



NALC *News*

North American Lutheran Church

June 2020

FIRST STEPS IN ADDRESSING RACIAL TENSION

Over the past few weeks, much of the United States has been in turmoil following the sudden and tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer who had pledged “to protect and serve” the citizens of that community.

It was an inexcusable and unimaginable event. It was witnessed by a few and has been watched by millions. It was troubling in its cause and tragic in its result. No rationale can cover it. No responsible voice can deny it. No reliable reporting or reasoning can undo what was ultimately done. A life created by God was unwillingly taken, and countless lives, as a result, have been unnecessarily and unduly changed.

As tragic as the event itself was, it was, even more tragically, revealing of something worse. For many of us who live our lives largely unaware of the ongoing realities of racism, it uncovered some of our deepest problems and prejudices as a nation. It brought to light some of the troubles and turmoil we hoped we had dealt with long ago. It unleashed some of those most destructive and deplorable responses to some of the most challenging issues we have ever faced. And the tragedy of the event will continue if the root causes of the event go unaddressed.

This is not a new problem for our world, nor for our nation. When the United States first began, slavery was real and alive. It took a Civil War to face and address it head-on. The civil unrest of the 1960s was closely connected to the racial unrest that was found in people’s lives and hearts. Even more recently, the death of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia resulted in outrage and protests in cities across the U.S.



FROM THE BISHOP

REV. DR. DAN SELBO
BISHOP

When Billy Graham was asked to identify the greatest social problem facing our nation, his answer was clear and direct: “Our greatest social problem is racism. Not only do we have continuing racism in our own country, but racism is a worldwide problem that has led to countless wars and conflicts. It is also at the root of much of the world’s injustice and poverty.”

It has always fascinated me how the events of this life and the fallen nature of our world serve to remind us of God’s ultimate purpose for us in Jesus.

At the same time as some of our world’s best scientific and medical minds have been working 24-7 to find a vaccine for a global pandemic, in the events surrounding the death of George Floyd, we have been reminded of an even more serious “virus” that needs a cure.

The root cause of every virus is sin. The root cause of every sin is a deep and destructive desire, in each of us, to live life our own way. It was there in the Garden when our world was first formed. It is alive and well in our world today. And it will be with us and among us until Jesus returns and God ultimately has His way.

Continued on Page 2

Until then, as the Church, we are called to offer living examples for others to see and to follow, and to offer a life-giving witness that provides real and lasting hope. As a Church, we have what the world does not have. His name is Jesus. We belong to the One the world does not fully know. His name is Christ. We also have been called to live in ways that show the world who this Jesus is and how much we and our world are loved by Him.

Knowing there are no simple answers to the questions we face and that no superficial responses will result in a cure to troubles that go deep, allow me to offer the following as first steps we can all take, as followers of Jesus, to address our nation's racial tension.

Pray. We can never pray too often or too much. Pray for God to intervene. Pray for the family of George Floyd. Pray for the Black community. Pray for our police officers, including the ones directly involved in this tragic event. Pray for our nation's leaders. Pray for race relations to be strengthened, and for all citizens of our world to acknowledge our common citizenship as children of the One God. Pray for those who have peacefully offered protests, in order that their voices be heard. Pray for those who have destroyed and looted properties, asking for justice to lead them to Jesus. Pray for our own hearts to change, and for God, ultimately, to hear our prayers and for our nations and our world to turn our hearts toward Him.

Confess. As much as it is always easier to point to someone else, that is not where the solution starts. It is the first step in any recovery program. It is the most important step in bringing about lasting change. Even if the part we have played is insignificant, even if we believe we have played no part at all, it is essential that we confess that we may have, even without knowing it, played a part, "by what we have done and by what we have left undone." There is a problem. It will not go away on its own. We need help. We need to acknowledge and confess our need.

Listen. This may be the most difficult step to take. It often is for me. It is much easier to speak and to offer counsel than it is to listen to and learn from and

accept counsel when it comes. I will never know what it feels like to be a Black man in this country. I have grown up with a calm and calming atmosphere and life. Before rushing to judgment, we need to listen and to learn and to do our best to "walk a mile" in our brother's or sister's shoes. We can all learn from each other, but only as we listen to what the other has to say.

