



Good News

From the WNALC



Chair's Corner

Jill Nesheim

With hope, let us sing praises to the Lord!

The WNALC Annual Gathering is virtual this year. My opening statement is the theme. I want to encourage you to have HOPE and give praise to God in all circumstances of life.

Life has ups and downs. Just like going on a hike, sometimes the path is easy and smooth; we seem to amble along. The highs are just right, and the lows are only small dips in the road. Life is good.

Sometimes we see a high point coming and we are excited. A baby is on the way, or we are looking forward to a wedding or graduation. We get all excited and work hard to prepare. While the journey up the hill is hard work and exhausting it is also fun and rewarding. We have climbed to the top. We are happy and excited. We rejoice in the vast beauty of creation. It is easy to sing praises to God.

But the low valleys, the deserts, the rocky path is also there. Life spins out of control. Will we get out of this pit? TORNADOS, hurricanes, floods, fires and death are also part of life. And, often, that is

when we turn to God the most. Without God it is just gloom, darkness and despair. It is when we are on the rough path that our faith can grow as we cry out to Him in our pain and sorrow. It is here that we feel God caring for us and feel His love through those who reach out to help and support us.

When we are on a rocky path, it can be helpful to remember and give thanks to God for the good things in our life. We can even thank Him in our struggles because we have faith that He will help us through. When in despair we can use music that praises God to help us focus on Him. When we can't see the end to our sorrow or pain, we can look back at other hard times that God has brought us through and give Him thanks for those times.

The symbols we chose to support our theme are the anchor and butterfly. We anchor our faith and hope in Jesus. We see the beautiful butterfly that escaped a cocoon, and it reminds us of the new life we will have in heaven for eternity. We know God has better things planned for our future.

"As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more" (Psalm 71:14 NIV).

— Jill

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Spiritual Growth

Kim Isiminger

Every now and then I find that I need new material to inspire my spiritual life. Does that ever happen to you? I asked the other members of The Women's Council for their favorite resources, not only so I could benefit from them, but so I could share them with you. I am including a resource list at the end of this article with titles, authors, publication information and weblinks where available to help you find all their recommended resources.

Jill suggests visiting the Bible Study Printables website, biblestudyprintables.com, to download a free checklist of all the books of the Bible. She says it's a great way to check off and track what you have read, whether you read straight through the Bible or pick and choose the books and verses you want to read. She also said she uses the concordance that is part of her Bible to help her study and gain more understanding about what she is reading. Jill recommends using a daily journal to record prayers, Bible verses or a prayer list. One of her friends suggests using the journal as a place to write five things you are thankful for everyday — even if it is a tough day.

Speaking of the Bible Study Printables website, it included links to a wide variety of resources for kids and adults, and you might find it worthwhile to take time to visit the website.

Jill and Peggy both mentioned that they like YouVersion, and so do I. In case you aren't already familiar with the YouVersion app, this is a resource full of a wide variety of Bible study, devotion and inspirational resources. The app is available for both Apple and Android mobile devices, and you can access the same content on your computer by using your internet browser and going to, bible.com/.

Peggy said she loves the *Lutheran Book of Prayer*, and that the 24/7 prayer group at her church uses it as a resource. Another resource she really likes is the book, *5 minutes with Jesus: Quiet Time for Your Soul*, she says it is a wonderful devotional book that helps her remember to carve out a little time to just focus on Jesus. She especially likes that it is not dated so she can open to the bookmark and read the next devotion without worrying about when it was "supposed to be" read. Peggy also mentioned *Jesus is Calling*, a devotional calendar with Bible readings and devotionals assigned to a date.

Amy Werner forwarded a recommendation from Deb Kern for the Bible study they used for the Atlantic Mission Region's recent retreat, *Beautiful Feet* by Deb Burma. The theme of the retreat was the text of Romans 10:15 (NIV), "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

In her recommendation, Deb Kern said,

"This CD comes with everything you need to make a memorable experience for participants. Promotion ideas, icebreaker, scripted Bible Study Sessions (4), a power point presentation, gift

ideas, personal touch ideas, worship suggestions and an evaluation are all included in this package."

"Your feet take you many places in your daily walk. Through the scriptures you will learn of God's grace in Christ, as one who walks beside you and forgives your sins. Participants will need their Bible, and I highly recommend purchasing the available 30-Day Devotional Journey for each woman."

Another Bible study that you might enjoy is, *Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply*, also by Deb Burma. This was used as the Bible study for the Carolina Lutheran Women's recent convocation. Be sure to read more about both events in the "Mission District" section of this newsletter.

I would like to recommend several sources including, Mustard Seed Devotions from the LWML, LWML.org. You can subscribe to receive it in your inbox every day by visiting, bit.ly/MustardSeedDevotions. Also, when you are looking for resources to help you study and reflect on God's Word, be sure to visit the Sola Publishing website, solapublishing.com.

