

WNALC Annual Gathering 2020

God Creates Women of Purpose: Women Who Reflect the Heart of God



Welcome to the first ever virtual gathering of the WNALC! We are excited to spend a few hours with you in worship & fellowship. Our theme this year is “God Creates Women of Purpose: Women Who Reflect the Heart of God,” which will lead you to reflect on your purpose & heart song. In addition to conducting the business of the WNALC we are privileged to hear from special guest speaker Reverend Trina Peterson & NALC Bishop Dan Selbo.

As an organization for women we dedicate ourselves to assisting you in moving forward in faith & mission while also assisting your congregational women's ministries in mission & service. We hope that you will find this meeting helpful & informative as well as inspiring.

If you have any questions regarding the gathering or if there is anything that would make your gathering experience better please contact Kim Isiminger at kisiminger@me.com.

God's Peace,

The Women's Council



Agenda

WNALC Virtual Annual Gathering 2020

August 4 | 3pm EST | *Meeting called by Jacqui El Torro*

Council Members

Jacqui El Torro | Kim Isiminger | Rachel Busch Jones | Marcella Nelson | Jill Nesheim | Sheila Westrick

- ◆ Greeting: Jacqui El Torro
- ◆ Opening Prayer: Intern Lynnae Douglas
- ◆ Council Introductions
- ◆ Annual Report: Jacqui El Torro
- ◆ Greeting from Bishop Dan Selbo
- ◆ Minutes from August, 2019: Kim Isiminger
- ◆ Financial Report & Budget: Jill Neisham
- ◆ Council Nominee Introductions
- ◆ Mission Banks: Marcella Nelson
- ◆ Prayer for Missions: Pastor Nijhar Minks Ekka
- ◆ Vote on Budget, Nominees, Mission Banks
- ◆ Stretch Break & Music – Biblical Woman of Purpose: Sheila Westrick
- ◆ Guest Speaker: Rev. Trina Peterson
- ◆ Credentials Report: Kim Isiminger
- ◆ Communications Update: Rachel Busch Jones
- ◆ Elections & Voting Results
- ◆ Closing Prayer: Sheila Westrick

The Rev. Trina Petersen

Every person is born with a purpose, prepared for a plan & fueled by a passion. The purpose, plan & passion of Trina Petersen is adding value to the lives of people by helping them focus their energy & maximize their potential. She works tirelessly with individuals, groups & organizations across the United States, in East Africa & in Haiti to educate, equip & empower leaders for effective leadership. Because she embraces the sentiments of Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in this world", her work includes but is not limited to being a change agent within the North American Lutheran Church, Non-Profit Organizations & in Corporate America.

Pastor Trina Petersen is an effective life coach & compassionate pastor. She is a powerful author, successful entrepreneur & motivational speaker. Though she works with all who are ready for change, she has a special place in her heart for helping women break free from emotional & spiritual bondage & gain the freedom to love, live & to positively impact their communities. She has spent the last 13 years working with women one on one & in group settings. Firsthand experience equips her with the wisdom, tenacity & compassion she needs to connect with people. She shares the wisdom she has gained from her personal experience to help equip, empower & encourage women to live lives of significance. Trina is passionate about helping women identify their passion & utilizing it as the catalyst for maximizing their potential & enjoying life.

Pastor Trina has been privileged to be trained by & work with noted pioneers in the counseling field. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biblical Education from Beulah Heights University, a Master of Divinity from The Interdenominational Theological Center & has completed eight units of Clinical Pastoral Education. She is a certified platform speaker & coach with the John Maxwell Team. She has served as a Hospice Chaplain, Office Administrator, Computer Software Trainer & was the founder & CEO of FaithWorks, Inc, a time management & organizational system consulting business. Trina combines her education & entrepreneurial spirit to provide dynamic transformative speaking & coaching experiences. The phenomenal transformation of those she has worked with fuels her passion.

As an Author, Trina's writings are focused on developing esteem that are not defined by one's failures or limitations. Rather, she focuses on the esteem that comes from being connected to & operating in the purpose & power of The Creator. In her most recently published literary work, "Irresistible", Trina maps out a framework to help individuals & organizations move from survival, past success & into significance. This framework, the FOCUS framework, is proven to work, if you work it. Bishop Emeritus had this to say about 'Irresistible'; *"This book was designed for women but the process for personal transformation is equally true for men. This is an excellent resource for couples to study together. It is faith based & biblically centered. Her personal transparency is both helpful & refreshing. Her advice & direction are consistent with the path of discipleship. Don't miss the opportunity to fully utilize the wisdom contained in this book. It truly is irresistible!"*

