



2017 - 2018 WOMEN'S COUNCIL



TOP: LINDA, PAT, JACQUI
BOTTOM: JENNIFER,
LANE, MARCELLA
LEFT: ROBBIE



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NEWS FOR WOMEN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHAIR'S CORNER

IT'S SPRING!!! Even the calendar says so, though the weather doesn't always acknowledge it, and we have seen tell-tale signs of it everywhere we look. Most especially we have celebrated Easter—the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He is alive! The living Christ is represented in the rebirth we see in spring and we rejoice in our hearts.

It has been a tough year—multiple hurricanes, floods, wildfires, blizzards—have I missed anything? All have affected each one of us personally in one way or another. All of the WNALC has responded with generosity and love to the needs expressed by the NALC Disaster Response. Thank you everyone. Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Coordinator gives us the latest updates starting on page 4.

Even though we send out the WNALC newsletter and promote the WNALC website at www.wnalc.org the question still comes up—what is the WNALC and the WNALC Council and what does it do? Essentially it is YOU. Every woman who is a member of an NALC congregation is a member of the WNALC. There is no membership fee nor is it necessary to have an organized women's group within your congregation. We encourage at least one representative from each church to fill out an annual information sheet (found on Page 17 at the back of this newsletter) for the purposes of keeping the WNALC Council updated and allowing us to keep you, the Women of the NALC, informed with newsletters and other updates to share with the women in your congregations.

The WNALC Council seeks to help and support women's groups in the NALC congregations and works to encourage missions, spiritual growth, and unity in order to grow and share faith and love in Jesus Christ. Promoting that sisterhood of believers is the purpose of the WNALC and the goal of the WNALC Council.

One of the ways we achieve these goals is our Annual WNALC Gathering, taking place during Luther Week before the Mission Festival and NALC Convocation. This year we meet in Denver, CO on August 14th with the theme "God Is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" from Psalm 46:1. Our featured speaker is Pastor Pamela Thorson and her biography appears on the next page.

At the Annual Gathering, we attempt to provide fellowship, enlightenment, and devotions, in addition to conducting the business of the WNALC, with a well-rounded agenda that engages those who attend. Some register for multiple events during

(Continued on page 2)

CHAIR'S CORNER, CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

Lutheran Week, while some ladies attend only the Gathering. The cost to register for the Gathering remains at \$80 and includes lunch. To register for the event go to www.thenalc.org/projects/2018-lutheran-week/. We look forward to seeing you there!

Beginning on page 4, you will find information on the WNALC Mission Bank Recipients for 2017-2018. One is an international mission and the other is a national mission as voted on at the 2017 WNALC Gathering. Remember, donations for these 2018 missions are due no later than May 31st. You may have discovered a variety of ways to promote and collect for these missions in your congregations. The WNALC newsletter has also gladly featured a variety of local missions when you have sent us such articles and pictures.

The Nominations Team is encouraging those ladies who are interested in becoming a part of the WNALC Council to submit a nomination form which is included at the end of this issue. I encourage each of you to consider stepping up to serve on the Council.

Blessings to one and all,
Linda Brower
WNALC Chair

2018 ANNUAL GATHERING

SPEAKER, CONT.

School. As an Army spouse, Pam has had a wide variety of leadership opportunities with the many communities and churches which the family has been part of around the United States and in Germany. Her ministry grew with every new community. God provided excellent mentors and training opportunities. Upon receiving a new assignment from the Army, Pam's prayer was "teach me." While the concept was to learn in class, God provided leadership opportunities to challenge, learn, and grow. She served at every level of church ministry, stepping into leadership and preaching in military chapel communities, has organized numbers of events and ministries in local communities, and is active in international ministry. Most recently, Pastor Pam spent 2 weeks training Lutheran women leaders in Malawi for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM). Pastor Pam is active in the Order of St. Luke the Physician, a healing ministry, serving as Kentucky's state director. She is a frequent Spiritual Director in the Via de Cristo movement.



2018 ANNUAL GATHERING SPEAKER

Pam Thorson is a pastor in the North American Lutheran Church. She is the Dean of the Heartland Mission District comprising Kentucky and Indiana and the pastor at House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown, Kentucky since 2010.

Coming from a family with a long line of Anglican and Lutheran clergy, Pastor Pam has been comfortable and a part of church from birth. She is involved in active ministry for over 35 years beginning at Mount Hope Lutheran Church in El Paso, Texas teaching Sunday

Pastor Pam was born in Des Moines, Iowa, but grew up in northern Minnesota. She graduated from North Dakota State University with a Bachelor's in University Studies. She received her Master's in Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary completing Lutheran studies at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota and Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. She is working on a Doctorate in Ministry and will be traveling to South Korea in October as part of her studies.

Pastor Pam has been married for 40 years to Kevin, Major US Army Retired, and currently Civil Servant at Fort Knox, Kentucky. They have 4 sons, 1 daughter in law, and 3 beautiful grandchildren.

WNALC ANNUAL GATHERING

Dever, CO
9am-5pm

Tuesday '14
August

Speaker: Dean Rev. Pamela Thorson

“God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.”

