

# News for the

# Women of the NALC

North American Lutheran Church

## The Chair's Corner

Greetings,

Can you believe we are now in the month of June? Soon we will be able to meet face to face as we come together for our Annual Gathering this year in Indianapolis, Indiana. For those who are reading this newsletter for the first time or are new to the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), each summer we gather together, thus the name "Gathering," as the women of the larger church. We meet on the Tuesday before Convocation, which really speaks volumes as to the importance of women being active in everything that the church does.



*Jacquie El Torro*

So, what do we do in our one day together? We pray, Acts 6:4 (NIV) *"and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word,"* conduct a little business, pray some more, conduct some more business. We get to hear from the bishop & a truly awesome speaker, the Rev. Leslie Haines, executive director for Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries, Inc. (LMVFM). We have lunch together to strengthen our new relationships that we continue to grow & groom throughout the week.

I can assure you there will be laughter in the room as "Girls Just Wanna have Fun." The council wants to get to know you on a personal level, we want to share your stories, celebrate your victories & pray with you through your heartaches & pains.

We will be electing three members to the Women's Council, as part of the business. The delegates elect the council members of which there are seven in total. The new council meets after the gathering & elects the officers. This year we are honored to have Lutheran World Relief hosting a reception for all women Tuesday evening at the Westin Hotel. More details on that when you get to Indy.

We help usher in the Holy Spirit & set the tone & spirit for Lutheran Week. We bond & build relationships that enable us to be a forever family. If you don't know what forever family means, come to the gathering to find out.

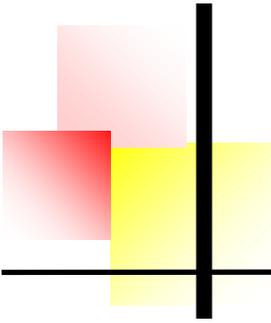
Come, sing, laugh, pray & worship with us &, oh yeah, take care of business in the midst of it all. You can register online at [lutheranweek.com](http://lutheranweek.com).

Indiana here we come,  
Jacqui



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# Lutheran Week

## WOMEN: START YOUR ENGINES!



WNALC ANNUAL GATHERING  
August 6, 2019  
WESTIN HOTEL  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



Registration is open! Details here: [lutheranweek.com](http://lutheranweek.com)

*"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."* Hebrews 12: 1b (ESV)

All women are welcome to attend & do not have to be a delegate of a congregation for the Convocation or Annual Gathering. Mark your calendars & plan to join us for our Annual Gathering of the Women of the North American Lutheran Church – WNALC.



### Stuff the Tonka!

**NALC Disaster Response & Women of the NALC  
Stuff the Tonka!**

Wanted: Gift Cards!

Walmart - Home Depot - Lowe's - Target

During Lutheran Week (August 5–9, 2019) the little Tonka Truck with the BIG heart will be in Indianapolis loading up with gift card donations! Start collecting now! Ask your friends & neighbors!

Not going to Lutheran Week?

#### Gift Cards

NALC Disaster Response  
ATTN: Mary Bates  
PO Box 176  
Caldwell, OH 43724

#### Monetary Donations

WNALC  
c/o NALC  
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220  
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

#### **For more information contact:**

Pat Dittrich, WNALC Council  
Email: [pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com)  
Cell: 713-254-0044

**OR**

Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator  
Email: [batesm55@gmail.com](mailto:batesm55@gmail.com)  
Phone: 740-509-1132



### WNALC Council Openings

**We Need You!  
Serve on the WNALC Council!**

- ◆ We need new members on the governing board
- ◆ of the WNALC Council! This is an excellent opportunity to meet & work with women from all over!
- ◆ What better way to share our ideas & 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 6th, in Indianapolis, IN. We have three positions open.

