

# News for the



## The Chair's Corner

Grace & Peace,

Happy New Year! Welcome to the year 2020, a year of clear vision. We strive within the church & within our mission fields to have clear vision. Scripture speaks of that clear vision in Habakkuk 2:2. We are to write the vision & make it plain so that a runner can run with it. Have you written the vision God has given you for your life down? Is it playing so that a runner can run with it? Do you know what God's vision is for your life?



*Jacquie El Torro*

We all have purpose & vision; we didn't just happen to be born. There is Divine purpose & a plan for each of us. We must learn to listen to the voice of God &, trust me, it is highly unlikely that he is going to say "I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD" & begin writing on stone tablets with the vision & purpose for your life.

To point us in the direction of our vision & purpose, we are all born with a gift, a special gift that God Himself planted in us. A gift that we are to use to honor Him & to bring Him glory. My gift is different from yours but no less important in the sight of God. Because God loves us so much when we use our gifts to the fullest it pleases both God & us. Our vision & our destiny may not be identified until our later years. In our youth we were busy trying to please everyone else in our lives. We allowed our parents, teachers & a few pastors to tell us what their visions were for our lives, rather than telling us to be still & hear from God, they mapped out our lives for us.

So now, in the year of 2020, it is the year for you to be still & hear from God. He will give you the direction & path you are to take with clarity to be in His perfect will. Blessings will flow forth regardless of your age! We are never too young, nor too old, for God to put us on a Kingdom assignment. Be blessed in this new year: live with clear vision as to what you should be doing. You already have the gifts within you to fulfill your Divine purpose. Consider all the Kingdom assignments available to you within the church & within the Women of the NALC. Work to obtain clear vision for what you should be doing for the Kingdom in this time, this year of clarity, this year of 2020. We need all your gifts & talents to advance the kingdom of God more so than ever before.

Jacqui

### Inside this

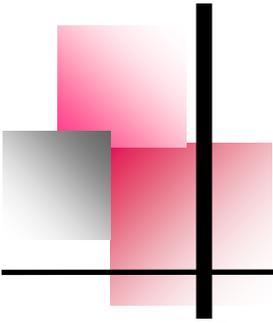
**Mission Banks** 2

**Spiritual Growth** 3

**News from You** 4

**Info for You** 7





# Mission Banks



Bethesda Lutheran Communities is one of our two Mission Bank projects for the year. One way to support this ministry is by donating items to or shopping at Bethesda Thrift Shops.

Since the first thrift shop opened in the 1960s, our thrift shops have been an important place for people of all abilities to connect with Bethesda & each other.



*Marcella Nelson*

When you shop at, donate to, or volunteer at a Bethesda Thrift Shop, you'll join in their mission to enhance the lives of people with intellectual & developmental disabilities. The income generated by their thrift shops helps the people they support lead fuller lives.

The thrift shops also provide local, affordable shopping options to families in the communities they serve & employment opportunities for people of all abilities. Operating 16 thrift shops in seven states across the country, Bethesda's thrift shops are a direct way for members of the community to support & connect with their mission.



Illinois – Crystal Lake Thrift Shop  
7606 U.S. 14  
Crystal Lake, IL 60012  
Phone: 815-455-2325

Missouri – Ballwin Thrift Shop  
14660 Manchester Road  
Ballwin, MO  
Phone: 636-256-6630

Wisconsin – Horicon Thrift Shop  
620 Washington St  
Horicon, WI 53032  
Phone: 920-485-4113 / 920-485-7004

Indiana – Valparaiso Thrift Shop  
50 Marks Rd  
Valparaiso, IN 46383  
Phone: 219-548-3931

Wisconsin – Appleton Thrift Shop  
138 E Northland Ave  
Appleton, WI 54911  
Phone: 920-997-1533

Wisconsin – Neenah Thrift Shop  
846 Fox Point Plaza  
Neenah, WI 54956  
Phone: 920-725-7467

Kansas – Wichita Thrift Shop  
2523 S Seneca St  
Wichita, KS 67217  
Phone: 316-267-5800

Wisconsin – Eau Claire Thrift Shop  
3178 London Rd  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Phone: 715-834-7875

Wisconsin – Sheboygan Thrift Shop  
2827 South Business Drive  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
Phone: 920-452-5212

Michigan – Saginaw Thrift Shop  
5119 Gratiot Rd  
Saginaw, MI 48638  
Phone: 989-792-0391

Wisconsin – Green Bay Thrift Shop  
336 N Military Ave  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
Phone: 920-544-5849