Psalm 46:1

Registration: \$80 - includes lunch

<https://www.thenalc.org/2018-lutheran-week/>

2017 - 2018 MISSION BANK RECIPIENTS

At our Annual Gathering in August 2017, we as The Women of the NALC voted to support two Missions this year with our Mission Banks program. The Mission Bank year runs from the Gathering in August until May 31st. We selected one International recipient and one National recipient with all offering received being equally divided between them.

The International Mission Bank Recipient is NALC Global Workers, the **Ekka Family**:

Pastor Nijhar Minz-Ekka serves in North Central India with her family. She is married to Pastor Neeraj Ekka. They are thriving with their children. The Ekkas have lived in this part of India most of their lives and feel blessed to return to work there. Together, they serve in the North Western Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church, primarily at Navin Doman Theological College.

Left: Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator between the 5 stall Shower Trailer and Texas Regional Mission District Disaster Warehouse

Middle (l to r): Inside the newly dedicated Warehouse, Michael Dittrich, Work Crew Coordinator; Pastor Mike Giese, Peace Lutheran Church, Rosenberg, TX; Pastor Tim Christ, South Texas Mission District Dean; Pastor Mark Chavez, NALC General Secretary; James Matthys, Peace Lutheran Church Council Member; Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator.

Right (l to r): Dedicating the Warehouse, Pastor Mike Giese, Peace Lutheran Church, Rosenberg, TX; Pastor Mark Chavez, NALC General Secretary; Michael Dittrich, Work Crew Coordinator; Pastor Tim Christ, South Texas Mission District Dean; James Matthys, Peace Lutheran Church Council Member.

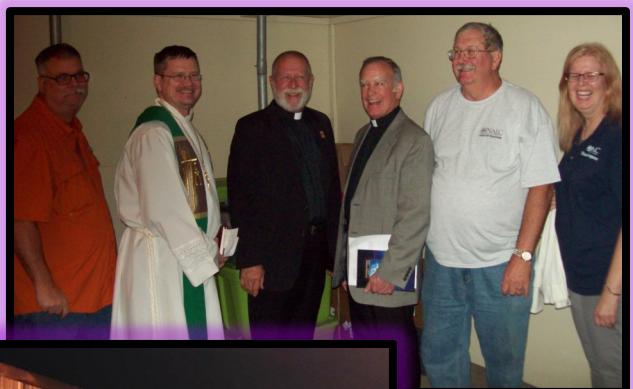


The National Mission Bank Recipient is **NALC Disaster Response**:

Our NALC Disaster Response team has been working overtime with the four hurricanes, the flooding in the East, and the wild fires out West. Every donation that they receive goes immediately into the hands of people in need. There is no administrative overhead or stock piles; it is an in and out system. Your donations are greatly needed as there is still much work to be done for the lives in the affected areas to be restored to wholeness.

Texas Regional Mission District Disaster Warehouse

The first regional Mission District disaster warehouse was blessed by Pastor Mark Chavez on February 1st at Peace Lutheran Church, Rosenberg, Texas. Members of Peace met after Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast in August 2017 and asked "how can we help?" Under the leadership of the Women of the NALC, Peace Lutheran Church, and the NALC



2017 - 2018 MISSION BANK RECIPIENTS, CONT.

Disaster Task Force, a carport was converted into a temperature-controlled storage building, capable of warehousing several hundred flood buckets, health kits, school kits, layettes, and quilts provided by the WNALC. Pat Dittrich, a member of the WNALC Council, and her husband Michael are coordinating NALC donations of material goods, volunteer teams from all around the United States, and lots of spiritual Christian care for hundreds of families impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Volunteers are housed in vacant church parsonage and teams of over 20 have already served families throughout the Houston vicinity. Thank you WNALC for your support and prayers for the 4 hurricanes that struck the United States in 2017!

To volunteer for hurricane recovery efforts in Texas or Florida or California wildfires, or for more information on how to establish a regional warehouse in your mission district, contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator at [\(disasterresponse@thenalc.org\)](mailto:disasterresponse@thenalc.org) or (740) 509-1132.

East Coast Shower Trailer Donation

After Hurricane Irma made landfall, devastating thousands of homes in Florida and the East Coast, NALC volunteers offered to help. Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church,

Jacksonville offered to house volunteers and they gave access

**Flood Buckets:**

- ◆ **ONE** 5 gallon bucket with lid
 - ◆ **TWO** large trash bags
 - ◆ Comet or scouring cleanser
 - ◆ PineSol or liquid floor cleaner
 - ◆ Scrub brush
 - ◆ Dust Mask (N-95)
 - ◆ Rubber gloves
- Plus: Broom, rakes, shovels, hoes, debris removal tools



to facilities with showers at their second location. Thank you, Pastor George Johnson! However, housing and showers became an issue in the southern part of Florida. Pastors Bill and Rebecca Heber shared that there might be an opportunity to get a shower trailer from Rebecca's brother's church in Wisconsin.

Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Coordinator, reached out to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Loganville WI and found the congregation to be very concerned about the impacted families in Florida and wanted to donate their 2-stall shower trailer to NALC Disaster Response.

NALC Disaster Response now has a shower trailer in Texas for Hurricane Harvey recovery which is currently parked at the Texas Regional Mission District Warehouse at Peace Lutheran Church, Rosenberg and a shower trailer for use on the East Coast. God has blessed NALC Disaster Response with amazing volunteer teams and tremendous support to build our capacity to serve wherever and whenever disasters strike - thanks be to God!

