

NALC News

North American Lutheran Church

July 2016

NALC Disaster Response responding to flooding in West Virginia and Texas

NALC Disaster Response is responding to recent flooding in West Virginia and Texas.

On June 30 an unprecedented storm dumped 10 inches of rain on West Virginia, causing three rivers to flood. Over 3,000 homes were destroyed and thousands of others were damaged. Disaster areas have been declared in 44 counties.

Three truck loads of flood buckets, health kits, bottled water and other supplies have been delivered to impacted areas by NALC Disaster Response.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, a NALC congregation in Charleston, W.Va., is prepared to host volunteer teams with a fellowship hall and showers for volunteers.



Volunteers unloading NALC Disaster Response supplies at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Charleston, W.Va.



Pastors Claude Villemaire of St. Paul Lutheran Church, left, and Pastor Michael Giese of Peace Lutheran Church have been spearheading NALC Disaster Response efforts in Rosenberg, Texas.

In the Houston, Texas, area — where repeated record rainstorms since May 2015 have resulted in historic flood damage — Peace and St. Paul Lutheran Churches in Rosenberg, Texas, have been reaching out to those affected by the flooding.

Pastors Claude Villemaire (St. Paul) and Michael Giese (Peace) send stories like this from volunteer disaster centers where NALC helpers and resources are at work: “Today we served a family of four that lost everything in the flood. The father had stopped working, so he could try to work on their home. He said that having a stable place to live was important for his children. For now they are moving between staying with friends and staying in a hotel. They are behind on two bills for their

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NALC Convocation to meet Aug. 10-12 in Anaheim, Calif.

“Holy God, Holy Lives” is the theme of the 2016 NALC Convocation Aug. 10-12 at the Wyndham Anaheim Garden Grove Hotel in Anaheim, Calif. The theme is based on 1 Peter 1:16: “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

The Convocation opens with worship at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10. The Convocation is scheduled to conclude at 5 p.m. on Friday.

A Mission Festival will be the focus of the Convocation Wednesday afternoon through Thursday morning around the theme “Faith is Made Whole in Community.” The Mission Festival is designed to inspire and serve as a resource to congregations.

The Convocation is the annual gathering and business meeting of the NALC. The Convocation will elect members of the Executive Council, Court of Adjudication, and North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents. The Convocation will also receive financial reports and consider budgets.

The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Guite, Chaplain of Girton College of the University of Cambridge, England, is the featured guest speaker for the Convocation. Dr. Guite describes himself as a poet-priest of the Anglican Church, giving lectures, concerts and poetry readings. He collaborates with musician Steve Bell, who was featured at the 2015 NALC Convocation. The two will blend their unique gifts to highlight the Convocation theme.

The Rev. Dr. James Nestingen, noted Martin Luther scholar, will be leading a Bible study on Friday morning. Dr. Nestingen taught church history for many years at Luther Seminary. He has also taught for the North American Lutheran Seminary and is featured in a DVD series on Luther’s Small Catechism for the NALC and St. Paul Lutheran Seminary.



The 2016 NALC Convocation will meet at the Wyndham Hotel Anaheim Garden Grove in Anaheim, Calif.

The \$185 registration fee for the Convocation includes Wednesday dinner and lunch on Thursday and Friday.

The Convocation is preceded by the Women of the NALC Annual Gathering and the Carl E. Braaten and Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology.

The Women of the NALC Annual Gathering will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 9, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The theme is “Holy Families in Today’s World.” Featured speakers will be Gary and Laurie Pecuch of faithwebbing.com and Pastor Cathi Braasch. The \$75 registration fee includes lunch. The Gathering will also consider changes to their governing documents.

The Carl E. Braaten and Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology are scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 9, and Wednesday morning, Aug. 10.

To register or for hotel or shuttle discount codes or other information on any of the events during Lutheran Week go to thenalc.org.

Nominees for NALC Executive Council

Convocation to also elect a member of Court of Adjudication

The 2016 NALC Convocation Aug. 10-12 in Anaheim, Calif., will elect one pastor and one lay person to four-year terms on the NALC Executive Council.

Five lay people and three pastors have been nominated for the Executive Council. The Executive Council is the Board of Directors of the NALC.