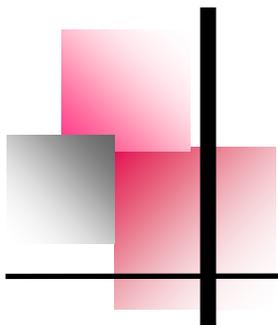
Wisconsin – Watertown Thrift Shop  
800 Montgomery St  
Watertown, WI 53094  
Phone: 920-261-7030

Minnesota – Minnetonka Thrift Shop  
4749 County Rd 101  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
Phone: 952-939-0988

Wisconsin – Hales Corners Thrift Shop  
5317 S 108th St  
Hales Corners, WI 53130  
Phone: 414-425-2366

Wisconsin – Wausau Thrift Shop  
329 N 1st Ave  
Wausau, WI 54401  
Phone: 715-845-1878





# Spiritual Growth

## Walk in the Spirit



Sheila Westrick

The theme of the 2019 NALC Convocation was **Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit**. To “walk in the Spirit” means that you have first received the Holy Spirit. While we often think of the Holy Spirit in terms of a force, the Bible presents Him as a personal Being, calling the Spirit “He” & “Comforter.” He comes to us not of Himself but when Jesus sends Him: “*But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you*”. (John 16:7 NIV) “*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you*”. (John 16:13,14 NIV) While Jesus is glorified in heaven the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts, of Jesus, to glorify Him, advance the Kingdom & to mature us spiritually by enabling our prayer life & giving us the power to overcome. He is also the rock bed of the assurance of our salvation. He sheds light on the Word & uses it to confirm our status as a “child of God.” He is given to us as a guarantee of our claim as heirs to the Kingdom. “*Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come*”. (2 Corinthians 5:5 NIV) Having the gift of the Spirit means we have the mind of Christ for as He lives in the heart of Christ, He is also in ours. “*At this, some of his disciples said to one another, ‘What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?’*” (John 16:17)

A recommendation: *The Heart of Christ in Heaven to Sinners on Earth* – Thomas Goodwin

If you have a teenage daughter or granddaughter & are looking for a gift idea, I recommend a book by Kristen Hatton called *Face Time: Your Identity in a Selfie World*. There are talking points for you & your teen that include body image, drinking, sex, sexual identity & self-harm. She also emphasizes the cross of Jesus as the place to find yourself. She brings up justification, sanctification & idolatry. You will want to read it yourself first as Ms. Hatton provides a guide for parents at the end of each chapter.

If you are planning on retiring this year you might enjoy the nine-week study *Retirement: The Good, the Bad, the Blessings* by the Rev. Dr. Beverly C. Debord, put out by Sola Publishing.



# News from You!

## *Saint Martin Lutheran Church*

*Atlanta, Georgia*

Saint Martin Lutheran Church was founded in Atlanta, Georgia in late 2019 by 22 Lutherans from the area looking to focus their faith on biblical teachings & traditional Lutheran liturgy. From the outset in July, the Holy Spirit was at work making all things fall into place. The NALC was excited to add a seed congregation in urban Atlanta. Brookhaven United Methodist Church welcomed us to their worship space, which proved a good central location for a congregation drawing its membership from all around the metro area.



Our first service was on December 1, the first Sunday in Advent & the first Sunday of the church year, which seemed a perfect choice for a new beginning. We had 95 in attendance on that first day, including many supporting our efforts from other area churches & even a pastor from Bloomington, Illinois to deliver our first sermon. We were blessed with a volunteer organist, choir members, supply pastors from the area & coffee fellowship following each Sunday service.

On Christmas Eve we had a joint service with our host church, combining Methodist & Lutheran traditions, for a joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior. 2020 promises to be a year of growth for Saint Martin. We look forward to starting adult Sunday school, planning outreach projects for the community & forming a circle for Women of the NALC.

Come visit us when you're in Atlanta!

Submitted by Gretchen Buchanan



# News from You!

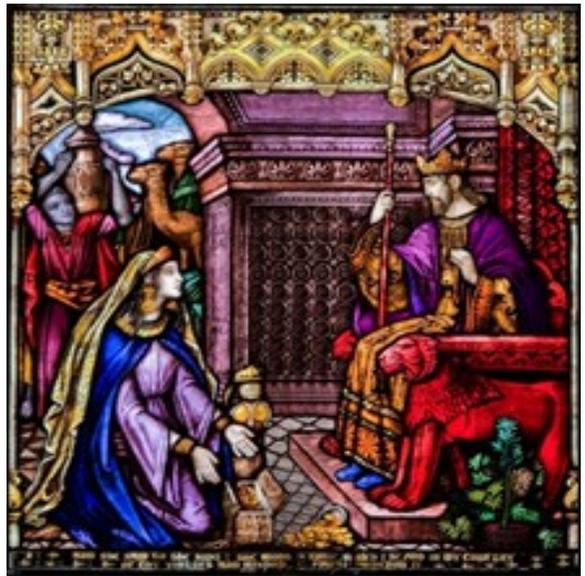
## Women of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gray Manor

### 2020 RETREAT INFORMATION

WHEN: Friday, May 1, 2020 to Sunday, May 3, 2020

WHERE: The Claggett Center  
3035 Buckeystown Pike  
Adamstown, MD 21710

We have reserved Doll Cottage (The entire cottage is ours for the weekend.)



