



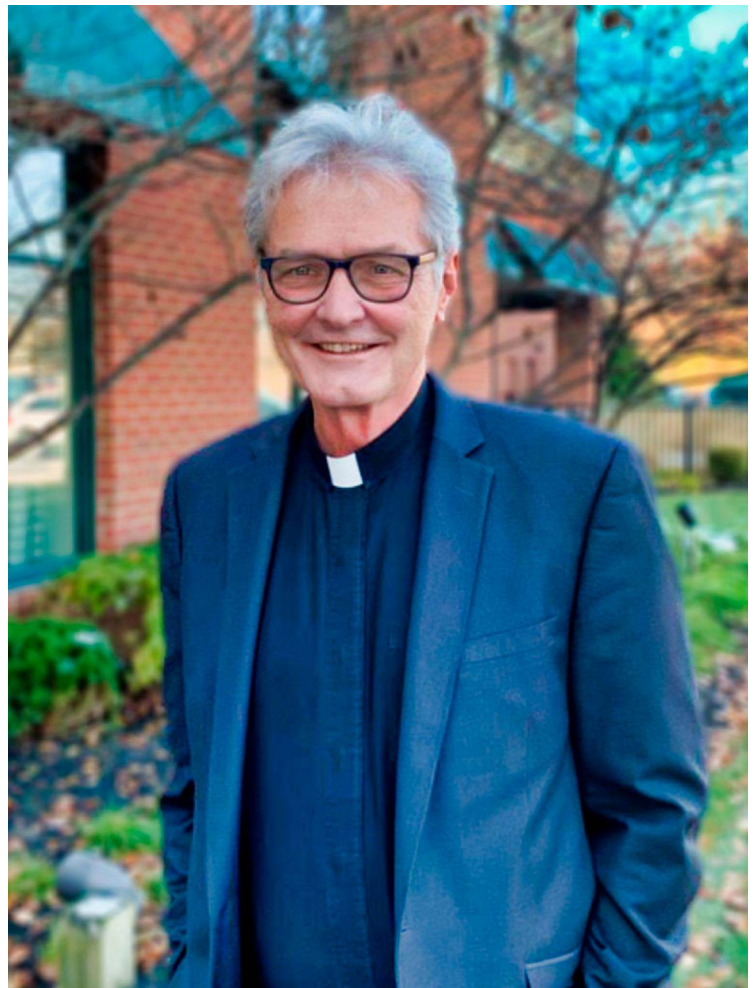
THE REV. DR. ERIC RIESEN NAMED PRESIDENT OF NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

The Rev. Dr. Eric M. Riesen has been called to serve as the next president of the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS). The Executive Council of the North American Lutheran Church voted on Nov. 5 to call Dr. Riesen as president.

“I was very pleased with the recommendation from our Board of Regents and the unanimous support given by the Executive Council to extend a call to Pastor Eric Riesen to serve as president for the NALS. His selection and acceptance were an answer to prayer,” said the Rev. Dr. Dan Selbo, NALC bishop.

“Pastor Riesen brings extensive parish experience, a love for theology and learning, and a desire to raise up the next generation of pastors to serve the Church. Add to his passions and gifts, a strong and clear understanding of and commitment to discipleship, a love for Jesus, and a heart for the Gospel, and there is no doubt that God has led and chosen the right person to serve,” Bishop Selbo said. “I am excited about the future for the NALS, and I look forward to working with Pastor Riesen in the next few years. God is faithful and we have, once again, been blessed.”

Dr. Riesen will follow the Rev. Dr. Amy C. Schiffrin who led the seminary as its first president. Schiffrin will continue to serve on the NALS and Trinity School for Ministry faculties.



The Rev. Dr. Eric M. Riesen, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio, has been called to serve as the next president of the North American Lutheran Seminary, the seminary of the North American Lutheran Church.

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“All of us at the NALS are excited about the upcoming arrival of our new president, Eric Riesen. I’ve known Pastor Riesen as a respected colleague and friend, and I believe he will be able to lead the NALS into a new season of growth,” Schiffrin said.

The Board of Regents voted to honor outgoing president, Dr. Schiffrin, with the title of president emeritus. The board also established a scholarship fund in her name to support NALS alumni pursuing doctoral work.

“I am so thankful for having been called to serve as the president of the NALS during these six years. When the NALC began, we did not have a seminary. Now not only do we have a seminary that is orthodox, confessional and evangelical, we are flourishing in an ecumenical environment, and we have relationships with a variety of undergraduate schools that will create a ‘pipeline’ of students who will one day serve our NALC churches and mission outposts,” Schiffrin said.

“I am pleased that the NALC Executive Council enthusiastically and unanimously supported the recommendation of the NALS Board of Regents after more than a year of much prayer and hard work,” said Dr. M. Roy Schwarz, chair of the Board of Regents.

The NALS Seminary Center is housed at Trinity School for Ministry, an Anglican seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, where Riesen formerly served on the Board of Visitors. The NALC’s vision for the NALS is for the seminary to include the Seminary Center in Ambridge and houses of study located throughout North America.

Riesen has been a parish pastor for 34 years, serving four congregations. He served as senior pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Brentwood, Pennsylvania, for 22 years, and most recently as senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio.

Riesen is the chair of the NALC’s Life-to-Life Discipleship Team, and serves on the NALC Commission on Theology and Doctrine. He has also served on the Ecumenical Consultation between the NALC and the Anglican Church in North America.

Riesen was nominated for bishop in 2019 and was one of the finalists in the election process at the 2019 NALC Convocation. He previously served on the NALC Candidacy Committee and as the first dean of the Mid-Northeast Mission District.

Riesen is a graduate of Indiana University, Fort Wayne (B.S.), Fuller Theological Seminary (M.A.), Luther Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (D.Min.), where his work focused on the dialogue between theology and science. His dissertation, “When Worldviews Collide: The Christian Faith and the New Genetics,” explores moral and theological questions raised by new genetic technologies.

In 2016, the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau published his book, *The Christian Faith: A Catechism for the Curious*. He has also written for the online edition of *First Things*.

“The future of the NALC largely depends on pastoral formation. We need men and women who are well-equipped and prepared to engage the culture with the truth of the Gospel. We all know that the culture is changing quickly. Society as a whole is becoming less and less friendly to Christian faith and ethics, and so we need pastors who are formed in the depths of the Great Tradition of Christian faith, and who go into today’s mission field to make disciples,” Riesen said.

“Of course, it is not possible to fully form pastors in three or four years of theological and pastoral study. Pastoral formation is a ‘long obedience in the same direction.’ Seminary is a time of intensive learning, but it is only the beginning,” he said.

“My hope, my prayer and my commitment is to make the North American Lutheran Seminary the finest Lutheran seminary in the country. I covet your prayers as this parish pastor learns what it means to serve the Church by serving the seminary community,” Riesen said.

Riesen has been married to his wife, Terry, for 43 years. They have three grown children.

Riesen will assume office as seminary president on Feb. 1.

NALC ADVENT DEVOTIONS BY PASTOR DAVID WENDEL

Blessed Is He Who Comes, an Advent devotional booklet for 2019, is now available on the NALC website at thenalc.org/advent.

