

2022 NOMINEE
BIOGRAPHICAL
INFORMATION

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Report of the Nominating Committee

The 2022 Nominating Committee presents the candidates named below for positions to be elected at the August Online Mission Convocation. We believe that all the individuals named are qualified and would do well in their service if elected.

Executive Council

During the interim between convocations, the Executive Council shall implement the work and policies of the NALC and shall act for the NALC, subject in all matters to review of its actions by subsequent convocations.

This year the convocation elects one pastor and one layperson to the Executive Council for three-year terms. The 2022 clergy candidates are as follows (name, current congregation and nominating congregation):

- The Rev. Tony Ede, First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Manchester, Iowa; nominated by Norway Lutheran Church, St. Olaf, Iowa
- The Rev. Dr. Franklin J. Gore, Epiphany Lutheran Church – Pensacola, Florida; nominated by Epiphany Lutheran Church, Pensacola, Florida
- The Rev. William A. Hartfelder, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church – Westerville, Ohio; nominated by St. John’s Lutheran Church, Kittanning, Pennsylvania
- The Rev. Theresa A. Jacobson, Grace Lutheran Church – Thornville, Ohio; nominated by Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Menno, South Dakota
- The Rev. Christopher Porter, Lebanon Lutheran Church – Lebanon Church, Virginia; nominated by Lebanon Lutheran Church, Lebanon Church, Virginia

The lay candidates are as follows (name, current congregation and nominating congregation/nominating delegates):

- Joshua Corey, St. Stephen Lutheran Church – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; nominated by St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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- Dr. Michael Shasberger, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – Santa Barbara, California; nominated by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara, California
- Mr. Jerry Roehr, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Winnipeg, Manitoba; nominated by St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Court of Adjudication

The Court of Adjudication has jurisdiction to decide appeals from disciplinary decision, questions regarding interpretation of the NALC's governing documents, and claims that any person, body or entity has violated the governing documents of the NALC.

This year two individuals, clergy or lay, will be elected to a three-year term on the Court of Adjudication. The 2022 candidates are as follows (name, current congregation and nominating congregation):

- The Rev. Dr. George E. Black, Our Savior Lutheran Church – Auburn, California; nominated by St. John's, Montpelier, Ohio
- The Rev. John Moffett, Trinity Lutheran Church – Ashland, Ohio; nominated by St. John's Lutheran Church, North Woodbury, Ohio
- The Rev. Ronald Hoyum, Port Madison Lutheran Church – Bainbridge Island; nominated by Port Madison Lutheran Church, Bainbridge Island, Washington
- The Rev. Dr. David E. Schafer, Old East Lutheran Church – Waterville, Iowa; nominated by Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Grafton, Iowa

Board of Regents

The NALS Board of Regents is a group of 9 to 12 people who commit their time and talents to act as the governing body of the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS). Among their numerous duties, the Board of Regents appoints, advises and

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evaluates the president of the NALS, and also determines the hiring of faculty members and staff persons.

Three persons, lay or clergy, will be elected to a five-year term. The 2022 candidates are as follows (name, current congregation and nominating congregation):

- Mrs. Lynnae E. Douglas, Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church – Export, Pennsylvania; nominated by Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Export, Pennsylvania
- The Rev. Dr. Stephane M. Kalonji, St. Paul Lutheran Church – Rosenberg, Texas; nominated by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rosenberg, Texas
- Mr. Roger Weyersberg, Redeemer Lutheran Church – Owosso, Michigan; nominated by Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owosso, Michigan
- Mr. Richard Jansak, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – Hendersonville, North Carolina; nominated by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, North Carolina

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Hugh W. Brewer, chair

Ms. Kay Weaver

The Rev. Kevin Scott

Ms. Rebecka V.A. Frontz

The Rev. Marv Combs

Nominees for Executive Council (Clergy)

THE REV. TONY EDE

Manchester, Iowa



Congregational Membership: First Evangelical Lutheran Church (Manchester, Iowa)

Occupation: Clergy

Basic Biographical Information: I am celebrating 20 years of marriage with my wife LeAnn this summer. We have three boys – Carver 13, Liam 10, and Burke 7. I have an associate degree in Electronic Communications (2001) and a Bachelor of Arts in Multimedia Communications (2002) from Waldorf College. I have an Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary (2006), and a Masters of Business Administration from Upper Iowa University (2017). I love to play golf, follow the Iowa Hawkeyes, and enjoy anything with a motor. You can find me seasonally riding snowmobiles, motorcycles and in my hotrod pick-up truck. I am also a bus driver for our local school and a nationally certified firefighter and EMT.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I have served in a variety of settings from large staff positions to small rural congregations. I am currently called as the senior pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran in Manchester, Iowa. In my previous church body, I served on the candidacy committee, assembly committee, presenter for first call theological education and as a lecturer on communications. In the NALC I serve as the technology director for Lutheran Week, convocation planning team, renewal team, moderator for the NALC Academy, convocation break-out lecturer on technology in the parish, Iowa Mission District Council, Iowa Mission District youth mission trip director, convocation break-out lecturer on mission trip organization. I am a member of the Society of the Holy Trinity. I serve as the chaplain of the Iowa Firefighters Association and have led critical incident stress management debriefing

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for local organizations. I have also been able to do some public speaking for corporate events in my region on leadership and teambuilding.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Administration – I have been given the opportunity to be the leader in many roles and have enjoyed and seen success in many of those ventures. Discernment – God has blessed me with the ability to discern His guidance for myself and for those around me through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and Scripture. Self-Awareness – I believe that God has blessed me with the ability to use my gifts and natural abilities in various contexts as well as to speak up when I am not gifted or talented in a certain context. Delegation – when I am not skilled in an area, I am eager to find those that are blessed with those gifts. Faith – my faith in our risen Savior has given me strength in troubled times and has sustained me in times of plenty. The Holy Spirit has also filled me when my faith was weak. Others would describe me as highly motivated but not a perfectionist, adaptive, a problem-solver and calm.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

I appreciate the 2020 Vision goals and anticipate much success in each of them if there is a metric for follow-up and constant critical critique. We must continue to have a solid theological foundation and I believe that comes from educational opportunities from our seminary. I am a self-proclaimed lifelong learner and would be a perpetual student if I could manage it. Quality continuing education is near to my heart, and I hope to see this continue to be developed for contextual ministries. I see in my own context a need for pastors, associates, and a diaconate – especially in my corner of Iowa where many pastoral retirements are looming in the next 5-10 years. I am in prayer for a focused program to help develop contextual ministries and partnerships, so we do not lose congregations due to vacancies or lack of ministry leaders. I also do not want to make a fast track to ordination that suffers quality for quantity.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

My hope is to see growing enthusiasm for camping ministry, youth and adult mission trips, and growth that stems off the groundwork that NEXUS is providing for the future of our church. I was deeply encouraged into the ministry by programs like

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these, and I am prayerful that solid NALC lead organizations can continue to emerge. Of course, we want to see a continued move towards a discipleship culture, and I am hoping that the contextual mission field for discipleship is identified in each community.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Increase the number of candidates for ordained ministry, provide new pastors with a support system so they don't experience early burnout or abandonment, support the bishop and his staff as they transition to Dallas, increase the use of educational technology in the seminary and for the use of continuing education without suffering face-to-face cohorts and collegiality, develop camping ministries regionally.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

I love mission trips! The Iowa Mission District partners with the NALC Disaster Response Team each year to provide mission trip opportunities in the U.S. each summer. I firmly believe that sending youth and adults on mission trips will help to grow faith and foster a sense of call within each of them. Ministry that is outside of the walls of the church buildings will become more and more crucial in years to come when average weekly attendance goes down even more. So, where do we meet these people at? Finding a ministry of presence modeled in our context is important. The days of people coming to church are over. We are now challenged to take the church to the people.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I am conscious of God's blessing as I live out my life as a saint and as a sinner. God sends His Holy Spirit to me daily to call me out of my slumber to serve Him, gather me with others like me, enlighten me with His Word, and sanctify me to be His

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servant in the office of Word and Sacrament ministry. Without the Holy Spirit, I am nothing.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Colossians 3:23 ESV – "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." I grew up on a farm in Iowa. I was often told that if something was worth doing, it is worth doing right. If we truly believe that all that we have is the Lord's, then we must serve Him with everything we've got inside of us, all our lives, until we meet Him face to face.

