



MIDWESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER August 2025



Latest and Greatest News!

Welcome New Congregation!

Wisconsin / Upper Peninsula Mission District. Welcome Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Denmark, WI, and pastor Andy Zoerb. Please join us in welcoming them.

Global Workers to Visit the Midwestern Area This Summer

Global workers Ndumieshi and Tunsibilege from Tanzania were not able to get visas to visit this summer. However, Pastor Wayne DeWet, with One plus God, the “sending” agency for them will be with us in August and September and is 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.

Mission Partner Opportunity at Luther Week

The Lutheran Church of South Sudan is an approved mission partner of the NALC. Due to a civil war in 2013, the denomination is in exile, now headquartered in Gambela, Ethiopia. The LCSS is rebuilding all of their physical infrastructure from scratch, since all was lost in war in 2013. The LCSS ministers to those who are victims of loss, from the civil war. There is a high percentage of widows, orphans and children without fathers. If you would like to meet the president of the denomination, Rev. Jordan Long will be at the NALC Lutheran Week in August and you can talk face to face there. Or if you have any questions or would like to request a visit from him to your church, feel free to email board member Dave Bartels at: dbartels@bluestarsportswear.com

Pastors and Congregations

Installations. Wisconsin / UP MD. Pastor Marcus Johnson will be installed at Calvary, Brookfield on August 10th at the 9:00 am

liturgy. Prayers and good wishes for pastor Marcus and the Lord's people at Calvary are most welcome.

Condolence. Pastor Joe Freeman entered the gates of heaven. Joe served several congregations in his career, but most of his ministry was spent in Fishers Indiana where he founded Christ the Savior Lutheran Church in 1981. He and the Lord grew that congregation to over 1,200 members in his 30 years there. Pastor Joe died after a long battle with dementia. Many may remember that Joe opened his doors to the CORE gathering in 2010, which ended up being the springboard for the beginning of the NALC. For the past 12 years he was a member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville, IN.

Annual Deans and AABs Meeting with the Bishop

November 11, 8a to November 12, 12p., Dallas Fort Worth, TX. All **new Deans** are invited to arrive a day early for the New Dean Orientation, November 10, 1-5p

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.

September 24, NW-Ohio MD Pastors
Fellowship 9 AM at Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church in Jackson Center.

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 11, 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

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 Ndimieshi 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.
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 Grandmaison, 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

NALC Southwest Ohio Youth Worship Night
6:30p September 7th at Living Water Lutheran Church, Centerville, OH. Contact Trisha Vulgamore for more information
tvmore@outlook.com

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.

<https://lomik.org/>

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 southernaab@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

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

513-314-2028, northernaab@thenalc.org

Midwestern Area Deans

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

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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, dgast1950@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, [ltreiff@outlook.com](mailto:tltreiff@outlook.com)

Director of Area Support & Development

Bp. John Bradosky,
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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
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Pr. Mark Braaten, Southern Assistant to the Bishop
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Pr. Marv Combs, Western Assistant to the Bishop
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Pr. Kevin Ree, Northern Assistant to the Bishop