

Mission Connection

MISSION CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2021

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So Glorify God in your body. “

1 Corinthians 6:19-20



Pastor's Message

Here's a parable to consider...

Everybody, Anybody, Somebody, and Nobody all lived in the same little community.

Everybody claimed to be a member of the church. Although Anybody could worship, Somebody went occasionally, but Nobody went every Sunday. Anybody was welcome to go, but Somebody was afraid Nobody would talk to them, or Everybody would make fun of what they were wearing.

One fall, the church needed a teacher for Sunday School, a contact person for disaster relief, workers at the community meal, a representative for the regional meeting, and someone to help provide transportation to worship. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, Somebody thought Everybody should. Guess who finally volunteered to help?

It happened that a newcomer, a non-believer, arrived in town. Everybody thought that Somebody should speak to her about Jesus. Anybody could have at least made an effort. But guess who finally witnessed to her? Right...Nobody!

A good pastor friend of mine once observed that if you throw a stick into a pack of dogs, the one that yelps got hit!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Stanza of the Month	2
Worship Assignments Over the Coffee	3
Help Wanted Truth Yoga Classes Disaster Response Contact Adult Class	4
September's "Cloud"	5
August Council Minutes	6
August Council Minutes (cont.) Help Wanted Mission District Delegate Needed	7
NALC Core Values	8



Stanza of the Month: *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* (LBW #248, v.2)

*All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks the night,
Filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
Come but by your gracious giving.*

It amazes me how many different hymns express the truths maintained in our Lutheran Confessions! Sometimes it helps to restructure the prose/poetry into more standard grammar in order for the connections to be clearer. The first complete sentence of the hymn reads: *All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded till your Spirit breaks the night, filling us with light unclouded.* Restructured, this can read: *Until your Spirit breaks the night, filling us with unclouded light, all our knowledge, sense, and sight lie shrouded in deepest darkness.* For me, this shuffling of the words allows me to hear a strong connection to the wording of the 3rd Article of the Creed from the Small Catechism!

3 rd Article	Hymn text
By my own power and understanding...	<i>all our knowledge, sense, and sight</i>
I cannot believe in my Lord Jesus or come to him.	<i>lie shrouded in deepest darkness</i>
But the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel...	<i>Until your Spirit breaks the night,</i>
Enlightens me with his gifts, sanctifies me and keeps me in the true faith	<i>filling us with light unclouded.</i>

The second sentence of the hymn, *All good thoughts and all good living come but (only) by your gracious giving*, is a delightful rewording of James 1:17, the epistle text from August 29th: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights”. In addition, the same sentiment is expressed in one of the prayers from the Compline Service (Prayer at the Close of the Day): “We give you thanks for the good we were *permitted to give* (!) and to receive”. Both hymn and prayer are good reminders to us that there is nothing truly good in and of ourselves!

**Mission District Convocation
Delegates Needed!**

Iowa will hold its district convocation at the Emmons Lutheran Church, Emmons, MN, on Saturday, September 11. Each congregation is allowed at least two lay delegates. If you would like to serve as one of MIC’s delegates, please see Pr. Gary!



September Worship Assistant Assignments

September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
Lector: Chris Schlee	Lector: Annie Puffett	Lector: Pete Wood	Lector: Terri Gould
Cleaning: Dave & Terri Gould	Cleaning: Dave & Terri Gould	Cleaning: Dave & Terri Gould	Cleaning: Dave & Terri Gould



Over the Coffee



Help Wanted!

Mission in Christ needs new representation at the monthly community meal! If you would be willing to serve occasionally in this way, please let Bill or Pr. Gary know. Lois can fill you in on the responsibilities.

Truth Yoga Classes Commence!



