

Will He Find Faith?



AFLC Northwest Minnesota District Annual
Conference

United Free Lutheran Church
Greenbush, MN
October 18, 2020

Conference Schedule

3:00 pm – Afternoon Worship Service

Service Leader: Pastor Phil Rokke

Speaker: Pastor David Niemela

United Free Lutheran Church, Greenbush, MN

4:30 pm – Conference Meeting

5:30 pm – Supper

7:00 pm – Evening Worship Service

Service Leader: Pastor David Niemela

Speaker: Pastor Randy Nelson

Director of AFLC Evangelism & Discipleship

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Afternoon Worship Service

Welcome

Hymn: #542 Victory in Jesus

Devotions – Brian Berg

Special Music – Jody Kirkeide

Responsive Reading: pg. 138 AH

Proverbs 3:1-12

Hymn: #543 What A Fellowship

Message: **“Endurance is the Miracle”**

Colossians 1:11

Pastor David Niemela

Hymn: #518 Redeemed, How I Love to

Proclaim It

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

“Endurance is the Miracle” Notes

Colossians 1:11

Pastor David Niemela

District Officers & Board Members

Officers (2-year term)

President	Rev. Phil Rokke	2020-2021
Vice President	Rev.	2019-2020
Secretary	Mr. Matt Green	2019-2020
Treasurer	Mr. Tom Fugleberg	2020-2021

Bible Camp Planning Committee (3-year term)

Mr. Joel Mattson	2018-2020
Dr. Lyle Mattson	2019-2021
Mr. Steve Dahl	2020-2022

Parish Education Board (3-year term)

Mrs. Lynn Strand	2018-2020
Mrs. Brenda Leier	2019-2021
Mrs. Carla Bjorgaard	2020-2022

Youth Board (2-year term)

Lay:	Mr. Tim Fugleberg	2019-2020
	Mr. Kurt Oswieler	2020-2021
Pastor:	Rev. David Niemela	2020-2021

Conference Meeting Agenda

Opening hymn

Opening prayer

Adoption of the agenda and appointment of tellers

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Other Reports

 Youth Board

 District Bible Camp

 Family Camp

 Bible Camp Corporation

 WMF

 Mid-Winter Bible Conference

 Parish Education

 Men Alive

 Other

AFLC Update

Old Business

New Business

Elections

 Report of the Nominating Committee

Adjournment

Secretary's Report

MINUTES OF THE NORTHWEST MN DISTRICT AFLC ANNUAL CONFERENCE October 20, 2019

Our host congregation was Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Thief River Falls. The business meeting was opened with the singing of hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today, followed by a devotion in Luke 18:1-8, read by Rev. David Nelson, district president, who also chaired the meeting.

Opening announcements: Rev. Alex Amiot is part of the AFLC nominating committee, and looking for individuals looking to serve on committees and boards. Rev. Dennis Grey still working on a history book of the NW MN District AFLC churches.

Tellers were appointed.

There was no agenda to adopt.

MSC to accept the Secretary's Report as read.

MSC to accept the Treasurer's Report as read.

REPORTS:

1. **Youth Board** – Rev. Todd Erickson shared that the district hasn't had any youth events, tried, but tough with school schedules. \$1,500 balance

2. **District Youth Camps** – Dr. Lyle Mattson passed out and read the Treasurer’s Report for the camps. Stated they had an excellent turnout for pre-teen camp with 46 campers, along with 28 for teen camp, 21 being boys and 7 girls.
3. **Men Alive** – An update was given by Dr. Lyle Mattson that this past spring, Rev. Steve Mundfrom shared on living in two realms. The 2020 spring retreat is set for April 17-18, with Rev. Thomas Pollestad, who is the AFLC Director of Development, sharing.
4. **Family Camp** – Dr. Lyle Mattson gave a report that they’re going to use the same format, Wednesday through Sunday, as it helped with attendance.
5. **Galilee Bible Camp** – Mr. Matt Green read the report on behalf of Mr. Kris Jorgenson. The camp installed new underground wiring to the camper hookups. Roger Davis continues to be the caretaker. Funds are sitting fairly steady but with a downward trend, so please remember us for donations.
6. **Women’s Missionary Federation** – Mrs. Lynn Strand opened with Article 2 of WMF. They tried to have three rallies this year, but the spring rally at Christ the King in East Grand Forks, MN was cancelled due to weather, held the summer retreat at Galilee, and the fall rally was delayed to Oct 26 due to snow. Thanks to the district for all the support.
7. **Mid – Winter Bible Conference** – Rev. David Nelson shared that Rev. Steve Mundfrom was coming to share on living in two realms for our conference, this year held at Christ the King in East Grand Forks, MN, February 7-8, 2020.