THE REV. DR. FRANKLIN J. GORE

Pensacola, Florida



Congregational Membership: Epiphany Lutheran Church
(Pensacola, Florida)

Occupation: Clergy

Basic Biographical Information: I'm married to Wanda R. Gore. We have three grown children: Kevin (Becky), Kristin (Tim) and Kelly (Kevin). We have five grandchildren: Andrew, Parker, Kenzo, Hazel and Kyzer. I'm a graduate of Kent State University (Bachelor of Science), Trinity Lutheran Seminary (Master of Divinity), and Trinity Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry). My education interest focused on church planting, revitalization and analysis of ministry. I enjoy working in the outdoors and love classic cars.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

My gifts for serving on the executive board are – administration, business, finance and church leadership.

With God's help, I've guided two churches through financial transformation, creating a stable and Christ-centered ministry. I've written three endowments and now will begin writing a new endowment for Epiphany.

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My corporate business experienced has helped our congregations develop business models in operating the church. I've mentored five seminary students, two went into Word and Sacrament and three became deacons in the church. With God's help, I was able to help write legal arguments against the FB Synod/ELCA during our disaffiliation. I experienced the disaffiliation brutality firsthand and can say that changes in the NALC need to be made so no other congregation goes through what we endured.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Visioning and engagement have been an active gift in my ministry. With God's help, I understood what needed to be done to help His Church, and I was able to communicate that vision to the congregations.

Stewardship as whole life, not just the offering. I believe the NALC has missed opportunities that could provide grants, education opportunities and mission outreach because of some past practices. To not have an endowment that can support many areas of Christian life prevents disciples from leaving life legacy gifts that can make an impact for individuals or communities.

Also, God has blessed me with the gift in church leadership and administration.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

Providing pastors for new churches and small rural churches. Providing support to congregations leaving the ELCA — after what we went through, my own congregation felt left alone. Providing a financial plan for growth and leadership such as an endowment that can support a variety of opportunities.

Stop fearing the thought idea of growth within our denomination. In other words, stop comparing ELCA management, endowments and leadership with the NALC. We are NOT them and we can govern in growth without falling into the same hierarchical mess.

Congregations like mine, step out and risk everything for the love of God's Word and stand firm as a congregation centered in Christ. The NALC must also be ready to make changes that can support the mission and ministry that God's providing. The

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NALC must have courage to stand against evil and alongside congregations wanting to remain faithful to God. Walk with them not just in word.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

Develop a financial plan for planting churches. Church planting and redevelopment is costly. I've risked in faith and that's what we as a denomination need to do. Risk in faith for the love of the Lord Jesus.

Help in development of bi-vocational pastors.

Some mission districts (regions) are too small to support new church development. Thinking outside the box, doing something different to help financially support the new church can be achieved through church development.

Develop a delivery system for seminary and NALC information besides every other month. A congregation newsletter goes out every month to inform the people of God of events, Bible readings, devotions and ministries we support.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Answering the call to make disciples is a priority that I think everyone would say is number one. Being faithful to the commandment of loving God and second is loving the neighbor (which means all people).

Another area of priority for us should be to help congregations entering the NALC. I believe we will have many opportunities to help congregations re-establish themselves in the NALC. Through disaffiliation or congregation revitalization, we must be ready and willing to help. We can walk with them throughout the transition and provide help by extending the love of Christ through actions not just words. "Love in Action" is a banner we made at the church for mission outreach.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

I think I've answered this question throughout this document. The Disaster Response Team provides a presence in areas that have been devastated and

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represent the NALC by extending the love of Christ to the community. Churches in our denomination should seek ways to provide love in action. Sometimes it means that they partner with other charitable organizations instead of creating another of the same organization. The NALC districts and congregations need to continue to pray and listen for God's Spirit to guide their life. Without God nothing can be accomplished. Therefore, prayer, visioning, listening MUST be a component in mission and ministry. To remain Christ centered in mission and ministry means we let go of our ego and serve as we've been called to do (Luke 17:7-10).

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

After the past three years and my leaving the ELCA and becoming a minister in the NALC, my experience with God was the only thing that kept me from breaking. God provides me courage, strength, and love in all I do. My daily prayers, my daily devotions, my time just listening for God were an important tool that provide me spiritual strength.

Stepping out in faith I lost my home and there was the possibility of not having a congregation. The financial lawsuit against me from the FB Synod/ELCA tested my faith. There were times when I felt alone and abandoned, but God provided a way out of the depth of my worries and anxieties. God was active in my life every day and that is what helped my wife and I through this faith test.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."

I am saved by God's action and grace. This is a matter of faith for the Christian believer. I look to what God has already done for me in giving His Son. I feel fortunate that I am saved by faith through God's grace.

THE REV. WILLIAM A. HARTFELDER

New Albany, Ohio



Congregational Membership: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
(Westerville, Ohio)

Occupation: Retired Clergy

Basic Biographical Information: Julie and I celebrate our 47th anniversary in August. We have three adult children: Kurt (Megan), Eric (Ashley) and Lauren. We also have four grandchildren. I graduated from Concordia Senior College, Princeton Seminary and have a graduate degree from the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to a year at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, I have studied in Rome, Italy and Göttingen, Germany. A native of New York City, I served my entire ministry in Ohio. Hobbies are traveling and motorcycling. Retired, I continue as a chaplain and a crisis intervention team member with the Columbus Division of Police.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I have served associate, solo and senior pastorates, leading two congregations through major building programs and seven capital fund campaigns. I served two terms on the Synod Council of the Southern Ohio Synod and on various synodical committees, including Bishop’s Ecumenical Representative. Since 2018, I have served as chair of both our NALC Lutheran Week and Lutheran Week Long Range Planning Teams. I have been a member of the Executive Committee of the Ohio Council of Churches and on the Clinical Pastoral Education Professional Consultation Committee, Mount Carmel Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

My life reflects a God-given ability to organize and guide people effectively to achieve goals in response to a shared vision. Closely related is my gift of communication. I have an ability to relate to and involve a wide spectrum of people. I attribute this in part to my many experiences of international travel and living in different cultures. I am a team player. I also give thanks for the gift of faith I have

received from my family of origin and the church community in which I was raised and have served. They taught me that while faith is personal, it is never private. Faith changes lives.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

We face what currently challenges all evangelical faith communities, e.g., an increasingly aggressive secular culture, declining worship attendance and a growing crisis of leadership on all levels. Our immediate challenge is to resist the temptation of focusing on institutional self-preservation. We need to embrace with passion a renewed dedication to the mission and ministry God entrusts into our hands. It is the Great Commission our Lord gave to His first disciples. Thus, a central challenge for the NALC is to strengthen support of congregations as local mission centers dedicated to the calling and formation of disciples of Jesus.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I hope we in the NALC see the challenges of our current culture not as insurmountable hurdles, but as exciting, missional opportunities to proclaim the Gospel. Thus, I hope for growth not for the sake of numbers, but for the sake of making disciples of Jesus. I hope we continue to develop our ministry of calling and forming lay and pastoral leaders. I hope we seek to effectively address the challenges of being a church with significant distances between congregations. It has been observed we now share more in common with the church of the first two centuries than ever before. In light of what the early church endured and accomplished for the Gospel, this gives me hope.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

We need to develop a vigorous program of planting and supporting new congregations through the shared resources of local congregations who know their mission field best; grow support for the calling of pastoral leadership and their seminary education using modern technology; balance our internal needs with a healthy awareness of our shared ministry among the wider family of Lutherans and other ecumenical partners; provide congregations with resources to nurture a spirit of generosity in giving.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

While it is important we develop effective, sustainable means to resource our mission and ministry as the NALC, “tangible actions” should never be created in a vacuum. Likewise, it is essential we seek to accomplish “tangible actions” neither solely from the “top down” nor only from the “bottom up”. By this I mean, we need one another. Congregations are the “front line” of our mission and ministry. But we also accomplish far more together as the NALC than we can as individual congregations. Thus, communication and consultation among congregations, mission districts and the NALC is of paramount importance.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I respond to this question by referring to Martin Luther’s description of baptismal faith as a “daily dying and rising with Christ.” The gift of Baptism provides me with a heart to feel and eyes to see each day as God’s gift and every person I meet as a child of God. The words of the Psalmist come to mind, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1 NIV). Each day, be it good or a time of trouble, is an experience of God’s presence and grace in my life.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

“If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord” (Romans 14:8 NIV). These words Paul wrote to the first Christians in Rome have long provided me with comfort, courage, strength and hope. Faith in God’s grace in Jesus Christ is not simply another facet of my life among others. It is an all-encompassing source of my identity and a time-transcending way of life.