- ◆ The WNALC Council Nomination Form is on the
- ◆ WNALC website. Just fill it out (you can nominate yourself!) & 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](mailto: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 & working with YOU!
- ◆ Pat Dittrich
- ◆ WNALC Council
- ◆ Nominations Team

# 2019-2020 Mission Banks

During our Council meetings we have a time set aside for "Things in Your Spirit" there is no format to be followed, no rules to abide by. It is merely an opportunity for each of us to share openly & honestly what is in our spirit. *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

We are called to be women of prayer & action, we move by faith & each in our own direction with the guiding of the Holy Spirit. So, I am asking that each of you first pray for wisdom & guidance. Also, please pray for the direction we as the Women of the NALC should take. Look up what is happening in your local area & how you could become engaged if that is where the Spirit leads you.

I will close with James 5:13-16 (NIV) *"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

We are the Elders of the Church.

All Love & Light

Jacqui



Lutheran Bible Translators  
P.O. Box 789  
Concordia, MO 64020  
660.225.0810  
Website: [lbt.org](http://lbt.org)

An agenda item for our August 6th WNALC Gathering in Indianapolis will be voting on mission bank recipients for the upcoming year. Each year one international and one national mission is selected and voted on by the delegates at the gathering. Our proposed recipients for the upcoming year are Lutheran Bible Translators and Bethesda Lutheran Communities, both recognized ministries of the NALC.

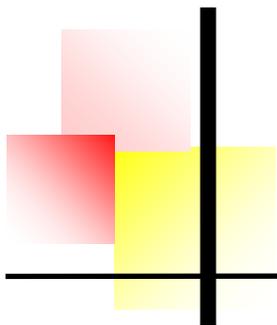
Lutheran Bible Translators work in 16 different countries around the world to translate the Bible for those who do not yet have the scriptures in their native tongue. The majority of the world's 7,000 languages do not yet have a complete translation of the Bible. Bible translation is a long process and needs ongoing support to have the necessary time for this vital mission.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities serves persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the United States through numerous locations and a variety of services. Bethesda's services include: Group Homes, Host Homes, Church disability ministries, thrift shops, employment supports, camps, educational supports including Bethesda College. The goal is to help these persons realize a greater sense of independence and a closer connection to their community.

Marcella



Bethesda Lutheran Communities  
600 Hoffman Dr.  
Watertown, WI 53094  
800.369.4636  
Website: [bethesdalc.org](http://bethesdalc.org)



# Spiritual Growth

I believe the main purpose of our lives is to grow spiritually, to draw closer to God & to become more like Him. But how do we know if we are growing? Measuring spiritual growth is much harder than physical growth. Luckily, while physical height growth ends, spiritual growth does not. For the most part we don't even have a need to measure our spiritual growth. At the same time, we do want to feel that we are growing spiritually.

Therefore, this article is focused on "How do we know if we are growing spiritually?" These are some of my experiences & ideas that I have heard from others.

Keeping in daily communion with God becomes easier & more natural all the time. Having a desire talk with Him, pray, thank, request & ask for guidance becomes more & more natural & just a part of daily life - like brushing your teeth. You know when you don't brush your teeth you just don't feel right, & in the same way, when you don't include God in your day you can sense restlessness, irritableness, unhappiness, etc.

Spiritual growth can be seen in losing bad habits or changing your lifestyle because God is working in you for you to become a better person & more like Him. I recently heard a story about a daughter who ran away from home because of abuse but later in life reconciled with her father. In the meantime, her father had let go of bad history & bad behavior. That is what spiritual growth can do.

Drawing closer to God & growing spiritually can be recognizing that getting through life isn't so hard. You trust in & rely on Him more & know that He will take you through each day & through whatever you have to face. God doesn't promise an easy life, but He promises He will be there. Growing spiritually will help you rely on Him more & it will be natural & right in your life.

Everyone's spiritual growth will be different at different stages in life, just like physical growth. We won't all become Billy Graham, but we can all be close to God & love & serve Him as our Lord & Savior.