For more information as to how to volunteer anywhere in the United States, please contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator at [\(disasterresponse@thenalc.org\)](mailto:disasterresponse@thenalc.org) or (740) 509-1132.

Ohio River Flooding

Your help is really needed! I really need flood buckets! I have been in contact with some of our congregations who are in areas of flooding from these torrential rains. I have also been attending the Emergency Management Agency briefings, identifying how to volunteer and how to assist the families who do not have flood insurance, many families have let their insurance lapse. Your help is needed - there are currently 200 homes destroyed, another 150 with major damage, and numerous homes with minor damage (substantial water in basements). After 3 days of additional

**2017 - 2018 MISSION
BANK RECIPIENTS, CONT.**

rain, those numbers were anticipated to increase. Your help is needed:

To volunteer, contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator, at disasterresponse@thenalc.org or (740) 509-1132.

To send monetary donations to:

NALC Disaster Response
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112

To donate material donations: flood buckets, furniture, appliances, gift cards, and other household items, please deliver your items to:

NALC National Disaster Warehouse
810 Main Street, Caldwell, OH 43724

or contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator at disasterresponse@thenalc.org or (740) 509-1132 to arrange a pick up.

A "Stuff the Truck" may also be scheduled, as long term recovery will extend throughout 2018.

Thank you for your prayers and support -
Thanks be to God for NALC!!

Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator

Last year, our gifts to Mission Banks totaled \$9226.50. In light of how great the needs are, I am sure we can surpass the \$10,000.00 mark this year. We have been shown much grace and favor, we are blessed to be a blessing. If you haven't been collecting coins individually or in your Circles for your Mission Banks, now is a good time to simply write a check to:

WNALC
c/o North American Lutheran Church
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

Write "WNALC Mission Bank" in Memo Line.

In Christ,
Jacqui El Torro, WNALC Council & Missions Team

**WE NEED YOU!
BE ON THE WNALC COUNCIL!**

We need new members on the WNALC Council! This is an excellent opportunity to meet and work with women from all over! What better way to share our ideas and keep each other strong in faith!

Won't you consider putting your name on the ballot for the WNALC Council Election? The election takes place during the WNALC Annual Gathering. This year it will be on Tuesday, August 14th, in Denver, CO. We have 4 council members that will be finishing their term so we will need to elect 4 ladies to fill the positions, though 2 members are eligible for reelection.

The WNALC Council Nomination form is at the back of this newsletter. Just fill it out (you can even nominate yourself!) and send it to me either through email or the mail box.

My contact info is:

Pat Dittrich—WNALC Nominating Team Chair
Email: PDittrich.WNALC@gmail.com
Mail: PO Box 341, Orchard, TX 77464

If you have any questions, please contact me or any other WNALC Council member.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with YOU!

Pat Dittrich
WNALC Council Secretary & Nominating Team

**RISE UP
TAKE COURAGE
AND DO IT**
EZRA 10:4

STEWARSHIP SIPS

Well it's that time again. The time every month when I sit down to go over the financials for the Women of the NALC. During this time, I often reflect upon God's many mysteries and blessings. Mysteries because sometimes you just don't know how you can do everything with what you have yet, every time, He makes sure there is enough. Then you remember what you forgot for that brief moment and the mystery is removed. He can do it because He is God and He loves his children very much. Mystery solved.

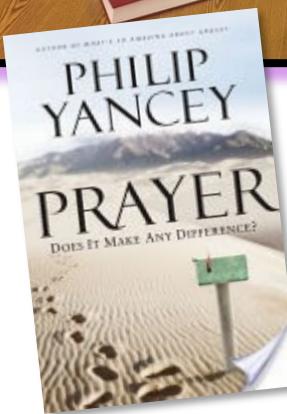
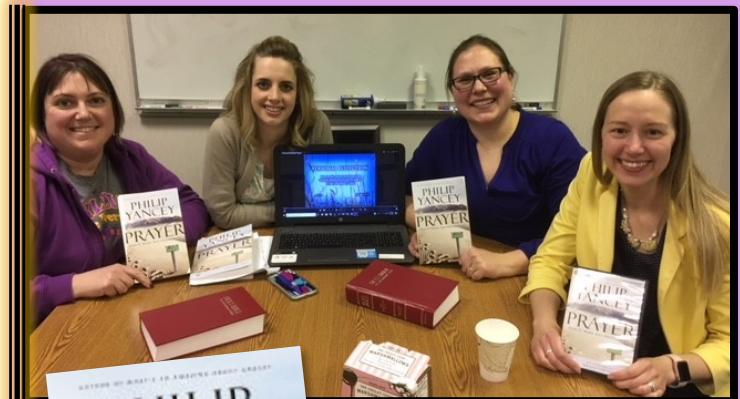
Then I move on to think about the blessings. We are so incredibly blessed beyond measure, beyond even our wildest imagination. Now, I am not talking about earthly things we covet, you know the ones I mean, winning the lottery, living in a mansion, the souped-up sports car, etc... I am talking about the blessings of knowing that we are loved beyond any measures that humans know. We are blessed with the promise of eternal life simply for believing in him and following His ways. We have blessings beyond blessings.

