

# News for the

# Women of the NALC

North American  
Lutheran Church

## The Chair's Corner

Grace & peace to all,

As I write this during Women's History Month, it would be nice to list the great women of the Bible & share how they impacted the history of the church. I thought about the unsung heroines around the world. However, it is the unsung heroes in our daily lives that we should lift up! Not only in March, but every month, every day. So, to all the amazing women who do so much in our congregations, cities, towns & communities to bring the face & voice of God to others, I thank you for all your efforts both large & small. You are truly worthy of being celebrated!

We on the Women's Council are being prayerful about our upcoming Annual Gathering in Indianapolis. We are excited to meet some of you for the first time & greet once again those who have been on this journey with us. I speak for all the ladies on the Women's Council to the joy of serving; first, God, & then you, the Women of the NALC. We share our stories & our lives with one another; there is a true sisterhood among us. The ability to share your story with someone who truly cares enough to pray with you & for you is the essence of sisterhood.

Jacqui El Torro



Although it is now April, & we are all busy preparing to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord & Savior Jesus the Christ, take time to celebrate a special woman in your life. Or, if it calls you, explore the journey of one who is not so special to you! Find her gifts from God that have been hidden from you. All women have gifts & are blessings from on high. I am looking forward to meeting & greeting you in Indianapolis & hearing your stories.

We have one valued member of the Women's Council retiring due to term limits & two up for re-election should they decide to run again. Please be prayerful during this Lenten season: has God prepared you for such a time as this? Is it your time to serve the Women of the North American Lutheran Church as a council member?

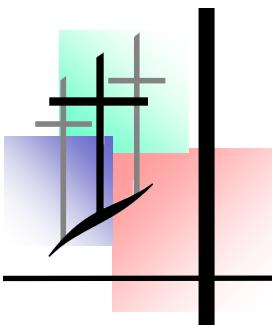
Many blessings to you all,

Jacqui



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# Lutheran Week

## WOMEN: START YOUR ENGINES!



WNALC ANNUAL GATHERING  
August 6, 2019  
WESTIN HOTEL  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



**Registration is open! Details here:** <https://thenalc.org/blog/event/lutheran-week/>

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder & perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, & is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12: 1b-2

All women are welcome to attend & do not have to be a delegate of a congregation for the convocation. Mark your calendars & plan to join us for our Annual Gathering of the Women of the North American Lutheran Church – WNALC.



### Stuff the Tonka!



### WNALC Council Openings

#### Coming to the WNALC Annual Gathering!

Once again, the little Tonka with the BIG heart will be in Indianapolis for Lutheran Week, August 5 – 9, 2019! You may remember seeing it last year during our Annual Gathering & then in the ministry display area during Convocation. It may be small, but it was big enough to collect your generous gift card donations of over \$11,000! All of it went to help our brothers & sisters in Christ during their time of need!

2018 was a year fraught with one disaster after another. People are still recovering & will be for a long time. Now in the few short beginning months of 2019 we have seen terrible tornadoes in Alabama & devastating flooding in Nebraska.

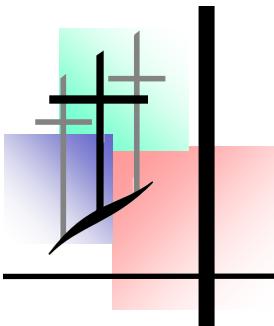
So, won't you pick up one, two or several (!) gift cards & bring them with you to Lutheran Week? Ask your friends & church members to pitch in as well! The cards don't take up much room in a suitcase which makes packing them a breeze! We are requesting gift cards specifically from Walmart, Lowe's, Target & Home Depot.

Thanks to you from the NALC Disaster Response Task Force & the WNALC for all the prayers & donations for those who have been affected. Your dedication to those in need is inspiring. The Tonka will be waiting for you in Indianapolis!

- ◆ Is God Calling You to be on the WNALC Council?
- ◆ Who: YOU
- ◆ What: Run for election to be on WNALC Council
- ◆ When: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 (During Lutheran Week)
- ◆ Where: At the WNALC Annual Gathering
- ◆ How: Fill out the WNALC Nomination Form (found on our website) & email/mail it to Pat Dittrich at [pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com) or PO Box 341, Orchard, TX 77464.
- ◆ Is God calling you to go further in women's ministry beyond your home church? Pray, listen to Him & take a step into faith!
- ◆ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3: 5-6 ESV

Pat Dittrich  
WNALC Council  
Nominations Team





# Spiritual Growth

When do we grow Spiritually? Of course, we think the obvious answer is "All the Time", or "Now", or maybe it is just "at church."