Whether addressed as Pastor Trina or Coach Trina, she simplifies the complex things making her message easy to understand. Her insight makes her message relevant & impactful. Her compassion is unmistakable. Her laughter & smile make her approachable. When asked about sharing with the Women of the NALC, she responded, *"There is no greater joy than that of fulfilling your God created purpose. My joy is made full when I serve others – helping to reclaim their power, purpose & peace by helping them gain freedom from emotional bondage that stagnates their progress & diminishes their impact. I believe that the Women of the NALC are a force to be reckoned with. I look forward to spending time with my sisters in Christ."*



Bishop Dan Selbo

The Bishop carries out a pastoral ministry within the church, serving as pastor for the pastors and congregations of the NALC. The Bishop preaches the Gospel, forgives sins, administers the Sacraments and judges doctrine (Augsburg Confession XXVIII). The Bishop carries out a ministry of visitation throughout the church, is a defender of the faith, and promotes the mission of the church.



Cheryl Macklem

Congregation: Zion Lutheran Church
City: St. Marys, Ohio
Mission District: North West Ohio
Occupational History: Bank Auditor, Human Resource Specialist

How you serve in your congregation: Altar guild. Women's board 6 yrs. Sunday school teacher. Give children sermons
How you serve in the larger church body: Council at large, Communion Assistant, Praise team
How you serve in your community: Water walk, Easter egg hunt, Cancer walk, Operation Christmas child

Family or other information you would like us to know: Married 43 yrs to Dan, One daughter (deceased)



Jill Nesheim

Congregation: Peace Lutheran
City: Devils Lake, North Dakota
Mission District: Midkota
Occupational History: Retired school teacher & office bookkeeper

How you serve in your congregation: Sunday School teacher, superintendent & music, Women's group chair, secretary, kitchen lady, church council member, organist not all at once but sometimes more than one at a time! Have participated in almost all bible studies offered through the years.

How you serve in the larger church body: Making quilts & kits for LWR & NALC disaster response. Currently on the WNALC board & serving as the treasurer. Sponsoring children through Compassion International. Supported missionaries through Navigators & Campus Crusade. Have monetarily supported water projects & Tin Roof projects.

How you serve in your community: Volunteered at the local food pantry. Helped pick up food to bring to the local food pantries. Donated money with my husband to start the local food pantry. Donate quilts & kits to our local nursing homes, safe house, pregnancy center. helped put on programs at nursing homes. have delivered meals on wheels. Served many meals at ball games & at our church. Girl & Boy scout leader. monetarily supported the pregnancy center.

Family or other information you would like us to know: Mother of 3 grown Christian children & 7 grand children. Married to Ed for 42 years. Love to read, quilt, fish, be with friends.



Ruth Reitmeyer

Congregation: St. James Lutheran Church
City: Llano, Texas
Mission District: Southwest Texas

Occupational History: Three years retired. My careers have been mostly in non-profits & education. I was a professional fundraiser for a major university & private schools, a director of a Senior Companion Program through a community action agency & I worked as a paraprofessional at the local high school helping students with special needs/learning challenges. I am a volunteer mentor for two elementary age students who are considered at-risk. Before COVID I met with them once a week.

How you serve in your congregation: My husband is a pastor at a small congregation. I serve as the church musician in a volunteer capacity three Sundays a month. In the past I have taught Sunday School, was active in the women's group & lead a few Bible Studies.

How you serve in the larger church body: I served as a delegate for two convocations. I'm also a volunteer for the Society of the Holy Trinity, providing consultation for their fundraising efforts.

How you serve in your community: I am a volunteer & a member of the Women's Culture Club of Llano, serving on the social committee & scholarship committee. I am also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) & served as a delegate for the convention that was held this past June. I volunteer at the school for the DAR teaching children about colonial life, helping students make cards for veterans & judging the essay contest.

Family or other information you would like us to know: Married to Pastor Ralph Reitmeyer for 47 years. Two grown children who are married & enjoy spending time with my 5 grandchildren. Five years ago Ralph accepted a call to a small town congregation who was affiliated with the NALC. We own a house in Llano that was built in the 1860's. We enjoy this small Texas town in the Hill Country. My goal is to get a women's group started at the church (after this COVID). I would be honored to serve the wider church through the WNALC.



Rachel Busch Jones

Congregation: New Beginnings Lutheran Church
City: Mahomet, Illinois
Mission District: Great Rivers
Occupational History: I run the office at a local country club & do side work as a freelance Professional Organizer.