Beginning September 20, Mission in Christ will host to 45-minute yoga class sessions! The classes will be offered two times per week: Monday evenings at 5:15, and Thursday morning at 7:00. Utilizing mostly chair routines (seated and standing), the sessions will focus on stress relief, flexibility, and strength. The class will be led by certified Faith Yoga instructor Nicole O'Brien. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit – Come make yours a little stronger!

Disaster Response Contact Needed

The Iowa Mission District is looking to strengthen its disaster response network by having a designated contact for every congregation. Plans are currently in progress to coordinate various drives and involve our district youth. If you are interested in serving in this position, please see Betty Burkhalter (Iowa Mission District Disaster Response Coordinator).

Adult Class Scheduled

The adult class, Digging Deeper, will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 beginning on September 7th. This fall we will begin a study of the C.S. Lewis book *Mere Christianity*.



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. 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 September:

- September 2: Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
- September 9: Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Columbia, died 1654
- September 13: John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407
- September 11: Dean Helmrichs, Mission in Christ Partner in mission, died 2018
- September 16: Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died ~258
- September 17: Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179
- September 18: Dag Hammarskjold, renewer of society, died 1961
- September 21: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- September 29: Michael and All Angels
- September 30: Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420



August Council Minutes

MIC Council
August 17, 2021

The Mission in Christ Council met on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Those present were Pastor Burkhalter, President Bill Green, Michelle Borrett, Deron Hakert, Deb Ommen, David Gould and Terri Gould.

Bill called the meeting to order. Terri led a devotion concerning looking to our future as members of the family of God.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Dave moved to accept the minutes with one addition. The \$200.00 donation to the Ekka family, which is a recurring amount each quarter, was omitted from the benevolence list in the minutes. Michelle seconded the motion, adding this information. Motion carried.

Michelle then presented the treasurer's report for July. Offerings for July totaled \$6,348.00, \$50.00 of which went to the building fund. Expenses for the month totaled \$8,380.24. Michelle explained that the expenses appeared to be higher due to the fact that benevolence for three months was paid in July. There were no other questions. Pastor moved and Deb seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The Worship Committee has not met but will soon plan returning to the LBW for worship in September.

Pastor then presented his report. He had eight phone conversations and three in person visits, serving Communion to two. For joys, he reported Confirmation class beginning the 25th with orientation, first Communion class beginning for Sarah Puffett soon and a good number signed up for the weekly book study. For concerns, the pre-baptism class canceled for now and steadily declining attendance numbers. Coming up in September/October: August 25, Confirmation begins, September 5, return to LBW, September 7, adult education class begins, September 11, Iowa Mission District Convocation in Emmons, Minnesota.

In old business, streaming devices were again discussed. Terri reported that her son, Adam, was interested in donating a 55" flat screen TV for us to use for movies and Bible studies. Three questions arose. Can it be used as a monitor? Does he still have the stand? Does it have USB ports? Terri will find the answers to these questions and email the council.

Under new business, MIC is looking for a replacement for Lois for the community meal each month. More information is needed about what is involved. Perhaps more than one person could take turns. Perhaps a MIC coordinator could be responsible to assign volunteers for this and other jobs at church or in worship.



August Council Minutes

(cont.)

Bill will be setting out a sign up sheet for those willing to pick Marie up for services.

Lawn care was discussed. It was decided to research the possibility of purchasing a mower and shed in which to store it so that more members are able to help with this. Bill will do that.

It was the consensus of the group that we do not require cyber insurance.

Next month's devotions will be led by Michelle.

Having no other business, Dave moved and Deb seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:22 PM. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Gould, secretary

Help Wanted!

The Great Commission – *Go and make disciples* – begins with those closest around us! Please prayerfully consider if God might be calling you be part of sharing the faith with our youth by leading a Sunday School class.

Mission District Convocation Delegates Needed!

Iowa will hold its district convocation at the Emmons Lutheran Church, Emmons, MN, on Saturday, September 11. Each congregation is allowed at least two lay delegates. If you would like to serve as one of MIC's delegates, please see Pr. Gary!



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



**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.

