

# ***PASTOR PETE'S PONDERINGS***

## **“NALC EVENT COMING TO WATERTOWN”**

Please mark your calendars! There will be a "super mission district gathering" **October 28-29 at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Watertown**. The purpose of the gathering is to formally organize two mission districts for the area in the NALC. **NALC Bishop John Bradosky will be among the speakers** for the event. He will also be meeting with area pastors prior to the gathering.

Leadership from the **NALC women's organization** will also be present. More information will be coming soon and I will share it as it becomes available.

**Pastors** in the NALC from South Dakota will be invited to join others in South Dakota who are in the LCMC and ELCA, prior to the event, to discuss the best way for LCMC-NALC and confessional ELCA congregations to **work together** in South Dakota. Pastors need to talk to each other about how to best support one another and work together.

The NALC congregations will be **formally organizing two "mission districts"** – 1) Eastern North Dakota-Minnesota and 2) South Dakota, Wyoming, Western North Dakota and Montana. These will be preliminary organizational meetings, setting a basic legal structure and **electing a dean** and others to provide leadership and accountability for the dean for this area.

In addition to electing leaders, some tentative **governing documents** and a **very small budget** for the mission district will need to be discussed and adopted.

**I'm excited about this gathering** because we need to connect with our nearest neighbors in the NALC and find new ways of doing mission work together. Congregations need to know how they will find new pastors when that becomes necessary. Pastors need to make new connections to replace former associations in the ELCA.

A number of people have asked me the question **"How are you doing?"** My answer is "okay; but I still get tired very easily." That continues to be true. Each week I'm getting more energy and stamina back. I have resumed swimming at the Watertown Recreation Center, riding my bicycle and walking. Next is eye surgery to correct a large, fast-growing cataract in my right eye.

***It's great to serve our Lord and Savior with all of you,  
Pastor Gene Peterson***

## TRINITY CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES September, 2011

**Present:** David St. John, Rusty Antonen, Don Thue, Dan Koistinen, Gerry Koisti, Mary Pekas, David Carlson, Brandy Aho; **Absent:** Harlan Olson, Pastor Peterson

**Secretary's Report:** David St. John motioned to accept. Gerry Koisti seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Pekas motioned to accept. Dan Koistinen seconded.

### Committee Reports:

Christian Ed: Rally Day will be September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Evangelism: Food Pantry is in need of food. Fifty-six families used the Food Pantry last month. Harvest Festival is set for October 9<sup>th</sup> during church with potluck and pie afterwards.

Worship & Music, Property, Finance, Stewardship: No reports

### Old Business:

- David Carlson and Don Thue picked up the washer and dryer from Pastor to put in the parsonage.
- Shingles and driveway are done at the parsonage.

### New Business:

- Offering from Harvest Festival will go ½ to Food Pantry and ½ to Drought Relief in East Africa. Gerry Koisti motioned to accept and Mary Pekas seconded.
- A BIG THANKS to Barb Ruotsalainen and Sharon Thue for all of the hard work that they do with the food pantry.

Rusty Antonen motioned to adjourn and Dan Koistinen seconded.

**Next meeting:** Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. **Devotions:** David St. John

~ Brandy Aho, Secretary



Trinity Sunday School, 2011—2012

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Larry Aho
- 3 Kim Bevers
- 3 Jonathan Kretzschmar
- 3 Jessica Sowers
- 3 Jade Kretzschmar
- 10 Millard (Bud) Larrabee
- 12 Sharon (Lee) Moshier
- 12 Alan Swanson
- 14 Scott Bentley
- 15 Samantha Kretzschmar
- 17 Seth Swanson
- 24 Robert Bentley
- 26 Charles Anderson
- 27 Melissa (Sowers) Miller

**Happy Birthday!**

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### TLCW Meeting

Ladies, remember the General Meeting of the Trinity Lutheran Church Women at 7:30 P.M. Wednesday, October 5. Patsy Steffensen will serve lunch.

