mother,” who in this instance are the owners and employees of the zoo? Honoring their directions? Fearing what they could do to you if you disobey (like maybe call law enforcement)?

Are these all good reasons to stay out of the lion enclosure? Yes, fear of lions and the authorities can keep you out of the lion enclosure, but there is a greater fear: fear of the Lord.

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## Church Events

- **Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – UFLC Annual Meeting**
- **Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Community Thanksgiving Dinner**
- **Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – WMF Bible study & business meeting; council meeting**
- **Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School Christmas program**
- **Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – Council meeting**
- **Dec 21<sup>th</sup> Women’s Retreat**
- **Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
- **Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day**

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The Lord commanded both “you shall not kill” and “honor your father and your mother,” so your fear is not so much of the lions nor the zoo employees, but of the One who commanded you both of these commands.

Would there ever be a reason to go into the lions’ enclosure, though? Yes, remember Daniel chapter 6, when Daniel disobeyed the authorities and was thrown into the lions’ den? This was because he didn’t fear the lions nor the authorities. He feared God, and his

faith—shown in his fear of God—caused him to be thrown into the den.

The fear of the Lord is to be the highest fear, above the fear of lions, authorities and all others. It may keep us out of the lions’ enclosure. It may lead us into it. Are you fearing people and threats today? Remember, “his mercy is for those who fear him.”

God loves you, and Jesus’ perfect love, shown on the cross, drives out these other fears: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18).

## YOUTH FRUIT FUNDRAISER!

The UFLC Youth Group is running its annual fruit fundraiser now through Sunday, November 28.

Items available include apples, oranges, grapefruit, pears, pineapple, clementines, and a variety of nuts and spreads.

Orders can be placed Sundays following the worship service, through individual youth and confirmands, or through the church website at [unitedfreeafcl.com/fruit-sales](http://unitedfreeafcl.com/fruit-sales).

Delivery will be the weekend of December 17



# Children’s Sunday School

*Sunday School Staff*

Sunday School is back in session!

Our first day of Sunday School after summer break was September 19. Our kids sang in church and performed a skit about the Armor of God. The kids also colored a print-out of armor, and add their own face photos to them. These can be seen on the Sunday School bulletin board in the hall by the Gathering Room.

The kids have also played Old Testament Bingo to help them learn the books of the Bible. Pictures of this can be viewed on our webpage.

This year we are trying something different in regards to offering. The

kids have chosen to donate their morning offering to the Miriam Children’s Home in Brazil, the base of AFLC missionary Jonni Sliver. We are working with the kids to set a goal for how much we can raise by the end of 2021.

For lessons, we are finishing up in the Old Testament and will then begin the 10 commandments before it will be time to work on our Christmas program. We are not definite what the program will look like yet, but it will be performed December 12 at 10am during the regular church service.

We hope to see you there!

## Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 25 | Serving 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Menu:** Ham, Turkey, Corn, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Cranberries, Dinner Roll, & Dessert

**Dine-In:** reservations required at [unitedfreeafcl.com/thanksgiving-dinner](http://unitedfreeafcl.com/thanksgiving-dinner)

**Take-out & Delivery:** order at 782-2249, or [unitedfreeafcl.com/thanksgiving-dinner](http://unitedfreeafcl.com/thanksgiving-dinner)

**Delivery Area:** Badger, Greenbush, Karlstad, Lake Bronson, Middle River, Strathcona, Wannaska

*“We love because He first loved us.”*

*~ 1 John 4:19*



# WMF News

*Angie Truscinski, president*

Greetings from WMF!

We continue to study 1 Timothy in our monthly bible study, and we would love for you to join us in studying God's Word. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 6:45 p.m.

In January we will start a new study (see below). If you would like a different night or another time for a study, there are probably more who would like that also. So, let us know, and we may be able to set up additional groups.

In November, the title of our study is "Fight the Good Fight of the Faith" and covers 1 Timothy 6:11-21. This second half of chapter 6 instructs pastors and Christians to flee sin and pursue the Christian faith in our lives, beliefs, and teaching.

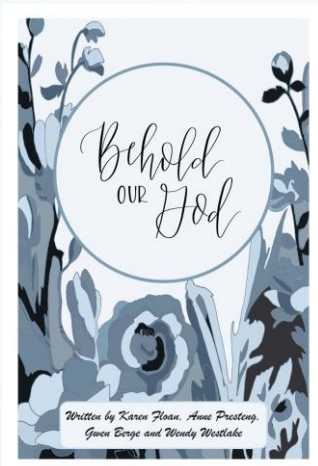
Potluck dinners continue to be on the third Sunday of the month, and a free-will offering is accepted at each one. These funds allow us to donate to various organizations as well as toward our own church needs. In lieu of having a fall dinner, we ask that you prayerfully consider giving a little extra at the WMF potlucks in order to help us serve in these ways.