Speak up. This should come natural for us as Lutheran Christians. Martin Luther spoke up when he saw abuse happening in the name of God. It is not wrong to protest. But do it peacefully. Regardless of where we find ourselves politically, we have a responsibility to speak up when we see things that are not right and to do so in ways that are helpful. We also have the reassurance, when we do, that we are not alone. God speaks through us. God will speak through you. But it will only happen as you speak up for what is right and speak out against what is wrong.

Love. This is at the heart of the Christian faith. This is at the heart of the Christian life. How can we say we love God if we fail to love others? The Bible is clear. We cannot. Love for God goes hand in hand with love for our neighbor. We need to work hard at loving those we see, even if we see in them things we do not love. There are no conditions in God's love for us. There must be no conditions in our love for others.

If we are to be faithful to the call we have in Jesus, as individuals and as a denomination, we must be faithful in our response to others by loving them as God has first loved us. God's love is always and only found in relationships. And relationships, if they are of God, are always and only rooted in love. Let us work to build relationships with each other, with our sisters and brothers of other races and colors, and to ground and root those relationships in Christ.

I invite you to join me in following Jesus, by taking these first and most important steps in addressing our world's racial tension: pray, confess, listen, speak up and love. Until our Lord returns, this is and will always be the calling we share.

In Christ,

Bishop Dan

PLANS FOR 2020 CONVOCAATION ARE ON HOLD BECAUSE OF VIRUS

Concerns resulting from the coronavirus pandemic have put plans for the 2020 NALC Convocation and other events of Lutheran Week on hold. The 2020 NALC Convocation is scheduled to meet Aug. 6-7 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Many people have health concerns that would make it difficult for them to gather for Lutheran Week. In addition, Pennsylvania has placed stringent

restrictions on public gatherings and travel, and the border between the United States and Canada remains closed to non-essential travel.

It is expected that some sort of online meeting would be held if NALC delegates cannot gather in person for the annual convocation. The NALC will provide updates on plans for Lutheran Week online at lutheranweek.com and at thenalc.org.

NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED AT CONVOCAATION CLOSE JUNE 19

The 2020 Convocation will elect two members of the NALC Executive Council (one lay person and one pastor) and one member of the Court of Adjudication to four-year terms and three members of the Board of Regents of the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) to six-year terms.

In May, the Nominating Committee announced the names of three pastors and one lay person who were nominated for the Executive Council and one lay person who was nominated for the Court of Adjudication. They were the only nominations received by the initial deadline for the committee to provide biographical information to members of the NALC.

The Nominating Committee has received additional nominations. They will be announcing those nominees and providing the supporting biographical information after the deadline for all nominations to be made is reached. Additional nominations may be submitted by convocation delegates until June 19.

Delegates are encouraged to submit nominations as soon as possible to allow the nominees time to submit the required biographical information to the Nominating Committee.

For more information or to submit a nomination, please visit thenalc.org/nominate.

NALC SEEKING A NEW TREASURER

The North American Lutheran Church is seeking a new treasurer. The position would begin on Oct. 1. Treasurer Ryan Schwarz will be leaving the position after serving the NALC for its entire existence.

The treasurer is the chief financial officer of the NALC, overseeing the receiving and disbursing of all funds and keeping accurate accounts of all transactions. The treasurer also provides complete

and accurate reports for review by all members of the NALC.

The NALC's regular financial tasks are overseen by Anne Gleason, financial administrator.

The treasurer is appointed by the Executive Council. For more information on the position, please contact Bishop Dan Selbo at dselbo@thenalc.org.

FLOODING IN MICHIGAN NALC DISASTER RESPONSE

NALC Disaster Response is responding to flooding in Michigan. A box truck of flood buckets and health kits has been delivered to Gladwin County.

