



Good News

From the WNALC

Celebrating 10 Years



Dear Sisters in Christ,

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3).

In August of 2017, I attended the WNALC gathering in Nashville and began serving on the WNALC Council. My time on the council has given me the opportunity to meet women from across the country, which has been a joy. I also am thankful for my fellow council members past and present who have faithfully served with me as your executive council. Our friendships on the council have been rich, indeed. Through the experience on council, I have seen God's faithfulness and the faithfulness of the women of the WNALC in bearing witness to Christ.

In Corpus Christi, we will celebrate 10 years of the WNALC. The WNALC Council was able to use funds that were not used for the gathering in 2020, to offer scholarships for women to attend the gathering in 2021, which was a blessing to be able to do. Technology is improving, and we have more ways to communicate and gather virtually than in the past. Our Facebook page and website are being used by you to stay informed now in addition to our emailed newsletter.

Your support for Mission Bank offerings has made a difference for many sharing the Gospel and doing mission projects across the globe. The Women of the North American Lutheran Church continue support for the NALC Disaster Response with offerings, Stuff the Tonka, collections of items for Disaster Response and sending volunteers to disasters across the United States and Canada. All these activities we thank God for. Your participation is a great asset.

God has blessed us and our part of the Body of Christ, as we now number over 450 congregations in the NALC. We praise God for faithful preaching and teaching and study of the word of God in our congregations. We continue day by day seeking His guidance. We bear witness to Christ through our daily lives and in churches across North America. Soli Deo Gloria ... To God be the Glory!

With my thanks and continued prayers for the mission of the WNALC,

Marcella Nelson

Vice Chair WNALC Council

WNALC Council

Calvary Lutheran Brookfield
Wisconsin, 2017

From left: Linda Brower, Jennifer Madsen, Pat Dittrich, Lane Magera, Jacqui El Torro, Marcella Nelson



Looking Back



Marcella Nelson



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A Fond Farewell

The days are long, but the years are short.

That is what it feels like to have served on The Women's Council with Jacqui El Torro and Marcella Nelson for the last three years. As if only yesterday we sat around the table together in Denver, not knowing one another, but hoping that we all could patch together our talents to get things done the right way. Friendship quilt style, in team form.



Rachel Busch Jones

And then came a global pandemic. Racism. Life-threatening illness. Family trauma. Work stressors. Mental exhaustion.

Those issues could not have even crossed anyone's minds when the nominations to serve were accepted. Hardships and heartache are what happens in this earthly life, though, and we successfully stood together as a unit under the leadership of these two strong Christian women. They both speak their minds and make good choices. They both do no harm, take no ... bologna. I am so very impressed by the leaders they are! A phone call to either ensured I would receive support, sound advice and perhaps a mild snort at whatever nonsense I had happening (or had caused ...).

Jacqui's talents and exhaustive hours spent (if it were to be calculated, you're looking at solid months of time) to her role as our liaison to the NALC and planning the convocations over the last few years. Her knowledge of the hospitality industry has benefited every member of the church body and the respect due to her is immeasurable. Add in her steady vision of a solidified council, one that works together to manifest a vision for you, the women of the NALC, despite our differences ... she is a human Stonehenge.

Marcella's 'insider' point of view and daily life as a pastor's wife have been invaluable. Her experience with managing groups and mediating conflicts, plus her direct, no-nonsense approach, has kept us moving forward on tough decisions.

I offer thanks and praise to God for putting Jacqui and Marcella in the path of the WNALC. I also offer secondary thanks and praise to them for following the path He put them on and doing the job wonderfully. A gracious farewell is due and may they take a rest before diving into their next adventures!



Looking Forward



Jill Nesheim

Ten years of the WNALC being an official group is a substantial time for organizing and growing. The council members who started our national group and were members over these past 10 years worked hard to provide a sound structure and guidelines for the future. With that hard part done, our current council has taken time for visioning and looking for ways to connect us in our churches, in our mission districts, and across the continent.

The following are just a few of the ideas and thoughts we have for our future: holding quarterly online town hall type meetings and Facebook Bible study rooms, encouraging a mission Sunday in each church, finding ideas and ways to help churches form women's groups, having council members visit churches, sharing more news from all the mission districts, and more. We have more ideas than we can possibly accomplish in one year with just seven women on the council.

Looking Forward

Continued...

