



Good News

From the WNALC



Chair's Corner



Jacqui El Torro

Greetings!

The countdown to 2021 has come and gone. Many people are holding their breath in fear that something more devastating than the pandemic might yet happen. I heard people curse the year 2020 and say they couldn't wait until it was over.

Yes, 2020 housed great devastation, pain, poverty, illness, sorrow and death. But, let's not forget, if not you, some of us experienced some great joy, healing, new births, deeper love, greater companionship and new accomplishments. We made new friends, forged new alliances and more. I am simply saying 2020 was not the cause of our experiences. It was the conduit which enclosed our collective experiences.

It was merely the piece of the time capsule which delivered them onto the world so let's rejoice that we weathered the storms, dodged some direct attacks, accomplished some great things, discovered some new talents, and perfected some existing skills. Most importantly, we survived all the adversity and now

stand facing the new year, 2021. We will now be able to tell the story, our story, of how we made it through 2020.

As we searched for answers to our questions and looked for a reason to hope. God did what He did that first Christmas and sent a star so bright that it could be seen with the naked eye. Some called it the Christmas Star, others say it was the Star of Bethlehem. I call it God showing us that even in a year like 2020 He is always with us and will never leave us or forsake us. If only we would believe in His Word †. That experience brought science and Scripture together in one accord.

We can celebrate all of our blessings, big and small, because it all adds up to the miracles within our lives. Let's welcome 2021 with enthusiasm and great anticipation of greater times, not just because we are glad 2020 is over, but because we are thrilled that we have more life to live, and surely joy, happiness, love, health and prosperity will be included in our experiences as we enter into the next sector of this time capsule called our lifetime.

Stay inspired, so you can inspire yourself and others.
Jacqui †

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"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope" (Romans 15:13 ESV).

Staying Focused on the Cross †!

This month, with Lent upon us and the promise of Easter † morning just weeks away, we remind you to keep your eyes on the cross! Read carefully through this month's newsletter and find the crosses that look like this* †. How many crosses did you find throughout the newsletter? Email your answers to womenofthenalc@gmail.com. The names of people who respond with the correct number will be put into a drawing for a fun springtime table runner (see inset). Respond no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021. Then, join us the WNALC Facebook page at 1:00 p.m. Eastern (12:00 p.m. Central, 11:00 a.m. Mountain, 10:00 a.m. Pacific) on March 1st for the live drawing.

* The crosses may vary in size.



Win this table topper!

Spiritual Growth



Peggy Jording

Easter is almost here! Soon we will be celebrating our Savior rising from the grave to save us from our sins! Hallelujah! As I thought about what Easter means to me, I considered *hope, new life, new beginnings, salvation, and Jesus † rising from the grave.* I wondered what my friends thought and what their memories of Easter were. "Please tell me what you most treasure about Easter? What sticks in your mind about an Easter memory?"

Carol said, "We lived in Okinawa, and sunrise service was on a cliff with the three crosses overlooking the ocean; it was breathtaking and gives me goosebumps yet today! It really was a 'Thank you God!'" Joyce said, "I love the memories of us processing into the church singing on Easter morning. What a powerful uplifting feeling singing 'He is Risen'." Naomi said, "It was the songs I liked, especially 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today.' It signals a new beginning!" Rose said, "On Easter † morning we had an open and empty casket draped in white right in the front lawn,

under the sign of the church, which was on Main Street. Boy did people take a second look! We used the church Christmas tree to make a cross. On Good Friday everyone took turns driving a nail into it. Then, on Easter morning each member got a silk flower and hung it on the cross. It was meaningful; it was beautiful!" Several friends mentioned memories of sunrise services, the places where the services were, the people who they were with, and most often, the music shared at these services. One of my friends was even baptized on Easter! What a joyful memory.

