

Mission Connection

MISSION CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2020

**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
Philippians 2:3**



Pastor's Message

Over the next several months I plan to explore the subject of evangelism from a perhaps unusual perspective: by applying some of the basic tenets of advertising and sales in a capitalist economy.

In today's affluent American society, one of the trademarks of our capitalist economy is the abundance of choice we have when purchasing practically anything and everything. While it is a benefit to the consumer, it creates some problems for the manufacturer, specifically how to develop loyalty among the consumers for that particular company's brand. This is made increasingly difficult if the consumer does not perceive any difference across the multitude of companies that market that particular item. If "one's as good as another", then there's no reason to remain loyal to any particular brand.



Of course, from the manufacturer's perspective there's a huge difference between their product and that of their competitor! The job of the advertising and sales force is to identify and promote those differences. Failure to do so translates quickly into loss of revenue, and left uncorrected, ultimately results in the demise of the company.

One of the ways companies work to build brand loyalty is by ensuring it exists within the company. Believing deeply that their company's brand of "widgets" are indisputably the best that money can buy is especially important for the members of the sales force; if they don't believe it, there's little chance they'll be able to convince anyone else! Sales representatives know the company's product forwards and backwards and inside out! They become the experts on every facet of its form and function.

One way advertisers especially help to develop brand loyalty is to reframe the commodity being presented. Two good examples are Coca-Cola and Mazda. Coke is not out to sell sodas – they're out to sell happiness! The not-so-subtle message is the enhanced feeling of joy that the customer will experience upon consuming the beverage. Remember the TV commercials for Mazda a few years back? They consisted in video footage of high-speed winding mountain roads, the throaty sound of the engine, and the only spoken words were, "Zoom, zoom!" They weren't just selling cars; they were selling adventure, excitement, and thrills...and it worked!



So, what does all this have to do with Mission in Christ? Answer: a lot! Next month we'll look at Developing Our Brand. Stay tuned!

Cloud of Witnesses

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

We believe that even those saints who have died are still alive in Christ Jesus. Among them are those giants of the faith upon whose shoulders we stand, and they, too, comprise this “great cloud” that surrounds us. Here is a list of “Cloud Members” who are remembered during the month of October:

October 4: Francis of Assisi, died 1226; Theodore Fliedner, died 1864, renewers of the church

October 6: William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536

October 7: Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Lutheran pastor in North America, died 1787

October 15: Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582

October 17: Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died ~115

October 18: Luke, evangelist

October 23: James of Jerusalem, martyr, died ~62

October 26: Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymn writers

October 28: Simon and Jude, Apostles



Over the Coffee



The Holy Scriptures tell us that God made us in His image.
We've been trying to return the favor ever since.





Stanza of the Month

Stanza of the Month: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (LBW #76, verse 2):

*Come, heav'nly bridegroom, light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness
May perplex us and distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.*

Although I have used other stanzas of this hymn in previous editions of our newsletter (January and February of this year), it is most appropriate to cite this hymn during the month of October. If you read the *Cloud of Witnesses* article for this month, you will find the name Philipp Nicolai listed as being remembered every October 26, and he was the author of both the tune and the text of this hymn!

Nicolai weaves images from a wide range of scriptures throughout this second verse in particular. Christ identifies himself as the *Bridegroom* throughout the gospels, and is implied in the book of Revelation with the Church as the Bride. In John chapter 15, Jesus presents himself as the true vine apart from whom we as *living branches* can do nothing (John 15:5).

Although we do find ourselves *perplexed and distressed* in this time of *deep sadness* of social unrest and global pandemic, he reminds us that our joy is not linked to our circumstances, but to Christ Jesus himself.