Nominated for the lay position are Rebecka V. Andrae of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Latrobe, Pa.; Pamela Charas of Living Water Lutheran Church in Centerville, Ohio; Kathryn Hudnall of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Charleston, W.Va.; Lynn Kickingbird of Peace Lutheran Church in Edmond, Okla.; and Janet Rash of Salem Lutheran Church in Salisbury, N.C.



Rebecka Andrae



Pamela Charas

Nominated for the clergy position are Pastor Carl Haynes of Christiana Lutheran Church in Salisbury, N.C.; Pastor Kenneth Kimball of Old East and Old West Paint Creek Lutheran Churches of Waterville, Iowa; and Pastor William E. Maki of Zion Lutheran Church in Saint Marys, Ohio.



Kathryn Hudnall



Lynn Kickingbird



Janet Rash

Biographical information on the nominees is available online at www.thenalc.org/nominations.

Court of Adjudication

Pastor David Schafer of Waukon, Iowa, has been nominated for a four-year term on the NALC Court of Adjudication. He is the only nominee for the position.

The Court of Adjudication decides questions regarding interpretation of the NALC's governing documents and handles matters of discipline.



Carl Haynes



Kenneth Kimball



William Maki

Ten nominated for North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents

Nine pastors and one lay person have been nominated for the North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents.

The 2016 NALC Convocation Aug. 10-12 in Anaheim, Calif., will elect four members of the seminary Board of Regents — three members will be elected for six-year terms and one will be elected to a four-year term to fill a vacancy on the board.

Nominated for the six-year terms are: Pastor Cathi Braasch, Elwood, Neb.; Donna Evans, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Pastor Jeffray Greene, Brooks, Ga.; Pastor Kristopher Madsen, Fresno, Calif.; Pastor Dennis A. Meyer, Grayslake, Ill.; Pastor Allen Schoonover, Noblesville, Ind.; and Pastor Kris Snyder, Gonvick, Minn.

Nominated for the four-year term are Bishop Ralph Kempfski, Aiken, S.C.; Pastor Thurmond Plexico, Concord, N.C.; and Bishop Paull Spring, State College, Pa.

Information on the nominees is available on the NALC website.



Cathi Braasch



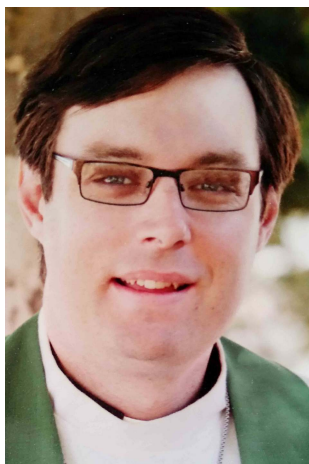
Donna Evans



Jeffray Greene



Ralph Kempfski



Kristopher Madsen



Dennis Meyer



Thurmond Plexico



Allen Schoonover



Kris Snyder



Paull Spring

Lectures to focus on Person of Christ

To celebrate the Reformation, the annual Carl E. Braaten and Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology will devote the 2016 lecture series to the Second Article of the Creed. The annual theological conference, held prior to the NALC Convocation, is scheduled for Aug. 9-10 in Anaheim, Calif.

The lectures will honor the Reformers by reflecting on what was most important to them, the confession of our Lord Jesus Christ. The 2016 lectures will respond to our Lord's question, "Who do you say that I am?" and reflect on the Church's answer, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Dr. Carl E. Braaten is among the speakers for the NALC's annual lecture series named in his honor. Other speakers include Dr. Phillip Cary, Dr. Wesley Hill, Dr. Mickey L. Mattox, and Dr. Michael Pasquarello III.

The \$115 registration fee includes lunch on Wednesday. To register or for more information go to thenalc.org.

The titles of the lectures and the speakers are:

"Revisiting Bonhoeffer's Question: Who is Jesus Christ for us today?" - Dr. Carl E. Braaten, one of the leading theologians in the Lutheran Church for the past 50 years. He has authored and edited numerous books, journals and papers. He taught at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago for many years. He later founded the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology.

"The Form of Christ in us: Christ and the Christian Life" - Dr. Phillip Cary, Professor of Philosophy at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa. He earned his doctorate and master's degrees from Yale University. He is the author of four books on the theology of St. Augustine.

