



# News for the



## The Chair's Corner

Grace & Peace,

Can you believe that this year is nearly over? As your Women's Council we had our annual retreat in Fort Wayne, IN. Thank you to the St. John's Lutheran Church of Lake Township Family & Jody Ford for the warm welcome & wonderful time we had with you.



*Jacquie El Torro*

At this year's retreat we got to know each other & the gifts that each one of us brings to the council. I am amazed at the gifts that this council has & at the spirit that is within the group of ladies that would not normally have anything in common. We discovered that our love for Jesus Christ, our church & women's ministry was all the commonality we needed. When you are intentional about inviting the Holy Trinity into your space amazing things will happen.

One thing is that we as a council will be more visible: we have the updated website & we are posting daily on the Facebook page. Each one of us has committed to visiting three of our districts in person. For that to work you all must let us know what is happening so we will know when to be there.

Kim & I were in Rincon, GA for the Carolinas Mission District Retreat. It was a blessing to explore "I AM." Kim got to meet ladies from the Carolinas & the Mid-South Mission Districts which she represents. I got to meet some of the ladies from Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church in the Sonshine District. My schedule so far is Berlin, PA for their region meeting in April, also Rosenberg, TX in April. I am waiting for a date to visit the ladies in Jacksonville, FL that I met in Rincon. I will also be welcoming the ladies of the new congregation, Martin Luther, to the NALC. If you are in the areas that I will be in, come out, I would love to meet you & answer any questions you have. Please invite all members of the council to your events! We really do not want to continue being the best kept secret within the NALC. Check the website & Facebook page for the itineraries of the rest of the Council.

We are all looking forward to our next Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh! It will be a blast (Great Gatsby style) & our colors are Purple & Gold.

See ya in Rosenberg, Berlin, Jacksonville & last but not least, Pittsburgh.

Jacqui



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# Mission Banks



Have you ever wondered what it was like for the first explorers? Traveling through unknown territory, they must have wondered what they would encounter next. Would they find water & shelter? Would there be violent storms? How would the journey end?

Over 2,000 years ago, a young couple began a journey that first took them to Bethlehem. As they awaited the birth of their Child, they must have wondered what the future would hold. What an awesome responsibility to raise the Son of God!

Those who serve with Lutheran Bible Translators on the mission field are also on a journey. Traveling around the U.S to build relationships with potential supporters, moving to another country, learning a new culture: It's a journey into God's Word, pointing the way to Jesus Christ for those who do not know Him. Serving around the world, even in the most remote places, their goal is clear—to *make the Word of God accessible to those who do not have it in the language of their heart.*

Christ's earthly journey ultimately led to the cross—& redemption for those who believe. But over 180 million people still do not know about Jesus Christ. Their journey through this world is without the comfort & hope that can only be found in God's Word. In a way, they are like those early explorers, trying to find the safest path, but never certain of their destination.

Through translated Scripture, literacy programs, videos, music, worship materials & so much more, translation teams help people learn about our Savior. When people hear & understand the Good News about Jesus Christ, they have the opportunity to come to faith—& that faith assures them that the end of life's journey here on earth is the beginning of eternity in heaven.

Christ instructed the disciples to "go into all the world & preach the Good News to all creation." Lutheran Bible Translators' missionaries continue to answer that call, serving in over 70 language communities worldwide to help bring people translated Scripture. But they don't do it alone. They have the prayers & support of individuals & congregations serving in their own communities & beyond—those who walk *with* Christ to *bring* Christ to those who do not know Him.

Your interest in Bible translation & support for Lutheran Bible Translators is much appreciated by staff, missionaries & our many partners overseas. May God bless you on *your* journey as together we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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



To the Members of WNALC:

Thank you for your willingness to support Bethesda's mission & ministry this year. We depend on the prayers & support of wonderful people like you every day. For over 115 years we have been supporting people with intel-

lectual & developmental disabilities to use their God-given abilities & live lives of faith, & we can't do it alone.

Meet Alana, a person we support: <https://youtu.be/DIXCD1ajtJc>

Alana's journey of faith is amazing, & with Bethesda's help we are confident it will continue to grow & flourish. Your support helps us support people like Alana across the country. Thank you for your ministry & may God bless all your efforts this year.

