



# Mission (im)Possible



**NALC**

North American Lutheran Church

## 2015 Mission Festival

Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, Hilliard, Ohio  
Thursday, November 5, 2015 to Saturday, November 7, 2015

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# Welcome

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20*

In the beginning God had a vision — that His creation would be ruled, subdued and dominated by those whom He created in His own image. When God established His vision, He established the mission. His vision and mission were possible. When He sent Jesus to dwell among us, His vision and mission were possible! When Jesus shared the mission of God with His disciples, "to go and make disciples," the vision was possible! For 21st century disciples the mission remains possible!

If the vision and mission were and are God's, why do so many disciples experience overwhelming feelings of fear, anxiety, and inadequacy when it comes to making disciples? Allow me to disclose to you a revelation God shared with me when I asked Him this very question.

Let me begin by saying I am what some consider a 21st century wordsmith. I love words. I am one of those people who reads the dictionary and has an etymology website starred as one of my favorites. All of this to say, that when God speaks to me, He often uses word illustrations.

Now for the revelation: First, God took me to multiple Scriptures: Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37; and Exodus 3:14. After reading these Scriptures I asked God to give me revelation on what He was showing me. Even though I am sometimes slow to see and understand, God is faithful. He opened my eyes.

Why do so many disciples experience overwhelming feelings of fear, anxiety, and inadequacy when it comes to making disciples? Because too many believers are operating in the power of "I'm" rather than the power of "I AM." I saw the words as "IAMpossible" vs. "I'mpossible." With God, the Great "I AM," all things are possible. With people, things are limited to "I'mpossible," in which case the outcome is limited by human ability and therefore becomes impossible.

Our culture has been successful in developing an instantaneous, microwave, fast-paced attitude. Unfortunately, this attitude and expectation have carried over into the Body of Christ. We have tried to shorten I AM to "I'm." Too often the emphasis

of discipleship has been placed on what I'm able to do or what I'm comfortable with instead of what I AM is able to do and what I AM desires! By contracting or shortening I AM to "I'm" we have lost the power of "A," — the fact that God is...

- + Alpha — the beginning and the end.
- + Author and Finisher — He wrote the story.
- + Almighty — all seeing, all knowing, all power in His hands.
- + Adoni — the Lord of all!

When the will of the disciple is in alignment with the will of God, the Great I AM, modeling, mentoring, multiplying, maturing and miracles are possible — capable of happening, existing, and being true! When the heart and the mind of the disciple are open to the teachings of Jesus, the mission can be accomplished. When the spirit of the disciple is sensitive and obedient to the Holy Spirit, the mission of I AM is possible! Should you choose to join us in November and accept the assignment, fear not! Be strong and courageous! The mission of I AM is possible!



*YOUR MISSION SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO ACCEPT IT IS THE GREAT COMMISSION*

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# NALC Core Values

## Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

## Mission-Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

## Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

## Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servant-hood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.



# Mission Team



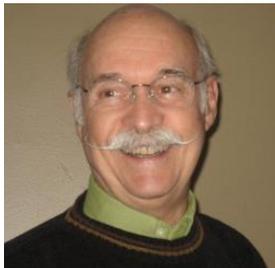
**Pastor David Keener** serves as the leader of the Renewal Team. Pastor Dave came to Christ the King Lutheran in 1996 after serving a Southeastern Michigan congregation for 11 years. His passion is preaching and teaching people about the love of God in Jesus Christ. He and his wife Joyce have three grown children and two grandchildren. Pastor Dave loves to read, travel, and show people pictures of his grandchildren, and not necessarily in that order. Contact him by email at: [Pastordave46@knology.net](mailto:Pastordave46@knology.net).



**Pastor Trina M. Petersen** is founding pastor of A New Thing Christian Church, Lithonia, GA, a ministry entrusted to her by God, focused on the deliverance, healing and wholeness of His people. Pastor Trina was baptized as an infant, confirmed as a teenager and served as an adult in the Lutheran Church prior to becoming an ordained pastor in the NALC. Being Kingdom minded, Pastor Petersen serves in the position of pastor, operates with an apostolic anointing, and speaks in a prophetic voice as she helps the people of God heal from their pasts, live in the now, and walk in the power and authority given to them by God! The message given to her to share during this season, "We are in a season of signs, miracles and wonders! A season when the people of God are not called to come to church but to become the church, to establish on earth those things which have already been established in heaven! If we would but believe! Jesus said, 'if I be lifted up!' Rise up saints of the most High God! Lift Him up! Be strong and courageous! Our ears have not heard and our eyes have not seen what God has for us in 2015!" To contact Pastor Trina, please email her at: [trinamariep@yahoo.com](mailto:trinamariep@yahoo.com).



