



Good News

From the WNALC



Grace and Favor,

I must admit that I am a bit overwhelmed in writing this, as it will be the last time I address you in this format as council chair. It has been an interesting four years. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve you and the Body of Christ in this capacity. I am humbled by the experience, and grateful for the team that you all selected to serve with me. Such an awesome group of faithful Christian women. Women who know firsthand the power of prayer. Thank you, Marcella, Rachel, Jill, Kim, Peggy and Sandy, you have enriched my life and ministry.

Chair's Corner



Jacquie El Torro

Hopefully you have heard by now that we will be gathering in person on August 3 in Corpus Christi, Texas. How fitting it is that after the year we all just endured we will be celebrating being the Body of Christ in the city that's name translates to Body of Christ? That's got to be a bit of divine humor. A lot is changing within the NALC and thereby within the WNALC, we will be posting details on the website and on our Facebook page. If you have not joined our Facebook page, WNALC-Women of the NALC, this would be a good time to do it.

As I write this, Romans 12 is in my spirit. Pray for our country, the Body of Christ and all of humanity. For in Christ, we all belong to one body.

A Living Sacrifice

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love in Action

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath,

Inside this issue	
1	Chair's Corner
2	Spiritual Matters
3	Disaster Response
3	Council Update
4	Financial Matters
4	Annual Gathering Info
5	Mission Minded
6	The Back Page

Continued on Page 3

Spiritual Growth



Peggy Jording

Recently we visited our children and grandchildren in another state. In both homes the preschool children began the meal with a prayer. I was delighted to hear the kids' prayers; it warmed my heart. I was happy to hear their parents were encouraging their kids to pray, which led me to wonder how I came to know the Lord.

I did not grow up in a Christian home, and I do not remember very many prayers at meals, except when my grandparents were present or when we were with them. We attended church when we visited them, which I remember as being fun. My grandmothers mentioned that they prayed for me, which I thought was nice, but it did not mean too much. In my early 20s, I recognized that Christians had something I did not have, peace. They were comfortable with themselves and kind to others. As I was drawn to them, I began to observe and see how they did what they were told to do. For instance, "Bow and humbly pray" In some churches I observed, people did not bow and were not humble. I searched until I stumbled upon a church that seemed to do more bowing and praying.

Up to this point my experience with Christ was infant baptism, going to church when visiting family and observing Christians. In this new church, I began a Bible study with some older women during the day. Because my job was an evening shift, I was able to attend this daytime study. I had some weird ideas, but these ladies never corrected me; they simply suggested I read the book of John. I read, we talked, they guided with love, the love of Jesus. Soon I was confirmed, and I have been searching, growing, reading, connecting, and walking closer to my Lord each year.

This brought me to wondering how kids spiritually grow in their faith. As an educator, I know there are theories on how children's minds grow cognitively, morally and in personality. So, it is reasonable to think that those same theories relate to children's spiritual growth. Young children, like my grandkids, learn from the people around them, most often their parents. Then they are taught by their preschool, or play group, perhaps even at church in the nursery. As children grow, they attend Sunday school and learn from friends, church members, parents, and family. They then develop to the point they become

decision-makers, guided by their parents, their friends, Sunday school teachers and youth ministers. In his online article* *Do you know the ABCs of Spiritual Growth in Children?*, Rich Chromey, D. Min., states,

Babies grow up. Children mature. The seeds of faith — acceptance or rejection — are planted early. As children grow, so does faith. Faith that doesn't fit will eventually be abandoned. The goal of faith development is continual resizing and reinvention. We can't expect a size 4 faith to last a lifetime. We must provide faith that's culturally relevant and has personal meaning. ... Children crave a faith that is understandable, relevant, and applicable. They want a faith that doesn't wear out. Come to think of it so do I.

