



Good News

From the WNALC



Chair's Corner

Grace and peace,

The season of Advent is upon us, which means the year of 2020 is almost over. There has never been a time in my life that I have been so weary. Normally a news junkie, I can't bear to watch it anymore. Praise God it is now Advent.

As Christians it is a time of expectancy and a time of preparation. A time when we celebrate that God our Father sent His only begotten Son into the world to save us from our sinful selves. We all know the expectancy part pretty well, but how much attention do we give to the preparation? This isn't about cleaning, decorating and planning a feast or celebration. It isn't about a music festival or a service ritual. This year, in 2020, we must prepare our souls and spirits to truly honor the gift that is Jesus the Christ. It has been a rough year; we have lost friends and family, not to death but to differences. We have lost



Jacqui El Torro

our love for one another. Some have lost sight of what Christianity is all about – welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the widow and the children, respecting our neighbor and loving them as we love ourselves.

Our churches have been closed most of the year, only to show us that the Church is not and never was a building. We are the Church, to some we are the face and voice of God. In this Advent season prepare yourself to be the Christian that God expects you to be. In the last newsletter I asked you to reach out and touch somebody's hand. Now I ask that you reach out and share the love of God, the peace of Christ with someone.

Let us together begin to heal this land; if Jesus returned tomorrow, would He say well done or would He weep for what we have become? We are blessed to be a blessing be the Light in the dark times. Christ and the Holy Spirit are walking with us into our full expectancy.

Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Jacqui

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Council Update

After much planning and re-planning, the council decided to postpone our annual retreat until January. We normally try to meet in the fall to get a jump on planning out the next year, but with COVID-19 on the rise we decided to hold off. Reservations were changed, flights were rescheduled, and we are now looking forward to meeting in Georgia in January!

Plans for the 2021 Annual Gathering were started at our virtual meeting in October, and we are looking forward to celebrating our 10th Anniversary!! We all love a party so we are hoping to plan a fun time for everyone! Scholarships will be available to help with expenses — watch for more information. The hotel is directly across from the bay — I've heard there is FRESH fish on the hotel menu. There is lots of planning to do in a short time - anyone who is interested in helping — please contact any WNALC board member or send a message through the WNALC website.



Sandy Strohecker

Spiritual Growth

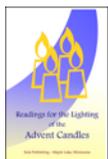
The exciting season of Advent, or “coming,” is almost upon us. Martin Luther describes three times of Jesus coming: past (as a little baby), present (to us now), and future (in His second coming). This reminds me of Charles Dickens *The Christmas Carol*, where there are ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. Although Dickens did not write his story to share the three comings of Jesus, he did share the change in Ebenezer Scrooge, to show the redemption and the hope of Christmas. Advent prepares us for the coming of Jesus as a little baby, as an offering for our redemption and hope. As we prepare to remember the coming of Jesus on Christmas, we celebrate Advent over four Sundays, often with an Advent wreath with five candles, four in a circle and one in the center. Each candle signifies a theme: the first candle is the Prophets' candle and signifies the expectation of the coming Messiah; the second candle is the Bethlehem candle and signifies the experience of Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem; the third candle is the Shepherds' candle or may be known as the Gaudete (meaning rejoice) candle, either one signifies that Jesus' coming is the reason to rejoice; the fourth candle is the Angels' candle and signifies the messages the angels bring to earth. The central candle is the Paschal candle and signifies that Jesus is the Passover Lamb, who came to earth as an offering for our salvation from sin and death.

As we prepare for the wonderful season of Advent, whether through the lighting of the Advent wreath and the prayers, songs and Scriptures, or daily devotional, we all must face the Scrooge within us and be willing to open up to the Jesus of the present who comes to our hearts and changes us from within, as we ask Him into our lives.



Peggy Jording

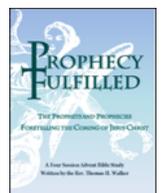
Prepare your heart for Advent with resources from Sola Publishing:



Booklet of Advent Candle Readings, Looking to the Manger, (Item # D-6020) by the Rev. Kristopher D. Madsen or *Readings for the Lighting of the Advent Candles*, (Item D-6010) by Steven E. King. Both of these small booklets offer readings and songs for the season.

