



# Women of the

NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Good News



### Chair's Corner

*Kim Isiminger*



Greetings!

The Women's Council (TWC) has been hard at work preparing for our Annual Gathering in Oklahoma City and it is now nearly one month away. I cannot believe how quickly the last year has flown by!

As the women of the church, we serve however we can by helping with ministry, missions and outreach, Christian education, fellowship and more. The goal of TWC is to support the work being done by the women of all NALC churches.

We strive to share news, information, and resources to support your local endeavors as well as to let you know of opportunities

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that exist to serve the larger church.

In the 13 years since the NALC formed we have experienced rapid growth and now have about

490 congregations. Our growth is a testament to God's faithfulness, and we are thankful that He allows us to serve the women of so many congregations. Growth has provided more hands to help with the opportunities that come our way, but it has also created a need for more hands to help the women's council support the work of the WNALC.

Below are some opportunities for you to consider.

**Join the Council:** This year there will be two open council seats to be filled at the Gathering. What is expected of council members? The council holds an in-person planning retreat for as soon after the gathering as is convenient for all members of the council and meets monthly by Zoom the rest of the year. The council leadership is comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Who fills which position is decided during a brief organizational meeting immediately following the Gathering. Also, each member of the council heads up one of our ministry teams.

**Join a Ministry Team:** Each ministry team supports a different aspect of the work of the WNALC. Do you have a particular area of interest or experience? Why not commit to giving a couple of hours each month to help in one of these areas?

Although serving on The Women's Council may seem like a daunting task, it is just another way to serve the church. It is no different from serving in my home congregation, except we meet by Zoom and to travel farther to attend in-person meetings. Being a part of the council has been a blessing. My life has been enriched by the relationships I have with past and present council members. We don't just share the work of being on the council, we share ourselves as we pray for and support one another in all the ups and downs of life.

We all have something to bring to the table! Please consider volunteering. If you want to know more, please contact me or any council member!

Blessings –  
Kim





## Who We Are



The Women of the North American Church (WNALC) was formed on Friday, August 12, 2011, at the NALC Convocation. We are a guiding organization, not a governing organization, with a purpose to assist the local congregational women's groups in their efforts in faith and mission, through prayer and evangelism, with the Bible as the ultimate Authority of God. The WNALC strives to link NALC women's groups together as a community of faith, hope, and love as they focus on their individual organization and to assist them in God's mission, studies of His Word, service to others in Christ's name, and fellowship with each other and other Lutheran women.

The Women's Council of the WNALC welcomes all women who are members of an NALC congregation as members of our organization. The WNALC exists to link the women of NALC congregations together as a community of faith, hope and love to enhance and facilitate the work within our local churches, larger church body, and our international ministries. We do not share the old organizational structure as before the NALC. You **do not** need a slate of officers sent in to the Council. We would like a point of contact, but even that is not a requirement. The Women's Council (TWC) and other volunteers are called to join with us as members in God's mission—studying His Word, serving others in Christ's name, and fellowship among Christian woman.

So as you can see, we are all members of the WNALC and we encourage you to share your activities with us here in the newsletter through picture and articles. We want to celebrate your hard work and ministries in this publication.





## *Consider Serving...*



One of the most important things we do at the Annual Gathering is ensuring 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](mailto:kisiminger@gmail.com).



# Spiritual Growth

*Rev. Salome Pathak*



## Jesus the Breaker of Barriers

Jesus' mission was to break barriers between people — whether they be spiritual, cultural, or ethnic barriers. We still have some of those same barriers today. Jesus came to break them down. He came to set up the reign of God and the shalom of God in Christ Jesus. Shalom means peace. The reign of God is God active in community, here now, Immanuel – God in Jesus Christ with us now. Jesus seeks to bring about the wellness and wholeness of broken people. His aim is to bring peace, shalom to lives, ravaged by sin, brokenness, worries, and sicknesses in a way that no other Rabbi can. In John chapter four, it indicates that there was an argument from some religious leaders in Jesus' day about why was Jesus making and baptizing more disciples than John. This caused Jesus to leave Judea and go to Galilee. I believe Jesus loved being in Galilee because the people of Galilee were receptive to him. Galileans were people who did not know the rules of the law. And even if they did, I do not think it mattered to them. This made them receptive to Jesus. The Galileans wanted to hear what Jesus had to say to them. So, I could understand how when Jesus got tired of listening to the squabbles among the religious leaders, he would want to escape to a place that was more receptive to the Gospel. There was one problem in getting to Galilee. Jews and Samaritans did not mix. So, whenever Rabbis or priests were going to Galilee, they would take a journey around Samaria, just so that they could avoid having an encounter with Samaritans. It would take them six days to get to Galilee, whereas if they were to go through Samaria, it would only take them three days.



