

# WNALC

Spring 2016, Vol. 3  
April – May

2015-2016  
WOMEN'S COUNCIL



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
JESSIE, AMY, SHERRIE  
PAM, ROBBIE, PAT, & LINDA

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# NEWS FOR WOMEN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE CHAIR'S CORNER

The Annual Gathering of the Women of the NALC (WNALC) will take place on August 9, 2016 at the Wyndham Anaheim Garden Grove Hotel, Anaheim CA. The Women's Council of the WNALC is busy making plans for that meeting. We're doing our best to make this an enjoyable, informative and spiritually uplifting time of fellowship with women from NALC congregations all across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. Wow, that's quite a task.

The theme of this year's NALC Convocation is, "Holy God, Holy Lives." As we talked about what our theme would be this year, some thoughts expressed were those of families and the church today: marriage and family structures in this changing world, dying Sunday school programs, less involvement in church – those things that come between people/families and the church. These are concerns that we all can relate to – in our own churches, in our own families, in the families of our friends.

As we talked about these concerns, we recalled that last year, the NALC was awarded a grant from the Thrivent Financial Foundation. "The grant, part of the foundation's Reformation Anniversary Grant Program, will be used to support an NALC initiative to recognize the home as the first school of faith and to

celebrate the contributions of Martin and Katie Luther in understanding family as a Christian vocation," wrote Kathy Jacobson in an article from the April NALC Newsletter. "Holy Families!" is the title of the initiative and we will be hearing more about this through 2017, the year of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. The Rev. John Bradosky, NALC Bishop, said in acknowledging the Thrivent Foundation's grant, "Martin Luther's life as a spouse, father and faithful leader of the Church provide us with a legacy worth sharing during this Reformation Anniversary. The understanding of these roles as vocations, ways we serve Christ and His Church, ways we bless and encourage others in our community, deserve our best efforts in providing the Holy Family Initiative."

And so, the theme of our Annual Gathering was born, "Holy Families in Today's World." We hope to touch on this subject that has many of us concerned. There are so many things in this world today that pull our families and youth away from their Christian family. I won't promise answers, but at least we can come together and have some dialog with one another about these things.

We have lined up speakers that we feel can address this topic

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rather well: The Rev. Dr. Cathi Braasch, who has been chosen to lead the "Holy Families!" Initiative development, and Gary Pecuch, who has entered into an agreement to provide children, youth and family ministry consultation for NALC congregations. You may have heard of his and his wife, Laurie's consultation ministry, "Faithwebbing." You'll hear more about our speakers in our July issue.

In the business portion of our gathering, we will have our first vote for the disbursement of our Mission Bank offerings, hold elections for our Women's Council, and we will vote on a recommendation for proposed changes to our Operational Guidelines, a project that we have been working on this year. Information about that will come in a separate email to the churches and our email contacts. Speaking of contacts, be sure and get your women's ministry contact information to us as soon as possible to make sure this information can get to you. Please use the 2016 Membership Information form available on our website [http://wnalc.org/Annual\\_Gathering.php](http://wnalc.org/Annual_Gathering.php)

We are still developing our agenda for the day, but our meeting will begin at 9:00 am and end at 5:00 pm. Our registration fee is \$75 and includes lunch and meeting materials. One lady from each NALC congregation can attend as a voting member, but any number of women from a congregation can attend. You can go [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org) to register for our event, as well as any of the other events during Lutheran Week. You can also book your hotel room from this site. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of your Women's Council members. Our contact information is listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Anaheim in August!! Register today!!

Blessings,  
**Sherrie Palan**  
**WNALC Women's Council Chair**

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Before you know it August will be here and we will be in California at annual gathering. This is a reminder that there are four (4) positions on The Women's Council (TWC) that need to be filled this year. Several individuals have asked what it entails to be on TWC. Here are our responsibilities:

- Linking together –**  
WNALC Annual Gathering
- Support, suggest resources, service to others, and join in ministries –**  
Website and Newsletter
- Assist them and offer guidance –**  
provide a liaison from the TWC for each mission district

Basically, our goal is to provide support to our women's groups within our congregations and to build a sisterhood of Christian women within our mission districts.

So, if this is something you feel the Lord is directing you to do, I would like to ask you prayerfully to consider joining The Women's Council this year.

