

# WOMEN OF THE NALC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2014

Volume 1, Issue 2

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This newsletter is intended to share information about Women of the NALC with the women in our congregations. Please make additional copies and give them to the leaders in your women's groups/ministries. Thank you.  
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Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we move forward into a new year, let's take a moment to give thanks for all that our heavenly Father has done through us in 2013. Let us be thankful for new members in our congregations, for those that have died and what their lives had meant to us and our church; for our missions (local, national, and international); and for the love we have for each other because of the love and grace He has given us. As the NALC grows, let us continue to be a helping hand to those churches as they go through their transition.

As stated in the December newsletter, the Women's Council of the WNALC promises to help you in any way we can with the direction you feel that God is calling you to go. That help can be obtained by calling upon your mission district contacts or contacting us through our website. Through the collaboration of many different experiences and ideas within the council, it is our goal to find the help that you need. So, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The women's bible study group at my church is reading *Women of the Torah* by Stephen J. Binz. It has opened my eyes to the role of women in not only the Old Testament but also what our role should be now. We are the daughters of Eve, whose name means life, whose transgression cast her out of the Garden of Eden with her husband, Adam. Like her, we all have made wrong choices, but God will have compassion on us and always be there to guide us back to him, just as He did for Adam and Eve. It is always our choice to listen or not. Let us become the creation that God wants us to be. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, let us find what our purpose is in this world and work towards fulfilling that goal. Let us lead our children to become disciples for the Lord by giving them an example to follow. Let us at all times give Him all honor and glory.

May God's peace be with you always,  
Jessie Phillips, Co-chair, Women's Council of the WNALC

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## 2014 WOMEN OF THE NALC ANNUAL GATHERING

During the Theological Conference for the NALC on July 23, 2014 held at The Citadel in South Carolina, the Women of the NALC will hold their Annual Gathering. This year's theme is "We Are His Workmanship: Sharing our Success". This gathering is open to all women who are members of NALC churches as well as women who are members of LutheranCORE, and our NALC Sisters in Christ from Canada. During the day, we will encourage the women attending to share the stories of how God has brought success to their women's groups as well as receive encouragement and ideas to take home with them. This year will be a time to not only hear from speakers, but have time to engage in fellowship with their Sisters in Christ throughout the US and Canada. If you would like to have your women's group's story highlighted during the Annual Gathering please email Karen Hansen at [butlerhansen@hotmail.com](mailto:butlerhansen@hotmail.com) or send your information via mail to Karen Hansen, 3018 Dublin Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. Additional information regarding price, schedule and other details will be available this Spring.

## 2013-2014 WOMEN OF THE NALC – WOMEN’S COUNCIL

Karen Hansen (Co-Chair)

80 Paloma Heights, Colorado Springs, CO 80921 814-889-9980 [bulterhansen@hotmail.com](mailto:bulterhansen@hotmail.com)

Jessie Phillips (Co-Chair)

N562 County Road R, Watertown, WI 53098 920-285-1558 [imp218@att.net](mailto:imp218@att.net)

Sherrie Palan (Secretary)

133 Lauren Court, La Vernia, TX 78121 830-660-0446 [sherriepalan.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:sherriepalan.wnalc@gmail.com)

Brenda Boor (Treasurer)

1762 Meyersville Rd., Meyersville, TX 77974 361-275-9895 [brenniboor@icloud.com](mailto:brenniboor@icloud.com)

Lynn Coughenour

4825 Stokes Ferry, Salisbury, NC 28146 704-637-6041 [lynn.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.wnalc@gmail.com)

Darlene Deck

3375 Randolph Place, Hobart, IN 36342 219-962-2197 [darlenedeck@frontier.com](mailto:darlenedeck@frontier.com)

Jeanne Wallace

60 Quail Run, Fredericksburg, TX 78624 830-998-2300 [jeannewallace.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:jeannewallace.wnalc@gmail.com)

Kay Weaver

2380 Glennola Lane, Hickory, NC 28168 828-326-9836 [lutheranchick@gmail.com](mailto:lutheranchick@gmail.com)

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### WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP: SHARING OUR SUCCESS

In Ephesians, Paul writes that we are God’s workmanship and that God has already set about many endeavors of which He has planned for us. With that in mind the 2013-2014 Women’s Council of the WNALC has chose for our Annual Gathering the theme, “We Are His Workmanship: Sharing Our Success.” We, as a council believe that God has given each woman and women’s group a purpose to serve him and many times we can feel alone, isolated and confused as to what God is calling on us to do. This is where God has given us the gift of the body of Christ.