NALC congregations, Living Hope Lutheran Church in Farwell, Michigan, and St. Paul Lutheran Church Evart, Michigan, have been providing volunteers to assist with the distribution, serving hundreds of families devastated by the five days of rain and subsequent flooding caused by the dams breaching.

Volunteer teams are needed. Volunteer housing is set up at Living Hope. For more information or to schedule a team, please contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response coordinator, at 740-509-1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org.



Monetary donations may be given online at thenalc.org/donate or mailed to NALC Disaster Response; 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220; New Brighton, MN 55112.



NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

*Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms,
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today*

Perhaps you know the story that led to the writing of this beloved hymn. Pastor Martin Rinkart served in the walled town of Eilenburg, Germany, during the horrors of the Thirty Years War of 1618-1648. Eilenburg became an overcrowded refuge for the surrounding area. The fugitives suffered from epidemic and famine. Pastor Rinkart, as the only surviving pastor, conducted 4,480 funerals in these years, including the funeral for his wife. In the face of overwhelming pressure, constant risk and horrendous conditions, Pastor Rinkart never stopped ministering to the people of his city. He gave away nearly everything he owned to the poor and needy, though he could barely clothe and feed his own children.

After nearly 30 years of ceaseless struggles, it began to look like peace was within grasp. Wanting to give his children a song to sing to God in thanks at the dinner table, Pastor Rinkart sat down and composed what would become one of the most well-known thanksgiving hymns of all time: "Now Thank We All Our God." In fact, it's been said that, aside from Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress," no other song is sung more often in Lutheran churches today than Rinkart's simple tune.

Whether you are able to gather as a congregation in a sanctuary or you are still sheltering at home, I would encourage you to look at this hymn and be reminded under what conditions this song of praise and gratitude was written.

In a few short months, the world has confronted health challenges few of us have seen before. The economy is only beginning to reveal the long-term devastation that is ahead. Our society has been



locked down with no access to education, employment, shopping, travel and worship.

As for Pastor Rinkart 400 years ago, everything is in seeming chaos, yet Christians today are still able to proclaim, "Now thank we all our God ... who wondrous things has done." Like Pastor Rinkart, we can praise God with good stewardship of our time and abilities to serve our families, our communities and our churches. Like Pastor Rinkart, we can be faithful in worship, prayer and study. And like Pastor Rinkart, we need to be faithful stewards of our treasures. Our local congregations and the NALC need everyone's financial tithes and offerings to maintain and expand ministry and provide assistance to the many in need due to loss of health and employment.

*Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm
In this world and the next.*

This devotion was written by the Rev. Ronald Voss of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church in Robins, Iowa. Pastor Voss is a member of the NALC's Living and Giving Stewardship Team.

The NALC Living and Giving Stewardship Team offers a devotion each month for use by congregations and for individual reading. The devotions are formatted as a bulletin insert for use in congregations and available online at thenalc.org/stewardship.

COMMISSIONING OF PASTOR MARTHA SHANKA AS NALC GLOBAL WORKER

*By the Rev. Melinda H. Jones
and the Rev. Wendy A.W. Berthelsen*

In February, just prior to the start of the COVID-19 crisis in the United States, the Rev. Melinda Jones, the Rev. Wendy Berthelsen and the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba traveled to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), to take part in the commissioning of the Rev. Martha Shanka as a global worker for the North American Lutheran Church.

Pastor Jones represented the NALC Executive Council. Pastor Berthelsen represented Hope Lutheran Church in Cedar Hill, Texas, which serves as both a prayer sponsor and a fiscal agent for Pastor Shanka.

The goals of the journey were as follows:

- + To have an NALC presence at the commissioning of Pastor Martha following the recent action of the NALC Executive Council to authorize her service as an NALC global worker;

- + To teach the first graduating class of Leadstar Theological College (LTC) in Dubai. Pastor Jones taught “Law and Gospel in Preaching” and Pastor Berthelsen taught “Discerning God’s Call;”

- + To attend the graduation ceremony of LTC and participate in the worship of the one, true, living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

- + To develop a relationship with Pastor Martha and the other graduates; and

- + To hold an intentional time of prayer and discernment in various emirates (kingdoms) in the



Pastor Martha Shanka leads worship.

