

Women of the NALC

North American Lutheran Church



Good News



Chair's Corner



Kim Isiminger

March and April look different to each of us depending on where we live. While many of you recently experienced snow, we were enjoying 80°+ sunny days in Georgia.

We may experience spring differently depending on our location, but there is one thing we all have in common as we approach Easter. We have been given the gift of Lent — a time during which we can choose to walk closer to Christ and deepen our relationship with Him. We do this when we willingly take on a more disciplined approach to our life as a small sacrifice in return for His gift of salvation. Sticking with the seasonal reference, we might think of this time as “spring training for the soul.”

Even as we welcome spring, The Women’s Council (TWC) is looking

forward to summer and the 2023 Annual Gathering of the WNALC on August 8th in Oklahoma City. We expect to have a full day of fellowship, fun and spiritual growth, and we hope that you will plan to join us! During the day we will conduct business and meet the candidates running for the open WNALC council positions. Delegates will vote to elect our new council members for the 2023-2025 term. Attendees will hear from speakers

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bringing us news and updates from around the NALC. It is early in the process so I can't give away too many details, but we are excited about some of the things that are in the works and we will have more news to share soon!

We are also excited to report that we will again offer ten \$800 scholarships to help defray the cost of attending. We encourage any woman who would like to attend but finds the cost of the trip prohibitive to consider applying for a scholarship. First consideration will be given to first-time scholarship recipients. We will announce on our Facebook group (WNALC-Women of the NALC) and website (wnalc.org) when the scholarship applications are available.



Consider Serving...

One of the most important things we do at the Annual Gathering is ensure we continue to have an active and dedicated council. The council is made up of everyday women who have heart for women's ministry and a willingness to be a resource for the women of the North American Lutheran Church. We will be electing three council members this year. Two of the seats will be open as the members have reached the end of their terms. We also have one council member who will be running for re-election. There is no limit to the number of candidates we can have on our slate, but as you know it is much better to have too many candidates than too few,

The council meets in person one time each fall for a planning retreat and monthly via Zoom for scheduled meetings. Please prayerfully consider whether you are feeling the call to be a part of this ministry. For me, it has been a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual growth, and I will always cherish the experience. Please give prayerful consideration to running this year.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for council or want to know more about what is involved in being part of the council, please send me a message me through Facebook Messenger (Kim Isiminger) or by email at kisiminger@gmail.com.



Spiritual Growth

Rev. Salome Pathak



SEARCHING

Many people, especially our younger generation are searching for God. They want to know, who is this God that is talked about, called upon, and proclaimed. Yet, many have not come to know or find this God. It seems like a problem, both in the world and sadly, in the church.

Is there an answer to this problem?

Does the church have an answer?

What then is the Gospel?

The Gospel of Christ is the Good News about Jesus Christ, and the Gospel is the power of God for salvation.

When the life of Jesus is told or preached - when His birth, life, ministry, death, burial, and resurrection are told or preached, we have the Good News. Although the Good News may seem obscured by Jesus' oppression and His death, the Good News came to life or became clear at His resurrection. Jesus' life and ministry, his death, burial, and resurrection, especially His resurrection is the ultimate Good News and the very essence of salvation. What is salvation? Salvation is the deliverance from the power or penalty of sin. So, one could say, salvation means to be delivered, rescued or to be saved from something that is destructive for us or for our relationship with God.

According to Harper Collins Bible Dictionary, 'the term 'salvation' has lost its original meaning. It states that, "the word salvation is rooted in God's divine help, especially in circumstances where God's people face an adversary. God comes in and rescues and delivers from perils. Salvation also includes deliverance from other forms of conflict, especially relating to people's relationship with God."

The Gospel or the Good News is in direct correlation with salvation. In a nutshell, the Gospel is the essence of salvation. Mark 16:15 Jesus says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." In the language of Christianity, the God for whom people are searching is found in Jesus Christ, the one who died on the cross to atone for sinful humanity.

Jesus is the one whom Isaiah wrote about in the book of Isaiah Chapter 53 saying, "He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed."(ESV)

The story of Jesus' life becomes the Ultimate Good News including His resurrection. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation, and it is the essence of salvation for seekers.

People are searching for answers how to be saved from all kinds of things in the world that ail or afflict them. In other words, people are seeking salvation; they are seeking to be saved or to be rescued from something that is destructive for their physical, mental, or spiritual health. Everyone likes to be healthy.

