

THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ronald Voss, Pastor cell: 563-206-4611; land: 563-682-7359

*****September 2021

The Five "Basic Food Groups" of Scripture

Dear Servants of the Christ,

Remember studying the basic food groups when you were in school? Can you still name them??? Fruits and vegetables; carbohydrates or starch; proteins; fats; dairy. I remember learning about these in science class. We were taught the importance of each group; we were taught the great variety in each group; having the right balance between the five groups was emphasized.



Recently I read an article that reviewed the five things we get from reading Scripture. As I read the article, it brought to mind the five basic food groups. As with the food, Scripture is important, in fact, it is vital. Scripture has great variety: people, places, events, miracles, parables, conflict, grace. And Scripture teaches that great balance between law and gospel. Let me share with you the "five basics" I learned from this article.



The **MESSAGE**: What is the LORD speaking to me? From the first chapter of Scripture to the final chapter, the Lord speaks to us. He tells us about the world, the world that He created. He explains how sin entered the world and the horrible resulting consequences. Most of the Old Testament (39 books) is about His plan to "fix" the deadly consequence of that sin by calling Abraham, building a nation, giving them land, giving them a future. And there is the wonderful message of God coming to earth Himself: John 3:16.

The **PROMISES**: What is/does the LORD promise? When we read Scripture, our heads literally spin with the promises from the Lord. His plan begins with a "biggie" to Abraham, recorded in Genesis 12: "I will bless you so that you can be a blessing



Or, how about that beauty from Isaiah 43:1, "I have called you by name, you are mine." Or a favorite, "Lo, I am with you always." And the promises end with that "almost-to-good-to-be-true" utterance from Revelation 21, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, for the former things are passed away."

The **COMMAND**: What is the LORD telling me to do? Anyone can study about the five basic food groups, but the knowledge avails you nothing unless you act on what you learn (in other words, eat right!). The Lord loves us enough to proclaim His story to us, His message. He loves us enough to make and keep promises that only He can declare and keep. But He also loves us enough to tell us how to live. In fact, we even call His initial instructions "The Ten *Commandments*." Jesus preached, He taught, and He commanded: forgive as you have been forgiven; love your neighbor as yourself; turn the other cheek; go the extra mile; let your light shine. You buy a new car or cell phone or appliance. Whatever you purchase comes with an instruction booklet which gives you "commands" to follow so you can make the new purchase work. The Lord wants our lives to "work," hence, the commands.

The **WARNING**: What is the LORD cautioning me about? The moment we take our first step, we enter a world of "cautions and warnings." From prescriptions to slippery sidewalks to maxing out a credit card . . . Be careful, be cautious, be aware. Misuse, ignoring instructions, reckless behavior can have negative, even dire, consequences. For me, personally, one of the most concise and vivid warnings found in Scripture is 1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."



The Message is one of love and grace; the Promises comfort with God's eternal presence; the Commands guide us in wise living; the Warnings daily challenge us to keep our focus on Christ.



The **APPLICATION**: How can I apply the LORD's Word to my daily life? The Olympics ended last month. Think of any participant. At some point in his/her young life, they discovered an interest: in swimming, basketball, track, gymnastics. Doesn't matter the field. But all Olympians have one thing in common: a daily (and I mean daily) regime of exercised, practice, diet, practice, mistakes, practice, aches and pains, practice. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. So ask yourself the question: How do **I** apply the Lord's Word to my daily life?

Daily Scripture, daily prayer, daily read, daily serve, daily read, stumble, fall, hurt, daily read, daily prayer . . . you get the idea. Olympians compete for the gold medal; Jesus has promised YOU the crown of life!

In Christ,

Ron

Thanks to all who donated school supplies to our summer outreach project.



Remember in prayer our missionaries in Madagascar Tsaramana Daniel and Fagnaky Josoa Omena.

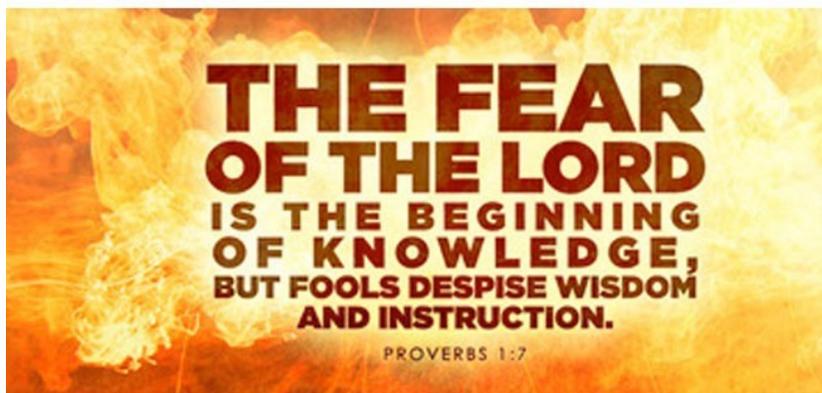
The NALC 2020 Vision: a 10-Point Plan

The NALC is a mission-minded, mission committed church.

The following represents a 2020 Vision for the North American Lutheran Church. The development of this Vision has included input from NALC Staff, Executive Council, Mission District Deans, the NALS President and Board of Regents, and other appropriate parties. This was approved by the NALC Convocation this past August.

This plan supports the Four Core Values of the NALC. It also represents the commitments we are striving to accomplish withing the nest four years. By the year 2023, we see . . .

9. A Church body with the financial strength to support its God-given Vision. Immediate Goal: A Balanced Budget that fully supports the Vision Priorities by 2022. Develop a Vision to inspire and expand financial support. Reduce and refocus current spending allocations wherever possible. Offer a direct challenge to larger congregations and individual donors. Consider a “Ten-Year Anniversary Appeal” in 2020. Communicate opportunities for end-of-life “Legacy Gifts” to the NALC>



The Wise and the Foolish
A nine-session Bible study on Jesus' Discipleship Parables

Join us on Sunday morning, following worship, as we continue this study. All are welcome.

MISSION

Lift high the cross
The love of Christ proclaim
'Til all the world adore
His sacred name.



There is a new, free, online magazine called *Celebrating Global Mission*. Four excellent Lutheran mission ministries write the articles and offer guidance in how to make global mission a greater priority in your life and the life of your church. Check it out at www.cgmmag.com.

Mission Giving for September

NALC General Fund: \$667 (2021 support for this outreach is \$8,000)

Trinity Lutheran, St. Charles, MN, new congregation: \$1,000
Iowa Mission District: \$500

Our 2021 Mission Spending Plan has been expanded to \$24,550, a \$10,000 increase from 2020.



MISSION ENDOWMENT SUNDAY

Mission Endowment Sunday is the 4th Sunday of each month. Donation envelopes will be in the bulletin **September 26**. Use the envelope any time, including as a memorial gift or to honor a special occasion.



This newsletter page is about mission—spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. That happens when we invite locally, when we pray, when we give. Mission and Money are partners. Invite frequently, pray constantly, give generously.