8. **Parish Education** – Mrs. Carla Bjorgaard shared that the expo was held August 18, 2019 at Abundant Life Free Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN. Devotions and prayer were shared by Rev. LeRoy Flickinger. Marsha Johnson of Fergus Falls, MN shared “Ways to Present a Story” and “Bible Memory Games”.

Old Business: There was no old business presented.

New Business: AFLC Update by Rev. Gary Jorgenson.

- Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Pleasanton, Texas – installation of Dr. Patrick Charles, first African American AFLC pastor.
- Sierra Leone – friend interested in world missions there.
- Request from Puerto Rico to partner in ministry, not formal yet, but Rev. Lyndon Korhonen has visited there.
- Newly formed care team at the annual conference – PACCT: Pastoral & Congregation Care Team, 4-5 couples to help with nurture healthy pastors, wives, and congregations.
- Karen Floan resigning as secretary.
- Coordinating Committee
- New Missions Directors: Rev. Earl Korhonen, World Missions, and Rev. Jim Johnson, Home Missions.
- Name change of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School to Free Lutheran Bible College.
- Finances are coming in for the new student life center, broke ground last week.
- Evangelism and Discipleship Director, Rev. James Rasmussen resigning end of the year.

Elections:

MSC that elections cease for nominations of those read.

MSC send back to district pastors meeting to fill the president's position.

MSC that elections cease with the Chairman directing the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the following:

Treasurer – Mr. Tom Fugleberg – for two-year term serving for 2020 and 2021.

Bible Camp Planning Committee – Mr. Steve Dahl – for three-year term serving 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Parish Education Board – Mrs. Carla Bjorgaard – for three-year term serving 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Youth Board – Mr. Kurt Oswieler – for two-year term serving for 2020 and 2021.

The 2020 nominating committee will be Mrs. Carla Bjorgaard and Mr. Phil Torgerson.

MSC to adjourn, closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Green, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

NW Minnesota District Conference of the AFLC

10/18/2020

Balance	10/20/2019				\$233.41
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Income:

Offering	Annual Meeting	10/20/2019	\$600.00
Offering	Midwinter Bible Conference	2/8/2020	\$530.00
Offering	Midwinter Bible Conference received by mail 4/11/20	4/15/2020	\$190.00

Total Income plus beginning balance					\$1,553.41
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Expenses:

AFLC General Fund		10/20/2019	\$600.00
Pastor Steve Mundfrom		2/8/2020	\$600.00

Total Expenses					\$1,200.00
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Balance	10/18/2020				\$353.41
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Respectfully submitted, Tom Fugleberg, Treasurer

2020 District Annual Meeting Youth Report

Communication between board members this year was limited to personal contacts, on phone and in person, along with electronic messaging. Jason Holt, director of AFLC Youth Ministries, was planning to come up and meet with the board on March 21, but COVID prevented this.

Communicating with the other board members and ministry leaders in the district, I compiled **a list of challenges and encouragements/successes:**

Challenges:

- Working around sports and activities schedules
- Lack of older youth
- Volunteer training
- Absence of youth after confirmation
- Influence of the world and home life
- Lack of parent encouragement and push to be apart of the church

Encouragements and Successes:

- Talking to them as individuals – privately and in the group.
- Getting away from the fluff, and getting into the Word.
- Studies that flow with, first of all, questions youth have about the text concerning unclear or not understandable points that stick out. Then, throughout the study, engage and guide the youth in discussion about the text.
- Alternating format between:
 1. One week, combined game time, grades 7th-12th; separate lesson time with grades 7-8 (confirmation) and 9-12.

2. Next week, combined game time, grades 7th-12th; combined confirmation lesson with grades 9-12.

- Confirmation students enjoy fellowship with older youth, get a taste of youth group which can help transition them in, and don't have an extra long night of both confirmation and youth group.
- Youth-led devotions by high school students before the lesson. They encourage one another in doing this and it gives a purpose for them in youth group.

Remember the resource of our **AFLC Youth Ministries**. Here is an excerpt from their website so you remember how they can come along side your local work:

TOOLS FOR EQUIPPING THE LOCAL CONGREGATION

Local

- Listing ideas to help you lead your youth group
- Connecting congregations with youth workers
- Training existing volunteer and vocational youth workers
- Advising your youth outreach, discipleship, and ministry teams

Also:

- Download the **AFLC Youth Ministries app** (can be downloaded from www.aflc.org/youth).
 - Includes: ESV Bible, resources for teens and leaders, and upcoming events, among other features.
- I personally have found **Jason Holt and the AFLC Youth Ministries** team a great resource for ministry here in Greenbush and at a previous church. I encourage you to contact youth@aflc.org for the sake of your local youth ministry.