**Mr. Rod Hackman** is the new leader of the Great Commission Society (GCS). He is a graduate of Purdue University and the University of Charleston, West Virginia. A professional engineer, his work at Rod Hackman LLC of Charleston provides process improvement and safety engineering consultation. He has provided such consultation internationally, including work in Russia, Saudi Arabia, The Netherlands, Morocco, and Alberta, Canada. Prior to forming his own business he worked for DuPont Chemical Company. Raised in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Rod has been working closely with both CORE and the NALC in the area of missions. He is an active member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church (NALC), Charleston, West Virginia, and has served as an elder, VBS teacher, and Bible study leader. In the LCMS he served as a Sunday school superintendent. He and his wife Elaine live in Charleston, and are the parents of four children and two grandchildren. For more information, please contact Rod at: [dreamnww@gmail.com](mailto:dreamnww@gmail.com).



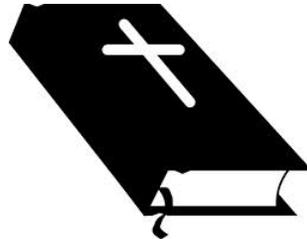
**Pastor Paul Borg** is the leader of the International Team and has served as a Lutheran pastor for 46 years, currently in Indianapolis as a part of CORE and the NALC. Besides the degrees for ordained Lutheran ministry, he also has another Master's degree in Christian Spiritual Formation and Leadership (discipleship) and a Doctorate degree in Evangelization for North America. He has been married to Judy for 48 years, has 3 children, and 10½ grandchildren. Pastor Paul does not want to miss this Kairos moment of history where there is a profound hunger for meaning in North America with the greatest missionary movement ever to us, from the global South (Africa, Asia, and Latin America). In his free time, Pastor Paul consults for leaders in the US and globally about moving people to be 1st century disciples in the 21st century. To contact him, please send an email to: [paul@lutheran.com](mailto:paul@lutheran.com).

# 2015 Mission Festival Goals

- 🌐 Provide Biblical foundation, teaching and inspiration for the vision and mission of the NALC.
- 🌐 Provide training for local mission teams, congregational teams & deans with regards to discipleship and building sustainable relationships in mission.
- 🌐 Provide hands on resources and tools that can be implemented in local mission districts and congregations
- 🌐 Provide intentional time and coaches that can help deans, congregations and teams assess their needs, vision and next steps

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?  
And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

**Isaiah 6:8**



*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them  
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Matthew 28:19**

# Keynote Presenters



**Bishop John Bradosky...** has over 30 years of pastoral experience with diverse experience in organization and administration. He has served in urban, suburban, and multicultural settings. Previously he has served as the NALC's General Secretary, and senior pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dayton, Ohio. He has also served St. John Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ohio; Trinity Lutheran Church in Canton, Ohio; and Grace Lutheran Church in Huntington Beach, Calif. Bishop Bradosky is a graduate of Hamma School of Theology at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pa.



**Pastor Henry Graf...** currently serves Promise Ministries in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Pastor Graf is the coauthor of [More Than a Story](#). He is passionate about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Following his most recent book tour, his congregation has been sharing his time with the larger body of Christ, including Youth Encounter events across the country, connections with the Danish Lutheran Church, and recently taking the stage at TEDx Fort Wayne.



**The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba...** currently serves as Assistant to the Bishop for Mission for the North American Lutheran Church. He is originally from Ethiopia and now lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with his wife and three children. In addition to academic study and ordained ministry, Dr. Buba participates in multiple international ministries through speaking, leading revivals, leadership development conventions, and evangelical mission events.

# Workshops – Overcoming Roadblocks to the “Mission” ... So It’s Not “Impossible”

## Are YOU the Roadblock?

**Presenter: Rev. Jody Becker**

Bethany and Bethel Lutheran Churches – Hawkins and Catawba, WI

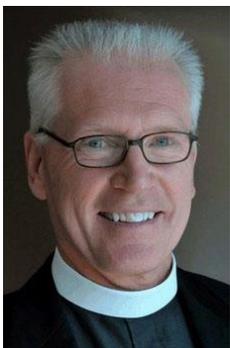


**Workshop Description:** As leaders, we tend to worry about the health of our congregations and those sitting in the pews, but how often do we assess our own health? God commands us to love our neighbors, but that can only be done if we know how to care for and love ourselves! The Sabbath is an important part of the mission — come and spend time resting and learning about one of the things God focuses most on in Scripture!

## Lutheran Disciple-Making Pastors

**Presenter: Bishop John Bradosky**

The North American Lutheran Church



**Workshop Description:** Lutheran pastors have many rich responsibilities on the mission: baptism, confirmation, preaching, celebrating the Lord’s Supper, marriage, and counseling — just to name a few. What does it look like to understand our rich background in Lutheran theology, which is central to the mission but not to lose sight of the vision of making disciples? Have you ever struggled with wondering how the call to Word and Sacrament relates to or defines making disciples? This is a much needed stop on the mission!

## Congregational Mission Teams

**Presenter:** **Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba**; The North American Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Ron Voss**; Servants of Christ Lutheran Church; Cedar Rapids IA



**Workshop Description:** Teaming up with Rev. Ron Voss, an expert mission planter and evangelist - for those who were unable to attend "Mission Driven" at the NALC 2015 Convocation, please join Dr. Gemechis Buba for an encore presentation as he explains the NALC's model for Congregational Mission Teams — the driving force to help the mission succeed.