THE REV. THERESA A. JACOBSON

Thornville, Ohio



Congregational Membership: Grace Lutheran Church
(Thornville, Ohio)

Occupation: Assistant Editor with Sola Publishing

Basic Biographical Information: I grew up in Bellevue, Nebraska and graduated from Bellevue East High School in 2001. I have been married to my husband Tom for nearly 14.

Together we have three children: Henrik, age ten; Helena, age eight; and Antonia, age four I received my Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance in 2005 from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. In addition to music, I studied religion, Danish, and German and received minors in each. I received my Master of Divinity degree in 2009 from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. My Danish heritage has always been a passion of mine and has become a hobby for me as well over the years. When I have some extra time, I enjoy jogging or walking, hiking, quilting, gardening, canning and spending time with my family. I am a HUGE fan of Laura Ingalls Wilder and have always enjoyed reading and watching programs related to that period of history.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I have served two calls in pastoral ministry. I served for about a year at Faith Lutheran Church in Bagley, Minnesota from 2009-2010. I just recently finished a 10-year call, serving the congregations of Our Savior's Lutheran and Grace Lutheran in Menno, South Dakota. My time in rural ministry has given me a new perspective on ministry. In September 2019, our area of the Midwest dealt with devastating floods that affected much of the farmland and many buildings. Our Savior's Lutheran Church was among those affected. Our congregation was worshipping with about a dozen people a week. When flood waters threatened our stone church building, members of the community came to our aid. We wouldn't have been able to keep the flood waters from reaching our building if it hadn't been for the people and resources that God placed in our path that day. In addition to serving as a full-time pastor, I served on the Eastern South Dakota Mission District Council for eight years. Currently, I am not actively serving a congregation. I am working as an

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assistant editor for Sola Publishing. I also fill in for my husband Tom at our congregation in Thornville, Ohio, when Tom is unable to. I am actively involved in the life of the congregation as well.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

God has blessed me with an ability to listen to others, to consider others' ideas and/or perspectives on issues. I mostly have a positive outlook, and that shows in my interacting with others as I encourage them in their work and ministry. I enjoy praying for others and their needs, being someone that others can talk to. I am also gifted in managing my time, balancing between life/family and ministry. I also very much enjoy other cultures and traditions. Reaching out and sharing the Good News of the Gospel is something I enjoy and energizes me. I enjoy being a leader, but I also enjoy sitting back and letting others lead. This is new territory for me (the possibility of serving on Executive Council), so I anticipate I will be learning from others in the process.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

Many of the challenges I anticipate are not unique to the NALC alone, but rather, to the Church around the world. COVID-19 made it easier for people to avoid coming to church. However, even before COVID-19, many of our congregations were seeing a decline in membership. Many baby boomers are passing away or entering a stage of life that makes them less mobile, making it more difficult to be as actively involved in their congregations. In addition to declining attendance, our congregations are faced with the many challenges that society poses to us: the definition of marriage, sanctity of life and gender theory to name a few. The Church has always faced the challenges that the world poses, so the challenge is to continue to preach the truth of Scripture and lead by example. The NALC is also in a place of transition as the organization makes its home in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Any time there is transition and change, there is challenge. I don't believe that this last challenge is a huge one, but it's a challenge, nonetheless.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I hope to see continued growth within the NALC. To reference the NALC's 2020 Vision, I hope to see the NALC continuing to equip disciples within congregations

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and equip those disciples to consider and discern the call to ministry. I hope to see congregations within the NALC striving to make efforts for outreach. In many ways, I think post-Covid is giving us an opportunity to build on the need for human interaction and communication. For so long, many of us felt deprived of that. I see it as a doorway to invite others to worship and church fellowship activities. And I hope to see the NALC continue on the path that is on, keeping in mind the 10-point strategic plan that was implemented in the 2020 Vision.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Equipping leaders and disciples to do ministry is at the top, I believe. We need leaders in ordained ministry, but we also need strong lay leaders. Additionally, outreach and mission are at the top. I addressed this somewhat in the previous question. I believe we have a unique opportunity to reach out to those in our communities, an opportunity for seeds to be planted where perhaps they have not yet been sown.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

Relationships are at the core of who we are. It begins with our relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone, the foundation, of who we are as a church. If we're not grounded on Him, then we're on sinking sand. If we are centered and grounded on Christ, then we can begin to live out the Great Commission, which leads us to being a Mission-Driven church. Our first priority is to teach, lead and encourage others in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. On that foundation, we can reach out to others, making disciples in our communities, congregations and around the globe. It's important that we have a clear understanding of what our purpose is, how we live out our life as a disciple each and every day in our homes and in our vocations. The NALC leadership can continue to be intentional in building those strong relationships with its pastors. The area assistants to the bishop, along with the regional deans, can provide a strong support system and pastoral presence for both pastors and congregations in reaching out in their communities. Regular devotion, Scripture reading and prayer should be encouraged as well. The NALC

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daily devotions and resources available on the website are an excellent resource for clergy and laity to utilize.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

God is present with me always and everywhere. One of the reasons I enjoy being outside so much is because I love being surrounded by God's creation. The plants in our vegetable garden, the animals that visit our yard, the forests, hills, and mountains – they all serve as a reminder that God has created everything with care. God has taught me the fragility of life in my 39 years of life. My mom died unexpectedly from a brain aneurysm when I was 20. During what was the hardest time in my life (to date), I witnessed God's presence all around. He was present in my own pastor, who rushed to the hospital ER to have prayer with my younger siblings and me. God's Holy Spirit was alive in my pastor's words as he preached at my mother's funeral, reminding me that God never forsakes us, that God has a place prepared for me, that I will be reunited with all the saints who have gone before me. I needed God most of all in those moments of my life. And I was blessed to have my pastor preach the saving words of the Gospel to me in those very moments. I have strived to do the same in my ministry and interactions with others. Often, I experience God through the words of others. My children and my husband demonstrate God's activity in my life. My kids ask the hard questions – ones that I don't have the answers to. And my kids demonstrate pure, unadulterated joy when they shout, "He is risen! Alleluia!" My husband demonstrates Christ's love for the Church in how he loves me as his wife. He supports me and encourages me, but he isn't afraid to hold me accountable. I am amazed at God's handiwork, not only in His creation, but in the small voice of His Holy Spirit. In a world that is full of hurt and pain, I can confidently raise three young children, knowing that my husband and I are doing the best we can to teach them to be disciples and to pass it on as they grow. God is all around me each day in the love and joy of others with whom I cross paths. God gives me strength and passion to live out His love and to share His love with others.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Psalm 119:105 KJV – "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." I chose this verse, and this specific translation, as my confirmation Bible verse in May

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1996. I chose the verse because at the time the song "Thy Word" written by Michael W. Smith and performed by Amy Grant was very popular. It was a verse I already had memorized. What I didn't realize then was how God was going to use this verse in my life over and over again. I served four summers as a camp counselor at a Lutheran Bible camp in Nebraska. My fourth and final summer in 2005 had the theme built around this verse. It's come up in other ways as well. But I find myself looking back at two of the darkest moments in my life. When I was 15, I was hospitalized for depression. I felt like so many days were filled with darkness. It was God's Word that shone light into my darkness. God gave me loving parents, who made sure I got treated for my illness right away. My second darkest moment was saying goodbye to my mother, my best friend, as she left this earthly life. It was God's Word that shone its brightest in my deepest need. And I explained this in further detail in the previous question. I had no idea that a verse I chose 26 years ago because I liked a song would have such an impact in my life as a Christian and a fellow sinner.