October Worship Leaders***

*** If serving in this capacity is not something you are comfortable with, please let the church know.

October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Lector: Chris Schlee	Lector: Annie Puffett	Lector: Dianne Richter	Lector: Connie Puffett
Cleaning: Pastor Gary & Betty Burkhalter	Cleaning: Pastor Gary & Betty Burkhalter	Cleaning: Pastor Gary & Betty Burkhalter	Cleaning: Pastor Gary & Betty Burkhalter



Council Meeting Minutes

September Council Notes

Mission in Christ Church Council Agenda

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:00 PM
at Mission in Christ Church

Call to Order: 6:05

Present: Pr. Burkhalter, Connie Puffett, Deron Hakert, Dave Gould, Betty Burkhalter

Absent: Jerry Hawkins, Deb Ommen and Michelle Borrett

Devotions: Connie Puffett shared a devotion titled A Bit of Clay. This devotion was from the perspective of the clay and what God wants to do with us.

Approval of New Council Member: Due to the passing of Michelle Schlee in August an open seat on the Council was created. While our Constitution does not require a replacement be named, the Council discussed in September asking Chris Schlee if he would be interested in taking Michelle's place on the council. Connie Puffett discussed this with Chris. He was more than happy to fill the seat. A motion was made by Pr. Gary to add Chris Schlee to the Council. Dave Gould 2nd Approved

August Minutes: The August minutes were read since Chris did not have a copy of them. Chris made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Dave 2nd. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Borrett had a conflict with the meeting tonight and did not have a report prepared. Pr. Gary prepared a report based on data received from Michelle. Offerings \$6,460.00 Building \$170.00 Memorials \$115.00 Net to General Fund \$6,175.00 Expenses \$8,327.48. Net \$2,152.48 Expenses were a bit higher for August due to the payment of the annual insurance premium of \$1,563.00. The Insurance premium overall had an increase of 10%. Connie made the motion that going forward the council will review the annual premium increase/decrease prior to paying the bill. Betty 2nd. Approved.

Pastor's Report: Pr. Gary shared his written report.

- He reported distribution of Holy Communion to Marilyn Fredrick and her daughter and son in law during a recent visit with them.
- Joys –response to Stuff The Truck for the NALC Disaster Response and the use of the recordings for the LBW liturgy.
- Concerns –need for software training for QuickBooks and care for our neighbors during the pandemic.
- Our current accounting is being recordkept on QuickBooks. Pr. Gary and Kathy Havenstrite have tried to get a report to produce to demonstrate where we are at financially compared to the budget. There was a lengthy discussion about securing training for Kathy and two others on QuickBooks. Dave will check with Terri Gould regarding fee for the training their sons received on QuickBooks. Pr. Gary & Betty use Quicken. We may want to consider moving to Quicken in lieu of QuickBooks. Pr. Gary will research the cost of QuickBooks annual fee and training as well as Quicken.
- Care for the Neighbor –Pr. Gary shared his disappointment in some members in our congregation response to the Biblical teaching regarding caring for our neighbor



Council Meeting Minutes

September Council Notes Continued

- Pr. Gary has adjusted the schedule for Matins and Compline. Online stats are tapering off.
- Iron Men will be discontinued due to lack of attendance
- Midweek education –Will continue the study of the Large Catechism –Lords Prayer. Face to face will be offered with masks required. Zoom will be available if anyone wants to attend in this manner. Compline will follow at 8:00

Worship/Music Report: Pr. Gary has received the hymns schedule thru the end of October.

Education Report: There will be no adult Sunday morning education. Connie will continue to teach the children in her home.

Old Business:

*Sound System–Pr Gary is still working with two different resources on this

*Bonfire/Sing Along Gathering–Betty made the motion to drop this until next fall. Dave 2nd. Approved.

*Mission in Christ Disaster Response –The council discussed and agreed to taking a special offering for the derecho damage. An announcement will be made at the Sept 20 worship service as well as a notice in the bulletin. The offering will be taken on September 27.

*Return Prayer Day (September 26)–The NALC has information about this in the online newsletter inviting interested parties to join Franklin Graham's Prayer March in our nation's capital. Pr. Gary will write a note to be included in the bulletin on September 20 providing information and resources.