## Congregations in Transition

**Presenter:** **Rev. Mark Chavez**; The North American Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Dr. David Wendel**; The North American Lutheran Church



**Workshop Description:** There are many jokes to be made about Lutherans and "change." Join Pastors Mark Chavez and David Wendel for a practical, hands-on-training. Change brings unique opportunity for the church to ask questions about vision, God's call, and the exciting adventure ahead!



## When the Mission Stalls Out

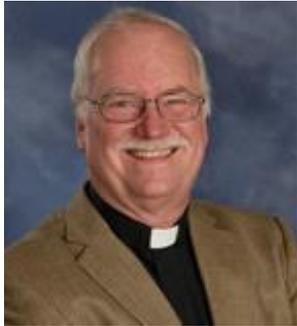
**Presenter:** **Rev. Brad Hales**  
Reformation Lutheran Church; Culpeper, VA



What do you do when you feel like you're running out of gas? When no one seems interested, shows up or wants to volunteer to help with the mission? Join Pastor Brad Hales to talk about the "when it feels like your church has plateaued" roadblock to mission, because Pastor Brad has great news: This isn't negative! God is laying a wealth of opportunities and possibilities at your door!

## Embrace the Mess?

**Presenter: Rev. Doug Gast;** Bethel Lutheran Church; Noblesville, IN  
**Rev. Eddy Perez;** Iglesia Luterana; San Pedro, FL



**Workshop Description:** Mission is messy, and sometimes that can feel challenging. Join Pastors Doug Gast and Eddy Perez to laugh, learn, and lose your heart to the fact that mission is really about relationship! Learn some practical tools for along the way because, while it might be messy and cause for some detours in mission, it will be the best thing to ever ruin your life!



## Mobilizing Women for Leadership

**Presenter: Valerie Hobbs**  
Redeemer Lutheran Church; Damascus, MD



**Workshop Description:** The vision is clear... Or is it? What is your call and role in the mission? Let's take a moment to step back and evaluate. We are thankful for the gift of "women's ministry" but where are you as a woman ministering?

## When Everyone Is Fighting

**Presenter: Rev. Dave Keener**  
Christ the King Lutheran Church; Evans, GA

**Workshop Description:** Every parent has that moment where they threaten to pull the car to the side of the road so the kids will stop fighting. The same happens in our church families. Join Pastor Dave Keener to wrestle with some of the tough questions so you won't have to call a time out for everyone in the car or the mission as you deal with congregational conflict!



## Leading Effective Change

**Presenter: Rev. Brian Hughes**

St. John Lutheran Church; Columbia, MD



**Workshop Description:** Leading effective change is an emotional business, especially in churches. The failure to address the impacts of change is at the root of most failed change initiatives. It is not enough just to "manage" change; people need to be led through change. Giving a congregation sufficient reason to pack up their tents to leave "here," travel through the "wilderness," and end up "there" — all while not losing your mind (or your position!) — requires certain competencies and character on the part of the

leader. This workshop will explore what is needed IN the leader and the effective skills necessary for leading a transformation away from a traditional Sunday school model and into a multi-generational, multi-national discipling culture. NOTE: This is a two-part workshop. Be sure to register for both parts.

## The Top Three Christian Pop-Culture Potholes

**Presenter: Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin**

The North American Lutheran Seminary



**Workshop Description:** Using our Lutheran heritage and the lens of Law and Gospel to help us avoid these potholes can make for a successful mission and "road trip." How can we talk about discipleship without slipping into dangerous discussions of cheap grace and weak theology that will end up causing problems in the long term? Join the Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin as she explores these ideas and shares real life stories and experiences of what this can mean. This workshop is not just for

those who have the Lutheran Confessions memorized — all are encouraged to journey down this path together!

## Reaching Muslim Immigrants in Our Communities

**Presenter: Rev. Dave Mann**

Upper Arlington Lutheran Church; Hilliard, OH



**Workshop Description:** As the Pastor for Internationals at UALC, Pastor Dave Mann has had a variety of life experiences that have led him to a passion for where he stands today. Though many countries dominated by Islam are closed to overt Christian witness, innumerable immigrants from those very countries have settled in ours. How can we who follow Jesus effectively share His love with those who also trace their spiritual lineage to Abraham?

## Awakening Lives for World Mission

**Presenter: Rev. Bill Moberly**

Awakening Lives for World Mission



**Workshop Description:** An interactive and enthusiastic session that teaches the basic building blocks for fruitful and personal world mission involvement – helping to call and equip congregations and Christians to actively respond to Jesus’ command to take the Gospel to all nations!

## Technology in the Tool Bag

**Presenter: Rev. Scott Ness**

St. John’s Lutheran Church; Grove City, OH



**Workshop Description:** Take advantage of the fact that your phone has more power and technology available than the first few Apollo space shuttles! Pastor Scott Ness will share how technology can be an amazing tool for both mission and discipleship, and make the mission easier for you as a leader!

## Mobilizing Youth and Families for Mission

**Presenter: Gary & Laurie Pecuch**

St. John's Lutheran Church; Grove City, OH



easier for you as a leader!