Through the telling of our stories, we can give other women hope and inspiration to keep persevering in the calling that our Lord has given us. I know that hearing the successes and journeys of other women and women’s groups has enriched my life as well as pushed me into serving the women of my congregation better! Please help us to collect these valuable stories and photos of what God is doing in our women’s groups.

Karen

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### NEWS BRIEFS/ REMINDERS

The Communications Committee encourages you to visit our website at [www.wnalc.org](http://www.wnalc.org) for new information and also encourage you to visit our Facebook page: Women of the NALC. The Facebook page is a great vehicle to use to meet new sisters in Christ and share your ideas and thoughts. A tip: you can access our Facebook page from our website!

Has your women’s group sent in their annual Roster/Leadership Form for 2013-2014? It is important so we can maintain a current membership list. It gives us current leadership lists so you can receive information from WNALC. Forms are on our website. Please send the form to your Mission District WNALC contact person.

WOMEN OF THE NALC

Treasurer's Report: January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Statement as of 12/31/12 \$8,166.49

Income: 1/1/13 -12/31/13

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Offerings        | 8,642.17  |
| Annual Gathering |           |
| Registrations    | 3,920.00  |
| Offering         | 690.00    |
| Total Income     | 21,418.66 |

Expenses: 1/1/13 – 31/31/13

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| DOMA [2012 donation]            | 203.00      |
| NALC [2012 Annual Gathering     | 302.60      |
| Travel (TWC meeting)            | 1,367.20    |
| Travel (TWC meeting)            | 2,679.44    |
| Travel (TWC Mission Dist. Mtgs) | 1,680.20    |
| Addition error                  | 0.10        |
| Annual Gathering                |             |
| Travel (TWC)                    | 2,062.74    |
| Offering (gift to GCS)          | 690.00      |
| Honorariums                     | 200.00      |
| Meeting Expenses                | 2,071.03    |
| Total Expenses                  | \$11,256.31 |

BALANCE 12/31/13 \$10,162.35

**THANK YOU!!** -----to the following WNALC women's groups who sent offering to support the work of the Women of the NALC in 2013. If your women's group sent an offering to WNALC in 2013 and it is not listed, please contact Brenda Boor, Treasurer.

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|---|--|
| St. Paul – Sulphur Springs, OK (4 offerings)  | Grace – Eaton, OH (2 offerings)            |
| Samhold WNALC – Gonvick, MN                   | Our Saviour's – Tyler, TX                  |
| Immanuel – Watertown, WI                      | Cross Lutheran – Pigeon, MI                |
| St. Thomas – Trufant, MI                      | Union Lutheran – Salisbury, NC             |
| St. John – Selby, SD                          | St. Paul – Ewart, MI                       |
| St. John – Plainfield, IA                     | First United – Hammond, IN (2 offerings)   |
| Grace – Thornville, OH                        | Our Savior – Three Rivers, TX              |
| Cross of Christ – Concord, NC                 | Peace – Devils Lake, ND                    |
| Hayti – Hayti, SD (3 offerings)               | Grace L.C. – Thornville, OH (2 offerings)  |
| New Jerusalem – Hickory, NC                   | First English – Victoria, TX (2 offerings) |
| First Lutheran – Kirkland, IL                 | Welcome Lutheran – Brenham, TX             |
| St. Mark's – Jefferson, WI                    | Hope Lutheran – Ladysmith, WI              |
| Holy Ghost Evening Guild – Fredericksburg ,TX | St. John–Meyersville, TX                   |
| Samuel Ev .Lutheran -Eagle Grove, IA          | St. John's – Montpelier, OH (2 offerings)  |
| St. John's Lutheran–Goliad ,TX                | Messiah –Lebanon, PA                       |
| Holy Trinity–Glastonia, NC                    | St.John's–Cerroyo,Grande,CO                |
| Immanuel – Whitewood, SD                      | St. John's – Westboro,MO                   |
| St. Paul – Oregon, IL                         | Bethany LCW Group – Laurens, IA            |
| St. Peter – Bensen, IL (2 offerings)          | St. Timothy, Charleston, WV                |
| Emmanuel – Grafton, IA                        |  |