What then is the answer for those who are still searching for God? The answer lies in the Gospel-the Good News about Jesus Christ, which is the power of God for their salvation.

I believe a person, who is searching for God, is like one who is lost in a vast forest or wilderness. He walks until his or her shoes are worn, his or her feet have blisters, he or she is hungry for food, and thirsty for water with no end in sight. He or she decides to look for streams of water between the rocks and trees of this vast forest. The irony here is that the stream of water is not lost, it is right where it is supposed to be in the forest. It is the one who is thirsty that has to find it. When he or she finds it, he or she drinks, lives and rejoices.

The Good News is that God is not lost, and Jesus calls us to God through His Gospel. When the Gospel is preached and received, the one who is searching for God will be saved from his or her wilderness whatever the wilderness may. And the search for God will come to an end. He or she will rejoice that he or she has found that for which he or she was searching.



Contact Us!

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Save the Date!

2023 Annual Gathering
will be held in Oklahoma
City this August.
Please watch the WNALC
newsletter, website, &
Facebook for information
on how to register.

Scholarships

10 scholarships will be available for
women who would like the
opportunity to attend the 2023 in-
person Annual Gathering



Great Commission Society

of the North American Lutheran Church

And Jesus came and said to them (his disciples), "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:18-20 NRSV)

The Great Commission Society (GCS) is dedicated to carrying out the Great Commission that we have from our Lord, Jesus Christ. In Matthew's gospel, these are the final words spoken by Jesus before he ascends into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. Here are the disciples' marching orders. They are also our marching orders as Christ's "disciple making disciples" today:

- Make disciples of all nations
- Baptize in the Triune Name
- Teach others as Jesus has taught us to obey the commandments of God
- Trust in Jesus's continuing presence

These are the elements that make up the Great Commission that Jesus has given us. The purpose of the Great Commission Society, then, is to carry out this mission. We aim to do this in several inter-connected ways.

Some of us are called to mission work. The rest of us are called to support them. We are all called to carry out the Great Commission in some way or other. Not everyone has the gifts or the calling to go off to remote places in Africa or Asia or to former communist countries to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard it. But some people are called to do that. This kind of calling often involves sacrifice and struggle. And yet those who do it find it exceedingly rewarding and meaningful.

Many of us have other gifts, including financial resources. We can help support those who are on the front lines of our collective mission. The money we contribute enables them to do the work that Jesus calls them to do. Together we can do more to carry out Jesus's Great Commission.



Congregations, groups, and individuals are invited to contribute money on a regular basis to the Great Commission fund. This fund is used to help support the mission work of the NALC by providing grants for the various types of our Great Commission work. Our Global Workers out in the field, certain global projects and new mission start congregations here in North America are all supported by Great Commission Fund grants.

Our NALC website has a Great Commission Society webpage where people can sign up to become Great Commission Partners. In addition to contributing to the Great Commission Fund, all NALC congregations are encouraged to develop an intentional, active relationship with one local, one domestic, and one global mission. On that webpage there are many vetted and approved ministries which need our support. Any of these ministries may be adopted through this webpage. I encourage you and your congregations to explore the Great Commission Society webpage to find a mission to support. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will inspire you to get involved in the work of one of these Great Commission ministries with your money and especially your prayers.

By The Rev. Carol Fryer

**For full article, click [here](#) are go to the full article.*



Giving

Please send donations for the WNALC General Fund and Mission Bank to:

North American Lutheran Church

PO Box 860565

Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

Make checks payable to:

North American Lutheran Church

and note on the memo line whether it is for

WNALC General Fund — or — WNALC Mission Fund



Please send any pictures or articles of your ladies doing God's work. We would love to share their good works here in our newsletter.

A Devotional from Peter



By Peggy Jording

In past newsletters, I shared with you that I do devotional plans on *YouVersion* app (cell phone) or on Bible.com (computer). Recently, I studied 2 Peter with a few friends. On day six we were studying 2 Peter 1:5-9, focusing on verses 8-9.

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective, unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. (ESV)

The 30 day devotional is entitled: 2Peter: Faith in a Sceptical World (sic) by David Burge.

“Some people in our churches will take Peter’s advice and earnestly cultivate the traits he mentioned in verses 5–7. Others in our churches will give little attention to them and pursue them not. Peter urges us with both incentive and warning to be those who do cultivate these traits – goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly

brotherly kindness, and love (vv. 5–7).

