



# Women of the NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Chair's Corner



*Peggy Jording*

### Recovery from 2023

Another new year has swept in and is already moving quickly. I love Epiphany and the opportunity to recover from the last year. I can look forward to the year ahead, a new beginning where I can recommit myself to Bible study, devotions, and prayer. Just thinking about my challenges last year, I can now turn around to find a way to renew my Christian walk.

My sister invited me to do a devotion titled "Starting the New Year Strong" by Deborah Rosenkranz. You can find Rosenkranz's daily emails "A Miracle every Day" on YouVersion Bible app. The first day of the devotional uses the scripture "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" Psalm 119:105 ESV. Deborah made some points I would like to share:

## What's Inside

Chair's Corner	1-2
Giving	2-3
Spiritual Growth	3-4
Secretary's update	4
Women at Work	5
Council Members Contact	6
Disaster Response	7
About Us	8

*We say, "It is so dark around me." Jesus says, "I want to give you light through My Word."*

*We say, "I am exhausted." Jesus says, "I want to renew your strength through My Word."*

*We say, "Nothing makes sense anymore." Jesus says, "Look into My Word, and you'll understand."*

*We say, "I'm so lonely." Jesus says, "My Word promises that I will be with you always."*

*We say, "I don't feel You." Jesus says, "You will find Me in My Word.""*

Of course, she is drawing us to

the Word of God, and that is truly what I need to hear this time of year and always. All my worries, concerns, fears, failings, hope, and guidance are addressed within the wonderful Word of my Lord. All I must do is look, listen, search, study, share, and become renewed. Now, if I choose to spend my time doing anything but following the path laid before me, darkness will surround me. I will become exhausted and overwhelmed. I will be lost and lonely. I will not feel the Spirit speaking to me. If you ask my husband, I am sure he will tell you I am short on patience and tolerance when I take my eyes away from Jesus. How about you? Do you lose sight of where you are going? Do you feel empty? Do you need renewal? Now is the time to turn to the Bible, the Word of God. Recommit yourself to discover the path Jesus is walking with you.

*Giving*  
*Marti Baggs*



Renewal is an intentional process and a gift and promise from God. It regenerates our sense of purpose, bringing us hope and the promise of Christ's mercies each day. Renewal helps reveal innovative solutions for old situations, repairing or replacing something worn or broken, or revitalizing with new life a commitment.

Over the past couple of months, you may have been involved in your congregational stewardship renewal with commitments of time, talents, and treasure. Some view this process as a budgetary "must do." Others may see it as an opportunity to "get to" be involved in ministry.

During 2024, the Women of the NALC continue to renew our support of the Great Commission Society of the NALC. The Great Commission is dedicated to carrying out instruction from our Lord Jesus Christ, given to us in the Gospel of Matthew, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Mathew 28:19-20(KJV)



We invite you to establish, or establish anew, a commitment to our Mission Bank Partners—The Great Commission Society, and the NALC Disaster Response. Other opportunities include your participation as representatives of the WNALC, prayers, and financial donations. Please contact any one of us on the WNALC council to discuss opportunities and to answer any questions you may have.

## *Spiritual Growth*



*Carolyn Rastrelli*

My husband and I received an early present, the adoption of our granddaughter was finalized on December 15th. After 2 years of hoping and praying that nothing would go wrong in the process, the judge granting the petition and stating there is now and forever nothing different than if she were born to us was a great relief and amazing blessing! I could not help but compare the legal adoption of our granddaughter into our family to the spiritual adoption of every Christian into God the Father's family; "... but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15). I can only imagine the celebration in heaven every time that happens, how



how God too must be overjoyed that this soul He cherishes is now and forever His child. As our child, our granddaughter is an equal inheritor of all that is ours, just as we are all inheritors of God's kingdom. 'Giving thanks to the father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.' (Colossians 1:12). What an impressive gift!

As we begin a new year, I am not going to make a new resolution, but renew a long-standing commitment; to spend more time in the scriptures and prayer. I will do my best to "stand every morning thanking and praising the Lord, and likewise in the evening" (1 Chronicles 23:30). I will continue to confess my sins

(known and unknown) each day and ask for His forgiveness. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9). Most importantly I will demonstrate, teach, and share these things with our granddaughter. "You shall teach them [the statutes of the Lord] to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 11:19). That is the promise we made when we presented her for baptism.

Many people along the way thanked us for what we were doing, telling us how wonderful we are for making this commitment. We are not special, just a couple who love a child and are doing our best to provide her with the knowledge of God's love and provision. I pray the world will learn and follow Jesus's words; "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34)

One thing we became aware of as we worked with the Children & Youth Service organizations is the great need for foster families. There are hundreds of children of all ages nationwide who desperately need loving families to help and care for them. If you have room in your heart and a little extra space in your home, please consider becoming a foster resource family.

## *Fellowship Idea*



Doing a "Progressive Supper" with three to four couples is a great way to get to know new members or just people you would like to get know better.



## *Secretary's Update*



*Mary Lea Pfenniger*

The pinecone is a symbol of eternal life, but it is also a symbol of rebirth and new life. Inside pinecones we find little nuts, which are the seeds of the pine. When the pinecone falls, these pine nuts have the chance to sprout and become a new tree, symbolically "giving birth" to it.

