



How are you called?

In Ephesian 4:11-12 we read, "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Paul's letter to the Ephesians speaks to the calling of people in different capacities to prepare and equip others for the work of ministry. We may not be called to be a Minister of Word and Sacrament, but we are all called and are all ministers in other ways. We share in many ways the gifts of the Spirit and the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. This sharing is ministry. Our sharing and actions show our faith in action. When we give of ourselves, working together, we are responding to the one calling we all receive: to offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God for our Salvation. Giving of your time, talents, and gifts at Samuel Lutheran Church and in your community may be God's calling for you. How are you called?

What are your gifts in this ministry?

The Hibiscus flower carries deep symbolism in various cultures. Typically, they symbolize youth, beauty, success, glory and femininity. In Hawaiian tradition, they are a symbol of hospitality.

I would like to suggest that this flower evoke thoughts of the beauty and glory embodied by our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Samuel Lutheran Church August Newsletter



Spiritual Growth

Carolyn Rastrelli

WNALC



As summer weather and vacation season is in full swing, I pray everyone is staying safe and healthy. Our Women's Council is quite busy preparing for this year's virtual auction and Gathering.

The theme for our Gathering is "Christ's Love Compels Us" and I would like to briefly touch on a few pertinent scriptures. The most obvious one is, of course, The Great Commission. Matthew records it in chapter 28. (16) Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. (17) And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. (18) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mark chapter 16 says (14) Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. (15) And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (16) Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (17) And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; (18) they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." (19) So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. (20) And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

The message is clear: we are to follow Christ, loving one another and spreading the Good News of His victory over death.

Please join us on Zoom August 6th for the virtual Gathering where we will discuss more of God's word on the subject!



The old place looks pretty good...



**A HUGE
THANK YOU!**
to Darron &
Denise Baker



You always make our church **BEAUTIFUL!**



2024

**'Stuff the Truck'
Samuel focus:
Flood Buckets**

NEEDED ITEMS

- 5 Gallon bucket w/ lid
- ½ gal bleach
- 3 black trash bags
- 1 roll of paper towels
- Cleaning liquid (Pine Sol, Murphy's, etc.)
- Comet or scouring cleanser
- Scrub brush
- N-95 masks
- Gloves (lg Platex reusable)
- Rags/sponges

Please bring donations to the church.
They will be taken to the Iowa Mission District
Convocation in September



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



This year's NALC convocation is being held ONLINE

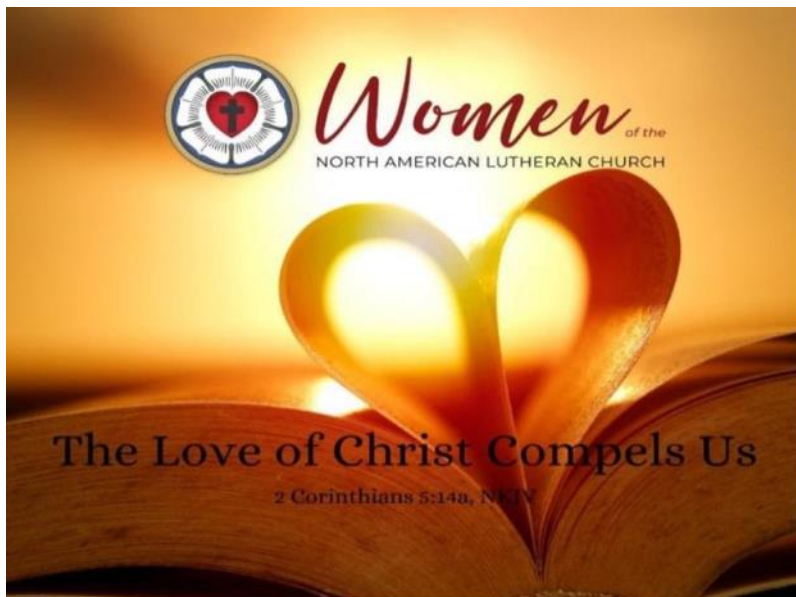
August 9, 5:00pm -8:00pm

Samuel's Delegates are Richard and Marge Brown
and Steve and Kerry Elston

However, when it is online, **ANYONE** can watch

Please let Kerry know if you are interested

And she can get you registered to watch online



The WNALC is encouraging all ladies of the
congregation to watch this year's annual
meeting on August 6, 2024

2:00pm—4:00pm

Please let Kerry know if you are interested

And she can get you registered to watch online



August 1 ~ Jason Thomason

August 2 ~ Benson Baker

August 8 ~ Marlene Kleppe

August 12 ~ Evelyn Jacobson

August 16 ~

Ben Demuth

Lorraine Jacobs

Jaxon Morgan

August 18 ~

Darron Baker

Kristi Trausch

Lucile Wagner

August 19 ~ Pastor Paul Stone

August 21 ~ Derrick Linn

August 27 ~ Marshall O'Connor

Becky Ramsey

August 29 ~ Tytan Kleppe

Judy Thompson

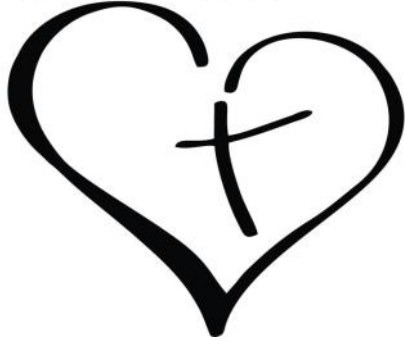
August 30 ~ Alan Pohlman

August 31 ~

Mack Morgan

Austin Rutherford

Samuel Lutheran
has indeed been
Blessed



Council Highlights:

We have indeed been blessed at Samuel with inheritance money that has been invested.