I would like to think that I am growing spiritually all the time, kind of like children grow physically. But, I know there are moments, hours, okay there are days, weeks, even months where I don't think I have grown spiritually at all. Sometimes I think I am just maintaining, plus, at times, back sliding probably has occurred.

So When should we try to grow spiritually? For some, it is first thing in the morning. For some it is for at least a minimum of 30 minutes a day. For some it is right before bed. For some it is both. For others it is on Sunday mornings at church. I also know that there are people who don't like a daily routine. These people find that spending larger chunks of time works best for them.

So, if there is a correct answer for When, it is probably the *All The Time*. In reality we know that isn't possible with our human (sinful) nature. Find a rhythm that works for you. If you love routine, find the time of day you can relax with God. If you are a non-routine person, then maybe try to find a larger chunk of time that you can spend with God weekly, or monthly, or just sporadically pick some time here & there during the days & weeks.

The really good news is that God knows that we are not all cut out the same & He is available for us at all times.



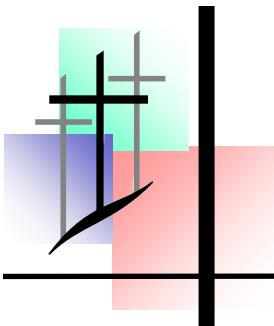
Jill Nesheim

## GROW WITH GOD



If you are looking for a Bible study for your women's group, here are some options through Sola Publishing. You can check their [website](#) for more options.

- ◆ *In Harmony with the Word*; 8 sessions written by Rev. Steven E. King
- ◆ *Portraits of Jesus*; 9 sessions written by Rev. Steven E. King
- ◆ *The Wise & the Foolish*; 9 sessions written by Rev. Scott W. Block
- ◆ *The Proverbs 31 Women*; 9 sessions written by Peggy Hoppes
- ◆ *Rejoice in the Lord Always!*; 9 sessions written by Rev Dr. Amy C. Little



# Disaster Response

A series of massive, chaotic storm systems swept through the middle of the United States in early March. Alabama & Georgia are still reeling from tornadoes that tore through both states; 23 reported deaths & 97 severe injuries. Colorado is staggering from a severe blizzard. A majority of the state of Nebraska is currently under water; entire towns have been engulfed, bridges & roads are damaged for 75+ mile stretches, people are isolated without drinking water. Our NALC congregation in Dannebrog, Faith Lutheran Church, was flooded out. Over a million livestock are dead (including the start of this years' crop of newborn calves), millions of acres of farmland are under water & grain storage facilities have failed. All of this will severely impact the agricultural industry &, consequently, our food supply & markets will suffer as the numbers roll in. This has now been identified as the largest agricultural disaster in the history of the State of Nebraska, if not in the entire United States, & damages are still being calculated.

Our brothers & sisters in Christ are suffering! Please find it in your heart to send resources to the affected areas via the NALC Disaster Response.



**Aerials: Alabama/Georgia Tornadoes**



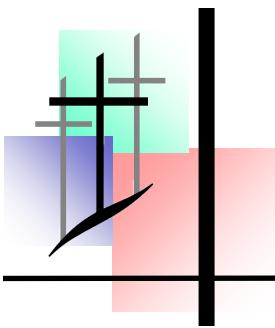
**Aerials: Nebraska Floods**



**Send non-monetary  
donations to:**

**NALC Disaster Warehouse**  
810 Main Street  
Caldwell, OH 43724

For more information please visit [thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/](http://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/)



# Oberammergau Passion Play

The last edition of our newsletter covered an NALC congregation-sponsored pilgrimage/tour for Oberammergau 2020. This sparked a few questions about what the fuss is all about. As it turns out, there's a fantastic history behind this German Christian tradition!

**What it is:** The Oberammergau Passion Play is a performance depicting the suffering, death & resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**When:** The play will be performed from May 4-October 4, 2020. The performance is five hours in length. The village expects 400,000 to 500,000 visitors from all around the world to come in 2020.

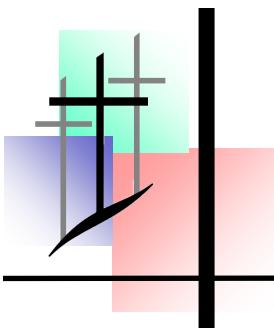
**Where:** The village of Oberammergau is in Bavaria in southern Germany.

**Why:** The play has been performed every ten years, with minor exceptions, since the year 1634. The villagers made a vow to God the previous year (1633) to do this performance if they were spared additional deaths from the bubonic plague that was raging throughout Europe.