Kim Trombley, Vice President of Religious Life

Bethesda's mission is *to enhance the lives of people with intellectual & developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.*

# Spiritual Growth

## *Christ is Christmas*

Do you turn the sacred day of Christmas into a cheerful, warm, be of good will, everybody be nice (for just one day), happy ending for everyone, Disney kind of a story? Disney has fairy godmothers that wave their wand to make everything magically wonderful. God has angels. It is an angel who announces that Elizabeth will bear a son & that many will rejoice at His birth & there will be joy & gladness. The entire countryside is talking about Elizabeth & her healed womb. Her labor is attended by midwives with family close by. John's birth is celebrated. She got the fairy tale. When Mary is visited by an angel, she is initially greatly troubled, but she responds as a servant to God & accepts the angel's pronouncement regarding her conception. She runs to Elizabeth, her cousin, knowing that an angel brought her similar tidings. Elizabeth believes her & celebrates with her, but the world does not. Mary's pregnancy is shrouded in shame. An engaged woman who becomes pregnant is an adulteress & can be stoned to death. Even though only Joseph needed to travel for the census, he takes Mary with him. Did he want to spare her the stares, the gossip, or the judgement of the town & family in his absence? While they are in Bethlehem, Mary gives birth. There are no midwives, no family & no celebration. Except...the heavens open & the angels appear to "bring tidings of great joy for all the people!" "A Savior is born!" The glory of the Christ Child has shone through His birth. His life is so important that time is split in two. Our historical calendar reflects that in BC & AD.

Keep Christmas sacred. This year take time to turn from the Disney version of the Christmas story with its familiar, folksy, soft feelings. Don't get lost in the snowy winter magical scenes with deer & cardinals, Christmas cards, eggnog, gifts & holiday parties! Ask yourself, why did Jesus come into the world? Why did He come in such humble beginnings? He came to be like you, for you, an outpouring of God's great love & hope for you. Your Savior, this Baby, headed to Calvary.



*Sheila Westrick*



# Thankfulness & Giving

It is the time of thankfulness & giving. We are thankful for all God has done for us, His son Jesus dying on the cross, our abilities, food, clothes, shelter, family... The list goes on & on. Even if we are experiencing trials, temptations & disappointments, there is still much to be thankful for.



Jill Nesheim

As Christians, we want to give & give; to reach out & help others; & give just for the joy of giving. We also give because we want to demonstrate our faithfulness to Christ & because He tells us to tithe. Leviticus 27:30 (NIV) *"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord."*

Many of us come from a former church background of having a Thank Offering Box that we would put money in over the year while saying prayers of thanks. In the fall, there would be a Thank Offering Program, either in a women's meeting or as part of the church service. I remember the beautiful decorating the women would do by bringing in pumpkins, gourds, wheat & bales to make a beautiful back drop for our program.

Women have asked & have looked for this from the WNALC. By looking at past WNALC council decisions & recent discussion at our council meetings, the following is what we offer.

- ◆ The NALC has Mission Driven as one of its four Core Values. The WNALC in turn is a Mission Driven group. We select a local & an international group to support monetarily every year. We also encourage you & your church women to support Lutheran World Relief (LWR) & NALC Disaster Response.
- ◆ Rather than, or in addition to, a Thank Offering program, we encourage you to have a "Mission Sunday". It could be the Sunday that you display your quilts & kits before you send them on.
- ◆ My church, Peace Lutheran in Devils Lake, ND, recently had a Mission Sunday that was put on by our council stewardship team. They had display boards & literature of the missions our church supports. The yellow board in the middle is the Women of Peace display with a school kit, prayer shawl & a quilt lying by it.
- ◆ If you want to have a small program at your meeting or during church, our website now has a resource section where there is an editable program for a Mission Sunday.
- ◆ Women's groups around the country are making a mission offering containers cutting slits into frosting containers or empty plastic bottles or using a mason jar. Computer generated or handmade labels can be made to attach to your container. Have fun with it! Your mission offerings can be donated to local, national or international charities of your choice, or you can offer it to the WNALC Mission Bank or divide it between your choices & the WNALC missions.
- ◆ One last suggestion is for your lovingly made quilts & kits. We want you to continue to support LWR, but please consider giving a portion to the NALC Disaster Response. Your portion can be a percent of the quilts & kits you make, think 10% to 50%. NALC Disaster Response stays within the United States. Remember that Disaster Response takes any size quilt or blanket; new or gently used; & any fabric including patriotic, religious or holiday prints. Also, your layettes can have cloth OR disposable diapers or both. Check the NALC & WNALC websites for more information on Disaster Response.