But Jesus was about mission, he was about reaching out to people, not just the Jews, but to all kinds of people, hurting people, broken people, sick people, rich people, and poor people. Jesus was a missional Rabi, a missional priest! He was and is the breaker of barriers. And I believe Jesus had every intention to go through Samaria on his way to Galilee. And no doubt it was a refreshing change for him. I believe that Jesus knew that when he made the decision to go through Samaria, something beautiful would happen there.

On the road to Galilee just before getting to Sychar the road to Samaria branched off into a fork. And right at that fork laid Jacob's well – still there today.

Jesus, tired from his journey, and he sat down near the well to get some rest, while his disciples went into the city to buy some food. It was unnatural for any Jewish person or persons to be in the city of Samaria even to buy food. But Jesus' disciples went to get food in the city of Samaria. Something happened to change that. They were in the company of the breaker of barriers! Jesus had changed his disciples' way of thinking.

There was an aged old quarrel between Jews and Samaritans and Jesus' mission was to break down that barrier. This quarrel started when the Assyrians invaded the northern kingdom of Samaria, captured it, conquered it, and transported many of its people to a place called Media (2 Kings 17:6). The Assyrians brought in other people from Babylon and from other places to Samaria. The remaining Samaritans began to intermarry. So, the Jews believed that the Samaritans had committed an unforgivable crime. To the Jews the Samaritans had lost their racial purity.

Not so long ago, in the United States and other parts of the world, people were captured and forced to become slaves to others. And the stain and stigma of slavery still haunt many of God's precious people to this very day. They are still oppressed by the idea that they were slaves, by the mere color of their skin and by their country of origin. It was through no fault of their own, and yet to this day they are stereotyped and discriminated against even in the churches.

But the breaker of barriers was not and is not about race or racial purity. He was not and is not about the religious Jews or Samaritans. And today He is not about whether we are Black, white, Hispanics, Muslims, Christians or other. No! Jesus was and is about people, he is about community. Jesus



was and is a missional Jesus and Messiah, one who brought salvation to humans. One who reaches out to the bowed down, to the one who is hurting, and to the one who has an issue. And he trained his disciples to be missional disciples, to be about the mission of binding up wounds and touching lives in a positive way. He trained his disciples to follow His example and go into all the world and become breakers of barriers. They were not just staying in their own little circle of believers, or in their own little community, but to go into all the world and care for all people. Jesus calls us to go into all the world and care for those who are different from us, care for those who speak a language that is different from ours, and to proclaim to them the Gospel of Christ, the good news of repentance and baptism. And Jesus has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age.

*\*This is Pastor Salome's final Spiritual Growth article. She is leaving the Council as of August . We wish her all of God's blessings as she continues her missionary work in Jamaica.*

For those wanting a free resource for Bible study, Pastor Salome recommends : [Free Bible Study Lessons - 750+ Online Study Guides](#)



*Women* of the  
NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our new logos!



Please note our new email:  
[wnalc@thenalc.com](mailto:wnalc@thenalc.com)



## *Women of the Atlantic Mission Region*

### *Retreat 2023*

by Robin Harris  
Zoar Lutheran Church, Lebanon, PA

Thirty-five women from around the Atlantic Mission Region, ages 19 – 92, gathered on Friday, May 5 – Sunday, May 7 at Mount Asbury Retreat Center in Newville, PA for a fun-filled, chocolate-themed weekend.

The women used chocolate as a metaphor for God’s amazing grace and enjoyed Bible study sessions with their small groups (called Sweet Circles) to dig into the miracles of Jesus which included tasting various kinds of chocolate. We completed a service project which included sewing pockets and attaching a button to shoulder wraps which were then donated to a local low-income senior home. The Rev. Jill Stellman served as our chaplain and led us in the Eucharist on Sunday morning as well as evening prayer on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Some enjoyed an optional field trip to a local ice cream parlor on Saturday afternoon while others enjoyed walking on the camp’s trails or playing board games. We sang heartily around a campfire on Saturday evening. Of course, there was a lot of laughter, some tears, new friends, and lots of memories made – and none of us ate chocolate for at least two days after we returned home.







# Good Works

Women of Our Savior Lutheran, Three Rivers, Tx assembled 77 health care kits at their Mother Daughter Brunch.



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.

*Sign up [here](#) for the newsletter to be delivered to your inbox.*

# Operational Guidelines Updates



As Chair Kim Isiminger mentioned earlier, The Women's Council has recognized that our Operational Guidelines (OG) require us to meet annually. Since our meeting has always been held in conjunction with the NALC Convocation, known as Lutheran Week, we recognized the need to make a change to the OG, so that we align with the NALC. Our first amendment, Chapter 6 Meetings 6.01a, states that we shall meet annually. Because the NALC changed to a biennial meeting schedule, we feel the need to realign. This amendment simply states that we will follow the schedule of the NALC.