Our newsletter's theme is renewal and recommitment. I used the pine cone as a graphic reminder of God's promise of eternal life and our renewed commitment to living a righteous life.



# Women at Work



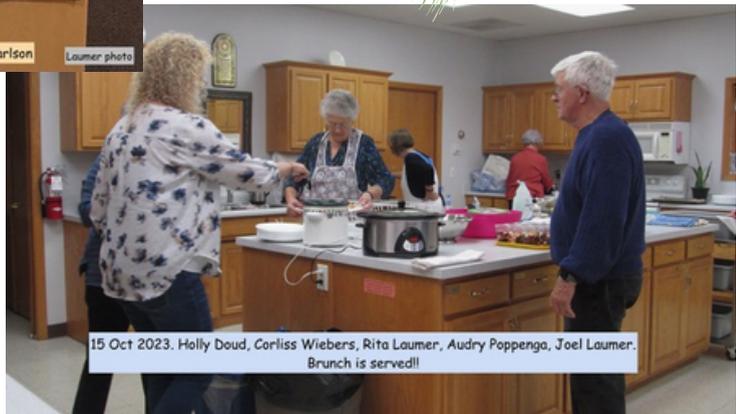

15 Oct 2023.  
harvest festival

Laumer photo



15 Oct 2023. Harvest festival. Decorating committee led by Carolyn Carlson

Laumer photo



15 Oct 2023. Holly Doud, Corliss Wiebers, Rita Laumer, Audry Poppenga, Joel Laumer.  
Brunch is served!!



# Council Members



Peggy Jording, Chair  
[peggyjording@gmail.com](mailto:peggyjording@gmail.com)



Amy Werner, Vice Chair  
[awerner.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:awerner.wnalc@gmail.com)



Mary Pfenninger, Secretary  
[marylea.pfenninger@icloud.com](mailto:marylea.pfenninger@icloud.com)



Sandra Liska  
[liskats@yahoo.com](mailto:liskats@yahoo.com)



Rev. Cathy Fanslau  
[revcathyfanslau@gmail.com](mailto:revcathyfanslau@gmail.com)



Marti Baggs  
[mbaggs.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:mbaggs.wnalc@gmail.com)



Carolyn Rastrelli  
[crastrelli.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:crastrelli.wnalc@gmail.com)



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*DISASTER RESPONSE*



*Pr. Cathy Fanslau*

When disasters rush through communities, there are immediate needs that the NALC Disaster Response team jumps in to address. Our warehouses provide disaster kits that are real blessings to those amid chaos and disasters. Even when our warehouses are stocked, we cannot sit back and take a break, because with one or two disasters, our warehouses are depleted of their contents. Regular collections of disaster kits and “stuff the truck” gift cards are needed. Have you scheduled any kit assembly days at your congregation? Lent is a wonderful time to collect gift cards that are so essential for those during a disaster. Just last week more gift cards were sent to Hawaii, whose needs will continue for years to come.

Even after the initial response we offer in a disaster, there are needs for months and even years in areas impacted by a disaster. Have you ever thought about the adults or youth of your congregation dedicating a few days to a mission trip to one of the continuing disaster sites? Rebuilding following major disasters takes time, people, skills, and money. The NALC Disaster Response Task Force is prepared to help you put together a mission trip. You would be amazed at what you can accomplish during a mission trip. The trips that youth have participated in have been tremendously successful around our country. Please consider helping a community rebuild and repair following a disaster. Please give Mary Bates a call (740-509-1132) and discuss how you and your congregation could make a significant impact on a community that has experienced a disaster. There are needs across our country and I am sure the right situation for your congregation is just waiting for you to say, “yes, I’ll go and do that!” Mary is waiting for your call!

*Stuff the truck!*

Here I Am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have  
heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord. If you lead me. I will hold  
your people in my heart.

(Refrain, I, the Lord of Sea, and Sky, With One Voice  
#752)





Disaster Relief Mission Trip Opportunities



NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*DISASTER RESPONSE*

NALC National Disaster Task Force 2024 Sign Up

for information about Disaster Response Training Courses

### *Three ways to access Disaster Relief Kits List*

1  
*click here!*



2  
Scan this QR code with your camera app on your smart phone.

3  
bit.ly/417uLpt

Enter this URL into your browser.

### *Our Purpose*

The purpose of the WNALC shall be to support the women’s ministry within the congregations of the North American Lutheran Church with the goal of mutual support and encouragement as a community in faith, hope and love.

The WNALC shall assist congregational women’s ministries in mission, study of God’s Word, fellowship and service in Christ’s name.

The WNALC shall provide guidance to congregations of the NALC who are forming new women’s ministries.

### *Our Mission*

As sisters in Christ, we dedicate ourselves to guide and direct the Women of the North American Lutheran Church in their efforts to move forward in faith and mission, through prayer and evangelism, with the Holy Scriptures as the final authority in all matters.

### *Our Motto*

Connecting with our Sisters in Christ by Sharing God’s Love.

