



# News

## of the Iowa Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church



[www.iowamissiondistrict.com](http://www.iowamissiondistrict.com)

September 2024

### *A Word from the Dean*

#### *Does the Bible really say...?*

There are things that come up in our readings for Sundays that can make us squirm. One of those happened at our church on Sunday. And if it didn't happen for you that day, it's because not all churches use the same set of readings. But for us, these words were read by our lector, "*Wives, submit to your own husbands*". This, of course is only part of one of the verses that were read that morning from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, but I wouldn't be surprised if it is the only phrase in those fourteen verses that was actually heard by anyone. As soon as those words were spoken, anything that came before and anything that came after were immediately forgotten or not heard because of the visceral reaction that this little statement elicited. For the ladies, in particular, it likely raised a hackle or two, while for the men it likely caused their ears to perk up, while at the same time leading them to wonder if they might soon receive a jab in the ribs from a wife or girlfriend.

For a couple days of the week leading up to that Sunday, I even considered preaching about this lesson in my sermon, but decided that it needed to be handled with much more care so that I could be very precise in my selection of words, and also be less likely to be misinterpreted.

The biggest problem with this phrase is that it is always misunderstood (and misapplied) if it is removed from its context. Here are the words that led up to it: "*Give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*" Here is that same word again, "submit", although here Paul advises us to submit to one another, with no mention of gender or status. With a similar meaning, Paul writes in Philippians 2:3, "*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*" Every Christian, especially in community with other Christians ought to live in this fashion, free from selfish ambition or conceit. Instead they are to live in community in love, which

Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, "*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.*"

Having set this context in which everyone is to submit to the other, Paul goes on to say, "*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*" Here we have it, but notice it doesn't end after the word 'husbands', but goes on to say "as to the Lord." This cannot be left out, as it points us to a way in which submission has nothing to do with a person being dominated. He goes on to say, "*For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.*" I don't expect that any of us experiences Jesus' relationship to us as our Lord in which we cower under Him in fear. In fact, it is the very misunderstanding of this verse that has led to depictions of the marital relationship in which the husband is given permission to be a tyrant and in which the wife is required to be his servant.

Paul goes on to explain to husbands their correct role by saying, "*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.*" These words to husbands strike exactly against the idea of a relationship of dominance and subservience. Instead, the marital relationship is described as one of a husband sacrificing for the sake of his wife, and the wife's acceptance of this by respecting him in the role God has given him. And so Paul concludes this by saying, "*Let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*"

Pastor Christopher Staley, Dean,  
Iowa Mission District, NALC



## Loving Away the Hate

*Pastor Barbara Wills  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Northwood, Iowa*

*Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.*

(Genesis 12:1-3)

Our nation is becoming more and more diverse, with people from many different cultures, religions and languages who are American citizens and claim this nation as their own. Unless we can trace our family line back to one of the Native American tribes who lived on this continent before Columbus arrived, we are all immigrants who have migrated from another place or whose families came here from other lands within the past four hundred years. Since our nation was formed, it has been made up of people from diverse locations with varying colors of skin, diverse beliefs, and assorted languages and "world views". Because of our diversity, and because so many of the early settlers to this continent came here to escape prejudice and intolerance for people who thought, spoke, or looked different in one way or another, those who formed the governing documents of this nation—to quote Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address—"brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...."

Given this history, it is puzzling on one level, and heartbreaking on another, that there is so much distrust, prejudice, and even hatred, between various groups of people who have come here to escape these very things in the places from which they have come. As a "military brat", raised in various places in this nation and overseas, and as a military wife who continued to live in many places throughout my husband's Air Force career, I find this even more difficult to comprehend. People who are different are so interesting! People who live in different parts of this nation have ways of speaking and cultural practices that differ from those in other parts of the country—even if they have the same ancestry and religion. People in other parts of the world have a mystique and beauty that differs even more, and from whom we can learn so much. But more than this, those of us who are Christian know that in the beginning the Lord God created all human beings in His own image. One of my dear friends from Madagascar reminds me that there is only one race—the human race. Even in nations where people lack the diversity of color and ancestry we have in our nation, distrust, hatred, and differing beliefs tend to divide people. And in some areas of the world, the continuing conflicts can be traced back thousands of years—even to a common ancestor.