### CHECK OUT THE WEB!

[www.trinityln.org](http://www.trinityln.org)

Links to other sites are listed for your information. One of the links will take you to the NALC.

E-Mail addresses for your use:

[trinityc@itctel.com](mailto:trinityc@itctel.com)

[pastorpete@itctel.com](mailto:pastorpete@itctel.com)



**E-mail Addresses**

## Remember in Prayer...

- The North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
- Bishop John Bradosky and staff
- Local Congregations and their Pastors
- The unemployed or under-employed
- The lonely, depressed, or hungry people
- All who are recovering from surgery or illness



## Quilts to be Shipped

It's that time of the year again, when quilts finished this year will be packed for shipment. The ladies have been super busy, and have completed over 60 quilts at this time! They will be displayed on Sunday, October 23, and shipped the following day through Lutheran World Relief. A big thank you to the ladies for their work!

**Thank you** to Sharon Thue and Barb Ruotsalainen for the many hours they spend keeping the Food Pantry in operation! Your gifts of love and concern for those in need is no small deed. Thank you!



**Thank you** to the congregation, individuals, and neighboring churches for your donations of food items and your monetary donations for the food pantry. Your contributions help to make a difference in the lives of needy families!

**Thank you** to all who have contributed supplies for the church! Each item donated makes a difference on budget expenses.

**Thank you** to those who were able to help with ditch clean-up! You helped to make the country-side more beautiful!

**Thank you** to all who have watered the flowers throughout the summer and fall!

**Thank you** to the Sunday School staff for a great kick-off to this school year. What a blessing to have 21 students this year in Sunday School!

**Thank you** for your contributions in the offering on Sept. 18 for Sunday School expenses!

**God** has no cell phone, but He is my favorite contact....He has no Facebook, but He is my best friend...He doesn't have Twitter, but I still follow Him....He has no internet, but we stay connected!! ~ Submitted by TLC Member

# Evangelism Corner

“I long to...take refuge in the shelter of your wings.”

Psalm 61:4 (NIV)

A storm tore through our small town last night, its 150-mile-per-hour winds leaving a trail of devastation more than a mile wide. The roof was ripped off our middle school; trees were uprooted, smashing cars and breaking windows in their thunderous descent; bricks flew off apartment buildings. Pretty scary stuff.

I rode out the storm at my son's house. My husband Gary and I had just stopped by to hold our new grandson. The moment we walked in, the ominous news began flashing on the TV: tornado warnings!

It was Knox Edward's first storm. He's only four days old and he slept through the entire event. I held him close as I watched trees outside the window bend crazily in the wind. The sky was dark and the clouds swirled in a savage dance.

As I cradled Knox in my arms, his even breathing contrasted with the tension in the room, the scrolling warnings on the TV. *Danger? What danger?* Knox was at rest, secure, wonderfully oblivious. And why not? The house was filled with people who would have done anything to keep him safe.

Sometimes, when the storms in my own life come roaring down on me, I tend to panic. *What will I do? How will I handle it? What if (fill in the blank with the worst possible thing) happens? If only I had someone who cared for me, someone who would do anything to see me through the crisis...*

I'm between storms just now, walking in sunshine, enjoying my health and my family. Of course I know that the weather can change in an instant. But the next time dark clouds begin to gather, I'm going to remember Knox—and lean hard into God's everlasting arms.

I'm leaning, leaning, leaning on your everlasting arms, Lord!

- Mary Lou Carney

~ Submitted by Evangelism Committee



## Pastor Appreciation

When we stop to “count our many blessings”, our pastor is one of those blessings! Thank you, Pastor Pete, for your commitment, your leadership, and for “shepherding the flocks under your care!” You are very much appreciated!

“The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

**Numbers 6:24-26**



In this fast-paced world of technology, you will be given new opportunities this fall to “**Get Connected**” with your church. You will be asked if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter by email only, by a paper copy only, or by both email and paper. You will also be asked if you wish to receive weekly bulletin announcements by email.