**Who:** The performers are residents of the village of Oberammergau. To be eligible to be in the cast a person must have been born in Oberammergau or have lived there for at least 20 years. Many of the performers have been a part of the production for decades & their families have been performing for generations.



Do you have a trip planned? Let us know by emailing [wnalcnews@yahoo.com](mailto:wnalcnews@yahoo.com) & we will share your info!



# News from You!

ORGANIZED BY WOMEN OF THE NALC WISCONSIN & UPPER MICHIGAN MISSION DISTRICT



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [THENALC.ORG/WHOAMI](http://THENALC.ORG/WHOAMI)

Join women from across the North American Lutheran Church for a weekend focused on discovering & understanding God's plan for our lives. Join us for spiritual renewal through Word & Sacrament.

- ◆ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6 ESV

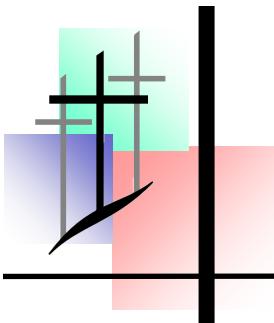
**Session Leader:** Reverend Melinda Jones of Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Charleston, SC

**Devotion Leader:** Reverend Shelly Schultz

**Registration Cost:** \$35 (lodging & meals extra)

**Session Topics Include:**

- ◆ Discovering the unimaginable riches that are beyond our wildest dreams
- ◆ Understanding God's plans for each of us, that we are under construction
- ◆ Preparing our hearts & homes to glorify God in wise daily choices
- ◆ Learning what God has planned for each of us & that we have a legacy of faith



# News from You!

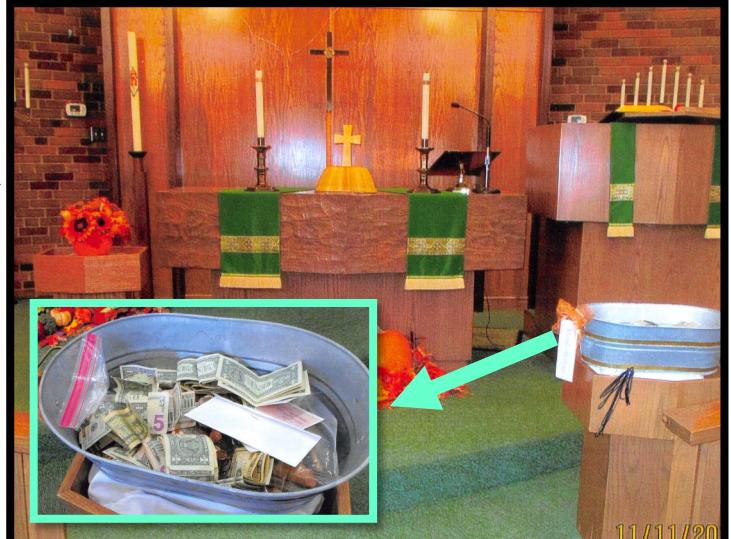
## Grace Lutheran Church Women

Eaton, Ohio

Our GLCW have a unique way of collecting our yearly Thank Offerings! We use empty frosting containers with a slit in the lid to collect coins. We add the wording, "A daily gift, a daily prayer...if not the gift, at least the prayer."

At our annual 'Thank Offering Service', led by our women, everyone walks to the front of the altar to empty their cans into a metal tub. Everyone can hear the clanging of the noisy change & the rustle of the bills.

Story submitted by Elsie Burkle



### THANK OFFERING BOXES

We have Thank Offering boxes for daily use for anyone in our church who wants them. Those who take are instructed to put in a place they see every day. Say a prayer & put in a coin or bill each day. In November during a special service at our church we collect them to be blessed & give the donations to a selected cause.

Our last donation went to our missionaries in Asia, Chris & Emily.



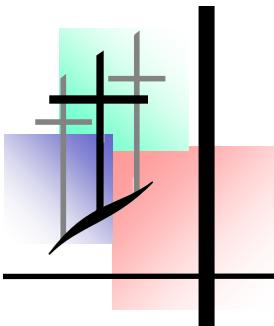
Faith Lutheran  
Sturgeon Lake, Minnesota



Holy Trinity  
Kettle River, Minnesota

The NALC women from two congregations recently teamed up to fill 40 hygiene kits for Union Gospel in Duluth, MN. With the help of congressional donations & a Thrivent Action Team we were able to purchase shampoo, deodorant, soap, combs, toothpaste & disposable razors to complete the kits. The best part was the appreciation with which they were received!