As we lament the hatred that seems to reign supreme in our world, we are reminded that hatred does not have the final word, nor is it the strongest emotion known to humankind. From the beginning of time human beings have turned away from the Lord God to trust their own desires and to strike out at those who threatened their personal sense of autonomy. Cain killed his brother, Abel, because his sacrifice was not accepted by the Lord. (Genesis 4:8-12) Jacob and Esau were estranged from each other because Esau despised his birthright and sold it to his brother, who later tricked him out of their father's blessing as well. (Genesis 25:19-24; Genesis 27) But that's not the end of the story. Although our sin separates us from our Lord and one another, God has continued to love His wayward children and has been working to save and restore us. From His promise to send an offspring of Eve to crush the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15), through the promise to Abraham that from his descendants would come a blessing for all nations, to the fulfillment of that promise in the person of Christ Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Father, who loved the world so much that He sent His Son to save us, we have been shown repeatedly that God's love is more powerful than the hatred that divides us. Calling us to repent and turn to the Lord, sending prophets and faithful men and women to show us how to love and care for one another, God has shown us His love, and made a way for us to return and be restored—to Himself and to one another.

The Apostle Paul, the one chosen by our crucified and risen Lord Jesus to reach out to the Gentiles in fulfillment of that promise to Abraham, wrote to the church in Rome: *Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.* (Romans 13:8-10) And he goes on to explain this love further in his letter to the Corinthians: *Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends....*(ch. 13:4-8a,)

Before His death, our Lord Jesus gave to His disciples—those present then and to us who believe because of their witness—a new commandment: *"Love one another as I have loved you."* (John 15:12b) As we trust our Lord's love for us and put our faith in Him, may we reach out in love to all our neighbors—near and far; similar and diverse—and offer the compassion, grace and forgiveness that we ourselves have received from our Lord Jesus.

# *This and That From Around the Iowa Mission District*



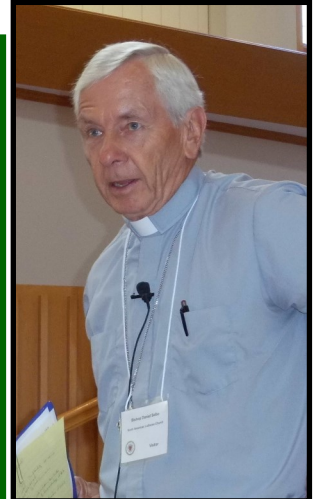
*Pastor Amy Little, NALC General Secretary, during her visit to the Iowa Mission District Convocation in September 2023*

## **NALC Online Convocation August 9, 2024**

The NALC online convocation was held the evening of August 9th. The main purpose of the online convocation is to provide a means for adopting the annual budget, electing members of the NALC Council and various boards, and conducting other necessary business that requires attention before the next biennial, in-person, Convocation. The full reports and videos from the convocation are available on the NALC website: <https://thenalc.org/2024-lutheran-week-archive/>.

One important announcement was the new address of the NALC offices in Texas. All correspondence and donations may now be sent to:

**North American Lutheran Church**  
2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309  
PMB 409  
Bedford, TX 76021-4703



*NALC Bishop Dan Selbo taken during his visit to the Iowa Mission District Convocation in September 2021.*

As most of you may be aware, Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls was scheduled to have their second vote to leave the ELCA on August 28th. The vote to leave passed by 92%. They also voted to join the NALC. That vote passed by 91%.



At our Iowa Mission District convocation on September 21st, we would like to Stuff The Truck (and trailer) with supplies needed for Disaster Response. We also want to Fill The Tonka with gift cards used to support Disaster Response. Please refer to the “**What’s in a kit?**” link below for the listing of items needed to Stuff The Truck and the listing of gift cards needed to Fill The Tonka. If you have any questions about the items/gift cards, you can reach out to your congregation’s Women of the NALC contact or to me.

*Betty Burkhalter*  
*Disaster Response Coordinator*

**What’s in a kit? Here is the link to the listing from the Iowa Mission District website:**

[https://www.iowamissiondistrict.com/files/ugd/ad840e\\_e763a7b9d43948c2abbc56ce05764107.pdf](https://www.iowamissiondistrict.com/files/ugd/ad840e_e763a7b9d43948c2abbc56ce05764107.pdf)





## Pondering the Parables: What Kind of Leaven?

*Jesus said to [the disciples], “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “We brought no bread.” But Jesus, aware of this, said, “O men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets you gathered? How is it that you fail to perceive that I did not speak about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (Matthew 16:6-12)*

*And again [Jesus] said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” (Luke 13:2—21)*

In His teaching, our Lord Jesus employed both metaphors and parables—using the things of daily life to reveal heavenly truths. A metaphor is shorter than a parable, using one thing to describe another. Parables go beyond that, using a story which may have several layers of meaning or that may be interpreted differently by each person who hears it. In the first passage above, Jesus uses a metaphor about leaven to describe teaching. At another time, He uses a parable to describe the Kingdom of God, comparing the Kingdom to leaven. While these two passages are focused on different things, each has a connection to leaven. As we ponder the differences between the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees and God’s Kingdom, we may find a connection between them and a deeper understanding of our Lord and His message to us.

