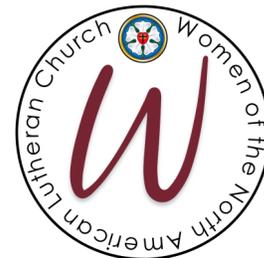


News for the



The Chair's Corner



Easter, Yvonne DePugh

Happy Resurrection!

I prefer to say Resurrection rather than Easter. The word Easter brings to mind bunnies, chocolate, jelly-beans, decorated eggs & those beloved Cadbury Eggs. Children dressed in their Easter finest reciting speeches & running out for the Easter egg hunt. That is Easter to many. Resurrection, on the other hand, is about Christ. His sacrifice on the cross, placement in the tomb & His resurrection.



Jacquie El Torro

We all have favorite Scriptures or, at least, Scriptures that speak to our spirits. Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV) does that for me: *"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."* The resurrection is so powerful it changed the fate of all humanity throughout the ages.

Let's dive into those 34 words: I want to know Christ. Knowing, as being intimate with, Christ. To be so versed in His words that they are my words. Not having to think of "what would Jesus do". To know Jesus so well that He is my bestie or BFF, a closeness where I don't have to cry out "Lord help me!", for a mere whisper will do, because Christ is already with me. To know the power of His resurrection & participation in His suffering—this is something that I work at daily. There are times when I can envision Christ saying, "I died for you to be this stupid? You are whining about all that you are going through? Try carrying your own cross! Better yet, I was nailed to that cross for you & this is what I get in return?!" See, when Jesus is your best friend, the conversations are different than they are with folks who just call in the time of need.

We all want to share in the everlasting life, yet we have no desire to participate in His suffering. To know Christ on that personal level sets you up for participating in His suffering. Your road is about to get bumpy; like driving on a paved interstate expressway & transitioning to a gravel road. The moment you profess your faith that gravel road becomes a dirt trail. Suffering becomes long suffering & you wonder

if it will ever end. Suffering takes so many forms; suffering from injustice, racism, health challenges (both physical & mental), loneliness & feeling empty inside. Suffering takes many shapes & forms, but we have hope. *"For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ"* (2 Corinthians 1:5 NIV). That is the joy of the resurrection—after the pain, the suffering & the confusion, comfort abounds through Christ. That should make you wanna shout!

I am working on my relationship with Christ. When I get upset, I am learning to hold my tongue. I am learning that I can enjoy the resurrection before my physical death because I die to sin every day &, through Christ, I am resurrected daily with my sin forgiven.

Jacqui

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Current Climate



*Martin Luther's 95 Theses
Yvonne DePugh*

As I sat down to put together this newsletter, I found myself searching for something deep, reverent & soul-touching to write. Something that might strike a reader as the comfort they'd been looking for during this unprecedented time. How silly & arrogant of me! How human. The Word of God is deeper & touches souls on the daily. Why would I think that I would be able to contend with it? Bottom line, open your Bible.



Rachel Busch Jones

From one reader to another, I also urge you to research Luther's writings & experiences during a plague outbreak in his time. It's eight pages, so I won't be copying the whole thing here, but you can find it here in case you'd like to read it yourself: [Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague](#).

One might call me lazy, but I call myself efficient, so when I found (via good ol' Google) an op-ed written by Erin M. Hawley for The Hill about Luther's letters called '[The plague, coronavirus and Martin Luther — why they all matter now](#)', I felt even better.

Last, but definitely not least, please read on for a beautiful poem by a member:

Living Faith Lutheran Church

Red Deer, Alberta

Mercy's Gate

Father God now hear us call, weary on our faces fall ... Baring heavy hearts await, Your own hand at mercy's gate.

Earth—in labor pains we writhe—present sorrow, dangerous tide. In this flood deliver us, in our midst still Glorious!

We Your people (fearful flock), wand'ring, bleating, aimless walk; You our Shepherd promise full, in the plague will save and pull.

Give Your shepherds here on earth, more than human strength to gird—Bind up trembling knees and arms, for the battle sound alarm.

Overseers, deacons, priests, pastors, elders, laymen each ... On His strength alone depend, for your flocks—the ones you tend.

God your only resource true, knows your name, what you've been through. In His hands your tired heart, safety, health and joy imparts.

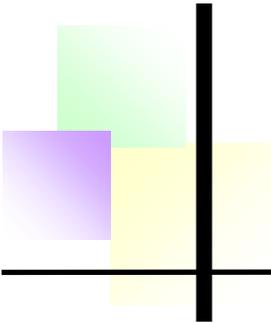
He your weakness fully knows, calls you ABLE—still afloat! Gives you Joshua's support—Lift your arms! Protect the fort!