Remember: if you have a Mission Sunday or Thank Offering program of any kind or if you do a special offering, please take pictures & post to Facebook &/or email to the WNALC for the newsletter.

# Thankfulness & Giving

In this season of giving & receiving, are we being mindful of our blessings & being truly thankful for all that the Lord has blessed us with? Often we get so wrapped up in the holiday that we forget that it is a Holy Day. A day that has been set aside for us to reflect on the awesomeness of our God & to be thankful for the little things that He does every day. Giving thanks & being thankful are to be an everyday experience not just something that is reserved for Thanksgiving Day.



Jacquie El Torro

Scripture (taken from NIV) repeatedly instructs us to be thankful:

- ◆ 1 Chronicles 16:34 *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*
- ◆ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
- ◆ Colossians 3:15 *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*
- ◆ Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
- ◆ Colossians 4:2 *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*
- ◆ Philippians 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
- ◆ Psalm 100:4 *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*
- ◆ Psalm 106:1 *Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.*
- ◆ Psalm 95:2-3 *Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.*
- ◆ Psalm 107:1 *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*
- ◆ Hebrews 12:28-29 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."*
- ◆ 1 Timothy 4:4-5 *For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.*
- ◆ 2 Corinthians 4:15-16 *All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*
- ◆ 2 Corinthians 9:11-12 *You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.*

It is amazing how many times we are instructed &/or reminded to be thankful. Scripture provides us with all the instructions we need, there no need to expound or come up with additional rhetoric. God is not in the habit of repeating Himself unless it is important. 1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 106:1, 107:1 & 118:1 all say the same thing: **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.** That's God giving the exact same message four times, enough said.

# News from You!



## Bethany Lutheran Church

*Laurens, Iowa*

On Saturday, October 26 the women of Bethany Lutheran Church hosted an area gathering of the Women of the NALC & guests. There were 39 women in attendance from the NALC churches in Ruthven (Zion), Gilmore City (First Lutheran), Eagle Grove (Samuel Evangelical) & Laurens (Bethany). In addition, there were guests from the Methodist churches of Laurens & Marathon, the First Christian Church of Laurens, & guests from out of the area. A 90-minute program consisted of three phases. The first was a welcome & prayer by Becky Braesch followed by a report from Liz Klappenbach & Dr. Linda Bieri of Bethany on the national meeting of the Women of the NALC in Indianapolis. The second was the singing of five hymns accompanied by Ruth Steinkoenig, along with the history of each hymn (Becky Braesch) before it was sung. The third was each attendee introduced themselves & gave a brief talk about their church & their faith-life journey. An extensive salad luncheon was provided by Shirley Kruse & her kitchen crew from the women of Bethany (you will never leave a NALC church hungry). Those in attendance had a wonderful time & recommend that this type of area gathering be facilitated throughout the Iowa Mission District.

Submitted by Sheldon Bieri

# News from You!



## Hope Lutheran Church

*Cedar Hill, Texas*

Christmas Brunch & Silent Auction to raise money for our missionaries!

Submitted by Linda Brower



## Zion Lutheran Church

*St Marys, Ohio*

Zion Lutheran's women's group hosted a baby shower for two young women recommended by the Auglaize Family Life Center. These young women decided to raise their babies when they faced an unexpected pregnancy.