If Amendment 6.01a is approved, there are several places in the OG that have actions at the "Annual" Gathering. We have 23 conforming amendments that remove "Annual". Three of these amendments deal with fiscal points, to provide an annual budget (5.08g) and to provide a financial report (5.06e4 & 8.03). To be accountable to you, we have


changed "Annual Gathering" to *annually*. These reports will be part of the Chair's annual report, on our website, in our newsletter, and submitted to the NALC offices. Since we were already presenting amendments and need ratification from the women's groups who are part of the WNALC, we felt we wanted to address another amendment also. Amendment Chapter 4 Membership 4.02 is presented to clarify who qualifies to be a member of the Women of the North American Lutheran Church. We always understood that any woman who belongs to a NALC church were, in fact, already members of the WNALC and may attend our Gathering. Each church may have one voting delegate but may send as many women as are willing to attend.



*See  
Attachments*



# Council Members



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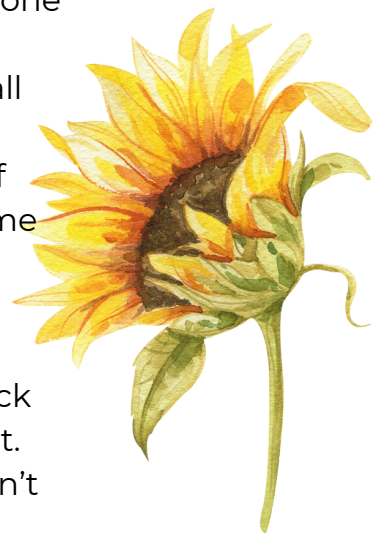
# Giving In Action



The Women of the NALC will meet in Oklahoma City during Lutheran Week, on Aug 8, 2023. Have you registered yet? Have you let your congregation know how they can support the work of The Disaster Response Task Force of the NALC yet? In Oklahoma City there will be a display of Tonka Trucks, where we will be gathering Gift cards from Home Depot, Lowes and Walmart. These gift cards of various amounts will be shared with real people who are facing disasters all over the USA. These gift cards tell the story of how the NALC reaches out to help our neighbors as they face overwhelming situations. No matter the disaster — hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earth quakes — the NALC will be there with emergency supplies, teams of volunteers, quilts, blankets, Bibles and gift cards! Our being there gives hope to those that are overwhelmed. - HOPE! Hope that they're going to be okay, hope that the church cares about their situation... Hope that Jesus is there in their midst through the volunteers, through their labors, and through the provisions they provide.

Your whole congregation can be a part of providing that kind of hope to those who are in the middle of a crisis they never imagined. I encourage you to invite everyone in your congregation to purchase gift cards in any amount, that you can bring with you to Oklahoma City and put in the Tonka trucks. I promise you that these gifts will have an impact on so many people who need those gifts and who need that encouragement.

Additionally, all women attending the WNALC gathering in Oklahoma City are encouraged to bring one of the Disaster Kits that the NALC stocks in our warehouses, so we are ready to respond to disasters all over the USA. It's been a challenge to keep our warehouses filled across the United States because of flooding and tornadoes. If everyone brings a kit of some kind, we can help our warehouses get re-stocked for hurricane season. What a Blessing it is when we can take those welcomed Kits to people who really need them and are so thankful for everything we share. Click on [here](#) to find lists for items for all the kits we collect. Bring any one of them that inspires you. If you just can't pull a kit together, please



pull a kit together, please bring a blanket, quilt or a Bible—all these things are greatly needed. The warehouse in Oklahoma will be picking up all the kits that we collect. Don't worry, if we collect more than they need, the remainder will go to other warehouses. The needs are great and we can all answer the call!!!

While the kit lists don't specify that you must add a devotion to whatever kit you are putting together, we will be adding this to our kit list in the future. A Scripture verse, a copy of a devotion that you really appreciated or wrote, a devotion written by a member of your congregation, a note from your pastor, or a personal note from the person assembling the kit will mean a great deal to someone who is in the midst of chaos and disaster. It's an important part of the hope that we want all our kits to convey to the recipients. I know you'll agree that these notes of encouragement will add a valued personalization to the kits that are shared in the love of God.

We can hardly wait till we see you in Oklahoma! It's going to be a great Lutheran Week!



### Three ways to access Disaster Relief Kits List



*click here!*



[bit.ly/417uLpt](https://bit.ly/417uLpt)

Enter this URL into your browser.



Scan this QR code with your camera app on your smart phone.