The devotions, prepared by the Rev. Dr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry and ecumenism, are based on the daily Scripture passages from the *Reading the Word of God* calendar.



Reading the Word of God is a three-year Bible reading calendar prepared in 2018 by the NALC, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church—Canada. To learn more about the Bible reading calendar, visit thenalc.org/projects/daily-bible-readings.

PDF copies of the devotional booklet may be downloaded from the NALC website for printing for individual use or distribution in congregations.

The devotional is available to download for e-Readers. Visit thenalc.org/advent to download a copy.

You may also receive a daily message to your personal Facebook Messenger. To do so, visit m.me/thenalc. Text the word: “Advent.” Then, click the “Subscribe” button.

For details on how to access *Blessed Is He Who Comes*, visit thenalc.org/advent.

AMY SCHIFRIN NAMED PRESIDENT EMERITUS, SCHOLARSHIP FUND CREATED IN HER NAME

The Board of Regents of the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) has voted to honor the Rev. Dr. Amy C. Schifrin with the title of president emeritus of the NALS.

Dr. Schifrin has led the seminary as president and as a faculty member since its founding in 2013. She will continue to serve on the NALS and Trinity School for Ministry faculties.

The Board of Regents also established a scholarship fund in her name to support NALS alumni pursuing Ph.D. studies.

Gifts to the scholarship fund should be payable to the North American Lutheran Church and clearly marked “Schifrin Scholarship Fund.” They may be sent to: North American Lutheran Church
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202.



Amy Schifrin

FIRST THOUGHTS ON VISION FOR NALC FROM BISHOP DAN SELBO

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is an honor and a joy to be writing to you as your new bishop. Since the time of the election in August, I have been humbled by the calling I have received and by the opportunity I have been given to help shape and mold our ministry and mission efforts in the NALC.

At the same time, I am fully at peace with this new role and confident that God has prepared me and us for what lies ahead. As we stay focused on the commission given to us in Jesus and the promise secured for us in His cross and resurrection, we can be certain that God will use our efforts to the glory of His Son.

In this, my first article in the *NALC News*, before sharing a bit about the priorities toward which I am working and the ways in which I am using these first few months in this office, allow me to introduce myself.

The second of six children, I grew up in a family in which the Christian faith has been central in my life since birth. My father was a Lutheran pastor. My mother was a role model of Christian sacrifice and service. I grew up learning the faith by watching it being lived out and by hearing it taught and preached each week.

After finishing my formal education at San Jose State University and Luther Seminary, my wife, Mary, and I joined our lives together and have now been married for more than 33 years. Mary has been and continues to be one of the greatest gifts I have ever received. She has a heart for the Lord, a love for His Church, and a desire to use her life in ways that honor Jesus.

Together we have four grown children, two boys and two girls, and two less than one-year-old grandchildren. They all live in California, in the San Jose area, and each of them is a gift to us.



FROM THE BISHOP

REV. DR. DAN SELBO
BISHOP

For now, at least for the first six months in this new role, we plan to stay in our home in California. If it turns out that the church will be better served if we move to a more central location, we are more than willing to make that change.

Since my ordination in 1986, I have served two congregations and have been blessed by each of those church families. In the four weeks following the election in Indianapolis, I closed out my ministry at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in San Jose, which I had served for nearly 25 years. It was a fast-track closure, to be sure, and an emotional goodbye to a congregation and people I had come to know and love. Nonetheless, it was a joyous farewell, celebrating the years we had shared, and a faith-filled departure, trusting that God has something already planned for us in our respective futures.

In these early weeks since officially taking office in October, I have been working to develop relationships with our staff, gain a better understanding of the purposes and roles of each of our leadership teams, and make personal contact with each of our mission district deans.

As pastor to the pastors, I want to be as available as possible to the pastors in this church. Knowing, however, that we are intentionally structured in mission districts for the purpose of sharing in mission and providing personal and pastoral care, I plan to use our deans in ways that will leverage the structure we have and strengthen our shared witness.

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I have also already had the opportunity to take part in two mission district convocations and have been invited to share in several more. As schedules allow, I hope to be in as many mission districts as possible to support the work that is happening throughout our church.

I am also working, during these early months, to develop a vision for where I believe God is leading us as a denomination. With the Great Commission and Great Commandments as our foundation, the four Core Values of the NALC as the guiding principles for the work we share, and the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions as the source and norm of what we teach and preach, we need to continually assess where we are at in the NALC and where we believe God is leading us in the future. I am working with our staff, the Executive Council, the Board of Regents, and our deans to set priorities for the next four years.

As a church body, since the time we began in 2010, we have made tremendous progress in moving forward as a denomination. Some wonderful work has happened. Some strategic and significant steps have been taken to set a direction and form an identity that is rooted and grounded in nothing more nor less than the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To his credit, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, Bishop John Bradosky has laid a strong foundation for our collective future. We have been blessed by his leadership and have become more focused in our response to the calling and commission we have been given by Jesus.

At the same time, we are not today where we were when we first started, and we have opportunities currently in front of us that we had not previously had. We need to set a vision based upon our current situation and circumstances that will guide us in moving together and forward in the work entrusted to us in Christ.



Bishop Dan Selbo met with the deans from the NALC's mission districts Nov. 13-14 in Columbus, Ohio. He presented a draft of his vision for the NALC and engaged the deans in discussion about the life of the church.

The commitment we now have in place to encourage pastors and lay leaders to develop disciple-making cultures in their congregations, and to train and empower our people to make disciples in their everyday lives, is one of the major priorities that will guide my work in the years ahead.

If for no other reason than this is the very commission we have been given by our Lord, we must and we will continue to work to equip and empower our people to share in this urgent and essential task. I will be working closely with our Life-to-Life Discipleship Team to ensure that this central commitment to our shared life and calling continues.

In that regard, I urge your attendance at the NALC Ministerium meeting and DiscipleLife 2020 gathering in Orlando, Florida, this coming February. In partnership with our sisters and brothers in the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), we will be using our time to focus on ways in which we can partner together to strengthen our disciple-making commitment.

Featured speakers for DiscipleLife 2020 include the most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, archbishop and primate of the ACNA; the Rev. John Bradosky, bishop emeritus of the NALC; and the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, assistant to the bishop for missions of the NALC.

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There will be plenary and breakout sessions during the conference, along with an opportunity for our NALC Ministerium to meet. The conference is open to all pastors and lay leaders and promises to be an exciting, energized and worthwhile event. I encourage your attendance.

Another high priority for me, related to our seminary, includes strengthening our seminary faculty and curriculum, more deeply incorporating discipleship into the training for our pastors, and increasing the number of seminarians enrolled in candidacy with the NALC.

With a strong foundation for pastoral training already in place and the selection of the Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen as the new president of the North American Lutheran Seminary, we are well-positioned for a new chapter to begin in which we will be able to train an increased number of candidates for the ordained ministry. We owe our thanks to the Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin and the Board of Regents for their strong leadership in the early years of our seminary's life.