THE REV. CHRISTOPHER PORTER

Winchester, Virginia



Congregational Membership: Lebanon Lutheran Church (Lebanon Church, Virginia)

Occupation: Pastor

Basic Biographical Information: I am blessed with a wonderful wife, Colleen, and two children: Ben (10) and Rachel (8). I enjoy the philosophy of the mind, foraging for mushrooms, the arts, literature, kayaking, and cooking. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from William Tyndale College in 2003, and a Master of Divinity in 2014 from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary/Lenoir Rhyne University. Prior to receiving my Master of Divinity, I served as a lay Bible teacher and Deacon intern at Historic Trinity Lutheran in Detroit, Michigan (LCMS). I have served in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia for eight years, beginning at Advent in Winchester and now at Lebanon Lutheran in Strasburg.

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Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

Since my first call in 2014, I have served as a worship assistant for the 2017 NALC convocation in Nashville, as chaplain for the NALC Life Conference for five years and presented on "Traditionally Lutheran Liturgy" at the 2022 Atlantic Mission Region Convocation. I have demonstrated an ability to collaborate with colleagues in service to the wider church and enjoy contributing to these projects.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I have had good success with teaching in the church and believe I have shown myself to be "apt to teach". I am enthralled by the church's worship and have devoted myself to studying its rites, ceremonies, conduct and appointments, and have endeavored to continually grow in my ability to worship well and to lead worship well. I love learning, developing the Christian mind, and seeing the Spirit of God make lost sinners into forgiven Christian brothers and sisters through the ministry of the church, especially in its catechetical ministry.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

Preserving our doctrinal commitments and values in the face of accelerating cultural change. Pursuing a slow-paced, insistent and deliberate commitment to developing parish culture through the formation of highly catechized Christians. Preserving and promulgating a normative pattern of Christian worship.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I hope we work to solidify our ecclesial identity as classically confessional Lutherans who love our confessions as they enable us to share the Gospel boldly and contagiously.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

I would like to see efforts to make our confessional and dogmatic traditions more prominent in our church's common life. Produce common study resources and events for pastors related to confessional topics, promulgate resources and information to for lay use. Increase resources for liturgical instruction, prayer and

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other churchly disciplines. Worship practicum units for pastoral continuing education.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

Daily meditative devotion to Holy Scripture; recite and pray the Catechism; receive the sacrament faithfully and often; confess your sins to God, audibly to a pastor when your conscience is especially troubled; serve your actual neighbors in their actual bodily and spiritual needs; love the brethren; share the Good News with an actual neighbor.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Constantly, insistently, but also dimly as in a glass darkly, that would be the most true thing to say – but at times, as a consuming fire that mercifully destroys my sins and not me; as a chastening Father who loves in the act of giving me consequences; as my tempted and tortured brother according to the flesh; as a massive negation of all my pride and self-interest; as the empowering one who renews my strength; as the founder and origin of my eyes, my mind, my whole soul that longs to know fully even as I am known; as a fierce love that fills and directs all things to their perfect end; as the Almighty who orders being and non-being to His will; as the One that I have wronged and who saved me.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

“No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,” Romans 4:20 (NRSV).

Relying on the promises of God in Jesus Christ has changed me. As I believe and grow, I see more clearly what it means to be saved, what it is to know that I am completely incapable of causing my own salvation. The work of my Savior, Jesus Christ, is more astounding, fierce, and precious as I appreciate my need. The promise created faith in me, and I give glory to God in my faith.

Nominees for Executive Council (Lay)

JOSHUA R. COREY

Buena Vista, Pennsylvania



Congregational Membership: St. Stephen Lutheran Church
(Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Occupation: College Student

Basic Biographical Information: I am a college student majoring in secondary education social studies. I'm an Eagle Scout as well as a black belt in Tang Soo Do.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I have been a regularly attending member of my congregation for 20 years, as well as having attended the NEXUS Institute.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

God has given me a strong sense of empathy, a mind for practicality and a keen memory.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

I see the NALC facing a severe lack of new members as time progresses, and an overall declining membership within the church.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

My hope is that the NALC mission reaches out to more local communities and areas of deep religious need.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

The NALC should focus on young adults and young families, creating an atmosphere in which many of these individuals feel that they can return to church.

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What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

Having a stronger community outreach in order to focus on the younger members of our community, as well as spreading awareness about situations around the world.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

The Lord often comes to me through what I do and the way I carry myself. It is through Him that I attempt to do a good turn daily, as well as to have an empathic world view.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Joshua 1:9 – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” As someone who has struggled with worry and apprehension, I find that in times of hardship and struggle, the Lord gives me courage to journey on.

DR. MICHAEL SHASBERGER

Roanoke, Virginia

Congregational Membership: Prince of Peace
(Santa Barbara, California)



Occupation: Current Professor of Music & Worship,
Westmont College. Retirement planned as of July 2022.

Basic Biographical Information: Married 38 years with two children, both professional musicians with non-profits sharing outreach with under-served populations, and one grandson.

Education: Doctorate in music from the University of Southern California, Master’s degree from Redlands University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College. I am an avid marathon runner and cyclist.

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Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

Member and minister of music at Peace Lutheran, New London, Minnesota (1974-1975); Trinity Lutheran Hemet, California (1975-1980); St. Peter's Presbyterian, Palos Verdes, California (1980-1982); 2nd Presbyterian, Little Rock, Arkansas (1982-1985); Augustana Lutheran, Denver, Colorado (1996-2005). Council member at First Lutheran, Indianapolis, Indiana (1985 - 1991); member at Pilgrim Lutheran, Indianapolis, Indiana (1992-1996); Council – Christ Lutheran ELCA, Goleta, California (2005-2010); Founding president at Prince of Peace Lutheran NALC, Santa Barbara, California (2012-2022); Professor of Music and Worship, Westmont College (2005-2022).

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Leadership, as a congregational council member and president, department chair for two collegiate music programs, president of non-profits, and service to community boards of directors, as well as music director of musical organizations including academic, professional and community orchestras and choruses. Administration has also been critical in my endeavors. I have been a teacher of kindergarten through doctoral seminars and adult education programs, and have tried to couple those endeavors with faith, exhortation and hospitality.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

Challenges are shared by all faithful evangelical denominations in holding fast to the authoritative Word of Scripture in a culture that continues to exert moral authority based on other secular understandings and seeks to impose that authority in every aspect of life. The NALC needs to raise up compelling leaders to share the Gospel. The work of sustaining, growing and planting congregations in a wide range of settings is also a key task at hand.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

My hope is to stay true to the NALC's core values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. Christ Centered by staying faithful to thoughtful and thorough biblical understandings. Mission driven in witnessing to and serving others. Traditionally grounded as we cherish what has

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long brought depth and meaning, even while embracing creativity. Congregationally Focused with the national church strengthening and unifying the efforts of congregations so that our shared commitment multiplies our witness.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

The church's great goal is evangelism. There is so much good news to share in a world that desperately needs it. The NALC is well placed as a vibrant faith community to proclaim that Word. In the coming years I hope that the church can find creative ways to do that, support those around the world who share in that proclamation, and work to bring unity among those who are faithfully witnessing to the Gospel.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

The NALC's 2020 Vision lists 10 areas of tangible action items. In a circular system, while working locally, congregations can grow their financial support for the national church, the church at large can invest in seminary programs, pastoral support, mission strategies, technologies to support congregations, and mission district leadership can bring the two together on a scale that can be modified to work effectively in their settings. The effort of each strengthens the whole.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Many days and all seasons of life have included a leap of faith. I trust those leaps have been in pursuit of God's calling and know His provision has been there when called. I rely on prayer, discernment, wise council, and Scripture to guide; and then follow with a careful look around to ascertain God's will in the moment. I've been blessed with environments where prayer and the sharing of the Word has been central.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

I have long been drawn to Colossians 3:12-17 as a definition of how we are to live in Christian community. It has a particular poignancy for me in that it acknowledges the language of music as an important conveyance of wisdom and the message of the

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Gospel. That has affirmed and informed my personal and professional endeavors and continues to inspire my efforts in service to the Church and the kingdom of God.