*\*The following is an article from a member of Our Savior's Lutheran in Georgewest, Texas. Her article is a wonderful invitation to all to contribute to the newsletter as the Holy Spirit moves you.*



## *Come, See*

By Amanda Terry



One of the greatest challenges I face as a Christian is discipleship. I know it is necessary, and as a follower of Christ, something that I am charged to do. However, having Christlike qualities is almost contradicting to being human. As humans born into original sin, Christlikeness seems an impossible task, and feels hypocritical. Being a disciple of Christ is equally difficult. Through trials, heartache, failings, and grace, I have learned that discipleship is within me. It is within us all. Come, see.

These two simple words are really all you need to begin discipleship. Turning the rest to the power of the Holy Spirit. Come, see. It is a simple invitation that you can share with anyone, just as it was shared with me. That is it. The seed you plant with these words can grow into something so much bigger than you. All because Jesus gifted us with the Holy Spirit. He is your guide in this entire process and journey. At my daughter's recent high school graduation, I sat and listened to the salutatorian of her class speak. He gave his class a phrase - why not you? I sat there just stunned by what

what these words triggered in me. He spoke of how his mother told him this phrase nightly. And how this simple phrase can be used in all aspects of life just amazed me. When I was asked if I would contribute to this newsletter, I asked myself, as I often do? Why me?

Now - with more confidence and a sweet gift of empowerment from a speech, I say - why not me? I am not a perfect Christian, and I cannot tell you how to be one. I do not yet possess the power of true discipleship or even Christlikeness. I am flawed. However, I am loved. As are you! And I am learning to let myself be an imperfect Christian, seeking grace that only our Lord can provide.

Come, see.

Discipleship begins here. Invite others using these two words - then let the Holy Spirit take over as only He can. It may seem hard at first, scary even. I have been there - I know. Yet - if we think of it as a seed that can grow even in the hardest of soils - it is worth a shot! And - why not YOU?

*Pray with me.*

*Father, give me the strength to*

*share your words with others who need to hear it. I may not know them by name, but you, Lord, do. Give me love and faith to do as you would ask of me, asking why not me? It is through you that I can do all things, for you alone give me the strength. Let me love as you do. In all my ways, in all my actions, with all my words - let them be a sign to come see. In your most holy name - I pray. Amen.*



## *Our Mission*

As sisters in Christ, we dedicate ourselves to guide and direct the Women of the North American Lutheran Church in their efforts to move forward in faith and mission, through prayer and evangelism, with the Holy Scriptures as the final authority in all matters.

## *Our Motto*

Connecting with our Sisters in Christ by Sharing God's Love

## *Our Purpose*

The purpose of the WNALC shall be to support the women's ministry within the congregations of the North American Lutheran Church with the goal of mutual support and encouragement as a community in faith, hope and love.

The WNALC shall assist congregational women's ministries in mission, study of God's Word, fellowship and service in Christ's name.

The WNALC shall provide guidance to congregations of the NALC who are forming new women's ministries



## *WNALC Mission Banks*

The Women of the North American Lutheran Church Executive Council thank you for your continued faithfulness in supporting the general fund & the Mission Bank Program this past year. About \$5,600 was given to our two Mission Bank recipients this past year: The NALC Disaster Response & The NALC Great Commission Society.

The Great Commission Society works to connect needs & resources within the NALC. These needs are for global workers in overseas settings, new mission starts & various needs of churches in the United States. Grants are given to help missions, pastors & churches spread the Gospel. One of our speakers at this year's WNALC Gathering in OK will be from The NALC Great Commission Society. You won't want to miss this informative speaker.

NALC Disaster Response sends relief items, volunteers & funding to aid disaster victims in the United States suffering damage from natural disasters such as floods, storms & fires. If you need help from Disaster Response, or desire to help, contact Mary Bates by calling her at 740-509-1132 or by writing her at, [disasterresponse@NALC.org](mailto:disasterresponse@NALC.org). Mary will be at our Gathering in Tulsa and will tell us about the work we help to support.

If you're new to the Women of the NALC, you may be wondering how to send donations to support the General Fund and The Mission Bank Program. WNALC groups in individual congregations or as a larger group within your Mission District (MD) are encouraged to raise funds for the National WNALC. If you take a special offering, or host a fund raiser to support the work of the WNALC, be sure to advertise your event to increase interest. You can be in touch with any Council member to talk about ideas and "how to's." Contact information is on the WNALC Facebook page, on our web page and in our bi-monthly newsletter.

Once your event is over, send your check, made out to the NALC to them. Be sure to make a notation on the memo line writing either, WNALC, General Fund or WNALC Mission Bank. These funds enable the Women of the NALC do the work that God has entrusted us to do.







**You're Invited to  
Lutheran Week 2023**

*Save the Dates!*

2023 Annual Gathering and NALC Lutheran Week will be held in Oklahoma City August 7-11.

Please watch the NALC and WNALC newsletter, website, & Facebook for information on how to register for each.

*Using our gifts to serve*

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"

1 PETER 4:10

*2023 WNALC Gathering*

August 8  
Oklahoma City