



# CHURCH NEWS

## VBS Recap!

June 6-10 brought the blessed return of in-person VBS. This year's theme was "Destination Dig," and great fun was had by all! The program for the week was led by four very talented individuals from the Bible College. These five joyous days brought together people of all ages to praise God and learn of His love. There were Bible stories, music, memory verses, crafts, food, and other activities for all to enjoy and to celebrate our Lord. A huge thank you to all who were involved in the planning and execution of the plan during VBS week. So many members of our congregation shared their time and talents to make the week a memorable and enjoyable one for everyone involved.



# Crazy Story; Tangible Comfort

Elijah and Elisha were prophets through whom God called people to repent. God also did amazing miracles through His prophets. One such miracle happened after Elisha died and was buried!

In 2 Kings 13:20–21, Elisha was laid in his grave. Another dead man needed to be buried, but before a second grave could be dug, enemies were approaching. The mourners needed to flee. They hastily placed the second corpse on top of Elisha's corpse. That's when the miracle happened.

2 Kings 13:20–21: "So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet."



Remarkable! The man was dead, then his corpse touched Elisha's corpse, and the man was alive! What should we learn from this? First, that God is able to do miracles however He wants. Second, sometimes He is pleased to work through physical means to do His gracious work. In this case, the physical means was Elisha's corpse, and the gracious work was that a dead man was revived through contact with it.

2 Kings 13:20–21 is a *descriptive* event, not a *prescriptive* event. That is, it describes something that happened once; it does not prescribe a normative ritual of bone veneration for the people of God. God never promises to heal again through the bones of deceased saints, so relic veneration is wrong. It is with false comfort and without God's command that Catholic and Orthodox churches collect and display bone fragments of deceased saints, venerate them, and wait for miracles associated with that veneration.

Are there any physical means through which God actually does promise to convey His grace? Are there any physical means that Jesus commands the Church to use to distribute His grace for tangible comfort? Yes, Baptism! And yes, Holy Communion!

The primary means of God's grace for our salvation and comfort is His Word (Ephesians 6:17, Romans 10:17). Baptism and Holy Communion are effective means of that same grace because God's Word promises that He is the one doing the work in these two Sacraments. It's all Him.

In baptism, God promises that He is graciously at work to unite us with Christ's death and resurrection. Romans 6:4, "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

In Holy Communion, God promises that He is graciously at work to give us Christ's true (not symbolic) body and blood connected to the bread and cup to deliver to us the forgiveness of sins which was won at the cross. Matthew 26:28, "For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

In one way, the Sacraments are similar to Elisha's bones: God does a miracle through physical means. In another way, the Sacraments are far better than Elisha's bones: Baptism comes with Christ's command (Matthew 28:19) and the promise to deliver salvation (Colossians 2:12); Holy Communion comes with Christ's command (1 Corinthians 11:23–26) and the promise to deliver forgiveness (Matthew 26:28).

Elisha's bones brought comfort to mourners only once. The Sacraments bring tangible comfort over and over again to the soul who mourns sin and relies on God's grace for salvation.

It sounds crazy to a rationalistic and materialistic mind, but by the power of the promises in God's Word, we receive tangible comfort through the physical means of Baptism and Holy Communion. It's a miracle!

In Christ, Pastor Amiot

## Gideon Visit



On May 30, Gideon representative Tim Kiviah visited Our Saviour's and Reiner to share about the Gideons' Bible distribution ministry.

## Sound Room Volunteers

The church is looking for anyone who is interested in learning how to run the sound and streaming format for services at Our Saviour's. They would be asked to fill in for Sunday and special events as needed. Text Caleb Dyrud at (218) 686-0307 for more information.

## Friday Men's Bible Study!

New Bible Study Starting!! All men are welcome to study God's Word at the church on Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m.

## FLBC Alumni Picnic Here!



The FLBC Alumni Association is sponsoring a picnic in TRF July 18 from 4-6 p.m at Oakland Park with food and activities!

**This is NOT just for alumni** of the Free Lutheran Bible College in Plymouth. **It's for all who love the school and wish to support it and enjoy picnic fellowship!**

RSVP at [flbc.edu/alumni-picnics](http://flbc.edu/alumni-picnics)



## Bible College Testimony

"It was such a blessing to spend this last year in an environment of other believers at FLBC. One specific thing God taught me last year was how even in the hardest times of our life we can still look to Him and praise Him for His goodness."

-Adam Dalager of Westaker in Newfolden, student at the Free Lutheran Bible College.  
Quote taken from FLBC Social Media.



## Faith on Fire Drama



The Faith on Fire Drama Team from Christ is Lord Free Lutheran Church in Onalaska, WI, came to our church on June 29! They presented a fun drama on many familiar stories in the Bible and challenged the audience members if they really knew their Bibles! It was a wonderful reminder of the importance of reading and knowing the Word of God.

Pictured above is Michael Rodahl with the drama team!

# 2021 AFLC Annual Conference: A Spiritual Event

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the AFLC was held June 16-19 at the recently completed Student Life Center on the campus of our AFLC Schools on Medicine Lake in Minneapolis with close to 500 people registered. The new facility provided a beautiful setting for the event with more than adequate seating. The theme verse was Isaiah 40:3: "Prepare the way of the Lord," which was the focus of each evening's speaker.

The conference opened on Wednesday night with keynote speaker Dr. Wade Mobley, President of Schools. With ordination part of the service, he focused on the role of the pastor. The Ambassadors sang, and Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Assistant to the AFLC President, read the names and short memorials for the nine AFLC Pastors who had passed away during this past year—including Rev. Irvin Schmitke from our Northwest District.