How do we make sure our faith does not wear out? Read the Bible: this is one of the most important activities for us to continue to grow spiritually. We will find new meaning and new faith as we search the Word of God. Gather with other believers: find a church, and attend; find groups in that church in which to engage. Perhaps one of these will be a ministry group, something that helps you serve the Lord. Pray: pray daily, talk to God, ask His direction, ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit, pray for others, open yourself to hearing God's voice. Our Christian walk is not a one time, once and done thing. We need to continue to grow, to share, to experience the joy of Jesus. And as we read, gather, minister and pray we will find our faith in Jesus to be understandable, relevant and applicable.

* Dr. Chromey's article is available at childrensministry.com/abcs-spiritual-growth/

And the child grew and became strong; filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him (Luke 2:40).



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!

Chair's Corner

Continued from Page 1

and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

'If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.'

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:1-21 NIV).

Be the blessing that you desire, look for the kinship through Christ Jesus in everyone you meet. As followers of Christ, we are each other's forever family. Be Blessed,
Jacqui

Disaster Response

Stuff the Tonka!

Once again this year, the WNALC will collect gift cards to *Stuff the Tonka* in Corpus Christi.

Congregations and individuals are encouraged to bring gift cards to the WNALC information table as an offering to the NALC Disaster Response. These are used to help families in the aftermath of natural disasters. Cards in any denomination from Home Depot, Walmart and Lowe's are appreciated.



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).

Council Update

The WNALC council has been busy planning for the Annual Gathering and we are all looking forward to being together in person and sharing the love of Christ! If you plan to be in Texas with us, please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help us prepare, celebrate and promote the WNALC in one of the following ways.



Sandy Strohecker

- **Goody Bags:** This might be perfect for those who live close to Corpus Christi and plan on driving. If you are interested in helping with the goody bags, please contact either Marcella Nelson (mnelson.wnalc@gmail.com) or Sandy Strohecker ([sstrohecker52@gmail.com](mailto:ssstrohecker52@gmail.com)) and they will add you to the goody bag team.
- **Gathering Setup:** Especially for those who will be in town early Monday afternoon, we can use your help organizing and sorting the information that will be distributed at the Gathering.
- **Public Relations:** If you like talking to people and promoting Women's Ministry, please consider taking a turn in front of our information table during Lutheran Week. Volunteer shifts at the information table are only one hour.

Many hands make light work, and the Annual Gathering will be here before we know it. Registration is now open at lutheranweek.com. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas you will be able to sign up in advance on Sign-up Genius. Watch our Facebook page and website, WNALC.org for more information about that.

Don't Forget! If you would love to attend the WNALC Annual Gathering, but cannot justify the cost of the trip this year, please consider applying for a WNALC scholarship. The WNALC council has allocated monies to cover allowable travel costs with the hope that more women will be encouraged to attend. Please direct questions about the scholarships to Jill Neisham (jcnquilter@gmail.com). The application is available on our website and is also attached to the end of this newsletter! The deadline to apply has been extended to June 15, which is right around the corner so don't wait!



Financial Matters

Annual Gathering Offerings

Women who attend the gathering are invited to bring an offering. You may choose to support any or all of the ministries listed below with an individual offering or a gift from your church or women's group.

- **Mission Bank**

Donations to the WNALC Mission Bank offerings are split between NALC Disaster Response and the Great Commission Society of the NALC. The Great Commission Society of the NALC supports new church plants, global partner missions and projects.

- **WNALC General Fund**

This fund supports the work of Women of the North American Lutheran Church and the work of the WNALC Executive Council.

Kindly note in the check memo if your donation is for the Mission Bank or the General Fund, or if it is to be split between them. If you are donating to both, please designate how you would like your donation divided between the Mission Bank and General Fund.

Scholarships Are Still Available!

If you have never attended a national gathering, this year is a great opportunity for you to change that. In recognition of and to celebrate our 10th year, the WNALC council is offering scholarships of up to \$800 to help women who might not normally be able to make the trip to our Annual Gathering. We encourage you to apply using the scholarship form attached to the newsletter. It is also available on our website, WNALC.org. The application deadline has been extended to June 15.