*Tiling Plans–tabled until Jerry can be at a council meeting

*Additional Future Plans and Implementation of Plans–discussions will continue

New Business:

*Thank You and Money Gift to Ian Moeller–Ian Moeller assisted with the tree removal and leveling of the fill dirt. A motion was made by Chris to send a thank you card and a gift of \$50 to Ian. Dave 2nd. Approved Connie will take care of this.

Other Business:

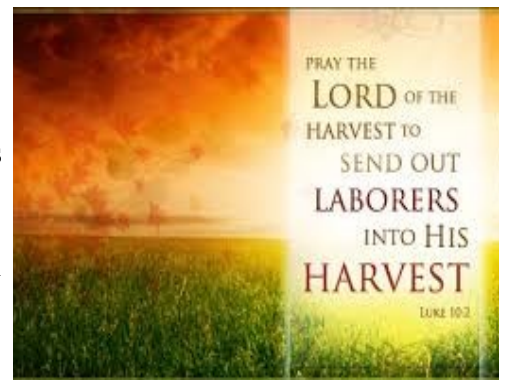
- Discretionary Fund–Pr. Gary has been receiving phone calls and emails requests for emergency assistance. It was decided that there will be a line item added to the 2021 budget for this

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at six o'clock at Mission in Christ Church

Devotions: Deron Hakert

Adjournment: Motion made by Deron to adjourn the meeting. Dave 2nd. Approved Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer



New Schedule

New Matins, Compline, and Adult Education Schedules:

A new schedule for Matins and Compline began mid-September. The services of the Prayer Offices will continue to be streamed live on Facebook:

Matins: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00 AM
Compline: Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:00 PM

The Wednesday evening class is continuing our study of Luther's Large Catechism, picking up with the section on the Lord's Supper, or the Sacrament of the Altar. The adult education class may be attended in person with the wearing of masks or may be "attended" via Zoom. If you wish to receive a Zoom Meeting invitation link, please make sure Pr. Gary has the correct email address for you.

Our next topic will be a study of the Book of Psalms. Following that, we'll return to the Book of Concord and begin a study of the Smalcald Articles.

Adult Ed: Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:45 PM

A Word From Our New Dean

Greetings to all in the Iowa Mission District. I am humbled to have been elected Dean of the Iowa Mission District (IMD), although the election lacked much drama with my name being the only one listed on the ballot. I follow two excellent servants of Christ in this role. Pastor Ken Kimball's tireless efforts was a huge benefit to many congregations even before the formation of the NALC back in 2010. He and Pastor Marshall Hahn played significant roles in "Call to Faithfulness", a coalition of congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod which strove to assist congregations of the Synod to remain soundly confessional and theological in the face of a rising tide of scriptural revisionism.

When Pastor Kimball's term expired, it was natural that Pastor Hahn should follow him. He, too, was very helpful in helping many former ELCA congregations how best to proceed in their time of discernment. He played a large role in the congregation that I was serving at the time, which led to its affiliating with the NALC. His six years as Dean has seen the IMD continue to grow each year, and has played a large part in trying to help the congregations of the IMD work together in our common mission that have strengthened the bonds between those congregations.

It is into this legacy that I enter the scene. I have been part of the Mission District since 2011, when the congregation I was serving and I joined. I have also served six years on the IMD Council as the Treasurer. My own journey as a pastor began in small-town ministry, which was where I grew up, in Atalissa, in southeastern Iowa. Having attended Wartburg Seminary, I was ordained at my home congregation in 1996. Each of my three calls has been within the environs of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, St. John in Luana for 13 years, Trinity in Ellsworth for 6 years, and now First in St. Ansgar for 5 years and counting.