Submitted by Sheila Westrick



# News from You!

## St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania: Annual Women's Winter Retreat *In His Time: Practicing Patience & Self Control*

- ◆ Who: St. Timothy Lutheran Women & any woman desiring to be a part of this experience.
- ◆ When: January 17-19, 2020 (Includes Friday night dinner & Sunday breakfast.)
- ◆ Why: A time away from daily routine for renewal, enrichment, & rest for your body, mind & spirit.
- ◆ What: Large & small group discussions, faith-based conversations, Bible study, various activities including walks in nature, fun, games & more...
- ◆ Where: A quiet country retreat with good food & hotel-style accommodations (45 minutes from Camp Hill). NOTE: Special "Pay it Forward" Activity: Liz from Anna's Gift will be providing all supplies & instructions for kit making for hospitalized youth on Saturday afternoon. To learn more visit: [www.annasgift.org](http://www.annasgift.org)

**For more information contact: Amy Ewbank 717-307-5673 or Marian Lefevre 717-732-6904; 717-695-1470**

Marian Lefevre is a life-long learner who loves to be among women of all ages. Much of Marian's nursing career has involved women & their families. She enjoys music, nature, gardening & sharing God's love with others. Marian & husband, Jeff, have been members of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church for more than 30 years. They actively support Via de Cristo (Way of Christ), a discipleship method of faith renewal for Christian's everywhere. Since a child she has enjoyed retreats of various kinds like summer church camp & Girl Scout camp. As a Christian woman, wife, mother & grandmother she encourages others including pastors & their families on their faith journey.

Come & discover examples of God's perfect timing through the Bible stories of Esther, Queen of Persia & Joseph, Son of Jacob (Israel).

Invite a daughter, sister, mother or friend for Saturday or the weekend.

Please bring:

- ◆ Bible & journal or something similar to use.
- ◆ Games, camera, extra pillow or towels, snacks (optional).
- ◆ BEST to dress in layers for individual comfort.
- ◆ Walking in the out of doors is beautiful but optional!
- ◆ Consider reading in the Bible the book of Esther & the story of Joseph in Genesis 30-50. Bible reading in advance is optional but suggested for enrichment of the weekend experience.

Travel: Friday or Saturday carpool from St. Timothy (Camp Hill, PA). Directions are available or see retreat center website [roxburycamp.com](http://roxburycamp.com)

Weather: A decision to postpone/cancel will be made by 2 p.m. on Friday if necessary. We will try to contact everyone in this event.

*"For such a time as this..." Esther 4:14*



*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Genesis 50:20 (NIV)*

Rooted in scripture & based on a novel by Joyce Landorf entitled "Joseph" we will discuss:

- ◆ Differences between our timing & God's timing
  - ◆ What patience & self-control have to do with timing
  - ◆ How five women in Joseph's life influenced his character to become the Prince of Egypt
  - ◆ The influence we potentially have in another's life
- You will not want to miss this opportunity!

# Info for You

Check out our new look!

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

WNALC *Mission Fund* donations are collected & 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.

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

Please send your content to Rachel Busch Jones at [womenofthenalc@gmail.com](mailto:womenofthenalc@gmail.com) by January 15th for inclusion in the next edition.

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[wnalc.org](http://wnalc.org)

## Register Now!

If you &/or your church is not registered with the WNALC for 2020, 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 "Join the WNALC" form [HERE!](#)

**facebook**  
+ join our group

Get news & daily Bible messages!

"WNALC-Women of the NALC"

[www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC)

**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



### 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: [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)  
SMI Haiti: [smihaiti.org](http://smihaiti.org)  
Sola Publishing: [solapublishing.org](http://solapublishing.org)  
World Mission Prayer League: [wmpl.org](http://wmpl.org)

## MISSIONS

"Therefore go and make disciples..."

### Recognized Ministries:

Bethesda Lutheran Communities: [bethesdalc.org](http://bethesdalc.org)  
Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute: [clbi.edu](http://clbi.edu)  
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 Inc.: [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: [malawiorphancaresproject.org](http://malawiorphancaresproject.org)  
Moved to Mission (M2M)  
Philos Project: [philosproject.org](http://philosproject.org)  
Water Mission: [watermission.org](http://watermission.org)  
We Raise Foundation: [weraise.org](http://weraise.org)  
The Wilderness Ranch of Claresholm: [wildernessranch.ab.ca](http://wildernessranch.ab.ca)