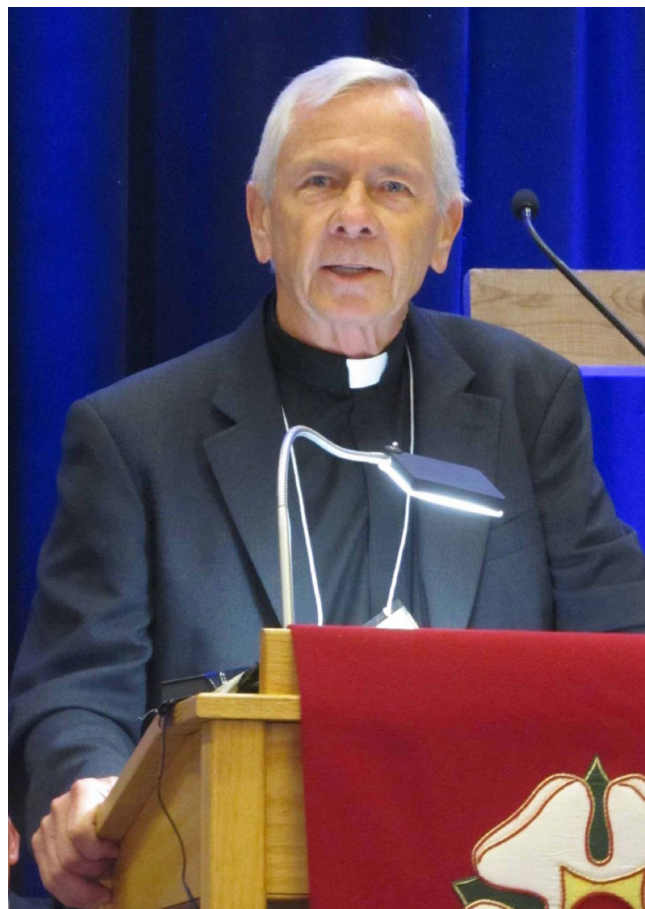
Other priority commitments include providing pastoral support for our congregations and training for our lay leaders to preach and to offer Holy Communion in those locations where regular pastoral support is not available.

We have a theology that allows us to increase access to the Sacrament where needed, without decreasing the "good order" required in our confessions or compromising the office of ordained ministry which is foundational in the life and work of the Church.

I am committed to working with our deans and the Commission on Theology and Doctrine to find ways to be supportive of each of our congregations in this regard.

As the vision for these next four years becomes clearer and more well defined, I plan to share it more broadly throughout the NALC. I shared an early draft with our deans at our meeting this month. I plan to share a more fully-developed version with our Ministerium in February, and a final version with the NALC Convocation when we meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, next August. I ask for your patience and your prayers in this process, as we set and more clearly define the next steps for us in our shared life.

I want to assure you that our staff is doing everything it can to support each of you in your congregational settings. As a



denomination that is Congregationally Focused, we see our role, as continental staff, as one of supporting the work that happens in and through congregational life. Please do not hesitate to call us if there is something you need that you believe we can help to provide.

I also want to assure you that we are not afraid of taking on the challenging issues we face, nor of being as open and transparent with you as possible regarding how situations are being handled.

In this regard, you may be aware of what transpired and has transpired leading up to, during and since the 2019 Convocation, in relation to an accusation made against Pastor David Wendel last year at this time.

Much conversation has taken place since, and many conclusions were drawn that were not only based upon false and limited information, but that were also unfair to Pastor Wendel, to the Inquiry Panel, to Pastor Mark Chavez,

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Bishop John Bradosky, Seminary President Amy Schifrin, to the elected leadership of the NALC and NALS, as well as to those involved in bringing the accusation. The misrepresentation and mistaken assumptions and facts were widespread.

Suffice it to say that we followed our own NALC process in addressing and dealing with what became an unfortunate and difficult situation. Following the accusation, an Inquiry Panel was convened, resulting in a conclusion that there was no basis for any disciplinary action to be taken. The Executive Council has accepted that conclusion, as have I, and the case is now closed. No further action will be taken.

In the Church, we must be willing to face difficult situations head on, take the necessary steps to deal with the things we face, and then forgive and move on as the Body of Christ. I give you my promise that we will always work collectively to do what is right and to never waver in doing all we can to remain

faithful to our Lord Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ.

In closing, I ask you to work with me in the coming years to stay as focused as possible on the things that unite us as believers and to allow whatever differences and personal preferences we might have to be set aside for the sake of Christ. He is our Lord. He is our Savior. He is the one who has brought us together as we are. We are here because of what He has done. We are who we are because of the life He has given for us. It is now our calling and responsibility to share with those we meet, what God in Christ has done for them.

Once again, thank you for the chance to serve. I am honored and humbled to serve as your bishop, and I look forward to finding out together what God has in store for us.

In Christ,

Bishop Dan

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Please copy and share this newsletter widely.

OUR NALC MILITARY CHAPLAINS

The following reflections are from Chaplain (Colonel) Jess Abbott, an NALC pastor, serving as a chaplain in the United States Army Reserve, who found himself eventually elevated to the rank of full bird Colonel and serving as Deputy Command Chaplain of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). He resigned from his congregation in Cincinnati, Ohio, after 16 years of service, to take this assignment as a mobilized reservist. He offers these thoughts and reflections after serving for nearly 30 years as an Army Chaplain, and currently serving at the strategic level in the military as a senior chaplain.



Army Chaplain Jess Abbott, an NALC pastor, offers an invocation at the retirement ceremony for a Navy officer.

It must be said up front that our NALC chaplains — whether active component, Reserve or National Guard — serve by being pastors to the sons and daughters of our nation that have taken an oath to defend us and our Constitution — even at the cost of their lives — and that chaplains could not do what they do without the support of their spouses and families.

Military chaplains — Army, Air Force and Navy (Marines are served by Navy chaplains) — continuously counsel and either perform or provide religious support for all service members. If a service member has a religious need that a chaplain can't provide because the chaplain is from a different faith, the chaplain is not obligated to "perform" service, but must seek other clergy to "provide" it. Such is the daily task of every chaplain regardless of their rank. Praise be to God for all of them.

I currently serve as Deputy Command Chaplain of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). If "Central" sounds generic to you, then you should be reminded that this Command is the one that directs all actions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and other Middle East countries.

I arrived at CENTCOM in September of 2015. Along with my active component command chaplain, I am personal staff chaplain for the four-star CENTCOM Commander. Since he serves as a "joint" chaplain, The people he serves are from all the services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Thus I use the term service members to include everyone.

First and foremost, every chaplain in the military, at every level, receives service members seeking to deal with personal, family and employment problems into their "confidence." This confidence is absolute, like a priest's confessional booth.

At my level those service members are senior leaders in the military: colonels and the full constellation of general officers one through four stars. Imagine their stress! They work long hours and continually deploy to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR). They deal daily with the requirements issued by the president and the concerns of Congress. And, don't forget the press! Yes, they have to deal with that too.

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I try to find opportunities to stop by their offices at the end of busy days, when they are staying on longer than others, to ask them how they are managing and if they are tending to their families. Although our conversations are confidential, my four-star Commander wants me doing exactly this, and letting him know if there is anything he can do to make life for his staff better.