If you are looking for a more intense study about Advent, *Prophecy Fulfilled: the prophets and prophecies foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ* (Item # D-3020) by the Rev. Thomas H. Walker is an excellent resource. This study is designed to take a closer look at the prophecies relating to Jesus' coming.

For further information on resources visit SOLA's website solapublishing.com.



Financial Matters

It is with such gratefulness and thanksgiving that I write this article. As the treasurer of the WNALC, I am amazed at the generosity of the women's groups and individuals who faithfully donate to the General and Mission Bank funds of the Women of the North American Lutheran Church (WNALC). On behalf of our council, I want to take this opportunity to give a big “THANK YOU” to all of you. We are so appreciative of your financial and prayerful support.



Jill Nesheim

As we prepare to celebrate our 10th year as the WNALC, there are a couple of items we would like to offer for your consideration. First, the funds that you would have used to send a delegate to the 2020 Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh, we hope you have considered donating to a ministry or cause in your community, or that you would consider adding them to your Mission Bank donation for this next year. Also, please note that we are again doing a Bible drive for the North American Lutheran Church Disaster Response. Look for the article by Marcella Nelson in this newsletter for more information. The second thing is the WNALC Council will be making scholarships available for the next in-person Annual Gathering scheduled for August 3, 2021 in Corpus Christi, Texas. Please watch the WNALC website and upcoming newsletters for more information about the scholarships.



Disaster Response

2020 Bible Drive



Marcella Nelson

We in the North American Lutheran Church can be very thankful for the fine work done by Disaster Response to provide help in times of natural disaster. The items they provide bring relief, hope and encouragement to people whose lives have been disrupted by floods, fires and hurricanes. Mary Bates and her team always seek to provide spiritual encouragement for victims through prayer and the distribution of Bibles. Again this year, we encourage you to support them in their efforts, and to consider sending a gift of Bibles to Disaster Response, either personally or through your church or women's group. Giving Bibles in honor of someone "who has everything" would be a lovely Christmas gift, or

consider giving Bibles in memory of a loved one. A couple of places you can order bibles and have them drop shipped to one of the NALC Disaster Response warehouses are Bibles.com and ChristianBook.com (formerly known as Christian Book Distributors). Paperback, large print, Spanish, teen and children's Bibles are all needed. See what you can do, send one, ten or 100 copies!



"so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent "
(Isaiah 55:11 NIV)

NALC DISASTER RESPONSE WAREHOUSES Now Number 10 across the UNITED STATES!

As of the fall of 2020, the North American Lutheran Church now has 10 Disaster Response warehouses across the USA. Several mission districts have accepted the challenge to either build a warehouse or find dedicated space within churches to store supplies and have them ready for rapid distribution when disaster strikes.

Please consider how your church or mission district might respond to the need for additional warehouses. Do you have space that could be used to help? Please contact Mary Bates (740-509-1132) or visit Disaster Response online to find information on how your group may be able to help with establishing a warehouse.

You will find the current warehouses listed on the page attached to this newsletter or on the WNALC website. Feel free to contact the coordinator of the

warehouse to which your church or women's group would like to deliver items or have orders shipped directly.

The list of requested items has been updated recently. Items can be collected year-round in order to be prepared in advance. As always, our deepest thanks to all of you who support Disaster Response throughout the year.

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:15-16 NIV).



Around the NALC

Many thanks to the ladies of St John's Lutheran in Phillips, Wis., Hope Lutheran in Ladysmith, Wis., Grace Lutheran, Eaton, Oh. and Salem Evangelical in West Alexandra, Oh. for their recent Stuff the Truck initiatives! Thank you for using your time and talents to support Disaster Response relief efforts



Hope Lutheran ladies donated 38 quilts, three health kits and three school kits to Disaster Response



St John's Lutheran donated five quilts, two health kits and two school kits to Disaster Response



Thank You!



Marilyn Bossler, Linda Bernhardt, Mary Suggs, and Ann Cooper of Salem Evangelical Lutheran doing the Following Jesus Bible study during these trying COVID-19 times. Their president, Brenda Wright, met us and really stuffed our truck!



