



# Women of the

## NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Good News



## Chair's Corner



*Peggy Jording*

Advent is almost here. May your next four weeks be full of family, friends, and time to focus on the amazing gift God gave us in Jesus His Son.

The last eight weeks have been challenging and heart breaking. My sister-in-law, 65 years old, died early in September, in a fall while hiking in the Pyrenees Mountains in Spain. She was an experienced mountaineer, having hiked all over the world from New York to the Himalayas, from Laos to New Zealand, and from Azerbaijan to Peru. Yet even though she had experience, she fell in a ravine and died. Almost a month later, my best friend's son, 40 years old, died in a fall down a ravine while out working cows. During these eight weeks, I attended a meeting for an organization I joined in 1985. When I joined, it was a Christian organization, and now it is no longer. The organization wishes to make changes to exclude Christian thought and wishes to hide what the organization is doing at our college and to our members. It was disheartening and added to the heavy heart I was already feeling. I returned from my sister-in-law's funeral to find that my pastor was called to a new position and will be leaving soon.



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During all these trials, I began to wonder what God was telling me. I had was the realization that our time on earth is short, and we don't know when our life on earth will end, regardless of whether we are healthy or not. Next, I wondered how I should be spending the time I've been given? Lastly, I realized I am surrounded by those who love me, and I don't want my sorrow to overwhelm me. I must remind myself that I have a Lord and Savior to call on with all my trials, all my temptations, all my sorrows. This Savior reminds me to "Stand up, stand firm, and be Counted"; He reminds me that I belong to Him; I am to hear His call and trust in Him with my life.

As this depression and heaviness pulled at me, I comforted my friend and her family, helped my brother and his family, and shared thoughts with members of my organization. More powerfully, I feel the pull of Jesus, to turn to Him to be renewed as a new church year begins. Jesus calls me to be more diligent in prayer and Bible study, so that I can learn the will of God for me. The hope of Advent draws me to find time to look for Jesus and his coming into this world for me and for you. It is a time of anticipation, a time of something new coming. May your struggles, trials, and sorrows be comforted by the Word of God as you look to the new year and the celebration of Jesus coming to us as a small baby for our salvation.

Blessings,  
Peggy

*Giving*  
Marti Baggs



Women of the NALC Council members met this fall and discussed stewardship of the funds you have contributed to support of the WNALC general fund, the WNALC mission fund, as well as Stuff the Truck for Disaster Response efforts. The WNALC Council members want to express our sincere thanks for your generosity in prayers and donations.

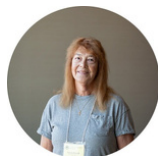
We make every effort to be faithful to our purpose, mission, and God's will in our lives. In Genesis we learn that God is the Creator and Giver of everything. Then, God made man and gave him dominion over all he made. In this text, dominion does not mean to dominate. Instead, God intended for us to be stewards, or managers of His creation. So, God owns it all! He calls us to be faithful stewards. Then God gave us the ultimate gift of His Son.

As His stewards, we are called and should be encouraged then to respond to the abundance of all that God first gives us. We ask you to pray about your year-end giving and consider donating to the WNALC General Fund or the WNALC Mission Fund.



## Spiritual Growth

*Carolyn Rastrelli*



I saw a sign a while back upon which I have pondered quite a bit; it read "Jesus is coming back and he's not a baby in a manger anymore!" The first part 'Jesus is coming back' gives me no pause, after all the Bible tells us this no less than 1800 times. It's that second part-'He's not a baby in a manger anymore' that set me to thinking. What will Jesus look like? I'm sure we all have our own idea on this one. I envision Him as a beautiful figure emanating light, gazing upon us with soft loving eyes. But what will He think as He sees the state of His creation? Will His heart be hurt? I'm sure He'll be quite saddened that so much of mankind has turned its back on Him and his teaching and evil is so prevalent. As we enter the season of Advent, the time of preparation for Jesus' return, let's improve our efforts to show His love; being His hands and feet in this world, following His example in all our thoughts, words and deeds and calling out evil wherever we find it. Let's keep praying for all God's children to seek and find Him.

As the world around us is seemingly spiraling into the depths of hell, we can have faith that God is still in.



control. Zephania 3:16-17 says 'On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exalt over you with loud singing.'

Watch for the NALC 2023 Advent and Christmas Devotional which should soon be found at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org). Sola publishing has two Advent Devotionals available for purchase and many free family resources on their Holy Families! Website: [www.holyfamilytime.com](http://www.holyfamilytime.com). Our Daily Bread app has an Advent reading plan, and The Upper Room has wonderful daily devotions throughout the year in print, online and in their app.

May the New Year find us healthy, wiser, and always watching for Jesus.

Blessings,  
Carolynn

# Women at Work

## AMR Women's Conference 2023



On October 13, about 25 women of the Atlantic Mission Region met at Saint Paul, in York, PA. Our theme was "Showers of Blessings."

The Rev. Dr. Amy Little led us through a Bible study on "Disciples Who Learned and Served with Jesus." She talked about how the females around Jesus' life served him in many ways and were some of the first disciples.

Pr. Amy also shared with us the global ministry of "Days for Girls," which provides reusable feminine products to female students in third world countries, so then they can continue to attend school during their cycle.

Mary Bates provided an update on Disaster Response and assisted with the assembly of 253 health kits for Disaster Response.

