



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MIDWESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER

July 2025



Latest and Greatest News!

Welcome New Congregation!

NW-Ohio Mission District. Welcome Trinity Lutheran Church in Delta, Ohio, and pastor Matt Voyer as our newest additions to the NALC. Please join us in welcoming them.



Global Workers to Visit the Midwestern Area This Summer

Global workers Ndumieshi and Tunsubilege from Tanzania will be with us in August and September and are available to visit congregations throughout the Midwest area. Please contact Pr. Bert Schultz at 715-418-1037 BertSchultz2@outlook.com if you would like more information or to schedule them.

Pastors and Congregations

Installations. Iowa MD. Pastor Christopher Martin was installed as pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheldon, IA, on June 15th by Iowa Mission District Dean, Pastor Christopher Staley. Other pastors in attendance were Pastor Ben Unseth, Pastor Dan Hart, and Pastor David Klappenbach.

Condolence. Pastor Paul Krebs 86 went to his eternal home on June 9. Pastor Doug Gast led

the celebration of life service last June 14. Paul led 5 Lutheran churches in his 50+ years in ministry. He has been a member of Bethel, Noblesville, Indiana the last 15 years.

Quarterly Midwestern Area Deans Zoom

Sundays 3:00pm, Next zoom September 14
Future zooms: 14Dec25, 8Mar26, 14Jun26, 13Sep26
Pr. Jess will send zoom link to everyone's email 15 minutes prior to the meeting.

Quarterly NALC Military & Clinical Chaplain Zoom

Sundays 4:30pm, Next zoom September 14
Future zooms: 14Dec25, 8Mar26, 14Jun26, 13Sep26
Pr. Jess will send zoom link to everyone's email 15 minutes prior to the meeting

Retreats, Studies, Meetings

These are provided in case your MD doesn't have a retreat, or if you'd just like to get away from your area and enjoy the environs of other wonderful places.

July 17, NC-Ohio MD Pastors Fellowship
Thursday, July 17 at Good Shepherd, Vickery.

July 25, NW-Ohio MD meeting for worship and a picnic at Zion Lutheran Church in Lafayette, 4:30p for a communion service and then go next door to the parsonage for a picnic. Spouses are invited.

July 25, The Ohio Mission Region board will be meeting by Zoom on July 25th at 10 am. Pastor Mark Daniels is the new Convening Dean.

July 20—28, 2025—Iowa Mission District Youth Trip—Burnsville, NC

Convocations

If your MD convocation is not listed, please provide dates to Pr. Jess

NALC Luther Week and biannual in person convocation August 3-8, 2025 See: [Lutheran Week 2025 - North American Lutheran Church](#)

Iowa MD September 20, 2025 Contact Pr. Staley cbstaley@netins.net

Michigan MD September 27, 2025, at St. Thomas, Trufant MI. Contact: Pr. Jess midwesternaab@thenalc.org

Wisconsin-UP MD October 4, 2025 at Caroline, WI. Contact: Pr. Mark Knappe solideogloria1@icloud.com

Heartland MD October 18, 2025 at St. John's, Ft. Wayne, IN. Guest speaker Jim Halstead of "Go & Tell Ministries". Contact: Pr. Doug Gast dgast1950@gmail.com

Michelle Kouse, North American Lutheran Seminary network (NALS) / Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. SW Ohio MD.

Monica Nufer, Fuller Seminary, M.Div program. NC Ohio MD.

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

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

Keith Deak, NALS Center at Trinity School for Ministry, M.Div program. NE Ohio MD.

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

Joanne Gallagher, Joanne, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary, Vicar at Hope, Hubbard Lake, Michigan MD

Pam Grandmason, Ordination Under Special Circumstances Program Trinity School for Ministry (NALS), Ambridge PA, Michigan MD.

Wade Weaver, Ordination Under Special Circumstances Program, Living Faith, Wabash IN, Heartland 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 Pr. Jess with school, degree / certification being sought, and their Mission District.

Youth News and Opportunities

Iowa Mission District Youth Trip Burnsville, NC; July 20-28, 2025. Contact Pr. Staley cbstaley@netins.net

BYLD (Building Youth as Leaders who are Disciples of Christ) July 7-12, 2025, is a week-long event for high school students that focuses on leadership skills, theological education, and discernment all from the perspective of the NALC's four Core Values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused.

Global Workers Supported by the Midwestern Area

Aleksandr Gross in **Ukraine**
Sending Agency: Spiritual Orphans Network

Gemechis Buba in **Ethiopia**
Sending Agency: Spiritual Orphans Network

Tunsubilege Mwasongwe and Ndumieshi Nkya in **Tanzania**. Sending Agency: One Plus God

Stephen Katterhenrich in **Tanzania**
Sending Agency: Wycliffe

Please keep our Global Workers in your personal and congregational prayers. Information about these global workers can be found on our NALC website and on the websites of their sending agencies:

Candidacy for Ordained Ministry Seminarians in the Midwestern Area

Sandy Thompson, Diaconate program. Grace LC, Springfield, SW Ohio MD.

BYLD will take place July 7-12 at Geneva College, only 14 miles from the North American Lutheran Seminary Center at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

The cost for students is \$100 and the cost of their transportation to Pennsylvania. A travel subsidy is available for those coming from further away. Spaces are limited to 24 youth, so be sure to register soon. For more information or to register contact Pastor Teresa Peters, director of Youth and Family Ministry, at tpeters@thenalc.org

The 2026 NALC Continental Youth Gathering will be July 7-10, 2026, at St. John Lutheran Church in Roanoke, Virginia. Save the date and plan to attend. The gathering is for youth ages 12-18.

