

# Mission Connection

FEBRUARY 2021

*"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."*

*Romans 8:26*



## Pastor's Message

Later this month we will begin the penitential season of Lent in preparation for Easter. In order to try and comprehend the magnitude of the atoning work of Christ Jesus on the cross, we will spend 40 days reflecting on our intentional brokenness and on-going rebellion.

In the narthex we have a banner that displays the Four Core Values of the North American Lutheran Church. A "core value" is intended to declare what is the most important underlying truth or reality that a person or group embraces. In practice, we have to acknowledge that they often function more like confessions than statements.

The first Core Value reads: *The Holy Scriptures are the norm for all matters of our life and faith and the Lutheran Confessions are a faithful witness to the Scripture.* The truth is that there can be a serious disconnect between what we say we value and what we actually value. We can make all the grandiose statements we want about how important God's Word is in our lives, but if we actually place our confidence and trust in other things, or let other things shape our lives and behaviors, then the slogans on banners become accusations and a reminder that we have indeed not loved God with our whole heart or our neighbors as ourselves!

May this Lenten season be a journey of repentance for us and may this first Core Value guide our confession. *We confess that Christ Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, and the Holy Scriptures have not been the model and standard for our life and faith. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your Holy Name.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Stanza of the Month	2
Cloud of Witnesses/ Over the Coffee	3
Council Meeting Minutes	4
Council Meeting Minutes Continued	5
Ask Pastor Gary	6
February Worship Assignments/ Community Meal/ Food Pantry	7
MIC Information	8

## CORE VALUES

### Christ Centered

Jesus Christ, revealed in Scripture, is the Lord of the Church and the only Savior of the World. The Holy Scriptures are the norm for all matters of our life and faith and the Lutheran Confessions, a faithful witness to the Scripture.

### Mission Driven

The Great Commission is our only mission. We go telling the Gospel to the ends of the earth, making Disciples committed to Christ, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching people all that Jesus commanded, trusting in His constant presence and power.

### Traditionally Grounded

We are a part of the faithful witness of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church across time and space. We endorse the creeds, forms, practices, Word and Sacrament ministry and worship that are consistent with the Scripture.

### Congregationally Focused

The congregation is the front line for mission and ministry. As interdependent partners we strengthen every local congregation to make it the most effective instrument possible for accomplishing Christ's purpose.



**NALC**  
North American Lutheran Church



## Stanza of the Month

5

### O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (LBW #76 v.5)

What joy to know, when life is past,  
 The Lord we love is first and last,  
 The end and the beginning!  
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
 Transport us to that happy place  
 Beyond all tears and sinning!  
 Amen! Amen!  
 Come, Lord Jesus!  
 Crown of gladness!  
 We are yearning  
 For the day of your returning.

It is delightful to observe how a master hymn writer can take little snippets of scripture, little fragments that capture a larger teaching, and weave them into a whole garment of praise! Consider this Epiphany hymn by Phillip Nicolai, a contemporary of Martin Luther. Most of the scriptures referred to (or hinted at) come from the book of Revelation. I'll just give you the scripture references and leave it to you to look them up! Enjoy!

Hymn Lyric	Scripture
<i>The Lord we love is first and last</i>	Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12; Revelation 1:17
<i>The end and the beginning!</i>	Revelation 21:6, 22:13
<i>He will one day...Transport us to that happy place</i>	John 5:24
<i>Beyond all tears and sinning</i>	Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 7:17, 21:4
<i>Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!</i>	Revelation 22:20
<i>Crown of gladness!</i>	Song of Solomon 3:11 [You'll need to think of the church as the Bride of Christ (Revelation 18-22) to make the connection here!]
<i>We are yearning for the day of your returning.</i>	Revelation 6:10