By the way, my experience for 30 years is that commanders are incredibly caring. They know that their staff needs to be healthy in mind, body, soul and family to do their jobs well.

The picture I provide here is me, as an Army Chaplain, providing an invocation at a retirement ceremony for a Navy officer. These ceremonies are rather short, but they symbolize for me my relationship with all of them. An important part of chaplain ministry is to be present at life transitions. Transitions of promotion, retirement and even being there for that tragic transition to the grave if necessary. Fortunately, most of my ministry has been about nurturing the living and caring for wounded, rather than honoring the dead.

In addition to caring for the CENTCOM Headquarters personnel, I have the privilege of inspiring the 150 Religious Support Teams (RSTs) — a Chaplain and Chaplain’s Assistant — in our AOR to provide for free exercise of religion for all service members.



U.S. chaplains and assistants meet with Jordanian Armed Forces imams at Prince Hussan College



United States and Jordanian chaplains and assistants training together.

One of the great opportunities we have is to participate in military exercises with our partners — the military clergy of other militaries. In the last three years we have had a great relationship with the Jordanian Armed Forces imams. As a segment of their military they are called the *Ifta'a*. I’ve had a great relationship with the *Ifta'a* Grand Mufti. Every time we have an academic learning experience together, he emphasizes their adamant position of tolerance for other religions in the face of extremists that try to “hijack” religion. It is well worth looking at their *Amman Message*, signed by dozens of Muslim religious leaders and endorsed by the King of Jordan ammanmessage.com.

The picture provided here is the U.S. chaplains and assistants meeting with the imams at Prince Hussan College as we prepare to do the exercise together. Imams wear a white and red hat to identify them as clergy in uniform.

During our exercises we pair up U.S. RSTs with two military imams. It is wonderful to see these RSTs — Baptists, Pentecostals, Lutherans, etc. — partnering and learning from each other.

We have different religions, but that does not prevent us from finding commonalities; such as basic civility and advising our military commanders as they counter terroristic activities of every kind. The last two years, our emphasis has been on care for the wounded. U.S. RSTs learn how to respectfully care

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Chaplains meeting with Father Nabil Haddad (Melkite Greek Catholic Church) and his Muslim co-director, of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Center.

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for our partner Islamic soldiers wounded or killed in battle, and the imams learn how to respect the same if ever caring for U.S. casualties.

During exercises we also join efforts with the imams in supporting humanitarian support. We “practice” by doing things like visiting a Jordanian orphanage. Last year, chaplains and imams joined hands in providing gifts and a little soccer play for the children. For video see:

usarcent.army.mil/News/Videos/video/597010/dvpcc/false/?dvpsearch=Eager%20Lion%20Orphanage#DVIDSVideoPlayer5949”

Another privilege we have during our exercises in Jordan is to connect with Father Nabil Haddad (Melkite Greek Catholic Church) and his Muslim co-director, of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Center. It is inspiring to hear about their mission to promote coexistence through the establishment of intercultural understanding and communication between communities, groups and individuals, building on the common values inherent in the Abrahamic faiths of Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

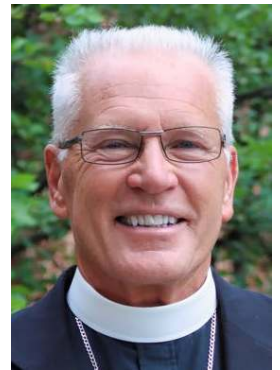
I’m proud of what our NALC chaplains do every day, all of our chaplains from every denomination, and their supportive families. In the midst of conflict and military activities, we try to bring comfort and Good News. We strive for peace wherever we can, but I’m not sure I would exactly call us peacemakers in all of

this. After all, we chaplains nurture service members, so that they can either keep on fighting or return to the fight. Commanders expect this from us.

On the other hand, I can’t get it out of my mind that the many chaplains we’ve had in our exercises will return to their churches and their communities in the U.S. having had an experience of teaming up with clergy of a different religion. I can’t help but think that such experiences “keep us sharp” about our firm faith in Jesus Christ. But I also think these experiences challenge stereotypical ideas and give future church leaders an idea of how to work with other religious leaders when needed to achieve common goals for the sake of peace and safety in their communities.

JOHN BRADOSKY HONORED AS BISHOP EMERITUS

The Rev. John Bradosky has been honored by the North American Lutheran Church with the title of bishop emeritus. The decision to bestow the title was made by the NALC Executive Council.



John Bradosky

Bishop Emeritus Bradosky served as bishop of the NALC from 2011 to 2019.

Bishop Emeritus Paull Spring served as the first bishop of the NALC, starting at the church’s founding in 2010. He was also honored with the title of bishop emeritus.

The NALC Executive Council has established the John Bradosky Fund for Life-to-Life Discipleship as a way to recognize and give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Bradosky. Gifts to the fund should be payable to the NALC and clearly marked “Bishop Bradosky Discipleship Fund.” They may be sent to: North American Lutheran Church; 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220; New Brighton, MN 55112-2202.

NALC NEW STARTS TEAM

In Luke 10:2 it is written, “And he (Jesus) said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest’” (ESV). Christ is calling believers to share the Good News so others will come to saving faith in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the mission of the Body of Christ: to make disciples of the Lord and plant churches, so the world will come to know Jesus. The North American Lutheran Church takes this mandate seriously through Life-to-Life Discipleship and Mission-Driven efforts. One of those efforts is church planting.

Throughout the NALC, groups of passionate individuals and churches are being moved to start new congregations. Whether it begins as a mission post, house church, mission fellowship or a mission congregation, we follow the biblical imperative from the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” (ESV).

Do you want to see the Word of God spread in your community? Do you want to see individuals receiving that free gift of grace through faith in Christ? Do you want to help make disciples so individuals and families will know the love and hope of Jesus in their lives? If so, please pray and consider being a part of the church planting movement in the NALC.

We know that there is a feeling of stepping into the unknown when you are pondering the work of starting a new church, so we are here to guide, encourage, and pray with you along the way. We are grateful for the hard work of so many in gathering resources and publishing them — especially the work of the NALC communications staff.

We encourage you to look through some of the resources on the newly updated portion of the NALC’s website — thenalc.org/new-mission-starts — attend a webinar, or connect with your local mission district dean to continue this conversation.

In Acts 13:2, as Paul and Barnabas are “set apart” to share the Good News and plant churches, we are also being called to grow the kingdom of God. Please consider this great opportunity for church planting, as the Lord will use it in a mighty way to touch and transform lives.

THE ACADEMY

The NALC is committed to the renewal of all our congregations, working to develop and deliver resources that challenge and open the NALC to the work of the Holy Spirit in our ministry and mission.

The Academy is hosted by NALC leaders for NALC leaders. Join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. EST. We will dive headlong into Acts 2:42-47, as we continue to take the next steps in the vision for Life-to-Life Discipleship and mission. The webinars are based on Bishop Emeritus John Bradosky’s presentation to the May 2019 Ohio Mission Region gathering.