**Workshop Description:** An introduction to [faithwebbing.com](http://faithwebbing.com)! The NALC recently contracted with [faithwebbing.com](http://faithwebbing.com). In their fourth decade of youth ministry Gary & Laurie Pecuch have developed a web-based youth and family ministry consultation service. This session will highlight what [faithwebbing.com](http://faithwebbing.com) can do for your congregation in the area of youth and family ministry, mission and discipleship, and make the mission

## 20/15 Vision: Better than Good

**Presenter: Rev. Trina Petersen**

A New Thing Christian Church; Lithonia, GA



tools to help prepare your team? 20/15 vision is better than good...it's God! If you are ready to embark on a fabulous adventure in trusting Him, this is the place for you!

**Workshop Description:** "Your mission, should you choose/decide to accept it...." You have chosen to accept the Great Commission. Now, you need to know how to fulfill it. Do you have a clear vision? Do you know where you're going? Do you have a mission? Do you know how you get there? Sharpening your vision and defining your mission requires strategic planning and preparation. Your plan may be good, but God's plan is better. A God plan is a "now" plan that requires "now" faith! Need help finding your way? Looking for hands-on

# Exhibitors

Please take a moment to stop by the exhibition area located in UALC's fellowship hall. Each of the exhibitors is at the Mission Festival specifically and intentionally as it relates to the theme and purpose of the Mission Festival. While the exhibitors will be open during the conference during the entirety of Friday and Saturday, we encourage people to specifically take time during the catered Friday lunch hour to see how these resources can be helpful in your congregation and/or your ministry.

## **Awakening Lives to World Mission**

Rev. Bill Moberly  
[www.ALWM.org](http://www.ALWM.org)  
[pastorbill@ALWM.org](mailto:pastorbill@ALWM.org)

## **Call Inc**

Rev. Wendy Berthelsen  
[www.callinc.org](http://www.callinc.org)  
[pastor.wendy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pastor.wendy@sbcglobal.net)

## **China Service Ventures**

Rev. Jeff and Mim Nellermoe  
[jeffn@xmission.com](mailto:jeffn@xmission.com)

## **EEMN**

Rev. David Breidenbach  
[www.EEMN.org](http://www.EEMN.org)  
[pastordavid@eemn.org](mailto:pastordavid@eemn.org)

## **FaithWebbing.Com**

Gary Pecuch  
[faithwebbing@gmail.com](mailto:faithwebbing@gmail.com)

## **Great Commission Society**

Rod Hackman  
[www.thenalc.org/great-commission-society](http://www.thenalc.org/great-commission-society)  
[dreamnwv@gmail.com](mailto:dreamnwv@gmail.com)

## **Henry Graf**

[www.henrygraf.com](http://www.henrygraf.com)

pastorgraf@gmail.com

**India Transformed**

Gwynne Gonnerman  
www.indiatransformed.org  
ggonerman@indiatransformed.org

**Life Together Churches**

Rev. Tom Hilpert  
www.lifetogetherchurches.com  
revtwh@gmail.com

**Malawi Orphan Care Project**

Penny Ekegren  
www.malawiorphancareproject.org  
penny@ekegrens.com

**NALC Disaster Response**

Rev. David McGettigan  
http://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response  
standrewbythesea@verizon.net

**North American Lutheran Seminary**

Dr. Amy Schifrin & Fara Pienkosky  
www.thenals.org  
aschifrin@thenals.org or fpienkosky@thenals.org

**Navigators**

Bill Mowry  
www.navigators.org  
wjmowry@gmail.com

**World Mission Prayer League**

Rev. Didi Panzo  
www.WMPL.org  
dpanzo@wmpl.org

# Conference Schedule

## Thursday, November 5, 2015

- 4:00 PM Registration
- 7:00 PM Welcome
  - Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba
- 7:30 PM Opening Celebration
  - Bishop John Bradosky

## Friday, November 6, 2015

- 8:30 AM Late Registration
- 8:30 AM Plenary 1\*: "You Should Have Skipped This Session"
  - Rev. Henry Graf
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:45 AM Plenary 2\*: "The Day I Quit the Ministry"
  - Rev. Henry Graf
- 12:00 PM Lunch onsite (provided)

**\*Please note that each Plenary Session contains a brief time of worship, prayer, keynote address, testimony, and breakout groups.**

## **Friday, November 6, 2015 (continued)**

- 1:00 PM The (im)Possible Mission: Best Practices Panel  
Q & A on Discipleship & Mission  
Moderated by: Rev. Dave Mann  
Panel: Dr. Gemechis Buba; Rev. Dave Keener;  
Rev. Henry Graf; Rev. Judy Bangsund; and Rev. Ron Voss
- 2:15 PM Break
- 2:25 PM Workshop #1
- 3:40 PM Break
- 3:45 PM Workshop #2
- 5:00 PM Dinner (on your own)
- 7:00 PM Plenary 3: "The Stranger is My Brother?  
AKA: My Brother is Stranger"  
- Rev. Henry Graf

## **Saturday, November 7, 2015**

- 8:30 AM Plenary 4: "Never Sent Alone"  
- Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:45 AM Closing Celebration & Commissioning  
- Bishop John Bradosky
- 12:00 PM Dismissal

# Session Information and Workshop Notes

## **Plenary 1: "You Should Have Skipped This Session"**

**Presenter:** Rev. Henry Graf

**Speaker Notes**

# **Plenary 1: “You Should Have Skipped This Session”**

**Presenter:** Rev. Henry Graf

## **Table Discussions**

Question 1: What have you already said yes to that you need to finish?