Mission Districts - WNALC

Mid NE Mission District WNALC

Heartland Mission District WNALC

## MEET KAREN HANSEN -- Co-Chair of the Women's Council

Karen lives in Colorado Springs, CO just south of where she grew up in Monument, Colorado. She lives with her husband, Josh, and three children Jorgen (9), Josephine (7) and Karsten (8 months-by the time of this publishing). Karen grew up Lutheran and even attended the Lutheran college, Augustana in Sioux Falls, SD. She received her B.A. in Theatre and has intermittently worked in theatre since graduating in 2003. Karen is a very active member of Saint Luke's Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs and not just because her husband is the pastor, but that being at church helps to fuel her for her busy life as wife and mom. In addition to serving on the board of The Women's Council of the WNALC, Karen is a board member of India Transformed! and on the planning committee for the Rocky Mountain Lutheran Family Services Innkeeper's Dinner.



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From the Missions Committee, Women of the NALC:

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

It's coming up on that time of year for many churches. Ladies have been cutting, sewing and tying mission quilts for many months. Items for school kits, personal care kits, fabric kit and baby care kits have been collected, and it's time to take all those quilts and kits, pack them in boxes and take them to a Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering.

Wondering about how you need to pack those quilts and kits? Wondering how to label them? Wondering where to take them so they get shipped to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse?

If your church has had a connection with Lutheran World Relief in the past, then you may have already received the "2014 Quilt and Kit Ministry Guide" in the mail. If you need one, all you have to do is call LWR at 1-800-597-5972 or go online to [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) to request one.

On their website, you can find out how to assemble the quilts and kits for packing and shipping, and how to label the boxes. You can also find Ingathering collection site and date by just typing in your zip code.

A great feature that LWR has begun is the ability to "track" your quilts and kits. Consult the "2014 Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide" or the website at [www.lwr.org/tracker](http://www.lwr.org/tracker) and find out how to follow your gifts of love!

No Ingathering near you? Just contact LWR to find out how to start one.

The Women's Council of the Women of the NALC thank you for your loving support of Lutheran World Relief and the many ways your donations of quilts and kits reach thousands of people around the world with comfort and hope.

## WNALC – REGIONAL GATHERINGS

May 2014 be a year of blessings, spiritual growth, and joy in the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we plan our ministries for the year, an important part of our growth, both spiritually and in fellowship, is gathering together as Sisters in Christ. If you have questions about planning a gathering/retreat or need suggestions for themes or activities, please contact me. I am also interested in what has worked for you in the past, and even what has not. Add my name to your email lists as you plan regional or cluster meetings or retreats and we will publish that information in our WNALC newsletter.

### Upcoming events:

South Texas Mission District WNALC Gathering will be Saturday, March 8, 2014 at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Texas

Jeanne Wallace, WNALC Fellowship Committee – 830-998-2300, [JeanneWallace.WNALC@gmail.com](mailto:JeanneWallace.WNALC@gmail.com)

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### SHARING GOOD NEWS!

Union Women of Union Evangelical Lutheran Church, Salisbury, North Carolina chose to embrace change by restructuring the four current groups into three groups, which would meet at 10:00 a.m. (Lyerly/Poplin Group), 2:00 p.m. (Mary & Martha Group) and 7:00 p.m. (Anna Petrea Group) on the first Tuesday of each month. These times allow for visiting other groups other than the one to which she belongs and also encourages those who are not members to visit each group to find one that fits their schedule. These changes have been embraced with enthusiasm and grace.

The Executive Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month prior to the June and December Bi-Annual meetings of all groups. At this time, this is being revisited to make a change to meet on Sunday afternoon in order to allow for those that can't meet at night.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> Union Women held a “Women’s Tea” to embrace those who can’t meet during the Tuesday meeting times. A newly formed group of Union Women meets on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. This group’s name is G.I.F.T. (Girlfriends in Faith Together). This group is primarily women who have young children in school and who can’t meet during the school week or during work hours. Their first mission project was to support the Battered Women’s Shelter and they continue to do so today. They have also collected expired coupons and sent them to the military, just to name a few.

Union Women, enjoy being together and sharing our faith and experiences with each other and continue to look forward to making a difference in our church and community.

Lynn Coughenour, President  
Union Women

Photos from the Union Women's Tea



## GROWING YOUR MINISTRY

These questions are often asked about growing our women's groups.

- How do we draw in younger women? The average age of our members is at or beyond 'that age'.
- Can you give us suggestions for growth?
- How can we rejuvenate our women's ministry? We seem to have become 'stale' in our activities and our goals.