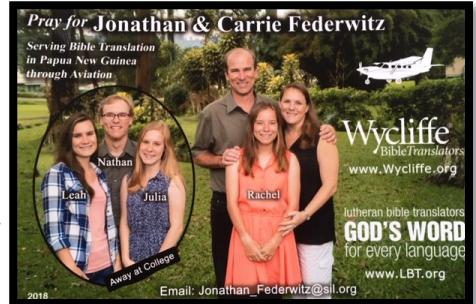


# News from You!

## Calvary Lutheran Church

Brookfield, Wisconsin

Jonathan, Carrie & Rachel Federwitz recently visited Calvary Lutheran Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin. They serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators & Lutheran Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. Jonathan serves as a pilot & Carrie as a school teacher.



There are 800 different languages spoken in Papua New Guinea. As of 2018, 240 of these languages have a New Testament. There are 170 language translation projects in progress in the country. Thanks to all who support the work of Wycliffe & Lutheran Bible Translators around the world with their prayers & finances. See [LBT.org](http://LBT.org) or [Wycliffe.org](http://Wycliffe.org) for more information.

Story submitted by Marcella Nelson



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

Lebanon, Wisconsin

After six months of hard work & prayers, the new elevator at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lebanon Wisconsin was finished & granted permission by the state to be operational. On Friday, March 15th, it was used for the first time for Grandparents Day! It is a blessing for our elderly & handicapped members to be able to attend our chapel service & on Sunday, March 17th the smiles on the faces that utilized the elevator were a joy to behold. We are blessed that we did not have to borrow any money from outside institutions to finance this almost \$450,000 project. Glory be to God!

Story submitted by Jessie Phillips

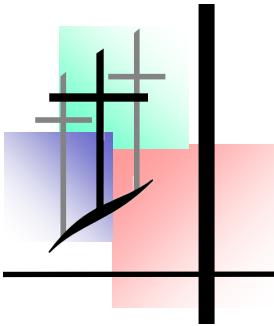
## First English Lutheran

Lenox, South Dakota

The women of the church have served the supper for Ash Wednesday for years! This year's menu included chicken noodle soup, chili & scrumptious desserts!

Story submitted by Verlyss Jacobson





# Info for You

*Submit your stories,  
pictures, recipes, or events!*

Please send your content to  
Rachel Busch Jones at  
[wnalcnews@yahoo.com](mailto:wnalcnews@yahoo.com)  
by May 15, 2019  
for inclusion in the next edition.

Photos included in this newsletter are the property of the article's subjects. Please contact those individuals for permission to reuse.

**facebook**  
+ join our group

Get news & daily Bible messages!  
“WNALC-Women of the NALC”  
[www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC)

**MISSIONS**  
“Therefore go and make disciples...”

**Recognized Ministries:**

Bethesda Lutheran Communities: [bethesdalc.org](http://bethesdalc.org)  
Commission Expeditions: [commissionexpeditions.org](http://commissionexpeditions.org)  
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch: [dakotaranch.org](http://dakotaranch.org)  
Gudina Tumsa Foundation: [gtfus.org](http://gtfus.org)  
Lamp Ministry: [lampministry.org](http://lampministry.org)  
Lutheran Bible Translators: [lbt.org](http://lbt.org)  
Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute: [lcbi.sk.ca](http://lcbi.sk.ca)  
Malawi Orphan Care Project: [malawiorphanicareproject.org](http://malawiorphanicareproject.org)  
SMI Haiti: [smihaiti.org](http://smihaiti.org)  
Water Mission: [watermission.org](http://watermission.org)  
We Raise Foundation: [weraise.org](http://weraise.org)

## Register Now!

If you &/or your church is not registered with the WNALC for 2019, please do so now!

There are no annual fees, membership fees or required donations — just a registration so you can receive newsletters, upcoming information, vote on business & stay connected.

Please complete the information sheet [HERE](#) & send to:

**Pat Dittrich**  
PO BOX 341  
Orchard, TX 77464

[pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com](mailto:pdittrich.wnalc@gmail.com)

WNALC General Fund donations help with expenses for the WNALC website, WNALC Council Fall Retreat, WNALC display table at Lutheran Week & the WNALC Annual Gathering.

WNALC Mission Fund donations are collected until May 31 & split between the National & International Mission Recipients voted on at the previous Annual Gathering.

We thank you for choosing to support the Women of the NALC! We hope you continuously uplift the WNALC in your prayers to serve as God wills.