Annual Gathering Delegates

The WNALC encourages all churches to send a delegate to this year's Annual Gathering where we meet to celebrate our love for the Triune God and discuss the matters that are important to the women of the Church. The role of the delegate is to represent her church during the business portion of our meeting. Only delegates may vote on business items and for the election of council members. There is no limit to the number of women that may attend from any one congregation — but please make sure that one and only one is registered as your delegate.

** Women may also register to attend as an individual and not represent a congregation. Women attending as an individual may not register as a delegate.

Corpus Christi — HERE WE COME!



Jacqui El Torro

Ladies, we are on the final countdown! We are within 65 days of when we will gather together in Corpus Christi. Here are a few photos of Corpus Christi to pique your interest.

Editor's Note: You can see the full [photo gallery](#) at the Corpus Christi Omni's website, and read Jacqui's full article on [WNALC.org](#).

Registration for the Convocation and Annual Gathering is open and you can find links to it on our website.



The beautiful Corpus Christi Omni Hotel overlooks Galveston Bay.



The hotel restaurant has a beautiful view of the bay, as do many of the rooms.

Please Consider Serving

Do you question whether you are "qualified enough" to serve on the WNALC Executive Council? Do you have a desire to serve God's wider Church?

The members of the council are normal Christian women with a love for Jesus and a desire to serve the church in the areas of women's ministry and outreach. The Lord chooses to use real women from all backgrounds; women who experience the common struggles in this world; and those whose lives are touched by illness, family distress, addictions and chronic conditions. Part of what we do as members of the council is to pray for and support each other. You needn't wait until your life is "in order" to be an active part of the WNALC!

If you would like this opportunity or know of someone that you would like to see serving on the council, we invite you to complete and submit a council nomination form as soon as possible. The election will be held on August 3 at our national gathering in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Contact Kim Isiminger (kisiminger@gmail.com) for a list of duties and expectations for Executive Council members. The nomination form is attached to this newsletter and can also be found on our website, WNALC.org.

Mission Minded



Jacqui El Torro

The NALC supports 70+ missions worldwide. The WNALC selected The Great Commission Society as one of its Mission Banks this year to be able to support all of them or at least the ones with the greatest need. Each mission and ministry does great work for the kingdom of God within their special calling. The work that Mary Bates does with Disaster Response is frequently featured in our newsletter and more help is always needed. As I write this another 100-year old tree has fallen in my yard due to the tornados ripping through my home state of Georgia.

Saint Martin Lutheran Church in Atlanta, GA (Brookhaven) is a mission start that has great potential and wonderful people in a ministry that is being blessed by the Great Commission Society. I love that ministry and look forward to a great witness coming from them.

Another one of my favorites is Water Mission, which was one of our featured missions two years ago. Just know whatever you give to Mission Banks this year will abundantly bless those who are doing kingdom work in the vastness of a worldwide mission field.

In case you don't receive Water Mission's *Prayer Ripples*, I have permission to share their April 23, 2021 message with you.

Water Mission

Prayer Ripples, April 23, 2021

This April, as we move forward with the hope resurrection brings, let us use the gifts and talents God has given us. Let us pray the Lord would reveal our gifts, and that we use them to faithfully spread His promise of life across the world.

Different cultures value different skills — some praise efficiency, while others prefer thoroughness, and so on. Regardless of our own talents or aptitudes, it is God who has given them, and God who calls us to use them to serve. This common source should grant us confidence and deflate undue pride.

Let us ask the Lord for guidance in where He is calling us to use our talents. Let us also ask for humble sight regarding the giftings of others, that we might value the work each of our sisters and brothers brings to God's kingdom.