MR. JERRY ROEHR

Winnipeg, Manitoba



Congregational Membership: St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(Winnipeg, Manitoba)

Occupation: Retired, Contractor, Real Estate Broker

Basic Biographical Information: Married for 58 years to Helga with two children and three grandchildren. Our family lives within a five-mile radius and meets for weekly family dinners. My formal education was in Germany. I enjoyed being a pilot and a 25-year member of the Civil Air Rescue organization.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

The first thing that comes to my mind is my mother telling me to go to confirmation class. It prepared me for a life within the Lutheran Church and I appreciated being selected for many leadership roles. Attending theological conferences and being a member of different policy decision bodies exposed me to many different expressions of God's love and the desire to "defend" my faith, to be recognized as a Christian contributing to society.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I am a good organizer. I also have the ability to lead a group and most of the time people accept my proposed plan of action. I have experience in leading worship services.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

The NALC has to find a way to be the conscience of society. To be relevant, the NALC must establish a strong relationship with its congregation. To equip them to

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be heard on local issues, to be “seen” in the community, to equip its members to be proud of the faith and to every day learn to express it without blatantly offending others. The NALC may benefit from a Canadian perspective.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

To see the death and resurrection of Christ used as a guide in our daily lives. To bear witness that in the darkest days of our lives, and in the lives in our community, there is the knowledge to see life and everlasting life. It should be the NALC’s mission to advocate and show hope in our local communities, in our country and, where possible, around the world.

What should be the NALC’s most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

To challenge our congregations to bear witness to the love of God and Christ’s salvation, by being proud of belonging to a group of people that preach throughout the world to provide Christian guidance to everyday peaceful living.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

Christian caring and concerned actions must be seen in the local congregation, and its surrounding community, but it is the mission district’s responsibility to focus on fostering and strengthening a local or regional community. This is a formidable challenge because congregations may be separated by great distances, even state or provincial boundaries.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

By simply being recognized as a level-minded caring Christian person who has morals.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Romans 12:12 “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (NIV). This is my confirmation verse, given to me by a pastor who had a vision for how I should live and sent me into the world.

Nominees for Court of Adjudication

THE REV. DR. GEORGE E. BLACK

Foresthill, California



Congregational Membership: Our Savior Lutheran Church
(Auburn, California)

Occupation: Pastor

Basic Biographical Information: I have been married to my wife of 53 years to Julie K. Black and have three children. Amy Winkelman, whose husband is the principal-CEO of Concordia Lutheran School in China; Andrew Black, who works for the State of California; and Kathryn Black, who is a first-grade teacher. I have two grandchildren, Joshua Winkelman and Elizabeth Winkelman

I earned my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Colorado. I earned both my Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. I took a graduate class on Family Therapy at Casper College. I have attended a multitude of continuing education programs, conferences and workshops.

I love golf, hiking, and being with family.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I answered six calls to congregations that were splitting or divided, suffering from the efforts of poor pastoral leadership, fights between pastors and laity, between teaming ministries and dual pastors and congregational issues between the laity. One of the reasons I was called to the congregations was to lead and serve them as a healing pastor. It became apparent that God blessed me with the special skill set to be just that – a healing pastor.

Once I was asked to chair a committee investigating sexual issues involving a pastor and recovering drug addicts through his congregation's ministry to them. When I asked my district president (synod bishop) why me, he replied, "My two

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predecessors both recommended you (me) because you are a straight shooter!" He knew I would be fair, just, righteous, and not swayed by the "good old boy fraternity" of pastors. He knew I would lead the investigation in a biblical, God pleasing manner.

Twice I was asked to work with disputes and charges involving a seminary president and a pastor, and a seminary president and the chairman of the regents.

As a circuit counselor for LCMS (dean), I had to work to reconcile issues between a pastor and a congregation as well as a situation that involved conflict between two pastors serving the same church. I also taught a Christian Ethics class for Concordia University Ann Arbor at their Utica, Michigan, extension program in 2002.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Patience, good listening skills, wisdom and a firm understanding of biblical Law and Gospel (emphasis on the Gospel). In my 40 years of parish ministry, I have been called to six different congregations divided, hurting and struggling because of poor pastoring, pastor-member conflicts or members fighting with other members. God has blessed me with the skills of listening and spiritual insight. The Lord has blessed me with the ability to identify the issues or problems behind the issues, and to encourage them to follow the biblical insights and to apply those insights to solving the issues.

Many in these congregations were hurt, angry, unforgiving or harboring shame and guilt. I have found it is most important to listen and to show kindness, love, and sometimes firmness, in leading those hurting, struggling, and uncompromising, to a biblical pleasing resolution. Be it issues involving families, marriages, decisions in life, issues between former pastors and congregations, or between two pastors, leading them as God's children to understand and accept the guidance, love, and Word of our Savior. I really do not counsel; I give biblical advice and direction.

God and experience have taught me to never assume who is in the right or wrong without hearing from all involved and seeing all the evidence. I am constantly in prayer as I work with those involved before making a decision. God has given me passion, love and a pastor's heart for those in a crisis. Remember, the devil is the real spiritual enemy behind conflict. He will try to use conflict to destroy a marriage,

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family, ministry or congregation. With Jesus, we can overcome and resolve conflict in a way that blesses those involved and glorifies God.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

Traditional, blended and contemporary worship formats and music are important for members of all ages. We need to be open and creative as we serve both existing members and potentially new members. We need to explain our Lutheran liturgies to current and new members to help them develop a great understanding and appreciation for our liturgical worship. Our hymns and spiritual songs, traditional and contemporary, must convey the Gospel, be easy to sing, and uplifting for the spirit. I would suggest the NALC either consider a new hymnal or a supplement that would offer a variety of Gospel and contemporary hymns that relate to all the seasons in the liturgical year. For example: *The Lamb, The Lamb* by Gerald Coleman.

As our culture becomes more worldly, we need to prepare our clergy and laity to be good listeners, evangelists and apologists. We need to develop workshops, Bible studies and sermons that encourage members to become more biblically literate and show them how to effectively engage with members of our secular culture. Our members need to be encouraged to engage our culture in a way that is kind and gentle, firm but understanding and with Christ-like love for all people. Whether we win them at that moment or not, we are still planting the seeds of faith. We must trust that the Holy Spirit will take it from there.

The NALC needs to continue to encourage and recruit spiritual-minded men and women to become pastors. We must creatively find the resources to reduce the cost for seminary training. We should continue to be open to finding new avenues to ordination outside of the traditional four-year model. As one who three years ago was accepted into the NALC and on its clergy roster, I would like to have more opportunities to meet, network and grow in friendship with my fellow NALC pastors.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I would like to see each congregation, regardless of its size, partnering with one NALC mission at either the local, regional, national or international level. The more involved, the greater the ownership. Congregations could creatively involve

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member of all ages, raise funds and build Christian friendships with those they are ministering to.

I hope that in the coming years every congregation would add to its budget, no matter how large an amount or how small, a designated amount for seminary support and tuition assistance.