How you serve in your congregation: I am a founding member of New Beginnings Lutheran Church in Mahomet, Illinois, & presently serve as Vice President of the congregation. I teach Sunday School & volunteer in general when I can.

How you serve in the larger church body: WNALC Council Member 2018-2020, NALC Convocation congregational delegate 2018-2019

How you serve in your community: I do my best to volunteer physically & monetarily with various entities, both local & virtual, when I can.

Family or other information you would like us to know: I live on my seventh-generation family farm in Champaign, Illinois with my husband Steve, our four-year-old daughter Jaci & a passel of farm creatures. My folks are right across the drive. In my spare time - haha, little joke - after my full-time job, side business, church, family & the farm, I ride my horses & I run barrels/rodeo. I'm an avid reader when I get a few minutes to open a book. I'm a bit of a travel junkie; a sunny, sandy beach is my favorite place to be! Being a part of the WNALC has been so fulfilling for me. Being able to meet, connect & worship with other women across the faith gives me a great feeling of sisterhood. Working on the website & newsletter has allowed me to use my organizational gifts for God's work & I have really enjoyed it!



Peggy Jording

Congregation: Christ the King Lutheran
City: Newcastle, Wyoming
Mission District: Western Dakotas, Montana & Wyoming

Occupational History: My last full time job was as the district librarian for Weston county school district. I was based in the middle school. We had a rich library of books to serve both the advanced young adult reader to the struggling special needs student. We provided a variety of programs to inspire our students. I am no longer working.

How you serve in your congregation: Currently, I lead our 24/7 prayer group. We meet weekly for group prayer & to study. I love to lector as often as called upon. I participate in our women's group & plan to lead our next study. While we were waiting for an interim pastor I lead & adult study on discipleship. I serve on the care & serve committee which organizes the ushers, lectors, greeters & coffee hosts.
How you serve in the larger church body: In this current church body, I have been to two convocations, as a delegate & then as a visitor. Both times I attended the WNALC meetings & served on the budget committee.

How you serve in your community: Currently, I am in several women's organizations. The purpose of one is women's education, local, national & international. Another organization's purpose is to support our library system & to continue to grow in knowledge & culture. In addition, we financially support other organizations & causes.

Family or other information you would like us to know: Mike & I have been married 37 years. He will retire in 2021. We have two sons that live in the Denver area & have 3 children between them. I have many hobbies: reading, sewing, knitting, needlepoint, & card making.



Sandy Strohecker

Congregation: St Paul Lutheran
City: Oregon, Illinois
Mission District: Great Rivers
Occupational History: RN 1.5 yrs, Secretary at local Park District 15 yrs, Receptionist for family planning health department clinic 13 years.

How you serve in your congregation: Taught Sunday School, member of women's group, usher, council secretary, council president, count offering & deposit, member of past call committee

How you serve in the larger church body: Attended my first convocation last year (2019), encouraged my local women's group to join WNALC, member of women's sewing group - we make quilts & school kit bags for disaster relief

How you serve in your community: Volunteer at Serenity Shed (grief management repurposing workshop), volunteer at elementary school in IRead program, member of my 50th class reunion committee, volunteer for park district special events

Family or other information you would like us to know: Retired, Divorced, Mother of 3 sons, Grandmother to 6 - 3 grandsons (22, 18 yrs & 10 months) & 3 granddaughters (15, 13, & 5 yrs)



WNALC Budget 2021

Current Balance: \$28,513.09

INCOME:

Donations

General	\$9,000.00
Missions	\$9,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$18,000.00

Annual Gathering 2021

Registrations (60 x \$100)	\$6,000.00
Donations	\$900.00
	<hr/>
	\$6,900.00

Total: \$53,413.09

EXPENSES:

Annual Gathering 2021

Council Travel	\$4,000.00
Supplies & Printing	\$600.00
Honorariums	\$200.00
Council Hotel	\$1,000.00
Council Registration Reimbursements	\$700.00
Lunch (60 x \$40)	\$2,400.00
Coffee	\$300.00
Audio/Visual	\$400.00
Registration Fee (60x \$3.50)	\$210.00
Total Annual Gathering Expense	<hr/> \$9,810.00

Scholarships for Annual Gathering

10 women @ \$800.00 \$8,000.00

Other Expenses

Fall Retreat	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$200.00
Internet and Tech	\$100.00
Mission Donations	\$9,900.00
Total other Expenses	<hr/> \$11,700.00

Total Expenses: \$29,510.00

Projected Balance December 2021: \$23,903.09

Women of the North American Lutheran Church
Annual Gathering Minutes
August 6, 2019
Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, IN

“...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” Hebrews 12:1b-2

The WNALC Council members present: Jacqui El Torro (Chair), Marcella Nelson (Vice Chair), Pat Dittrich (Secretary), Rachel Busch Jones, Jill Nesheim and Jody Ford.