Watch for a card to complete and return to the office indicating your wishes. For those who do not have computers, please indicate that on the card. They will continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

Thank you for your attention and help in this matter!

Join us in celebrating our  
**Harvest Festival**



**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, October 9, 2011**  
**10:45 A.M.**

**Program by "Them Guys"**

**Pot-luck dinner will follow.**  
**Pie and ice cream included!**

**Offering designated for**  
**Food Pantry**  
**and**  
**Hunger and Drought Relief in East Africa**

**Supplemental funds from Thrivent will be**  
**provided for the local Food Pantry.**

**PRAYER PROGRAM**

"Let's have a little talk with Jesus" and ask for His blessings on our fellow members at Trinity. For October, members included are the following:

Oct. 2: James and Marla Andrews; Doug Hakeman; Ethel Koistinen; Pastor Gene Peterson

Oct. 9: James and June Hakeman; Bob and Vikki Koistinen; Paul and Mary Pietila; Jeremy Steffensen

Oct. 16: Patti Andrews; Sherri Tormanen; Kris (Nielsen) Anthony; Delbert, Sylvia & Kendell Riter

Oct. 23: Stacy and Chrissy Hakeman, Sara, Karen and Austin; Ericka Koistinen; Cathy Prouty

Oct. 23: Reid & Jeanette Tuohino; Carmen Antonen; Barb Halonen, Chelsea and Rebecca.

Oct. 30: Justin Koistinen; Jessica (Koisen) Prouty; Allen West

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**Help Us Keep In Touch!**

If you have a young adult in your family who is going to college or working away from home, please help us keep in touch with them. Please send their mailing address and email address to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 230; or email it to [trinityc@itctel.com](mailto:trinityc@itctel.com). Thank you!!

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**In a Nutshell**

A Sunday school teacher gave her second-graders a month to memorize Psalm 23. One little boy was excited about the task but just couldn't remember the whole chapter.

When the day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation, the nervous boy stepped up to the microphone and said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"

~ Reprinted from The NewsletterNewsletter





## Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Desta Buba, Missions Director of the NALC, announced the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society at the 2011 NALC Convocation. **"The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS)"** is being launched to advance the commitment and dedication to the work of evangelical mission in partnership with one another. Through this partnership in the Gospel, our Lord, who began this good work among us, will carry it on to completion," Dr. Buba said in his report to the Convocation.

**ELMS** is a membership organization. Individuals, congregations and mission agencies can join the ELMS. Individuals commit to support the society with a gift of \$20 per month — \$240 per year. Congregations commit to a gift of \$1,200 a year. Dr. Buba explained that the ELMS strives and aims to engage and transform individual members of churches into active disciples and congregations into vital mission agents. ELMS works towards these goals through these four specific approaches:

1. Organizing and mobilizing congregations, leaders and the laity for the sake of reaching the unreached with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Whatever we are unable to accomplish alone, we can do together.
2. Mobilizing the financial and human resources of the people of God for the sake of doing mission together.
3. Involving congregations, leaders and laity in the actual work of evangelism and world mission through first-hand experience and direct involvement.
4. Creating a platform and central space where Lutherans of similar mission conviction, confessions and doctrinal stand can work together across denominational boundaries for the sake of doing evangelical mission.

"Now join us in this fertile and mission-driven space called the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society. Together we can cross borders and carry out the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," he said.

### REV. JOHN BRADOSKY SPEAKS TO THE NALC CONVOCATION

The following excerpts are from Bishop Bradosky's statement to the convocation:

..."Thank you for the opportunity to use my gifts for ministry and pastoral care in these new ways. Together, we enter this process praying boldly for wisdom and discernment, trusting completely that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct our decisions....It is my passionate desire that we move forward focused on discipleship – strengthening our sense of community, living out our values. May the Holy Spirit empower us to boldly confess Christ!" ~ **Bishop Bradosky**

## **BISHOP PAULL SPRING RETIRED...AGAIN**

The following are some of the comments Bishop Spring made at the convocation at his fifth retirement! From reading about his future plans, it is clear that he will still keep busy!