*Jill Nesheim*



# Mission Minded

What's your mission? Have you considered what God has gifted you to do & calls you to do in response to His abundant grace? What might you support through your offerings? What activities can you give your time to? Is there something you can do together at your church? Is there something you can do from your home if it is harder for you to get to an activity at church? Do you like to visit people, bake, sew, build or do yard work? Some are good at shopping; fill your cart with items for NALC Disaster Response items, Lutheran World Relief, your local food pantry or crisis center. Could you give away some extra possessions? Find an organization to share your abundance with.



*Marcella Nelson*

I serve on the Mission & Outreach committee in our congregation, Calvary Lutheran of Brookfield, Wisconsin. Each month we choose a different mission to support with a special offering. These missions are local, national & international. Our goal is to give people opportunities to respond to a variety of mission groups, knowing that different opportunities appeal to different people & we are pleased our congregation has an enthusiastic response to these choices.

Also, at Calvary, we designate the month of June as Mission Servant Month. During the month the focus for most of the activities is outreach beyond the walls of our church. This too has a good response from our members. Perhaps there are some outreach activities that your congregation does that you would like to share with our WNALC newsletter. I hope our list from Calvary gives you some ideas to inspire an outreach project in your congregation. Read 1 Corinthians 12. This chapter is a good teaching for us all.

*"There are different kinds of gifts but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service but the same Lord." 1 Corinthians 12:4-5 (NIV)*

Some examples of items from our June outreach from 2018 & 2019 are:

**Sewing backpacks for LWR**



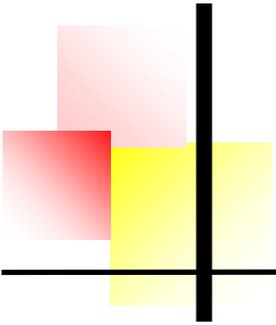
**Fleece blanket tying for NALC Disaster Response**



**Hunger Task Force food sort**



**Meal serving opportunities for the homeless & rehab center**



# Disaster Response

Tornadoes & floods are still wreaking havoc across the Midwest.

From Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response coordinator: Our thoughts & prayers are with thousands of families impacted by this severe weather: over 500 reported tornadoes for 12 straight days, spread from Colorado to New Jersey, 8 fatalities; flooding from South Dakota to Louisiana, setting historic records & severe thunderstorms later this week as the jetstream causes conflicting storm systems across the US. Your help is needed: prayer, monetary donations, volunteers, your material goods!

Please find it in your heart to send resources to the affected areas via NALC Disaster Response.



**Tornadoes in Oklahoma, May 20th**



**Storms in Illinois, May 27th**



**Flooding in Oklahoma, May 22nd**



**Tornado in Ohio, May 28th**

**Send non-monetary donations to:**

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

For more information please visit [thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response](http://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response)

# News from You!



## Michigan Mission District WNALC Retreat

Thirteen women from four of the eight churches in the Michigan Mission District gathered on April 21, 2019. We began with worship, joining the clergy who were also meeting & were able to witness the installation of our new dean, Pastor Steve Hartten from St. Joseph, MI. We introduced ourselves & then assembled over 33 flood buckets from dona-

tions & Thrivent Action Team funds. We joined the clergy for lunch & then were led in a Sola Publishing Bible study. Each church brought ideas to share that stand out in their church & made a table display to see. To finish we did a yarn activity that showed us how many similarities we have. Thank you to St. Paul (Ewart), St. Thomas (Trufant), & Peace (St. Joseph) for coming. Also, biggest thanks to Redeemer (Owasso) for hosting!! Hope to see you at the next one!

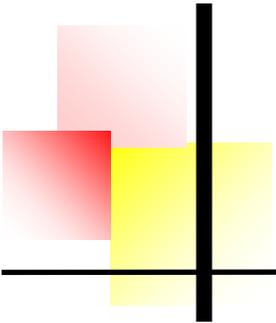


## Christ the King

*Evans, Georgia*

On Saturday May 4th, the Christ the King Women's Ministry sponsored a brunch for the women of the church. Since it was the day that the Kentucky Derby ran, our theme was "Derby Day" & women were invited to wear their loveliest hats & partake in a tasty buffet featuring a Kentucky favorite: Kentucky Hot Brown Sliders. There was a lot of fun & much enthusiasm for the new Women's Ministry program. We are now working on developing a leadership team for the group & planning future activities including opportunities for spiritual growth, service & fellowship.





