

United Voice

Bimonthly Newsletter of United Free Lutheran Church
Greenbush, MN | September/October 2020 — Issue 5



“Will He Find Faith?” Thoughts on the AFLC Annual Conference

Pastor David Niemela

The 58th Annual Conference of the AFLC was held at the Association Retreat Center near Osceola, Wisconsin, August 10-12. Although the virus caused the conference to be delayed two months, many still attended and it was a great time of not only doing business, but also of fellowship.

Remember, the conference cannot control our congregation. The conference is part of our joint mission as an Association of churches (rather than a synod controlling certain aspects of our ministry). Whatever business is done at the conference to plan for ministry action will only be followed through if churches like us join in the fight.

Here are a number of highlights from the conference:

Word and prayer: with each set of resolutions given by the five committees (1. Administration; 2. Schools; 3. Missions; 4. Publications, Parish Education, and Youth; 5. Evangelism and Benefits), pertinent prayer requests were prayed for. Also, recently ordained pastors led devotions twice a day, and prayer time in small groups was held mid-day. Both of these occurred while we were all assembled. The conference isn't merely business. We know as an association of churches that we must humbly seek God's blessing for our work.

Financial health: It probably does not come as a shock with COVID, but giving so far in 2020 is below the budgeted amounts of AFLC ministries in general. Please take note of this (and that this is the case for the fully-completed year of 2019) and consider how we can work together as a church to support our joint ministries. Home Mission seems to have taken the greatest dive as they received a third less than budgeted in 2019 (planning on

Church Events

9.2

Confirmation/Youth Group
kick-off from 6-8:30 p.m.

9.5-10.31 (Saturdays)

Men's Group
7-8:30 a.m.

9.9

WMF Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Lesson 9

9.23

See You at the Pole

10.4

Underground Church
6 p.m.

10.14

WMF Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Lesson 10

10.18

NW District Annual Meeting

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AFLC Annual Conference Continued ...

\$521,285, but received \$391,991). Here are some budget numbers our elected members of these respective ministries came up with. These three following amounts passed by the conference are significantly higher than the actual receipts last year:

- The AFLC General fund requested a subsidy increase of 14% over 2019 receipts (they are budgeting \$475,000 for 2021, 14% over \$415,102 that was received in 2019)
- Parish Education requested 15% over (budgeting \$172,000 for 2021, 15% over \$149,140 that was actually received in 2019)
- Youth Ministries requested 13% (budgeting \$152,500 for 2021, 13% over \$134,522 that was actually received in 2019)

You may wonder why these ministries budgeted significantly higher than 2019 receipts, and why the conference passed those budget numbers. The reason is seen in their visions for ministry, which I obviously can't summarize in this article or newsletter.

Check out a number of highlights: Parish Education is working hard to publish doctrinally sound materials for our churches. Home Missions is on the front lines domestically, encouraging many church plants. By the way, did you know we can support a church plant? Beltrami Resurrection is doing this with a pending church plant in Buffalo, MN. Among other church plants, there is a Chinese AFLC church in Minneapolis, especially ministering to University of Minnesota Chinese students. The Student Life Center is being constructed at our Bible College as you read this. There is more I could say about the rest of the ministries. Don't forget that *every* ministry took a cut in giving because of COVID.

I hope this article will move you to pray and learn more. Ask me about any of these ministries or check out aflc.org. Being informed will help motivate us to actively join in this joint spiritual movement and ministry we call the AFLC.

WMF News

The Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) met on August 12 in the church dining room — Oh how nice the air-conditioning is!

Our Bible Study was on Lesson 8: "Choosing Death is not the Answer" from our book "Don't Follow Your Feelings" by Linda Korhonen. This lesson focused on Psalm 147:3, "He (God) heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

One of the paragraphs in the Bible Study really stood out to me: *Because we live in a culture that promotes death, we need to take an active part in protecting and promoting LIFE! We can do this by supporting local pregnancy centers, volunteer, support, help single parents, vote pro-life. [In] Deuteronomy 30:19-20, God says: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers . . ."*

After the Bible study, we had a short business meeting. We heard from Anna Mattson about our missionaries and how they are coping with the pandemic (most are on furlough, right now), and Paulette Nelson went over our group's finances.