UAE, that God may reveal where a congregation may develop.

Background:

Pastor Martha is of Ethiopian descent and is connected with a wonderful group of very passionate

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

Ethiopian Christians in Dubai. The relationship with Pastor Martha developed through her reaching out to Dr. Buba and her desire to train Christians in Dubai. Ethiopian Christians have dispersed all over the world due to both the need for employment and, further back in their history, to persecution.



Leadstar Theological College graduates pose for a group photo.

The above goals for our journey were ambitious; nonetheless, God provided a way for us to exceed even these — for we developed relationships:

- + With other Leadstar Theological College locations (Ethiopia, South Africa, Dubai);
- + With the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA), represented by the Rev. Andrew Schmutzer, of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Sharjah, UAE. Father Andrew is working with Pastor Martha on her visas, space for the congregation to worship and permits for preaching and teaching the Gospel; and
- + With the many associates Dr. Buba utilizes to unite the world under the cross of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Ongoing ministry of Pastor Martha:

Pastor Martha and other leaders are pressing on in the Kingdom work of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Presently, her weekly Kingdom work includes the following:

- + She is continuing to share the Good News in Dubai, with intentional and specific connections to their Muslim neighbors.
- + In turn, she is training these new believers and disciples of Christ Jesus, our Lord, in the Word and Kingdom ways. They meet at least twice per week.

+ She is offering classes for new Bible school students from four towns in the UAE. They have classes for several hours, at least twice a week.

+ An online worship and prayer ministry have continued. The kingdom of Jesus continues to grow in Dubai, the UAE, throughout the Middle East and in other places around the world as the online ministry is not just reaching current Christians, but also new believers.

+ During the COVID-19 pandemic, as Dubai has extended a very strict 24-7 lockdown until recently, all of the above continues through electronic media.

+ Pastor Martha and about half of the recent graduates have plans to plant a new church in Dubai when the virus crisis has passed.

Potential for the Future:

+ The NALC has a critical mission and evangelism outpost in the Middle East for Gospel ministry, another international extension of our ministry here. We could learn from their experience, particularly in evangelizing people of other religions.

+ Some of the students in Dubai are considering future training through the North American Lutheran Seminary, including Master of Divinity degrees and other advanced degrees.

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 7

+ These young adults may be an instrument for renewal among young adults and youth in North America.

What can you do?

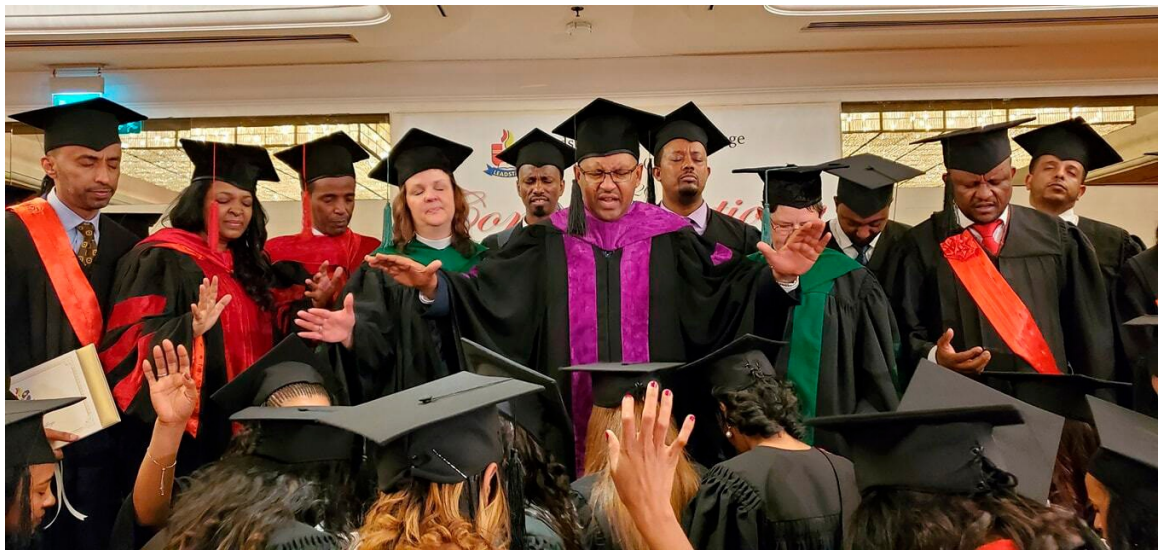
+ Certainly, earnestly pray for Pastor Martha's ministry, the church plant and all those associated.