With “Grace, Grace, Favor, Favor!” Chair Jacqui El Torro called the Gathering to order and greeted everyone present. Jacqui introduced all the members of the council and the theme verse from Hebrews was read. Jacqui pointed out that the little Tonka from last year retired and his two big brother Tonkas were on display and ready to accept gift cards benefiting disaster response.

Amy Werner had the map of all the churches in the NALC on display. Amy explained that besides Ohio, several other large mission districts split and formed smaller districts within a “region”. Texas, Atlantic and Great Plains have all split and have formed regions. The Carolinas will be split by the end of the year. There are 435 churches in the NALC.

Jacqui introduced the annual report. She stressed that the WNALC is utilizing more resources and staff from the NALC in an effort to save time and expense. The WNALC has a new logo and it is available through the company, Land’s End. The minutes from the 2018 Gathering were presented by Pat Dittrich. There was a motion from Luanne Sokolowski (Phillips, WI) to approve the minutes as presented. Jessie Phillips (Lebanon, WI) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jody Ford introduced our guest speaker for the day, CH Leslie Haines, (MAJ ret. MA). She is the Executive Director of Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. CH Haines spoke of the importance of supporting our military veterans and their families. NALC Bishop John Bradosky greeted the Gathering and spoke on the theme verse. A parting gift was presented to the Bishop from the WNALC.

The Call for Nominations was next. Pat introduced the 3 ladies that were on the ballot: Jacqui El Torro (for re-election), Marcella Nelson (for re-election) and Kim Isiminger (Evans, GA). Sheila Westrick (St. Marys, OH) was nominated from the floor. There were 4 names on the ballot with 3 two-year term positions and 1 one-year term position open.

Marcella Nelson spoke next about the Mission Bank Program. The recipients proposed for the 2019-2020 season were Bethesda Lutheran Communities (domestic) and Lutheran Bible Translators (International). Information about both groups was included in the event folder which everyone received. At this time, Jacqui introduced several of the guests in the room: Ruth Borden (India Transformed), Mary Bates (NALC Disaster Response), Kim Trombley (Bethesda Lutheran Communities), Ida Martinson (China Service Ventures), Nijhar Minz-Ekka (World Mission Prayer League) and Lynn Kickingbird (NALC Executive Council). Lunch was then served in another room.

The Gathering reconvened and Pat gave the credentials report. Present at the Gathering were 46 delegates and 31 visitors giving a total of 77 attendees representing 63 churches and 22 out of 30 mission districts. Rachel Busch Jones gave the news from the WNALC Communications Ministry Team. The WNALC has a new looking website (www.wnalc.org). The WNALC Facebook page is active. Jacqui introduced past WNALC council members who were in attendance: Jan Williams, Kathy Hefner, Amy Werner, Jessie Phillips, Sherrie Palan and Linda Brower.

Next on the agenda were mission district meetings. The ladies split up in groups according to their mission district to share ideas and fellowship. The group picture was taken next.

The Gathering continued with the election of Council Members. Ida Martinson (Bemidji MN) moved that nominations be closed. Beth Olejniczak (Fayetteville, AR) seconded the motion. Motion carried. The ladies then cast their ballots. The proposed budget was presented by Rachel. It was explained that the budget was once again showing a negative. After some discussion, Rosemary Johnson (Conrath, WI) made the motion to add \$500 to the amount budgeted for Donations and \$500 to the amount budgeted for Gathering Registration. That would cover the deficit in the budget. Richey Vanderspool (Mahomet, IL) seconded the motion. Motion carried. Brenda Berggren (Lindsborg, KS) moved that the budget be approved as amended. Bev Downey (Smicksburg, PA) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The vote to approve the mission bank recipients was next. The period to send donations runs from August to the following May. Luanne Sokolowski (Phillips, WI) moved to accept Bethesda Lutheran Communities and Lutheran Bible Translators as the mission bank recipients for 2019-2020. Robin Harris (Lebanon, PA) seconded the motion. Motion carried. The results of the council member election were announced and all 4 on the ballot were elected. Pastor Trina Petersen led the group in an interactive song.

At this time Nijhar Minz-Ekka (World Mission Prayer League) spoke of her work in India and thanked everyone for their support. Mary Bates (NALC Disaster Response) also thanked everyone for their support and stated that she could not do what she does without everyone's help. Through the generosity of our members and their congregations, this year the WNALC was able to hand Mary 366 gift cards totaling \$12,545 to support the ongoing and future disaster recovery efforts of the NALC around the country.