Please note that you do not have to be present for nomination; however, your approval and nomination form must be sent before our August Gathering in California to:

Jessie Phillips  
Nomination Committee  
N562 County Road R  
Watertown, WI 53098  
Or email to: [jmp218@att.net](mailto:jmp218@att.net)

To date I have received two (2) nomination forms. May the Lord continue to bless you in all that you do in His Name,

Blessings,  
**Jessie Phillips**  
**WNALC Council**

**MID NORTHEAST SPRING GATHERING REPORT**

The Spring Gathering of the Women of The NALC of the Mid Northeast Mission District was held on Saturday, April 2, 2016, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Grove City, PA. We are very thankful to the women of Holy Trinity for the very warm welcome, the beautifully decorated tables, the refreshments during registration and the delicious lunch. There were 28 women that attended the Gathering.

Reverend Daniel Grimminger led us in worship to begin the day. The speaker, Mr. Greg Fuer, told us about the Under The Bridge ministry in Pittsburgh. Every Saturday evening they prepare and serve 150 meals for the homeless in Pittsburgh all year round. Different churches in the area take turns preparing and serving the meals. At each meal the gospel is presented before the meal is served. Pastors are on hand to provide communion for those who wish to receive it. We also gave Mr. Fuer several bags of clothing for the people who come. He gave us a list of items that are always gratefully received.

The business meeting followed. We received a report on the 2015 missions we supported. Our domestic mission is Nile Lutheran Church in Rochester, NY. The international mission is Embracing Hope Ethiopia. They work with mothers and children by providing a day care, food and health care. The mothers are helped to obtain employment. There are now over 200

children receiving services. We have chosen to continue to support these missions in 2016.

Karen George gave a report on the one-day retreat held on Saturday, February 13, 2016, at Christ Lutheran Church in Shelocta, PA, which was attended by 24 women despite the inclement weather. The theme was our relationships with God, the church and ourselves. This was led by Reverend Joyce Dix-Weiers. We are planning a fall retreat on October 22, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kittanning, PA.

Amy Werner gave the report about the National Women's Council. She handed out water bottle labels and told us that these offerings are to be used to support missions chosen by women at the national gathering. The National Women's Gathering will be held in August at during the National NALC convocation.

A nominating committee is needed to provide a slate of women to run for office at the Fall Gathering on October 1, 2016. All four executive board positions are in need to be filled: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We are very hopeful women will feel the call of the Holy Spirit to serve and will say yes to this opportunity. Outgoing officers are willing to help them learn these positions.

Your Sister in Christ,  
**Helen Snyder**

**President, WNALC Mid Northeast Mission District**



**IF YOU READ (FILL IN THE BLANK), THEN YOU MIGHT LIKE...**

When you read a really good book, you want to tell everyone about it! How about starting a book discussion group with your women's ministry? Just pick a title and date to discuss likes (and dislikes) and more! Multiple copies could be found at your local library or could be purchased. When you find something that you really like, then you might want to find another book like the one you just read... There are many titles available concerning the Christian faith.

Remember when The Shack, by Wm. Paul Young was published? Everyone was talking about it. There were many book clubs discussing it. If you liked The Shack, you might want to read Dinner With a Perfect Stranger by David Gregory. In this story, a man was invited to have dinner with Jesus! Imagine all the questions you would love to ask Him if you received this invitation! (And what would you wear???) The follow up book is A Day With a Perfect Stranger, also by David Gregory. It tells how the man's wife has a similar encounter.

Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo was an excellent book about a little boy who almost died and was in Heaven briefly before being called back to earth. A movie was made based on the book too. If you liked that book, you might read 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper. It is about a man's experience in

Heaven immediately following a car crash. It has been made into a movie as well.