Resource List

Print Resources:

- Burma, D. (2010). *Beautiful Feet: A 30-day Devotional Journey*. Concordia Publishing House.
- Burma, D. (2017). *Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply: Receive God's Overflowing Gifts*. Concordia Publishing House.
- Concordia Pub. House. (2005). *Lutheran Book of Prayer*.
- Portals of Prayer*, Vol. 85, No. 455, Concordia Publishing House, 2022.
- Walsh, S., & Gragg, S. (2017). *5 Minutes with Jesus*. Thomas Nelson.
- Young, S. (2004). *Jesus Calling*. Integrity Pub.

Online Resources:

- Bible Study Printables (Website) biblestudyprintables.com.
- Books of the Bible Checklist (downloadable content) bit.ly/BibleStudyPrintables.
- LWML-Lutheran Women in Mission. Today's Mustard Seed Devotion. lwml.org/todays-mustard-seed-devotion (Website).
- Sola Publishing. solapublishing.com/ (Website).
- YouVersion: download the app or access online, bible.com/ (Website).

Mission District News

Mission District Representatives

Since the formation of the WNALC and TWC we have looked for ways to improve communication throughout the WNALC. The idea of having a point of contact between the women in every mission district and the TWC was conceived early on but never implemented across all mission districts. Since the NALC has experienced a growth spurt and we now exceed 450 congregations, TWC has made identifying one representative for each mission district a priority to help improve communications with our women and women's groups.

Representatives will be a link between their mission district and the TWC. They will collaborate with the leader of the mission district team and TWC member who is assigned to their mission district. If a question arises or support is needed by any of the women of the mission district, the representative will consult with her council contacts. If the council has news that they want to be certain gets communicated to all the women in the NALC, the council will share it with the representatives who will in turn make certain that it is shared with the women of all the congregations in her mission district. With email, Facebook and so many methods of communication today, each representative can

use the method(s) that work best for her and the women in her mission district.

With some mission districts now joined into mission regions, we would be very happy to have one person for each region to start, with the hope of eventually adding a representative for each district within the region. Currently we have a handful of representatives in place, but if your district already has a representative and you are interested in helping them, please let us know.

Representatives can serve for as long as they want to do the job. We ask, if you decide to volunteer to take on the role of representative, you do it with the willingness to serve for at least one year. When you decide that you are ready to hand the role on to somebody else, we would also ask that you help us find a replacement. As a representative, you will have a great opportunity to get to know some of the women you serve and begin to identify others who also have a heart to serve. If you are interested in becoming the representative for your mission district, complete the application found on the last page of the newsletter and send it to Amy Werner, awerner.wnalc@gmail.com.

Atlantic Mission Region Retreat

Submitted by Deb Kern

Twenty-three women from around the Atlantic Mission Region gathered at Twin Pines Camp, Conference & Retreat Center in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania for their first ever retreat on Mother's Day weekend (May 6-8). Even though it was unseasonably cold and rained the whole weekend, we had plenty of fun, fellowship, worship and study — and ice cream! The theme of our retreat was "Beautiful Feet" based on Romans 10:15 in which we compared various footwear to elements of our faith walk.



Carolina Lutheran Women

Submitted by Kay Weaver

The 11th Annual Convocation of the Carolinas Lutheran Women was to have been held on October 2, 2021. Unfortunately, COVID-19 caused us to postpone it for six months. So, on April 2, 2022, exactly six months after the original date, we held our 2021 convocation at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Faith, North Carolina.



We were happy to be joined by Kim Isiminger, our liaison from the Women of the NALC Women's Council. She brought greetings and updates from the WNALC. The Rev. Ken Reed, dean of the Piedmont-East Mission District of the Carolinas Mission Region of the NALC also brought greetings. He told us that this was the largest gathering of people anywhere in the Carolinas Mission Region. Robin McKnight, president of the Women of Faith, welcomed us to Faith Lutheran and gave us instructions for the day.

The Women of Faith welcomed us in true Southern style. They based their decorations on our Bible study theme, "Coffee Break — Time with God". Genelia Klutz presented the Bible study based on the book, *Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply* by Deb Burma. Lunch was a delicious baked potato and salad bar, with cupcakes for dessert.



The collected offering was designated for the NALC Disaster Response. In addition, feminine care products, soap/body wash, household cleaning products, toilet paper, diapers, baby wipes and school supplies — plus an additional \$200 was received for the Crisis Council of Rowan County.

Running for The Women's Council

Peggy Jording

Soon our Annual Gathering will be here. We will have four open council seats and would love for you to consider running for office. I know you might ask "**Why?**", so I want to share with you why I am running for a second term.

I truly enjoy serving our church and the women of our church through my position on the council. I started out as Spiritual Growth leader and fully enjoyed praying during our meetings, for our work, and for the other council members. The next year I was appointed Treasurer and currently serve in this capacity. I have met so many wonderful women and men through these last two years. I would like to serve again, possibly another year or two as treasurer. I enjoy writing thank you notes to the many donors.