Mary also shared how Walmart gift cards are desperately needed for Maui. They don't have Lowes or Home Depot, and are restricted from rebuilding for political reasons.

Amy Werner shared about the WNALC, with a quick tour of the website. She also shared about the upcoming AMR Women's retreat in the spring, which will be at Black Rock Retreat Center, Quarryville, PA.

Our ladies also enjoyed a time of sharing ideas, activities, and outreach done in their prospective congregations.



The Rev. Dr. Amy Little  
with health kit.



## *Great Rivers Northern Illinois Fall Gathering*

On September 16, four of the northern Great Rivers mission district congregations were invited to a Fall Women's Gathering. Two of the churches were well represented; the other two had commitments for the day. Because our churches are not located close to each other, the gathering was held at New Life Lutheran Church (LCMC in Sterling, IL). Immanuel Lutheran, Altona and St Paul Lutheran, Oregon were well represented with approximately 16 members present. The event had a kitchen theme and each attendees brought items to donate for kitchen kits for Disaster Response. Fifteenth kitchen kits were donated! The morning was highlighted by a speaker from NIU who spoke on My Plate and healthy eating. A short business meeting was held - the women voted unanimously that they would like to meet again - suggesting twice a year. The morning concluded with a catered lunch. Expenses were covered by a Thrivent Action Team Event grant.

This event came about through the mission district meeting segment of the Women's Gathering in Oklahoma City in August. As it happened, Sharon and Sandy were the only two representatives present at the gathering and their churches are about three hours apart in the northern portion of Illinois. When we met we were challenged with coming up with ideas for our mission district. By the time we left the National Gathering, the event and location were planned! Thank you to the officers for challenging us!





## *St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yorktown, Texas*

The "Do-Day Quilters", pictured above of St. Paul's, boxed up thirty-seven quilts and two donated afghans in June. Lap quilts, as well as baby quilts were made during the year by these ladies. Seventeen quilts and the two afghans were taken to the Rosenberg to the Southeast Texas Mission District warehouse and twenty quilts were taken to the NALC Mission Convocation in Oklahoma City in August for the North Texas Mission District warehouse.

Please send articles and pictures of your congregational women at work to for the newsletter to [marylea.pfenninger@icloud.com](mailto:marylea.pfenninger@icloud.com) on or before the 7th of each month.



## *Mid-Northeast Mission District*

### *WNALC Fall Gathering*

Twenty-three women gathered in Smicksburg, PA, on November 11, 2023 for the Mid-Northeast Mission District WNALC Fall Gathering. The theme was *Celebrating Women Veterans*. After morning refreshments and networking, morning prayer worship was led by Pastor Joyce Dix Weiers of Resurrection Lutheran Cooperative Ministry. An offering was taken to support Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, a NALC Partner Agency. Following that was a Bible study by Pastor Joyce discussing several women of the Bible but ultimately focused on the story of Debra. A video was shown about the history of women in the military and Helen Snyder spoke about her relative who has served in the military and will also be deployed next year. Lunch was prepared by the hosting ladies at Salem Lutheran Church. At our business meeting members were asked to serve on our council.



A few volunteered, but more are needed to help share in the planning. Please contact Pastor Joyce if you are in the Mid Northeast Mission District and interested in serving.

Afterwards, we packed kits for deployed women soldiers using a Thrivent Action Team Grant. Amy Werner, our WNALC Representative brought us greetings and updates from the National WNALC Council along with her famous map of the congregations in the NALC. Carolyn Rastrelli, newly elected member to the National WNALC Council from our mission district with us. The ended day by painting wooden Christmas trees which all took with them intending to share with a veteran in their life.

## Secretary's Update

*Mary Lea Penninger*



Your Women's Council has had a very busy and exciting fall. We have had our annual retreat and planned out the year. We are actively working on the virtual conference and planning some new activities including a virtual auction. We have are also striving to be more in touch with our mission districts. Don't be surprised if you get an email from one of us!



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

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

Please make checks payable to:  
North American Lutheran Church  
And note of the memo line whether it is for  
WNALC General Fund - or - WNALC Mission Fund





## Council Members



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## NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### DISASTER RESPONSE



*Pr. Cathy Fanslau*

The NALC Disaster Response Volunteer Training Program is available on line. The slide presentations and their worksheets are ready for your use. A description of how to access the training can be found on the NALC website [thenalc.org](https://thenalc.org).

The invitation to participate in training is extended to one and all. There are four basic divisions. Choose to start with Division One-Regular Volunteer, if you are contemplating becoming a volunteer (or you are contemplating returning to do another disaster response). Or, start with Division Two-Trained Volunteer, if you desire to get a better understanding of what a disaster victim is going through so that you may better relate with them.

After that, you may decide to go on to become a trained Prayer Minister (Division Three). And perhaps after that, go on to become a Spiritual Care Provider (Division Four).

It will be a while before an effort is put into the Electives for Division Five. After the beginning of the year we will look into providing audio and visual recording options for all the present training presentations. Click the link below to view a PDF of how to view the Disaster Response training courses.

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly..." Colossians 3:16a

The Rev. Cathy A. Fanslau



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



Enter this URL into your browser.  
[bit.ly/417uLpt](https://bit.ly/417uLpt)

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



## *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.