# Info for You

*Submit your stories,  
pictures, recipes, or events!*

Please send your content to  
Rachel Busch Jones at  
[wnalcnews@yahoo.com](mailto:wnalcnews@yahoo.com)  
by July 15, 2019  
for inclusion in the next edition.

Photos included in this  
newsletter are the property of  
the article's subjects. Please  
contact those individuals for  
permission to reuse.

Get news & daily Bible messages!  
**"WNALC-Women of the NALC"**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC)

## Register Now!

If you &/or your church is not  
registered with the WNALC for  
2019, please do so now!

There are no annual fees,  
membership fees or required  
donations — just a registration  
so you can receive newsletters,  
upcoming information, vote on  
business & stay connected.

Please complete the  
information sheet [HERE](#) & send to:

**Pat Dittrich**  
PO BOX 341  
Orchard, TX 77464

[pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com)

WNALC General Fund donations  
help with expenses for the WNALC  
website, WNALC Council Fall  
Retreat, WNALC display table at  
Lutheran Week & the WNALC  
Annual Gathering.

WNALC Mission Fund donations are  
collected until May 31 & split  
between the National &  
International Mission Recipients  
voted on at the previous Annual  
Gathering.

We thank you for choosing to  
support the Women of the NALC!  
We hope you continuously uplift the  
WNALC in your prayers to serve as  
God wills.

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



**DESIGNATION:**  
WNALC Mission Fund or WNALC General Fund

## MISSIONS

"Therefore go and make disciples..."

### Recognized Ministries:

- Bethesda Lutheran Communities: [bethesdalc.org](http://bethesdalc.org)
- Commission Expeditions: [commissionexpeditions.org](http://commissionexpeditions.org)
- Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch: [dakotaranch.org](http://dakotaranch.org)
- Gudina Tumsa Foundation: [gtfus.org](http://gtfus.org)
- Lamp Ministry: [lampministry.org](http://lampministry.org)
- Lutheran Bible Translators: [lbt.org](http://lbt.org)
- Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute: [lcbi.sk.ca](http://lcbi.sk.ca)
- Malawi Orphan Care Project: [malawiorphanproject.org](http://malawiorphanproject.org)
- SMI Haiti: [smihaiti.org](http://smihaiti.org)
- Water Mission: [watermission.org](http://watermission.org)
- We Raise Foundation: [weraise.org](http://weraise.org)

### NALC Guides

- Great Commission Society: [thenalc.org/gcs](http://thenalc.org/gcs)
- NALC Global Workers: [thenalc.org/international-mission](http://thenalc.org/international-mission)

### Ministry Partners

- Awakening Lives to World Missions: [alwm.org](http://alwm.org)
- China Service Ventures: [chinaserviceventures.org](http://chinaserviceventures.org)
- East European Missions Network: [eemn.org](http://eemn.org)
- Friends of Madagascar Mission: [madagascarmission.org](http://madagascarmission.org)
- India Transformed/UEMI: [indiatransformed.org](http://indiatransformed.org)
- Life Together Churches: [lifetogetherchurches.org](http://lifetogetherchurches.org)
- Lutheran CORE: [lutherancore.org](http://lutherancore.org)
- Lutherans for Life: [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)
- Lutheran Lay Renewal: [lutheranrenewal.com](http://lutheranrenewal.com)
- Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries: [lmvfm.org](http://lmvfm.org)
- Lutheran World Relief: [lwr.org](http://lwr.org)
- Sola Publishing: [solapublishing.org](http://solapublishing.org)
- World Mission Prayer League: [wmpl.org](http://wmpl.org)

# Mission District Representatives

\* Council Members in Bold

## **JACQUI EL TORRO, Chair**

2672 Stone View Terrace  
East Point, GA 30344  
(404) 452-5354

[JELTORRO.WNALC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JELTORRO.WNALC@GMAIL.COM)

