

Women of the NALC

North American Lutheran Church



Good News



Chair's Corner



Kim Isiminger

Life holds many distractions, doesn't it?

At the beginning of Advent 2022, I promised myself that I would faithfully read my devotional and take time for prayer daily. In fact, I think I documented my intent in the November-December "Chair's Corner". I'm sad to say that I was not as successful as I hoped. Some days I would wake up worrying about other holiday things: finishing knitting projects for my grandkids; finding the perfect presents for everyone on my list; baking the favorite seasonal cookies. On those days, I would end up not taking time for devotions. With all of the focus I was putting on preparing for the celebration of Christmas, I took my focus off the reason we celebrate it.

Is it only me, or does this happen to everybody from time to time? In a recent morning devotion*, the author related an experience he had on a ferryboat crossing. He related that the sea was rough and the waves were so bad people left footprints on the walls from bracing themselves as the boat tossed around. He became seasick and anxious.

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The man taught him the way to avoid seasickness was to keep his focus on the horizon. When the boat pitched and he lost sight of the horizon, he must immediately locate it and refocus on it. As the author learned to do that, the seasickness subsided.

The author drew parallels between his need to focus on the horizon during his ferry experience and our need to focus on God to keep our spiritual balance in turbulent times. By constantly renewing our focus on the Lord, we are able to find a place of peaceful calm in the ups and downs of life.

Whenever our time with God becomes intermittent and we find ourselves feeling frazzled and disconnected, that is the best time to renew your efforts to spend time with Him regularly. It is a gift we can give ourselves to start this new year right.

“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.”
Psalm 63:3-4 (ESV).

Prayers for a happy and peaceful
2023!
Kim



Spiritual Growth



Rev. Salome Pathak

A Lenten Prayer

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and also our dear Father, we thank You that you have permitted us to see another Lenten season, during which we are privileged again to meditate on the cross of Christ with its many comforting spiritual lessons. May this holy season bring us rich personal blessings. And may it cause the message of the slain lamb of God to impress on our hearts and minds the awfulness of our sins and to lead us to Calvary for pardon and peace. Lead us to see that our sins caused His great agony in the Garden; that our sins nailed him to the Cross of Calvary; that he was forsaken by his own that we might not be forsaken by Him; that He died so that we might not die eternally.

O Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the story of your wondrous love for us may draw us closer to You so that in gratitude for Your great love we may rejoice in our redemption, walk with You in willing obedience, and follow Your example of love and sacrifice.

O Holy Spirit, during this Lenten season grant all pastors a double measure of Your outpouring to arouse the indifferent listeners, to stir up the lukewarm, to encourage the timid, to assure the doubting, to calm the disturbed, and to console the sorrowing. May troubled souls everywhere by the message of Lent be led to sincere repentance and trusting faith in the Cross of Calvary, so that dying to sin, they may live to You now and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.



A Lenten Prayer from "My Prayer Book" published by Concordia Publishing 1957.



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Being Faithful



By Sandra Liska

Continue looking on Facebook for daily inspirations. I am including this piece written by one of my friends and fellow parishioners. She beautifully describes her faith during this Lenten season.

I read the Easter story several times asking God to help me write this. I cried over the horror of the cross and remembered how Jesus came to serve and wants me to follow. I think about the gospel and how He covered our sins with His blood to give us eternal life. I see His love even while He was dying He asked for forgiveness for those who had done this to Him.

Jesus looked to John, who had to be shattered, and gave him a purpose in his grief.

Jesus saw His broken-hearted mother and made sure she was taken care of. Even dying Jesus was giving us a guide on how to live our lives.

I think about the disciples, they had to be full of grief and disappointment. They had to have been shattered. Their Lord and King died- -HORRIBLY.

God, the Creator, who spoke and made all, who got down in the dirt to create man, is always there ready to come into our messy life, time and time again.

Jesus did have a choice.

He chose to go with the enemy. He chose to let Himself be treated horribly. He chose to go to the cross for us. He chose to die, and in power to rise again. He chose us!

We must boldly tell our story of faith, proclaiming Him, our Savior. It doesn't matter what pain comes into our lives and tries to distract us from the blessing and joy in front of us, we must keep our focus, Jesus.

So with the Holy Spirit's help

I choose life.

I choose love.

I choose service and

I choose to trust the God that chose me.



by

*Barbara Anderson
Our Savior Luther Church
Three Rivers, Texas*



Giving



By Peggy Jording

Thank you! So many of you answered the call for giving. We so appreciate that you recognize our desire to be faithful to Biblical truth. Also, that we aim to accomplish the work of our Lord Jesus before us. Continue to keep us, your WNALC council, in your prayers as we plan our upcoming Annual Gathering, which will be in Oklahoma City, in August 2023. We hope it will be inspiring, uplifting and will glorify Jesus.