After the reflections of the mysteries and blessings in comes the pesky earthly demon called worry. I am human and even though I have reflected about the mysteries and blessings I can't help but have the worry creep in. Where's the money going to come from, how are we going to do everything, how are we going to put on a nice national gathering? Then, as the worry creeps in the peace which passes all understanding comes in to chase the worry out. You see this is where those mysteries and blessings come back. You see He will make sure there is enough, every time.

He uses many elements to help in this and you are one of those elements. You and the donations you send to the WNALC. The donations that help us not only do the work of the WNALC but also His work, every time.

Every time, He will provide, every time...

Robbie Conley
WNALC Council Treasurer

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF THIS IDEA?

Women from Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI enjoying a Book/Bible study on prayer. We had 6 weeks of study of the book entitled "Prayer..... does it make a difference?" by Philip Yancey. The study included a brief video each week and a study guide for participants. We at Calvary recommend this book and study. The book is also available in audio formats.

Submitted by Marcella Nelson
Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI

In February, the WNALC Group from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kettle River, MN and Faith Lutheran, Sturgeon Lake, MN made bags to attach to walkers and wheelchairs for our local Health Care Center. In January, we made hats and mittens for the local food shelf.

Submitted by Mary Sanders
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Kettle River, MN
& Faith Lutheran Church, Sturgeon Lake, MN



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?**Read Luke 24:13-49**

"He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast." Luke 24:17

Have you ever listened to the conversations happening around you. I am often amazed at the conversations I over hear while standing in line at a store or sitting in a waiting room. It fascinates me that with so much good that happens on a daily basis, so many of the conversations focus on local and national news, which happens to focus on the negative aspects of life. I hear people talk about the economy and their dissatisfaction of having to wait in line. Even the conversations about family and friends are often laced with a negative aspect – children who work to much, grandchildren who don't visit enough, failing health, etc., etc., etc. Overhearing these conversations causes me to be mindful of the conversations I am participating in.

In the text, as Cleopas and his friend walked to Emmaus, they were deeply engrossed in a conversation of all that had gone wrong. They talked about the power of the words spoken by Jesus and the power of the sentencing that led to His death. It seems that that their situation caused them to believe that the words spoken by the chief priests, Pontius Pilot, and the people who made up the masses were greater than the words spoken by Jesus. In fact, they were so engrossed in their conversation that it wasn't until much later they were able to reflect and speak on the truth that, because they were with Jesus, their hearts burned within them. They were so caught up in the "what had happened" of the past, that they missed the richness of what was happening on their journey.

Think about it. Jesus entered into their conversation and they didn't realize that He was walking and talking with them. It was not until they communed with Him that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.



I have to wonder how often I am so attuned to what is happening around me that I am insensitive to who is walking with me. I can remember being so focused on the pain of my past that I was oblivious to the goodness of God being with me. I was so focused on the injustices I had experienced that I was blind to God's grace which was covering me and His mercy that met me each morning. I had chosen to commune and commiserate with sorrow rather than salvation.

Pause and take a moment to consider what you and your friends talk about as you journey through life. Do you have a tendency to give more credence to the reports of the 6:00 news then you give to the Good News of Jesus the Christ? No matter what events have occurred in your past, as a believer, you can walk with the assurance that you are not alone. No matter what challenges you encounter you can walk confidence that you are victorious. Why? Because Jesus is not dead. He is risen and is walking with you! Not only is He walking with you, Jesus is talking with you, listening to hear the topic of your conversation.

See, the words you speak reflect the beliefs of your heart (Luke 6:45). And Jesus' desire is to be the focal of your heart. He wants you to be consumed with Him, not the happenings of the world. Jesus wants to be invited into your home. He wants to commune with you.

So, I ask you an all important question - what are you talking about? Do you spend more time talking about circumstances and situations than you spending talking about what Jesus said? When you are standing in line at the store, are you overwhelmed with the happenings of the day or are you overjoyed about the presence of the Lord? When you are sitting in the waiting room at the Dr.'s office, do your words bear witness to a heart of worship or a heart of worry?

(Continued on page 9)

**WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT? CONT.**

(Continued from page 8)

When you are chatting with your friends, do your words confirm what you saw or do they affirm what Jesus said? Now is the perfect time to pay attention to the conversations you are having. Now is the perfect time to invite Jesus into your conversations, your home and your heart.

Rev. Trina Petersen**A New Thing Christian Church & Mid-South Dean**

Trina Petersen is a Pastor, author, speaker and life coach. Her passion is helping women break free from emotional and spiritual bondage and gain the freedom to love, live, and lead like Jesus. "Every person is born with a purpose, prepared for a

plan and fuel by a passion. My purpose, plan and passion is adding value to the lives of as many as God allows me to. One more Lord. Let me touch the life of one more."