## Cloud of Witnesses

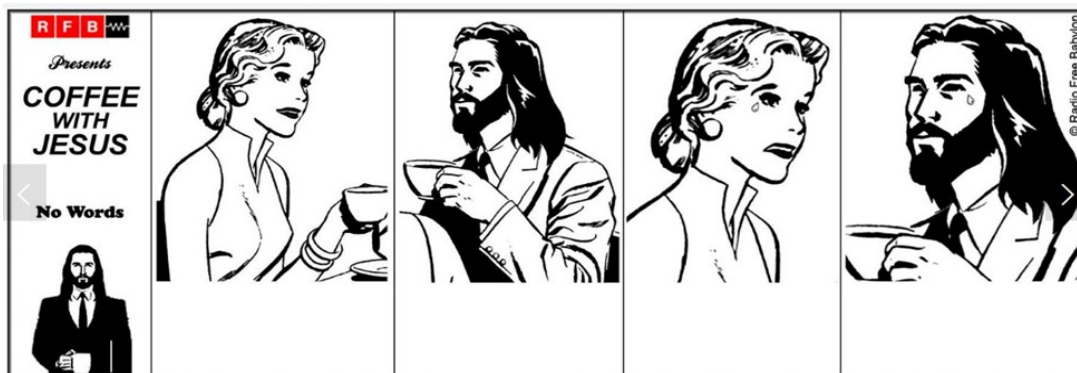
*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.  
(Hebrews 12:1-2)*

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

- February 1: Dean Stegen, Mission in Christ partner, died 2017
- February 3: Ansgar, Archbishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865
- February 5: The Martyrs of Japan, 1597
- February 13: Margaret May, Mission in Christ partner, died 2018
- February 14: Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885
- February 18: Martin Luther, renewer of the Church, died 1546
- February 20: Warren Wood, Mission in Christ partner, died 2018
- February 20: Rasmus Jensen, the first Lutheran pastor in North America, died 1620
- February 23: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156;  
Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, missionary to India, died 1719
- February 24: St. Matthias, Apostle
- February 25: Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921



## Over the Coffee



## Council Meeting Minutes

Mission in Christ Council

January 19, 2021

The Mission in Christ council met on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Those present were Pastor Burkhalter, President Bill Green, VP Deron Hakert, Deb Ommen, David Gould and Terri Gould. Michelle Borrett was absent.

Bill called the meeting to order and led a devotion on Faith and Fear. He then presented the council with a handout outlining Robert's Rules of Order and asked the council to keep these in mind during the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. One minor correction was made. Pastor moved to accept the minutes with the correction. Motion died for lack of second. Deb then moved to accept the minutes, striking the section under Other Business and replacing it with a short synopsis. Deron seconded the motion. Motion carried. Terri stated she felt the entire section was a disagreement among individuals and should be struck without adding anything. Terri then moved to amend by striking the section and not adding anything. Deron seconded. Motion carried with one nay.

Pastor then gave his written report. He has had 6 phone visits and 2 in person. Psalms study going well. He presided at one graveside service. Coming up on his schedule are February 2<sup>nd</sup>, STS regional meeting via zoom, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday.

Mass Averages:

Viewed – 29

Attended – 19

Combined – 48

Matins Averages: 21

Compline Averages: 17

The written treasurer's report was then given as Michelle was unable to be present. Pastor was able to answer one question then Terri moved and Deron seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried. Offerings for December totaled \$9,700.00. Of this, \$960.00 went to the Building Fund and \$80.00 to the Memorial Fund leaving a General Fund amount of \$8,190.00. Expenses for the month totaled \$6,690.62 for a net gain of \$1,499.38. Additional offerings were the Christmas Eve offering for the local food pantry of \$210.00 and donations to Pastor's gift of \$260.00.

Under Old Business, Operation Christmas Child was on the agenda but since Michelle was not available with details, the council moved on.





## Council Meeting Minutes

*Continued*

Under New Business, Bill presented a code of conduct he felt would be helpful to remember as the council conducts its meetings. He went on to address the council with a reminder of Biblical problem solving as outlined in Matt. 18:15-17. He stated that friction in a small church like ours was especially harmful. Discussion was then held as to how each of the council members thought things were going at MIC. Ideas were shared concerning how to begin to heal.

Next, Bill asked if it would be possible to have giving compared to budget projections each month in the bulletin. Other ideas were shared. Bill then moved and Deron seconded a motion to have a quarterly giving report printed in the bulletin. Motion carried.

The council then moved on to the pandemic guidelines as appear on our Website. The printed guidelines were presented. Deron moved and Bill seconded a motion to change the wording, "Wearing face masks is expected throughout the entire worship service" to, "Wearing face masks is highly recommended and encouraged during worship services". Motion failed. Terri then moved to strike the first sentence (as above) but to leave "Masks will be available for use during the service and can be dropped off upon leaving." Deb seconded. Motion failed. Deron then moved to strike the passage and replace with, "Masks will be encouraged and available for use during services". Deb seconded. Motion carried.