Question 2: What is God calling you to say yes to?

Question 3: What do you need to say no to?

Key action item from Round Table Discussion Session 1  
(transfer to Action Steps on page 46)

## **Plenary 2: “The Day I Quit the Ministry”**

**Presenter:** Rev. Henry Graf

**Speaker Notes**

## **Plenary 2: “The Day I Quit the Ministry”**

**Presenter:** Rev. Henry Graf

### **Table Discussions**

Question 1: Where have you already been the hero?

Question 2: Where are you on the path to being a hero?

Question 3: Where have you been a guide?

Question 4: Where are you set up for success as a guide?

Key action item from Round Table Discussion Session 2  
(transfer to Action Steps on page 46)

## **Panel: The (im)Possible Mission**

### **Q & A on Discipleship and Mission Starts**

**Moderated by:** Rev. Dave Mann

**Panel:** Dr. Gemechis Buba; Rev. Dave Keener; Rev. Henry Graf; Rev. Judy Bangsund; and Rev. Ron Voss

### **Notes**

Key action item from Panel Q & A  
(transfer to Action Steps on page 46)

# Workshop #1

## Notes

Key action item from Workshop #1  
(transfer to Action Steps on page 46)

# Workshop #2

## Notes

Key action item from Workshop #2  
(transfer to Action Steps on page 46)

## **Plenary 3: “The Stranger is My Brother? AKA – My Brother is Stranger”**

**Presenter:** Rev. Henry Graf

**Speaker Notes**

## **Plenary 3: “The Stranger is My Brother? AKA - My Brother is Stranger”**

**Presenter:** Rev. Henry Graf

### **Reflective Questions**

Question 1: Where is your Jerusalem?

Question 2: What fruit have you seen? How do you measure success?

Question 3: Where are the battles you need to fight?

Question 4: If you’ve seen success in Jerusalem...then move on to Judea.  
(Likewise, if success in Judea then Samaria. And then the ends of the earth)

Key action item from Plenary 3 and Friday Evening Experience  
(transfer to Action Steps on page 46)

# Friday Evening Experience

## Notes

## **Plenary 4: “Never Sent Alone”**

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba

### **Speaker Notes**

Key action item from Roundtable Discussion Session 4  
(transfer to Action Steps on page 46)

## Plenary 4: “Evaluating Mission and Ministry Involvement (EMMI)”

### Overview

As your congregation continues to grow as disciples of Jesus and seeks to become truly “mission driven” it’s important to evaluate the missions and ministries you are already involved with. Just like businesses and nonprofits, congregations have a tendency to keep adding programs and ministries, while never taking inventory of or assessing what they are already doing. It’s so easy to fall into an “activity trap” and overload, which can lead to burnout.

One person twelve years ago had a passion and connection to the local crop walk, but they are no longer with your congregation, and it’s still on the “to do” list. Your church is on the list of the local Habitat for Humanity to refurbish a house every year. It used to be easy to recruit folks, but now it takes a lot of effort and fewer people seem to be interested. There is nothing wrong with either of these once-a-year programs/ministries, but it may be time to evaluate whether your congregation is really “called” to them today or should direct its efforts to other areas. We are not called to be busy followers of Jesus, but prayerful and committed ones.

According to Peter F. Drucker, a late 20<sup>th</sup> century’s leading writer and consultant on management, organizations should engage in “organized abandonment” on a regular basis because it results in renewed focus, energy and overall improvement.

The following couple of pages lay out a **three-step process** for evaluating the mission and ministry involvement (EMMI) of your congregation, with a focus on missions. In the process of deciding which ministries to prioritize or abandon, you will be asking yourselves questions like: What are people passionate about? How many people are involved? Which ministries help us grow as followers of Jesus? Do we have the financial and human resources? Who are our neighbors, what do they need today, and how can we show our love to them in word and action? What ministries will help us grow in obedience to Christ’s Great Commission?

Also, just because a ministry or mission area takes time, money and/or effort does not mean that it is ripe for “abandonment.” Indeed, it may be that the ministry that is most “expensive” in those areas is the one that God is calling you to, that most people have a passion for and the one that either already does or has the potential to develop deep mutual missional relationships.

Depending on the structure of your congregation, EMMI may be accomplished by the Mission Team. Also, you may want to consider other possibilities like the

Mission Team in conjunction with Evangelism, and/or Children, Youth and Families—or any ministry area whose focus is *outside* the walls of your church. The process will take time and several meetings, but we begin the journey today.