Thursday evening service was the traditional Missions Festival Service with Rev. Jonathan Abel, Missionary to Brazil, the speaker. He told of the many trials the churches of Brazil are experiencing, especially this past year with the heavy toll Covid-19 has had on the country, yet God is continuing to miraculously change lives. The Mike McCarlson Family sang.

The Communion Service was held Friday evening with Dr. Joel Rolf leading the service and Rev. Mark Johnson, Dalton, Minnesota the speaker. The family of the late Dr. Francis Monseth, longtime Dean of Free Lutheran Seminary, was honored during the service to mark the publishing of *One Thing I Seek*, a selection of his writings as Volume 5 in the AFLC Ambassador Series. Dr. Brent Olson, Old Testament Professor at our schools, and his mother Mrs. Helene Olson sang.

On Thursday afternoon, seminary graduate Michael Onstad, Our Saviour's Parish Intern this past year, was the Devotional Leader. Six different lectures were presented as opportunities for those who were not members of the various corporations that were holding their individual annual meetings.

Perhaps the most noteworthy decision made during the conference was the separation of the Missions Corporation into two separate corporations—World Missions Corporation and Home Missions Corporation.

Once again, this annual conference was a blessing and inspiration for those who attended. In addition, one cannot dismiss the joy of fellowshipping with friends one meets from all over the country at these events. On so many levels, then, the conference fulfills the words co-founder of the LFC Sven Oftedal used when he described it as "The great spiritual driving wheel, the annually renewed source of spiritual power."

Submitted by Loiell Dvrud

## Fall Special Meetings



Dr. Brent Olson from the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary will speak at our special meetings this fall!

Mark your calendar for November 5-7, 2021. Dr. Olson will speak Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday morning. He will also give a special presentation on Saturday morning after a pancake breakfast.

## WMF for July

WMF (Women's Missionary Federation) meets on Saturday, July 17, at 9:00 a.m.

Devotions: Kate Elwell

Bible Study: JoyAnn Dahl

Hostesses: Jodi Ayers

Carmen Gustafson

Kathy Renwick

# Building Update!



Our addition was off to a great start, however the month of June has brought some delays to the project due to longer lead times on materials. The windows and siding were all delayed until early July. The roof has been shingled, the first asphalt lift has been laid, pre-rock and fire tapping has also been done. For the month of July, we should be ramping back up as long as we don't have any more delays on material. A big thank you to the decorating committee for all the help in picking the last of the colors for the project. Also please keep in mind the Furnishing Committee as they are hard at work planning the furniture needs of the addition.

—Building Committee



Family Camp evening speaker will be Pastor Wade Mobley from the AFLC schools, and the Mission Speaker will be Pastor Earl Korhonen, Director of AFLC World Missions. Let us know if you are coming by emailing Sonia at [soniaanddon@gmail.com](mailto:soniaanddon@gmail.com) so they will know how many to prepare for.

# Serving the Congregation in June

|                            | Auditors                                       | Greeters                    |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Flowers: Lorraine Sannes   | <u>July 4</u> Jeff Dyrud and Terry Olson       | Dave and Barb Rodahl        |
| Music: Naomi Peterson      | <u>July 11</u> Bob Giffen and Tim Mickelson    | Pete and Deb Carlson        |
| Altar: Sonia B., Ruthie V. | <u>July 18</u> Kyle Lefebvre and Darren Leier  | Mosher Family               |
| Communion: Steve, Jeff     | <u>July 25</u> Glen Arneson and Wayne Peterson | Marlene Lund, Eloda Knutson |

## FLY Advisors E-mail

Troy Dyrdal, 218-686-2027  
tdyrdal67@gmail.com

Dara Dyrdal, 218-686-3976  
daralee77@hotmail.com

Mark Esala, 218-681-4317  
mark.esala@yahoo.com

Janette Esala  
jmesala@yahoo.com

Joel Mattson 218-874-2604  
mattsonjoel.14@gmail.com

Rachel Mattson  
rachelmattson20@gmail.com

## FLY News

### Advisor Meeting July 11

Advisors and officers will meet right after church on July 11 for a planning meeting.

### FLY ONE NIGHT July 7

All are welcome at United in Greenbush for the livestream! 6:00 p.m. supper provided.

### FLY Federation Zoom Meeting

On Friday, July 9 at 7 p.m. there will be a zoom meeting to vote in the 2023 FLY convention officers. This is for advisors to attend and vote. Contact Dara for more information.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Galilee Camps: Family Camp, July 14-18 [galileebiblecampmn.org](http://galileebiblecampmn.org)

FLY ONE NIGHT from the FLY Committee, July 7, 2021

WMF Retreat at Galilee Bible Camp, July 30-31!

## Consider One Another (Pray, Write, Call, Go)

### VALLEY HOME, 523 ARNOLD AVE. S., THIEF RIVER FALLS

*Ed Van De Streek, Carol Halvorson, Gordon Johnson*

### MINNESOTA GREENLEAF, 1006 GREENWOOD ST. E., THIEF RIVER FALLS

*Irene Holmstrom, Jan Olson*

### THIEF RIVER CARE CENTER, 2001 EASTWOOD DR, THIEF RIVER FALLS

*Hulda Sigerud*

### BEEHIVE HOMES OF MOORHEAD, 1006 CADDY AVE. MOORHEAD, MN 56560 ATT: RUBY N

*Ruby Nygard*

Do you know someone connected to our congregation who should be on this list? Call or email Rachel<sup>6</sup> Mattson in the office, 681-4643, oursavioursaflc@mncable.net.

*"[O Lord], do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent."*

**Psalm 71:9**