



MIDWESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER November 2025



Latest and Greatest News!

Deans Meeting with the Bishop and AABs

November 11-12, 2026, Dallas, TX. All Deans, co-Deans, Assistant Deans are invited. If you are a new Dean, you are also invited to our "Boot Camp" addition, November 10. If you need assistance to attend, contact Pastor Jess at midwesternaab@thenalc.org

NALC Annual Clergy Retreat January 27-29, 2026, Virginia Beach, VA. See NALC website for details and registration

Pastors and Congregations

Welcome New Pastors. John Hazzard will be ordained November 2nd to serve Resurrection, Port Clinton (NC-Ohio MD). He will be ordained as part of the Ordination Under Special Circumstance (OUSC) program.

Retirement. Congratulations and blessing upon Pastor Tim Loehrke upon his retirement at the end of October from Good Shepherd, Vickery, OH (NC-Ohio MD).

Lay Certification. Michigan MD. Congratulation Evelyn Hudson -Wright, who was installed as commissioned Lay Minister at Christ, Warren, Michigan on Sunday, October 5, 2025 by Bishop Dan.

Quarterly Midwestern Area Deans Zoom

Sundays 3:00pm, Next zoom December 14
Future zooms: 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 December 14
Future zooms: 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.

November 5, NW-Ohio MD Pastors Fellowship 10 AM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Montpelier, OH. Contact: Pr. Bert Schultz jcgracepastor@outlook.com

December 4, NC-Ohio MD Pastors Fellowship 10 AM at St. John's, Gilead. Contact Pr. Katherine Pennington penningtonkm@gmail.com

June 1-2, 2026 Iowa MD Pastors retreat, Waterloo, Iowa. Contact: Pr. Christopher Staley cbstaley@netins.net

Mission District Convocations

May 1-2, 2026 Ohio Mission Region (includes all Ohio MDs). St. John, Grove City, OH. Theme: "Not Ashamed!"

August 29, 2026 Iowa MD, Nazareth, Cedar Falls, IA

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.
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.
Doug Brougher, Smyrna IN, Heartland MD.
Dean Romprey, Lutheran House of Studies, M.Div program. St. John of Lake, Ft. Wayne 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

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/>

Camp Concordia (LCMS), Michigan

<https://www.campconcordia.org/>

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

The NALC Trusted Sermon Network—a free, searchable database of sermon manuscripts and videos by vetted NALC pastors. Every sermon in the network is grounded in Holy Scripture and faithful to the Lutheran Confessions, ensuring congregations receive trustworthy proclamation of the Gospel.
<https://thenalc.org/en-us/our-work/equipping-disciples/trusted-sermon-network/>

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.

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

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Pr. Kevin Ree, Northern Assistant to the Bishop

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