It is our hope and vision that in the next 10 years we will all feel a closer connection and more a part of this wonderful new church, the NALC, and the women's group we call the WNALC. To accomplish many things, the council cannot do it alone. We need help from all of you. We need your ideas, your involvement, your voices and your prayers.

For now, encourage your fellow church women to sign up for our newsletter. Remember that we love hearing from you and receiving the news of what you are doing at your church. Post pictures of your group or things you are doing at your church on Facebook or write a short article and send it with a picture for the newsletter. Check the website for updates and past newsletters. We hope to soon include on the website ideas for how to start a women's group at your church and documents prepared by council members and present with ideas to help inspire and build your programs.

Scan this QR code with your phone and sign up to receive the WNALC newsletter by email:



Are you looking forward to the Annual Gathering as much as I am? I had the opportunity to attend two in-person Annual Gatherings over the past three years in Denver and Indianapolis, and found them to be an enjoyable time spent with my sisters in Christ. As part of The Women's Council, it has been interesting to see first-hand what goes into planning this event. The logistics of working out the details over the phone, by email, texts and video chats, and having everything come together in the right place and at the right time requires attention to detail, patience and a lot of prayer!

The Annual Gathering



Kim Isiminger

Under Jacqui's leadership, The Women's Council has worked hard to ensure that this year's Annual Gathering in Corpus Christi is a time of praising God and celebrating our 10 years as the Women of the NALC. We have a full agenda planned for that day.

We will worship and praise God, fellowship with women from around the country and conduct some business. We will enjoy good food, good music and each other. And, if you know Jacqui, you might suspect there will also be a surprise or two!

What should you bring with you to the Annual Gathering?

- ✓ an open heart with which to worship and praise our Triune God
- ✓ a ready spirit for fellowshiping with your sisters in Christ
- ✓ a Bible will be helpful
- ✓ any Mission Bank donations collected by your women's ministry group
- ✓ donations or contributions to support the WNALC
- ✓ any gift cards collected by your congregation to "Stuff the Tonka"

We cannot wait to see you in Corpus Christi on August 3rd!

Council Update

The council is finishing up the final plans for the Annual Gathering of the WNALC. Our registration numbers are lower than **Sandy Strohecker** expected so, if you have not registered yet, please do so soon. Registrations will be accepted up to the day of the Annual Gathering, but earlier registrations will give us a better idea of how many meals we need to order. We want to have enough to feed everyone but not have to pay for too many extra meals!



Sandy Strohecker

Looking ahead to next year, the council is hoping to establish better communication with all our members rather than just through the newsletter and Facebook page. Does your mission district have an organized women's council? If so, could the chairman/president contact me at [sstrohecker52@gmail.com](mailto:ssstrohecker52@gmail.com)? Several of you already have and I thank you for that. If you do not have a mission district organization, have you thought about organizing one? Ideas? Comments? We want to be in touch with you. We want to know what you are doing so we can share it with others through the newsletter, email, etc. We want to be available to help you in whatever way we can.

We also need your help. Please consider volunteering to be on the WNALC Council for the next two years. You may think that it is for others who are more knowledgeable, educated, "churchy" — believe me, it's not. God has an amazing way of putting us all together to use our own personal strengths to help others. Nominations will be open on the floor at the Annual Gathering so PLEASE consider saying "yes." We also need volunteers to help on our various ministry teams. Meetings are all held virtually and that's not hard either. It is as easy as clicking on the link sent to you via email and letting technology take over! If you have questions, any of us on the council will be happy to talk with you.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Corpus Christi on August 3!

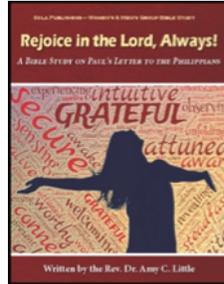
Spiritual Growth

This fall the WNALC Council is going to try something new for spiritual growth. I am really excited about doing a study with sisters in Christ from across the country!



Peggy Jording

We are going to study *Rejoice in the Lord, Always!: A Bible Study on Paul's Letter to the Philippians*, written by the Rev. Dr. Amy Little, the newly appointed General Secretary of the NALC. Our Facebook page will host "rooms" where we will gather each week. A "room" is a virtual space where we can connect with others without the



need to download an app or create another account. As a member of the WNALC Facebook page, you will be able to join the "room's" link right from our main page. Leaders will have a variety of days and times available to meet the schedules of women across the country. The study time will be short. Our plan is to do only a part of each lesson each week. All rooms will be doing the same lesson and questions. This way if you are going to miss your normal time, you would have other choices available. We plan to start in October and will post updates on the Facebook page as we know more. There is a long lead time so everyone has time to purchase the Bible study from Sola Publishing. If you will be attending the Annual Gathering, we will have a limited number of books available at our table, and SOLA Publishing will also have copies for sale at their booth. Or you can go online and order [directly from Sola Publishing](#).