I found myself reflecting on the joy and hope expressed in sharing the back-and-forth memories that these text streams had. One person's experience triggered a new memory in another. We shared Jesus in those memories and experienced the beauty, the sacrifice, and the empty tomb. It was awesome! Our Savior Jesus † is so awesome and meets us where we are. He loves and accepts us, connecting with us as we seek Him. Easter to me has many memories, but I really relish the time before Easter. It is the time I evaluate my relationship with my Lord. I look at my sinful self and realize that because Jesus † died for me, for my sins and made me clean that I have eternal life and thus HOPE for tomorrow.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus †, the love of life, the allurements of the present world (and Lord † there are many), the glamour of success and the favor of friends have enticed me away from you. Forgive me Lord and embrace me again as Your own, have mercy on me, hold me that I do not stumble and fall. Keep me standing in Your Grace until I shall stand in your presence forevermore. Holy Spirit within me, open my heart to your healing love and forgiveness. Jesus is risen. Hallelujah! Amen. (excerpts taken from Lutheran Book of Prayer, pages 129 and 130)

Council Update



Sandy Strohecker

The WNALC Council met online on November 24. The meeting was relatively short as we were planning to finally meet in person in January for our Annual Retreat. We did not meet in December due to our † scheduled meeting date so close to Christmas and the anticipation of a January in-person gathering. January came and COVID-19 was still with us — literally with some of us. Our January in-person retreat was cancelled and we met virtually instead on January 15th and 16th to plan our Annual Gathering. I am sure the next newsletter will be full of our news regarding the gathering † in Corpus Christi.

Until then, stay well and use the quiet times of quarantine to prepare for Lent.



The WNALC is Your Organization!

Get Connected

WNALC.com/aboutus/contactus

By visiting our contact page, you can

- connect to our Facebook page
- sign up to receive our newsletter by email
- update the contact information for your women's group

* Doing this each January or when your † officers change will help us make sure that you stay informed!

Disaster Response



Jill Nesheim

Last June my husband and I made a fun road trip to pick up quilts and kits, etc. and deliver them to the NALC disaster warehouse in Caldwell, Ohio. Even though COVID-19 was heating up, we contacted churches, made our route, loaded a trailer and headed East.

Now it is time to start planning a trip for 2021. Instead of Ohio, we will probably head to a closer warehouse in Rantoul, Illinois. For all the women's groups in North Dakota and Minnesota, be looking for a letter regarding our trip. If your church is between Minnesota and Rantoul, Illinois and you want to be included or be a drop off point for other churches, please let me know.

Would you like to get more involved in NALC Disaster Response? Here are some ideas for you.

- Plan your own road trip. Contact me if you want help.
- Schedule a "Stuff the Truck" event for your mission district and perhaps nearby mission districts to participate. Mary Bates, NALC-Disaster Response will provide a truck. Please email her at disasterresponse@thenalc.org for more information on how to do that.
- Hold a "Stuff the Tonka" at your church to collect gift cards for the appropriate stores: Walmart, Lowes, and Home Depot
- Bring items to Lutheran Week in Corpus Christi, TX in August

From east to west, here are the cities and states where the warehouses are located.

EAST:	Baltimore, MD	Statesville, NC	Kings Mountain, NC
MIDEAST:	Caldwell, OH	Owosso, MI	Rantoul, IL
PLAINS:	Edmond, OK	Rosenberg, TX	Tyler, TX
WEST:	Fresno, CA		

Please contact me with questions by snail mail — Jill Nesheim, 805 Walford Rd, Devils Lake, ND 58301, email jcnquilter@gmail.com or text (701) 426-9798.

"not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man" (Ephesians 6:6-7 ESV).

Recommended Reading

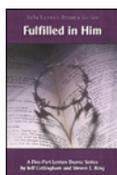
The beginning of a new calendar year is a wonderful time to start a new devotional, such as:

Daily Texts give you a text message from your Good Shepherd for each day of your life. These texts have been prayerfully selected for every day since 1731 so that your day may be guided by the Holy Spirit. The texts are chosen from both the Old and New Testaments to help you see the connection between the verses. Then you get to make the connection with the verses and your day. The Daily Texts will become the voice of God for you for each day of your life. Taken from groundupgrace.com. Daily Texts can be ordered from Mount Carmel Ministries, (320) 846-2744

The devotional has additional materials including prayers written for each day's verses, pages to record your own prayer concerns, hymns for each week, a Bible reading plan and other prayer resources.