Respectfully Submitted, Pastor David Niemela

NW MN District Bible Camp Report 2019-2020

Teen and Pre-Teen Bible Camps were planned for this past year for the dates of June 23-28 and June 28-July 2 respectively. Due to Covid-19 we canceled both camps this past year. Our speakers were to be Pastor Tom W. Olson from Enderlin, ND and Mr. Scott Erickson, Seminarian. Our camp deans were to be Pastor David Niemela for Teen Camp, and Pastors Todd Erickson and Irv Schmitke for Pre-Teen Camp. This was also to be the year that online registration was to begin at <https://galileebiblecampmn.org/summer-camps/> The theme for the Bible Camps was to be “Colossael” Christians with the theme verse being.... “To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27

This Summer of 2021 we are planning for Bible Camp to take place and the District Pastors will be making plans in the coming months. Keep your eyes open for dates and a brochure. If you know of anybody open to helping out in any way at our District Camps please let your pastor know. (Nurse, Camp Counselor, Recreation, Music, Kitchen, Deans of men or women’s dorms,)

Thank you for your prayers for our District Bible Camps and thank you for the support in so many ways. May God’s Word go forth!

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Todd A. Erickson.

Galilee Bible Camp Treasurer's Report

Report: Cash Flow

10/1/2019 - 9/30/
67 Cate

Category	10/1/19 - 9/30/20
INFLOWS	\$3,025.00
Donations	\$3,025.00
OUTFLOWS	-\$525.00
Groceries	-\$525.00
TOTAL	\$2,500.00

Balance 10/1/2019 \$ 4,551.65

Balance 9/30/2020 \$ 7,051.65

The \$525.00 grocery bill was for hamburger purchased before the camps were cancelled. The hamburger was paid for by a donation and was dispersed.

Lyle M. Mattson, Treasurer

Family Camp

Family Bible Camp is tentatively set for July 7-12, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Lyle M. Mattson

Bible Camp Corporation

Limited camps this year so we dropped the caregiver time and salary in half. We received a much-needed donation from Vern Russum estate of \$10,000, so that kept us in the black. Ask for continued prayer for the youth in our district.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Jorgenson

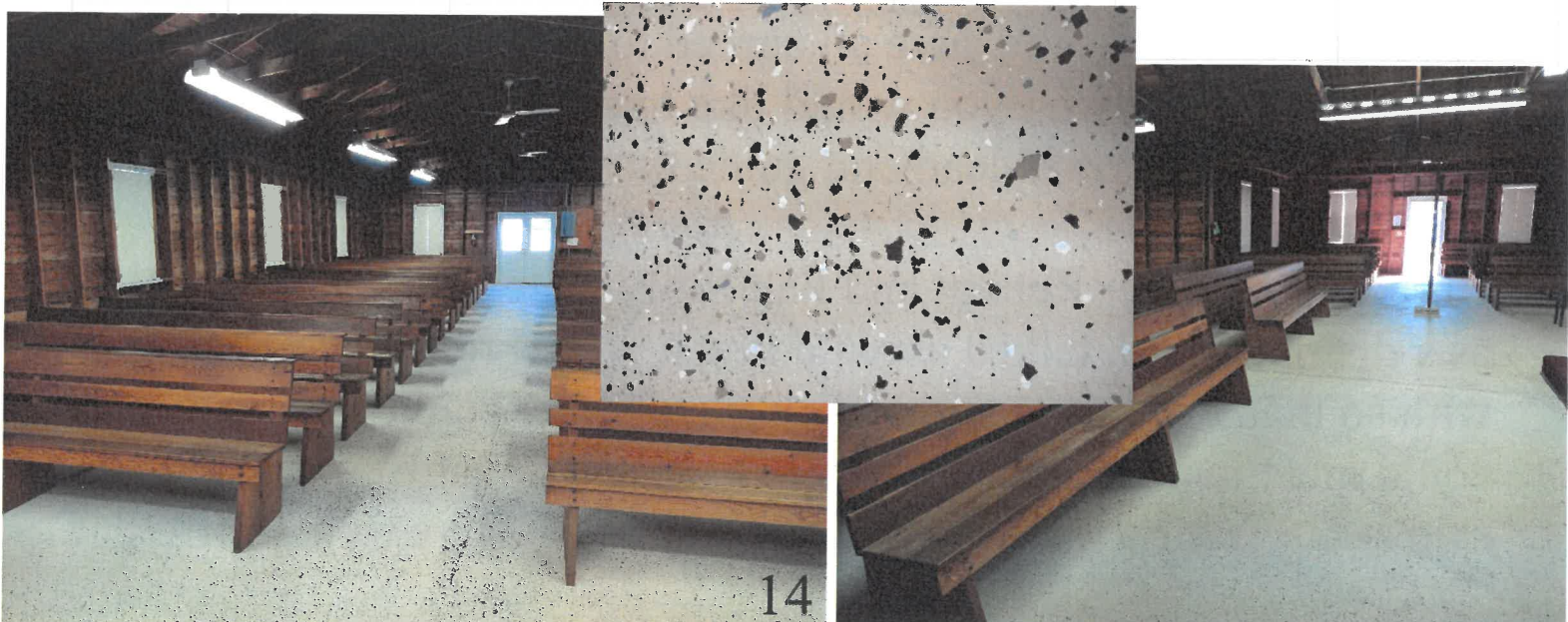
Bible Camp Corporation Treasurer's Report