The incentive is a compelling one. If these qualities are ours in increasing measure (literally ‘abounding’), regardless of the nature of our ministry opportunities, we cannot help but be fruitful for Christ (v. 8). Under God, these traits prevent us from suffering two regrettable conditions – the first is being ‘unproductive’ (or ‘idle’, ‘inactive’ or ‘ineffective’); and the second is being sadly ‘unfruitful’ (ESV). Peter is implying that while all Christians have ‘knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (v. 8), it will be those who earnestly seek in their lives what God instructs them to seek who become active and fruitful in His service. Again, God provides all we need for life and godliness, and now urges us to join Him in that very pursuit. If you would love to have a productive life for Christ, then God is showing you here precisely how to go about it!

But the warning against spurning these traits is also confronting (v. 9). To paraphrase Peter, he might ask us, ‘Can’t you see what’s right under your nose? Are you blind? Have you forgotten the magnitude of your forgiveness?’ If the traits above are

he appropriate response to God's gift of forgiveness, then to resist those traits is not only inappropriate, but is showing a hideous contempt for our gracious Savior who cleansed us (v. 9).

It would be like an expensive gift given from a father to his child, somewhat acknowledged but left in its packaging and put into storage. No sinner who truly perceives God's gift of forgiveness goes unchanged. If you are apathetic in your desire for Christian growth (as so many of us are), rather than simply 'try harder', why not take a break to look back and to look ahead. Look back to the cross as Jesus bears your sin. And look ahead to the end of your life – when it can be said at your funeral that you lived an active and productive life in His service.”

I was thinking about a father giving a fancy expensive gift and the child never opening it or using it. Which led me to think about wedding gifts we received and not use. We got a beautiful silver covered dish in which the top was a swan. I thought about why I hadn't used it. Was it too precious, what will I do with it, what if I break it, how can I find time to use it, what does it mean if I get it out, and am I showing off if I put it out. I realized many of these

worries are similar to what Christians may do with their gift of salvation. They may not know how to use it, how they are to respond to the Gospel, and do they need to be part of a church to learn about Jesus. They may be afraid of showing off or being off or being different, not understanding the magnitude of the gift.

They may try to hide their gift so they don't get ridiculed by unbelieving family or friends. They may think they are undeserving of such a gift and pretend it's not a part of them.

Our job as believers is to nurture new believers, to guide them to studies, and to learn about God. We need to make contact and keep drawing them out. It is our job to help them unpack the gift given them from our Savior for the forgiveness of our sins. Once a sinner (all of us) truly understands the magnitude of this gift, then their life is changed! Using this gift of forgiveness will lead to traits of goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.

We need to seek out new believers, be there for them, and help them open their most precious gift.



March/April 2023

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General email:

womenofthenalc@gmail.com

Website: wnalc.org

Facebook group: WNALC-Women of the NALC

WNALC Newsletter Issue #2



Disaster Response

Ladies from Our Savior's Lutheran in George West, Texas prepared 24 kitchen kits for Disaster Relief.



click here!

for Disaster Relief
kits List





Disaster Response

Rev. Cathy Fanslau

One way to support the NALC Disaster Response Task Force is to host a STUFF THE TRUCK EVENT in your Congregation! Get in touch with Mary Bates at disasterresponse@thenalc.org or call her at 740-509-1132. It can be a really big event collecting:

- Bibles
- Gift Cards
- Quilts & Blankets
- School Kits
- Flood Buckets
- Healthcare Kits
- Baby Care Kits
- Kitchen Kits

If you decide to have a big event, let Mary know, so a truck to collect your items can be arranged for pick up. If you want to focus on just one item to collect, ask Mary what her greatest need is at the time you want to hold this collection.

Gift cards from Home Depot, Lowes, & Walmart are always needed and greatly appreciated. An event to collect gift cards is easy for everyone. Gift cards are available at most grocery stores, and they can be collected with a

collected with a box, or a toy Tonka Truck on a display and set up where people traffic is heaviest at your church. How much should people put on a gift card? We get cards with \$20-\$25 dollars on them all the time. But any amount is helpful! \$5 - \$100.

Did you know that a group from your congregation could volunteer to work in a disaster area? Women's groups, men's groups, couples, or youth mission trips can be arranged. It a great way to be helping where help is really needed. Getting an opportunity to help in person will impact you in ways you can't even imagine. Those in the midst of a crisis will be so thankful and God will use you in so many ways to serve others. Be sure to talk with Mary about opportunities to serve.

Don't hesitate to contact me if I can be helpful as you imagine how your congregation can be more involved in Disaster response.