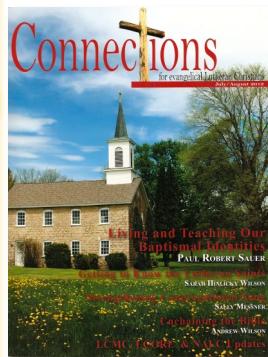
coachtrina@makemeirresistible.com

FELLOWSHIP FUN

Fellowship, a building up of the relationships between sisters in Christ, can take place in many ways. One of those is to plan a travel event for the women of your church. It need not be far—one day—and remember, carpooling is a fellowship in and of itself. Seek out a variety of venue possibilities—a museum, a botanical garden, a flower show or other such event, a special school or state/local facility, to name a few. When lunch, and maybe a chance to shop, is added, you have wonderful opportunity to grow relationships with one another. Who knows what the results might be!

WNALC Fellowship Team**SUGGESTIONS FROM
SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM****PLUGGEDIN.COM**

Plugged In was a monthly magazine published by Focus on the Family. Its print version was discontinued and now it survives as a website, Plugged In Online. Plugged In reviewed movies, music, general media, and pop cultural issues from a conservative Christian perspective. A religious counterpart to magazines such as Entertainment Weekly and Teen People; their reviews focused on evaluating the morals of movies as well as their family-friendliness. Plugged In also noted if a movie contains subtle negative or provocative messages woven into the movie. The Passion of the Christ was a notable exception, as were a few others such as Saving Private Ryan, in that it received positive reviews despite containing a large amount of graphic violence, normally a negative aspect in the magazine. There are four main areas that Plugged In covered: movies, music, video games, and television. Plugged In Online continues what the magazine did, reviewing movies, music, television, books, and video games, and also has a weekly podcast, a blog, and an email newsletter. (excerpt from Wikipedia)

Connections Magazine

The March/April Issue of the Connections Magazine celebrates their 10th anniversary as a publication. The Connections is a magazine for evangelical Lutheran Christians published by Sola Publishing. Connections is published six times per year and is a great resource to encourage you in your faith and walk with Jesus. If you are not a subscriber, consider buying a subscription for yourself or a friend or family member. You may also want to promote this in your congregation as a group subscription.

WNALC Spiritual Growth Team

Go QUICKLY AND TELL!!!

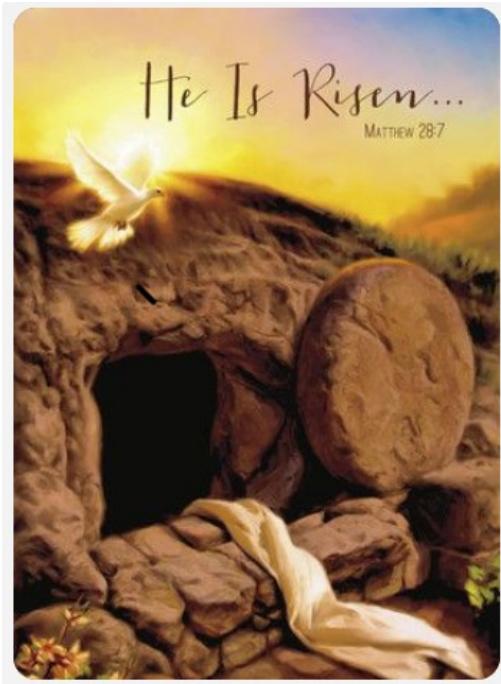
Matthew 28:1-10 "1After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the LORD came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5The angel said to the

women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going

ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.' Now I have told you." 8So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," He said. They came to Him, clasped his feet and worshiped Him. 10Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

**The Stone Was Rolled Away for You....Now Go
QUICKLY AND TELL!!!**

Anyone who has had the privilege of teaching others has likely discovered something new when preparing or teaching a lesson. I have a vivid recollection of this happening to me when I was



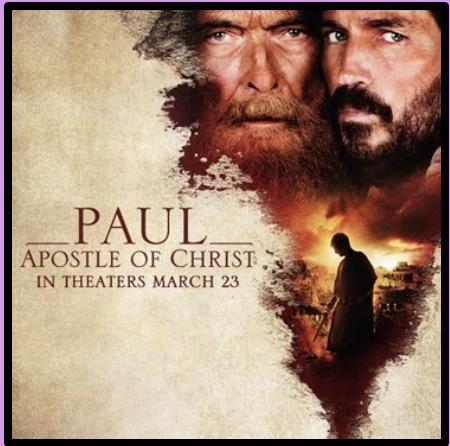
reading an Easter Bible story book to my children when they were young. The book said that the angel rolled the stone away for our benefit so that WE COULD SEE that Jesus was not in the tomb He had risen from the dead. Somehow in all my years before that, I had not pondered the rolled away stone from that perspective. Rather, I had an image in my mind of the angel rolling the stone away so that Jesus could come forth from the tomb. How marvelous was it that we could be assured, "He is not here....He is risen just as He said" by the angel rolling the stone away so that the women could see the empty tomb themselves.

God's love for us was so great that Christ suffered and died for our sins. This is surely Good News to be shared. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were the first to know of the resurrection because they saw the empty tomb which the angel showed them. They were commanded to go quickly and tell His disciples the Good News. Matthew says "they did run" in obedience to the angel.

What is our response to the Good News of the empty tomb? Who can we run and tell the Easter story to? Christ died on the cross for us. The angel rolled the stone away for us. The women ran to tell others the Good News. The Good News has been told for two thousand years that we too might hear it and have hope in the resurrection and eternal life with Jesus our Lord. Pray for the others God puts on your heart and in your life each day, that you may have opportunity to run and tell the Good News as the women did on Easter morning.