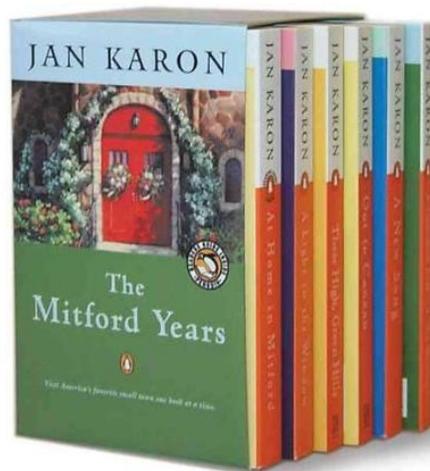
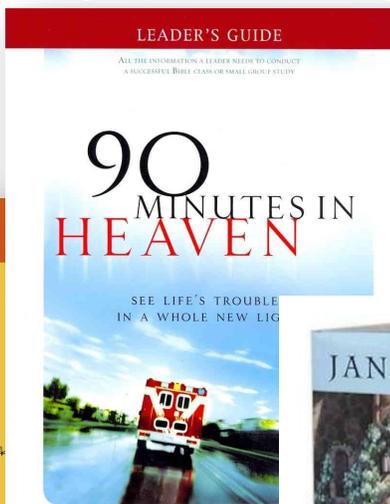
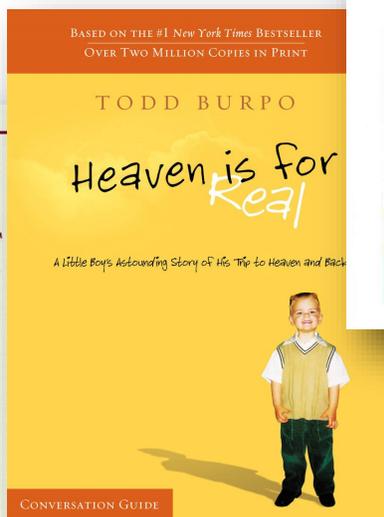
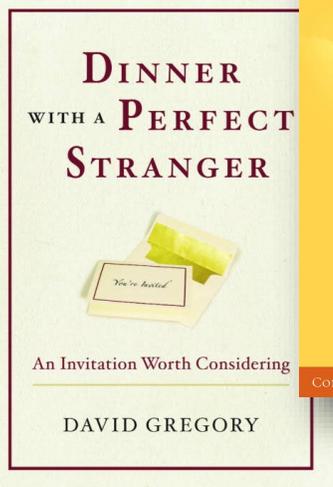
Jan Karon writes a great series of books about the small town of Mitford. The books detail the life of a pastor and his congregation and all the funny and heartwarming adventures they have. Another series like Mitford is Philip Gulley's Harmony series. It too, takes place in a small town. The pastor is minister of a Quaker congregation. And like Lutherans, the pastor has his hands full with the humorous situations that happen.

Janette Oke is a Christian writer that has been around for several years. Her stories tell of the faith of women as they encounter hardships in their lives. Other writers telling about the adventures of women of faith are Kim Vogel Sawyer, Beverly Lewis, and Stephanie Grace Wilson just to name a few.

There are many more authors and titles out there. Have fun exploring new ideas and discussing great stories! The possibilities are endless! If your group finds an exciting author or title that begs to

be shared, please let us know! We are always looking for the next good book...

Happy Reading!  
**Pat Dittrich**  
**WNALC Council**



**A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER BY AMY YOUNG**

To those who gave birth this year to  
their first child - we celebrate with you;

To those who lost a child this year -  
we mourn with you;

To those who are in the trenches with little ones  
every day and wear the badge of food stains -  
we appreciate you;

To those who experienced loss through  
miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away -  
we mourn with you;

To those who walk the hard path of infertility,  
fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and  
disappointment - we walk with you.

Forgive us when we say foolish things.  
We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms,  
and spiritual moms - we need you;

To those who have warm and close relationships  
with your children -  
we celebrate with you;

To those who have disappointment, heart ache,  
and distance with your children -  
we sit with you;

To those who lost their mothers this year -  
we grieve with you;

To those who experienced abuse  
at the hands of your own mother -  
we acknowledge your experience;

To those who lived through driving tests, medical  
tests, and the overall testing of motherhood -  
we are better for having you in our midst;

To those who are single and long to be married  
and mothering your own children -  
we mourn that life has not turned out the way  
you longed for it to be;

To those who step-parent -  
we walk with you on these complex paths;

To those who envisioned  
lavishing love on grandchildren -  
yet that dream is not to be, we grieve with you;

To those who will have emptier nests in the  
upcoming year - we grieve and rejoice with you;

To those who placed children up for adoption -  
we commend you for your selflessness and  
remember how you hold that child in your heart;

And to those who are pregnant with new life,  
both expected and surprising -  
we anticipate with you.

This Mother's Day, we walk with you.  
Mothering is not for the faint of heart  
and we have real warriors in our midst.  
We remember you.



Photo copyright 2016 - Lane Magera

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### MISSION BANK NEWS

It is important that each of our WNALC women's groups send in their "MISSION BANK" contributions to the Women of the NALC, 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220, New Brighton, MN 55112-2202 before the **JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>** deadline. With your contributions, please include a Mission Donation Deposit slip found on page 8.