In the ancient world, leaven was used daily in every home—mixed with flour, oil and probably some water or milk, the dough kneaded carefully, allowed to rise for a time, and then baked into rounded loaves of bread. In our modern world with store shelves filled with every size, shape, and variety of bread, many people may have no idea what leaven is or how it is used to make bread. There are leavening agents such as baking powder and baking soda that can be used to make “quick” breads (biscuits, muffins, corn bread, etc.). But yeast is the leaven used in raised bread—we can buy it ready-to-use in packages, but in ancient times it was derived from fermentation—most likely from the milk of sheep and goats and used as modern sour dough is used, mixing a small portion of dough from a previous batch of bread into the new batch and allowed to rise until it reached the desired size (which could take at least an hour or more) and then the loaf was baked. The heat used to bake the loaves would have killed the organisms in the dough and stopped the growth process.

When Jesus spoke of leaven in the passages of Scripture above, He was speaking of growth. One idea that might have come to mind was that of something that grows slowly but which will continue to grow unless stopped by some sort of intervention. The other obvious conclusion was that the source of this growth was mysterious and hidden. No one knew that the growth was caused by microbial organisms that were reproducing. What they did know was that the growth was slow and not always obvious. The growth may be something that will bring harm and which needs to be stopped—or it might bring hope and be something to be encouraged.

In the parable about teaching, Jesus is issuing a warning. The Pharisees and Sadducees differed from one another on several theological issues, but what they had in common was a very self-centered emphasis on rigid obedience to the letter of the Law. They were concerned about appearing holy, making a show of their strict adherence to the commandments, and exhibited a harsh judgmentalism that condemned those who didn’t adhere to their ideas, and which was lacking in compassion and mercy. When Jesus would heal on the Sabbath, they condemned him—unconcerned for the suffering of those who had been in need. The “leaven” they “mixed into” their teachings would lead to this kind of attitude in those who followed them. Instead of loving the Lord with all their hearts and walking humbly before Him, they loved themselves and walked proudly among the people, flaunting their supposed righteousness.

On the other hand, Jesus came to bring in the Kingdom of God—a Kingdom different from the kingdoms of the world where leaders lorded it over their citizens and oppressed them. God’s Kingdom is hidden, not obvious to those not looking for it. Unlike the kingdoms of the world which often stifle life, the Kingdom of God promotes life—life in all its fullness here and Life with the Lord for eternity. In God’s Kingdom, those in authority are under the authority of the Lord, and they are called to love and serve others. Love for the Lord first, and out of that greatest of all loves, the love for others grows and flourishes. This Kingdom has no geographical limitations, and there are no boundaries of nationality, age, or class. God’s Kingdom grows slowly and may not always be obvious, but it is the strongest and most profound of all kingdoms, and it has no end. It will continue to grow, despite the failure of its citizens, and will come to completion when its Lord, Christ Jesus—the King of kings and Lord of lords—comes in the fullness of time to rule for eternity.

*Pastor Barbara M. Wills*

# Announcements

## Upcoming Events

**September 21, 2024—Iowa Mission District Convocation**—St. John, Western Douglas  
**September 28, 2024—Iowa Mission District Council Meeting**—Cabin Coffee, Mason City  
**July 27—August 3, 2025—Iowa Mission District Youth Trip**—destination TBD  
**August 3-8, 2025—NALC Luther Week**—Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburg, PA

## Please Pray for:

**Pastor James Puotyal** who is awaiting a kidney donor.

When sending **correspondence and donations** to the NALC please use the following address:

North American Lutheran Church  
2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309  
PMB 409  
Bedford, TX 76021-4703

*Donations to NALS, Disaster Relief, Great Commission Society, etc. are to be made out to the NALC with the specific fund written on the memo line of your check.*

## Donations and Correspondence

Checks sent to the Mission District for support should be made out to the *Iowa Mission District, NALC*, and mailed to Pastor Gary Burkhalter at **312 E. Mission St., Strawberry Point, IA 52076.**

Correspondence for Pastor Solveig Zamzow, Mission District Secretary, should be sent to **619 Elm Avenue, #309, Story City, IA 50248**

Items for the Mission District newsletter (pictures, news, etc.) are best sent via e-mail to Pastor Barbara Wills at [barbaramwills@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramwills@gmail.com).