Begin by looking at your ministry thru new eyes.

- What do you see?
- Remember that in time things get old, stale, same-o, same-o, before it eventually becomes vintage and new again.
- Are you in that interim period of not old fashioned, but not new either?

Following are some suggestions...

- Brainstorm – Create a group to look at you bible studies. Invite a couple of younger women and/or women not active in your group. Ask them what would interest them. Ask them to be part of brainstorming session for their input. They are not asked to make a commitment of their time.
- Invite, Invite, Invite – Start off inviting all women (maybe through a worship bulletin or newsletter) to your meeting. Don't just announce the meeting, but make a point to invite those women that are not actively participating. Challenge each active member to bring someone to your bible study or meeting.
- Ask – What topics interest them? Parenting, family life, individual growth? Your women may be well past the "young mother" or "working women" age group. But, if you want it to grow and continue after you are gone, you need to provide a ministry that interests them.
- Ask about a meeting time. If it doesn't work with the time your group meets, maybe someone can act as a liaison (but not the leader). Often, it is the time that is a conflict for young mothers or working women,

Projects. If your group does a project, dinner, coordinate a special service -- remember!—

- Do you do it the same way your mother did?
- Did you make changes? Understand they may want to make changes.
- Their concept of accomplishing something is a lot, often a whole lot, different from what we grew up with.
- Let them take ownership of a part of the project and do it their way.
- Mentor – As you do your project or dinner, you probably each have your own area of responsibility. You can do it in your sleep. But, if each person took one younger (or new) person to mentor – Show them how you do it, give tips, explain what or why. If everyone had one person to mentor, but only a few continue to help, it is a successful start.

Remember, especially for projects, your choice is to do it all yourself and eventually the project will die a natural death. OR you can teach/mentor someone else and remembering that they may have good ideas. It may change somewhat, but at least the project continues.

Think of your ministry as a tree to shelter and encompass your faith and devotion. Let new members be a branch of that tree, maybe even growing in their own direction. If you prune all the new growth (ideas), your tree will not grow.

Fellowship & Community Committee: Jeanne Wallace

## 2014 NOMINATION INFORMATION

The Women of the NALC have a national board (The Women's Council) which functions to help facilitate the individual women and women's groups of the NALC rostered churches. In order to connect our sisters in Christ to one another, we are in need of Godly women who will humbly serve the Women of the NALC.

For the 2014 Annual Gathering we are in need of **Four** women to fill positions on The Women's Council. While we will list the duties of members at large and specific positions, the officers will be elected among the new and returning members of The Women's Council.

Below are the following qualifications for the Members-at-Large and Specific Offices:

1. Must be a **member** of an NALC affiliated church.
2. Church **does not need** to have an active women's group. A woman is eligible for being a member of an NALC church. In other words you can be your own women's group.
3. Participate in monthly telephone/computer conference calls (or as determined by the Council as a whole).
4. You will be responsible for communication with the women's ministries in several Mission Districts, encouraging and supporting them in their missions. This may be by phone, email, or speaking at their meetings (individual churches or at the mission district level).
5. Travel & speaking at individual women's group meetings and/or regional (Mission District) meetings.
6. Travel to meet as a Council once or twice during the year (to be determined by the Council)
7. Work as a Council to create an Annual Gathering that is spirit filled, informative, and inspiring for women in the NALC.
8. You may be asked to develop and work with committees as outlined in the Operational Guidelines.
9. General duties of The Women's Council (TWC) are located in Chapter 5, Section of the WNALC Operational Guidelines. [This document is available on the WNALC website]
10. TWC will elect a Chair, Vice Chair.(or Co-Chairs.), Secretary and Treasurer. These specific duties are listed in Chapter 5, Section 5 of the Operational Guidelines.

Please prayerfully consider serving the church in this way! In the file accompanying the newsletter you will also find a nomination form for you or for other sister(s) in Christ in the NALC. Please print these out as well and share with your women's group! Mail completed forms to one of the Nominating Committee Members listed below.

If you have any questions please contact us.

Nominating Committee Members:

Brenda Boor  
361-275-9895  
[brendaboor@icloud.com](mailto:brendaboor@icloud.com)  
1762 Meyersville Rd  
Meyersville, TX 77974

Jeanne Wallace  
830-998-2300 (cell)  
[.jeannewallace.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:jeannewallace.wnalc@gmail.com)  
60 Quail Run  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624