As we have indicated before, we will vote at our Gathering each year, this August in Anaheim, as to which mission we want our MISSION BANK money to be directed to. Each church who has a representative at the Gathering will have a voice, a vote.

At our last Gathering, money was sent to India Transformed and also to China Service Ventures to support their ministries. Both of these are ministry partners of the NALC.

If you have any questions, please email me at: [mcharas@earthlink.net](mailto:mcharas@earthlink.net)

With you following Jesus,

**Pam Charas, WNALC Mission Support Team Chair**

"But **You** will receive power  
when the **Holy Spirit**  
comes on you; and you will  
be **my witnesses** in  
Jerusalem, and in all Judea  
and Samaria, and **to the**  
**ends of the earth."**  
**Acts 1:8**

**BE SURE TO SUBMIT YOUR GROUP'S  
MEMBERSHIP INFO FORM TO YOUR  
MISSION DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE.**

### **SEND IN YOUR STORIES, PICTURES, BLOGS, OR EVENTS**

Please send your stories, pictures, blogs, or event information to Lane Magera, editor at [wncalcnews@yahoo.com](mailto:wncalcnews@yahoo.com) by June 15, 2016 for inclusion in the next edition of News for Women of the North American Lutheran Church. Photos included in this newsletter are the property of the article's subjects. Please contact them for permission to reuse.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
NALC ENDORSED MISSIONARIES,  
MISSION PARTNERS, MISSION  
MINISTRIES, THE GREAT  
COMMISSION SOCIETY, AND THE  
NALC MISSION CONGREGATIONS,  
VISIT THE WEBSITES BELOW.**

**Great Commission Society:**

<http://thenalc.org/great-commission-society/>

**NALC Missionaries:**

<http://thenalc.org/missionaries/>

**NALC Mission Partners:**

<http://thenalc.org/ministry-partners/>

**Lutheran CORE:**

<http://www.lutherancore.org/mission-connect/>

# WNALC Council & Mission District Representatives 2015-2016

## SHERRIE PALAN, Chair

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

## PAT DITTRICH, Secretary

PO Box 341, Orchard, TX 77464  
(713) 254-0044  
[pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com)

**Great Plains Mission District** (14)  
*Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska & Oklahoma*



**North Texas Mission District** (5)  
*TX (north)*

**Sonshine Mission District of Florida** (5)  
*Florida (except panhandle area)*



**South Texas Mission District** (25)  
*TX (south) and LA*

**Virginia Mission District** (5)  
*Virginia*

**Carolinas Mission District** (41)  
*North and South Carolinas*

**Eastern South Dakota Mission District** (16)  
*Eastern South Dakota*

## AMY WERNER

331 Hill Churches Road, Latrobe, PA 15650  
(724) 244-4242  
[awerner.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:awerner.wnalc@gmail.com)



**Atlantic Mission District** (27)  
*CT, DE, ME, MD (east), MA, NH, NJ, NY (east), PA (east), RI, VT, DC*

**Mid-Northeast Mission District** (32)  
*Western MD, western NY, western PA and WV*

## LINDA BROWER, Vice Chair

310 Cedar Circle, Brenham, TX 77833  
(979) 203-6828  
[LindaB.wnalc@hotmail.com](mailto:LindaB.wnalc@hotmail.com)

## JESSIE PHILLIPS

N562 County Road R, Watertown WI 53098  
(920) 285-1558  
[jmp218@att.net](mailto:jmp218@att.net)

**Heartland Mission District** (13)  
*Indiana and Kentucky*



**Iowa Mission District** (35)  
*Iowa*

**Mid-South Mission District** (8)  
*AL, AR, FL panhandle, GA, MS, and TN*

**Caribbean and Hispanic Mission District** (3)  
*Caribbean and Hispanic Ministries*

**Central Pacific Mission District** (4)  
*Northern CA and Northern NV*

## ROBBIE CONLEY, Treasurer

8307 Scott Road, Hubbard Lake, MI 49747  
(210) 347-2417  
[RLConley.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:RLConley.wnalc@gmail.com)