**EMMI Step One: Identify Ministries and Missions of Your Congregation**

This in and of itself will be a helpful exercise for your congregation or ministry area as part of a visioning process. Two-three people may want to work together to develop the list by communicating with ministry leaders and staff (telephone and email works great for this) and drawing from budgets, church newsletters, annual reports and the minutes of team meetings.

**EMMI Step One: List of Ministries and Missions of**  

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**Congregation**

## **EMMI Step Two: Time/Money Matrix**

One way to begin evaluating a ministry or mission is to understand how much time it requires as well as its funding requirements. "Time" can be determined in hours, days and numbers of people involved. You will need some accounting information for a good estimate.

### **Directions:**

1. Convene a group that may be larger than but include some of the members of the group in Step One.
2. Begin your meeting with scripture and prayer.
3. Have people silently review the list and place the number of the appropriate quadrant of the matrix next to each item on the list. Do this **without** discussion.
4. Proceeding down the list, each group member shares how they rated every item. Discuss differences and come to a group decision for each one.
5. Place all ministries in the Time/Money Matrix on the next page.
6. Study, discuss and pray over the completed chart.
7. The ministries in the top two quadrants (quadrants 1 and 2) are targeted for further consideration in Step Three because giving of time means it is something the congregation cares about. The thing about a passion or a true priority is that you will make time for it. Upon that assumption, these ministries represent what the congregation cares most about in real terms.
8. Take another look at the ministries in quadrant 3. Are there any there that have potential because they are new or because a small group of people are heavily committed? Or because they are part of a partnership through which deeper relationships could form. Discuss and pray.

***NOTE: Depending on your schedule, you may want to move tasks 7 and 8 above to Step Three—Gospel Shared/Effort Chart***

## **EMMI Time/Money Matrix**

*Evaluating Ministry and Mission Involvement Step Two*

<b>1. Time / Money</b>	<b>2. Time / No Money</b>
<b>3. No Time / Money</b>	<b>4. No Time / No Money</b>

## **EEMI Step Three: Gospel Shared/Engagement**

Another way to evaluate a ministry or mission is to explore its potential for sharing the Gospel through word and action while also looking at the number of people directly and indirectly engaged in it.

We get involved with ministry and mission not to be “good” or because we sense we “should” do it, but as an intentional, loving and grateful response to Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection. This is a very different reason than what motivates secular society.

“Engagement” may be the number of people involved on both/all sides of the mission partnership—including your congregation and the community/ministry being served. Involvement may include planners, those praying, on-the-ground service providers, people being served (mission partners), on-going relationship building activities.

### **Directions**

1. Begin with scripture and prayer
2. If you haven’t already done so, review tasks 7 & 8 from Step Two and agree on those ministries you want to move over to Step Three’s Gospel Shared/Engagement Chart on the next page.
3. Group members silently review the missions and ministries in quadrants 1 & 2 of the Time/Money Chart as well as any in quadrant 3 the group felt had genuine potential for growth, and place the number of the appropriate quadrant for the Gospel Shared/Engagement chart next to each. Do this without discussion.
4. Proceeding down the list, ask each group member to share how they rated each item. Discuss differences and come to a group decision for each one.
5. Place all ministries in the Gospel Shared/Engagement chart on the next page.
6. What have you learned? Some questions for discussion.
  - Look at those in quadrants 3 and 4. What value do they bring to the congregation’s mission?
  - Are there any new ministry partnership opportunities that may merit more focus and energy than some of those listed in quadrants 1 & 2.
  - Those in quadrants 1 and 2 are potential mission partners. How can you deepen those relationships? (You may want to refer to the Mission Light or Mission Deep Word Pictures to further your discussion.)

Where is God calling your congregation today? Developing a final list. (NOTE: This task may best be done in a separate meeting after prayerful thought.)

## **EMMI Step Three: Gospel Shared/Engagement Matrix**

*Evaluating Ministry and Mission Involvement Step Three*

<b>1. Gospel Shared / High Effort</b>	<b>2. Gospel Shared / Low Effort</b>
<b>3. No Gospel Shared / High Effort</b>	<b>4. No Gospel Shared / Low Effort</b>

## Mission Light vs. Mission Deep Word Pictures

Congregations may want to develop guidelines when evaluating mission ministries for funding and active ministry. Here are some that may be useful. Not all of them may be appropriate for your particular culture and context.