You might also consider browsing the variety of Bible studies, devotionals, prayer and church year resources and drama series on Sola Publishing's website, solapublishing.com.

Fulfilled in Him: Five Monologues - A Lenten Monologue Series by Jeff Cottingham & Steven King. In this five-part Lenten drama series, the authors focus on five pairs of characters — one each from the Old and New Testaments. These characters demonstrate in their witness the fulfillment of God's promise. Presented with a kind of before-and-after perspective, the pairing of characters allows us to examine how Christ is the key to Scripture — "the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).



Financial Matters

Annual Gathering 2021- Scholarships Available

Have you thought about attending Lutheran Week in Corpus Christi †, Texas during the first week of August? If you haven't, perhaps you should; and if you have considered it but decided that it is not in your budget, please reconsider!

The WNALC council has decided to offer ten scholarships to encourage participation by women who might not normally think about traveling to the Annual Gathering † that will be held on Tuesday, August 3, of Lutheran Week. Scholarships can be used to reimburse the cost of transportation, hotel, registration and up to \$50 per diem for food. Scholarship recipients will need to submit a request for reimbursement with supporting receipts to be reimbursed for expenses not exceeding a total of \$800.

If you have questions or are interested in applying, please visit WNALC.org or email Jill Nesheim, at jcnquilter@gmail.com



Jill Nesheim

An Open Call

Pastor Trina Petersen has shared an open invitation to join together in prayer † on Monday evenings at 8:46 pm (EST). To join, please call (712) 832-8330, access code: 107 5527#

But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me" (Luke 8:46 NIV).

Please, Consider Serving



Having served on the WNALC Council faithfully for the last four years, Jacqui and Marcella will both be rotating off the council at this year's Annual Gathering. While the rest of the council will miss their joyful spirits, wisdom and presence †, we look forward to getting to know the women who will be stepping up to fill their seats! Will it be you? Please begin to prayerfully consider whether this might be something that God is preparing you to do. If you have questions, are interested in running for WNALC council or would like to nominate a candidate — with her permission — please email Kim, kisiminger@gmail.com.

St Paul Lutheran Oregon, IL



Pastor Richard Tomlinson blessing 24 lap robes the sewing ladies made and distributed to two local nursing † homes.



Church members gathered to make cookies † for our shut-ins and those staying home due to COVID-19.

Around the NALC



Just like St. Paul Lutheran, many of our congregations have programs and ministries that have continued to serve others month after month. Please † consider sending a photo or two and a short explanation of how your church continues to serve others within your congregation, you community and around the † world!



FACEBOOK CHALLENGE

Our Facebook page has become a lot more active in recent months, but we're still hoping for more! In September 2020, Jill Nesheim issued a challenge to see if we could 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 and when our membership reaches 882!" As of this newsletter, our Facebook page is up to 518 members! If you are not a member, please visit our Facebook page and ask to join. If you are a member, invite the women of your church (or anyone who would benefit from positive, faith-based posts) to join. Find our page at facebook.com/groups/WNALC. Page members are welcome to post on the page so if your church is doing something special, please post it. We'd all enjoy reading about it.

Register Now!

Many thanks to those churches that have already updated their contact information for this year. If yours has not done this yet — it is 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

Rachel Busch Jones — womenofthenalc@gmail.com
 Jacqui El Torro — jeltorro.wnalc@gmail.com
 Marcella Nelson — mnelson.wnalc@gmail.com
 Sandy Strohecker — [sstrohecker52@gmail.com](mailto:ssstrohecker52@gmail.com)
 Jill Nesheim — jcnquilter@gmail.com
 Kim Isiminger — kisiminger.wnalc@gmail.com
 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.