"Admirable Conjunctions: The Person of Christ in Philippians 2:5-11" - Dr. Wesley Hill, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pa. Dr. Hill is a graduate of Wheaton College and Bethlehem College and



Carl E. Braaten



Phillip Cary



Wesley Hill



Mickey L. Mattox



Michael Pasquarello

Seminary. He earned master's and doctoral degrees from Durham University in Durham, England. Dr. Hill is the author of three books.

"Christ the Center of Everyday Life: Lessons from Luther's Genesis Lectures" - Dr. Mickey L. Mattox, Professor of Historical Theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. He earned his doctorate at Duke University and holds master's degrees from both Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and Simon Greenleaf School of Law.

"Confessing Christ in the Preaching of the Fathers" - Dr. Michael Pasquarello III, the Lloyd John Ogilvie Professor of Preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. He earned a doctorate and a master's degree in the history of Christianity from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his M.Div. from Duke Divinity School. He is the author of several books on preaching.

Holy God, Holy Lives, Holy Spirit

There are some who have pointed out that we Lutherans could rightfully be accused of being “Unitarians” of the second person of the Trinity. We are so centered on Christ that we appear to neglect the other two persons of the Trinity.

With regard to these two persons of the Trinity, we seem to have far less difficulty understanding the work of the Father than we do the work of the Holy Spirit. Instead of positive discussion among us regarding the nature and work of the Holy Spirit, there is a combination of confusion and avoidance.

For a number of years I served as an international speaker for Alpha. This is a course dealing with the basic questions of Christian faith. When other Lutheran pastors emailed me and the subject line was “Alpha,” I immediately knew the question they were going to ask. These messages would all begin the same way, “I think the course material is great, but how do you handle that section, “What is the Holy Spirit?” Most wanted to know if you could teach the course but leave out that section. Some suggested that I rewrite the course for Lutherans and avoid referring to the Holy Spirit. To each of them I responded with the same recommendation, read Martin Luther’s explanation to the third article of the Apostles’ Creed in his *Small Catechism*. The question is not what are you going to do with the section on the Holy Spirit, the question is what are you going to do without the Holy Spirit!

More recently one of our own pastors was asking a similar question about the work of the Holy Spirit and when I offered a similar reply, he began to make a list of the things he thought we could do without the Holy Spirit. After a few minutes I interrupted him to clarify that my question was rhetorical. Luther writes, “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but instead the Holy Spirit calls me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian Church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins — mine and those of all



From the Bishop

Bishop John Bradosky

believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.”

As Lutherans our doctrinal understanding of justification is clear and precise — we are justified by faith apart from works. However, when we approach the doctrine of sanctification we seem far more imprecise. Can our faith be intellectually strong but spiritually weak? Could we easily fall into antinomianism or end up proclaiming “cheap grace?” Could we have right faith that is absolutely powerless to transform or renew?

It is my prayer that during our time together at our Convocation we will explore these understandings and engage in meaningful discussion around our theme. To initiate our discussion I draw your attention to my perception of Luther’s understanding of the doctrine of sanctification and the work of the Holy Spirit.

1. For Luther, justification and sanctification are inextricably connected. We may discuss them as separate doctrines but their relationship is bound together. Luther writes, “Justification and sanctification are related like cause and effect and from the presence of the effect we may conclude that the cause is at work.”
2. For Luther, justification means that a person possesses “a righteousness not his own, a *iustitia externa et aliena*, a righteousness not of works, but of faith.” Faith in Jesus Christ means that Christ dwells in the heart and life of the Christian. This is

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true Christian righteousness. Because of this righteousness God counts us as righteous and gives us eternal life.

3. However, we are still both saint and sinner. While we are forgiven, we do not cease to be a sinner. Luther writes, “The more godly a man is, the more doth he feel the battle.” It is in this daily battle that the Holy Spirit is at work in the process of sanctification. Luther taught that it was the daily ministry of the Holy Spirit to enable the believer to withstand the battle and grow in grace. Luther writes, “The sanctification, once begun, daily increases, (for) the Holy Spirit is continually at work in us, by means of the Word of God, and daily bestowing forgiveness on us, till we reach that life where there is no more forgiveness, all persons there being pure and holy.”

4. The Holy Spirit dwells in each believer, not helping us to become holy through our work but making us Holy by His work. Luther writes, “He dwells in believers, not merely as to His gifts, but as to His substance.” The Holy Spirit gives us His person.

5. This indwelling of the Holy Spirit is never passive but produces action in the faithful, always applying the redemptive activity of Christ in our life as participants in His Kingdom.