### Light Connection

Send a check get a letter/newsletter

Pray for

Around the world

Do good to

Silently serve (with a t-shirt)

Once and done

Only for adults

Only for those that go

Only volunteer for those that can

Evangelism = marketing

For a committee to do and decide upon

Broad scatter  
(the more the better)

Out of what we *should* do

What *we* do

Done by the church

Support because of the institutional ties

### Deep Connection

Have a relationship

Pray with

Around the world, within our state,  
in our town

Do good with

Serve and share why and  
in whose name

Return and build from  
(relationship building)

All called and gifted

Opportunities for all locations  
and skills/gifts

All are ministers and missionaries

Way of life  
(response to discipleship)

Corporate, team, and individual called  
to mission and mission support

Focused, intense,  
Intentional relationships

What we are called and gifted to do

Look to join what God is doing

Done by each individual,  
as teams, as church

Support groups out of personal  
connections and shared vision/purpose

## Appendix – Congregational Road Map

### OVERVIEW

It is the goal of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) to inspire congregations to be truly “mission driven.” First, what does “mission” mean? If we went around the room or asked people in your group or congregation, it is likely you would hear many different definitions. Obviously we look to scripture, and no one person is every going to understand it perfectly. . .because it is lived out through our congregations and our lives in ever-maturing ways as we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. For the purpose of talking about mission and to embrace this key element of the NALC mission statement by creating a team *Vision for Mission* this is one definition that may be helpful: **“Mission is sharing the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection, bringing the kingdom near, making disciples, together, following all that Jesus has commanded us.”**

In order to sharpen our focus on reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ it’s important to take a realistic assessment of where your congregation is at the present time. For mission teams and all ministry teams, a SPOT/SWOT analysis can be a very helpful tool. This includes identifying the *strengths/assets, problems/weaknesses, and threats* that challenge us. Did you connect with some of the issues and roadblocks the panel presenters talked about this afternoon? Are there other obstacles that face your congregation’s ability to engage successfully in Christ’s Great Commission?

This covers the S,P/W and T. But because the power of the Holy Spirit is available to us these can work for good and amazing *opportunities*. So, in doing a SPOT or SWOT analysis new ideas and opportunities present themselves. And for the purpose of this exercise as many as possible should be considered. Let the juices run and prune back as you get further into the visioning and action planning stage. Even though you approach the exercise from a personal or individual point of view, stay at the broad level...your focus is your congregation within the context of its immediate community, region, nation and world.

### **Strengths and Problems (20 minutes)**

1. Appoint a recorder/facilitator for the group and a presenter (they don’t have to be the same person) who will speak for the group when the large group reconvenes.
2. One person agrees to be the timekeeper.
  - Read along with the Directions.
  - **Quietly & alone**, each person should spend 3-4 minutes jotting down strengths and problems on notepaper. You can also jot down a threat if you like.
  - Starting with **strengths**, the facilitator will ask everyone to contribute one idea, going around the group several times, and writing responses on the Flip chart. Don’t duplicate other ideas expressed, even if you had them on your list.

- After a list of 6-8 have been generated, **cluster** those ideas that naturally go together (in other words, are really the same strength).
- Have the group agree on the **top three strengths** and “star” (★) them.
- Repeat steps 1-4 for “Problems.” Transfer the new categories to the larger template at your table.
- If there were more time, for each major problem area, describe what would happen if no one took action? Write that down next to the problem.

### **Threats (2 minutes)**

Can the group identify one or two “threats” (problems/weaknesses that will cause extreme turbulence and prevent you from moving forward)? Most “threats” are really problems. Note them on the Chart.

### **Opportunities (15 minutes)**

1. Study the lists of strengths, problems and threats. All of these can be turned into opportunities for ACTION. Be open and creative...this is NOT the final Vision element or “To Do” List.
2. Each person should take 2-3 minutes jotting down a word or phrase that describes future opportunities.
3. Then share with the group and cluster ideas. It doesn’t have to be perfectly planned out yet...it needs to be prayed about and slept on, so to speak.
4. The six or so ideas that get the most mentions should be placed in the stars on the template. You can state a concept and list a couple of components/or actions under it if you like....but not all ideas lend themselves to this.