What is required of council members? We have monthly virtual meetings, and we are expected to attend the Annual Gathering and fall planning retreat. In addition, each of us serves as an officer and/or ministry team leader. The offices include Chair, Vice chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Our ministry teams are Communications, which includes website, newsletter and Facebook; Fellowship & Community; Mission Bank; Disaster Response Liaison; Mission District Liaison; Spiritual Growth; and Budget. Currently, my roles include Treasurer, Facebook,

Budget Team, and helping in various aspects of the WNALC Annual Gathering. We all participate in writing articles or finding interesting information to share in the WNALC Newsletter. You can read a little more about each of the ministry teams on our website, wnalc.org/annualgathering/councilnominations/

How does serving on the WNALC council benefit me? I mentioned above getting to meet many interesting people and making friends I expect to keep for life. I am challenged to learn new things, for instance, how to administer our Facebook group page, welcome new members, conduct a Bible Study on Messenger, and run an annual meeting. Serving on council is a wonderful way to serve the Lord and give back to God.

There is some travel involved. Council members meet face-to-face each fall for a planning retreat, and The Women's Council will be planning and hosting the 2023 Annual Gathering during Lutheran Week in Oklahoma City.

How do I submit my name to run for a seat on the WNALC council? First, follow this link to fill out the [nomination form](#). Or go to the website wnalc.org, look under the tab labeled "Annual Gatherings" and click on "Council Nominations". Once you are on the new page, scroll down to the form, complete the form, and submit it by clicking on the "Send Nomination" bar. If you would rather complete a paper version of the form, you can download it by clicking [here](#). If you choose to complete the paper form, submit a clear photo of it with your video as explained in the next step.

Second, make a short video introducing yourself. We ask that videos are not longer than two minutes. Send your video to Kim Isiminger, kisiminger@gmail.com, and make sure to attach the photo of your completed nomination form if you completed it by hand.

Please consider submitting your name for nomination to the WNALC Council.

Coming in August

August 2, 2022: WNALC Virtual Annual Gathering will be happening! Plans are underway and will be released soon. Please mark your calendars and make plans to meet virtually with your sisters in Christ from across the country. Every NALC congregation is encouraged to have a voting delegate registered to attend and vote on the matters of interest to the WNALC. Why not get your women together and select a delegate before August 1 and plan a viewing party with food and party favors? Full details for the 2022 WNALC Virtual Annual Gathering will be posted on the Facebook page and the website as soon as they are available.



WNALC Mission Bank Donations

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, scholarships to in-person gatherings and more.

WNALC Mission Fund donations are collected and divided evenly between the two Mission Bank recipients.

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

Please send donations for the WNALC General Fund and Mission Bank to:

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

Make checks payable to:

North American Lutheran Church
and **note on the memo line** whether it is for
WNALC General Fund — or — WNALC Mission Fund

Consider Serving with Us

The Women's Council is a group of seven serving 450+ congregations. We love what we do, but we could do so much more with a little more help. We know that all of you have talents and skills, and we invite you to share them with us. Please consider serving on one of the WNALC Ministry Teams:

- **Communications Team:** Are you a writer or editor? Do you thrive when dealing with details? Maybe you work (or play) with graphic design and layout? We can use people with any of these skills to help with our promoting the work of the WNALC.
- **Financial Team:** If numbers are more your style, and if you like to make sure the accounts are balanced, please consider working on the financial team with our treasurer.
- **Spiritual Team:** Do you feel called to share the Word or have a heart for prayer and leading others into a deeper relationship with the Lord? Please consider working with the leader of our spiritual ministry team while using your spiritual gifts in service to the members of the WNALC.

Please prayerfully consider spending a few hours each month serving on one of our ministry teams.

Contribute to the Newsletter

Are you planning an event for the women of your church or mission district? We can help you get the word out! Send your event details to womenoftheNALC@gmail.com.

Newsletters are published around the 1st of the even numbered months, (February, April, June, etc.). Please send your event announcements and other articles as early as possible.

We would love to include stories from all our congregations and mission districts! Send a short write up, or a longer one if you are inclined, and photos — we love photos! Share what your ladies are doing to grow in Christ, doing to fellowship, and doing to serve. Let your stories challenge and inspire the rest of us!

Council Contacts

- Jill Nesheim** — jcnquilter@gmail.com
- Kim Isiminger** — kisiminger@gmail.com
- Peggy Jording** — peggyjording@gmail.com
- Rachel Busch Jones** — womenofthenalc@gmail.com
- Sandra Liska** — liskats@yahoo.com
- Mary Lea Pfenninger** — MPfenninger@esc3.net
- Amy Werner** — awerner.wnalc@gmail.com
- General email** — womenofthenalc@gmail.com
- WNALC website** — wnalc.org
- Facebook group** — [WNALC-Women of the NALC](https://www.facebook.com/WNALC-Women-of-the-NALC)

Mission District Representative Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ MD/Region: _____

Congregation: _____

Name and contact info for your pastor or other reference: _____

Tell us a little about yourself: _____

How do you serve in your congregation and/or community? _____

Use another page if needed to complete your responses. When finished, please send a photo or scanned copy of your application to Amy Werner by email, awerner.wnalc@gmail.com or text message, (724) 244-4242.