North American Lutheran Church
 PO Box 860565
 Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

(Please Note that this is the new mailing address for all donations)

Be sure to make checks payable to the
 North American Lutheran Church
 and note on your check whether it is for
 WNALC General Fund - or - WNALC Mission Fund

Newsletter Deadline



Do you have a treasured Easter memory to share? Email it to

kisiminger@gmail.com by March 1st

for the March/April newsletter †

Women of the North American Lutheran Church Scholarship Application for the Annual Gathering 2021



The Women of the North American church are offering scholarships to women interested in attending our Annual Gathering. Scholarships can be used to reimburse the cost of transportation, hotel, attendance fee and \$50 per diem for food for a total of no more than \$800.00*.

Application Due Date: April 30, 2021.

Notification of scholarship receipt by May 10, 2021.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Age group: _____ 20-40 _____ 41 - 60 _____ 60 +

NALC Church you attend: _____

Have you ever attended the WNALC annual gathering? _____ Yes _____ No

Is there any other information that you would like to include to support your application?

You may complete the online version of this form on the WNALC website or print this copy, complete and mail or email to:

Jill Nesheim
805 Walford Rd
Devils Lake ND 58301
icnquilter@gmail.com

***Save all receipts for reimbursement.**

Jording/Nesheim Jan 2021



Disaster Response

KIT PACKING LIST

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2021

Bibles

- new or used (highlighted & underlined text is acceptable)
- children's, teens
- Spanish
- large print
- prayer books

We encourage you to write messages of hope in the front pages of donated Bibles

Flood Bucket

- 1 five-gallon bucket with lid
- 1 jug bleach
- 2 large trash bags
- Comet or scouring cleanser
- Pine Sol or liquid cleaner
- scrub brush
- gloves, 1 pair each, size L preferred
 - rubber (reusable, i.e. Platex, dishwashing type)
 - leather
 - cotton

Health Care Kit

(Pack in 2-gallon Ziplock bag or tote bag)

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 shampoo (regular size or 2 travel size)
- 1 bar of soap (regular size or 2 travel size)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 pack of floss
- 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- 1 comb
- 1 deodorant
- 1 nail clippers

Quilts and Blankets

- any size
- any fabric including religious, patriotic/military theme, seasonal

School Kit – Elementary

- 1 backpack or duffle bag
- 4 notebooks
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 blunt scissors
- 1 ruler
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 4 pencils
- 2 pens
- 1 eraser
- 1 box of crayons

School Kit – High School

- 1 backpack or duffle bag
- 4 notebooks
- 4 pocket folders
- 4 pencils, 1 pencil sharpener & 1 eraser -or-
- 4 mechanical pencils
- 4 pens
- 1 high school calculator

Miscellaneous (pack like items together)

- masks (bundle/pack each type separately)
 - painting
 - sanding
 - N95
- baby diapers (disposable, assorted sizes)
- high school calculators
- any school supply can be donated in bulk quantities.
- mops, brooms & dustpans
- rakes, shovels, etc.

Gift Cards

- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Walmart



HOW TO PACK YOUR DISASTER KITS:

- Pack completed kits, in sturdy boxes (not overly large).
- Label contents and quantity in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS and place labels on at least one end and one side of the box so the contents will be visible regardless of how box is stacked.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box with a label that says: *A GIFT FROM [church/group name and address]*

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Your monetary donations are always appreciated. Please note that, effective 12/14/2020, the address to which all monetary donations should be sent has changed to:

North American Lutheran Church
PO BOX 860565
Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

For more information, please email Mary Bates, disasterresponse@thenalc.org or visit thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/

“Serve one another humbly in love”

GALATIANS 5:13b

**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 Mission District*):

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 Mission District*):

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 Mission District*):

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 Mission District*):

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 Mission District*):

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 Mission District South*):

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

Texas (In progress) (*Texas Region North TX Mission District*):

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 Mission District*):

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 Mission District*):

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