Strong at home be ever true, here your First-Flock leans on you. Father gives you needed more, for all those beyond your door.

Pastor-Shepherd rise, stand full, ling'ring fear He WILL annul. You are His—be clothed anew, in His armor, heart be true!

Quiet spirit—eyes on Him—on you go now, nothing dim. Bright the path where Jesus leads, He your soul your heart your need.

Written by Anita Morck Foged in honor of our pastors.



Lutheran Week

*schedule tentative

God Creates Women of Purpose: Women Who Reflect the Heart of God

WNALC ANNUAL GATHERING

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Omni William Penn

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Details here: wnalc.org/annualgathering2020



Stuff the Tonka!



WNALC Council Openings

NALC Disaster Response & Women of the NALC

Stuff the Tonka!

Wanted: Gift Cards!

Walmart - Home Depot - Lowe's - Target

During Lutheran Week (August 3-7, 2020) the little Tonka Truck with the BIG heart will be in Pittsburgh loading up with gift card donations! Start collecting now! Ask your friends & neighbors!

Gift Cards

NALC Disaster Response
ATTN: Mary Bates
PO Box 176
Caldwell, OH 43724

Monetary Donations

WNALC
c/o NALC
2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

Not going to Lutheran Week?

For more information contact:

Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator

Email: disasterresponse@thenalc.org

Phone: 740-509-1132

We Need You!

Serve on the WNALC Council!

- ◆ We need new members on the governing board
- ◆ of the WNALC Council! This is an excellent opportunity to meet & work with women from all over!
- ◆ What better way to share our ideas & keep each other strong in faith!
- ◆ Won't you consider putting your name on the ballot for the WNALC Council Election? The election takes place during the WNALC Annual Gathering.
- ◆ This year it will be on Tuesday, August 6th, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We have positions open.
- ◆ The [WNALC Council Nomination Form](#) is on the
- ◆ WNALC website. Just fill it out & submit: you can nominate yourself! Nomination forms will also be
- ◆ available at the Annual Gathering.

Spiritual Growth

Many believers today are active in developing a Christian culture. They are social witnesses; they read their Bible & are active in their church. If you asked them, they would say their spiritual practices reflect that they are prioritizing their life right. JI Packer calls this a "conspiracy of misdirection."¹ Our true priority is learning to know God in Christ.



Sheila Westrick

The priority of the Holy Spirit is not to make us super achievers. We don't strive for, or produce, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control, goodness, faithfulness or gentleness. We don't choose a fruit of the Spirit & work really hard at manifesting that fruit. It's not about your effort, or just a particular fruit, that you want to manifest. You don't look to self to correct a problem of fruitlessness. You are the problem. You can't solve yourself. Rather, ALL are called to manifest the fruit of the Spirit in all its fullness. The fruit of the Spirit imitates the very character of God. The fruits are cultivated in us by the Holy Spirit when we keep our focus on Jesus.

We are transformed by the Holy Spirit through Jesus. Keep your eyes & heart on Jesus. Pray for discernment to know what points to Jesus versus yourself. Stop striving to be more generous, or joyful, or patient or kind. Let go of the idea that you are in charge. There is only one King: Jesus Christ the Son of God. Come to Jesus in Scripture & say "I need you; I want you." Don't pat yourself on the back because you read the entire book of Leviticus. Don't come to Scripture out of duty. Come to worship in gratitude, love & awe. If your eyes are on Jesus, you will be changed & the peace (the quietness of soul) that Paul says (Galatians) is the fruit of the Spirit will be given to you.

¹Jl Packer- 1993 Inter-Varsity Press, 20th Anniversary Edition, Knowing God



Meditation for Easter

Depending on which book of the Bible is referenced you will find different versions of who went to the tomb on the third day:

◇ "...Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome..." Mark 16 (NIV)

◇ "...Mary Magdalene and the other Mary..." Matthew 28 (NIV)

◇ "...the women..." Luke 24 (NIV)

◇ "...Mary Magdalene..." John 20 (NIV)

Regardless of the account, all the writers agree that a woman carried the first Gospel message (**He is alive!**) to the disciples! A woman (or women) was/were the apostle to the apostles!