I would like to see every mission district have a one meeting per quarter, where, using the variety of digital and computer resources and technology, the pastors could meet virtually or in person for prayer, Bible study and discussion of issues or concerns important to their ministry context.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

1. Seminary recruitment and funding.
2. Continuing education opportunities for pastors and other church professionals.
3. Raise up a biblically literate laity.
4. Discipleship, evangelism and Bible study programs in our congregations.
5. Develop ministry partnerships with other overseas Lutheran denominations.
6. Continue to expand our disaster response ministry.
7. As the years pass from the initial theological issues that led to the formation of the NALC, we need to consider new ways to bring about an identify purpose and oneness, and to reach out to those who have not experienced the initial driving force that pulled us together. We need a new reason, a new thrust to attract the lost sheep in our communities. Our four Core Values are a good starting point.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

First, continue to encourage each member to live out his or her faith as a child of God. Just as it is important to hear the voice of our Shepherd, so to we are called to live out our lives as our Shepherd's voice directs us.

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Second, live our lives in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount in our relations and interaction with others including family members, neighbors, coworkers, fellow students, or those we casually meet shopping, in restaurants, at sporting events or wherever we interact with others. Be a witness to our faith in Jesus through the words we speak, the joy we experience, our calmness in a crisis, the kindness we show to those who have chosen a life without Jesus and the fearless way we deal with death.

As Peter encourages us, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have" (1 Peter 3:15 NIV).

As Luther once said, "We are to be little Christs." Paul reminds us that in life "we are therefore Christ's ambassadors." Live a life that represents and speaks for Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

We're a Mission-Driven church when our priority as a member of the Body of Christ is to Gospel in Word and deed with the unchurched so that they may hear the Gospel. And then through the power of the Holy Spirit they may become believers and new members of God's kingdom. As a pastor, one of my tasks is, as St. Paul writes, "to equip his [God's] people for works" of ministry (Ephesians 4:12 NIV). That ministry is built around and on the foundation of the Great Commission.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

When I wake up each morning, I experience God's grace and kindness allowing me, at 74, to wake up and enjoy life on Earth for another day of service to Him in His kingdom. Before rising out of my bed I will read a verse or two of God's Word and contemplate how this portion of Scripture is speaking to me.

When I rise out of bed and go to the great room, pull back the drapes to our patio/porch sliding glass door and behold a most awesome breath-taking view of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (I live in the mountains). Every day I am reminded of God's creative power and love. These two attributes assure me that God will care for me, provide for me, and protect in this new day. I can face life without fear. I comfort, peace and hope knowing the promise of Jesus at the close of Matthew's Gospel and in King David's confession of faith in Psalm 139 are real and are an awesome promise of God's presence that gives me motivation and direction for the day.

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About this time, I am humbled to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and a petition to experience God's presence and for the opportunities to serve Him by serving others. I am a promise guy! I love hearing and believing the promises of God. To me, they are alive, true and powerful even though they have been given centuries ago. I live my life daily, not questioning or hoping their accuracy, but believing and anticipating God fulfilling all His promises given to me. What God promises, God fulfills! I have experienced this truth every day!

Whether I am preparing a sermon (Yes, at 74, I still write fresh sermons and do not reach into the files for an old one), worship service, Bible study, or a visit to the sick or homebound members, I learn new insights on God's plans, will and love. I get more out of preparing to minister to God's people, either in mass, small groups or individually, than sometimes those I minister! And no matter who or how many I share the Word with, I am experiencing God's faithfulness, presence, and His fatherly goodness and mercy as I see others receive the same from God.

I have found in God's promise to Joshua in Deuteronomy 31:6 to be very meaningful, assuring and comforting. This promise of God fills me with hope, joy and peace. Many times in my life I have experienced God's faithfulness in keeping this promise.

I know from the Word and from experience – God's grace, creative power, love, forgiveness and empowerment to serve Him and others. John 10:27 summarizes my experiencing God in my daily activities. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27 NIV). Listening to Jesus speak to me through His Word, as I hear His voice, I know I can unconditionally follow Him, believe Him and trust Him. It is so comforting and empowering to know that He has a deep intimate knowledge of me. Knowing Jesus' love, His power, His faithfulness and His presence, I can follow Jesus wherever He leads me.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

One of my favorite passages of Scripture is found in John's Gospel. John 19:30: "It is finished!" It tells me Jesus has done it all for me to be forgiven, to have eternal life, to have a living and vibrant relationship with my heavenly Father and my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If Jesus did it all, if His death freed me from my sins and restored me into fellowship with God, then I am free to live the life God outlines for me in Scripture.

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If Jesus finished the work of God's plan to bring to me the forgiveness of my sins, to enable me to be a new creation, and to give me eternal life, then there is nothing for me to do. I do not have to try to pay for my salvation or to attempt to influence God to forgive me based on what I do or give to Him. My debt is gone, wiped clean, cancelled, forgiven and forgotten. There is absolutely nothing that is required for me to do to have and experience God's love and forgiveness, Jesus did it all!

But now there is something I am called to do: to love and serve my heavenly Father by serving those in need and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each day I look for those opportunities to serve God. I no longer need to be afraid of anything in life nor do I need to be afraid of death. It is finished. The plan of salvation has been fulfilled. I am free to enjoy God's love, grace, peace and joy. Thank you, Jesus!

THE REV. JOHN MOFFETT

Ashland, Ohio



Congregational Membership: Trinity Lutheran Church

Ashland, Ohio

Occupation: Semi-retired Pastor

Basic Biographical Information: Married 51 years, two adult children, four grandchildren. I have four degrees: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Education, Juris Doctor (Law), Masters of Divinity.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

Currently, I am a supply pastor and a member of the NALC Court of Adjudication.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I am an attorney admitted to the Ohio Bar (Supreme Court of Ohio). I have been a pastor of rural and urban congregations in North Dakota and Ohio.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

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The impact of COVID-19 on attendance and the shortage of pastors.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

Maintenance and growth of rural congregations and the improvement of discipleship of NALC members.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Continued growth in membership, more mission congregations.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

See answer to previous question.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

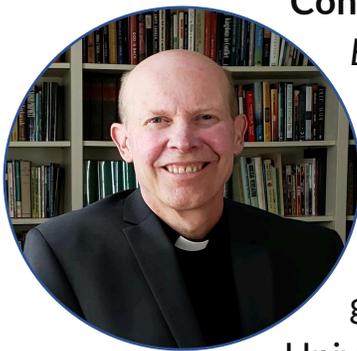
Daily prayer, service in congregations.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God." In 'stillness', I experience the Peace of God in my life.

THE REV. RONALD HOYUM

Poulsbo, Washington



Congregational Membership: Port Madison Lutheran Church
Bainbridge Island, Washington

Occupation: Pastor

Basic Biographical Information: I am married (Lynn), have three children (Erica, John and Gretchen) and two grandchildren (Sarah and Alma). I went to Washington State University (1975), Willamette University School of Law (1978), and Luther Theological Seminary (1978).

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I was ordained November 17, 1983.

Pastor Calls: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington (1983-1994); Port Madison Lutheran Church, Bainbridge Island, Washington (1995-2001); Assistant to the Bishop, Southwestern Washington Synod ELCA (2001-2013); Port Madison Lutheran Church, Bainbridge Island, Washington (2014-present).

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

While in the synod office, I consulted with congregations on constitutional and legal issues. I also dealt with the difficult pastoral and administrative challenges facing congregations dealing with pastoral misconduct.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

We must recognize that we are no longer a new and emerging denomination. We have now entered into a new period where we will be judged more by the quality of the work we do and the clarity of our vision.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I pray that the Lord might continue to bless our witness to Christ our Savior. I pray that the Holy Spirit might preserve and strengthen us as we face an increasingly secular culture. I pray that we might stand firm in God's Word and remain faithful to our Lutheran tradition.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

- Revitalize congregations and establish new congregations
- Strengthen the interconnections among congregations and mission districts
- Articulate a clear and bold vision for who we are and what we are about as a Lutheran denomination in North America

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

The answer to that question will be found within each congregation and Mission District. We are, after all, not only Christ Centered and Mission Driven, but Congregationally Focused. The most tangible action that can be taken is to listen and empower congregations in their witness to Christ in the world.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I experience God's presence through Word and Sacrament and through the love of family and friends and my beloved congregation. I begin each day with prayer and Scripture and end each day in prayer. I live each day as a forgiven sinner made new in Christ Jesus.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

My favorite verse is 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, no longer holding our sins against us. God has now entrusted us with the "the message of reconciliation." We are now ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us to the world with the message of the gospel.