As Bishop Bradosky reminded us: “Instead of talking about the process of discipleship, we would like to examine the context of discipleship. What is the nature of Christian community that nurtures people as faithful followers of Jesus, equips them to reach others with the Gospel of Jesus and provides for their growth and development as disciples of Jesus? Following the amazing miracle of Pentecost, Peter’s bold preaching, explaining who Jesus is and what He has done for them and the transformation of more than 3,000 people who came to faith in Jesus we read these important words about the formation of the community that was able to sustain and grow the Church, the Body of Christ.”

Connect to these video webinars by visiting thenalc.org/theacademy. To connect via audio, please visit your favorite podcast app and follow the North American Lutheran Church.

WORD OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH DEDICATES NEW CHURCH BUILDING

Word of God Lutheran Church, formerly of Peachtree City, now of Sharpsburg, Georgia, dedicated its newly constructed church home on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27, on its ninth anniversary as a congregation. The facility – which has more than 12,000 square feet with a sanctuary that seats 240, 10 classrooms, offices, a fellowship hall, and a kitchen – was dedicated to God’s glory.



Word of God is a charter congregation of the North American Lutheran Church and was formed in 2010 with the assistance of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, Georgia, which sent members and encouraged the formation of the new congregation southwest of Atlanta. Prince of Peace saved all of the offerings of those who would become Word of God and gave this to them as seed money to begin the congregation.

A blessing, prayers and words of encouragement were given by the Rev. Dr. Justin Kollmeyer, senior pastor of Prince of Peace. There was a reminder to the congregation of their humble beginnings nine years ago. The Rev. Scott Ness, associate pastor of Prince of Peace, also offered prayers for the new building and home of Word of God.

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, NALC assistant to the bishop for missions and a member of Word of God, preached and reminded all that this was done by the Lord. This is the Lord’s house, and He is the one who has built it. All were encouraged to give thanks for this milestone amidst all that is happening in the church here and around the world.

Pastor Buba stated that often when it seems the Church is shrinking, that is actually when the Lord is growing the Church. Examples of what has happened in Ethiopia, the Middle East and China were lifted up. He then offered prayers, speaking to the future and hope of the congregation.



The baptismal font, lectern, pulpit, altar table, and the building were dedicated using the prayers from the *Occasional Services* book. The Rev. Dr. Jeffray Greene, pastor of Word of God, led the congregation in the prayers of dedication.

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The hymns “Open Now the Gates of Beauty” and “The Church’s One Foundation” were sung. A combination of the choirs from Prince of Peace and Word of God sang “Within These Walls” and “Word of God.”

Members of Fish Stix, a special needs ministry, led the congregation by signing as the Lord’s Prayer was sung. Children of the congregation closed the service with a benediction.

The new Word of God Lutheran Church home sits on 17 acres in Sharpsburg, Georgia. After many years of thoughtful planning, and then construction for the past year, this new home, a gift of the Lord, is dedicated to the Lord.

The congregation is very blessed and looks forward to seeing what the Lord will continue to do in the



The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba preaches at the dedication service.

years to come. It is a congregation whose average attendance is now close to 140 each week. Blessed by these gifts of God, with Him working through its midst, Word of God no longer considers itself a mission congregation, but as one having grown into the next step of congregational life.

What will the next nine years look like? If Word of God experiences the kind of blessing and growth of its first nine years, will it grow to the point of needing another pastor? Will it give birth to a new congregation as Prince of Peace did with Word of God? Will it be a place that nurtures an intern for the larger church? The Lord knows what He has in mind for the future. This congregation humbly recognizes that they have been equipped for many possibilities.



PASTOR MARTHA SHANKA

NALC GLOBAL WORKER IN DUBAI

Learn about the work of the NALC's newest global worker, Pastor Martha Shanka. Pastor Shanka is currently serving in Dubai.

My name is Martha Shanka and I am a born-again Christian. When I was 15 years old, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. Even though my family members are Christians, I didn't confess my own faith, rather I just went along to church with them. One day my Sunday school teacher taught us that we should know Jesus Christ personally. At that moment some of us accepted Him as our personal Savior.

As a teenager, I started to serve in the Sunday school choir. My parents played an important part in my spiritual life. As a family, we had daily Bible study and prayer each night. My dad provided a lesson and my mom prayed for each of us.

Since I was 15, I have continued to walk a true Christian journey with Jesus. Over time, God has taught and equipped me in various ways. The leaders of my church encouraged me to attend a Bible college. I prayed about this and I realized that God has called me and has given me spiritual gifts to teach and serve Him and His people.

God has given me the gifts of teaching, preaching, singing and playing guitar. After I completed my



Pastor Martha Shanka

college education (Bachelor of Arts), I came back to my church and started to teach in the Bible school, in the church and at seminars and conferences. All glory be to God.

In 2010, God opened a door. I received an invitation from the Ethiopian church in Cairo, Egypt, to go and serve them by teaching the Word of God. I decided to accept their invitation and served them for one month. After a month, the church leaders asked me to stay with them. I spent a month away and then returned to Egypt to continue my ministry there.

After six months of ministry in Egypt, I was ordained as a pastor and God gave me His favor and wisdom to serve His flocks.

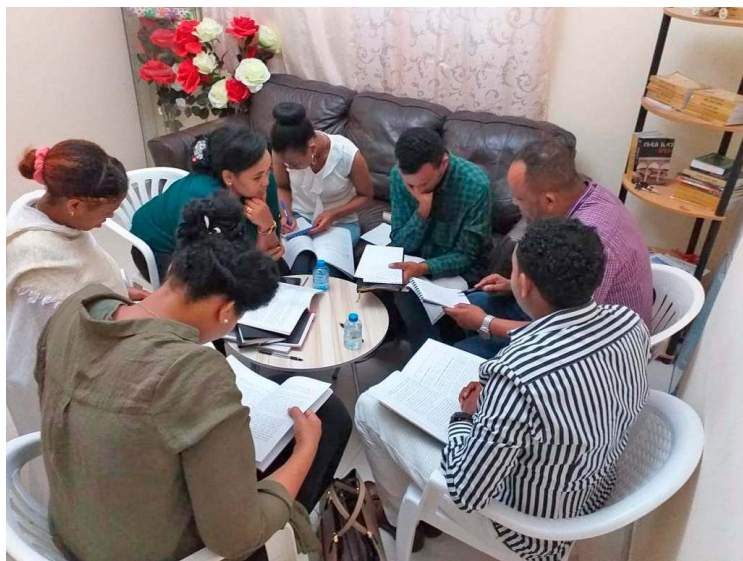
During my time in Egypt, God gave me many victories in the Ethiopian and Egyptian

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communities. God opened a door for evangelism and provided many opportunities to train and equip leaders and pastors.

In Egyptian culture (influenced by Islam) it is forbidden for women to teach men. In my case, God granted me a big favor and the Egyptians allowed me to teach the men and provide training for pastors from all over Egypt. In general, it is not easy to preach the Gospel in Islamic countries. But, the power of God is beyond their law. God has helped me to share the Good News in various ways, various strategies.