The Shroud of Turin, Yvonne DePugh

Mission Banks



Literacy in the Shadows: Encouraging Faith



Marcella Nelson

Note: Specific details were intentionally omitted or changed to protect the affected language community.

For 22 years, Lutheran Bible Translators shared the task of translating the Bible for a small western African language community (WALC). In 2008, the New Testament was dedicated. "We no longer need an interpreter," one speaker said that day. "We can now read the Good News of Jesus Christ in our own language!" Fast forward to the present day. Boxes of printed WALC New Testaments are available. Local people want to use God's Word but many cannot read, even in their own language. In addition, there are others around that seek to persecute those who want to follow Christ. The local Lutheran church is discreetly planning to improve the WALC people's literacy. The goal is to recruit 35 literacy teachers to train 525 people to read in the next three years. Reading will unlock the Scripture in their own language, translated so many years ago. Lutheran Bible Translators is partnering with the WALC church to nurture Bible literacy through this new project. Ultimately, knowing God through reading the Bible will strengthen their faith and help them stand firm in the face of any persecution.



Translated Bibles are available in WALC language, but many people cannot read.

“

People want to use God's Word. But many cannot read, even in their own language.

”

3 YEAR GOAL
RECRUIT
35
LITERACY
TEACHERS
TRAIN
525
PEOPLE
TO READ

More information on LBT can be found at lbt.org.

Onward Christian Soldiers, Yvonne DePugh



YDePugh

Disaster Response

As spring & summer approach many women's quilting groups are finishing the last of their quilts & kits for the winter workdays. It is also a time when disaster strikes close to home with the increase of floods, tornados, hurricanes & fires. The two massive tornados in Tennessee are our most recent state-contained disaster. NALC Disaster Response sent a truckload of needed items to Reformation Lutheran Church in Hendersonville, TN. The warehouse had much of the needed items but found they were short on school kits.



New & used Bibles are also needed; consider having a Bible drive at your church or ordering a case (or more) online to be delivered right to the warehouse!

Concerned about shipping? You can write a Thrivent grant! Just remember, if you ship via UPS or FedEx, let Mary know so she can be there when they are delivered. We don't want the items stolen!

The NALC Disaster Response effort sends all your donated to domestic disasters only. Baby care kits can contain disposable diapers instead of cloth. Kits prepared for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) are accepted even if they are different than the NALC recommendations. The following is a list of all the items they collect:

- Baby care kits
- Health kits
- Blankets
- Flood buckets
- School kits
- Bibles
- Quilts of all sizes including any type of fabric, religious symbols, patriotic, etc.
- Gifts cards (Home Depot, Lowe's, Walmart, any national chain)
- And last, but not least, monetary donations are ALWAYS appreciated.

How to pack your disaster kits:

Pack completed kits (like items together) in boxes.

Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.

Include the name & address of your church/group on each box with a label that says: A PROJECT OF [church/group name & address]



Please send your kits, material goods &/or gift cards to:

NALC Disaster Warehouse
810 Main St.
Caldwell, Ohio 43724

For more information go to: thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response or contact Mary Bates at 740.509.1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org

NALC DISASTER RESPONSE NEEDS UPDATED 1/2018

BABY CARE KIT

- TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts
- TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers
- TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ONE** jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- TWO** pairs of socks 
- ONE** hand towel, any color
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrap
- TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins

- ONE** cloth bag or backpack
- FOUR** notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, no loose-leaf paper
- ONE** blunt scissors
- ONE** ruler
- ONE** pencil sharpener
- SIX** new pencils
- ONE** eraser,
- PLUS:** -----  -----
- TWELVE** sheets assorted construction paper &
- ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons for elementary
- OR ONE** Calculator for high school (**LABEL Handle**)

SCHOOL KIT

FLOOD BUCKET

- ONE** 5 gallon bucket with lid
- TWO** large trash bags
- Comet or scouring cleanser
- PineSol or liquid floor cleaner
- Scrub brush
- Dust Mask (N-95 recommended)
- Rubber gloves
- Broom
- Rakes, shovels, hoes – debris removal tools



- ANY Size** Quilt or Blanket including fabric printed with religious, patriotic, & military symbols.