6. As Luther taught that a person is justified by God apart from human actions, so he teaches that sanctification is God’s work apart from human activity. We cannot sanctify ourselves. Only in, through, and by faith can we appropriate the power God has for our sanctification. When Luther uses the term, “by faith” he does not merely mean holding orthodox opinions. (Even the devil himself holds those opinions.) He means that one personally clings to the salvation promised by the Word. It is clinging to Christ Himself who is truly present in such faith ... *in ipsa fide christus*.

7. When Christ comes into the heart of a person He does that work which is natural for Him to do — to forgive sins. Of this, Luther says: “He dwells in our hearts by such faith and purifies us daily by His own proper work.” We know and trust this forgiveness through the Word of God. Luther ties sanctification to the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word. He



writes, “God’s Word is holy and sanctifies everything it touches; Nay, it is the very holiness of God. (Moreover) the Holy Ghost Himself administers it and anoints and sanctifies the Church, that is, the Christian, holy people with it.”

8. Sanctification involves more than cleansing or purifying the individual. There is a direction for sanctification. According to Luther, sanctification equips the believer for Christian service. Luther had indicated, “The indwelling of Christ, redeems us from the bondage of Egypt (sin), makes us free, gives us power to do good.” He makes his point of the believer’s capacity for good works in this illustration. “Just so no one becomes a bishop by doing the works of a bishop, but after he has been made a bishop, he does the works of a bishop. So the works of faith do not make faith, but faith does the works of faith.” We are freed from the necessity to earn our salvation and freed for the opportunity to love and serve our neighbor.

9. Sanctification happens in the context of the Church. The Church exists where the Gospel is rightly proclaimed and the Sacraments rightly administered. Where these are, there is the holy church. Luther believed that as the Holy Spirit is operative in and through the sacraments, as well as in and through the Word. There could be no

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sanctification apart from this function in the life of the Church. In fact, it is the Holy Spirit that makes the Church. That connection is clearly articulated in the third article of the Creed. This community of believers in Christ are a community of saints in the world proclaiming in word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and through the work of the Holy Spirit, leading others to faith in Christ and life in His Body the Church, giving birth to every new Christian, making disciples of all nations.

10. Practical advice in the sanctification process:

A. Understand the reality of our struggle. In explaining the phrase, “Walk in the spirit that ye obey not the flesh” (Galatians 5:16), Luther implies that walking in the Spirit does not mean sinless perfection. “I do not require of you that ye should utterly put off the flesh or kill it, but that ye shall bridle and subdue it.”

B. Resist evil through the power of the Holy Spirit. Luther sees the battle of the flesh against the Spirit within his members. He indicates with Paul that these are opposing forces and there are many times when he wills one thing and does another. For this reason it is essential to engage in the battle not with our own strength but to recognize that we must rely on the power only the Holy Spirit can provide.

C. Sanctification comes through meditation on the Word of God and the invocation of Christ. Daily prayer, confession and absolution, reclaiming our baptismal identity and promises, reading, study and meditation on Holy Scripture and regular participation in Holy Communion are all means by which sanctification is accomplished in our lives.

It is my hope that as you prepare for our Convocation — and throughout the North American Lutheran Church — we would spend time reflecting and discussing how both justification and sanctification are at work in our lives and manifest in our behaviors. It is in the reflection and discussion with brothers and sisters in the faith that we can grow in our faith and its application to daily living, being responsible and holding one another accountable, as is the nature of the interaction of the various parts of the one body. “So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others” (Romans 12:5).

I look forward to being with you in Anaheim where our discussion will continue.

It is my joy to be with you following Christ Jesus,

Bishop John Bradosky

Disaster Response

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home and have a disconnect notice for another. They found some hope in being approved for FEMA assistance. The father wants to find a better job and asked about openings in the area. They received water, a gas card, a roll of quarters, food and clothing.”

Both St. Paul and Peace continue to look for opportunities for volunteer long-term rebuilding teams in the coming weeks.

You can help with financial support. Gifts may be given online at www.thenalc.org or sent to the NALC Disaster Response; 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220; New Brighton, MN 55112-2202.

Tangible gifts are also welcome. Needed items include gift cards from building centers (like Home Depot or Lowe’s) or discount stores (like Walmart or Target), squeegees for basement floor cleanup, mops, shovels, bleach, cleaning supplies, health kits, quilts, and other items to sustain families until they can rebuild their homes. School kits will be needed in August for the children who have lost everything.