Kelly MtCastle from Grace Lutheran with collections ready for pickup



FACEBOOK CHALLENGE

Our Facebook page has become a lot more active in recent months, but we're still hoping for more! Jill Nesheim issued a challenge to see if we can double our followers from 441 to 882. Anyone who invites someone to join will have their name put in a drawing for some fun quilted table runners made by Jill. How many winners? "Well, that depends on how many I make between now (Sept 1) and when our membership reaches 882!" Jill posted! We are presently at 471 and growing! If you are not a member, please ask to join. If you are a member, invite some or all of the women of your church (or anyone who would benefit from positive, faith-based posts) to join. Our page is [WNALC - Women of the NALC](#). Page members are welcome to post on the page so if your women's group is doing something special, please post about it. We'd all enjoy hearing about it.

Register Now!

Many thanks to those churches that have already updated their contact information for 2020. If yours has not yet done this — it's not too late!

Visit [WNALC.org](#) > About Us > Contact Us and click on the "Join the WNALC" button.

If there is not a women's group at your church, you are encouraged to register as an individual.

Stay connected



www.wnalc.org

Want to learn more about our

2021 Mission Bank Partners?

Visit WNALC.org/missionminded

Contact Us

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Peggy Jording — peggyj@rtconnect.net

THANK YOU for Supporting the WNALC & our Mission Bank Partners!

[WNALC General Fund donations](#) help cover the costs of our website, the WNALC Annual Gathering, our display table at Lutheran Week and more.

[WNALC Mission Fund donations](#) are collected and divided evenly between the two Mission Bank recipients voted on at the previous year's Annual Gathering.

We thank you for choosing to support the Women of the NALC! We hope you continuously lift up the WNALC in your prayers that we would always serve according to God's will.

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

Be sure to note on your check whether it is for WNALC General — or — WNALC Mission Fund

Newsletter Deadlines

Have something that you would like to share with everybody? Send photos and event details to

kisiminger@gmail.com



January 15th for the January/February newsletter!

North American Lutheran Church
Disaster Response
Regional Warehouses as of September 2020

Ohio:

NALC Disaster Response Warehouse
(national warehouse)
16500 Noble Ave/P O Box 166
Caldwell, OH 43724
Contact: Mary Bates (NALC Disaster
Coordinator)
Phone: 740-509-1132
Email: disasterresponse@thenalc.org

Texas (Texas Region South East TX MD):

Peace Lutheran Church
1026 Radio Lane/P O Box 486
Rosenberg, TX 77471
Contact: Michael Dittrich (Warehouse
Coordinator)
Phone: 281-381-5588
Email: michael.patd@gmail.com

North Carolina (Carolinas MD):

St. John's Lutheran Church
740 North Center
Statesville, NC 28677
Contact: Pastor Ernie Sheldon
Phone: 740-873-0222 (church office)
Email: pastorsheldon@aol.com

North Carolina (Carolinas MD):

Advent Lutheran Church
230 Oak Grove Road
King's Mountain, NC 28086
Contact: Rod Paulson (Warehouse Coordinator)
Phone: 910-584-1288
Email: rodneypaulson1967@gmail.com

Maryland (Southern MD):

St Matthew Lutheran Church
3620 Red Rose Farm Road
Baltimore, MD 21220
Contact: Gail & Lee Brandt (Warehouse
Coordinator)
Phone: 410-627-1271
Email: gailbrandt@verizon.net

Illinois (Great Rivers MD):

American Lutheran Church
500 Church Dr.
Rantoul, IL 61866
Contact: Terry Doyle (Warehouse Coordinator)
Phone: 815-258-8474
Email: tdoyle2@msn.com

Warehouses in Progress

Oklahoma (In progress) (Great Plains South MD):

Peace Lutheran Church
2600 E. Danforth
Edmond, OK 73034
Contact: Alan "Al" Reml
Phone: 405-229-4207
Email: pastorkeith@peace-lutheran.net

Texas (In progress) (Texas Region North TX MD):

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
4900 Kinsey Dr.
Tyler, TX 75703
Contact: Bill Videtto
Phone: 903-561-1865
Email: bjvidetto@gmail.com

Oregon (In progress) (Northwest MD):

Bethany Lutheran Church
34721 Church Road
Warren, OR 97053
Contact: Pastor Ingrid Aderhold
Phone: 503-397-2050
Email: fnconner@comcast.net

Michigan (In progress) (Michigan MD):

Redeemer Lutheran Church
2510 N. M-52
Owosso, MI 48867
Contact: Pastor George Zornow
Phone: 989-725-5442 (church office)
Email: prgeorge@redeemerowosso.com