Bill next presented the subject of goal setting and formulating a Mission Statement. All were encouraged to be thinking of ideas.

The Constitution was then discussed. Deb moved and Deron seconded a motion to have each new council member always receive a printed copy of the MIC constitution and bylaws. Motion carried.

Under Other Business, Bill recommended an article he had read by Martin Luther entitled, "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague."

Having no other business Deron moved and David seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting concluded with a prayer from Bill and the Lord's Prayer.

The next scheduled meeting: February 16, 2021 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Terri Gould, secretary





## Ask Pr. Gary!



### Ask Pr. Gary

**Q** Pr. Gary, each year during Lent we refrain from using the word Alleluia to help us better grasp the significance of this shout of praise once Resurrection Sunday arrives. Are there any other symbolic things that the church has done with our liturgy for similar reasons?

**A** Yes, in fact there are several. There is one that I will be implementing this year. Lent begins with the confession we make at the beginning of the Ash Wednesday service. While we receive real, tangible forgiveness in the reception of the Body and Blood each week at the Lord's Supper ("given for you...shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins"), it has been part of the Great tradition for centuries to omit the spoken words of absolution from the liturgy until Maundy Thursday! For this reason, we will this year hear the absolution for the last time on Sunday morning, February 14<sup>th</sup> (Valentine's Day!), and then not again until the Service of Holy Communion on the eve of Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.



Thus, in an effort to remind us of the penitential nature of the season and a fuller appreciation of the forgiveness we receive because of and through Christ's death and resurrection, during the Sundays of Lent, the liturgy of the mass will begin with the Invocation followed by the Processional Hymn and the Apostolic Greeting and not the Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness.



**FEBRUARY 17, 2021**



## February Worship Assistant Assignments



Sunday, February 7	Sunday, February 14	Sunday, February 21	Sunday, February 28
Lector: Annie Puffett	Lector: Connie Puffett	Lector: Chris Schlee	Lector: Pete Wood
Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green	Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green	Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green	Cleaning: Bill & Rozella Green

### Community Meal

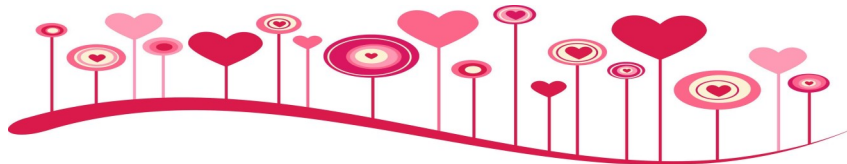
The next food pantry/community meal date will be February 24 and not the third Wednesday, February 17. We did not want to infringe on Ash Wednesday services.

The community meal on January 20 had 27 deliveries and 44 carry outs for a total on 71. The February 24th meal will be chili w/crackers, cinnamon roll and fruit cocktail.

I have attached the list of needed items for the food pantry. It is long. This past week the pantry has served 19 households. This is the first week that had 2 of those households with no food. There have been tremendous donations during the holidays but it does not last too long when there is a need. I have experienced this week very sincere "thank you's" from those needing food. It is very humbling. It has brought into focus these words "compassion w/o judging" and "walk in their shoes".

Blessings to all,

Delaine



### Food Pantry Needs

February Food Pantry needs are: 100% juice (frozen or bottled), canned meals, Spam®, soups, saltine crackers, canned chicken, powdered sugar, brown sugar, 4# sugar, Tuna Helper®, Hamburger Helper®, jam/jelly, baking powder, cornstarch, pudding mix, pepper, tomato juice, pancake mix, syrup, pears, pineapple, mayo, pork and beans, paper towels, liquid laundry detergent, bleach.

**Mission in Christ Lutheran Church**  
A ministry of the NALC

312 East Mission St.  
Strawberry Point, IA 52076

Office Phone: 563-933-6525  
Emergencies: 815-394-9303

Email:  
secretary@missioninchristluth.onmicrosoft.com



**We're on  
Facebook!**

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

**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.*