The Samuel Lutheran Church Council feels we have a great opportunity to be good stewards and we have the means to help others in need.

Our local Meals on Wheels program has recently been told that their funding from the government will be cut by \$14000 for the next fiscal year. The Concerned Inc committee will be meeting to figure out how to deal with the cut in funding. It was suggested that Eagle Grove only have meal delivery 3 days a week instead of 5 days a week. This suggestion doesn't seem viable. There are many people who receive meals on wheels that this is their main source of a meal.

Samuel has helped with needs in the past. Council agreed to donate \$2500 in hopes to keep meals on wheels delivered 5 days a week until the committee comes up with a solution. The James R Johnson Trust is matching that amount. So that is \$5000 and hopefully enough to sustain for several months.

Council also discussed that

Samuel has been made aware that the Lotus House Women's Homeless shelter is in need of supplies. Their shelter is full.

The Beacon of Hope has also stated that they are short on supplies during these summer months.

The Church of Damascus Road is needing items to assist some men who are transitioning. These are all local charities we support, so the Council voted to donate \$1000 to each.

Next, Council voted to again this year support the Eagle Grove Backpack program through the Eagle Grove Mama Cats PTO.

A Check for \$350 will be given to purchase 10 backpacks. These backpacks will be given to students at the beginning of the year who don't have the supplies necessary to start the year.

For the past several years, Samuel has supported the NALC Disaster Relief program. This year their suggested focus is on flood buckets. Council approved purchasing supplies to fill 10 flood buckets. These buckets will be taken to the Disaster Relief truck in September at the Iowa Mission District Convocation. It is my hope that members of Samuel will also contribute to filling flood buckets with supplies. I figured out it takes about \$38 to fill a flood bucket. Your donations can be given until the beginning of September.

And lastly, from the Church Council meeting, last week I received a letter from Don Ray Petroleum in regards to our oil wells that were gifted to us from Kenny Anderson. The letter stated that oil well Grace#37 is no longer viable and they would be dissolving the well. I had a chance to visit with the manager overseeing this well. He told me that he was friends with Kenny Anderson and helped him set up this investment. Kenny gifted Samuel 4 wells. Each well was part of a Joint Venture with 38 other investors. Apparently, the 3 of the wells dissolved around 10 years ago. So the only well we have had is Grace#37. The paperwork stated that this well has not made good money for years. It is even running at a deficit of \$25000. So the decision was made to dissolve this well. The estimate to plug the well and restore the land cost approximately \$75000. The good news is, Don Ray Petroleum will assume all costs associated with dissolving this well. So there is no cost to us. So at this point, we are no longer owners of oil wells. This investment has been very good to us at Samuel, and we are very grateful that Samuel was part of Kenny's generosity when he passed.

*Just like many of you, Samuel received damage from the hail storm,
and also we had water in the basement.*

A contractor has assessed the damage to the roof, the eve spouts and downspouts, and the windows. The damage was significant, and the roof, the gutters and the downspouts need to be replaced. I have been in contact with the insurance company, and at first they were just going to handle it on the phone. But I just learned that because of the amount of damage, an adjustor will be coming in person to also assess the damage. The amount of damage was estimated to be around \$38,000.

The basement also had water from the rains the next night. Thank you to Steve, Drew, Tim, and Dale for coming right away to pump out the water. There doesn't seem to be any damage. Thank you to Drew for setting up two dehumidifiers. And also thank you to Drew and Paul Tokheim for loaning us fans to dry out the wet spots. I will keep you informed on the progress of the roof replacement.

On July 18th, members of Samuel met with the Dean of the Iowa Mission District. His name is Pastor Christopher Staley, he is from St. Ansgar Iowa. Present at the meeting were the Deacons Dale Baack and Paul Tokheim. Trustee Andrew Wagner. And the Call Committee members Mark Ketchum, Boone Morgan, Richard Brown and Kerry Elston—SLC President.

The first half of the meeting we discussed with Pastor Staley the history of Samuel. We talked about our joint relationship with Holmes Lutheran and the issues that were present that resulted in separating from Holmes.

We talked about the first 6 months of being in the call process and the efforts that were taken to secure someone to serve Samuel.

We talked about our conversations with Evangelical Lutheran. At the time, Evangelical was only interested in merging churches and we weren't ready to do that yet.

Then the Lord answered prayers and brought Pastor Paul to us.

Pastor we are so very thankful that you were willing to give us 5 years.

And so here we are, thinking ahead to June of 2025.

Pastor Staley is going to do some work on his end, continuing to remember our needs.

He will promote Samuel to possible lay ministers, supply pastors, or retired pastors.

He is going to begin a conversation with Pastor Jason Cooper at Evangelical and see if we can open the lines of communication again.

He is also going to have a conversation with Pastor Daryll Landsverk at Ullensvang in Thor so see if they are open to work with Samuel.

At the end, our discussions shifted to Samuel's future.

We know that we are limited - a part time pastor in rural Iowa.

We know that we are going to need to be creative.

We know that we are going to have to be flexible.

And we know that CHANGE is coming

and we are going to have to be willing to adapt to change.

In the meantime, we all need to do our part.

First and foremost, prayer.

I truly believe in the power of prayer. I believe that is what led Pastor Stone to us.

Please keep Samuel in your prayers.

Pray that the Lord will be our leader us on this journey.

Please don't be shy, if you have ideas, we would love to hear them. We need to be proactive in how we keep the doors of Samuel open. It starts with conversations. Talk to each other. Talk to your friends, your relatives, neighbors, the person behind you at the grocery store. Maybe someone knows someone, who knows someone, who has a possibility that will help.

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