### **Mid-South Mission District (7)**

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

### **Sonshine Mission District (8)**

FL (except panhandle area), Carib-  
bean

*Facilitated by: Linda Brower*

[LINDAB.WNALC@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:LINDAB.WNALC@HOTMAIL.COM)

### **North Texas Mission District (9)**

TX (north)

### **Southeast Texas Mission District (14)**

TX (southeast) & LA

*Facilitated by: Sherrie Palan*

[SHERRIEPALAN.WNALC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SHERRIEPALAN.WNALC@GMAIL.COM)

### **Southwest Texas Mission District (12)**

TX (southwest)

*Facilitated by: Amy Werner*

[AWERNER.WNALC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AWERNER.WNALC@GMAIL.COM)

### **Atlantic Mission District (39)**

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

### **Mid-Northeast Mission District (32)**

MD (west), NY (west), PA (west) &  
WV

## **RACHEL BUSCH JONES**

2397 CR 675E  
Champaign, IL 61822  
(405) 612-1055

[RACHELBUSCHJONES@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RACHELBUSCHJONES@GMAIL.COM)

### **Great Plains East Mission District (7)**

KS, MO, NE & OK

### **Great Plains West Mission District (8)**

KS, MO, NE & OK

### **Great Plains South Mission District**

(4) KS, MO, NE & OK

### **Great River Mission District (20)**

IL

## **MARCELLA NELSON, Vice Chair**

17080 Gebhardt Road  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
(701) 833-5157

[MNELSON.WNALC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MNELSON.WNALC@GMAIL.COM)

### **Central Pacific Mission District (5)**

CA (north) & NV (north)

### **Northwest Mission District (8)**

AK, ID, OR, & WA

### **Rocky Mountain Mission District (4)**

CO, NM, UT, & TX (below NM)

### **Southwest Pacific Mission District (9)**

AZ, CA (south), HI, & NV (south)

*Facilitated by: Jessie Phillips*

[JMP218@ATT.NET](mailto:JMP218@ATT.NET)

### **Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Mis- sion District (21)**

WI & MI (upper peninsula)

## **PAT DITTRICH, Secretary**

PO Box 341, Orchard, TX 77464  
(713) 254-0044

[PDITTRICH.WNALC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PDITTRICH.WNALC@GMAIL.COM)

### **Eastern South Dakota Mission Dis- trict (16)**

SD (east)

*Facilitated by: Gloria Ziemer*

[SNOGGYFROG@AOL.COM](mailto:SNOGGYFROG@AOL.COM)

### **Carolinas Mission District (44)**

NC & SC

## **LANE MAGERA, Treasurer**

420 West Second Street  
Trufant, MI 49347  
(847) 714-3876

[LSMAGERA.WNALC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LSMAGERA.WNALC@GMAIL.COM)

### **Canadian Mission District (22)**

Canada

### **Michigan Mission District (9)**

MI (lower peninsula)

## **JODY FORD**

2018 Jonathon Street  
Kendallville, IN 46755  
(260) 433-3301

[ROJO1861@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ROJO1861@GMAIL.COM)

### **Heartland Mission District (12)**

IN & KY

### **North Central Ohio Mission District**

(15)

OH (north central)

### **Northeast Ohio Mission District (11)**

OH (northeast)

### **Northwest Ohio Mission District (7)**

OH (northwest)

### **Southeast Ohio Mission District (13)**

OH (southeast)

### **Southwest Ohio Mission District (10)**

OH (southwest)

## **JILL NESHEIM**

805 Walford Road  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
(701) 426-9798

[JCNQUILTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JCNQUILTER@GMAIL.COM)

### **Iowa Mission District (36)**

IA

### **Minkota Mission District (19)**

MN & ND (east)

### **Western Dakotas, Montana, & Wyo- ming Mission District (6)**

ND (west), MT, SD (west) & WY

More information can be found at [thenalc.org/mission-districts/](http://thenalc.org/mission-districts/)