Please also be praying for our WMF officers and for all our ladies in WMF.

## **Behold Our God** (2022 study)

Written by Karen Floan, Anne Presteng, Gwen Berge and Wendy Westlake

As we behold God in Psalms 90-100, we are overwhelmed with His mighty power as Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth. We are humbled by His holiness and His plan of Salvation. We see His faithfulness in our lives and throughout all generations.



Overwhelmed by joy or overtaken by sorrow, God hears the cry of our hearts, He draws us to Himself, and His presence changes us. It is the Almighty God who lovingly commands us to praise Him for our good and His glory.

May you be blessed as you "Behold our God" in the Psalms.



# Thank You Lord

*Linda Headley*

We pray when there's a crisis  
And when things are going bad  
But seldom do we talk to God  
To tell Him that we're glad.

We pray for things we just must have  
To make our lives complete,  
But seldom do we thank the Lord  
For shoes upon our feet.

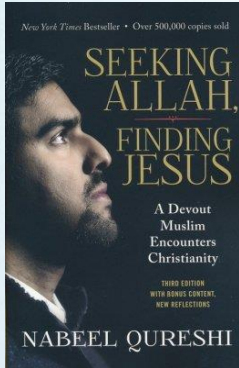
We pray for those who care not well  
And need His healing hand,  
But rarely we say "Thank you God"  
Each morning when we stand

He must know that we're grateful though  
We know that He's so smart  
He knows what's in our minds and souls  
And sees inside each heart

But still we could at least say "Thanks"  
Our gratefulness express  
We say that much to others  
Who have given us much less

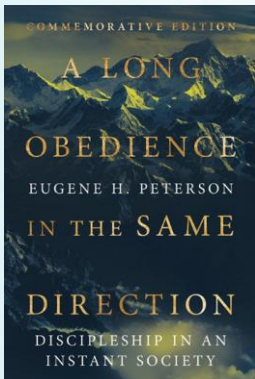
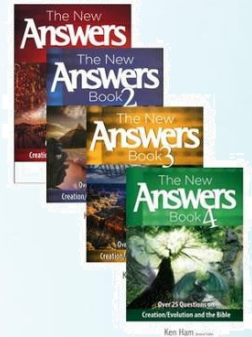
So next time when we gather 'round  
And bow our heads to pray  
Let's take some time to thank the Lord  
For all we have – each day.

# New Books in the Church Library



***Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*** by Nabeel Qureshi In Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus, now expanded with bonus content, Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity, complete with friendships, investigations, and supernatural dreams along the way. Providing an intimate window into a loving Muslim home, Qureshi shares how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering, almost against his will, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and claimed to be God. Unable to deny the arguments but not wanting to deny his family, Qureshi struggled with an inner turmoil that will challenge Christians, Muslims, and all those who are interested in the world's greatest religions. Engaging and thought-provoking, Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus tells a powerful story of the clash between Islam and Christianity in one man's heart—and of the peace he eventually found in Jesus.

***The New Answers Book Series*** by Answers in Genesis Ken Ham and his team of experts have answers to questions about creation, evolution, the Bible and life itself! Averaging about ten pages each, the Answers articles are informative, concise, and written to inform even the young with biblical exegesis of highly contested parts of scripture. Each page supports a creationist reading of the first eleven chapters of Genesis, and the scientific evidence is written in layman's terms. Learn how to defend your view of Genesis as literal history, as well as the reasons for some of your conservative values.



***A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an instant society*** by Eugene H. Peterson Since Eugene Peterson first wrote this spiritual formation classic nearly forty years ago, hundreds of thousands of Christians have been inspired by its call to deeper discipleship. As a society, we are still obsessed with the immediate; new technologies have only intensified our quest for the quick fix. But Peterson's time-tested prescription for discipleship remains the same—a long obedience in the same direction. Following Jesus in this way requires a deepening life of prayer, and throughout history Christians have learned to pray from the Psalms. Peterson finds encouragement for today's pilgrims in the Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-134), sung by travelers on their way to worship in Jerusalem. With his prophetic and pastoral wisdom, Peterson shows how the psalms teach us to grow in worship, service, joy, work, happiness, humility, community, and blessing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

- ❖ Holiday Shop at the ARC ~ Nov. 6

### Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

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

- ❖ None at this time

### NW MN District

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

- ❖ Special Meetings in TRF at Our Saviour's with Dr. Brent Olson; Friday: 7pm service; Saturday: 10am breakfast and presentation "The Exodus, the Storm god, and Jesus," 4pm youth gathering, 5:30pm supper, 7pm service; Sunday: 9:30am service

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

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

- ❖ Friends of FLBCS Banquet ~ Nov. 11

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

*Luke 2:10-11*