Instructions for making health kits, school kits and flood buckets are available on the NALC website at thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response.

Gift cards or materials mentioned above may be sent to the NALC Disaster Response Warehouse, P.O. Box 176, Caldwell, OH 43724-0176.

For more information or to find out about volunteer opportunities, contact Pastor David McGettigan, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator, at dmcgettigan@comcast.net or 609-742-2449.

NALC reconfiguring staff offices

The North American Lutheran Church is reconfiguring offices for its staff. Most of the NALC leaders and staff will now work from home offices. Those who had worked at the NALC office at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church in Hilliard, Ohio, will now be working from their homes.

The NALC office in Ohio will now house only one staff member, Maddie Benson, who serves as receptionist for the NALC. As receptionist, she will answer incoming phone calls to the NALC and receive incoming mail and transfer the calls and direct the mail to the appropriate staff member. She will also be a physical presence at the NALC office in Ohio if people visit the office. (All financial gifts to the NALC and NALS should continue to be sent to the New Brighton, Minn., office.)

The changes in Ohio were necessary because Upper Arlington Lutheran Church needed additional office space for its staff. The NALC had to vacate all of the offices there except one. Upper Arlington will continue to provide meeting space for the NALC as needed.

Several NALC leaders have been working from their homes: Bishop John Bradosky (in Florida); General Secretary Pastor Mark Chavez (in Pennsylvania); Pastor Gemechis Buba, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions (in Georgia), and Pastor Mark Ryman, Communications Coordinator (in North Carolina).

Working from their homes in Ohio will be Pastor David Wendel, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism; Becky Seifert, Assistant to the Executive Staff; and Jenny Brockman, Assistant for Missions.

Anne Gleason, financial administrator, and Kathy Jacobson, administrative assistant, will continue to work in rented space in Minnesota. The NALC will be exploring possible cost-saving measures for the Minnesota office.

In the reconfiguration the entire staff will be working primarily in different locations. Therefore, online meeting technology will be used with greater

regularity for good communication and coordination. The executive staff has had monthly online meetings for several years. The administrative support staff meets online weekly with Pastor Mark Chavez, General Secretary.

The majority of the hard copy records and documents for the NALC are currently in the Minnesota office. The records there and in the Ohio office will be scanned and placed online in the cloud so they can be accessed as needed.

In addition to NALC records and documents, the Minnesota office also has hard copies of records and documents for the renewal and reform movements that preceded the formation of the NALC — the WordAlone Network, Solid Rock Lutherans and Lutheran CORE. These historical records will be scanned and placed online. Any hard copy documents that must be retained permanently will be stored in Minnesota.

The NALC will also explore outsourcing some financial services. Currently vendors are used for major printings and mailings. The goal is to set staff free to devote most of their time to responsibilities that can only be done by NALC staff.

The goals of the office reconfiguration are:

- + To position the office configuration and staffing so that they support the NALC to be a disciple-making movement as opposed to a churchly institution.
- + To test the feasibility of a decentralized staff for a church that spans North America.
- + To keep the office structure easily flexible and adaptable to the growth of the NALC.
- + To minimize the long-term costs of overhead structural expenses.
- + To increase the efficiency of the NALC staff.

The reconfiguration of the office and staffing will be reviewed and evaluated quarterly to determine if it is a feasible and effective arrangement.

NALC pastors teach in Malawi, Africa

By Pastor Tom Curry

Formal training is urgently needed in developing nations where the growth of Christianity has far out-paced the ability to provide theological and Biblical education.

In keeping with the spirit of the NALC Theologians Without Borders emphasis, Pastor Tom Curry of Wabash, Ind., and Pastor Ralph Easterhaus of Fort Wayne, Ind., (both NALC pastors) recently provided 60 hours of training over a 10-day period to some 130 village pastors in Malawi, Africa. These pastors had no previous formal training and lacked adequate education to qualify for typical Bible college or seminary admission.

Bishop Alexander Chambaro of Pentecostal Evangelism Ministry wrote in a followup letter, "Phone calls are coming in from different pastors that they are no more the same after learning and they pray to learn more of the book they use and believe that it is God's Word. You have left many untold blessings behind."