“I have experienced strong support during this first year of the North American Lutheran Church. I have been upheld and uplifted at every point. Our staff, deans, the Executive Council, committee members, pastors and lay leaders in our congregations – all have sustained and supported me throughout the year. Your prayers, your words of encouragement, and your willingness to serve beyond your congregation have made this past year rewarding indeed...I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for giving this ministry to me. It has been a challenging and demanding year but also a deeply rewarding one. God bless you all.” In Christ, Bishop Paull E. Spring

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## **CONVOCATION APPROVES FULL COMMUNION RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIAN LUTHERANS**

### **Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus has 5.6 million members**

The 2011 Convocation of North American Lutheran Church Convocation unanimously approved a full communion relationship with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the Lutheran church in Ethiopia, is one of the largest Lutheran church bodies in the world, with 5.6 million members. It is also among the world's fastest growing churches — adding 300,000 members last year.

The Convocation urged the congregations of the NALC to ratify the church-to-church relationship. Such relationships — and other major decisions — must be ratified by NALC congregations before going into effect.

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Desta Buba, NALC Missions Director, is a native of Ethiopia. He is widely respected among Ethiopian Lutherans and was instrumental in building the strong relationship between the EECMY and the NALC.

The Ethiopian church and other Lutheran churches in Africa have been supportive of efforts by Lutheran CORE and others to maintain Biblical teaching on sexuality in the ELCA. EECMY leaders have challenged changes in teaching on marriage and sexual ethics by the ELCA and the Church of Sweden as being against the clear teaching of Scripture.

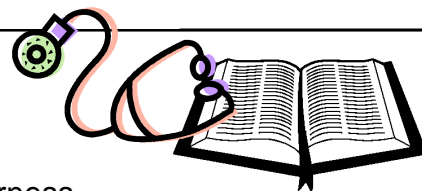
The Ethiopian church has also been distancing itself from the ELCA over the past year, while at the same time developing its relationship with the NALC.

The Rev. Dr. James Nestingen, professor emeritus from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and a NALC pastor, will be teaching at the EECMY seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, beginning in January as a missionary professor from the NALC.

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*~ Information reprinted from the August 2011 NALC Newsletter. To read the entire articles, go to [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org), click on Newsletters, then upload the August issue.*

## Visit to God's Clinic



I went to the Lord's clinic and I confirmed I was ill.

When Jesus took my blood pressure, he saw that it was low in tenderness.

When he read my temperature the thermometer registered 40 degrees in anxiety.

He ran an electrocardiogram and found that I needed several "love bypasses since my arteries were blocked with loneliness and could not provide for an empty heart.

I went to orthopedics, because I could not walk by my brother's side and I could not hug my friends since I had fractured myself when tripping with envy.

He also found that I was short-sighted, since I could not see beyond the shortcomings of my brothers and sisters.

When I complained about deafness, the diagnostic was that I had stopped listening to Jesus' voice talking to me on a daily basis.

For all of that Jesus gave me a free consultation, thanks to his mercifulness, so my pledge is to, once I leave this clinic, only take the natural remedies he prescribed through his words of truth:

- ◇ Every morning take a glass of gratitude.
- ◇ When getting to work take one spoon of peace.
- ◇ Every hour take one pill of patience, one cup of brotherhood and one glass of humility.
- ◇ When getting home take one dose of love.
- ◇ When getting to bed take two caplets of clear conscience.
- ◇ Do not give into sadness or despair for what you are going through today.
- ◇ God knows how you feel.
- ◇ God knows exactly and with perfection what is being allowed to happen in your life at this precise moment.
- ◇ God's purpose for you is simply perfect.
- ◇ He wants to show you things that only you can understand by living what you are living, and being in the place you are now.