The first opportunity He gave me was opening the door to serve the Egyptian Christians. By the way, there are many born-again Christians all over Egypt. I knew an Egyptian pastor who was the coordinator of 32 churches all over Egypt. Most of the time when God works, He uses people and connects them with each other to accomplish His purpose. With the help of this Egyptian pastor, I met many Egyptians and gained access to train them. I focused on training locals because it is easier for them to spread the Gospel among their Muslim neighbors than for me to preach to them as a foreigner.

A second opportunity God gave me was allowing me to equip the Ethiopian women. Many Ethiopian women work in the home of a local Muslim as a housemaid. As I mentioned above, in Middle Eastern countries it is forbidden by law to preach the Gospel. So, my main strategy is to equip these ladies who are working in their homes. I have gone to Middle



Eastern countries such as Qatar, Lebanon, Bahrain and Dubai to teach and equip these ladies. I have many testimonies of how God has made an impact in their homes and lives. For example:

- Through prayer, they have been healed of their sicknesses.
- They have taught their children Scripture and some songs.
- Because of this, others have started to ask them about Jesus and are challenged and led to the truth.

Now, I am living in Dubai and have started to plant a church. We are now 30 to 35 in number and gather together weekly. We study the Word of God and I have given them different kinds of training regarding how to evangelize. God is expanding us as well as helping us to evangelize.

Pastor Martha Shanka is an NALC Global Worker. For additional information or to partner with Pastor Shanka, please visit thenalc.org/martha-shanka.



AWAKENING LIVES TO WORLD MISSIONS

By Pastor Bill Moberly

Awakening Lives to World Missions (ALWM) is grateful for our partnership together in the Gospel. In our global mission work, we mobilize and equip congregations to be personally and fruitfully engaged with taking the Gospel to the nations, just as Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:18-20). We also work directly in Vietnam and Cambodia through our ministries in each country.



What are we doing in Vietnam? Working in a country with limited religious freedom, and strong government control over most of society, presents special challenges that are yet well worth it. Vietnam has a population of 97 million, and about 2 percent are evangelical Christian. In addition, there are also 67 distinct unreached people groups with virtually no believers at all, which include more than 8 million people! More than 52 percent of the people in Vietnam are Buddhist, with many non-religious.

When Jesus commands us to make disciples of “all the nations” these are included in our call! Encouraging the believers here and helping Vietnamese churches to reach out with the Gospel and touch people at their point of need is the purpose of our Vital Links/ALWM ministry all year, as well as when our mission teams visit each summer. Dr. Hang and her team of volunteers provide medical and evangelism outreach ministry with our key indigenous churches, with designated funding from ALWM and our supporters and partner congregations.

In June, our summer mission team had an outreach day at Agape Church in Long Thanh. We worshiped

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all together with Pastor Bill Moberly, ALWM director, preaching on John 3:16. The community was invited, too. One man from the village became a believer in Christ. Young and old visited the worship service and the outreach afterward.

We shared the Gospel, through the Word and our witness, to the packed room of church members and neighborhood visitors. We also did some health teaching, distributed reading glasses to many, prayed for people, played games, made crafts and heard about the work of this congregation with babies and unwed moms. The pregnant women come to the church via our Vital Links pro-life ministry carried out by our staff and volunteers. They are adding much needed space with two new rooms and a bathroom to house pregnant moms and their new babies through the generosity of Living Word Lutheran in Milbank, South Dakota.

Another day the team served at our Gospel House Kids Day, as we gathered with 35 children, plus volunteers. Most of these children, now ages 4-15, were rescued from abortion directly through the witness of our team leader, Dr. Hang, and another



key volunteer whom I can't name here for security reasons. Over the last 14 years our pro-life staff members have seen the Lord save more than 270 children. Many go home to their families, and some have been left behind for our staff to find them homes. That beautiful summer day the children sang and danced for us, then we had a fun day of crafts and games!

We are already accepting registrations for our ALWM Vietnam Mission Team for June 10-24, 2020. Some on the team will also serve at a four-day conference for college students we are sponsoring in partnership with IFES Vietnam (working in the United States as Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship). We take care of all the logistics and provide training. We have personally had nearly 1,000 people from 18-80 on short term mission teams since 2004. Pray about joining us!

Awakening Lives to World Missions is an NALC Ministry Partner. For additional information or to partner with them, please visit alwm.org.



PASTOR-TO-PASTOR TEAM VISITS MALAWI, AFRICA

An Awakening Lives to World Missions (ALWM) team of two pastors and one lay person traveled to Lilongwe, Malawi, in September to conduct a week of teaching with the pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi (ELCM) and a second week with pastors and church leaders in a small, remote African village near Lake Malawi.

Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe, Bishop of the ELCM, welcomed Pastor Tom Curry of Living Faith Lutheran Church, Wabash, Indiana, and Pastor Larry Wood and Mr. Robert Scales, both of Emmanuel Bethel Church, Royal Oak, Michigan. Pastor Curry presented Bishop Bvumbwe with a letter of greeting from Bishop John Bradosky of the North American Lutheran Church.

The week of teaching at both sites had the two-fold focus of pastoral care and church history. The ELCM Pastor's Conference was Sept. 23-27. Birthed in 1982 as a daughter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, the ELCM has about 60 pastors and approximately 500 congregations. Fifty-five pastors were in attendance at the pastor's conference.

Most pastors at the conference had a year of formal pastoral training beyond high school. They were



blessed beyond words by the opportunity to increase their understanding of pastoral care and Lutheran theology. Pastor Feston Phiri, ELCM training coordinator, commented that "the pastors will not leave the conference the same that they came." The ELCM presently has all male clergy but in two years plans to ordain their first female pastor. Four women were in attendance at the conference.

The second pastor's conference was conducted Sept. 30-Oct. 4 in a small village near Salima. Pastor Philip Phiri of The Pillar of Fire denomination hosted the week of training, which included about 30 pastors and 45 church leaders. Most pastors had no formal pastoral theological training and pastor six to eight congregations. All who attended received an ALWM certificate of training. They expressed over and over again how blessed they were by the teaching. Mr. Scales provided much needed support to the two teaching pastors, gave his own faith story and offered a presentation on his church's outreach to Detroit's homeless.

The team arrived back in the United States on Oct. 8, feeling honored, humbled and privileged to have

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2020 MARCH FOR LIFE

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. — Psalm 139:13-16 (ESV)

God loves life. The psalmist tells us about the intimate way God has formed each and every one of us. And because God loves life, we are called to cherish and defend it. Lutherans have attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C., since it began in 1974.

In 1998, Lutherans for Life started an organized presence at the march, beginning with a communion worship service at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in nearby Springfield, Virginia.

This year NALC Life Ministries has planned a life-filled two days to celebrate God's precious gift of life. It will all begin on Thursday, Jan. 23, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Joppa, Maryland, where the NALC will hold its fourth annual Life Conference. Here is the agenda for the conference:

1 p.m. — "Pain Perception in the Developing Human," Dr. Sheila Page.

2 p.m. — "How Suicide Threatens Our Veterans," the Rev. Leslie Haines, executive director of Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

3 p.m. — Additional speaker to be announced.