THE REV. DR. DAVID E. SCHAFER

Waukon, Iowa

Congregational Membership: Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church

Waterville, Iowa

Occupation: Pastor Pro Tem

Basic Biographical Information: Happily married for 33 years to Loretta Kay Schafer, and have one adult son, Paul David Schafer. I enjoy golf, fishing, and telling Ole and Lena jokes.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I have served the church for 38 years as an ordained pastor in congregations in Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Iowa. I am a certified legal mediator and an experienced conflict manager. I am a past member of the Court of Adjudication of the NALC.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I believe that God has gifted me with cerebral palsy. This condition has made me more aware of the situations that people find themselves with their needs and their fears. I have been blessed with a pastoral desire to assist people to seek the dignity and justice that all of God's people deserve.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

I believe that the great challenge of our church is to be Christ's church in our nation and in our world. At this point in time, the voice of secularism seems to grow louder and louder. Such noise is destructive in God's world. More than anything, we need to hear and to listen to the voice of Jesus who calls us to mercy, grace and love for all people and their needs.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

The closing verse of Matthew quotes our Lord to go and make disciples. We call these words the "Great Commission". It has been my experience that far too many Christians believe in the "Great Omission" – in which we fail to be missionaries of our Lord Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are called to be faithful in all we say and do. In the next few years, our challenge as a denomination is to be faithful witnesses of the grace, mercy and love of Christ Jesus.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Our denomination must be a clear voice of the love in Jesus Christ. For a people oppressed under the burden of sin, our obligation is to announce that in Jesus Christ, sins are forgiven, hurts are healed, relationships are restored and troubled souls may find rest.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

Such a calling must begin with a daily confession of our sins by acknowledging that we are not Christ-centered and mission driven in our lives as individuals and as congregations. From such an acknowledgment of our short comings can we grow to become the church that our Lord calls us to be.

At the heart and soul of the church is to be the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. This means that we are to proclaim Christ crucified in all that we say and do. In an age that wants to only proclaim the "worldly" glory of Jesus, we must keep in mind that the glory of the cross is the suffering, agony and the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe that we have a deep and real need to hear and to believe the old story of Jesus and His love for you and me. As members of the NALC and as members of the Body of Christ, let us be challenged to make our words into actions to show that we are disciples of Jesus Christ.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Each and every night, when I go to bed, I pray by asking God to bless me with a good night's sleep so that I can awake in the morning so that I might serve God, His Church, and my neighbor and his needs. I realize that I always fall short of my prayers, but I also thank God for His forgiveness of my failures. I try to live each day experiencing and acknowledging the undeserved mercies of God for my sins. I also ask God to give me the faith to live a life that daily witnesses to God's glory to grant me the amendment of my sinful life.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

I love the words of Genesis 50:20, "Even though you intended to do me harm, God intended it for good". I have experienced the truth of these words as I have known personal setbacks, trails, and ugly situations in my life. By the grace of God, all that has been negative in my life, God hast transformed and redeemed them into great and wonderful blessings.

Nominees for Board of Regents

MRS. LYNNAE DOUGLAS

Export, Pennsylvania



Congregational Membership: Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
(Export, Pennsylvania)

Occupation: Stay-at-home mother

Basic Biographical Information: I have been married for 10 years to Caleb and I have four children (8, 6, 3 and 1). I graduated from the NALS in 2018 and in 2020 I completed my internship at Calvary Lutheran Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin. I currently homeschool my children and enjoy studying theology/church history, running, drinking coffee and catching up with friends.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I think being one of the first students to attend the NALS as well as going through the candidacy process provides me with insight into the inner workings of seminary formation. I have served in church ministry, and I seek to cultivate the "little church" that is my home.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I have been told by various people that the Spirit has endowed me with the gift of discernment and teaching.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

One of the current enticements for all confessional, traditional church bodies is to capitulate to the secularism of the broader culture in an effort to attract new or younger members. I think the NALC faces this challenge as well. Well-meaning attempts to be relevant could forfeit our distinctiveness in how we interpret and proclaim Jesus as the One in whom all of Scripture coheres, and as the One who

comes to us in His Word and in the Sacraments. Secondly, it seems we are seeking to pass on and form saints in the faith during a time when American Christianity has become dangerously intertwined with the psychology of self-actualization. As Lutherans in particular, we have the challenge and blessed task of proclaiming the truth that it is the external Word who comes from outside of ourselves, who tells us who we are and to whom we belong. Finally, there is an obvious need for more pastors to be formed. It will continue to be a challenge to identify and equip future pastors to shepherd our churches.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

My hope is that the NALC will be continually enthralled by the beauty of Jesus Christ, that we will trust that Christ crucified for us is our message, and He alone is inherently attractive. I pray that we will be clothed in his humility as His Spirit leads us to participate in His Father's business of baptizing, making disciples, and teaching all that he commanded.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

I think recovering a robust form of catechesis must be a chief priority, for young and old alike. I think the NALC could potentially join with our ecumenical partners to form primary schools that offer rich, classical education taught in a distinctly Christian way. I think this may also be a way to start raising up new generations of future pastors.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

Every time we gather and encounter Jesus by faith in the eucharistic assembly, we are living out this Christ-Centered mission. Thanks be to God he wills to be in our midst. In support of obeying the command of God to baptize, make disciples and receive the sacrament when we gather together, I think continuing to equip congregations with catechetical materials that can be used at various times and in various settings throughout the week could strengthen our church life and provide

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for greater longing to encounter Christ each day in the Scriptures and when we gather together corporately.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I experience God's call to daily return to my baptism most especially when I see myself falling short of His glory in my vocation as a mother. I encounter God in the Scriptures each day and in the morning prayer liturgy I do with my children. It strengthens my faith and invigorates my imagination to hear their questions and see Christ's words often before my eyes, that "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." I am also unimaginably blessed by my husband who delights in contemplating and rejoicing in Christ with me.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)— "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." It is a wonder to me that the Lord of all creation makes Himself known to us. He does not leave us to guess at that which gives life but provides all that we need to satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts. He made us for Himself and knows His presence is our source of true, pure joy and pleasure.

REV. DR. STEPHANE M. KALONJI

Rosenberg, Texas



Congregational Membership: St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Rosenberg, Texas)

Occupation: Pastor

Basic Biographical Information: I am married. My wife Michele and I have three daughters, Christina (22), Monique (16) and Stephanie (12). After doing undergraduate studies in philosophy, in my native Zaire (Congo DRC), I received a scholarship to do graduate studies in Chicago, Illinois. My academic journey has led to the following degrees:

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- Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from a joint program of the Lutheran School of Theology and Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois (2002).
- Master of Arts (M.A.) in Humanities – Philosophy and Ancient Civilizations: American Public University, Charles Town, West Virginia (2009).
- Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in Missions: Carolina University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina (2017).

Beside my parish ministry, I have taught humanities as an adjunct professor at colleges in Illinois, North Carolina and Texas. I enjoy reading, writing, jogging and going on road trips.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I was ordained on June 5, 2005 and have served three congregations in Chicago, North Carolina and Texas, for nearly 17 years. I chaired the Missions Team of the Carolinas Mission Region for three years and I served on the Missions Team of the Texas Mission Region for three years. I am the co-founder of Congo Mission International, Inc. through which I have been going on an annual mission trip to Congo DRC for more than 10 years. I am in my sixth year of service on the NALC Candidacy Committee. I have published three Bible study manuals through Sola Publishing, and self-published through 48-Hour Books, a booklet titled "My Pet Prayer Book."