**Minkota Mission District** (16)  
*MN and eastern ND*

**Northwest Mission District** (6)  
*AK, ID, OR, and WA*

**Canada Mission District** (22)  
*Canada*

**Great River Mission District** (19)  
*Illinois*

**Michigan Mission District** (8)  
*Michigan (Lower Peninsula)*



**Rocky Mountain Mission District** (4)  
*CO, NM, UT, and corner of TX below NM*

**Western Dakotas, Montana, & Wyoming Mission District** (5)  
*Western Dakotas, MT, and WY*

**Southwest Pacific Mission District** (8)  
*AZ, southern CA, HI, and southern NV*

**Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Mission District** (18)  
*WI and Upper MI*

## PAM CHARAS

5624 Mark Dale Dr,  
Dayton, OH 45459  
(937) 434-0993  
[mcharas@earthlink.net](mailto:mcharas@earthlink.net)



**Ohio Mission District** (54)  
*Ohio (5 Regions)*





**NALC DISASTER RESPONSE SERVANT EVENT**

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"WE ARE HIS HANDS" Ephesians 2:10 coordinated by NALC Disaster Task Force & the HARP Mission  
810 Main Street, Caldwell, OH · 43724  
Church groups and individuals will provide home maintenance, repair, wheelchair ramps and other help for families in crisis, disabled, widowed, elderly, seniors, and Veterans.



Registration and Medical Release forms will be E-Mailed upon request.

Churches: please write one check for all registrants payable to The HARP Mission and submit with registration forms. Registration Contact is Mary Bates, PH: (740) 509-1132 · mary@harpmission.org

Learn how to repair and rebuild homes and families destroyed by disasters.

Experience a mock disaster led by the NALC Disaster Coordinator.

**WHEN:** Check-in Sunday, July 17, 6:00 PM at warehouse in Caldwell.

Projects will be worked on each day Monday, July 18 - Friday, July 22

(other dates may be scheduled if this date does not work in your church calendar)

**COST: \$150 PER PERSON**

Great experience to involve your entire church family!  
Daily devotions and recreation coordinated by the HARP Mission.

If you play a musical instrument please bring with you.

SPECIAL REQUEST: We are trying to find churches and/or individuals willing to sponsor materials for wheelchair ramps and home repairs for those who cannot afford. Please mail checks payable to The HARP Mission at 810 Main Street, Caldwell, OH 43724.

**THE WOMEN OF THE**



**NALC**  
North American Lutheran Church

Connecting with our Sisters in Christ to Share God's Love

**MISSION DONATION DEPOSIT SLIP**

**DONOR'S INFORMATION**

Individual    Church    Mission District Group    Other

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION AMOUNT**

Amount of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Women of the NALC** and note "**Mission Donation**" on the memo.  
Send to: **Women of the NALC, 2299 Palmer Drive Suite 220, New Brighton, MN 55112-2202**

# WNALC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION 2016

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mission District (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Women's Group:

Women's Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: (total # women & #circles/groups) \_\_\_\_\_

When does your women's group elect new officers? Spring Fall Month \_\_\_\_\_

Are you rostering as an individual member? Please circle: Yes No

#1 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*We ask for two contacts so that you can be assured of receiving the information should something happen to one contact (new email, relocation, health issue, or becomes inactive for any reason).*

PLEASE SEND IN MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION **ANNUALLY, in December or January.**

MEMBERS & MEMBER GROUPS ARE ROSTERED FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR & NEED TO RENEW EACH YEAR.

- ◆ This information is used to maintain a membership roster that enables us to communicate news and activities of the WNALC and facilitates voting and ratification as needed.
- ◆ For elections and ratification processes, each congregation has one vote. At the Annual Gathering, the voting packet will be given to one person from each congregation represented.
- ◆ Complete this form, and send to the **WNALC Women's Council representative for your Mission District.**
- ◆ Individual women of an NALC congregation that does not have an organized women's ministry or may be trying to organize a congregational women's ministry are encouraged to become a member of WNALC.

**PLEASE NOTE: All communications (newsletters, correspondence, etc.) will be sent by Email so it is important that you submit a contact with an Email address. If you do not have a person with email to receive your communications, please list as your #1 Contact the church office, along with their email.**

**Women of the North American Lutheran Church  
2016 Women's Council Nomination Form**

**Please Print or Type** (This form is fillable)

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alt phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Biographical Information and Qualifications**

1. Age Range: 20-35 35-55 55+ (please circle)

2. Occupational History: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How you serve in your Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How do you serve the larger church body: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How do you serve in your community: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Family or other information you would like us to know: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Written Consent is required for all who are nominated**

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

**Mail or email to:**

**Jessie Phillips, Nominating Committee**

**N562 County Road R, Watertown, WI 53098**

**[jmp218@att.net](mailto:jmp218@att.net)**