+ Consider partnering to support their ministry, either as an individual or as a church under the NALC recommendation. For more information visit thenalc.org/partners/martha-shanka.

+ Develop a relationship with Pastor Martha, the students and the potential church plant.

Pastor Jones' reflections on the trip:

The experience was, most certainly, life-changing in many ways. I never dreamed that I would go to the Middle East. I never dreamed I would be sent by God to proclaim the Gospel in a land so utterly unfamiliar to my own. I never dreamed I would teach brothers and sisters who spoke a different language than I do. I never dreamed I would leave with new friends. I never dreamed of such adventure. All in all, the many days of travel and the four whirlwind days of ministry



Dr. Gemechis Buba, NALC assistant to the bishop for missions and founder of Leadstar Theological College, leads commissioning prayer for graduates.

were unforgettable and faithful to the mission of the North American Lutheran Church to take the Gospel to the nations and make disciples! I believe I became a better disciple, and for that, I also give thanks.

Pastor Berthelsen's reflections on the trip:

Overall, I came back from this trip renewed and inspired by the faith, prayerfulness, hospitality and friendship of these young adults in Dubai. I share many of Pastor Jones' sentiments. I greatly enjoyed the partnership with Pastor Jones, whom I previously did not know and now consider a wonderful sister and friend in Christ. I am excited about the Kingdom potential of the many relationships developed on this trip. I was overwhelmed with joy by all that happened in a few short days.



Pastor Jones and Pastor Berthelsen would like to thank the Executive Council of the NALC for the opportunity to represent the NALC and be ambassadors to our brothers and sisters in Dubai. We are available to answer questions and inquiries about Pastor Martha and her ministry.

For more information about Pastor Martha or to partner with her in ministry please visit thenalc.org/partners/martha-shanka.

THE ONCE AND FUTURE CHURCH

GREAT COMMISSION SOCIETY'S MISSION CONNECTORS TEAM BOOK STUDY

By GCS Mission Connectors Team

The Great Commission Society's Mission Connectors Team is about encouraging congregations and mission districts to make relational mission connections.

The vision of the NALC is that every congregation is in relationship with at least one local, one domestic and one global mission partnership.

Our team helps by preparing mission-focused resources and training, being available to coach leaders and teams and by calling every mission district and mission region at least once a year. The purpose of these calls is to pray with the leaders, to hear how the Holy Spirit is moving in their district, and to encourage them as they serve God's kingdom.

In our most recent calls, people have shared the joys and frustrations of being mission driven during a global pandemic. We've rejoiced with people in their flexibility, innovation and commitment to sharing the Gospel. We prayed with them as they shared frustrations and struggles in discerning and trying and adapting to what ministry and mission look like today.

In response, we decided to pull an oldie but a goodie off our shelves and offer a book discussion on *The Once and Future Church: Reinventing the Congregation for a New Mission Frontier* by Loren B. Mead.

The book examines the Church's growth and the evolution of mission and evangelism through different eras of the Church's life and role in society.

It was written in the early 1990s with an eye toward the new millennium. His forecasts were pretty spot on, but that's not why we are reading it today. We are gathering now to read and discuss this book to step outside our present time and circumstances to be

encouraged and find comfort, that even though systems, methodologies, and tools change, three things never change.

1. It's not about us! God is the victor, working around us and through us.

2. It's not about the system or the building. Mission happens where two or three are gathered, and the story of God's great love for His world is shared.