***May God give you for every storm, a rainbow;  
For every tear, a smile, And a blessing in each trial;  
For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.***

***Let Him carry you.***

***~ Submitted by TLC Member***

### ***Bits and Pieces***

***"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point." ~ Author Unknown***

***"No man ever got very high by pulling other people down....***

***Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself." ~ Alfred, Lord Tennyson***

***"The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones." ~ William Faulkner***

We cannot spell Sunday without "U"  
We cannot spell Budget without "U"  
Our Church needs "U" to help.

We cannot spell Church without "U"  
We cannot spell success without "U"  
See YOU Sunday! ~ Selected

## Cookbooks Available

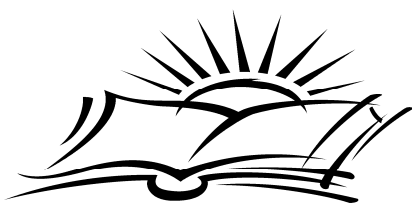
Are you looking for a gift to have on hand....or one for yourself since your copy may be worn out?? Then pick up a red church cookbook for \$10.00 at the office. There are only about a dozen remaining; now is the time to get one!

## Missing Parts

Please take note: Parts of 2 large electric coffee pots are missing. If you have borrowed one in the past, please check if you still may have a part at home. Missing items are a basket and a stem.

## Ditch Clean-Up

It's time to clean up the ditches again! If you are physically able to help, please stop and pick up a slip in the narthex of an area to clean. Thanks much for your help!



## CHURCH LIBRARY

Stop and check out a book!  
A variety of titles are available  
for your reading enjoyment.

*“Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.”*  
~ Dr. Albert Schweitzer



## From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good   | Righteousness |
| 2. Death  | Children      |
| 3. Go     | Life          |
| 4. Evil   | Come          |
| 5. Adults | Bad           |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

“When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness.” Luke 11:34, NIV  
(1)

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_.” John 8:12, NIV  
(2)

“I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” John 12:46, NIV  
(3)

“For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”  
2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
(4)

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light.” Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children



**Stand  
UP  
for Jesus**



here  
I stand

## “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!”

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (German, *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*) is the best known of Martin Luther's hymns. Luther wrote the words and composed the melody. The words are a paraphrase of Psalm 46. This song has been called "the greatest hymn of the greatest man of the greatest period of German history" and the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation." This hymn was sung at the funeral of President Dwight Eisenhower at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, March, 1969.

Martin Luther who wrote the words once said, 'the Devil hates music because he cannot stand gaiety,' and 'Satan can smirk but he cannot laugh; he can sneer but he cannot sing.'

One writer has said that 'Luther translated the Bible into German so God could speak directly to the people; and provided the hymn so that the people could answer God in their songs.' Because he believed in the power of song, the great reformer spent a lot of time compiling a hymn book for use in congregational singing.

Luther is credited with thirty-seven hymns, by far the most popular being "A Mighty Fortress". It was written in 1529 at a time when Luther and his followers were going through a particularly rough patch of opposition, with the Emperor, Charles V, seemingly determined to suppress the new movement. During those days of struggle, Luther turned often to Psalm forty-six and was greatly encouraged by the words of verse one, 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.'

Luther's original composition became immediately popular with the common people of Germany, being sung continually in the streets and chanted by the martyrs as they awaited their grim fate. What a moving sound that must have made!

Much more important than the music however, is the message, and what a message this great hymn has for the people of God! It turns their eyes and thoughts away from the afflictions of this world, and the opposition of Satanic hosts, and fixes them upon the person of the Lord Jesus - the Lord Sabaoth as Luther so rightly refers to Him in one of the verses ...

Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, The man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He!  
Lord Sabaoth is His Name, From age to age the same;  
And he must win the battle.



### A Perspective on Perils

Martin Luther's wife, Kate, said, "I would never have known the meaning of various Psalms, come to appreciate certain difficulties or known the inner workings of the soul; I would never have understood the practice of the Christian life and work, if God had never brought afflictions to my life.

Martin Luther went one step further, saying, "Oh! His grace and goodness toward us is so immeasurably great, that without great assaults and trials it cannot be understood." ~ *Homiletics*