The Mission fund for the year 2022 will be split between two worthy entities, which have been presented to you more thoroughly in past newsletters, the NALC Disaster Response and the Great Commission Society. Each of these entities will receive close to \$2590. These entities will be the Mission Fund designees for 2023.

We need your donations throughout the year. If you didn't send a year gift, please prayerfully consider a donation to the WNALC General Fund or the WNALC Mission fund.



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



Save the Date!

2023 Annual Gathering
will be held in Oklahoma
City next August.
Please watch the WNALC
newsletter, website, &
Facebook for information
on how to register.

Scholarships

10 scholarships will be available for women who would like the opportunity to attend the 2023 in-person Annual Gathering



General email: womenofthenalc@gmail.com

Website: wnalc.org

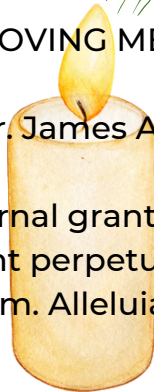
Facebook group: WNALC-Women of the NALC



IN LOVING MEMORY

The Rev. Dr. James Arne Nestingen

“Rest eternal grant him, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon
him. Alleluia! Amen!!”



From the North American Lutheran Church:

“[On] Saturday, December 31, 2022, we received the sad news that Dr. Jim Nestingen died suddenly from a heart attack in his home in St. Paul, Minnesota ...Jim was one of those pillars of the faith that had been so instrumental in the establishment and continued development and strength of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).”

Read the entire article about The Rev. Dr. Nestigen on TheNALC.org,
<https://thenalc.org/gallery/in-memory-of-the-rev-dr-james-arne-nestingen> .

Mission District News

by Amy Werner



Did you know that when your congregation is part of the North American Lutheran Church, your women's group is automatically considered to be a part of the WNALC? We have many awesome women serving in many ways, both big and small. Don't hide! We would like a chance to get to know you and the women in your congregation better.

Occasionally, The Women's Council (TWC) likes to reach out to the women in our congregations. We have the contact information for every church, but what we really need is a way to communicate directly with the women of the church. Typically, this would be through the women's group, but we know that not all congregations have one. Whether you have a formal group or not, please complete an information sheet.

To do this, visit our website, wnalc.org, click on About Us in the top menu bar and select Contact Us, wnalc.org/aboutus/contactus/. Once you are on the page, locate and click on the Join the WNALC button to open the form, which you can complete online. The form asks for your congregation's information, the name of your group (if you have an official group – if you do not, leave that blank), and two points of contact. If none of your ladies have email, please make your second contact your church office and include the church's email. We would love to hear from you!

If you are not currently receiving the WNALC's newsletter by email, it only takes another minute to click on the Sign Up For Our Newsletter button, and the next issue will be delivered directly to your email inbox. Thanks, and we are looking forward to hearing from you!





Disaster Response



Rev. Cathy Fanslau



Weather related hardships in 2022 impacted so many areas in our country, and some areas were really hit hard. The fact is right now the NALC has several warehouses across the country that are literally empty. Yet, spring is right around the corner, and with Spring often comes flooding.

The Women of the NALC strongly encourages our congregations to host a flood bucket assembly party in your Mission District ASAP.

Lent is also a great time to do a “Stuff the Tonka Truck” campaign. It’s so easy to do!

1. I’m sure there’s a Tonka truck in someone’s sandbox at home. Ask to borrow it and set up a display in your congregations narthex.
2. The goal is to collect gift cards in the truck that our Disaster Response Teams can hand out when tragedy in a community takes place. Gift cards to Home Depot, Lowe’s and Target are always welcomed expressions of our caring for our neighbor. You could ask committees of the church to each make a donation. During Lent families could collect change at home, purchasing a gift card as the “money” accumulates.
3. Choose a target date for the gift cards to be put in the Tonka truck and watch as the truck fills up. Checks & cash are always appropriate and that money can be used to purchase even more gift cards.

Another need for Disaster Response are quilts and blankets. Maybe a group at the church already gathers to put quilts together. Department stores are currently having great sales on quilts and blankets. When a family loses everything, something to wrap around themselves brings physical warmth and personal comfort, knowing that people cared enough to make quilts & blankets available.

And of course, there are so many other “kits” that our warehouses stock for emergencies. Be sure to consider any kit that your congregation would like to create.

We are all so blessed in this country and throughout our church body. Please consider how you and your family might be able to share the love of Christ by supporting The NALC's Disaster Response Team as they share all that we have to give.

Thank you in advance for your generous loving response to this plea.

Joyfully,
The Rev Cathy A Fanslau



For Disaster Relief Kits



Council Update



by Mary Lea Pfenninger

Greetings from the Council. At our monthly meetings we have been working on the planning for the Annual Meeting to the Women of the NALC.

We have had many lively discussions on the direction we need to be going to better support you. We have also been making plans to improve the web site.

We have narrowed down the theme ideas and have secured our keynote speaker. We are planning on making the Annual Meeting inspirational, enjoyable and purposeful. We will be sharing more as plans are finalized.

