



Pastor Aaron's Post-It

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has been noted by some historians as the mainspring of history. Resurrection, by sheer name, is a transformative experience and occurrence. Because of Christ's resurrection, we rise as well (see Rom. 6:5) - even today.

The world around us and even our own lives can sometimes seem to be anything but resurrected. Do we move quickly from Resurrection Sunday to marginal Monday? Can the truth of Christ's resurrection change us and the world?

And *how* does resurrection happen for us today as believers, even as we wait for our final resurrection? Please consider how Jesus Christ gives us that resurrection power that can transcend the death and discouragement of our world today.

- *Our sins are truly forgiven b/c what Jesus accomplished is true (1 Cor. 15:17)*
- *You are no longer condemned (Rom. 8:34)*
- *Jesus's personal fellowship and protection for all time (Matt. 28:20)*
- *We will have a resurrection from the dead on day - and that is hopeful! (Rom. 8:11)*

ABC of the Dakotas North East Christian University Initiative

When God is moving, it is usually a good idea to follow Him, wherever that may lead. And God is moving in northeast Nagaland with the faculty and students of NECU. After coming back last month from India, your executive minister, Rev. Dr. Aaron Kilbourn began sharing what is happening in Nagaland with local congregations in the Dakotas. The ABCD region has chosen to help NECU with supportive, needs-based scholar-



NECU 7th Foundation Day Choir

ships for students in Nagaland to attend North East Christian University. Each scholarship is \$800 that covers most tuition costs for an entire year. Several churches and individuals have already agreed to partner and support these students and, at the same time, receiving correspondence from the NECU students when they begin their enrollment.

Because NECU is growing at a wonderful rate over the last three years, there is also a

need for physical space to house students and support for new faculty who need to be added to the increasing student body.

The education that NECU students are receiving is meant to be more than creating a solid career path but also for equipping students to be salt and light in the country of India and beyond.



The growing NECU student body

Talking with several students from NECU, they each share their concerns about living and working in a challenging world that can be hostile to the Gospel, but what far eclipses that concern is the concern they have for people to come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The hope is that our churches in the Dakotas will not only sponsor students but to build lasting relationships that will have an eternal impact. For more information on how to help, please contact the ABCD region office at 605-575-2071 or email: abcdakaaron@gmail.com

Region Pastors Meet for FFF

On Tuesday, April 16th at noon our central and southeast region pastors will be meeting for Fellowship, Foundation, and Formation in Chamberlain at Upper Crust Pizza & Wings. See you there pastors!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG](http://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!



Camp Judson Steering Committee and Camp Report

The next big event in the life of our fund-raising campaign is the “Celebration and Fund-Raiser” dinner at the First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls at 5:00 P.M, on the 20th of April. The planning committee has been working hard on this event and with the enthusiasm that we are seeing – it should be a good one!

There will be a chance for everyone to mingle and view silent auction and raffle items before the dinner. A program celebrating the progress of our campaign will follow our meal and if everything falls into place, we will have one of the most entertaining auctioneers you will ever see bring top dollar for our auction items.

If you haven't made your reservations yet, please do it soon! Tickets are going fast. You may call (605) 575-2071 or scan the QR code on the attached flyer to make your reservations. This should be a wonderful evening!

Between winter camps and retreats, Tracy and Dani are busy hiring staff, coordinating camp registrations, and readying buildings and grounds in preparation for the summer camping season. All of this is being done while.

keeping a watchful eye on the mailbox as they wait patiently for building permits to arrive for the new Roger Williams Lodge. Hiring contractors continues to be a struggle – just as it is for everyone trying to get projects built in the Black Hills area. There is a huge demand for construction work, but only a limited number of contractors with experience to undertake a project of this size and scope.

Continue to pray that Tracy and the Camp Board find and contract firms that can move rapidly and efficiently to complete the construction of our new building. Only By His Grace,

Judy Waldman & Ken Wrede
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs



Pastor's Corner with Luis Coca, Jr.

Each month, some time will be taken to get to know our ABCD region pastors. This month, we get to know a little more about Luis Coca, pastor of First Baptist Church in Fargo, ND. Luis was willing to answer a few questions about who he is and what makes her tick:

1. Who in the Bible would you like to meet? A. The Apostle Paul because I identify with him
2. What is your favorite part of ministry? A. Visiting people, helping them, reaching out to people
3. Family? A. Wife - Janice, son - Luis III, daughter - Kristi, 5 grandkids, and 33 foster kids
4. Originally from? A: Belleville, IL
5. Favorite food? A. Ice Cream

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Pastor's Corner with Luis Coca

6. A favorite Bible verse?

A. John 15:13-14, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."

7. How have you seen God working recently? A. I feel God has called me to my church and God is working to get things turned around.

8. A favorite movie?

A. *The Hill*

9. Favorite book of Scripture and why?

A. The Gospel of John - so much about what Jesus has done and what He accomplished. A good starting point for everyone.

10. What motivates you? A. The desire to stay busy and to help others. It's been my experience that the more you give the more you are spiritually blessed. Missions is #1 to me.