Please pray with us:

- **Pray for the people on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent following the recent eruption of La Soufrière volcano.** May the Lord comfort the 16,000 residents who have been displaced from their homes. Please pray for Water Mission and our partners on the ground as we work to assess urgent needs and get safe water flowing.
- **Please pray for the team in Indonesia as they respond to disastrous flooding and landslides.**
- **Thank the Lord for our partners and staff around the world**, who position us to respond to natural and humanitarian disasters, when then happen, wherever they happen.
- **Thank the Lord as projects near completion in San Luis, Mexico, providing 60 families with safe water and increased water, sanitation, and hygiene awareness.** Please pray for their numerous safe water projects underway in rural, jungle, and coastal areas of the country.
- **Pray for our Haiti team's continued safe water construction and implementation programs** in Robert-Piatre and Miniere, areas of great economic and spiritual need.
- **Thank the Lord for blessing our Kenya team's partnership with Homa Bay County**, a populous area along Lake Victoria.
- **Please pray for the engineers traveling to Gambella** to work with Plan International Ethiopia and Plan International Denmark to further safe water around the world.
- **Thank the Lord for the Global Water Center's Mobile Discovery Center launch.** Pray that the people experiencing these interactive exhibits learn about the global water crisis and are moved to action. The Mobile Discovery Center finishes its time in Orlando, Florida on April 25, 2021 before taking to the road. Pray that the Lord blesses the journey. To see a list of all of the stops on the Mobile Discover Center's tour, please visit watermission.org/events

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 576 members! If you are not a member, please visit our Facebook page and ask to join. If you are a member, help us keep growing by inviting 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

Photos and stories for the July/August

newsletter should be submitted to kisiminger@gmail.com by July 1st



Dear Women of the NALC,

Jesus' grace and peace to you all. It is both a joy and a pleasure to write to this group of the body of Christ. Thank you for taking the time to read this section of today's newsletter.

My name is Steven Wagner, and I currently serve as the Discipleship Director for The Awaken Project. The Awaken Project (TAP for short), is a Christ-centered, Gospel-focused non-profit organization that seeks to inspire, educate, and disciple young adults who feel called to lead within the Christian church. With this vision in mind, TAP provides an 8-month gap-year program for 18-25 students that want to study the Bible, create an intentional Christian community, travel the country, develop social and relational people skills, and gain practical ministry experience from a plethora of people, places, and events. We are based on the beautiful campus of Mount Carmel Ministries in Alexandria, Minnesota.

The heart for TAP stems from a collective heart beat for the development of younger, seasoned, trained leaders in the church that seek to take their skills to universities, communities, local churches, or wherever else they might find themselves during the walk with Christ.

There is a clear decline of leaders that are 1) younger and have the desire to serve the church and 2) being commissioned and sent out to serve the body of Christ and minister to the world. TAP strives to reverse that trend. We are incredibly blessed with some world-class facilities at Mount Carmel, and seek to see them be brought to life as rich training grounds for authentic disciples of Jesus.

I ask for your heartfelt prayers for TAP; for students to itch for an experience like what TAP provides, for the teachers that will be sharing God's word, for local visionaries to champion the mission and vision of TAP and see local congregations renewed by what God is doing through TAP. We pray for generous donors; donors of prayer, financial support, volunteer hours, and consistent encouragement of the project.

If you have a child, a grandchild, or feel led to support this ministry through prayer, financial support, or volunteering, please send me an email at the address below. I would be delighted to talk with you about partnering with this ministry, as well as how The Awaken Project may be of service to you and your church/ministry/community.

Website for TAP: www.theawakenprojectmn.com // Contact Steven: steven@theawakenprojectmn.com
OR theawakenproject.us@gmail.com

In Christ,

Steven Wagner

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

Women of the North American Lutheran Church Women's Council Nomination Form

Please Print or Type

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alt phone: _____

Email: _____

Congregation: _____

City & State of Congregation: _____

Mission District: _____

Biographical Information and Qualifications:

1. Age Range: 20-35 36-54 55+ (please circle)

2. Occupational History: _____

3. How you serve in your Congregation: _____

4. How you serve the larger church body: _____

5. How you serve in your community: _____

6. Family or other information you would like us to know: _____

Written consent is required for all who are nominated:

(signature)

Mail or email to:

Kim Isiminger
3976 Cheyenne Trail
Martinez, GA 30907

womenofthenalc@gmail.com