Jacqui announced that Lutheran World Relief would be hosting a reception for everyone later in the evening. At this time it was decided that each group at a table would have prayer time. The Gathering closed with the singing of "Oh Jesus I have promised" and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Dittrich
WNALC Council Secretary



WNALC Annual Gathering

Voting Guidelines

Delegates,

We will be using SurveyMonkey to facilitate our voting this year, and everyone who registered as a delegate should have received their Delegate Code by email between 7/30 and 8/2. The Delegate Code is REQUIRED for voting. If you have not already located your code, please check for an email that came from my account - kisiminger@gmail.com - with the subject line "WNALC Annual Gathering Delegate Voting Code"

If you registered as a delegate and have not received your code, please contact me as soon as possible using the email account that you listed when you registered.

- › Please remember, there is only one delegate per church.
- › Your five character Delegate Code (two letters followed by three numbers, no spaces) must be entered as the first response on your survey.
- › If your Delegate Code is used on more than one ballot, all ballots with that code will be removed.

When it is time to vote, the link to the ballot will be visible in the Webinar window. You can vote on your smartphone, tablet or computer - any device that has a browser such as Internet Explorer, Safari, Firefox, Google Chrome, etc. Please take a moment to verify that you have typed the address for the ballot correctly before pressing ENTER so that you will go directly to it without any errors.

The budget and Mission Bank recipient approvals require a "Yes" response if you think they should be approved or a "No" response if you think they should not be approved.

There are six candidates for the four open council positions, and you are asked to mark the names of the four people you think should fill the open seats.

Prior to voting we will give instructions about how to manage any problems that you may encounter when trying to vote. Maddie and I will both be answering your questions - please be patient if it takes a few minutes to get the answers that you need. This is something new for all of us and the members of the council appreciate your continuing prayers for the success of this year's Gathering!

Blessings -

Kim Isiminger, Secretary
WNALC Council
kisiminger@gmail.com

Women of the NALC Annual Information Sheet

Online version: wnalc.org/aboutus/contactus

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 NALC congregations that do 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:

Kim Isiminger

3976 Cheyenne Trail

Martinez, GA 30907

womenofthenalc@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.



Volunteer for a WNALC Team

If you are interested in serving on a WNALC team, please indicate your area of interest and list your name and contact information below.

- Budget Team
- Communication Team
- Fellowship & Community Team
- Mission Support Team
- Nominating Team
- Spiritual Growth Team

Do you have talents to share or suggestions for other areas of service?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of Congregation: _____

City (of congregation): _____

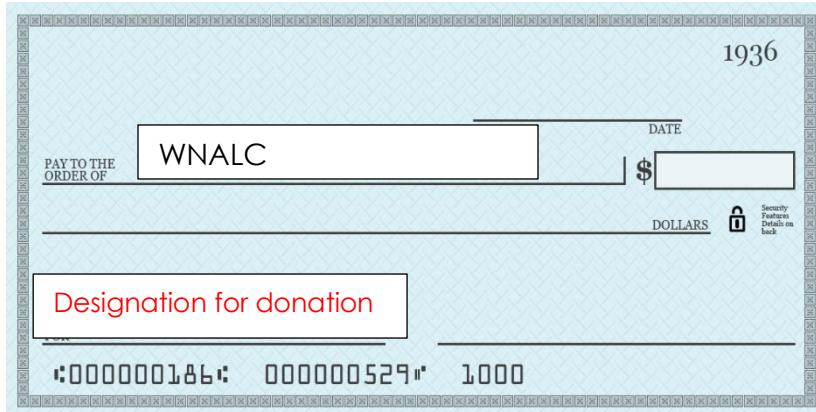
Send completed form to: womenofthenalc@gmail.com



We are eternally grateful to our women within our NALC congregations who continually support the mission of the Women of the NALC. Your support assists the WNALC in providing ideas, support, and information to women's ministry programs in the NALC congregations. Please send all donations to:

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

Please ensure that a comment is made on the memo (for) line of each check sent to the WNALC.
See example below:



WNALC Account Designations: General Fund* or Mission Bank**

*Donations to the WNALC General Fund: Help with the expenses of the WNALC Website, the WNALC Council Fall Retreat, and the Annual Gathering during Lutheran Week.

**Donations to the WNALC Mission Bank Fund: Help support the mission program with a specific focus on the mission or missions that were voted on each year by the attendees at the Annual Gathering.

Thank you again!
In Christ, **WNALC Council**