

September/October 2022

Good News

From the WNALC



Chair's Corner

by Kim Isiminger



Can you believe that summer is over and it is time to welcome fall?! The fun-in-the-sun days of summer have flown by to be replaced by falling leaves, football games and pumpkin spice. At church, Sunday school classes and Bible studies are meeting again; and if your women's groups are like those at my church, they too are resuming after taking some time off during the summer months.

It's easy to get caught up in the rush of fall activities, but I'd like to suggest that now is the perfect time for each of us to take stock of where we are spiritually. That seems incongruous, I know. You probably wonder how I could possibly suggest that any of us have time to stop in the midst of the busy-ness that is upon us to think about our relationship with the Lord? You might think, "God is good, and He knows that I've put my faith in Him." Or maybe, "I don't have to worry about my spiritual life. That is the one area of my life that I can trust to stay on track!"

But does it? If left unchecked, will our spiritual life continue unabated? I was reminded by a recent children's sermon that we are like sheep, in that we

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The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.

Luke 17:5-6 (NASB)



are easily distracted and tend to wander. Yes, God is faithful and He will never leave us, but, if we don't periodically take time to assess our relationship, how will we know if we have started to wander...even just a little.

Perhaps the children's sermon spoke to me because I've known for a while that I have been a little overwhelmed and distracted. I've been too busy to put my daily devotional and prayer time at the top of my to-do list or to regularly attend Bible study. Both of these things get done, but I don't necessarily give them the time and attention they deserve. I take time to serve however I'm can, but perhaps I don't serve as intentionally as I should. Maybe it's time to re-align my priorities. A few years ago I had the opportunity to participate in a discipleship program at my church. One of the things I learned was the importance of getting out my calendar and

scheduling my top priorities. The Bible tells us that we should, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27, ESV). To me, that means that my top priorities should be doing the things that show my love for God, like spending time with Him in prayer and devotion, and spending time intentionally serving His people with love.

I think that I'd better get out my calendar and start setting some priorities. Hopefully you have already done this. However, if you too think your spiritual life needs a little bit of a tune-up, I hope that you will make it a priority.

In Christ,

Kim



Annual Gathering

2022

Women of the NALC

The 2022 Annual Gathering of the Women of the North American Lutheran Church took place on Tuesday, August 2 using the GoToMeeting platform. Jill Nesheim, Chair of The Women's Council (TWC) opened the gathering with greetings from the council. She took a few minutes to remind attendees that the Annual Report and other documents were included in the gathering packet that

had been emailed to all registered attendees. Jill indicated the Nominating Team report and invited any women who felt the call to run for council, but who had not yet completed the candidacy forms, to take time to do that. She gave the names of the five women who had filed candidacy forms in advance of the gathering: Peggy Jording, Sandra Liska, Mary Lea Pfenninger, the Rev. Cathy Fanslau and the Rev. Salome Pathak.

As the business meeting progressed, we experienced our first connection glitch when it was time for Mary Lea Pfenninger, secretary, to present the minutes from the 2021 Annual Gathering in Corpus Christi. Delegates and visitors were able to read and accept the minutes that were included in the Gathering packet. Peggy Jording, treasurer, presented the 2021 year-end report and the 2023 budget. Kim Isiminger, vice chair, presented the Mission Support report and presented NALC Disaster Response and Great Commission Society of the NALC as our continuing Mission bank partners. Following the reports, Rachel Busch Jones, Communications Team Leader introduced the candidate videos. The minutes, financial reports and mission bank recipients were all included on the ballot with the candidates for TWC, and voting was opened to delegates after the candidate videos. When voting was concluded, Ministry Team leaders gave the reports for the Spiritual Growth, Website, Mission District, Fellowship and Community, and Newsletter teams. This year, based on suggestions following our first virtual gathering in 2020, TWC included music and devotionals on the gathering theme. Our music was provided by the praise band of Christ the King Lutheran in Evans, Georgia. Mary Lea Pfenninger gave a devotional on Romans 3:31, reminding us of the peace and hope that we have when we abide in Christ. Sandra Liska's devotional on Psalm 71:14 reminded us to emulate King David, who's habits of trusting, praising and hoping in God sustained him throughout his life — even through times of trial. Peggy Jording's devotional on Psalm 42:5b, reminded us that when we find ourselves in the midst of trial and turmoil, we find peace and reassurance when we put our hope in our living God.