4 p.m. — Worship, the Rev. Dr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry and ecumenism, preaching and presiding; the Rev. Chris Porter, pastor of Advent Lutheran Church in Winchester, Virginia, and Lebanon Lutheran Church in Lebanon Church, Virginia, chaplain.

Here is the tentative agenda for the March for Life on Friday, Jan. 24:

8:30 a.m. — National Memorial Service for the Preborn and their Mothers and Fathers at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. All Clergy are invited to vest (in white vestments) and preside at the service. All clergy must arrive by 8 a.m.

10:30 a.m. — Walk to 12th Street and Madison Drive where we will meet with other Lutherans.

11 a.m. — Musical Opening.

Noon — Rally Program.

1 p.m. — March for Life up Constitution Avenue to Supreme Court and Capitol buildings.

3:30 p.m. — March for Life concludes.

By marching, we follow a proud tradition of Lutheran pro-life awareness started by the reformer Martin Luther in the 16th Century. He wrote, God "is not hostile to children, as we are. But God emphasizes His word to such an extent that He sometimes gives offspring even to those who do not desire it, yes even hate it ... How great, therefore, the wickedness of human nature is! How many girls there are who prevent conception and kill and expel tender fetuses, although procreation is the work of God."

NALC Life Ministries continues the strong pro-life passion of the reformer. Its mission today is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for life. The March for Life is a way of publically proclaiming that message to assure life for those who are most vulnerable. And the march is also about sharing of the Gospel of Jesus' forgiveness to all, including those men and women who have lost hope through their involvement in an abortion.

To learn more about NALC Life Ministries, please visit www.thenalc.org/lifeministries.

STEWARDSHIP: AN INVITATION TO PROCLAIM

By Pastor Dona Johnson

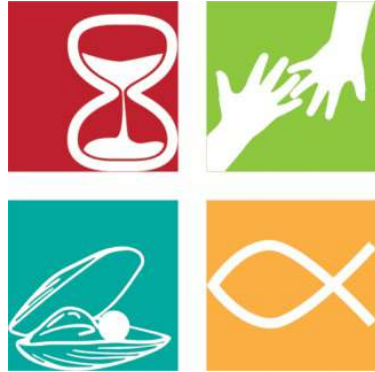
Leonardo da Vinci was painting one of his master-pieces of art. One of his students stayed by his side for days watching every stroke the master laid on the canvas. The student was in awe of

da Vinci's ability to capture light and was hoping to pick up some of the master's techniques. Just before da Vinci put the last strokes of paint on the canvas, he turned to his student, extended his brush and said, "Now, you finish it." The student resisted and backed away, but da Vinci said, "Doesn't my painting inspire you to take up my brush and do your very best to finish my work?"

In Romans 10:14-15, Paul asks several prophetic questions: "And how are they to believe in him of whom that have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" (ESV).

Until Christ's return, Paul calls us to finish our Master's mission. Like da Vinci's student, we too are called to take the brush and finish God's work. We are called to boldly proclaim, without apology, the generous grace and inexhaustible love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For if we do not proclaim Christ, if we do not accept the invitation to proclaim, to finish the work, who will?

In the Church today, so many of us have been programmed to equate stewardship with only money and fundraising. This perspective is somewhat shallow and only touches the surface. A steward is one who is given the task and takes up that task for the sole purpose and benefit of the owner. And by cooperating with God, we benefit too!



STEWARDS OF GOD'S INFLUENCE

Time, Talents, Treasure and Testimony

Through the years, many myths have accumulated around the subject of stewardship. Many of those myths are driven by our fears that we will be asked to give up something we highly value. Mention stewardship and many pastors and members inwardly bristle.

One frequent misconception is that many of us have come to think of Christian stewardship as a once-a-year program for fundraising. But stewardship is more than a program and it is not once a year but year round.

Like discipleship, stewardship is a way of life. It is about bringing our lives — time, talent, treasure and testimony — under the Lordship and authority of Jesus Christ. It's the invitation to be inspired by God's goodness. It's the invitation to trace the many saving acts of God's grace in our lives. It's the invitation to not run from but to take up the task and finish the work of the Master — a work that was entrusted to us on the day we were baptized.

It's both proclamation and an invitation to engage the Gospel and actively participate in the *missio Dei* (mission of God). All of which works together to grow generous givers, spread the joy of giving and foster relationships between members in the Body of Christ — where love is the crown of all our endeavors.

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This fall the Living and Giving Stewardship Team was sent with the mission to bring the good news of stewardship to the Heartland and North Central Ohio Mission Districts proclaiming the Gospel through the *Stewards of God's Influence* workshop.

In the North Central Ohio Mission District, we were greeted by our largest workshop yet — 50 pastors and leaders attended. We began the day with a wonderful proclamation by Pastor Paul Larson, dean of the North Central Ohio Mission District. We joined our voices and sang hymns throughout the day, all the while engaging each other in heartfelt discussions about life and faith.

We give all thanks and praise to God, Pastor Larson and Pastor Pam Thorson, dean of the Heartland Mission District, for inviting us to partner with them in the Gospel.

Starting in Advent, the Living and Giving Stewardship Team will provide monthly stewardship devotions for use in congregations. These monthly devotions will respond to the liturgical season and will cover the full-breath of stewardship — time, talents, treasure and testimony.

These devotions can be downloaded from the NALC website at thenalc.org/stewardship. You can use the devotions in your worship bulletins, newsletters and websites. Bishop Dan Selbo is kicking off this new offering with an Advent devotion.

It's not too late to plan for your 2020 stewardship ministry. The best time to begin planning for fall



Heartland Mission District stewardship training at Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville, Indiana.



North Central Ohio Mission District stewardship training event at First English Lutheran Church in Mansfield, Ohio.

stewardship is 60 days out from your scheduled Commitment Sunday. May and June are great months to gather your leadership and begin planning. And if you need to sharpen your skills, raise more awareness in your congregation and are willing to sponsor five or more congregations in your mission district, we will bring our team and the materials to you.

If you have questions or your mission district would like to sponsor a workshop, please email me at revdonajohnson@gmail.com.

The Rev. Dona Johnson is the chair of the Living and Giving Stewardship Team.

MALAWI

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invested in the lives of some 80 pastors and many more church leaders.

Awakening Lives to World Missions, an NALC Ministry Partner, is grateful to the supporting churches and individuals who partnered to make this trip possible.

THE NALC CALL PROCESS: RELATIONAL AND INCARNATIONAL

Few in the NALC realize there is a call process until they need it. This is true for congregations, pastors and, yes, even some mission district deans who are unfamiliar with our call process and, in some cases, are not aware that we have a process in place.

As we have made important changes in our process, now is an appropriate time to share some information, broadly, about how the call process works and how you can learn more about it.

Generally speaking, when a pastor is open to a new call in the NALC or when a congregation is newly vacant (without a pastor), the first step is to consult the call process page on the NALC website, thenalc.org/call-process. On this page you will find a listing of vacant congregations, organized by state or province. You will also find the *NALC Manual on the Call Process*, the template for the *Congregational Workshop in Preparation for the Call Process*, the *Congregational Profile* and *Profile of a Pastor Available for Call*. These are the important documents needed to engage fully in the call process in the NALC.