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

Blessings on your daily walk with Jesus,
Marcella Nelson
WNALC Council & Spirituality Team

"PAUL: APOSTLE OF CHRIST" MOVIE REVIEW

Hollywood, "Paul: Apostle of Christ."

The setting of the movie is, Luke, the beloved physician, going to Rome to visit Paul who has been imprisoned, accused of having been the mastermind behind the burning of Rome. The movie gives viewers a taste of the sacrifice that was made by early Christians for their confession of faith while living under the mad Roman emperor, Nero. During these secret visits to Paul under the cover of night, Luke sets out to write a biography of Paul's life, a writing which we know as the book of Acts. In the exchanges between Paul and Luke, viewers will recognize stories/scenes from the book of Acts as well as snippets of

WNALC Council member Jenn Madsen and her husband, Pastor Kris Madsen, were invited to see a pre-showing of the latest Bible-based movie to come out of

passages from other writings of St. Paul like the infamous love passage from 1 Corinthians 13. "I had never thought about Paul's famous love passage in light of his former life as a persecutor of the Church," said Pastor Madsen, "but hearing Paul speak that infamous passage after having scene a flashback to the stoning of Stephen shed new light for me on the kind of love Paul is talking about in that passage."

When asked her initial reactions to the film, Jenn said, "Though I've known for a long time that the early Christians endured persecution, seeing it play out on the big screen really drove home for me the suffering they endured. And because they endured, I know message of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ... there are just no words."

Both Jenn and Pastor Madsen give the movie two thumbs up and highly recommend it. The movie opens in theaters beginning March 23rd. An outing to the movie makes for a great, easy to plan event for your women's groups or for the congregation at large, not recommended for younger children though and parental discretion is advised for junior high aged youth.

Go see for yourself,

Jenn Madsen, WNALC Council & Fellowship Team

MAKE AN IMPACT WITH A THRIVENT ACTION TEAM

If you're a Thrivent Financial member, you can lead up to two Thrivent Action Teams per year to bring people together for a one-time project to help others live generously.

You can:

- ◆ Coordinate an educational event.
- ◆ Organize a fundraiser.
- ◆ Conduct a service activity.

Perhaps you can help the Disaster Response efforts by making quilts/ fleece blankets, baby care kits, school kits, or flood buckets.

Thrivent will provide:

- ◆ Resources to help you plan the event.
- ◆ Promotional items, including Thrivent T-shirts, invitations, thank you notes, and a banner.
- ◆ Community Impact Card with \$250 of seed money to help with your project

Learn more at www.Thrivent.com/actionteam and apply online.

We would love to hear the various service projects you do with your women's groups and circles. Email wnalcnews@yahoo.com and we'd love to feature your group in our newsletter.



Together, we can make a difference.

**Jenn Madsen
WNALC Council & Fellowship Team**

REGISTER NOW!

If you or your church is not registered with the WNALC for 2017-2018, please do so now!!!

There are no annual fees, membership fees, required donations – just a registration so you can receive newsletters, upcoming information, vote on business, and a way for us to contact you.

Please complete the form at the end of the newsletter and return it to:

Pat Dittrich, PO BOX 341, Orchard, TX 74464

**EGG DONATION TREE FROM
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
GREENVILLE, OH**

Exciting things are happening at St. John Lutheran Church, Greenville, OH!! To God We Give All The Glory!!

To support Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center in Richmond, IN. St. John's women are busy collecting donations to help support this youth facility. Each colored egg has a different monetary amount, ranging from \$5.00 to \$100.00. With the potential to collect \$1,300.00, we hope to exceed last years total.

In addition, our next project, pictured on the right, is our Thank offering boxes. The whole congregation is involved.

When a blessing is received, money is placed into the box showing gratitude for God's blessings and gives us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. This years blessings money is going to the H.A.R.P. mission, a NALC faith based affiliate located in Caldwell, OH. Our gifts of thanks will be collected at a special Thank-offering service on May 6th, 2018.

**Submitted by Jerri Altenberger
St. John Lutheran Church, Greenville, OH**

SEND IN YOUR STORIES, PICTURES, BLOGS, OR EVENTS

Please send your stories, pictures, recipes, or event information to Lane Magera, editor at wnalcnews@yahoo.com by May 15, 2018 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.

**HAVE YOU
THOUGHT OF
THIS IDEA?**



RECIPE TO SHARE
BAKED OATMEAL

2 cups quick oatmeal	2 beaten eggs
1 tsp. cinnamon	2 cups milk
½ tsp. nutmeg	½ cup brown sugar
½ tsp. soda	¼ cup oil
Pinch of salt	
Raisins, apples, dried cranberries, dried apricots or nuts as desired	

Mix all dry ingredients together. Mix eggs, milk, sugar, and oil and add to dry ingredients. Pour into greased 1 quart baking dish. Place in refrigerator overnight. Bake at 325 ° for 45 minutes.

Serves 6 *Submitted by Marcella Nelson
WNALC Council & Spiritual Growth Team*

BABY CARE KITS FROM
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
BROOKFIELD, WI

Women of Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI, packing baby care kits for the NALC Disaster Warehouse to help with ongoing needs for flooded families.