Attendees of the 2022 Virtual Gathering enjoyed presentations from two special guests, the Rev. David Keener who introduced us to the NALC's new Life-to-Life Discipleship Experience and our featured speaker, the Rev. Salome Pathak who spoke on Psalm 42:5, encouraging us always to give praise to God in our ministries and service. Bishop Daniel Selbo was our final speaker for the day. He brought greetings from the NALC and spoke on the status of the ministries of the church. He concluded his time with us by installing the new council of the WNALC. We appreciate the patience and dedication of all who attended the 2022 Virtual Gathering of the WNALC.

You can find all of the reports,
as well as recordings of the Gathering
and breakout sessions, by following the
links below.

LINKS:

[2022 Virtual Gathering information packet](#)

[Credentials report and results of voting](#)

[2022 Annual Report](#)

[2021 Annual Gathering Minutes](#)

[2022 Financial Statement](#)

[2023 Budget](#)

[2022 Virtual Gathering recording](#)

[Candidate Videos](#)

[What is Life to Life Discipleship?](#)

Breakout Sessions:

[Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response](#)

[Rev. Cathy Fanslau's Devotion
on Psalm 71:14](#)

Scholarships

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

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 apply.

Contact Us!

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Rev. Cathy Fanslau- revcathyfanslau@gmail.com

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Amy Werner — awerner.wnalc@gmail.com

General email: womenofthenalc@gmail.com

Website: wnalc.org

Facebook group: WNALC-Women of the NALC

Council Update



by Mary Lea Pfenninger

The new council met on August 8th. We used the time to get acquainted and share ourselves. We next decided on the following state of offices for the 2022-2023 year:

- **Chair:** Kim Isiminger
- **Vice Chair:** Amy Werner
- **Treasurer:** Peggy Jording
- **Secretary:** Mary Lea Pfenninger

We next discussed and decided upon the following members would be the team leads for our standing teams.

- **Spiritual Growth:** the Rev. Salome
- **Fellowship and Community:** Sandra
- **Website:** tabled for now but Amy and Kim will look into it

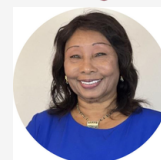
- **Newsletter:** Mary Lea with the Rev. Salome as support
- **Missions:** Rev. Cathy
- **Facebook:** Sandra
- **Disaster Response Liaison:** the Rev Cathy lead with Peggy as support
- **Budget:** Peggy
- **Mission District Coordinator:** Amy

After discussion about the fall retreat we adjourned.

In our September meeting we had reports from our team leaders on their respective teams. The team leaders' reports are included in their newsletter.

Meet Our New Council Members

Rev. Salome Pathak



The Rev. Salome Pathak has enjoyed doing church ministry since she was a young teen in Jamaica, West Indies. During her ministry in Jamaica, she established a church mission that includes a community free clinic. Her life of service continued in the United States. where she established and incorporated Christ Is Lord Ministries. After moving to Ohio, Rev. Salome found numerous ways to serve the Lord, including serving on church council, teaching adult Sunday school and catechism, and by forming an ecumenical fellowship group.

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Today, the Rev. Salome, works as a missionary pastor of Christ Is Lord Lutheran Church and Ministries, a Jamaican Mission. She spends her time both in the US and in Jamaica, while carrying out Christ's mission of preaching the Gospel. She is an ambassador of Christ, and a believer of the four Core Values of the NALC.

While the Rev. Salome has impacted many lives through the Gospel, her greatest love aside from Christ, is her husband of 44 years Dr. Divaker Pathak, a NALC pastor and University Professor; daughters Dija Henry, and Dr. Neha Pathak; son San Pathak; daughter-in-law Ebony Pathak, son-in-law, Darye Henry, and her seven grandchildren.

When the Rev. Salome is not preaching and teaching the Word, she can be found planting flowers in her garden, shopping with the grandchildren and catching up with old friends. On the mission field, when she is not doing church work, you will find her planting yams, fruit trees and flowers around the mission grounds only to have them eaten by pesky goats.



Rev. Cathy Fanslau

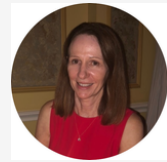


The Rev. Cathy Fanslau lives in Dayton, Nevada, about 15 miles from historic Virginia City. She enjoys living in an area with so much history! She has three grown children and three grandchildren. Her 89-year-old mother, who lived with her for the past eight years, is now in God's keeping. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Cathy grew up in the Midwest as a cradle Lutheran. She was raised in a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregation in Illinois and has several ordained pastors as ancestors. Her brother is also a Lutheran pastor!

Beginning her ministry as a deaconess for the LCMS, Pastor Cathy later moved to the ELCA and there she began preaching regularly. After serving as a deaconess for 15 years, Pastor Cathy knew that God was calling her to a ministry of Word and Sacrament. In 2021 Pastor Cathy had the joy of serving as the interim minister of a small congregation in Gibsonville, North Carolina, soon after they joined the NALC. That was also the year she celebrated her 20-year anniversary as a pastor and a total of 35 years in ministry. In her words, "Ministry has never felt like a job to me."