To have the mantle of Dean given to me is nothing that I had ever aspired to, but I was convinced by the pastor who reached out to me to give it serious and prayerful consideration. Having done that, I agreed to serve if would be called so to do. My hope is that I can build upon the strong foundations laid by my predecessors, and to further assist the congregation of the IMD to strive to become stronger individually so that we can thrive as a Mission District. I pray that the IMD leadership, including myself, will be supported by your prayers in the coming years, and in your efforts to press on toward the goal of being the sorts of congregations that are places where one can find "encouragement in Christ, comfort from love, a participation in the Spirit, and affection and sympathy" Philippians 2:1.

Pastor Christopher Staley, Dean, Iowa Mission District, NALC





TOGETHER IN CHRIST, PRAYER AND GLOBAL MISSION



*Dear Brothers and Sisters at Mission in Christ Lutheran Church, Strawberry Point, IA
We praise God for he is in control of his world even during this time of Covid-19 and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35). Based on Psalm 46 we pray that God would be your refuge and strength and ever-present help for you. Take heart for our Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the world (John 16:33). We give praise and glory to God for you because he has called us to be together in Christ, Prayer and global Mission. May the Holy Spirit lead and guide us all. Amen*



As with many of you, Zoom has become the medium of mission and ministry for us. We teach students, mentor a group of young leaders and organize meetings with ministry partners.

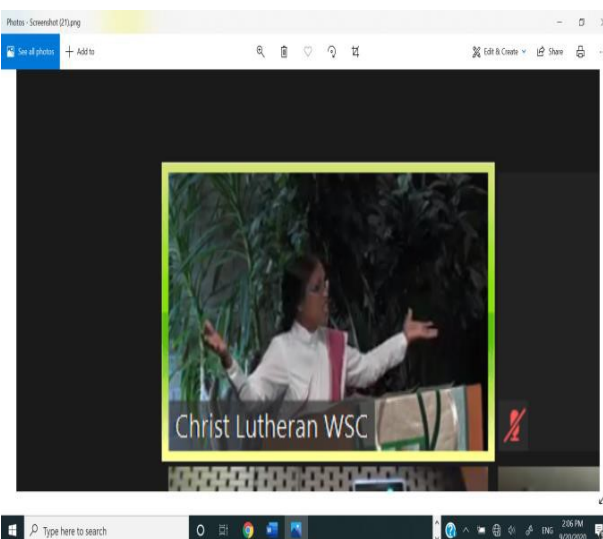


Our students were part of "Neighborhood Kitchen" ministry to feed migrant workers as they returned to their village after India relaxed lock down. Please read this story in attached doc.



Urbas our second child graduated from Highschool. We waited to see if we could celebrate his graduation but due to Covid it was not possible. He just started in UofMN and is living in the dorm.

We are grateful for the opportunity to preach through zoom during this time. It is interesting to preach on



Saturday night for Sunday

worship service in India (we are 10 ½ hour behind). Even during this time we were able to visit one church where we shared about global mission with social distancing. Along with our colleagues both of us host Ask for the Nation prayer event twice a month. We invite you to join us in this online prayer for God's mission.



PRAYER PRAXIS

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN

WORD & WORLD

Ezekiel 22:30

JOIN US FOR EITHER ...


Sat. 10.3.2020
11am-12:30pm
Central

Tue. 10.6.2020
7pm-8:30pm
Central


Location:
Zoom Online

And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore *pray earnestly* to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
Luke 10:2 (ESV)

Unreached People Group focus:
THE KORWA PEOPLE OF INDIA

 WORLD MISSION PRAYER LEAGUE

Pre-registration required for either event.
Write prayer@wmpl.org to receive an invitation to register.