Topics were addressed such as Old and New Testament survey, History of Christian Missions, Calling of a Pastor, Sermon Preparation and Delivery, Healing Ministry of the Church, Christian Marriage, Overview of the Four Gospels, Evangelism Strategies in Cultural Contexts, Apostles' Creed, Servant Leadership, Confession and Repentance, and Spiritual Life of the Pastor.

Four sessions of 90 minutes each were presented daily. All participants took copious notes up to the very last session. These notes will serve as the only commentary most of them will ever have. Completion certificates were presented to each pastor. The obvious pride of accomplishment on each face would make one think they were receiving a theological degree from a renowned theological seminary.

Coordinated and sponsored by Awakening Lives to World Missions, a ministry partner of the NALC, the two-man pastoral team arrived in Lilongwe, Malawi, April 16 and departed on May 6.



NALC Pastor Tom Curry teaching pastors in Malawi, Africa.

Financially underwriting such a conference where three meals were served daily to about 150 people for 11 days was quite the challenge. Individuals and six Indiana churches partnered to make it possible: St. John's Lutheran Church of Lake Township, Fort Wayne; Living Faith Lutheran Church, Wabash; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Uniondale; Bethel Lutheran Church, Noblesville; Eden Church, Muncie; and Hanna's Creek Christian Church, Liberty.

While in Lilongwe, Pastors Curry and Easterhaus visited the offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi, a member of the Lutheran World Federation and the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa. The church is also a formal partner of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, one of the largest Lutheran churches in the world and a full-communion partner of the NALC. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania provided assistance in the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malawi (ELCM) in

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About 130 village pastors in Malawi listened to teaching from two NALC pastors.

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the early 1980s. It now has over 101,000 members with the Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Paul Bvumbwe as its Bishop.

The ELCM was quick to give our NALC pastors a warm reception and to learn of its history and stances on social issues. It has invited Awakening Lives to World Missions to assist it in the training of its village pastors with future short-term teaching teams.

While in Lilongwe, Pastor Curry also made contact with the Rev. Francis Mkandawire, General Secretary of the Evangelical Association of Malawi, of which ELCM is a member.

Malawi is one of Africa's smallest and poorest nations with a total population of 16 million. Presently it is facing a severe drought. The ELCM has issued an emergency appeal for assistance.

Churches wanting to contribute can contact ALWM at pastortom@alwm.org. Landlocked by Zambia, Mozambique, and Tanzania, Malawi is a former British colony. The country received its independence in 1964.

Malawi is about 81 percent Christian and 15 percent Muslim with the remainder being of African traditional religions. Just in the last three years, its currency has been devalued by 50 percent. Poverty, corruption and crime are its most serious problems.

In reflection, Pastor Easterhaus said: "Our recent mission trip to Malawi opened my eyes to the incredible need for training pastors and leaders for the rapidly growing church in that country. Pastors and church leaders are often put in charge of congregations after receiving only minimal training, perhaps the equivalent of a typical new-member class. It was amazing to see their hunger to learn more about the Word of God and about their work and responsibilities as pastors.

"It is my prayer that we can send numerous mission teams to places like Malawi to help provide the training their leaders desperately need. They know

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Pastor Tom Curry, left, and Pastor Ralph Easterhaus pose with one of their students in Malawi, Africa.

NALC-Canada Section nominees

The 2016 NALC Convocation will elect four persons to the NALC-Canada Section Governing Board.

The NALC's Canadian Mission District nominated four people to serve on the board at its April 9 Convocation.



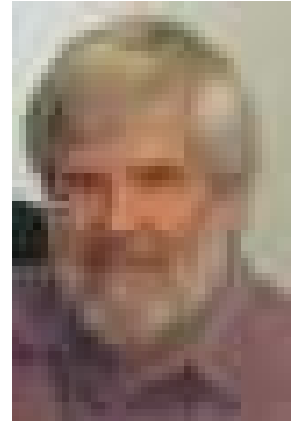
Rolf Bjornstad



Teresa Peters



Kevin Ree



Ralph Wold

Teresa Peters of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Pastor Kevin Ree of St. John's Lutheran Church in Barhead, Alberta, have been nominated for four-year terms.

Ralph Wold of Living Faith Lutheran Church in Red Deer, Alberta, and Pastor Rolf Bjornstad of St. John's Lutheran Church near Ardrossan, Alberta, have been nominated for two-year terms.