3. We don't do this alone. We may be sheltering-in-place or social distancing. We may feel isolated or alone. We might be questioning everything we do. We may even be questioning our usefulness and call, but we do not do this work by our ability, skill or talents. We are called, gifted and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be God's kingdom workers.

The hope for this reading and discussion group is that it will bring you peace and excitement for mission and renew in you the big picture of the Holy Spirit working through all time and in all circumstances.

Join us for a live, interactive, weekly discussion on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. ET starting June 18. To join us or for more information: <https://bit.ly/36VMTYP>.

Here is the schedule:

June 18 — Chapter 1, "The Challenge of the Congregation" and Chapter 2, "Paradigms Lost."

June 25 — Chapter 3, "Cracks in the System."

July 2 — Chapter 4, "The Reinvention of the Church."

July 9 — Chapter 5, "Principles and Strategies for Building the Future Church and Some Signs of Its Presence;" Chapter 6, "Where in the World Is the Church Going?" and Appendix, "The Free Church Variation on Christendom."

WORSHIP AS “ESSENTIAL”

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. — Hebrews 10:19-25 RSV

It has been interesting to see and hear the supposed outrage exhibited among Christians when politicians and governmental leaders have determined congregational worship — the “gathering together of believers” is “not essential.”

The closing of churches, synagogues and mosques — together with the restricting of gatherings of believers in North America — has certainly raised questions in the United States related to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and similar questions in Canada, given the Fundamental Freedoms in the Canadian Charter regarding the right of the people to freely exercise their religion.

Although most respected the suggested (and, in some places, required) guidelines regarding gatherings for worship, the issue might well challenge Christians to consider, now, not whether government has the power to determine what about our faith is essential, but whether we, as Christians, consider communal worship as in any way “essential” — absolutely necessary, extremely important, “of the essence.”

It appears that, even in the first century, Christians who had confidence that they could “enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,” took advantage of the new and living way which the Savior opened for them, developing a habit of “neglecting to meet together” on the Lord’s Day. If they were not saved by obedience to Judaism’s religious legislation, but



MINISTRY MATTERS

REV. DR. DAVID WENDEL
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP
FOR MINISTRY AND ECUMENISM

by the death and resurrection of Jesus, then it seems, some sensed no need to gather together for worship.

The author of Hebrews is clearly understood here to be speaking of the Sunday assembly for worship, being neglected habitually by some. How quickly Christian “liberty” turned to “license!” And Christians have struggled with that ever since!

In so many ways, Christians fail to understand that Gospel freedom is not so much freedom from having to gather for worship, obey the commandments, live godly and Christ-like lives, as it is freedom *for* obedience, accountability and faithful response.

Because showing up faithfully for worship on Sunday morning doesn’t earn or gain us salvation, many don’t understand the Sunday gathering for Word and Sacrament as essential or necessary. No wonder weekly worship attendance is a small fraction of actual congregational membership! For some time, only 27 to 30 percent of congregational members attended weekly Sunday worship in North America.

Some studies indicate a 10 percent drop in weekly worship annually among most denominations. In other words, even without figuring in weekend work requirements and illness, Sunday worship is not considered essential by Christians in North America.

If Christians are not committed to weekly worship gatherings as essential, is it any wonder that the culture at large considers worship gatherings as non-essential?

Continued on Page 11

If the weekly gathering together of Lutheran believers in worship is not required to earn or merit salvation, in what ways is Sunday worship essential, necessary, extremely important?

1. It is the one place where in community God's gifts and grace are communicated in Word and Sacrament, properly and fully. The Lord says, "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20 RSV). The Lord Jesus is known to us in the "breaking of bread," and as He unfolds the Scriptures to us (Luke 24).

2. As the Body of Christ is intentionally and essentially the community of believers, it is God's intention, and it is essential that the believers do indeed gather regularly. When members of the Body are disconnected, they necessarily cannot and are not functioning as living members of the Body.