Quilts have been given out to our recent newlyweds, and there is also blood drive Monday, Aug. 31.

We are wanting to start potlucks

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WMF News
Continued ...

in September, so we will have to figure out the guidelines on serving.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 9, and our Bible Study will be Lesson 9: "Becoming a Slave to Fear".

Fear, as described in Genesis, is the result of sin. When did fear begin? When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:7-13:

"Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they knew that they were naked and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man "Where are you?" He said "I heard the sound of You in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." And He said" Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman "What is this you have done?" And the woman said "The serpent deceived me and I ate."

We have so much to learn about fear and replacing that with Life Changing Truth: ". . . in the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge." Proverbs 14:26.

**All ladies are welcome to join us
the second Wednesday of
each month at 6:30 p.m.**



Sunday School 2020-21 Update //

The Sunday school teachers met August 26 to discuss plans for the pending 2020-21 school year.

While many variables are still unknown, the group agreed it is important to start Sunday school up again this fall, and selected Sunday, September 20 as the official start date.

Lesson materials have been ordered for the group to look through before officially selecting this year's curriculum. At this time, the teachers are looking into a combination of in-person Sunday school and virtual learning.

Finalized details will appear in future bulletins.

If you are interested in helping out with Sunday school, contact Joni Wiskow.

COVID-19 Updates

- ❖ Sunday drive-in worship services are now being live-streamed in the church sanctuary during the regular worship services. Viewing the worship at home via Facebook Live or in person during the drive-in services will continue to be available.
- ❖ As approved by the church council, beginning September 1, food can be served within the church in the form of servers dishing up the food in a conveyer-belt fashion as directed by the individual receiving the food. The plate will then be passed off to said individual at the end of the serving line.



Reflections on FLY Beyond

"Whole lot of new friends. Many new memories."
– Denton Burkel

"Very fun and educating. Made a lot of friends who believe. Definitely would go again."
– Wyatt Whitchurch

"I had lots of fun learning God's Word with fellow Christians. I also enjoyed meeting new people and old friends."
– Sawyer Strand

UPCOMING AFLC EVENTS

Association Retreat Center (ARC) ~ Osceola, WI

For more information, visit www.arc-aflc.org ❖ No known events at this time

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

For more information, visit www.aflc.org ❖ No known events at this time

NW MN District

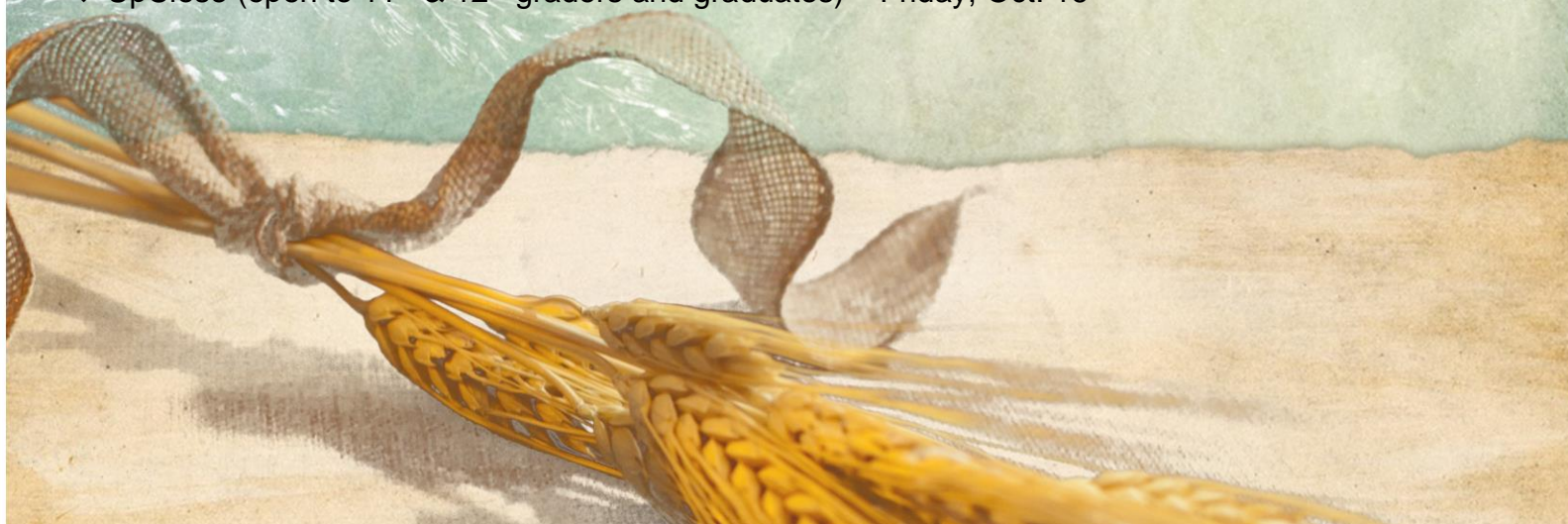
More information to appear on church website, Facebook page, and future bulletins