The NALC-Canada Section is the NALC's official presence in Canada and the way the NALC operates in Canada, particularly when it comes to dealing with the Canadian government, money crossing the border into the United States, and other cross-border matters.

This NALC-Canada Section Governing Board is made up seven members: four are Canadian (two lay and two clergy) and three are NALC members from the United States appointed by the Bishop.

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how to start village churches. They know how to worship Jesus with all their heart. We can learn so much from them. But they need training for their pastors, and that is something that we can provide," he said.

Many pastors in America don't realize what they have to offer people seeking training for ministry in many developing nations. Multitudes in these nations have come to Christ on the appeal of prosperity theology with little or no knowledge of the historical Christian faith. Some missiologists have said that unless American church leaders and pastors get out of their affluent, western, stained-glass bubble and get over to these parts of the world to give desperately needed theological training, much of Africa will need to be re-evangelized in 50 years. We hope that is not the case. We hear the call of God to come alongside our brothers and sisters in these nations to be the

body of Christ as one, sharing our gifts and talents for His glory.

Pastor Bill Moberly, Founder and Director of Awakening Lives to World Missions, states, "We are committed long term to sponsoring fruitful short-term mission trips like this. We want to give pastors from North America the opportunity to experience other cultures, catch a fresh vision for global missions, and teach the Word in places where the need is urgent. As we actively plan additional trips to Malawi and India, as well as other places we may go in the future, we hope that more congregations and pastors will prayerfully consider answering the call to 'Send' and 'Go.' These trips are life-changing for everyone involved!"

Pastor Tom Curry is Pastor of Living Faith Lutheran Church, an NALC mission church in Wabash, Ind. He is also Eastern U.S. Regional Representative for Awakening Lives to World Missions, a ministry partner of the NALC.

Malawi Orphan Care Project

Malawi Orphan Care Project, a recognized ministry of the NALC, partners with many different congregations in the United States to share the Gospel and aid the work of our brothers and sisters in Malawi, Africa. Taking a holistic approach, Malawi Orphan Care Project focuses on building relationships as a means of evangelism.

A short-term mission team recently returned to the United States after spending the last week of May and first week of June in Malawi. Time working at the orphan project, leading a football (soccer) camp, teaching football skills, sharing the Gospel with children, helping with the feeding program, visiting with some of the businesses that the Kanyenyeva Ministries started, and learning about life in Malawi were just a few areas of focus.

What began as feeding a few children, several days a week has grown rapidly to feeding over 700



children, six days per week. The short-term team was able to lend support as meals each day consist of: nisma (a thick paste-like food made with corn flour), varying greens depending on availability, soya meat, and a half of a hard-boiled egg.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays, when the children come for the noon meal, a Bible lesson is presented. The children also sing Bible songs. The meal is not contingent upon what faith they have. No child is turned away from a meal. When possible, people from Calvary Chapel in Lilongwe, Malawi, come to Kanyenyeva Orphan Care Ministry for an evangelism night. They bring drums, a keyboard, guitars and a generator so they can sing and dance while people gather. Then they have a Bible lesson or show the Jesus film, a two-hour docudrama about the life of Christ based on the Gospel of Luke. The Jesus film is in the Malawian language of Chichewa.

Malawi Orphan Care Project has a variety of focus areas that allow them to share the Good News of Jesus Christ: the Feeding Program, Evangelism, Sports Programs, High School Scholarships, Elementary School Fees, Building Infrastructure Projects, and Small Business Opportunities.

For more information, stories of how the Good News is changing lives, or to learn how you can connect go to www.malawiorphancareproject.org.



Lessons on Leadership from the Sergeant Major of the Army

What is a Pastor and What is Pastoral Leadership?

I do not apologize for the fact that I see the United States military as one of the few places in contemporary culture and society that continues to foster, teach and form leaders.

I have written before about lessons we can learn from the military. As I was present recently for our son-in-law's graduation from the U.S. Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, I was impressed by the Top Ten Leadership Lessons offered by Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel A. Dailey. They are easily adapted and applicable to the questions, "What is a pastor and what is pastoral leadership?"

1. Yelling doesn't make you skinny. PT does.

Translation: Telling your congregation to study the Word and pray doesn't make you a faithful and obedient disciple — reading the Bible and praying does! Pastors should lead the way with regard to being in the Word of God and praying unceasingly.