3. Regular, habitual Sunday worship develops relationships — deep, intimate, faithful relationships which are essential to having support and encouragement personally, interpersonally and as

we seek to be disciples together and to make disciples. Disciple-making, at its core, is relational — life-to-life — and gathering together regularly is essential to this important work in the Body of Christ.

4. Gathering for Sunday worship is a public proclamation to the world that we are an interrelated, interconnected community, truly, the Body of Christ. We are to be a real, visible, incarnate body — not virtual or spiritual. The church is to be incarnated — gathering together in the flesh — so that the world may see and know us and our love for one another. When we meet together regularly and faithfully, we manifest to the world how important and essential the Body of Christ is to believers. When we neglect the gathering together of believers, it appears to the surrounding culture that worship together as the Body is unimportant, unnecessary and not essential!

So, as the coronavirus "stay at home" orders expire and communal worship resumes, "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25 RSV).

"HOPE FOR THE OLDER ADULT"

Hope for the Older Adult is a short Bible study on issues seniors are currently navigating and how God's Word can bring strength and comfort in the unknown. The Bible study was written by the Rev. Brad Hales, director for aging ministry and congregational renewal for the NALC.

Life has changed greatly during the COVID-19 crisis, but there is one specific group which has borne the brunt of this devastation, and that is older adults. From the onset, the aging were warned to stay in place, since they were more susceptible to the virus. While this mandate was prudent, for many seniors this was a hard pill to swallow — especially for those who are used to going out, doing things and socializing with friends.

The maturation process is a journey to begin with, so the threat of disease and forced quarantine can

cause other issues to surface as there is much time to dwell on the negative. But even during this unprecedented time, the senior can have hope and encouragement in the Lord.

That is what Pastor Hales' *Hope for the Older Adult* Bible study is all about. The effects of aging can be seen physically, mentally and spiritually. But they don't have to define who we are or how others see us.

We cling to God's promises for the aging, and the Lord's guarantee that He will never "leave nor forsake us." Jesus is our enduring Savior. Whatever our age, He has promised us "life, life abundantly" in His name.

The Bible study can be downloaded from the NALC website at thenalc.org/aging-ministry.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

By Laurie Pecuch

With the school year webinars behind us and the Nexus Institute registration closed, June and July are good months to connect with folks.

We have access to both GoToMeeting and Zoom accounts. We would love to connect with you online to learn what you are doing this summer. We have a regularly scheduled connection time via Zoom the second Wednesday of the month but we are happy to schedule other times.

In the meantime, consider connecting to the NALC Youth Workers Facebook page. Oodles of ideas continue to be shared.

Online cluster meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Zoom Code: 822-2347-9039 PW: 436327. We are happy to offer cluster meetings at other times. Just ask.

Laurie Pecuch serves the NALC as a youth ministry coach. You may contact her at families@thenalc.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo
San Jose, California
dselbo@thenalc.org

General Secretary

The Rev. Mark C. Chavez
Landisville, Pennsylvania
mchavez@thenalc.org

Assistant to the Bishop for Missions

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba
Atlanta, Georgia
gbuba@thenalc.org

Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry & Ecumenism

The Rev. Dr. David Wendel
Jacksonville, Florida
dwendel@thenalc.org

Assistant to the Bishop for Domestic Mission & Discipleship

The Rev. Phillip Gagnon
St. Albert, Alberta
pgagnon@thenalc.org

Let's keep in touch

The Rev. Dr. David J. Baer, *editor*
Whitewood, South Dakota
news@thenalc.org

Director of Communications

The Rev. Andrew S. Ames Fuller (ACNA)
Ambridge, Pennsylvania
afuller@thenalc.org

President, North American Lutheran Seminary

The Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen
Ashland, Ohio & Ambridge, Pennsylvania
eriesen@thenals.org

Director for Aging Ministry & Congregational Renewal

The Rev. Brad Hales
Culpeper, Virginia
bhales@thenalc.org

Disaster Response Coordinator

Mary Bates
Caldwell, Ohio
disasterresponse@thenalc.org

North American Lutheran Church

2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220
New Brighton, MN 55112-2202
+1-651-633-6004

Please copy and share this newsletter widely.