## Pastors available for pulpit supply:

Pastor Kristine Dohrmann—515-802-2539  
Pastor Natacha Kemp—507-785-0412  
Pastor Jack Miller—507-798-2408  
Pastor Mike Wikstrom—480-203-1556  
Pastor Solveig Zamzow—641-903-9416



Pastor Tim Nappe is also available for pulpit supply. His primary focus is his ministry with “Reaching the Unreached”, and he will share information about this mission work whenever he does pulpit supply for a congregation. Contact information: 712-331-4245. Or email at [pastortim.milford@gmail.com](mailto:pastortim.milford@gmail.com)

## Mission District Pulpit-Supply Guidelines

In October of 2022, the Mission District Council voted to recommend that congregations pay a visiting pastor \$200 for a worship service in addition to the current IRS mileage rate. At a subsequent meeting, we also decided to recommend that congregations do the same for a visiting pastor who performs a wedding or a funeral. Any honorarium that the family might want to give to the pastor would not be deducted from this, as the pastor is providing a service to the congregation. We also recommend that a congregation which has more than one worship service in a day, pay an additional \$50 to the pastor for each additional service. (The current IRS rate is \$0.67 per mile, but changes nearly every year.)



## *Congregations of the Iowa Mission District*

Ackley: **Our Saviour's**, Dan Buhs, Lay Minister  
Avoca: **Trinity**, Pastor Matthew Bahnfleth  
Badger: **Badger Lutheran**, Pr. Scott Meier  
Boyden: **St. John**, Pr. Jeremy Winter  
Des Moines: **Unity Evangelical Lutheran**,  
Pr. Donna Joseph; Pr. Diane Joseph  
Dorchester: **Waterloo Ridge**, Pr. James Glesne  
Eagle Grove: **Evangelical Lutheran**, Pr. Jason Cooper  
Eagle Grove: **Samuel Lutheran**, Call Process  
Ellsworth: **Trinity**, Pastor Jon Rollefson  
Emmons, MN: **Emmons**, Call Process  
Gilmore City: **First**, Tracy Nerem, Lay Minister  
Grafton: **Emmanuel**, Call Process  
Greene: **St. John, Vilmar**, Pr. Tamara Keen  
Gunder: **Marion**, Pr. Marshall Hahn  
Harlan: **Bethlehem**, Pr. Ronald Rasmussen  
+Huxley: **Shepherd of the Prairie**,  
Scott Licht, Lay Minister  
Irwin: **St. Paul**, Pr. Ronald Rasmussen  
Laurens: **Bethany**, Pr. David Klappenbach  
LeMars: **St. John**, Pr. Steven Broers  
Manchester: **First**, Call Process  
Monona, **Faith**: Pr. Mel Harris  
Northwood: **Peace**, Pr. Barbara Wills  
+ Osage: **First Grace Lutheran Church**  
Palmer: **St. John's Lizard Township**,  
Marlene Nimke, Lay Minister  
Plainfield: **St. John, Western Douglas**, Call Process  
Readlyn: **St. Matthew**, Pr. Jean Rabary  
Readlyn: **Zion**, Pr. Jean Rabary  
Robins: **Servants of Christ**, Pr. Ronald Voss  
+Rochester, MN: **Emmanuel**—Pr. Khrystle Sullivan  
Ruthven: **Zion**, Eric Patten, Lay Minister  
St. Ansgar: **First**, Pr. Christopher Staley  
+ St. Charles, MN: **Trinity**, Pr. Douglas Hedman  
St. Olaf: **Norway**, Pr. Marshall Hahn  
Sheldon: **St. Paul**, Pr. John Jensen, Interim  
Spencer: **Trinity**, Pr. Renae Behrends  
Strawberry Pt.: **Mission in Christ**, Call Process  
Thor: **Ullensvang**, Pr. Darryl Landsverk  
Waterville: **Old East Paint Creek**, Pr. Ken Kimball  
Waukon: **Old West Paint Creek**, Pr. Ken Kimball