**WNALC**  
c/o North American Lutheran Church  
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220  
New Brighton, NM 55112-2202



**DESIGNATION:**

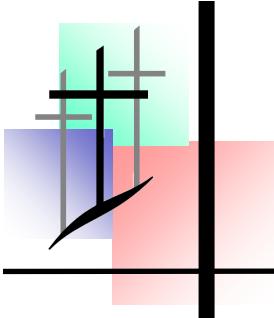
WNALC Mission Fund or WNALC General Fund

**NALC Guides**

Great Commission Society: [thenalc.org/gcs](http://thenalc.org/gcs)  
NALC Global Workers: [thenalc.org/international-mission](http://thenalc.org/international-mission)

**Ministry Partners**

Awakening Lives to World Missions: [alwm.org](http://alwm.org)  
China Service Ventures: [chinbserviceventures.org](http://chinbserviceventures.org)  
East European Missions Network: [eemn.org](http://eemn.org)  
Friends of Madagascar Mission: [madagascarmission.org](http://madagascarmission.org)  
India Transformed/UEMI: [indiatransformed.org](http://indiatransformed.org)  
Life Together Churches: [lifetogetherchurches.org](http://lifetogetherchurches.org)  
Lutheran CORE: [lutherancore.org](http://lutherancore.org)  
Lutherans for Life: [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)  
Lutheran Lay Renewal: [lutheranrenewal.com](http://lutheranrenewal.com)  
Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries: [lmvfm.org](http://lmvfm.org)  
Lutheran World Relief: [lwr.org](http://lwr.org)  
Sola Publishing: [solapublishing.org](http://solapublishing.org)  
World Mission Prayer League: [wmpl.org](http://wmpl.org)



# Mission District Representatives

\* Council Members in Bold

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AL, AR, FL panhandle, GA, MS, & TN  
**Sonshine Mission District** (8)  
FL (except panhandle area), Caribbean

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**North Texas Mission District** (9)  
TX (north)  
**Southeast Texas Mission District** (14)  
TX (southeast) & LA

*Facilitated by:* Sherrie Palan  
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**Southwest Texas Mission District** (12)  
TX (southwest)

*Facilitated by:* Amy Werner  
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**Atlantic Mission District** (39)  
CT, DE, ME, MD (east), MA, NH,  
NJ, NY (east), PA (east), RI, VT, & DC  
**Mid-Northeast Mission District** (32)  
MD (west), NY (west), PA (west) &  
WV

**RACHEL BUSCH JONES**  
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(405) 612-1055  
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**Great Plains East Mission District** (7)  
KS, MO, NE & OK  
**Great Plains West Mission District** (8)  
KS, MO, NE & OK  
**Great Plains South Mission District**  
(4) KS, MO, NE & OK  
**Great River Mission District** (20)  
IL

## **MARCELLA NELSON, Vice Chair**

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[MNELSON.WNALC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MNELSON.WNALC@GMAIL.COM)  
**Central Pacific Mission District** (5)  
CA (north) & NV (north)  
**Northwest Mission District** (8)  
AK, ID, OR, & WA  
**Rocky Mountain Mission District** (4)  
CO, NM, UT, & TX (below NM)  
**Southwest Pacific Mission District** (9)  
AZ, CA (south), HI, & NV (south)

*Facilitated by:* Jessie Phillips  
[JMP218@ATT.NET](mailto:JMP218@ATT.NET)  
**Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Mission District** (21)  
WI & MI (upper peninsula)

**PAT DITTRICH, Secretary**  
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**Eastern South Dakota Mission District** (16)  
SD (east)

*Facilitated by:* Gloria Ziemer  
[SNOGGYFROG@AOL.COM](mailto:SNOGGYFROG@AOL.COM)  
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NC & SC

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**Canadian Mission District** (22)  
Canada  
**Michigan Mission District** (9)  
MI (lower peninsula)

## **JODY FORD**

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[ROJO1861@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ROJO1861@GMAIL.COM)  
**Heartland Mission District** (12)  
IN & KY  
**North Central Ohio Mission District**  
(15)  
OH (north central)  
**Northeast Ohio Mission District** (11)  
OH (northeast)  
**Northwest Ohio Mission District** (7)  
OH (northwest)  
**Southeast Ohio Mission District** (13)  
OH (southeast)  
**Southwest Ohio Mission District** (10)  
OH (southwest)

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**Iowa Mission District** (36)  
IA  
**Minkota Mission District** (19)  
MN & ND (east)  
**Western Dakotas, Montana, & Wyoming Mission District** (6)  
ND (west), MT, SD (west) & WY