“Solid” Lutheran Bible Camps
Ingham Okoboji in Milford, Iowa, which is near Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

Riverside in Story City, Iowa nearer the middle of the state.

Lake Luther, Angola, IN.
July 17-20 families will be gathering at Lake Luther. LOMIK Summer Staff will be there to lead exciting activities and engaging worship. There will also be free time to do what you want. All meals will be provided. The program focus for the weekend is on how to strengthen your family at home in the faith. We will have practical teaching that helps all ages to share the faith. \$200 per family includes all meals and activities.

Register online: <https://lomik.org/> – “Register for Camp”

Camp Frederick, Rogers OH
<https://www.campfrederickohio.com/>

Resources for Congregations Without Pastors

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

Peters at tpeters@thenalc.org The current plan is to start new groups next September.

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

On Line Sermons

Pastor Jess Abbott posts services / sermons on YouTube. Go to YouTube and search “Abundant Grace Lutheran Church West Chester OH”. Or contact Pastor Jess at midwesternaab@thenalc.org

Pastor Aaron Frey, St. Thomas, Trufant, MI posts sermons on YouTube. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/@stlctrufant763>

Pastor David Wendel posts sermons on YouTube https://youtu.be/gCcD_lvwCbA, he also posts them on his Facebook page and the NALC Fellowship group; or contact Pastor Wendel at dwendel@thenalc.org

On Line New Member Class

A four-session class (over 4 weeks) that introduces Lutheranism and prepares people to join the membership of a congregation. It is also a “Lutheranism 101” class for any who want to attend a to refresh their knowledge (and fellowship with people just joining a Lutheran church). Future classes can be scheduled for groups of 4 or more. Contact Pastor Jess if you’d like to schedule a class; or for more information at midwesternaab@thenalc.org

Disaster Response

To schedule a mission trip, please contact Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response coordinator, at 740-509-1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org

Flood buckets, disaster response kits and supplies should go to your area disaster warehouse or sent to: NALC Disaster Response; 16500 Noble Ave.; Caldwell, Ohio 43724. Monetary donations may be made online at thenalc.org/giving or mailed to: North American Lutheran Church, 2113 Harwood Road, Suite 309; PMB 409; Bedford, TX 76021-4703

Intentional Interim Pastor Training

If you are a pastor interested in becoming a trained Intentional Interim Pastor, contact Pastor Marty Ramey pastormr@gmail.com and Pastor Keith Lessrevkeith54@gmail.com They are the NALC Interim coordinators and will be able to provide information about this intentional ministry as well as dates and locations of training.

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries Inc. (NALC partner, Ft. Wayne, IN) www.lmvfm.org

If you are a veteran, contractor or family member of the Armed Services who is feeling overwhelmed by life experiences, please give LMVFM a call at: 260-755-2239.

If you'd like to support LMVFM donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars is easy Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice" which will connect you to a friendly Customer Care Agent and tell them that you would like to donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to: Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries.

Series Devotional on 52 Hymns

Pr. Tom Jacobson decided to write a year-long series of devotional articles on his fifty-two favorite hymns, one for each week of the year. You can find these articles on his blog.
www.theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com

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).

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

Midwestern Area Deans

Pr. Jess Abbott, Midwestern Assistant to the Bishop
513-314-2028, midwesternaab@thenalc.org

Pr. Bert Schultz, OH North West MD
715-418-1037, jcgracepastor@outlook.com

Pr. Mark Daniels, OH Mission Region & SW Ohio MD
740-603-5287, markluth91@gmail.com

Pr. Kurt Luebke, OH South East MD, Dean

503-522-0216, padrekurterik@gmail.com

Pr. Matt Cox, OH South East MD, Asst. Dean
614-327-4328, mcox54@hotmail.com

Pr. Cathy Ammlung, OH North East Mission District
443-472-0480, cammlung@gmail.com

Pr. Kathy Pennington, OH North Central Mission District
715-554-4658, penningtonkm@gmail.com

Pr. Christopher Staley, IOWA Mission District
515-357-9052, cbstaley@netins.net
www.iowamissiondistrict.com

Pr. Jess Abbott, MI (lower peninsula) Mission District
513-314-2028, midwesternaab@thenalc.org

Pr. Doug Gast, Heartland (IN-KY) Mission District
317-727-0612, dcast1950@gmail.com

Pr. Mark Knappe, WI & MI Upper Peninsula MD (co-dean)

262-844-2234, solideogloria1@icloud.com

Pr. Tom Reiff, WI & MI Upper Peninsula MD (co-dean)
715-892-9914, treiff@outlook.com

Director of Area Support & Development

Bp. John Bradosky,
614-684-8484, jbradosky@thenalc.org

Area Assistants to the Bishop

Pr. Jess Abbott, Midwestern Assistant to the Bishop
513-314-2028, midwesternaab@thenalc.org
MI, OH, IN, KY, WI, IA

Pr. Bill White, Eastern Assistant to the Bishop
901-569-1428, easternaab@thenalc.org

Pr. Mark Braaten, Southern Assistant to the Bishop
903-316-1594, southernaab@thenalc.org

Pr. Marv Combs, Western Assistant to the Bishop
513-314-2028, westernaab@thenalc.org

Pr. Kevin Ree, Northern Assistant to the Bishop
513-314-2028, northernaab@thenalc.org