



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MIDWESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER September 2023



I invite you to submit material for inclusion in future newsletters, but keep your information concise, to the point, and use “links” if you want to provide the reader with access to “long readings”. – Jess Abbott, Midwestern Area Assistant to the Bishop (AAB), 513-314-2028, midwesternaab@thenalc.org

Latest and Greatest News!

Convocation in OK City

Bishop Dan Selbo was elected to a second term as Bishop on the first ballot; Pastor Ryan Henkel, Emmons, Emmons, was elected to the Court of Adjudication; and we've learned the since the convocation that Pastor Tony Ede, First, Manchester, has accepted a call to the NALC office as a Communications Specialist. In addition, Pastor David Wendel has announced that after twelve years of serving on the Executive Staff of the NALC, he will be resigning his call as of the end of September and is looking forward to returning to parish ministry.

All Mission Districts pastors and delegates of the Midwestern Area had an opportunity to “breakout” by themselves to discuss MD ministry with their Dean or the Dean’s appointee.

The 2024 Convocation will be online on August 9, and the 2025 Convocation will be August 6-8, in Pittsburgh, PA.

Celebrating Pastors and Congregations

Marysville, OH – First English. Welcome Pastor Kurt Luebke, who was installed August 27th.

Sunman, IN – St. John. Happy Birthday St. John! The congregation will celebrate its 190th year on September 17th.

NC-OH Mission District Disaster Response

September 30th the NC-OH will have a Mission District gathering at Trinity Lutheran Church, Crestline, OH to build flood buckets for disaster response. For more information contact Pr. Pennington pinningtonkm@gmail.com

Mission District Pastors Meetings

These are provided in case you happen to live closer to another MD’s meeting and would like to attend for pastoral fellowship and support. Or, if you can’t travel, you might consider joining a video conference call.

Michigan MD, Sep 6, Zoom, Pastors at 10am, Email jessabbott@outlook.com for Zoom invitation

NE-Ohio MD, Every Monday Pastor Pericope study, Zoom at 10am. Email Pr. Koch at mekoch46@gmail.com for Zoom invitation

Candidacy Seminar in the Midwestern Area

Michelle Kouse, North American Lutheran Seminary network (NALS) / Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. SW Ohio MD. *Not entranced yet subject to approval October 9-10.*

Terese Whitten, Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), M.Div program. Michigan MD. **Approved for ordination**

Jason Swartley, Luther House of Study at Kairos University, formerly Sioux Falls, M.Div program. *Not entranced yet subject to approval October 9-10.*

Monica Barman, Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. NC Ohio MD. *Not entranced yet subject to approval October 9-10.*

Scott Stine - Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. SE Ohio MD.

Keith Deak, NALS Center at Trinity School for Ministry, M.Div program. SE Ohio MD. *Not entranced yet subject to approval October 9-10.*

Ethan Zimmerman, NALS Center at Trinity School for Ministry, M.Div program. NC Ohio MD.

Molly King, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, M.Div program. SE Ohio MD

Kent Haley, Ordination Under Special Circumstances Program. New Life, Gallipolis OH, SE Ohio MD.

Pam Grandmaison, Trinity School for Ministry (NALS), Ambridge PA, Michigan MD

Seminarians working on Certifications in the Midwestern Area

Rochelle Lemieux, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, working on Pastoral Care certification, Heartland MD

Heidi Yahl, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Pastoral Ministry certification, NW Ohio MD

Christian White, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Pastoral Ministry certification, NW Ohio MD

If you know of any seminarians in the Midwestern Area not listed here, please email them to Jess with school, degree / certification being sought, and their Mission District.



Youth News and Opportunities

July 1-4, **2024 NALC Continental Youth Gathering**, St. John's Lutheran Church, Boerne, TX (near San Antonio). See updates and information at <https://thenalc.org/cyg/>

May 5-1, 2024 **NALC Young Adult Gathering**, Winnipeg, Manitoba. For those age 18-28.

Resources for Congregations Without Pastors

Online Confirmation Program - contact the Southern Area Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Mark Braaten, 903-316-1594 mbraaten@oslctyler.org or Pastor Teresa Peters at tpeters@thenalc.org

Confirmation / Catechism Web Courses [Free] – Luther House of Study, <https://lutherhouseofstudy.org/courses/>

Sermons for Lay Leaders to Deliver at Worship Services
Iowa Mission District sermon library www.iowamissiondistrict.com or contact Pastor Burkhalter at pgburkhalter52@hotmail.com

Pastor David Wendel posts sermons on YouTube https://youtu.be/gCcD_lwCbA, he

also posts them on his Facebook page and the NALC Fellowship group; or contact Pastor Wendel at dwendel@thenalc.org

NALC Life Ministries

The NALC Life Ministries Team focuses on life issues - from conception to the end of life. The Team offers support for participation in life marches and responding to life issue legislation. The Team is planning to develop educational materials based on Holy Scripture to help pastors and congregations address the entire range of life issues - reproductive technology, abortion, adoption, foster care, human trafficking, end of life and more. The Team is also willing to provide presentations on life issues at events in your Mission District or in your congregations. You may contact any on the Team for more information.

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Pr. Mark Chavez (pastor@reformation-nalc.org; 717-823-7739)

Congregation Vacancies

The NALC website has a great section to see congregations looking for a full-time or part-time pastor <https://thenalc.org/call-process/>

Newsletter Distribution List

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter regularly, please provide name and email address. It will only be emailed, and they will be Blind copied (Bcc).

Midwestern AAB Schedule Contact me if you'd like me to suggest some short presentations I can make at event. For convocations, I can provide a short update on NALC priorities and recent efforts.

The following events are on my radar to attend:
Sep 16. IA Mission District Convocation, Faith, Monona, IA

Sep 17. St. John, Sunman, IN. 190th anniversary.

Oct 3. Cross, Pigeon, MI. Interim Journey Consultation with Council.

Oct 6-7. WI-UP Mission District Convocation

Oct 14, 2023 – Michigan Mission District Convocation, St. Thomas, Trufant, MI

Oct 28. SWOH MD Strategic Planning Mtg, Springfield

Nov 8-9, 2023 – Bishop with Deans meeting

Jan 16-18, 2024 – Pastors Conference, Drury Plaza, Disney Springs, Orlando, FL

Jun 10-11, 2024 – Iowa Mission District Pastors Retreat

Prospective Specialized Ministries & Military Chaplains

If a seminarian or pastor asks you about the possibility of serving as a military chaplain (Active Duty, Reserve or National Guard), Civil Air Patrol Chaplain, Hospital / Hospice chaplain, or fire, police, para-church minister; direct them for assistance to Jess Abbott at militaryendorser@thenalc.org Jess is the NALC's official Military Endorsing Agent for all NALC clergy currently servicing or seeking to serve in the U.S. or Canadian Military. See the "Our Work" tab in the NALC website for more information; <https://thenalc.org/specialized-and-military-ministries/>

Midwestern Area Deans

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