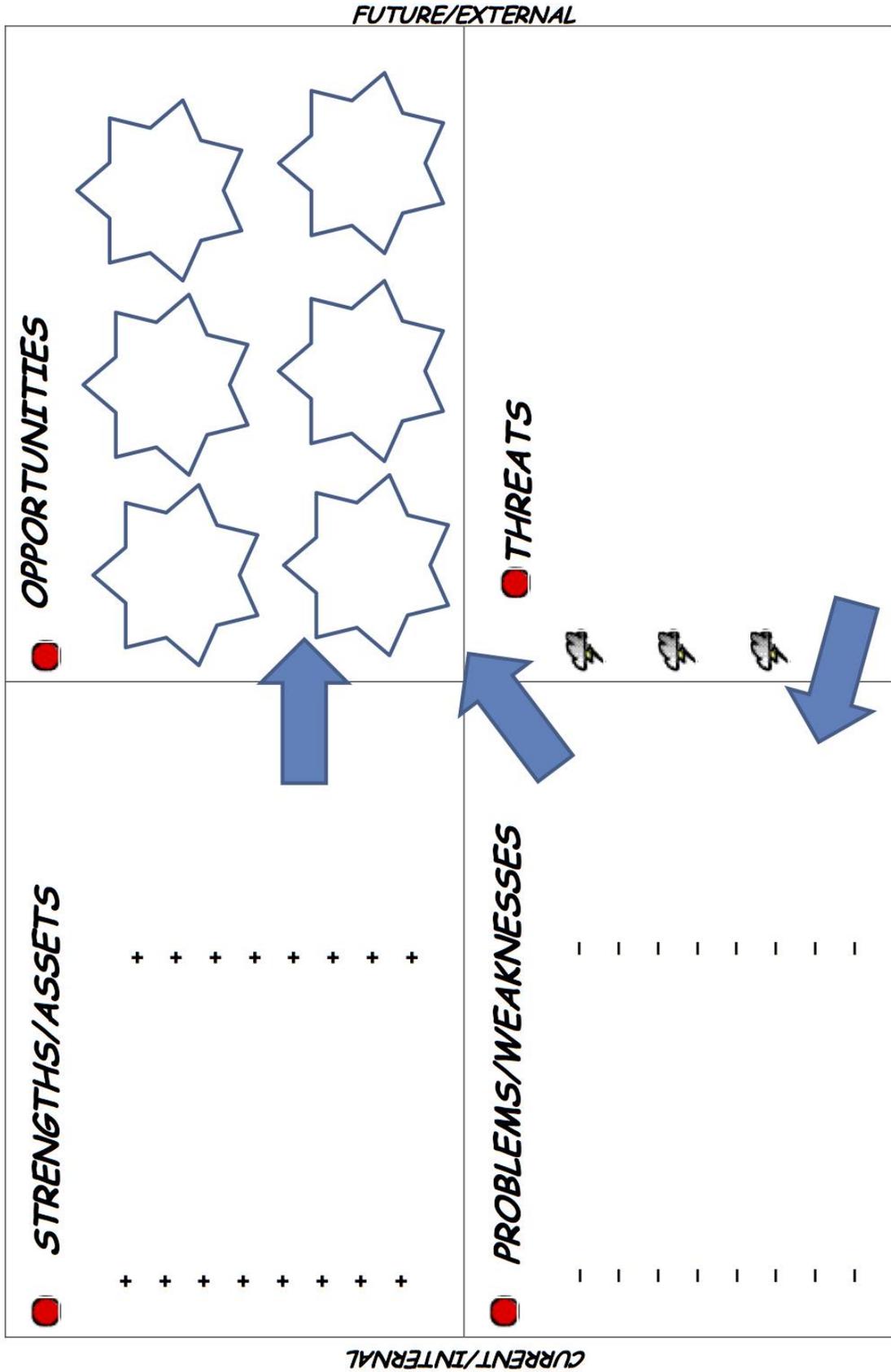
*NOTE: Even though we are not ready for it yet, some people may have generated a nice list of action steps. Save these for the next steps in the visioning process.*

### **Report Out (15 minutes)**

The larger charts will be collected and posted at a place to be announced so others can view. Next steps in this process will be provided at this time for continued work upon return home from the conference. Please agree on a scheduled meeting time to begin working on the next step and write it in your calendar. Close with prayer.

Congregation

MISSION DRIVEN! SPOT/SWOT for



# NALC 2016 Upcoming Events

## **Pastor's Conference – The Lord, His Church, and Ministry**

February 2-4, 2016; Crowne Plaza Orlando Universal,  
Orlando, Florida

Keynote Presentation: David Yeago

Other presenters: Dr. Jim Nestingen, Dr. Amy Schiffrin

\*Please note that time will be made for individual appointments  
with the Bishop & Executive Staff



## **“Holy God, Holy Lives”**

### **NALC Theological Conference, Mission Festival & Convocation**

August 9 - 12, 2016; Anaheim, California

# Area Map

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

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# Action Steps

Session	Key Takeaways	Action Items/Next Steps
Plenary 1 - Henry Graf		
Plenary 2 - Henry Graf		
Panel Q & A		
Workshop #1		
Workshop #2		
Plenary 3 - Henry Graf		
Plenary 4 - Gemechis Buba		

**Name:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Congregation/Mission District:**

# Evaluation

Please evaluate all parts of the conference for which you were present. Your feedback is important to us and will be used to plan future events.

Please circle the number of the response that best reflects your opinion in terms of experience and value.

	<u>Extremely Satisfied</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Extremely Dissatisfied</u>
<u>Presentations</u>				
Bishop John Bradosky	1	2	3	4
Rev. Henry Graf	1	2	3	4
Dr. Gemechis Buba	1	2	3	4
<u>Worship Services</u>				
Thursday Evening	1	2	3	4
Large Group Sessions	1	2	3	4
Saturday Morning	1	2	3	4
<u>Workshops (indicate leader)</u>				
Workshop 1	1	2	3	4
Workshop 2	1	2	3	4
<u>Facilities/Hospitality</u>				
Location	1	2	3	4
Facilities	1	2	3	4
Breaks	1	2	3	4
Cost	1	2	3	4
<u>Overall Rating</u>	1	2	3	4

1. What did you find the MOST valuable?
2. What did you find the LEAST valuable?
3. What should we repeat for future conferences?
4. How could we improve your conference experience?

**Please return this form to the box provided at the registration area. Use back of page if needed. Thank you for your response!**

# **Comments**

# Notes

# Notes

# Notes

# Notes



**NALC**

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North American Lutheran Church