Prepared in October 2013, and updated as recently as two weeks ago, the *NALC Manual on the Call Process* intends to answer most every question pastors and congregations might have regarding the NALC call process. At least, it is intended to answer every question I have been asked in eight years guiding the call process. It begins with Bible reflection, asking: "What does it mean that God calls people?" "What does it mean that God calls me?" and "What does it mean that God calls pastors?"

Most lay people and congregational leaders don't give much thought or prayer to the call of God, so they naturally approach the call process as an employee search. Because most of us live and work "in the world," we bring worldly ways into the kingdom of God, assuming that finding a new pastor for our congregation is much like hiring a new staff



MINISTRY MATTERS

REV. DR. DAVID WENDEL
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP
FOR MINISTRY AND ECUMENISM

person. Nothing could be further from the truth, in the Body of Christ. Although there are certainly some employment aspects, calling a pastor is much more about spiritual discernment, waiting for the Lord to reveal His will and developing relationships than it is about finding a pastor/employee whom we can "hire" until it is no longer working and we fire this one and hire another.

In this regard, it is helpful to consider calling a pastor as much more like finding a spouse than hiring an employee. It's all about connection and relationship. The right pastor/congregation "marriage" may not mean that all of the wants/needs/gifts "line-up" perfectly, but when the pairing is right, relationship is more important than having the right gifts and abilities. As the saying goes, "God doesn't call gifted people; God gives gifts to the people He calls." Most pastors find that they don't have all the necessary gifts and abilities when called to a new ministry, but God helps us to develop the gifts we need. There is some discussion in the *Manual on the Call Process* about the distinction between "hiring" a pastor and "calling" a pastor.

The manual also includes extensive discussion regarding pastoral compensation and the unique aspects of clergy compensation, taxation and benefits. As congregations are planning for 2020 budgeting, it may be helpful for councils to review this section of the manual. The NALC purchases a

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resource from the Church Law and Tax Center, an office of *Christianity Today* journal, which allows us to prepare a compensation range that is specific to each congregation — considering a number of variables: average worship attendance, annual congregational income, region of North America, context (rural, small town, suburban, etc.), denomination, educational level, etc. If you would like such a recommendation, send an email to dwendel@thenalc.org, with congregation's name, city and state, average worship attendance, annual income and context, and we can prepare a compensation range.

Without going into further detail about the manual, there is much there which explains how a congregation enters into the call process, how pastors enter the call process, how the process unfolds, etc. It also provides information for non-NALC Lutheran pastors who may wish to enter into our vetting and certification process, leading to a call in the NALC.

Before turning to recent changes in the call process, it is helpful to say a word or two about the Congregational Workshop in Preparation for the Call Process. Until involved in a call process, most congregations and pastors may not be aware of this step in the process.

The Congregational Workshop has several goals: to engage the congregation in biblical study and reflection upon the nature of the call of God; to invite congregational leaders and members to evaluate past relationships between pastors and the congregation; to consider leadership and how leadership functions within the congregation; to reflect on how conflict and tension are handled in the congregation; to encourage the congregation to consider the four Core Values of the NALC and how they are lived out within the congregation; to invite the congregation to be involved in the NALC's Life-to-Life Discipleship Initiative; to enlist all members of the congregation in providing input into several aspects of the *Congregational Profile*.

The workshop is forward-looking, resulting in a number of helpful action-oriented steps to assist the

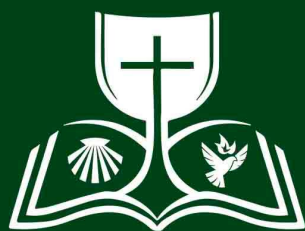
congregation in preparing for the next pastor-congregation partnership.

The workshop should be scheduled at a time convenient to most members of the congregation, together with church council, as every member of the congregation is invited and encouraged to participate. The workshop may be facilitated by the mission district dean, or his/her appointed representatives. Most mission districts have formed Pastoral Care and Transition Teams (PCAT Teams) and, in most circumstances, the dean will invite team members to facilitate the congregational workshop. It is important for church leaders to be aware of the congregational workshop, as it is an essential step in the call process — encouraging open, honest Bible study, conversation, discernment and input.

Finally, we would like all to be aware of two significant changes in the call process. As of October 2019, NALC vacancies are now posted to the NALC website call process page — thenalc.org/call-process — with links to congregational profiles. You will see each congregation's city and state or province, with the name of the congregation and average attendance. With the congregation's name, you will find a link to the congregation's profile. This excludes the previous extra step of needing to join and login to the closed NALC Network. Our hope and intention is that this will create greater activity among pastors, with more Lutheran pastors, NALC, LCMC and others, viewing profiles.

We are also now inviting congregations in the call process to create three to five minute introductory videos to be linked to their name on the website vacancy list, again, hoping to stimulate greater interest among pastors, providing something more than an electronic document for review.

As the North American Lutheran Church is committed to relational, incarnational, Life-to-Life Discipleship, our call process is intended to be, as well, relational and incarnational. It is based on relationships, is intended to be personal, with real, flesh-and-blood people here to guide and assist you along the way. Should you have questions or desire more information, feel free to email me at any time, dwendel@thenalc.org.



DiscipleLife

2020

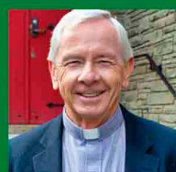


A VISION FOR FORMING DISCIPLES THROUGH WORD AND SACRAMENT

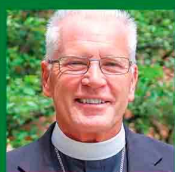
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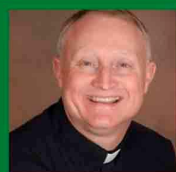
The Rev. John Bradosky (NALC)
Bishop Emeritus,
North American Lutheran Church



The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba (NALC)
Assistant to the Bishop for Missions,
North American Lutheran Church



Mrs. Katherine Coolidge (RCC)
Director of Parish & Diocesan Services,
Catherine of Siena Institute



The Rev. Brad Hales (NALC)
Director of Domestic Mission,
North American Lutheran Church



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Todd Hunter (ACNA)
Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others



The Rev. David Keener (NALC)
Discipleship Guide,
Life-to-Life Discipleship Movement



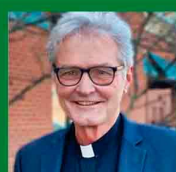
The Rt. Rev. Clark Lowenfield (ACNA)
Bishop, Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast



The Rev. Dr. Jim Nestingen (NALC)
Lutheran Theologian,
North American Lutheran Church



The Rev. Dr. John Pless (LCMS)
Assistant Professor of Ministry & Mission,
Concordia Seminary - Fort Wayne



The Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen (NALC)
President Elect,
North American Lutheran Seminary



The Rt. Rev. Stewart Ruch (ACNA)
Bishop, Anglican Diocese of the Upper Midwest



The Rev. Lisa Schwandt (ACNA)
Pastor for Discipleship & Lead Deacon,
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