I invite you to keep watching our Facebook page for more information, times and dates. See you there!



WNALC Executive Council 2020 - 2021

JACQUI EL TORRO - A NEW THING CHRISTIAN CHURCH - LITHONIA, GEORGIA

Jacqui is married with two adult children, one adult grandchild, four grand-dogs and one grand-cat. *"The Lord announces the word, and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng"* (Psalms 68:11 NIV). We value you and the gifts that God blessed you with to share with the church and all of creation.

KIM ISIMINGER - CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH - EVANS, GEORGIA

Kim has been married to Dave for 40 years. They have two adult children and five grandchildren. She is excited to be a part of the group of amazing women currently serving on the WNALC Council. She stays active in her church as part of the choir, fellowship team and women's Bible study.

RACHEL BUSCH JONES - NEW BEGINNINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH - MAHOMET, ILLINOIS

Rachel lives on her seventh-generation family farm in Champaign, Illinois with her husband, their daughter and a passel of farm creatures. She is excited to be a part of the WNALC and to be able to use her talents with technology to help the council get the word about the WNALC out to all of the NALC congregations.

JILL NESHEIM - PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA

Jill lives on the beautiful shore of Devils Lake, North Dakota with her husband of over 40 years, Ed. Jill and Ed are both recently retired; Ed from farming/ranching and ag sales and Jill as a teacher, school counselor and/or bookkeeper. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Jill says, "I have always tried to serve God and the church."

PEGGY JORDING - CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH - NEWCASTLE, WYOMING

Peggy lives in Newcastle, Wyoming, with her husband, Mike, Having grown up in the Denver, Colorado, area, Peggy enjoys the small-town life Newcastle has to offer. Peggy is very active in her church, currently leading the 24/7 prayer group and doing so much more!

MARCELLA NELSON - CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH - BROOKFIELD, WISCONSIN

Marcella lives in Brookfield, Wisconsin, having moved there from Minot, North Dakota in 2017 with her husband Ken who serves as the pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church. There Marcella volunteers with the Mission, Outreach and Evangelism Committees and also leads Bible studies.

SANDY STROHECKER - ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - OREGON, ILLINOIS

Sandy has lived in Oregon and been a member at St. Paul her entire life. Sandy is divorced, a mother of three sons and grandma to three grandsons an three granddaughters. She has been very active in her church over the past 10 years, having served on church council, Altar Guild, with the "quilting ladies," and much more. She is excited to serve on the WNALC Council, and is anxious to share ideas and make plans for the future of the WNALC!



Items for discussion at the Annual Gathering

Mission Banks: The Women's Council (TWC) traditionally selects two Mission Bank recipients each year from ministries and mission partners of the NALC; one of the recipients with a domestic focus (inside North America) and one that supports international missions. The recommendation is voted on at the Annual Gathering by a show of hands. This past year our ministries have been NALC Disaster Response (domestic) and The Great Commission Society of the NALC (domestic and international). TWC is recommending that the WNALC names NALC Disaster Response and The Great Commission Society of the NALC the continuing Mission Bank recipients until a time that the WNALC determines that another ministry or ministries have greater need of the funds.

Voting delegates: Voting delegates are defined in 6.02 and 7.07 of the Operational Guidelines as follows: "Voting delegates at the Annual Gathering shall include the members of The Women's Council (TWC) and one member from each congregation not represented by a member of TWC." This year, TWC recommends that all references to voting delegates be redefined as, "Voting delegates at the Annual Gathering shall include one delegate from each congregation and the seven women on TWC."

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 584 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



wnalc.org

Want to learn more about our

2021 Mission Bank Partners?

Visit WNALC.org/missionminded

Contact Us

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Jill Nesheim — jcnquilter@gmail.com

Kim Isiminger — kisiminger.wnalc@gmail.com

Peggy Jording — peggyj@rtconnect.net

Thank You for

Supporting the WNALC and 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

Please share you photos, stories and other items of interest for the September/October newsletter by sending them to Kim Isiminger at

kisiminger@gmail.com by September 1, 2021