Galilee Bible Camp.

10/9/2020

Balance	3/1/2020		\$10,396.21
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REVENUE:	Rental Income	\$3,085.00	
	Churches & WMF Donations	\$7,555.00	
	Individual Donations	\$2,225.00	
	Thrivent	\$1,018.00	
	Vern Russum Will	\$10,000.00	
	Other Income	\$57.50	
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	Funds Available		\$34,336.71
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EXPENSES:	PKM	\$2,217.09	
	Payroll & Taxes	\$6,429.50	
	Insurance	\$6,321.84	
	Other	\$2,593.23	
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	Total Expenses		\$17,561.66
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Balance on Hand	10/9/2020		\$16,775.05

Respectfully submitted, Donnie Christianson, Treasurer



Report of the NW MN District Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) 2020

2020 has been the most unusual year and as a board we are so sad we have not been able to meet. Each year we plan three events to allow the women in our congregations to gather together in fellowship, but Covid-19 has not made this possible.

The Constitution of the WMF states that our purpose is “to awaken and deepen interest in and love for the Kingdom of God...to unite all the women...into the deeper fellowship of consecrated service for the missions..., and to organize missionary activities...” With this purpose in mind, the women of our District plan to gather together three times a year, Lord willing and sometimes weather, elements and (new this year) a national pandemic don't always allow.

United Free Lutheran in Greenbush, MN was scheduled to hold our 2020 Spring Rally on Saturday, April 4, 2020. Our theme for this day was “Fill My Cup Lord”. Anne Presteng, National WMF First Vice President, from Grafton, ND would have been our speaker. We would have had elections for President, Secretary and Mission Secretary. We have all agreed to stay on until Spring so be thinking about who you would like to see in office next spring. Pray that the Lord will lead and guide those He calls.

Our 2020 Summer Retreat and Fall Rally were also canceled. We, as a district board, talked about doing a virtual rally but felt that with so many of our members being older we would wait until we could meet in person. We did talk to the National Board, and they said some WMFs were not meeting and some were trying different

things. More information about how we should handle these situations will come out in the Helping Hands. A good reminder from Psalm 105:5 “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.” Let us do this! Now more than ever, please join me in praying for our WMF, missionaries, our churches, and those shut in due to restrictions from Covid-19. Let’s keep praying for our country, for our leaders, and the upcoming election.

And finally, as it says in Hebrews 10:25 “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Pray that things open up again so we can meet together next spring. We don’t want to give up meeting together, we need that fellowship. May the Lord be with you all!

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Strand-NW MN District WMF President

Thora Halvorson- NW MN District WMF Vice President

Amy Dalager – NW MN District WMF Secretary

Bev Robertson – NW MN District WMF Treasurer

Carla Bjorgaard – NW MN District WMF Cradle Roll

Laureen Carlson – NW MN District WMF Mission Secretary

Mid-Winter Bible Conference

Christ the King Free Lutheran had the privilege of hosting the District's Mid-Winter Bible Conference. Rev. Steve Mundfrom shared with us about the important doctrine of the Two Kingdoms. The lectures were a refreshing reminder of how we, as God's people, live holy and righteous because of Christ's work in the realm of the holy Christian Church. We were also encouraged to faithfully carry out our vocations in the temporal realm where we serve our neighbor. Even when our works in the temporal realm are not done in perfect love, God uses them to serve those whom He has placed in our lives. Thanks be to God that our righteousness before God is based upon Christ's finished work!