STUDY: We continue studying the women of the Bible: *It's Good to Be Queen: Becoming as Bold, Gracious, and Wise as the Queen of Sheba* By Liz Curtis Higgs

Bring your Bible, pen & paper, pack comfortable clothes & you may bring your own snack for Friday night. The cottage has a mini-kitchen area with free coffee & tea available.

COST: \$195 per person. A \$50 deposit is required to hold a reservation, full balance due April 10, 2020.

Includes:

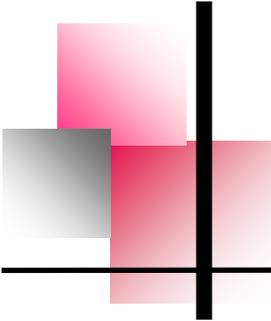
- ◇ 2 nights lodging
- ◇ Breakfast, lunch & dinner Saturday
- ◇ Breakfast Sunday

Make checks payable to the church & include '2020 Women's Retreat' in the memo line.

Mail checks to:

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Attention: Nancy Hughes  
212 Oakwood Road  
Dundalk, MD, 21222

Please contact Barbara Sullivan at 410-327-8085 if you have any questions.



# News from You!

## Calvary Lutheran Church

*Brookfield, Wisconsin*

A soup & chili cookoff is a great way to get together & chase off the cold of January!

Submitted by Marcella Nelson



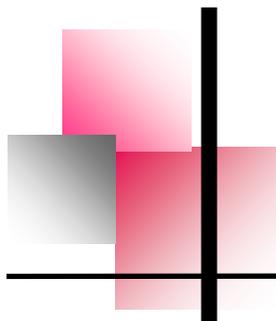
## New Beginnings Lutheran Church

*Mahomet, Illinois*

The Wonderful World Retreat took place on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at WonderFull World NBLC! Thirty women "traveled" to each of the seven continents, exploring the wonders of a woman's heart, such as "I wonder if I matter to God" & "I wonder where God is when life is hard."

Submitted by Lisa Schwartztraub





# Info for You

Check out our new look!

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

WNALC *Mission Fund* donations are collected & 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.

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

Please send your content to Rachel Busch Jones at [womenofthenalc@gmail.com](mailto:womenofthenalc@gmail.com) by March 15, 2020 for inclusion in the next edition.

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[wnalc.org](http://wnalc.org)

## Register Now!

If you &/or your church is not registered with the WNALC for 2020, 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 "Join the WNALC" form [HERE!](#)

**facebook**  
+ join our group

Get news & daily Bible messages!

"WNALC-Women of the NALC"

[www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WNALC)

**WNALC**  
**c/o North American Lutheran Church**  
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220  
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202  
**DESIGNATION:**  
WNALC Mission Fund or WNALC General Fund



# MISSIONS

"Therefore go and make disciples..."

### Recognized Ministries:

- Bethesda Lutheran Communities: [bethesdaalc.org](http://bethesdaalc.org)
- Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute: [clbi.edu](http://clbi.edu)
- 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 Inc.: [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: [malawiorphancaresproject.org](http://malawiorphancaresproject.org)
- Moved to Mission (M2M)
- Philos Project: [philosproject.org](http://philosproject.org)
- Water Mission: [watermission.org](http://watermission.org)
- We Raise Foundation: [weraise.org](http://weraise.org)
- The Wilderness Ranch of Claresholm: [wildernessranch.ab.ca](http://wildernessranch.ab.ca)

### 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: [chinaserviceventures.org](http://chinaserviceventures.org)
- East European Missions Network: [eemn.org](http://eemn.org)
- Friends of Madagascar Mission: [madagascaramission.org](http://madagascaramission.org)
- India Transformed: [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)
- SMI Haiti: [smihaiti.org](http://smihaiti.org)
- Sola Publishing: [solapublishing.org](http://solapublishing.org)
- World Mission Prayer League: [wmpl.org](http://wmpl.org)