QUILTS & BLANKETS

HEALTHCARE KIT

- ONE** bath towel
- ONE** wash cloth
- TWO** bars of soap, in original wrapping
- ONE** toothbrush
- ONE** pack of dental floss
- ONE** tube of toothpaste (two if sample size)
- ONE** comb
- ONE** deodorant



- NEW and USED**



BIBLES

- HOME DEPOT**
- LOWE'S**
- WALMART**
- TARGET**



GIFTCARDS

Send **MATERIAL & GIFTCARD** Donations to:
 NALC Disaster Warehouse
 810 Main Street
 Caldwell, OH 43724

Mary Bates
 NALC Disaster Response Coordinator
 DisasterResponse@theNALC.org
 740-509-1132

Send **MONETARY** Donations to:
 NALC Disaster Response
 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220
 New Brighton, MN 55112-2202

News from You!

*schedule tentative

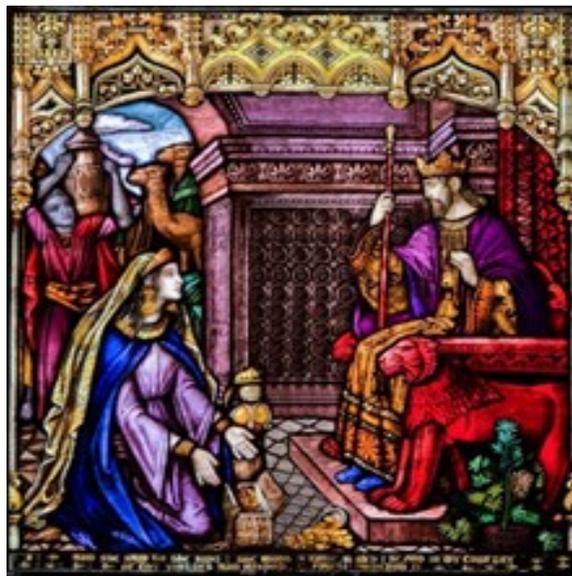
Women of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Gray Manor

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:

- ◇ Two 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

Calvary Lutheran welcomed Lynnae Douglas as pastoral intern. Lynnae is a recent graduate of the North American Lutheran Seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. She & her husband Caleb have three sons: Eli, Nathaniel & Joel.

Submitted by Marcella Nelson



Christ Lutheran Church

Saint Petersburg, Florida



The Garden of Eden
I made it beautiful with abundant branches, the envy of all of the trees in Eden in the garden of God.
- Ezekiel 31:9



The Burning Bush
Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush.
- Exodus 3:1-2



Coat of Many Colors

During my vacation to Florida in February, I found myself (for the first time in a decade) away from home on Ash Wednesday. After verifying service availability at Christ Lutheran I hopped in a transport & headed that direction. I attended service in their beautiful sanctuary - I was entranced by the water fountains behind the breathtaking cross made of copper pieces - & was then gifted a quick tour of the church's back hallways, in which resides this amazing collection by artist Yvonne DePugh, a member of the congregation. Pastor's wife Elizabeth Warfel kindly & gracefully gave me a ride back to my resort, which was most definitely out of her way. The entire experience reminded me of how blessed we are to have such a wonderful NALC family.

Yvonne can be reached for questions re: her artwork at yed@vestis.us or 727.647.3577

Submitted by Rachel Busch Jones

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 by May 15, 2020 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.



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

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



NALC Guides

Great Commission Society: thenalc.org/gcs
NALC Global Workers: thenalc.org/international-mission

Ministry Partners

Awakening Lives to World Missions: alwm.org
China Service Ventures: chinaserviceventures.org
East European Missions Network: eemn.org
Friends of Madagascar Mission: madagascaramission.org
India Transformed: indiatransformed.org
Life Together Churches: lifetogetherchurches.org
Lutheran CORE: lutherancore.org
Lutherans for Life: lutheransforlife.org
Lutheran Lay Renewal: lutheranrenewal.com
Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries: lmvm.org
Lutheran World Relief: lwr.org
SMI Haiti: smihaiti.org
Sola Publishing: solapublishing.org
World Mission Prayer League: wmpl.org

MISSIONS

"Therefore go and make disciples..."

Recognized Ministries:

Bethesda Lutheran Communities: bethesdalc.org
Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute: clbi.edu
Commission Expeditions: commissionexpeditions.org
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch: dakotaranch.org
Gudina Tumsa Foundation: gtfus.org
LAMP Ministry Inc.: lampministry.org
Lutheran Bible Translators: lbt.org
Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute: lcbi.sk.ca
Malawi Orphan Care Project: malawiorphancaareproject.org
Moved to Missions (M2M)
Philos Project: philosproject.org
Water Mission: watermission.org
We Raise Foundation: weraise.org
The Wilderness Ranch of Claresholm: wildernessranch.ab.ca