The event was well attended, and it was a joy to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Audio recordings of the lectures are available. Please contact myself, Pr. Sam Wellumson, if you would like to receive those files.

Respectfully submitted,
Pr. Sam Wellumson

Parish Education

Typically the Dist. PE holds an event in the spring or late summer. This year, we did not organize or host anything due to the Covid concerns. Probably won't meet until after Christmas. People can pray for us and share any ideas they want insight and directions for our congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Leier

Carla Bjorgaard

Lynn Strand

Men Alive

Men Alive board consists of Lyle Mattson, Tom Fugleberg, and Ps Dennis Gray. We have been looking for someone to join us over the past 3 years with no success. There was no spring retreat in 2020 due to restrictions. Spring retreat is tentatively scheduled for April 17 and 18 at Galilee Bible Camp. The speaker will be the Director of Development of the AFLC, Ps. Tonnes Pollestad. From his position, he actively researches all the ministries of the AFLC. Plan to join us for a challenging Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Lyle M. Mattson

2020 PRIMAVERA PROJECT REPORT

The Primavera Project was begun in the Northwest Minnesota District of the AFLC in 2003 with the goal of raising money for “Starter Churches” in Brazil. The word *primavera* was chosen because it means “springtime” in Portuguese and is also the name for a beautiful flowering tree in Brazil. The Brazilians would buy the land, and we would provide funds for the building materials to build a small church building that would function as a meeting place until the congregation had grown large enough to build a full-size church. The amount decided on by the Brazilian Nationals was \$10,000. With this plan in place, the Brazilian AFLC would embark on a “new springtime” of home mission growth.

The district raised the first \$10,000 by November of that year and the first church was built by January of 2004 in the city of Londrina. In ensuing years, the Northwest District raised funds for three more churches: Foz do Iguaçu, Campo Largo, as well as a large sum to the church Pr. Jonathan Abel built in the city of Maringá in 2015. All of these churches were built in the state of Paraná where our AFLC major mission thrust has been.

In 2019, however, a request came to our Northwest District from Pr. Del Palmer, World Mission Director at the time, to supply funds for a Primavera Church in a suburb of Vitória, in the state of Espírito Santo, a large city on the Atlantic Ocean. This is the first Primavera Project church built outside of the state of Paraná.

Since building costs have risen, the funds needed had also risen to \$15,000. During Our Saviour’s Mission Conference in the

winter of 2019, the Northwest District raised \$12,240. There was a sum of \$3,000 in the remaining Primavera fund and \$1,760 was taken from that fund to bring the total to \$15,000. The Primavera church was built in Vitoria this past winter and was dedicated in April 2020. (Pictures of the new church with some congregational members are on the attached page.)

We want to thank all those who have contributed to the Primavera Project, and we pray that God would richly bless the members of congregations in the Northwest District of the AFLC for their part in spreading the Gospel around the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Loiell Dyrud

PHOTOS OF 2020 PRIMAVERA CHURCH

Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brazil



Left: Picture of the land before church was built. **Above:** Picture of congregation in Primavera Church on the day of dedication, April 19, 2020.



Front view of church and entrance. Man in clown suit helped with Sunday school.



Children gathering for Sunday school.

Evening Worship Service

Welcome

Hymn: #188 We Praise Thee O God

Confession of Sin

Devotions – Brandon Waage

Responsive Reading: pg. 122 AH Psalm 27

Confession of Faith

Special Music – Arlene Jenson

Hymn: #579 O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Message: **“Will Jesus Find Faith on the Earth
When He Returns”**

Luke 18:1-8 & I Corinthians 12:12-18

Pastor Randy Nelson

Hymn: #71 Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

“Will Jesus Find Faith on the Earth When He Returns” Notes

Luke 18:1-8 & I Corinthians 12:12-18

Pastor Randy Nelson

Ballot

Officers (2-yr term, 2021-2022) vote for 1 each

Vice Pres 1. Rev. _____

2. _____

Secretary 1. Mr. Matthew Green

2. _____

Bible Camp Planning Committee (3-yr term, 2021-2023) vote for 1

1. Mr. Joel Mattson

2. _____

Parish Education Board (3-yr term, 2021-2023) vote for 1

1. Mrs. Lynn Strand

2. _____

Youth Board (2-yr term, 2021-2022) vote for 1 each

Lay: 1. Mr. Troy Dyrdal

2. _____

2020 Nominating Committee: vote for 2

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