25 baby care kits were sent for distribution and the ladies had a fun time collecting the items and packing the kits during coffee hour on Sunday Morning. We pray the families receiving them are blessed by this kindness.

*Submitted by Marcella Nelson
Calvary Lutheran Church
Brookfield, WI*

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!

facebook®

+ join our group

Join us on Facebook in our group
WNALC-Women of the NALC
by going to the link below!!
Get up to date news and daily bible messages!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC/>

CASES FOR
SMILES FROM
FIRST
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF
GRAY MANOR
DUNDALK, MD

The Women of The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gray Manor in Dundalk, MD are busy once again making pillowcases for Cases For Smiles. The pillowcases are distributed to pediatric cancer and emergency room patients at Johns Hopkins Hospital and other hospitals in MD. This is our fifth year of contributing to Cases For Smiles and to date we have donated over 1,000 pillowcases.



*Submitted by Barbara Sullivan
First Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Gray Manor
Dundalk, MD*

WOMEN OF
THE NALCWISCONSIN UPPER MICHIGAN
MISSION DISTRICT GATHERING

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church
Nekimi Women's Group

Saturday, May 19, 2018
Registration/Coffee Hour at 8:00 am
\$15.00 per person covers
lunch and supplies

St. John's Lutheran Church Nekimi
491 Old Oregon Road
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Guest Speaker: Jessie Phillips,
NALC Disaster Response Task Force
Church Service: Pastor Shelly Schultz



Please bring an item for the
NALC Disaster Warehouse
(Items for baby layettes or
gift cards for Walmart, Kohls, or Target)



RSVP BY May 13, 2017 to
nekimi_stjohns@live.com or
Carla Nemehis at 920-420-1024

**Submitted by Jessie Phillips
NALC Disaster Response Task Force**

NALC SEEKING CANDIDATES
FOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The NALC Nominating Committee is now receiving names of candidates for nomination to serve in positions to be elected at the 2018 NALC Convocation, August 13-17 in Denver, CO.

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the following positions. Brief position descriptions can be found at www.theNALC.org

NALC SEEKING CANDIDATES
FOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, CONT.**Executive Council**

1 clergy & 1 layperson, each for a 4-year term

Court of Adjudication

2 persons for a 4-year term (lay or clergy)

NALS Board of Regents

3 persons for a 6-year term (lay or clergy)

Congregations are encouraged to suggest individuals for any of the open positions. Please confirm individuals you wish to recommend are willing and able to serve prior to submitting their names. Also, if you feel called to serve in any of these capacities, we encourage you to contact your pastor and congregational leaders to inform them of your openness to serving and request they submit your name.

All candidate recommendations should be submitted by May 4, 2018. This will give us the time necessary to compile biographical information on the candidates and comply with the constitutional requirements about providing this information to the Convocation delegates. To submit a name, please complete the Candidate Submission Form and return it to the Nominating Committee at nominations@thenalc.org. This is the preferred submission method. In the alternative, forms may be mailed to Marc G Voigt; 4060 River Branch Ln., Pfafftown, NC 27040. **If possible, please include a photograph (head shot) of the candidate.**

Grace and peace,

2018 Nominating Committee:

Rev. Wendy Berthelsen
pastor.wendy@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Cathi Braasch priihb@gmail.com
Shelly Ree luthyouth@xplornet.com
Rev. Bert Schultz bertschultz2@outlook.com
Marc Voigt, Chair voigtmg@gmail.com

**Submitted by Marc Voigt
NALC 2018 Nominating Committee Chair**

WNALC COUNCIL & MISSION DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES, REV. 12/2017

LINDA BROWER, Chair

1408 Summer Court, Brenham, TX 77833
 (979) 203-6828
LindaB.wnalc@hotmail.com



PAT DITTRICH, Secretary
 PO Box 341, Orchard, TX 77464
 (713) 254-0044
PDittrich.wnalc@gmail.com

-Atlantic Mission District (27)

CT, DE, ME, MD (east), MA, NH,
 NJ, NY (east), PA (east), RI, VT, & DC

-Heartland Mission District (13)

Indiana & Kentucky

-Mid-Northeast Mission District (32)

Western MD, western NY, western PA & WV

-North Texas Mission District (5)

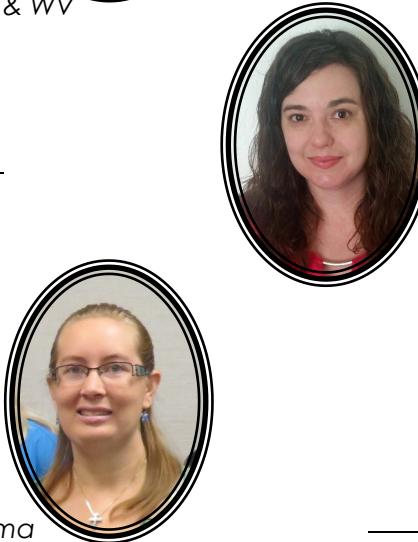
TX (north)

-South Texas Mission District (25)

TX (south) & LA

LANE MAGERA, Vice Chair

420 West Second Street
 Trufant, MI 49347
 (847) 714-3876
WNALCnews@yahoo.com



-Caribbean & Hispanic Mission District (3)