2. Think about what you're going to say before you say it.

Translation: No real translation is necessary. Pastors, congregational leaders, and each and every one of us need to think before we speak.

3. If you find yourself having to remind everyone all of the time that you're the sergeant major and you're in charge, you're probably not.

Translation: If you find yourself having to tell people that you are the pastor and you're in charge, you're probably not. A pastor's authority is earned as one proves to be a trustworthy, wise and faithful disciple and follower of Jesus Christ. A congregation will respect their pastor as leader when the pastor manifests integrity, love and care for the flock.

4. You have to work very hard at being more informed and less emotional. Translation: Don't react emotionally and act defensively. Listen, listen,



Ministry Matters

Pastor David Wendel

Assistant to the Bishop
for Ministry and Ecumenism

listen to what people are telling you. The more you seek clarity and understanding, the more people will speak the truth to you, in love.

5. If you can't have fun every day, then you need to go home. Translation: If you do not have joy in the serving, then step out of the pulpit, hang up your pastoral stole, and go do something else. Jesus wishes that our joy will be full as we seek to follow Him. There will be testing, challenge and sacrifice required as we live as His disciples, but joy in the midst of it. The pastor's joy is contagious — infectious! Be so full of joy that others will want to drink of that wellspring.

6. Don't be the feared leader. It doesn't work.

Translation: Be humble, be kind, be approachable, be accessible. Be a pastor people will want as a shepherd, coach, and guide in life, walking alongside them as followers of Jesus and fellow disciples.

7. Don't do anything — and I mean anything — negative over email. Translation: Be careful what you send via email, what you post on Facebook or social media, how you represent yourself in any medium or venue. You are a called, ordained pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ. You represent, not yourself, but the Lord at all times, in all ways, in all places. This includes what you say

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by email or tweet. Trust that whatever you email or post will be read by every member of your congregation, your bishop, your parents, children, grandchildren and the Lord Jesus Christ!

8. It's OK to be nervous. All of us are.

Translation: Pastors do not have to be perfect, have all the answers, always be right. Pastors are the best leaders when they accept their own humanity, sinfulness and shortcomings. Martin Luther is recorded as saying, near death, "We are beggars; this is true."

9. If your own justification for being an expert in everything you do is your 28 years of military experience, then it's time to fill out your 4187 [form requesting personnel action] and end your military experience.

Translation: Pastors are best served when they are lifelong learners — always aware that we don't know everything, always committed to growing and developing our pastoral skills and leadership. Even the pastor who has 28 years of experience has more to learn, wisdom to gain, opportunity to grow and develop.

10. Never forget that you're just a soldier.

Translation: Never forget that you're just a pastor — a fellow disciple and follower of Jesus Christ. Although called to ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament, pastors are no more or less than humble soldiers of the cross, called to walk alongside others following Jesus. There is no place for arrogance, haughtiness or pride of place among the ranks of clergy. Pastors are called to be leaders, yes — and should lead from the front — but always linking arms with disciples on either side, singing with one voice, "Onward Christian soldiers ... with the cross of Jesus, going on before!"

NALC congregations seeking pastors

The updated list of NALC congregations seeking to call pastors is available online at <http://thenalc.org/pastoral-vacancies>. The online list is updated each month.



The North American Lutheran Church has entered into an agreement with faithwebbing.com to provide children's, youth, and family ministry coaching for NALC congregations.

Gary and Laurie Pecuch of faithwebbing.com will be at the NALC Convocation in Anaheim. They will be:

- + Speaking at the Women of the NALC Annual Gathering on Tuesday, Aug. 9.

- + Addressing the Convocation on Thursday morning, Aug. 11.

- + Teaching a Relationship Building Skill on Thursday morning, Aug. 11.

- + Leading a faithwebbing.com website tutorial on Friday during the lunch hour.

- + And hanging out at the faithwebbing.com display table throughout the week.

Plan to connect with Gary and Laurie at some point during the week.

Daily devotions are on NALC website

Daily devotions are being featured on the NALC website. The daily devotions are also posted in the North American Lutheran Church group on Facebook and on the NALC Network.

Written by NALC pastors and coordinated by Pastor Mark Ryman, NALC Communications Coordinator, the devotions are based on the daily Scripture readings from the *Lutheran Book of Worship Daily Lectionary*.

The Scripture readings from the Daily Lectionary are active links at the top of each devotion.



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