- ❖ District Annual Meeting at United Free Lutheran – Sunday, Oct. 18

Free Lutheran Bible College & Seminary ~ Plymouth, MN

For more information, visit flbc.edu

- ❖ UpClose (open to 11th & 12th graders and graduates) – Friday, Oct. 16



July & August Daily Bible Reading Plan

*Add the right column to read the entire Bible in two years
(continuous cycle — can be started at any time)*

Current Reading Season: Pentecost

Date			Reading	2-Year Additional Bible Reading	Date			Reading	2-Year Additional Bible Reading
Tues.	Sept. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 1		Thurs.	Oct. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 13	
Wed.	Sept. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 2		Fri.	Oct. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 14:1-42	
Thurs.	Sept. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 3		Sat.	Oct. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fri.	Sept. 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 4		Sun.	Oct. 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sat.	Sept. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 5		Mon.	Oct. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 14:43-72	
Sun.	Sept. 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 6		Tues.	Oct. 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 15	
Mon.	Sept. 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 7		Wed.	Oct. 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 16	
Tues.	Sept. 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 8		Thurs.	Oct. 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 1	
Wed.	Sept. 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Cor. 9	Philemon	Fri.	Oct. 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 2	
Confirmation Year Reading Plan									
Thurs.	Sept. 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 1	1 Cor. 10	Sat.	Oct. 10	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fri.	Sept. 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 2	1 Cor. 11	Sun.	Oct. 11	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sat.	Sept. 12	<input type="checkbox"/>			Mon.	Oct. 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 3	
Sun.	Sept. 13	<input type="checkbox"/>			Tues.	Oct. 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 4	
Mon.	Sept. 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 3	1 Cor. 12	Wed.	Oct. 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 5	
Tues.	Sept. 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 4	1 Cor. 13	Thurs.	Oct. 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 6	
Wed.	Sept. 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 5	1 Cor. 14	Fri.	Oct. 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 7	
Thurs.	Sept. 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 6:1-29	1 Cor. 15	Sat.	Oct. 17	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fri.	Sept. 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 6:30-56	1 Cor. 16	Sun.	Oct. 18	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sat.	Sept. 19	<input type="checkbox"/>			Mon.	Oct. 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 8	
Sun.	Sept. 20	<input type="checkbox"/>			Tues.	Oct. 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 9	
Mon.	Sept. 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 7		Wed.	Oct. 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 10:1-28	Josh. 10:29-43
Tues.	Sept. 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 8		Thurs.	Oct. 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 1	Josh. 11-12
Wed.	Sept. 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 9:1-29		Fri.	Oct. 23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 2	Josh. 13
Thurs.	Sept. 24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 9:30-50		Sat.	Oct. 24	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fri.	Sept. 25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 10:1-31		Sun.	Oct. 25	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sat.	Sept. 26	<input type="checkbox"/>			Mon.	Oct. 26	<input type="checkbox"/>	Josh. 14	Josh. 15:1-19
Sun.	Sept. 27	<input type="checkbox"/>			Tues.	Oct. 27	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joel 1	Josh. 15:20-63
Mon.	Sept. 28	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 10:32-52		Wed.	Oct. 28	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joel 2	Josh. 16
Tues.	Sept. 29	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 11		Thurs.	Oct. 29	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joel 3	Josh. 17
Wed.	Sept. 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 12		Fri.	Oct. 30	<input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 3	Josh. 18
					Sat.	Oct. 31	<input type="checkbox"/>		