Thank you for letting us get to know you and your faith a little more, Luis! God bless you, your family, and your ministry - in Jesus's name!

Be sure to watch next month for our next ABCD pastor. It could be yours!



“They said he will **never** walk and he ran... How many more **miracles** do you need?”

Bentley Broadcast and Giving Hearts

As we prepare for the 2024 camping season, we continue to pray for the staffing needs at Camp Bentley. The ELCA churches recently surveyed their pastors and found that 40% had worked on camp summer staff. While I don't have ABC data to back me up, I would think a survey of our pastors and lay leaders would show similar results. Camp is a place where faithful leaders are built, according to the survey. The skills of leadership, resiliency, and character are built at camp. Camp is both a challenging and rewarding place to serve, grow in faith and discern life direction. Camp Bentley was central to recognizing my own call to service and building leadership skills. As I watch my own young adult sons discern their calls in life, Camp Bentley continues to influence their faith and career direction. They have both served on camp staff for multiple summers and have grown into leaders for the Church. Please keep Camp Bentley in your prayers, especially our need for managers and cooks. New online registration is working and ready to register campers. We are ready and waiting to see what God will do this year.

God was faithful to us on Giving Heart



Here and There

This past month of March, your executive minister spent time connecting with other ABC Executive Ministers in Orlando, FL at the National Leadership Conference and also the ABC Prairie Pastors Conference in Omaha, NE.

Along with helping with ordination and pastoral candidacy, I've also spent time in conversation with a Latino church planter who is considering pastoring in the Dakotas.

In regard to the NECU (North East Christian University) scholarship initiative, several churches and individuals have responded with financial help and a desire to connect with NECU students in Nagaland, India. Please pray about your part in what God is doing!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HTTP://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG](http://ABC-DAKOTAS.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!



Region Opportunities

This month and in April, there will be opportunities for our ABCD region pastors to learn, sharpen, and refresh. Some of these opportunities are:

FFF - Fellowship, Foundation, and Formation for pastors

When: Tuesday, April 16th at noon
Who: Our central and southeast region pastors
Where: Chamberlain, SD at Upper Crust Pizza & Wings.
Come for a good and enriching time with other pastors

PASTORS PLEASE NOTE!

The ABCD Pastor's Retreat that was scheduled for April 3-5 at Camp Judson has been moved to October 2-4th. There seems to be a greater availability by pastors to come at that time. Registration for the October retreat will be available at: <https://abc-dakotas.org/region/abcd-pastors-retreat-registration>. Thank you!

ABC Youth Gathering for Conference at YMCA of the Rockies

Mountain and Prairie Youth Conference

Register for MPYC

You can scan the QR code to access the MPYC website where you will find information about registration and access important forms. You will also be able to find information about speakers, music, and activities as it is released.

Jonathan Malone
Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone has served churches in Dayton, Ohio, Bryn Mawr, PA, and East Greenwich, Rhode Island. He recently published, *A Peculiar Church: Practicing Baptist Theology*. He and his wife Rebekah have four boys who take up the majority of both of their free time. When he can sneak away, Jonathan loves playing the bassoon in a number of different musical ensembles. Dr. Malone currently leads hikes and backpacking trips through Wilderness Journeys (www.wildernessjourneys.org), bringing people into the wilderness to encounter the divine in a profound and powerful way.

YMCA of the Rockies
Estes Park, Colorado

June 6-10 2024

ROOTED IN THE WORD



A Time to Pray

Each month, we will feature prayers concerning our ministries in the Dakotas that we can offer to God, knowing that we can, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." - Rom. 12:12

- Pray for our churches and pastors as they communicate the hope of the cross and resurrection
- Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world facing persecution for their faith
- Pray for our camp ministries as they prepare for the spring and summer seasons
- Pray for our pastors and churches strength in witness and practice
- Pray for our Administrative Assistant, Kim Aalberg, as she recovers from wrist surgery
- Please pray for believers to use discernment and wisdom as we are "in this world and not of it."
- Please pray for the love of Jesus Christ to continue to grow in our churches so that the world may witness the goodness of God

Save the Date

CAMP JUDSON CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

APRIL 20, 2024

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH · SIOUX FALLS, SD
Celebrating 100 Years of God's Faithfulness

GET YOUR CAMP JUDSON CELEBRATION BANQUET TICKETS HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.ZEFFY.COM/EN-US/TICKETING/C56373E9-97E8-4562-BDC0-A890346DA3D0](https://www.zeffy.com/en-us/ticketing/C56373E9-97E8-4562-BDC0-A890346DA3D0)



Camp Judson

CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

APRIL 20 • 5 p.m.

DINNER • PROGRAM • SILENT AUCTION

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1401 S COVELL AVE
SIOUX FALLS, SD

tickets

SCAN QR CODE OR
CALL 605-575-2071



SEATS ARE LIMITED! RESERVE BY APRIL 8

Note: If you prefer not to pay the suggested
online service fee, please select "Other"
