



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

MIDWESTERN AREA NEWSLETTER

June 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!

Luther Week 2023, Oklahoma City

August 7-11, 2023. Don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to an “in person” week of fellowship, learning, and convocation after our stretch of Zoom meetings. See developing details and registration process on the NALC website, <https://lutheranweek.com/>

There will be a unique table at convocation this year. Chaplain (Major) Walter McCall (U.S. Army chaplain recruiter) will be available August 9-10. I know many of us are too old to join up, but Chaplain McCall likes to talk to all, just to inform pastors of this important ministry.

Recent Dean Changes

South West Ohio - welcome Pastor Mark Daniels as new Dean; thanks to Pastor Paul Schultz for his service as Dean.

North Central Ohio – welcome Pastor Kathy Pennington as new Dean; thanks to Pastor Diana Seaman for her service as Dean.

South East Ohio - God Speed to Pastor Scott Smith, co-Dean. Scott has received a call to a congregation in Illinois.

Public Reading of the New Testament (Great Idea!)

On March 10, 2023, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN, hosted its 8th Annual Public Reading of the entire New Testament. They started at 6 am and ended close to 10:30 pm. About twenty people came and went

throughout the day and evening. Members took turns with continuous reading of the New Testament, sitting in the sanctuary listening or having a cup of coffee and treats in the narthex. When they got to the last chapter in Revelation, they decided have the reader stop right before the last 2 verses of Revelation. They all joined in a circle with their Bibles at the front of the church and read the last two verses of Revelation in unison making for a very “holy moment!”

Seminarians in the Midwestern Area

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

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

Terese Whitten, Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), Interning in North Carolina. Michigan MD

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

Heidi Yahl, ILT, Pastoral Ministry certification, NE Ohio MD

Christian White, ILT, Pastoral Ministry certification, NE 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 Opportunities

June 11-14 Lutheran Disaster Response Camp for youth in eastern Kentucky. Info:

MEKoch46@gmail.com

June 22-25 “**The Call**” is a retreat to be held at the North American Lutheran Seminary Center in Ambridge, PA. Learn more at <https://www.tsm.edu/thecall/>.

July 16-22 NEXUS Institute, a week-long event for high schoolers, will be held at Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa from July 16-22, 2023. Learn more at <https://www.grandview.edu/about/community/amps-clinics/nexus>.

July 24 – August 1, **Iowa Mission District Youth Mission Trip**. Destination, Port Charlotte, Florida, to help with hurricane recovery. Cost is \$350: \$150 non-refundable deposit with registration (before May 1) and remaining \$200 due by July 1.

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/>

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

Sermons for Lay Leaders to Deliver at Worship Services

Iowa Mission District sermon library www.iowamissiondistrict.com or contact Pastor Burkhalter at pqburkhalter52@hotmail.com

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

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:

Aug 8-11. Luther Week, Oklahoma City, OK

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

The following is my schedule to call each Pastor / Lay Leader in the Midwestern Area, as a pastoral outreach from the Bishop’s staff.

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| JUNE-JULY | Iowa Mission District |
| AUGUST | NE Ohio MD |
| SEPTEMBER | SW Ohio MD |
| OCTOBER | Heartland MD |
| NOVEMBER | NW Ohio MD |
| DECEMBER | SE Ohio MD |
| JANUARY | Wisconsin/UP MD |
| FEBRUARY | NC Ohio MD |
| MARCH | Michigan MD |

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

- Pr. Jess Abbott, Midwestern Assistant to the Bishop
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- Pr. Tom Jacobson, OH South East MD (co-dean)
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- Pr. Michael Koch, OH North East Mission District
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- Pr. Kathy Pennington, OH North Central Mission District
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- Pr. Christopher Staley, IOWA Mission District
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- Pr. Jess Abbott, MI (lower peninsula) Mission District
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- Pr. Doug Gast, Heartland (IN-KY) Mission District
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