+ indicates mission congregation

## Iowa Mission District Leadership

Pastor Christopher Staley, Dean  
[cbstaley@netins.net](mailto:cbstaley@netins.net)  
Pastor Solveig Zamzow, Secretary  
[solveigzamzow@gmail.com](mailto:solveigzamzow@gmail.com)  
Pastor Burkhalter, Treasurer  
[pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com](mailto:pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com)

### Mission District Council Members:

Pastor David Klappenbach  
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Pastor Doug Hedman  
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Dean Armstrong  
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### Disaster Response Coordinator

Betty Burkhalter  
[bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com](mailto:bettyburkhalter@hotmail.com)

### Mission District Registrar

Kathy Scharnhorst  
[kscharnhorst51@gmail.com](mailto:kscharnhorst51@gmail.com)

### Mission District Website Administrator

Pastor Gary Burkhalter  
[pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com](mailto:pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com)

### Mission District Youth Trip Coordinator

Alana DeMoss  
[fivekidscrazy@outlook.com](mailto:fivekidscrazy@outlook.com)

### Mission District Communicator/Newsletter Editor

Pastor Barbara Wills  
[barbaramwills@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramwills@gmail.com)

*The Iowa Mission District  
has 39 congregations.*

*The Iowa Mission District website may be found  
at: [www.iowamissiondistrict.com](http://www.iowamissiondistrict.com).*

# Iowa Mission District Convocation Registration

**Saturday, September 21, 2024**

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Western Douglas,  
1760 130<sup>th</sup> Street, Plainfield Iowa 50666**

The 2024 annual Convocation of the Iowa Mission District will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church, Western Douglas, Plainfield. Iowa, on Saturday, September 21, 2024. Our theme is "Love" from 1 Corinthians 13:13 *"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* We are pleased to have the Reverend David Keehner, the North American Lutheran Church Director of Renewal & Discipleship, as our keynote speaker. The Convocation is our opportunity to gather as brothers and sisters in Christ for the purpose of fellowship, worship, learning and sharing of ideas and to hear up-dates on the work and mission of the NALC. We also will have a business session to conduct the necessary business of the Mission District. As you prepare for the convocation, please be thinking of nominations for *Iowa Mission District Treasurer*, one *Lay Representative* and one *Clergy Representative* to the Mission District Council. Each is for a three-year term. Also needed is a *Clergy Representative* to serve one year, the final year of a three-year term that is vacant since Pastor Ryan Henkel has accepted a call to another Mission District. A nomination form is included in this month's Iowa Mission District News. Please get permission from the nominees before submitting their names. The nominees will need to complete the nomination form and mail it to Mission District Secretary, Pastor Solveig Zamzow (619 Elm Avenue, #309, Story City, IA 50248).

**Please Note:** According to Article 4.01 of the IA- MD Constitution: *"Delegates with voting privileges at a Convocation shall be the ordained ministers of the NALC within the territory of this Mission District and [two] lay delegates from the member congregations"*. In addition, we strongly encourage congregational participation beyond the delegates—visitors are welcome! There is no cost for the event other than a free-will offering for lunch. A worship offering will also be taken and designated to the NALC Disaster Relief. The day will begin at 8:00 am with registration and a time for fellowship with coffee and refreshments. A service of Holy Communion will begin at 9:00, and the closing of the convocation will be at 3:45 pm.

Junior High and High School youth are also encouraged to attend the convocation. It is hoped that we can have youth attendees on a regular basis to promote their interest and involvement in the Church beyond their home congregations.

To help with planning, and so that we may have appropriate name tags for **delegates and visitors**, we ask that you fill out the registration form below and mail to **Kathy Scharnhorst, Registrar, at 1594 Garden Avenue, Waverly, IA 50677**. It is most helpful in keeping track of registrations if each person being registered is listed on a separate sheet. If you wish to submit your registrations via email, please fill out the form and send the information as an attachment to **kscharnhorst51@gmail.com**.

*(Please fill out a separate form for each person.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and/or email: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation & Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Clergy \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_\_

## Biographical Information of Nominee

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position for which you are being nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Member at: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us something about yourself (*family, hobbies, etc.*)

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How do you understand your faith?

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How have you been active in the church?

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Please list one of your favorite Bible verses and tell why it has meaning for you.

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Please sign below to indicate you are willing to serve if elected and mail this completed form to:

*Pr. Solveig Zamzow, Secretary Iowa Mission District, NALC  
619 Elm Avenue, #309  
Story City, IA 50248*

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Signature