Facebook Update



By Sandra Liska

Howdy Ladies,

As many of us are using our cellphones daily it always gives us refreshing strength to read a Bible passage. Perhaps you find one posted from a friend in your Facebook feed, or you look up WNALC and find daily Scriptures!

Apps with scriptures to use on your phone are the You Version and Inner Room. Both also encourage prayer time. If you are using another app for Scripture and prayer, please share!

May God watch over each of you and bless you,

Sandra



Spiritual Growth

Rev. Salome Pathak



“Wake up! strengthen what remains.” Where have we heard that before? It’s from Revelation 3:2. The reference was made to a Church congregation. How may we strengthen the church today?

The answer is through prayer, and through the welcoming of the Holy Spirit. Luke gave an account in Acts Chapter 2:1, that when the day of Pentecost came, the Early Church Christians were gathered all together in an Upper Room praying in unity. They were praying for the Holy Spirit to come in their midst and wake them up so that they may strengthen what remained of the Early Church. While they were praying fervently, the Holy Spirit came in their midst and blew fresh wind of the Holy Spirit on them, and enabled them to speak to people and shine light into their darkness of sin. This manifestation of the Holy Spirit was a continuation of Jesus’ proclamation of the reign of God in the region, a place flocked by visitors from different nations, languages, cultures, and traditions.

What happened when the Early Church prayed? The wind of the Holy Spirit blew! Yes! The Early Church called it "The Day of Pentecost." When the Church prayed the Holy Spirit drew the people of every tribe, nation, and language to come near to the Upper Room and listen to the Church's supernatural proclamation.

Do our church congregations today, engage in a life of united prayer? Are the Holy Spirit drawing people from communities near or far to come and listen to the church's proclamation of the Gospel?

The early Christians in that upper room were Galileans! Their language and their culture were different from many of the people who came to listen to what they were proclaiming. Yes! The listeners were "Parthians, Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya (Cyrene), Cretans, Arabs, visitors from Rome, Jews and those converted to Judaism."

What was supernaturally amazing was that all the people from the different nations heard and understood what the Holy Spirit wanted them to hear. The people understood the Galilean Christians even though their language was different.

When the Church unites in prayer, the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit blows among us. When the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit blows, through united, fervent prayer of the Church, the Holy Spirit draws people to come in our midst and engage with the Church Proclamation of the Good News.

"Wake up! strengthen what remains."



This is the One Year Chronological Bible NLT. This Bible is arranged in order of events. The entire Bible can be read in a year by reading 15 minutes each day. The experience is illuminating.



Disaster Response



Peggy Jording

NALC Disaster Response

The Women of the North American Church (WNALC) recently had a presentation by Mary Bates, the NALC Disaster Response Coordinator. NALC Disaster Response works solely with volunteers, and Mary expressed her sincere thanks to the WNALC for providing generously. Last year at the NALC Convocation in Texas, the WNALC presented Mary with over \$15,000 in gift cards. Those gift cards have all been used in rebuilding several hundred homes in just this last year. December 10, 2021, tornados hit Mayfield, Kentucky, and 225 miles east. To this one event 15 truckloads were sent to 11 affected counties. Mary hoped for \$10,000 in toys for children and received over \$32,000 in new toys!

Mary shared stories of the various disasters up to just two days prior to the presentation, such as Hurricane Ida rebuilding projects, wildfires in multiple places, floods and so on. They had nine Disaster Response Sundays, attended district convocations, had four preparedness trainings, had ten mission team trips totaling 248 youth and adults, and attended 15 Stuff the truck events. Mary's mantra is "With your help."

Mary suggested that each congregation plan a service project for every other month and focus on one of the six main needed areas: Bibles, flood buckets, health care kits, quilts, School kits and gift cards. Mary stated, "When these disasters happen, if we don't have full warehouses we cannot serve!" Currently the warehouses are depleted, and once the resources are gone, work stops. The cost of building materials has risen; her example was a sheet of plywood now costs \$65.

The Women of Christ the King will be holding a Stuff the Truck event during September. Mary is currently in need of gift cards and flood buckets. There will be an example of a flood Bucket and the "Stuff the Truck" truck on the credenza at the back of our church. Please bring gift cards for Home Depot, Lowes, or Walmart or flood buckets (see the example). You can bring parts to make a flood bucket, and they can be added to items others bring.

"With Your Help," we can help serve the greater needs of those facing disasters.