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

Over the course of my ministry, a passion for the Great Commission has always consumed me and guided my undertakings. This gift of evangelism, coupled with my love of learning and teaching, fuels both my local ministry and global mission work.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

I am proud of our church body for the way we have addressed the challenges we have faced as a "young" Lutheran body. While a growing church, we have succeeded at serving without a heavy bureaucracy. We have also found a way of training our future pastors without burdening ourselves with a seminary building of our own. We face the challenge of continually adjusting our structure to best serve. We also need

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to pray more and do more to raise pastors, deacons, missionaries and commissioned lay leaders.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I hope that in addition to raising pastors and various church workers, we will also raise the necessary funds to support their education, so each man or woman who receives a call in our congregations or who is deployed for mission work can serve without the burden of a student loan.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

For the lack of a better term, "raising" pastors and church workers. Providing the necessary support to our seminarians. Educating congregations on the need for and benefits of church mergers. Exploring mission partnerships with confessional Lutheran church bodies in the French speaking world.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

There are at least two tangible actions that our congregations can take in response to this question. First, like the first Christian community, devote themselves "to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42, ESV). Second, to go out, under and with the authority of Christ Jesus, and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:16-20, ESV).

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

I experience God active in my daily life as I live with the assurance of salvation by God's grace through faith in Christ, the faith that the Holy Spirit worked in me. This part is the best because there is nothing I can do about it; it's been done by Christ Jesus who died for me. The second part is the daily challenge to live out my faith in my vocation as a husband, a parent, a pastor, a teacher, etc. I do neither one of these as I ought to do. Yet, through the awareness I have of my sinfulness, my imperfect commitment to prayer, subscription to the authority of God's Word, service to

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others out of my faith in Christ, God daily gives me evidence of His working in and through me.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Romans 10:13-15: For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news" (ESV). This Scripture passage I used on my ordination invitation cards 17 years ago continues to be one of my favorite Scripture passages because I find it to articulate a key element of the Christian doctrine and the importance of mission. It proclaims our salvation through faith in Christ; and it also calls us to "mission", to preach the good news so that by hearing it people may believe, and in believing, they may be saved.

MR. ROGER WEYERSBERG

Owosso, Michigan



Congregational Membership: Redeemer Lutheran Church
(Owosso, Michigan)

Occupation: Instrumental and Vocal Music Educator; retired

Basic Biographical Information: I have been married to Nadine Weyersberg for 47 years. We have three children and two grandchildren. I have a Bachelor of Music degree from Michigan State University (1973). I continued studies at Michigan State University, Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University and VanderCook College.

I have been a director of music at Ovid-Elsie Area Schools for 30 years, a low brass professor at Saginaw Valley State University for 12 years, and a conductor at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp for 17 years.

I enjoy camping, traveling with my wife and spending time with my children and grandchildren.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

I have been a member of ALC, LCMS, and ELCA congregations and now serve our Lord at Redeemer Lutheran in Owosso, Michigan (NALC). I have served as a musician, and as a VBS and Sunday school teacher. I have served as the Call Committee chair through three call cycles, church council president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, congregational life co-chair and one partial term on the NALS Board of Regents. I currently serve as one of six homilists while we are in a pastoral vacancy.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I am a teacher, an educator who is focused on our Lord and Savior through prayer and study of the Word. I am privileged to find myself in groups; small and large where I have the opportunity to share the Good News.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

We need many more pastors to lead and guide our parishes. We need to be ever alert and uplifting to all who may hear the call from our Lord to serve in a pastoral capacity. We need to share the importance with all parishioners; to be observant and be on the lookout for potential shepherds of all ages. It is so important that we do not just sit back and hope that pastors are found; individuals who may appear to have gifts and talents need to be encouraged to seek discernment through prayer regarding what the Holy Spirit may be saying to them.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

I hope we will be congregations of light in our current darkness; to be a clear and uplifting voice that will cut through the secular fog that has become so prevalent in our society; a place where the Word is central, the message is true, and ALL are welcome.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

Helping the Body of Christ to not only identify their gifts and talents but to help all to use those gifts and talents in service to believers as they grow in their faithful

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walk, and to help nonbelievers to discover and believe that God the Father indeed, sent His only Son so that we might be with Him forever.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

We together must be focused on action in service to our own parishes, our communities, our states and of course our country and the world around us. It is imperative that we focus on what we can and should do in service through prayer, discernment and then band together to take action to meet the needs. We must not succumb to hopelessness, but rather with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the love of Jesus be the hands that can help change the world.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

Every day begins with prayer. Every day, I am blessed to see and interact with people: children, teenagers, young adults, mature adults in my capacity as a Christian, a scholarship representative for a music camp, as well as a seasonal entertainer. Every day I have the opportunity to share anew the Good News of Jesus Christ; sometimes in a clear and focused discussion, sometimes through the reading of a story, and sometimes I have to be a little more subtle with smaller steps. I am blessed and privileged with the opportunity to serve in so many capacities.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

Matthew 28:19-20 – "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This says so much for me. The mission is clear – the promise is eternal. I give thanks every day for what He has done for me; what He has done for us.

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MR. RICHARD JANSAK

Hendersonville, North Carolina



Congregational Membership: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
(Gastonia, North Carolina)

Occupation: Retired

Basic Biographical Information: Married with 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild. I have an undergraduate degree in engineering and a master's in business administration. Hobbies include the stock market, general aviation flying with flight instructor certificate and travel.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position.

The last eight years I have served as a lay member of the NALC Executive Council (EC). I served on several committees and task forces while on the EC. I prepared and received approval for several job descriptions for positions within the NALC. I also served on local church council as a member and president, established team and guidelines for local church expansion, and served several terms as Sunday school teacher and stewardship chairperson.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I believe the Lord has given me several gifts and skills, including the following: ability to clarify group mission and task objectives, define mission success, create the necessary organization and presenting solutions. Over the years I have been able to use innovation and creativity to move organizations beyond preconceived boundaries. I pray that I will be able to benefit the NALS Board of Regents with these gifts and skills.

What challenges do you see facing the NALC over the next few years?

The NALC is not immune from challenges facing churches today, falling attendance, retiring pastors, aging congregations and a culture that is moving away from traditional Christian values. These directions have created stress and anxiety within

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the local churches and within the clergy population. Within these challenges the NALC and the Seminary, specifically, must create and implement a strategy to accomplish their stated objective of 300 new pastors within the coming 10 years.

What hopes do you have for the mission of the NALC over the next few years?

The NALC is transitioning into a major denomination of the Lutheran Church. My hope is that the move to Dallas (as the new NALC's central office) will provide the benefits and efficiencies that will allow for continued growth with adherence to our four Core Values.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

The NALC's most important priority should be the creation and successful implementation of a plan to produce 300 new pastors over the next 10 years. Also, my hope is that the new position of area assistant to the bishop will help our bishop and church in resolving issues with our congregations and pastors.

What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Christ-Centered and Mission-Driven church?

The next few years will be difficult for the NALC and the Christian Church, in general. Christians have suffered from the beginning, but our Lord has sustained the Church. It is most important that members of the NALC live our faith in our day-to-day activities and continue praying for the church.

Describe how you experience God active in your daily life.

For my wife and I, God is an integral part of our daily life. Our relationship with our Lord has grown significantly over the years. We attend worship regularly, sometimes virtually. Grace is said at all meals, and we thank God frequently for His many blessings and challenges. We have a long-standing Bible study session every Tuesday with a great group of Christians eager to hear and discuss how to apply God's Word.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

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Many years ago, we were members of a Lutheran church that seemed to be moving away from the traditional Lutheran values we were familiar with. Although we were becoming more and more uncomfortable with what was happening, we did not take any action. Conversations with the pastor went nowhere. Then, in one of our Bible studies we read Rev. 3:16 (NASB) "you are neither cold nor hot. So because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth".

I felt this was a clear message to us to move and find a church home more compatible with our traditional beliefs. Shortly thereafter we joined the NALC.