Caribbean & Hispanic Ministries

-Great Plains Mission District (14)

Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska & Oklahoma

-Great River Mission District (19)

Illinois

-Western Dakotas, Montana, & Wyoming Mission District (5)

Western Dakotas, MT, & WY

ROBBIE CONLEY, Treasurer

Hope Lutheran Church
 ATTN: Robbie Conley
 5462 Nicholson Hill Rd
 Hubbard Lake, MI 49747
 (210) 347-2417
RLConley.wnalc@gmail.com



-Canada Mission District (22)

Canada

-Michigan Mission District (8)

Michigan (Lower Peninsula)

-Carolinas Mission District (41)

North & South Carolina

-Eastern South Dakota Mission District (16)

Eastern South Dakota

JENNIFER MADSEN

62 West Lincoln Ave
 Fresno, CA 93706
 (559) 365-8698
JMadsen.wnalc@gmail.com

-Iowa Mission District (35)

Iowa

-Northwest Mission District (6)

AK, ID, OR, & WA

-Rocky Mountain Mission District (4)

CO, NM, UT, & TX below NM

-Sonshine Mission District of Florida (5)

Florida (except panhandle area)

-Virginia Mission District (5)

Virginia

JACQUI EL TORRO

2672 Stone View Terrace
 East Point, GA 30344
 (404) 452-5354
JELtorro.wnalc@gmail.com

-Mid-South Mission District (8)

AL, AR, FL panhandle, GA, MS, & TN

-North Central Ohio Mission District (16)

North Central Ohio

-Northeast Ohio Mission District (9)

Northeast Ohio

-Northwest Ohio Mission District (7)

Northwest Ohio

-Southeast Ohio Mission District (13)

Southeast Ohio

-Southwest Ohio Mission District (11)

Southwest Ohio

<---SEE LEFT FOR INFO

-Central Pacific Mission District (4)

Northern CA & Northern NV

-Minkota Mission District (16)

MN & Eastern ND

-Southwest Pacific Mission District (8)

AZ, Southern CA, HI, & Southern NV

-Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Mission District (18)

WI & Upper MI



FOR MORE MISSION INFORMATION, VISIT:**Ministry Partners:**

Awakening Lives to World Missions
www.alwm.org
Lutheran CORE
www.lutherancore.org
China Service Ventures
www.chinaserviceventures.org
Lutherans for Life
www.lutheransforlife.org
East European Missions Network
www.eemn.org
Lutheran Lay Renewal
<http://lutheranrenewal.com/>
Friends of Madagascar Mission
www.madagascarmission.org
Sola Publishing
www.solapublishing.org
India Transformed/UEMI
www.indiatransformed.org
World Mission Prayer League
www.wmpl.org
Life Together Churches
www.lifetogetherchurches.org

NALC Global Workers:

<http://thenalc.org/international-mission/>
Great Commission Society:
<http://thenalc.org/gcs/>
Recognized Ministries:
Commission Expeditions
www.commissionexpeditions.org/
Philos Project
www.philosproject.org
Lutheran Bible Translators
www.lbt.org
SMI Haiti
www.smihaiti.org
Lutheran World Relief
www.lwr.org
Water Mission
www.watermission.org
Lutheran Military Veterans
and Families Ministries
www.lmvfm.org
Wheat Ridge Ministries
www.wheatridge.org
Malawi Orphan Care Project
www.malawiorphancareproject.org

WNALC MISSION BANKS

Use the bottle wrap bellow to go around an empty water bottle to collect your change.

Encourage others in your women's group to do the same.

If cash and change is not your style,

simply write a check making sure the memo line says "**WNALC Mission Bank**".

The 2017-2018 Recipients are NALC Global Workers-The Ekka Family and NALC Disaster Response.

Collect contributions from your women's group and forward offerings, postmarked by **May 31st** of each year to:

WOMEN OF THE NALC
2299 PALMER DRIVE, SUITE 220
NEW BRIGHTON, MN 55112-2202

Be sure to indicate on the **MEMO** line of your check "**WNALC Mission Bank**." Recipients will be selected at the WNALC Annual Gathering.

**WNALC MISSION BANK**

My daily contribution is to:

PRAY

for missions

PRAISE

God for the work

He is accomplishing

GIVE THANKS

with a coin offering to help further God's kingdom on earth

WOMEN OF THE NALC ANNUAL INFORMATION SHEET

Today's Date: _____ Mission District: _____

Church Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Congregational Women's Group:

Women's Organization Name: _____

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

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).

#1 Contact Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

#2 Contact Name: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

PLEASE SEND IN MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ***ANNUALLY, in AUGUST.*****
MEMBERS ARE REGISTERED FOR THE AUGUST - JULY 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ **Complete this form and send or email to:**

Pat Dittrich
PO Box 341
Orchard, TX 74464
PDittrich.WNALC@gmail.com

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.

Revised January 2018

WOMEN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

2018 WOMEN'S COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

Please Print or Type

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alt phone: _____

Email: _____

Congregation: _____

City & State of Congregation: _____

Mission District: _____

Biographical Information and Qualifications:

1. Age Range: 20-35 36-54 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:

Pat Dittrich

PO Box 341

Orchard, TX 77464

PDittrich.WNALC@gmail.com