Join
us
in
prayer

on
Oct. 3 (11am -12:30 pm
Central Time) or
Oct. 6 (7pm-8:30pm
Central Time)

We would like to invite you to WMPL Annual Day of Prayer. This event is a prayer event we call prayer-praxis that emphasizes transforming prayer-model for interceding on behalf of people group. This model of prayer is Spirit led, Scripture fed and worship based with five different movements that include Reverence (Who is God?); Response (How should I respond? Confession and Absolution); Request (Intercession on behalf of the Korwa people; Standing in the Gap for Korwa people); Readiness (What should I do for further engagement in this regard and Doxology (Reverence). For each movement there would be teaching for a few minutes followed by small group prayer keeping the same focus. Please let us know if you would like to join in this event we will send you the link.

Prayer Points:

- Praise God for God's provision and new ways to do mission and ministry during this uncertain time.
- Praise God for many prayer partners upholding us and God's mission during this time.
- Praise God for Urbas' high school graduation and college admission.
- Pray for the students in Ranchi who are doing online classes in spite of many challenges. Pray that they will bring hope and encouragement to their communities as they are also engaged in ministry.
- Pray for WMPL global workers as many of them are discerning God's will to return to their country of service.
- Pray for WMPL Annual Day of Prayer that many would be able to register and join to pray for Korwa people.
- Pray for us that we would be guided by the Holy Spirit as we mentor about a dozen young leaders through zoom.
- Pray for Urbas as he is adjusting to campus life during this time and also for Maani in St.Olaf , Puna and Jhumpa as they are continuing their classes online.

We are grateful to you for your prayers and financial support. We remain together in Christ, Prayer and Global Mission.

Neeraj and Nijhar
jnekka@gmail.com
612-413-8509/651-435-3348



World Mission Prayer League

Warm Greetings from WMPL !

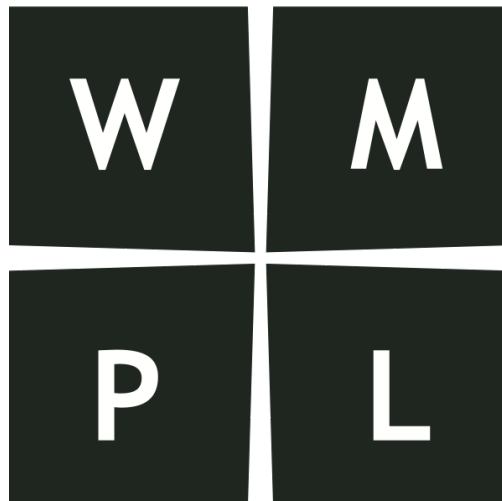
Thank you for your note. We are well. The ministry through zoom has occupied us well during these months of Covid 19. In fact, we are much more connected and engaged with ministry and ministry partners in India because the folks there have learned to use online platforms to connect. It has been a blessing of this crisis. We are able to teach students through zoom. We are mentoring a group of 10-12 young people for transforming ministry in India. The work for the boarding school for poor children has begun as one young man joined this ministry as a teacher. He is doing the preparatory work. We are able to preach for India worship service. It is interesting that we preach on Saturday around 11 o'clock in the night for their Sunday service. Both of us organize online prayer events twice a month. In fact, we would like to invite some members from your church to join us in these online prayer events.

In the home front our son Urbas graduated from high school and will be moving to university of MN tomorrow. We have been busy getting him ready to move to college. The other two kids are doing classes online which they do not like much.

We will be sending more updates in our prayer letter soon. We thank you and the mission committee and the church for your continued prayers and financial support for us. You have enabled us to continue what God has called us to do. May the Lord continue to bless you and the ministry of the church.

Thank you again for your mission partnership !

Together in Christ's Mission
Neeraj and Nijhar



Mission in Christ Lutheran Church
A ministry of the NALC

312 East Mission St.
Strawberry Point, IA 52076

Office Phone: 563-933-6525
Emergencies: 815-394-9309

Email:

secretary@missioninchristluth.onmicrosoft.com

NALC Core Values

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples—in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world—must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.



**We're on
Facebook!**

*Join us for Worship
9 AM Sundays and
online through our
Facebook page or
Mission in Christ Website.*

